

June 2018

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite quotes in all of historical literature is that provided by Lt. Frank Haskell of the Union army concerning the battle of Gettysburg in which he was a participant; "...of this battle greater than Waterloo, a history, just, comprehensive, complete, will never be written. By and by, out of the chaos of trash and falsehood that newspapers hold, out of the disjointed mass of reports, out of the traditions and tales that come from the field, some eye that never saw the battle will select and some pen will write what will be named the history. With that the world will be—and if we are alive we must be—content." Such is the lot of fallen human history, sadly not long after completing his work on Gettysburg, Haskell himself become part of the history of another battle at Cold Harbor, VA where he was killed. Haskell was prescient in that the recollections of human beings are by default fraught with inaccuracies and misstatements simply because we can't help it, we're fallen. We are not of the truth; we are self-guided observers who see only what we choose to see. From that point of view, we don't simply distort some things we distort everything. We cannot be of the truth as a matter of fact the truth is not in us, as Jesus told the religious leaders of His time in John 8:32-47.

"Truth" as it is used in the New Testament is not fully understood as we use the term in contemporary English. The word often translated from Greek as truth isn't simply speaking of true as opposed to false but real as opposed to unreal. The fallen human being can only have an idea; a perception, of what is real. Therefore, even its sense of real is tainted with unreality. That's perfectly understandable as long as we're honest with ourselves and admit we don't fully understand (1Cor. 13:12). However, when we arrogantly assert that according to our partial knowledge we now "know", we show that we have been deceived and we are not of the reality.

Jesus came to bring us to the truth, the real (John 8:32). He gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth (John 16:13) for He testifies to the one who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). There is no truth, no reality, outside of the person of Jesus Christ; so we must be reborn in Jesus Christ Himself. Only in this way can we know what is real. Only here can we be truly free, liberated from our sense of reality and given to live in the real through Jesus Christ. For this reason, we don't place our trust in any of the half-truths of human understanding. We want to know nothing but the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We know God only as He reveals Himself in His Word and we aren't content with any substitute. We would see Jesus! (John 12:9) For this reason we are dedicated to the study of God's Word as the only source and norm for all real knowledge of God. That is the core of our whole curriculum. In human understanding we have to be content with half-truth and unreality as Haskell points out, in God's Word we have the whole truth. Thank you for your support of the truth!

(This article was first issued in June 2016. As we are doing more course work online, it seemed appropriate to reissue it seeing that online work provides much more flexibility to students who cannot physically be present here in Hancock for classes. We are still looking for those who seek truth through God's Word. If that is your desire, please join us for class this coming Fall.)

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED

In memory of Marty Seppala
from Nancy Seppala

In memory of Elizabeth Naasko
Calvin Naasko

In memory of Dr. Al Saari
From Bob & Norma Nominelli
Calvin Naasko
Tim Lienau
Mary Maher



PLANNING FOR THE FALL

As summer approaches and classes have ended, the Seminary remains busy!! Class planning for the fall semester is being done. Stay tuned for daily courses to be offered beginning September 5th. Revelation will be taught by Pastor Jay on Monday nights at 7PM from September 10-December 17, 2018. Online capability is limited to 10 people, so email or call to register as soon as possible.

Visit <http://ilseminary.org/classschedule.htm> for a detailed list of classes to be announced in the near future. With the support of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, God enables us to continue training students for the ministry of His Word. Thank you for your part in helping us accomplish this mission.

**ATTENTION SUPPORTERS:
There are several ways to support the Seminary.**



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For more information about Choice Dollars, visit <http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.



HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP THE SEMINARY

Several years ago, the Seminary board of directors established the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. Funds contributed to the endowment are not used for current day to day operations. Only the annual earnings of the endowment will be used for the seminary's needs thereby ensuring the continued existence of this funding

source. This is the preferred method used by many non-profit entities, especially ongoing religiously focused organizations such as seminaries.

While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support.

Although the seminary still needs the financial ongoing regular contributions of our supporters, please consider the endowment fund for your planned giving needs. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.