



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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March 2011,

Dear Friends,

We live in a most amazing time. Our technology enables us to do so many things that are awe inspiring. We humans communicate over many thousands of miles in an instant. What once took days and even months to reach us is now available on electronic boxes for our viewing even as the events unfold. Our ability to produce food allows us to live with excess. We actually can and do overeat regularly. We do with ease what our forefathers could only conceive of as imagination. We humans are really great. Except we're not. In spite of our ability to do so many things we don't or rather we won't. So people still regularly die of starvation or lack of medication, they suffer from abuse and deprivation. All the things our technology could help to alleviate often continue almost unabated simply because we aren't great. What God gives us through innovation and invention is too often wasted on greed and self-indulgence. Why? Simply because we're not great, we're mediocre at best.

God is great. God is good. So we thank Him for our food. This grace for children speaks the truth in simple form concerning God. He is great. He sends rain on both the just and the unjust as the Scripture says. He never acts in self-indulgence but always in our interest. The great serves the mediocre. A strange irony and yet the most concrete of realities. We have a God who came to us to serve and not to be served. Our God makes the mediocre human being great by becoming one. He is aware of every one who suffers, He hears their prayers and sends us out to bless them to bring them the blessings of our technology and even greater, the message of His grace; the Gospel. He indwells us and by His Spirit moves us from the realm of the mediocre into the dwelling of the great. In Him we become what we never would be by choice; we become servants and that makes us great. (Matthew 20:25-28)

Humanity needs the Gospel. May we be human enough in imitation of our God to share it. Thanks be to God for all of you who are touched with His compassion, you have indeed seen God. (Matthew 5:8)

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



SPRING SEMESTER UNDERWAY

The spring semester is underway and students are very busy with their current class load. Charles Jousma, Nick Kandoll and Ray Stenersen continue to study as full-time students. Brittany Nelson and Karen St. Peter are also full time students in the Deaconess Program. Lynn Jarvi, Mike Karinen, Tina Kanninen and Barb Manninen are local students taking classes part time this semester as well as two Inter-Varsity students, David Smeenge and James Greydanus. The Monday night class on the Gospel of John has approximately 30 students. Lois Matson (Yacolt, WA), Bruce Sarkela, (Lakeworth, FL), and Dean Niskanen (Greer, SC) are taking classes on line. Orval Wirkkala (Kingston, MN) and Bishop Louis Mphahlele (South Africa) are studying independently by DVD.

As we continue the work of the seminary, we thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and your financial support. *We cannot do this work without you.* The ministry of the seminary is not limited to a few select individuals, but is the collective effort of many brothers and sisters in Christ who have a vision for the importance of the teaching and preaching of God's Word. The Apostle Paul speaks of something similar when he writes to the church in Philippi:

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ..."

Philippians 1:3-6

If you are already a financial supporter of the seminary, we thank you and pray that God will bless you and enable you to continue helping us. If you have not been a financial supporter of the seminary in the past, please consider assisting us in the future. Every contribution not only helps to sustain the current work of the seminary, but also allows us to look at expanding our ministry in the future. Thank you for your kindness and thanks be to God for the riches of His grace through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Seminary Service Schedule – 7PM

March

- 6th - Ray Stenersen @ Zion
- 13th - Charles Jousma @ S. Range
- 20th - Nick Kandoll @ Alston
- 27th - Ray Stenersen @ Seminary

April

- 3rd - Charles Jousma @ Painesdale
- 10th - Nick Kandoll @ S. Range

17th - Ray Stenersen @ Laurium