

May 2011

Dear Friends,

We are reaching the close of another school year. It has been another great one. The interchange with the students in class has been wonderful. There have been hours of fruitful discussion on topics addressing the many facets of living as Christians in the world while reviewing a wide range of materials centered on the Word of God. We are finishing our first full year of deaconess studies which has been enjoyable to say the least. (We encourage any of the women reading this newsletter who might be interested in a program of Biblical study focused on issues pertinent to them to contact us and get involved in this program. We believe it will be most helpful and rewarding for you in enabling you to delve deeper into God's Word to deal with many of the questions that women raise today concerning their Christian walk regarding family and church issues.) Also we're finishing the first full year of Hebrew instruction that we've taught for many years. Not too many students opt to take Hebrew so when we get some who are willing to do so it's great to engage the Scripture using that language and see students come to grips with the complexities of its various usages. So while it's nice to have a break to get ready for next semester's classes we're going to miss the pleasure of teaching every day.

We miss the classes and the students during the summer and spend the season anticipating the Fall Semester and the return of the students. Yet some of the most important work we do takes place during the summer months. First we take care of all the ends that we left loose during the school year when time was at a premium. Second we reorganize the materials we've gathered for use while teaching, finding a place for the new ones and refiling the old ones. Third we move on to the massive task of study for the upcoming slate of classes. All the classes to be taught in a school year are revisited with the intent of restructuring them to meet the needs of the current students. This means hours of poring over new materials while customizing the old materials and fitting them together into a package worthy of presentation in the classroom. We also are involved in Bible camps, The Lahti Retreat Center Adult Retreat, Confirmation Camp and presentations at the request of various congregations throughout the country. All of these add up to a very busy summer. Sadly our donations normally drop off during this time period and our finances often suffer. We don't stop working during the summer just because there are no students taking classes during these months. We still have expenses that must be covered as we must buy materials for the coming semester. We thank you for your kind support throughout the school year and ask that you would continue to remember us through the summer as well. Without your support none of the exciting things we do could take place. God bless you and yours.

God's Peace, Jay Weidner



MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY

The South Range Apostolic Lutheran Church will be hosting a benefit dinner for the Inter-Lutheran Seminary on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 5PM. A free will offering will be received to help purchase books for seminary and library use. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be providing matching funds up to \$2,400. These matching fund opportunities are an excellent way of maximizing your gifts to the seminary.

Please RSVP by phone (906) 482-3337 or email – <u>cilseminary@ilseminary.com</u> no later than Tuesday, May 17th if you plan to attend. If you are unable to attend but would still like to contribute, please earmark your gifts "Thrivent Fundraiser" and send them to Inter-Lutheran Seminary, P.O. Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930.

Thank you for your continued support!!

