

May 2015,

Dear Friends,

***“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”***

***Ephesians 6:1-3***

On the 2015 calendar, May 10<sup>th</sup> is designated as Mother’s Day. Mother’s Day is a wonderful reminder of the great gift God has given us in our mothers. Our mothers gave birth to us, nourished us, taught us and loved us. For these reasons, God has given us the commandment to honor our mother, not only on Mother’s Day, but always. For when we honor our parents, we honor the hidden God who loves us through our parents.

When we reflect upon the value of our mothers, we can find no better picture than that of Christ Himself: ***“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”*** John 19:25-27

As far as we know, Joseph is no longer living at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion. As the first-born son, it was Jesus’ responsibility to take care of His mother. Jesus now entrusts the care of His mother to the disciple whom He loved (as John records in His Gospel). From that moment on, that disciple (most likely John himself) takes Mary into his own home. So now, even as Jesus is suffering on the Cross, even as He is bearing the sins of the whole world, even as He is about to die, Jesus is thinking of His dear mother.

As Jesus dies on the cross, He thinks not only of His mother, but all of us as well. ***“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”*** Luke 23:34 It is the very nature of God, that He graciously bestows His favor upon us. God even uses motherhood as an illustration of His own love for us. Even when we stray because of sin, God reminds us that He will never leave us or forsake us. ***“But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.”*** Isaiah 49:14-16 It seems unlikely that a mother would ever forget her nursing child. As unlikely as that may seem, God assures us that it is not only unlikely, but impossible that He will ever forget us. God will always remember His children, because He has graven us in the palms of His hands. God has forgiven us, because of the wounds in the hands of His Son, Jesus. May God richly bless you through the merits of the crucified and Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ernest (Chuck) Bylkas III



## *Donations Received...*

*In honor of Greg Impola*  
from Aaron & Renee Hendrickson

*In memory of Phyllis Barney*  
from Edwin Jr. & Kathleen Bergstedt

*In memory of Priscilla Bergstedt*  
from Edwin Jr. & Kathleen Bergstedt

*In memory of Mary B. Mickelsen*  
from Joyce Tibbs

*In memory of Arlene Michaelson*  
from Richard Michaelson



### **LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL CLASSES**

The Spring semester is wrapping up. Tentatively the daily classes offered this fall will be History of the Ancient Church, Old Testament Introduction, Lutheran Confessions, The Pastoral Counselor, Romans, Pastoral Epistles, and Koine Greek Readings which will begin on Wednesday, September 2. The Gospel of Mark will be the Monday night class and will begin Monday, September 7 in Hancock and Thursday night (date to be determined) in Negaunee. For additional information, contact the seminary at (906) 482-3337 or send an email to [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com).

### **Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars®.**

Thank you for your Thrivent Choice donations in 2014. The seminary received approximately **\$3,000** in grant funds that **you chose** to be given to our organization. As a benefit member, your ownership of Thrivent Financial products and services help make this support possible.

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**The students and staff at the Inter-Lutheran Seminary appreciate your continued support!**



## ATTENTION: BOARD MEMBERS

There will be a Board Meeting on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.  
at the Seminary classroom building.



The Board of Directors  
of the  
Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary  
invite you to attend the  
Graduation of Ryan Kandoll  
on  
Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.  
at  
Atlantic Mine Apostolic Lutheran Church  
47261 Adventure Street  
Atlantic Mine, MI

Cake & coffee will be served afterwards.



*Annual SPRING SING service*  
**hosted by the Inter-Lutheran Seminary**

You are invited to our Spring Sing service at the seminary on **Sunday, May 31 at 7PM**. The service will include singing by the students, staff and local musicians. The service will take place in the sanctuary which is located at 916 Pine Street in Hancock. Refreshments will be served afterwards. A free will offering will be collected and used to carry on the work of teaching and preparing our students for ministry. Hope to see you there!

