



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

May 2023

Dear Friends,

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls. ¹⁰Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: ¹¹Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. ¹²Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

May is the month of renewal. We often used to hear, “April showers bring May flowers.” The flowers of May being the sign of the Spring that refreshes the winter-worn earth and illustrates the beauty of our God’s creation. We do not often think of ourselves this way, but St. Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, does in the text above. This beautiful Word, that was the epistle text for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, tells us that we are like the flowers of an everlasting Spring. The renewal wrought by Christ through the shedding of His blood on Calvary and His glorious resurrection on the third day has renewed us. We cannot, as yet, see the renewal but we experience it by the precious faith He has worked in us through His Word and Spirit. Having been baptized into the death of Christ we are raised together with Him for eternity, blameless in His sight. In the often troubled and difficult times we must persevere through we are reminded by St. Peter’s exhortation to those enduring similar hard circumstances that the Spring is upon us and we await the arrival of our Lord, Jesus the Christ, when the renewal that He worked will be available to sight and we will dwell with Him forever.

St. Peter also recalls for us those who have faithfully ministered the Gospel to us through the Holy Spirit and we are reminded of the passing of our dear brothers Pastor Elmer Liimatta and Pastor Ansten Tretten who labored long in the fields of the Lord to bring in His harvest and who now have their reward. Their lives and ministries blessed the lives and work of so many of us and we are thankful to God to have received so great a blessing. We pray God’s comfort and consolation for their families and for the Liimatta family in the loss of Elmer’s beloved wife, Ruth, as well.

May brings the end of our school year and we thank you for your ongoing support both in prayer and finances. Please continue to do so through the Summer. We do appreciate it so much, thank you!

God’s Peace,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED....

In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.

From Judith Bylkas
Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of Ernest Sr. & Martha Bylkas

From Judith Bylkas

In memory of Pastor Elmer & Ruth Liimatta

From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family
Ken & Jackie Kangas

In memory of Ansten Tretten

From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of Kathleen Forsman

From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

**In honor of Reuben & Anita Aho's
65th Wedding Anniversary**

From Audrey Krutzig



In remembrance of Elmer Liimatta

Elmer Liimatta's passion for learning was demonstrated in his involvement with the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary. Since the creation of the seminary in 1967, Elmer helped in many ways by recruiting potential students, continuous fundraising, serving as the administrator and coordinating the construction of the current location of the seminary in Hancock, Michigan. We are grateful for Elmer's many contributions to the seminary. His service will be missed by many, especially the community he served. Also, we remember his wife, Ruth, who also recently passed away. She stood by his side for 68 years of marriage. We pray for God's blessings on the Liimatta family.



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



CHOICE DOLLARS DETAILS: Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

Eligibility requirements: To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

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Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations: Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

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THRIVENT CHARITABLE IMPACT & INVESTING™

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing.™ All 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. To learn more about this organization, go to www.thriventcharitable.com.

We would love 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. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 821-8574 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.

ANOTHER OPTION FOR GIVING – PayPal

Online giving is as easy as clicking the DONATE button on our website: <https://ilseminary.org>. Simply go to the *How to Contribute* tab and tap the yellow *DONATE* button to begin. There are options for credit and debit card donations and even the option to help the seminary cover the PayPal processing fee. (Note we are charged 1.99% + \$.49/transaction fee). As always, we are thankful for your continued support!