



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

November 2012,

Dear Friends,

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

-William Walsham How

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV)

The scripture makes it clear that we are a consecrated band of followers of our Lord Jesus Christ who washed in His precious blood emerge spotless and blameless in His sight; a sanctified host of the faithful. In the month of November we begin with All Hallows recounting this simple fact. We are justified by our God by His grace received in the gift of faith. Simple, that is true; yet complex beyond any measure when plumbed to its depths. It is as a matter of fact so incredibly difficult for humans to grasp that it seems almost to be a lie. Martin Luther expresses this idea in his commentary on Psalm 117 where he speaks of God's word in our way of thinking appearing as if it were a lie and God Himself appearing then as a liar, even as the devil. Luther simply meant that the grace of God is so immense that by nature the human being can neither comprehend nor believe it. Therefore we begin to seek our works and other means to try to justify ourselves, it simply cannot be that God justifies us freely by His grace. So by our own reason we make God's clear proclamation to appear untrue and make God to be His opposite.

Yet the Spirit of God testifies to the truth of God's Word; the truth we cling to by faith that God's Word is true even if every person is a liar. God has justified us freely by His grace! Even if every human institution speak in contrary fashion, God's Word remains true. We are redeemed, we are washed, and the blood of Jesus Christ does indeed cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

For this reason we do not look within ourselves for the truth but rather have our gaze fixed on Jesus who begins and finishes our faith. We look to no other but by the Spirit cling to Him alone, He who endured the cross and rose from the grave and sent His Spirit to testify with our spirits that we are the children of God. May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus all our days. The blessing of our Lord be upon all of you.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



Many thanks to the Esko Apostolic Lutheran Congregation for hosting this year's seminary rally. Our students and staff appreciate the support, fellowship and good food had by all!

UPDATE ON THIS YEAR'S FULL TIME STUDENTS

THIRD YEAR STUDENTS' INTERNSHIPS:

Charles Jousma is serving the Laurium Apostolic Lutheran Church in Laurium, Michigan under Pastor Rod Johnson.

Nick Kandoll is serving the Eastside Apostolic Lutheran Church in Greer, South Carolina under Pastor Raymond Hilman.

Ray Stenersen is serving the Lakeworth Apostolic Lutheran Church in Lakeworth, Florida under Pastor Ansten Tretten.

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS:

Josh Bergstedt (from Esko, Minnesota) and **Ryan Kandoll** (from Vancouver, Washington) continue with their second year curriculum. They are also speaking at the Seminary Services each Sunday night at 7PM. (Complete schedule on page two.)

DEACONESS PROGRAM:

Brittany Nelson (from Laurium, Michigan) and **Karen St. Peter** (from Hubbell, Michigan) and **Lavonne Olson** (from Chassell, Michigan) continue with the Deaconess Program curriculum. The Deaconess program of study provides educational opportunities for women. A deaconess is a woman who is a church-worker and is trained and dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Christ through the acts of mercy and spiritual care. The Deaconess serves congregations using her gifts to bless and serve other women.

Our other part time students include **Mike Karinen**, **Jesse & Kelsey Dillon**, **Dean Niskanen** (South Carolina), **Dale Niskanen** (with Neguanee group), **Mark Sippola** (Gwinn), **Caleb Maunu** (New Ipswich), and **Bishop Louis Mphahlele** (South Africa). Each Monday evening many others participate in the study of Samuel Kings and Chronicles taught by Jay Weidner in Hancock.

Please keep our students in your prayers!



Donations Received....

In memory of Norman Ruohonen
from Betty Ruohonen

In memory of Rev. Herbert Amala
from Betty & Audrey Amala

In memory of Edwin Puumala
from Luella J. Puumala

In memory of Ernest Bylka Jr.
from Dale & Joanne Mattinen

In memory of Milly Otto
from Kirk Jr. & Carol Otto

In memory of Duane Lampinen
from Kim & Sueann Mickelson

In honor of Al & Donna Jarvi's 70th birthday
from Gary & Helen Westerholm



Seminary Service Schedule **7 p.m.**

November

- 4th – Ryan Kandoll @ S. Range
- 11th – Charles Jousma @ Painesdale
- 18th – Josh Bergstedt @ Zion
- 25th – No service (Thanksgiving)

December

- 2nd – Ryan Kandoll @ Seminary
- 9th – Charles Jousma @ Laurium
- 16th – Josh Bergstedt @ Alston

