

November 2018

Dear Friends,

“Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord: This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord. God is the Lord, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 118:19-29

In the month of November, we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. In many homes, it is a tradition for each family member to mention one thing for which they are thankful. The Holy Scriptures teach us that we are to live our lives in gratitude for all that God has done for us. In His first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul tells us ***“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”***

I Thessalonians 5:18 This means that we are to be thankful in good times and in bad. Remarkably, when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863, he did so while the nation was still in the throes of the Civil War. Lincoln encouraged the nation to give thanks, even though the nation’s future was still uncertain.

Because we are sinners, it is difficult for us to be thankful, especially during times of trouble. Even a Presidential proclamation cannot force us to be truly grateful. However, when God calls us to be thankful, He does so by revealing His great love for us in the Gospel. It is that revelation that kindles faith in our hearts and moves us to thankfulness and praise. In Psalm 118, we hear a phrase that is heard over and over again in the Old Testament; ***“O give thanks to the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.”*** We give thanks to God, because He is good and because He is merciful to sinners.

In that same Psalm, the writer expresses how God has shown us His mercy.

“I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.” We praise God, because He has heard our cries for help and has given us salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ. Even though mankind rejected Him, Jesus suffered, bled and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. It is the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ that is our hope, our cornerstone and the foundation of our faith. The hymn-writer says it so well, ***“When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.”*** So ***“Give thanks to the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever!”***

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

II Corinthians 9:15



DONATIONS RECEIVED...

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In memory of Ross Wolfe
from Reuben & Anita Aho
Nancy Fenton
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YOU ARE INVITED.... *to Winter Night of Music*
at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI, to benefit the
seminary on Tuesday, November 27 at 7PM. Join us for an
evening of Christmas caroling and special music.
Refreshments will be served.

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



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HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP THE SEMINARY

Several years ago, the Seminary board of directors established the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. Funds contributed to the endowment are not used for current day to day operations. Only the annual 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.

While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution 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. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.