



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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a Minnesota Corporation

November 2023

Dear Friends,

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, Whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: and I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace (prosperity), and create evil (adversity): I the LORD do all these *things*.¹

We come once again to this wonderful season in which we thank God for all the bounty which He so kindly supplies. The above passage reminds us why we do so, it is God who grants us all things. Years before Cyrus the Great would be born in Media, before the Southern Kingdom was carried off into exile in Babylon, God had already provided a leader who would return them to their homeland. God prophetically delivered this message through Isaiah so that His people would know that He would never forsake them. He would deliver them from exile and through the tribe of Judah, deliver them forever in Jesus the Christ, His incarnate Son. All of this was spoken about 200 years before that return would come. It was done through a man, Cyrus, who wasn't part of the children of Israel. A man who didn't even know who God was. A man whom God would hold by the right hand of power and to whom He would deliver fame, riches, and kingdoms. People would think that Cyrus made himself great, but it was God who made Him great for the sake of Jacob and of Israel.

The irony in all of this is incredible. God used a gentile, born in the country now known as Iran to deliver His people from captivity who didn't even know who God was. God knows what He is doing always and at this time when we have so much uncertainty with what is going on in Israel and our world as a whole we need to realize that God is taking care of all things even as He constantly reminds us. God is continually at work fulfilling His purpose, He never slumbers. Even though we might not understand and even the people involved may not understand, God still reigns. What we need now is much less speculation about what He's doing and more thanksgiving for what He has done. He has provided the solution for all things in the work of Jesus whose blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness. We need only keep our eyes upon Jesus with thankful hearts full of prayer and praise. God will see to everything else. Glory to His Name!

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED

In memory of Myra Demotts

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Thank you to those who have already contributed to the ***MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM!!*** The program continues through December 15th.

We are pleased to announce that we had a kind and generous donor come forward with a matching fund donation of \$25,000 for the year end of 2023. If you are able to contribute to this program, please earmark your contribution “matching funds” in the memo section of your check.

Your continued support of the seminary is deeply appreciated and enables us to continue to grow as a seminary and carry on the work of teaching and preparing our students for ministry. God bless you again for your generosity!



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



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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!