



# Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

October 2011

Dear Friends,

*“For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. <sup>5</sup> Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. <sup>6</sup> And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? <sup>7</sup> They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. <sup>8</sup> So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. <sup>9</sup> And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. <sup>10</sup> But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. <sup>11</sup> And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, <sup>12</sup> Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. <sup>13</sup> But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? <sup>14</sup> Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. <sup>15</sup> Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? <sup>16</sup> So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.”*

**Matthew 20:1-16**

When I hear the parable of the laborers of the vineyard, my first thought is “How unfair!” Surely, Jesus doesn’t sanction the behavior of the householder, does He? It seems only natural that the laborers who worked the longest *should* get paid the most. The action of the householder offends our natural sensibilities, because we hear the parable with fallen ears and a sin-stricken mind. In fact, we probably aren’t really hearing the message of the parable at all, because our focus is misdirected. This account is often referred to as “*the parable of the laborers of the vineyard.*” Perhaps a better title would be “*the parable of the generous householder.*” Jesus even emphasizes this point as He begins to tell the parable, “*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder...*” The parable is not about how poorly the laborers have been treated, but rather how kind the householder is to all of his laborers. The householder does indeed have every right to spend His money as He wishes. He was perfectly fair to the laborers who worked for the entire day, for they agreed to work for a penny a day. Those laborers were offended, because the householder was equally gracious to *all* those who were invited to labor in his vineyard, regardless of how much they had worked.

What a marvelous picture of God’s grace towards sinners! God is gracious to us, not because we have labored so hard in His vineyard, but because Jesus laid down His life for us. It is not our work that earns us anything, but finished work Christ at the Cross that merits us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Christ has paid the price that we could not pay, in order to give us the gift that we could not earn. May God be praised for the grace and mercy He has generously shown us in His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*“...but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; <sup>9</sup> Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began...”*

**II Timothy 1:8-9**

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



## ATTENTION: BOARD MEMBERS

There will be a Board Meeting on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.  
in the Seminary classroom.  
(Lunch will be provided.)



The Board of Directors  
of the

*Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary*

invite you to attend the

**ANNUAL SEMINARY RALLY**

(Meet the students and learn more about the ministry of the seminary.)

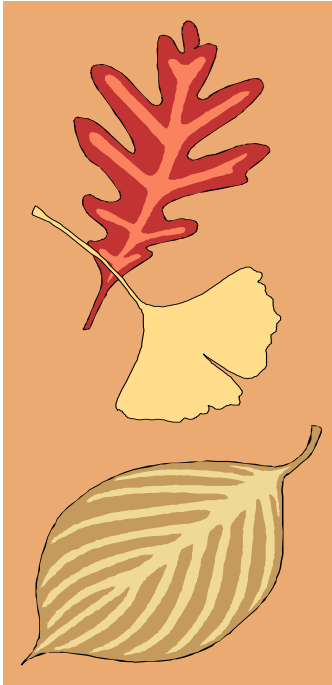
on

Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.

at

Zion Lutheran Church  
400 Ingot Street  
Michigan, Michigan 49930

Dinner following.



Donations received...

*In memory of Irene Sandretto*

Pete Sandretto

*In memory of Allen Gross*

*In memory of Kenneth & Verna Hendrickson*

Harold & Shirley Myrmel

*In memory of Edward J. Puumala*

Ellie Puumala



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

**October**

23<sup>rd</sup> – Ray Stenersen @ Seminary

30<sup>th</sup> – Charles Jousma @ Laurium

**November**

6<sup>th</sup> – Nick Kandoll @ S. Range

13<sup>th</sup> – Ray Stenersen @ Painesdale

20<sup>th</sup> – Charles Jousma @ Zion

27<sup>th</sup> – No service (Thanksgiving)

**December**

4<sup>th</sup> – Nick Kandoll @ Seminary

11<sup>th</sup> – Ray Stenersen @ Laurium

18<sup>th</sup> – Charles Jousma @ Alston

