

October 2018

Dear Friends,

The Complaint of Isaiah

Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, (Isaiah 64:1 KJV)

The passage above from Isaiah is always striking to me. God gave these words to Isaiah between 100 and 200 years before the events he was to describe would take place. God Himself anticipated the complaints that would come from the people and placed those words in the mouth of the prophet so that He could answer them. God knew the people would complain as their enemies would grow strong around them and press them so He had Isaiah fulfill the role of those that would question what God was doing and why He didn't come down and help them as He had in the past. The beautiful verse above is actually that complaint summarized in poetic form in the KJV. What God really has Isaiah say is "Why don't You come down off Your throne and come help us?" God knew that the people wouldn't understand that what they were going through was the consequence of their own action. They had been disobedient and would wind up going into exile. God would summon them to repentance but they wouldn't listen to Him. God wasn't coming down to help them because He was the one sending them to exile. However God was going to come help them. He was going to come down off that throne and do something amazing, He was going to send His Son as a man to save His people once and for all. He would send Immanuel; God With Us, and would indeed dwell with us restoring us from falleness.

Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all. 9 And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there. 10 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me. (Isaiah 65:8-10 KJV)

God was demonstrating through His dialogue with Isaiah that He always knows what He's doing. Sometimes in the circumstances we face in this world we may question if God knows what He's doing, we may even turn to the point of thinking that we are being punished by God. It's in those times that we must turn from our own thoughts and give ear to the Word of God, to listen to Him speak to us of Jesus; the precious Lamb of God, who has taken away the sin of the world on the cross at Calvary. This is a true repentance, a real change of mind about God in which we see God not according to our mind but in the mind of Christ. Then we can see the fullness of the gospel, Jesus took our sin once and for all and gave us God's righteousness (2Cor. 5:21)

God always knows what He's doing. Even more important, He knows what He's done. Isaiah could only see and know in part but we see and know the fullness of Jesus Christ fulfilled and guaranteed through the Holy Spirit. God is with us. Thanks be to God. This is the message we are given by God to deliver to the world, God is reconciled to us and wants us to be reconciled to Him (2Cor. 5:19-20). This is the substance of all we teach; the finished work of Jesus Christ, and we thank you for support by which you make what we do possible. Thanks be to God for the unspeakable gift of His grace in Jesus Christ. Blessings upon all of you.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner

DONATIONS RECEIVED...

In memory of Jeremy Kuivanen
from Laurie Kuivanen

In memory of Robert Koskela
from Ruth Johnson

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

In memory of Edward J. Puumala
from James & Laurene Mattinen

In memory of Ross Wolfe
from Fayth Wolfe
Ada Hurula
Dave & Marilyn Mickelsen
Pastor Jay & Kristine Weidner
Betty Ruohonen
Dave & Barb Jukuri
Bob & Gert Antioho
Melvyn & Judith Mikkola
Pastor Arvo & Ritva Onermaa



SAVE THE DATE.... *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: BOARD MEMBERS

There will be a Board Meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2018
at 10AM in the seminary's classroom building.



The Board of Directors
of the
Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary
invite you to attend the
Annual Seminary Rally & Graduation of
Heath Anderson & Lynn Jarvi
on
Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 3PM
at
Range Apostolic Lutheran Church
11 Whealkate Ave. South Range, MI

Dinner following service.

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



Have you ever have used Amazon.com to do your shopping? Now AmazonSmile offers the same products, same prices and same service and will also donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

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The Thrivent Choice® program offers a way members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach funds. As a benefit member, your ownership of Thrivent Financial products and services help make this support possible.

Remember....If you are an eligible member 16 and older you can recommend how to distribute Thrivent Financial charitable grant funds thought Choice Dollars®. Member eligibility and the Choice Dollars designated are based on:

- Holding a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position; or
- Having \$750 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products; or
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products.

For more information about Choice Dollars, visit <http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.



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.