

September 2015

Dear Friends,

“Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”
Matthew 13:18-23

While visiting with someone recently, I was asked a question that caught me off-guard: “Does Christianity really work?” The question came from a young man who was frustrated by many of the things that had happened in his life, as well as observing the current state of the world around him. His question was one that is not far from many of our hearts and minds. The underlying question is a simple one “If the message of the Gospel is true, why do we not see more evidence of its fruit in the world?”

Jesus addresses this in part when He shares with His disciples, the parable of the sower. The purpose in telling this parable is not to compel us to action, but simply to hear and believe. The parable is descriptive, not prescriptive. Jesus is simply explaining why things are the way they are. Sometime people hear the word of the kingdom, but do not understand. Sometimes people receive the word joyfully, but are easily discouraged when trouble or persecution arises. Some people hear the word, but then get so caught up in the cares of this life, that no fruit comes forth. But sometimes, the seed falls upon good ground and produces a great abundance of fruit. Like all good farmers, the sower must be patient.

We might be tempted to see the sower as foolhardy and careless, but this is not true. The sower is generous, and he sows the seed liberally with the hope that the seeds will bear fruit. What a beautiful picture of the graciousness of our Heavenly Father! God desires that all people would come to repentance and faith in the person and work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God does not view any seed as going to waste, because every life is precious to Him. We are so precious to Him that He sacrificed His Son Jesus, so that by His shed blood, we would have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

At the Seminary, we have the great privilege of being a part of this ministry. The purpose of the Seminary is to give men and women the opportunity to study God’s Word, so that they might be equipped to go forth as God’s instruments to sow seeds in this fallen world. We continue to labor with the encouragement of God’s promise that His Word ***“...shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”*** **Isaiah 55:10-11** You are also a vital part of this ministry. We cannot do this without you. It is only by your continued encouragement, prayer and financial support that we can continue to do what we do. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and may God be praised for giving us life and salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, or your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...”

Philippians 1:3-6



DONATIONS RECEIVED...

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from Ross & Fayth Wolfe

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from Gene & Ellie Tauriainen

In memory of Rev. Theodore Eisold
from Al & Janis Saari

In memory of Dotty Liimatainen
from Ron Liimatainen & family



IT'S TIME FOR THE FALL SEMESTER

The fall semester starts Wednesday, September 2nd. Daily classes include History of the Ancient Church, Old Testament Introduction, Lutheran Confessions, The Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Epistles, Koine Greek Readings, and Working as a Deaconess I.

A description of each class can be found in our on-line catalogue at <http://www.ilseminary.org/cataglog.pdf>.

Gospel of Mark is being taught on Thursday night at the Eastwood Apostolic Lutheran Church (Negaunee, MI) which began on August 27th. It will also be offered on Monday night in Hancock beginning September 14th. Both classes start at 7PM.

For additional information or if you would like to enroll in a class, please email cilseminary@ilseminary.com or call 906-482-3337.



ATTENTION: BOARD MEMBERS

There will be a Board Meeting on Saturday, September 26 at 1:30PM
at the Esko Apostolic Lutheran Church.



The Board of Directors
of the
Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary
invite you to attend the
Annual Seminary Rally
on
Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
at
Esko Apostolic Lutheran Church
25 Church Road
Esko, MN

Coffee & refreshments following.

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