



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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April 2014,

Dear Friends,

“Then when Jesus came, he found that he (Lazarus) had lain in the grave four days already. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: ¹⁹ And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. ²⁰ Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. ²¹ Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. ²² But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. ²³ Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. ²⁴ Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. ²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? ²⁷ She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”

John 11:17-27

In this beautiful Gospel, we see the patience and tender compassion of Jesus as He addresses a grieving Martha. Jesus had heard that Lazarus was sick, and yet he delayed coming to Lazarus for two more days, because He knew that He would raise Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus finally arrives at Bethany, Martha anxiously comes out to meet Him. At first, Martha complains to Jesus *“Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.”* Many of us can identify with Martha’s frustration. When we experience a tragedy, such as the loss of a loved one, our first response is often to ask God “Why?” “Why did you allow this to happen? Why did this have to happen to me?”

But hidden within Martha’s complaint is a glimpse of her faith. In her very words, Martha implies *“You have the power that could have prevented this from happening.”* Her faith is further expressed in the next phrase *“But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.”* In other words, *“It is not too late. You can still help us.”* Jesus patiently listens to Martha and then assures her *“... Thy brother shall rise again.”* Martha already knows this. She knows of the great event that is promised on the last Day. *“But what about the here and now? What can help me deal with the pain of this loss?”*

“Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live...” Jesus gives Martha the answer to all of her problems, even though she is asking the wrong questions. The question Martha should be asking is not what, when or why, but *“Who?”* *“Who can help me in my time of need?”* The Resurrection is not merely an event that will happen in the distant future. The Resurrection is embodied in the person who now stands before Martha. It is Jesus Christ Himself. He is the One who shed His Blood on Calvary’s cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He is the One who swallowed up death in victory. He is the One who continues to help us in every time of need. All those who by faith embrace the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus have life; right here and right now. May God grant us grace to continue believing in the One who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Donations Received...

In memory of Ellen Anderson
from Evelyn Palosaari

In memory of
Pastor & Mrs. Andrew Mickelsen
from Arvo & Ritva Onermaa

In memory of Isabel Lienau
from Duane & Judy Soine

In memory of James & Lydia Waldal
from Wayne & Anne Waldal

In memory of Ruth Lampinen
from Dale & Carolyn Questad



Seminary Service Schedule - 7 p.m.

April

- 6th – Charles Jousma @ Laurium
- 13th – Nick Kandoll @ Seminary
- 20th – No Service - Easter
- 27th – Josh Bergstedt @ Range ALC

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The students and staff at the Inter-Lutheran Seminary appreciate your continued support!



UPDATE ON OUR STUDENTS

Fourth year students, Charles Jousma, Nick Kandoll, Brittany Nelson and Ray Stenersen are completing their last semester at the seminary. Graduation will be held at the annual Seminary Rally on Sunday, October 12, 2014, at the Laurium Apostolic Lutheran Church. In addition to classes at the seminary, Charles Jousma is serving part time as the Assistant Pastor of the Laurium Apostolic Lutheran Church under Pastors Jay Weidner and Rod Johnson. Ray Stenersen is serving as Pastor of the Lake Worth Apostolic Lutheran Church. Nick Kandoll is working part time as a tutor coordinator for the BHK Child Development after school program. Brittany Nelson is taking classes at Michigan Technological University and is majoring in Liberal Arts/Psychology and works as a Deaconess for the Laurium Apostolic Lutheran Church.

Josh Bergstedt continues with classes in his third year at the seminary. Ryan Kandoll is doing his internship under Pastor Orval Wirkkala for the Kingston Apostolic Lutheran Church and will be returning in the fall to complete his last year at the seminary. Recently he went on a mission trip to Liberia. He writes, "I was blessed to have an opportunity to go with Dennis Hilman to Liberia. I stepped out in faith believing that because the call was there, God had and would continue to prepare me for the work that he wanted to do through me. And He did. The trip to Liberia was an excellent growing experience and I hope to go on other trips to Liberia and other places where the Foreign Mission goes as well."

Please keep our students in your prayers!