



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

August 2009

Dear Friends,

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou Father, art in Me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one: and that the world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.”

John 17:20-22

At our recent church convention there was considerable discussion on the subject of unity in the Body of Christ. The Kingston congregation had selected “Bind Us Together in Love” as the theme for the convention. While this sounds like an obvious goal for Christians, how do we go about achieving such unity? Because we are selfish by the old nature, we tend to get along only with those who agree with us. We agree to unity if others see things our way. We try to come to a sense of compromise or general agreement on matters of principles or practice, but such efforts only result in a cosmetic unity, or it fails because we rarely agree completely with anyone on anything.

We cannot solve this problem. True oneness cannot be achieved by the efforts sinful human beings, but rather by the work of the One Man, Jesus Christ. When Christ prays the High Priestly prayer in John 17, He is not praying for something that He hopes *may* happen, but rather *what He knows will happen*. God the Father answers the High Priestly prayer, and His answer is the Cross. Because of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are united with Him and one another by faith. The Apostle Paul asks the question to a church in Corinth that was selfish and divisive “Is Christ divided?” The answer is a resounding “No!” Indeed, we are all uniquely different, but we are all part of the same body; the Body of Christ. ***“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all...Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.”*** I Corinthians 12:4-6, 27 As members of the Body of Christ we are united by the bond of love and called to use our gifts to edify one another. To paraphrase Dietrich Bonhoeffer, unity is not something that we hope to create, but rather a new reality in which we are allowed to participate. May God grant us grace to recognize the unity that He has established in the Body of His Son and enable us by the power of the Holy Spirit to build one another up in love.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation: to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

II Corinthians 5:17-19

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



FALL SEMESTER BEGINS SOON

As we approach the beginning of a new school year, we are excited at the prospects for the future of the seminary. There is increasing demand for instruction and training in the Word of God from many different circles. As we seek to meet those needs, we thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and your financial support. We cannot do this work without you. The ministry of the seminary is not limited to a few select individuals, but is the collective effort of many brothers and sisters in Christ who have a vision for the importance of the teaching and preaching of God's Word. The Apostle Paul speaks of something similar when he writes to the church in Philippi:

“³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶ 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

If you are already a financial supporter of the seminary, we thank you and pray that God will bless you and enable you to continue helping us. If you have not been a financial supporter of the seminary in the past, please consider assisting us in the future. Every contribution not only helps to sustain the current work of the seminary, but also allows us to look at expanding our ministry in the future. Thank you for your kindness and thanks be to God for the riches of His grace through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The following classes will be offered in the 2009 fall semester:

Christian Ethics 3 credits

A study of the systems of ethical thought and an analysis of how the ethical dilemmas of humankind should be addressed by those who belong to Christ.

Churches, Sects and Isms 3 credits

An overview of the teachings and practices of the most prevalent Christian denominations, sectarian groups and others.

Gospel of John 2 credits

An exegetical study of the text of the Fourth Gospel emphasizing its structure and composition.

Gospel of Matthew 2 credits

An analysis of the gospel of Matthew in the light of its similarity to Mark and Luke. Also questions concerning the roots and priority of the Synoptic Gospels.

New Testament Greek (Prerequisite course-6 credits)

A course in the rudiments of the language of the New Testament.

Revelation 1 credit

Exegesis and interpretation of the book emphasizing its structure and content.

Genesis 2 credits (Monday & Thursday night)

A study of the origin, thought and doctrinal content of the book of Genesis.

Daily classes in Hancock will begin on Wednesday, September 2nd. The Thursday night class in Negaunee will begin on September 3rd. The Monday night class in Hancock will begin on September 14th. The complete class schedule is posted on our website www.ilseminary.org. Go to the *Academic Information* button then click on *Class Schedule*.

We hope you can join us this fall either in person or via the Internet. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to call (906) 482-3337 or send an email to: cilseminary@charterinternet.com.



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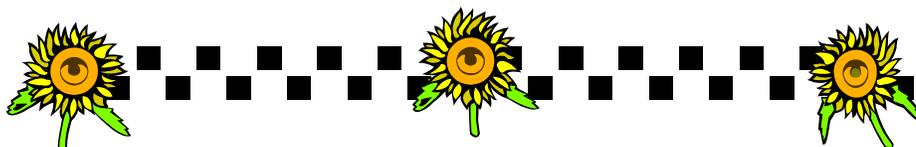
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