



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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a Minnesota Corporation

August 2012

Dear Friends,

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; ³ As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

Psalm 133

Upon returning from our annual church convention, I cannot help but think about the blessings of being a member of the Body of Christ. David speaks passionately of this fellowship in Psalm 133. However, there is a tendency to think of unity as something for which we must strive, as if this fellowship is achieved by human effort. David teaches us otherwise. He speaks of unity as something that comes from outside of us, as a gift. ***“It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard...”*** and ***“...the dew of Hermon..the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion....”*** The fellowship we have in Christ Jesus has been bestowed upon us by God, because of His Fatherly kindness. God has given us His Son, so that we might be joined together with Him and with one another. ***“And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”*** Colossians 1:20 In his book *“Life Together”*, the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer says it well, *“Christian community is founded solely on Jesus Christ and in fact, it already exists in Christ. It is not an ideal which we must realize, it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.”*

Others may say that because we still have differences of opinion, there is no unity. God's Word says otherwise. There is a unity that transcends our human frailties. The Apostle Paul asserts that even though we may be different we are still one in Christ Jesus. ***“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”*** I Corinthians 12:12-13 We as God's children enjoy fellowship together, because of the One who shed His blood at Calvary's cross to give us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. May God grant us grace to celebrate the unity we have through the person and work of His Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

Ephesians 4:11-16

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Donations Received...

In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.

from Jim & Laurene Mattinen
Ray & Rachel Stenersen
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In memory of Alice Gauthier

from Stuart & Evelyn Olson

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from George & Carol Lepisto

In memory of Mary Lou Mickelsen

from Ray & Rachel Stenersen

In honor of Ainarð & Mamie Liimatta

from Anne Liimatta



Thank you for all of your prayers, words of encouragement and gifts to the seminary in light of my father's recent passing. Our whole family has been richly blessed by the outpouring of support that we have received from our brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless you for your thoughtfulness!

Pastor Chuck Bylkas

ENDOWMENT FUND OPPORTUNITY

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has created an endowment fund so that our supporters may make gifts that will provide ongoing support to our mission. Our Endowment Fund is designed to preserve the principal and a portion of the earnings, and use the remainder of the earnings to fulfill our mission. Because only a portion of the annual earnings on our Fund is used each year, the Fund continues to grow, buffering the Fund against inflation and providing a permanent source of support to our mission.

The Fund is located at the Lutheran Community Foundation, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the charitable, religious and educational purposes of Lutheran congregations, institutions and communities, and benefiting society in general. It offers individuals and organizations the opportunity to create permanent charitable funds to benefit the charities and causes representing their diverse interests and concerns. At the Foundation, our endowment fund will be invested for long-term appreciation. Only a part of the income from the fund will be available to be spent each year; the remaining income will stay in the fund to build a buffer against inflation and future market fluctuations. One of the many advantages of this relationship is that our donors may work directly with the Foundation to achieve their charitable goals and remain anonymous.

We would like to invite you to participate in supporting the endowment. You may make gifts during life or at death. If you would like to learn more about the purpose of the endowment and ways you may give, please visit http://www.thelcf.org:80/organizational_endowments.

