

August 2017

Dear Friends,

***“But let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because Thou defendest them: let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee. <sup>12</sup> For Thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt Thou compass him as with a shield.” Psalm 5:11-12***

The above bible passage was the theme verse for this year’s ALCA Church Convention held last month in Esko, Minnesota. It is indeed a fitting verse for the yearly gathering of our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. The meals were delicious, the music was uplifting and the fellowship was wonderful. The Esko congregation put forth a fine effort and did not disappoint. There was indeed a joyful spirit at this year’s convention.

As always, the source of our joy is God, Himself. The most important element of our gathering is the hearing of God’s Word. The proclamation of the Gospel is not only the means by which God grants faith unto us, but also the cause for our rejoicing. As the Psalmist writes, He defends us and compasses or surrounds us with His favor.

During the Sunday morning service, Pastor Nathan Juntunen directed a choir, consisting of singers from all over our church federation. We sang the hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” by Reginald Heber. In the hymn, we sing about a God who is like no other. We sing of His greatness, but also of His mystery. We sing of God’s holiness, but also of His great love for sinners. In the first and fourth verse, we sing that God is both *“merciful and mighty”*. The same God by whose might created the heavens and the earth, also created you and me. The same God whose holiness demands perfection from His children, demonstrates His mercy by meeting those very demands in His Son, Jesus Christ. Indeed, we have joy, because of the One ***“...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”***  
**Hebrews 12:2**

We as Christians have the greatest reason to rejoice. We have been created by God, redeemed by the blood of His Son and graced with the continual presence of His Holy Spirit. These truths are what make our joy so great and our fellowship so sweet. May God continue to make Himself known to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, so that our joy might increase.

***“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”***  
**Isaiah 25:9**

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



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*In memory of Ernest Bylka Jr.*

From Judy Bylka

*In memory of Anna L. Naasko*

From Dr. Al & Janis Saari

*In Elizabeth Naasko*

From Dr. Al & Janis Saari

**LOOKING** ahead to the Fall Semester



Tentatively the daily classes offered this fall will be History of American Lutheranism, Gospel of Luke, Evangelism, Christian Education, and Homiletics and Deaconess History which will begin on Wednesday, September 6. Romans will be the Thursday night beginning August 31 at the Eastwood Apostolic Lutheran Church in Negaunee, MI and the Monday night class beginning September 11 in Hancock, MI. For additional information on each class visit our website: [www.ilseminary.org](http://www.ilseminary.org), contact the seminary at (906) 482-3337 or send an email to [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com).

*Just a reminder...*

**1967 - 2017**



**SAVE THE DATE...OCTOBER 8, 2017**  
**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-LUTHERAN SEMINARY**

The seminary announces plans for a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration which will take place at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 3:00PM with dinner to follow. Plymouth, Minnesota is where the seminary was founded and we would like to celebrate the anniversary as part of our annual Seminary Rally. Please **SAVE THE DATE** and join us for this special occasion.

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



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**HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP THE SEMINARY**

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has created an endowment fund so that our supporters may make gifts that will provide ongoing support. 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 **InFaith 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.

We 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.infaithfound.org/ilseminary>.

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