

August 2019

Dear Friends,

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Pet. 1:19-21 KJV)

And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (2 Pet. 3:15-16 KJV)

The Word of God is a most gracious gift provided by God through the Holy Spirit to direct the understanding and guide the seekers of truth into paths of righteousness. As St. Peter said above; it is a light to lighten even the darkest path. However, when it is wrested from its context, torn from its sense and applied in piecemeal fashion it leads to destruction, also as St. Peter stated above. In every age we must be on our guard to make sure what we hear and read is truly God's Word and not the idea of human beings hidden in a strange mixture of words from the sacred text applied according to human contrivance.

Luther was well aware of this temptation in his time as well as witnessed in these excerpts from his commentary on Psalm 117:

“This is a short, easy psalm, doubtless made this way so that everyone might pay more attention to it and remember better what is said. No one can complain about the length or content, much less about the sharpness, difficulty, or profundity of the words. Here we find only short, precise, clear, and ordinary words, which everyone can understand if he will only pay attention and think about them. All God's words demand this. We must not skim over them and imagine we have thoroughly understood them, like the frivolous, smug, and bored souls who, when they hear some word of God once, consider it old hat and cast about for something new. They think they have thoroughly mastered all they have heard. This is a dangerous disease, a clever and malicious trick of the devil. Thus he makes people bold, smug, forward, and ready for every kind of error and schism. This is really the vice known as ἀκηδία, slothfulness in God's service, against which St. Paul exhorts us (Rom. 12:11) to be fervent in spirit.

I have often felt this particular devil and temptation myself, and even today I cannot guard and cross myself against it too carefully. I confess this freely as an example to anyone; for here am I, an old doctor of theology and a preacher, and certainly as competent in Scripture as such smart alecks. At least I ought to be. Yet even I must become a child;

I am convinced by experience that God's Word can never be entirely mastered, but that Ps. 147 speaks truly: “His understanding is beyond measure” (v. 5), or Ecclesiasticus: “Who drinks of me shall thirst even more after me” (24:29). Now if I have such difficulties, what will happen to those smug, self-satisfied charlatans who neither struggle nor labor?

Therefore I certainly believe that there is not one who truly knows everything the Holy Spirit says in this short psalm.”

Luther, M. (1999). Luther's works, vol. 14: Selected Psalms III. (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.) (Vol. 14, pp. 7–8). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.

At this Seminary we believe in studying God's Word as it is clearly presented in the text of the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. If you struggle, as all of us do, with that devil of smug, self-assuredness and recognize the only means of combatting it is found in the study of God's Word as written, then please feel free to join us for class. The Word of God speaks for itself and I assure you, we listen.

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner



### *Donations Received...*



**In memory of Dr. Albert Saari**  
from Janis Saari

**In memory of John Jukuri**  
from John & Mary Lehto

**In memory of Carol Gazvoda**  
from Mark & Gail Johnson

**In memory of David Krutzig**  
from Betty Krutzig-Young



## **MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY**

Recently we have had a kind donor come forward with a matching fund donation of \$20,000.00. We are seeking additional donations above and beyond normal giving that would be matched dollar for dollar within this program. The program begins August 1 and runs through October 31, 2019. If you are able to contribute in this program, please earmark your contribution “matching funds” in the memo section of your check.

Your continued support of the seminary is deeply appreciated and enables us to continue to grow as a seminary and carry on the work of teaching and preparing our students for ministry. God bless you again for your generosity!



*Tentative*  
**UPCOMING FALL SEMESTER**

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Principles of Biblical Interpretation		Principles of Biblical Interpretation		Principles of Biblical Interpretation
11:00 - 11:50a.m.	Homiletics		Homiletics		Liturgics & Hymnology
3:30 - 5:30p.m.		Deaconess History			
7:00 – 8:40p.m.	1 & 2 Thessalonians begins 9/9 in Hancock			1 & 2 Thessalonians begins 8/29 in Negaunee	

Daily classes offered in the fall begin, Wednesday, September 4, 2019:

- Principles of Biblical Interpretation** (3 credits) – A history and study of the hermeneutical techniques and their application to the scriptures, including the methods of Textual Analysis.
- Homiletics** (2 credits) – A study of the objectives, construction and delivery of sermons.
- Liturgics & Hymnology** (1 credit) – A study of the origin and meaning of orders of worship and the parts of the Christian worship service with an emphasis upon current application.
- Deaconess History** (2 credits) – A study of the role of deaconesses through the history of the Christian Church.

The Monday night class in Hancock and Thursday night class in Negaunee will be **1 and 2 Thessalonians: Anticipating the Last Day with St. Paul**. In Hancock at 7PM from September 9-December 16 and at 7PM at the Eastwood ALC (Negaunee) from August 29-October 3. This class is a study of St. Paul's correspondence with the Thessalonians in light of the eschatological discourses of Jesus with a focus on how Paul encourages the believers to hold fast in the faith as it was handed down to them in anticipation of the glorious future promised them in Jesus Christ. Early registration for on-line capability is encouraged as there are only 10 spots available.

Feel free to contact us by phone (906) 482-3337, email [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com) or check our on-line class schedule for updated information at <http://ilseminary.org/classchedule.htm>.

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

Several years ago, the Seminary board of directors established the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. Funds contributed to the endowment are not used for current day to day operations. Only the annual earnings of the endowment will be used for the seminary's needs thereby ensuring the continued existence of this funding source. This is the preferred method used by many non-profit entities, especially ongoing religiously focused organizations such as seminaries.

While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support.

Although the seminary still needs the financial ongoing regular contributions of our supporters, please consider the endowment fund for your planned giving needs. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.