



# Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

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Dear Friends,

***“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” John 1:5 (KJV)***

This verse from the prologue of the Gospel of St. John is quite intriguing, in particular the word *“comprehended.”* We might take the word *“comprehend”* to mean *“understand,”* which means that John is saying that the darkness cannot understand the Light. We certainly believe this to be true. We, as sinful human beings cannot understand the Divine, unless God reveals Himself to us. God has indeed revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ. ***“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth... No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” John 1:14-18***

Even though God has made Himself known to us in the person of His Incarnate Son, we do not claim to know *everything* about God. We only know what God has chosen to reveal to us through His Divine Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit. There are many things about God that remain a mystery to us. Indeed, we even confess in the Athanasian Creed that we cannot fully comprehend God:

*The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate.  
The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible,  
and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.  
The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal.  
And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal.  
As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated,  
but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.* -The Athanasian Creed

The good news is that we do not need to know *everything* about God. In fact, the apostles and the early Church fathers were content to allow many things to remain a mystery. The sacraments themselves were often referred to as *“the mysteries.”* The Apostle Paul even celebrates the greatness of Divine mystery as he writes: ***“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! <sup>34</sup>For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? <sup>35</sup>Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? <sup>36</sup>For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11:33-36***

Although some Divine matters remain a mystery only to be apprehended by faith, God has revealed everything that we *need* to know in the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ. As Christians, we worship a God who transcends our understanding. He is wiser, stronger, more merciful and more loving than we are. However, we also celebrate a God who chose to reveal Himself to us in Christ. ***“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14*** We rejoice and marvel at God’s great love for us, that He gave His Son Jesus to suffer, die and rise again to give us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. The hymn writer Charles Wesley expresses the celebration of this Divine mystery in his hymn *“And Can It Be, that I Should Gain?”*:

*‘Tis mystery all! Th’Immortal dies!  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine!  
‘Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

May the Lord bless you for your support of the seminary as we continue to make Jesus Christ known through God’s Holy Word.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



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## FALL SEMESTER AT THE SEMINARY

The fall semester will be starting soon! Daily classes will begin on Wednesday, September 6. **For a complete schedule, visit our website <https://ilseminary.org/classschedule.htm>.**

The Monday night class on Genesis will begin on September 11 at 7PM. We will be resuming class in the sanctuary at 916 Pine Street, Hancock, as well as offering the class on Zoom. This class is a study of the origin, thought and doctrinal content of the book of Genesis. If possible, we ask for a \$50 donation to attend this class.

To sign up or if you have any questions, feel free to email [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com) or call 906-482-3337. See ya soon!

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



**CHOICE DOLLARS DETAILS:** Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

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The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing.™ All 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. To learn more about this organization, go to [www.thriventcharitable.com](http://www.thriventcharitable.com).

We would love 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. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 821-8574 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.

## **ANOTHER OPTION FOR GIVING – PayPal**

Online giving is as easy as clicking the DONATE button on our website: <https://ilseminary.org>. Simply go to the *How to Contribute* tab and tap the yellow *DONATE* button to begin. There are options for credit and debit card donations and even the option to help the seminary cover the PayPal processing fee. (Note we are charged 1.99% + \$.49/transaction fee). As always, we are thankful for your continued support!