



December 2013

Dear Friends,

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup> That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came unto his own, and his own received him not. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> 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.”***

At the center of the celebration of Christmas is a great mystery. With the birth of Jesus, the Divine becomes human. In his Gospel, John speaks of this event as the Word becoming flesh. In the past, God spoke to us through the spoken word and the written word. But now, God communicates His great love for mankind through the living Word, Jesus Christ. Instead of sending another ordinary messenger, God comes and speaks to us *in person*. The writer of the book of Hebrews echoes a similar thought:

***“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; <sup>4</sup> Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”* Hebrews 1:1-4**

This passage teaches us that God took on human flesh not only to *say* that He loves us, but to *demonstrate* His love for us. Christ came for the express purpose of offering Himself as a sacrifice for sins. Not only did Christ cleanse us from sin by His blood, but He also conforms us into His own image. We now walk in newness of life, because of the death and Resurrection of God’s Son. To paraphrase the church father Athanasius, *“He became what we are, so that we might become what He is.”*

May God grant us grace to believe in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation and celebrate the *“...good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”*

***“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”***

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



*Donations Received...*

*In memory of Pearl Kemppa*  
from Dave & Gladys Wiitanen

*In memory of Rev. Kenneth B. Hendrickson*  
from Thomas Needle

*In memory of Larry & Harriet Rasaka*  
from Wayne & Anne Waldal

*In memory of Bertha Kangas*  
from Irene Woldring

*In memory of Gerald L. DeMotts*  
from Myra Demotts

*In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.*  
from Judith Bylkas  
Ernest Bylkas III & family

*In memory of Nella Wahala*  
from Al & Janis Saari

*In memory of Walter Hendrickson*  
from Neal & Cheryl Hendrickson



**Seminary Service Schedule**  
**7 p.m.**  
**December**

1<sup>st</sup> – No service (Thanksgiving)  
8<sup>th</sup> – Charles Jousma @ S. Range  
15<sup>th</sup> – Charles Jousma @ Laurium



## Spring 2014 Class Schedule

Class begins Monday, January 20th	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8:30a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	Christian Dogmatics II	O.T. Wisdom Literature	Christian Dogmatics II	O.T. Wisdom Literature	Christian Dogmatics II
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	History of the American Lutheranism	Churches, Sects & Isms	History of American Lutheranism	Churches, Sects & Isms	History of American Lutheranism
11:00 - 11:50a.m.	Eschatology	Churches, Sects & Isms	Eschatology		Daniel
12:00 - 12:50p.m.	Patristic Greek Readings				
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Acts of the Apostles (In Hancock)				

### CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

**Christian Dogmatics II** (3 credits) - A continuation of Christian Dogmatics I focusing on lectures, readings and discussion of various Christian Doctrines.

**Old Testament Wisdom Literature** (2 credits) - A study of selected portions of the Wisdom Books of the Old Testament, their thought, content and implications for today.

**History of the American Lutheranism** (3 credits) - A study of Lutheranism in America from the colonial period.

**Churches, Sects & Isms** (3 credits) - An overview of the teachings and practices of the most prevalent Christian denominations, sectarian groups and others.

**Eschatology** (2 credits) - An analysis of the last things focusing on the debate surrounding current views of the subject and what the Scripture says regarding this controversial topic.

**Daniel** (1 credit) - An introduction to the genre of apocalyptic literature including the various interpretations of the book today.

**Patristic Greek Readings** (1 credit) - The reading and translation of selected passages from the Greek Church Fathers.

**Acts of the Apostles** (2 credits) - The historical account of the rise of the Church according to Luke is examined in the light of its doctrinal and theological contents.

