

December 2015

Dear Friends,

We are indeed living in a troubled world. Political upheaval, terrorist movements, general unrest and uncertainty are everywhere. People hope for peace but find conflict all around them. No doubt things are very disquieting, the heightened sense of alarm caused by the recent terrorist attacks in France can cause even Christians to question the nature of these events and their significance in the grand scheme of predictions regarding the end of the present age. What are we to do?

One thing we should do is once again return to the pages of the Holy Scripture. When we do this we find that things at the time of the birth of Jesus were much the same as our own age, the land of the Jewish people was being convulsed, political entities were competing for control of governmental affairs, ideologies represented in those parties were fiercely dueling to prevail in the struggle for dominance in the minds of the people, bands of assassins roamed the streets in search of lone enemies to readily dispatch. Much of the general populace found no relief for their sense of unease.

How did God remedy the situation? He chose to enter the turmoil Himself. So according to the Nicene Creed:

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.”

God’s remedy wasn’t just for that age but for all ages forever. This is our hope and our certainty. This is the place of our rest and peace. Our unease is replaced by the reality of knowing that our God reigns, and that not from a distance but in Jesus our Immanuel “God With Us.” We must not allow news outlets, political parties or terror movements to determine the course of our action. God alone must lead and direct us as we face all the twists and turns of our present existence. So we pray “Thy will be done” and “Deliver us from evil.” He has and He will. So the words of the well-known hymn of Christmas:

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie, Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting Light, The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

So they are still met in Him who was born of that Blessed Christmas. Thanks be to God!

Merry Christmas,  
Jay Weidner



*Donations Received...*



*In memory of Pastor Alvin C. Holmgren*  
from Dale & Carolyn Questad

*In memory of Reverend Herbert Amala*  
from Betty Amala

*In memory of Walter Hendrickson*  
from Verna A. Hendrickson

*In memory of Vieno Stalo*  
from Donna Gustafson Flaherty

*In memory of Carol Lepisto*

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Pastor Jesse & Judy Aho  
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Helen Spear  
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Pastor Jay & Kristine Weidner  
Marilynn Hamar  
John Jukuri  
Paul & Lorraine Tomasi  
Ruth Johnson  
Betty Ruohonen  
Russ & Duffy Lepisto  
Mark & Gail Johnson  
Dave & Gladys Wiitanen  
Anna Anttila



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

**December**

6<sup>th</sup> – Heath Anderson @ Laurium



**WINTER NIGHT OF MUSIC**  
*to benefit the Inter-Lutheran Seminary*

*The Annual Winter Night of Music will be held Tuesday, December 1 at 7PM at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock. Refreshments will be served following the program.*



**Spring 2016 Class Schedule**

<b>Class begins Monday, January 25th</b>	<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
8:30a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	History of the Medieval Church	New Testament Introduction	History of the Medieval Church ----- Working as a Deaconess II	New Testament Introduction	History of the Medieval Church
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Eschatology	Churches, Sects & Isms	Eschatology ----- Working as a Deaconess II	Churches, Sects & Isms	Ephesians/ Colossians
11:00 - 11:50a.m.	Christian Dogmatics I	Joshua	Christian Dogmatics I	Churches, Sects & Isms	Christian Dogmatics I
12:00 - 12:50p.m.	Patristic Greek Readings				
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Corinthian Epistles (In Hancock)				

**Jay will also be teaching Romans and Anthropology & Christology from January 4-22, 2016 at the Vine Community Church, 4373 Wade Hampton Blvd, Taylors, South Carolina.**

**Anthropology & Christology (Monday-Friday 10AM-Noon) - An investigation of what it means to be human, especially in light of the person and work of Jesus Christ.**

**Romans (Monday-Friday 7PM-9PM) - Exegesis and interpretation of portions of the epistle emphasizing its doctrinal content and theology.**

**The material fee is \$50 per person unless you are taking the class for credit and then you will need to contact the seminary to register. (Note – the fee may be waived if you are experiencing a hardship.)**

**If you have questions, feel free to contact the seminary at 906-482-3337.**