



# 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

December 2021

Dear Friends,

*“And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness. <sup>1</sup>Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. <sup>3</sup>Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. <sup>6</sup>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”* Isaiah 8:22-9:7

At the end of the eighth chapter of the book of Isaiah, the prophet certainly paints a gloomy picture of the situation confronting the nation of Judah. The people have turned away from their God, a blatant refusal of His blessing of protection and prosperity. Now they face almost certain destruction at the hands of their enemies. It was indeed a dark time for God’s people.

This past year has been a difficult year for our nation as well. We see the lingering effects of a serious global pandemic, the on-going struggles of our economy and continued civil unrest in our cities. The darkness seems to surround us as well.

It is easy to lose hope when the circumstances seem so desperate. The nation of Judah mistakenly thought that God had forsaken them, when in fact, they had forsaken Him. The truth of the matter is this: *God never forsakes His people.* The prophet Isaiah begins the ninth chapter with the marvelous word *“Nevertheless.”* Darkness surrounds the nation of Judah, *nevertheless “upon them hath the light shined.”* The enemies of Judah surround God’s people, *nevertheless, “unto us a child is born.”* Likewise, the enemy of sin threatens to destroy us, *nevertheless* as the angel tells the shepherds *“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you 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.”* Luke 2:1-11 The darkness of death may surround us, *nevertheless* the Light of Life, who swallows up death in victory still shines upon us. No matter what difficulties we face in this life, the Christmas message is still the same. *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* As the hymnwriter says it so well:

*God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Thank you all for your continued support of the seminary. We pray that the Lord will richly bless you and your families with all the joys of Christmas this season. May God drive away all of our doubts and fears in this world, so that we may rejoice in the sure hope of Christ and His salvation.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



*DONATIONS RECEIVED...*

**In memory of Joyce Magner**  
From Joan Ostapenko

**In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.**  
From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

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**In memory of Dan Foote**  
From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

**In memory of Jon Severson**  
From Roger Harju

**In memory of Dave Jukuri**  
From Tomas & Mindy Nyblom

**MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM**



Our matching funds program will be ending soon. You have until **December 15, 2021** to get in your donation and it will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. If you are able to contribute to 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!



**Winter Night of Music**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we regret to inform you that the Winter Night of Music scheduled for December 7, 2021, has been cancelled. As always, we appreciate your continued support.



The Spring semester begins Monday, January 17, 2022. Tentatively the following classes will be offered: History of the Medieval Church, Isaiah, Lutheran Confessions, Evangelism, Science & Christianity, and New Testament Greek Readings. The Monday night class will be the Gospel of John. If you are interested in taking a class, please email [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com) or call 906-482-3337.



*~ From the students and staff ~  
of the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary*

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



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Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

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## **THRIVENT CHARITABLE IMPACT & INVESTING™**

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing™ (formerly InFaith Community Foundation). 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.