



# 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 2022

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.” John 1:1-14***

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 St. 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. Luke 2:11***

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



## *DONATIONS RECEIVED...*



**In memory of David Krutzig**  
From Audrey Krutzig

**In memory of Joe Krutzig**  
From Audrey Krutzig



### *WINTER NIGHT OF MUSIC*

at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI, to benefit the seminary on Tuesday, December 6 at 7PM. Join us for an evening of Christmas caroling and special music. Refreshments will be served.



**Looking Ahead...**

**Spring Semester 2023**

The following classes will be offered in the Spring 2023 semester which begins Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**History of the Ancient Church** (3 credits) A historical analysis of the major people and events that shaped the Christian Church from the Apostolic Age to 600AD.

**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.

**Old Testament Introduction** (3 credits) An introductory study of the origin, authorship, purpose and reliability of the Old Testament writings with special attention devoted to their literary design and individual and corporate unity.

**Homiletics** (2 credits) A study of the objectives, construction and delivery of sermons.

**Christian Education** (2 credits) The principles of the theology of Christian Education. Preparation for teaching Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Classes, etc.

**New Testament Greek Readings** (1 credit) A course designed to apply the principles learned in New Testament Greek and facilitate the mastery of the language of the New Testament through reading selected portions of its text. (New Testament Greek prerequisite).

**Deuteronomy** (2 credits) An exegetical study of the book with an emphasis upon its place in the Pentateuch and its influence on the New Testament.

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 Seminary.*



*There are many ways to help the seminary as noted below.  
We appreciate your continued support. God bless you!*



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**Eligibility requirements:** To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership.<sup>1</sup> Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
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Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

**Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations:** Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

**Choice Dollars expiration date:** Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

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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.