



# 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

February 2010

Dear Friends,

***“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.<sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.<sup>20</sup> And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.<sup>21</sup> And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.<sup>22</sup> And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.”***  
**Matthew 4:17-22**

The season of Epiphany is all about the manifestation of Jesus Christ, not just to the people of Israel, but to all people. In this passage from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus makes Himself known to His disciples, with the intent that they, in turn will make Him known. At Jesus' bidding, Peter, Andrew, James and John leave their nets to follow Him. Why would these men do such a thing? What would compel them to forsake their way of life, and become disciples of someone they barely knew?

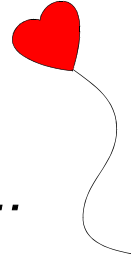
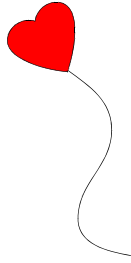
Later on, Jesus makes it clear to His disciples that following Him would not be easy. ***“...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.<sup>25</sup> For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”*** **Matthew 16:24-25** Jesus tells us that merely sacrificing part of our lives for the sake of the Gospel is not enough. Christ says that we must yield everything. As the German theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it, *“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”*

Because we are weak according to the flesh, we cannot respond to such a call by our own strength. Sin causes us to believe that the price of following Jesus is too great; that we must cling to our life in this world at all costs. But once again God intervenes, calling us to repentance; turning us away from the world and bringing us back to the Cross. As we consider how Christ shed His blood to give us life and salvation, our meager sacrifice is insignificant.

It is indeed God's wonderful grace that makes discipleship possible. Bonhoeffer says it well *“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: “ye were bought at a price,” and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”*

May God grant us grace to yield our lives, so that we might discover the true life we have in Christ Jesus. May Christ continue to make Himself known to us, so that we too might make Him known.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



*Memorials received...*

*In memory of Theresa Weidner*  
from Patti Wills

*In memory of Jerry DeMotts*  
from Myra DeMotts

*In memory of Mrs. & Mrs. Walter Heikkila*  
from Jim & MaryLou Mickelsen

*In memory of Rev. & Mrs. Andrew Mickelsen*  
from Jim & MaryLou Mickelsen

*In memory of Naomi Johnson*  
from Jim & MaryLou Mickelsen

*In memory of Margaret Olsen*  
from Jim & MaryLou Mickelsen

*In memory of Mary Mickelsen*  
from Jim & MaryLou Mickelsen

*In memory of Esther Laine*  
from Gladys Godell  
from Pearl E. Meier



Pray for former seminary students Pastor Charles Bergstedt (heart condition) and Pastor Jesse Aho (Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma) who are faced with these medical challenges.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/charlesbergstedt>

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jesseaho>



## SPRING SEMESTER UPDATE

The spring semester is underway and classes are going well. Dennis Hannu and Marc Tumberg are in their final semester and scheduled to graduate in the fall. Additional full time students are Mike Karinen and Brittany Nelson. Gail Johnson, Karen St. Peter, Emily Jarvi and Lynn Jarvi are part-time students. We would like to welcome Tina Kinniainen who is a new part-time student this semester. Several students continue to access classes on line; Orval Wirkkala (Kingston, MN), Lois Matson (Yacolt, WA), Dean Niskanen (Greer, SC), Dale Niskanen (Negaunee, MI) and Bethany Lambrecht (Vernon Hills, IL). In addition, Mark Sippola continues to take classes independently. The Monday class on Isaiah has approximately 30 students. Please keep all our students in your prayers.



### **Spring 2010 Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary Service Schedule – 7 p.m.**

#### February

14<sup>th</sup> – Marc Tumberg @ Seminary  
21<sup>st</sup> – Dennis Hannu @ Zion  
28<sup>th</sup> – Marc Tumberg @ Laurium

#### March

7<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Hannu @ Zion  
14<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Hannu @ S. Range  
21<sup>st</sup> – Marc Tumberg @ Painesdale  
28<sup>th</sup> – Marc Tumberg @ Seminary

#### April

4<sup>th</sup> Easter – No Service  
11<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Hannu @ Laurium  
18<sup>th</sup> – Marc Tumberg @ S. Range  
25<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Hannu @ Zion