

February 2016

Dear Friends,

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God; ²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (Heb. 10:19-25 KJV)

This year began in the most marvelous way for me as it began in fellowship with the wonderful congregation in Hockinson WA. It now continues as I'm teaching classes with many of the beloved family of God in Greer SC. In every way the words of these verses of Hebrews have been confirmed, the fellowship together of those of the same faith anchored on the finished work of Jesus Christ makes us consistently stronger. There is a mutual encouragement within the body of Jesus Christ that permeates all of one's being, it causes anxiety and fear to skulk away slipping back into the dark night that birthed them to be replaced with the overwhelming presence of the Living God radiating light, love, life and peace to all constantly voicing; "Be not afraid, only believe." (Mark 5:36) In a tumultuous world it is a joy to see the hand of God beckoning us to come into fellowship with Him and receive the bounty that He pours forth through His Word and Spirit assuring us of our entry into that new and living way through the blood of Jesus in full assurance of faith.

Once again it was joyous to witness the large congregation and especially the many young people come forward in Hockinson for the Lord's Supper and the privilege of being able to participate in the same. The only thing that would have been better would have been able to throw those doors open and have an endless stream come in through the same as God drew them from the world into fellowship with Him. Such a sight we will no doubt see in the heavenly realms, but what a joy to envision it even briefly in the present. Truly this is the epitome of our earthly labor that we be God's vessels consecrated for His use to call the lost and hurting. So it is in every aspect of our existence that God uses that sweet fellowship to equip us to carry out the mission that He has given all of us in this world, by His Word emboldening us to "trust and obey." Thanks be to God for the many brothers and sisters in faith He has provided us with to walk with in this world as we reach out to yet draw many more into fellowship with us, and for the gift of His only begotten Son who reigns with Him forever.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



Donations Received...



In memory of Carol Lepisto

from Joe & Carol Giachino

In memory of Gordon J. Mattila

from Marjorie Mattila & family

In memory of Ruth Sunnarborg

from Dr. Al & Janis Saari
Loren & Gladys Bergstedt
Luella Puumala

In memory of Oscar & Ailie Sunnarborg

from Ron & Lois Johnson

In memory of Kirk & Milly Otto

from Kirk Jr. & Carol Otto

In memory of Mary Lou Mickelsen

from Joyce Tibbs

In memory of Kent Wolfe

from Joyce Tibbs

In memory of Naomi Johnson

from Joyce Tibbs

In memory of Nick & Alma Sorvala

from Eugene & Eleanore Tauriainen

In memory of Wally Niemela

from Ken Seaton

In memory of Joyce Magner

from Joan Ostapenko

In memory of Adam Ostapenko

from Joan Ostapenko

In memory of Willaim Bergstedt Sr. & Jr.

from Caviness family

Thanks



Seminary Service Schedule 7 p.m.

February

14th – Heath Anderson @ Seminary
28th – Heath Anderson @ Zion

March

13th – Heath Anderson @ Laurium
27th – Easter (No Service)

April

3rd – Heath Anderson @ Range
17th – Heath Anderson @ Zion

May

1st – Heath Anderson @ Seminary



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars®

Thank you for your Thrivent Choice donations in 2015. The seminary received approximately **\$3,700** in grant funds that **you chose** to be given to our organization. As a benefit member, your ownership of Thrivent Financial products and services help make this support possible. **Note – you can direct Choice Dollars designated to you in 2015 until March 31, 2016.**

Remember....If you are an eligible member 16 and older you can recommend how to distribute Thrivent Financial charitable grant funds through Choice Dollars®. Member eligibility and the Choice Dollars designated are based on:

- Holding a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position; or
- Having \$750 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products or
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products.

For more information about Choice Dollars, visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

The students and staff at the Inter-Lutheran Seminary appreciate your continued support!

