

February 2020

Dear Friends,

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: 11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. (2 Tim. 1:6-14 KJV)

Perhaps not since the time that Christianity was an emergent belief system in the hostile environment of ancient Rome has there been a time when it is more necessary to take these words to heart. At this time our beliefs face challenges from multiple sources even to the point of ridicule. In many places it is considered archaic to speak of such a faith and in some situations, it is greeted with a rabid hatred and opposition. In such circumstances it becomes needful for us to remember that the nascent faith we embrace was forged in times of trial and through tribulation transformed the world. Our world is in need of and indeed longing for a retransformation of the sort witnessed in the early centuries of the rise of Christianity. Many people find themselves plunged into the depressing state of lack of purpose and meaninglessness. The Gospel alone is the remedy. Only the love and grace of God mediated through the finished work of Jesus Christ our Lord can restore the dignity of human life lost in the musings of the modern philosophers voiced in the divided and often senseless culture of our era. For all of us then entrusted with the office of proclamation it is incumbent that we likewise stir up the gift and remain steadfast in the truth. We cannot fall prey to the temptation to simply satisfy the desires of a public guided by some very questionable ideas in order to increase numbers. We cannot pander to fads and trends that come out of a false view of God and humanity. We must ourselves embrace the truth and speak it without reservation or fear. We ask you to continue to support us in training and upholding those who are called to this most necessary task and we thank all of you who have blessed us with your support throughout the years.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner

 *Donations Received* 

In memory of Larry & Hariett Rasaka
from Wayne & Anne Waldal

In memory of Vieno Stalo
from Donna Gustafson Flaherty

In memory of Peter Sandretto Sr.
from Donna Gustafson Flaherty



****Announcing 2020 Spring Semester Class Changes****

****History of Christianity in America** (3 credits) – A history of the spread of the church in the United States from its pilgrim beginnings to the present.

Science & Christianity (2 credits) – A study of the relationships and differences in the methodology and epistemology of modern science and the Christian Faith.

Pastoral Epistles (1 credit) – An investigation of the thought and doctrinal content of these epistles, a comparison with undisputed Pauline literature to answer questions concerning their Pauline authorship with an exegetical study of the books.

****Evangelism** (2 credits) – A study of the principles and methods of Christian outreach in one's own church and community, including home visitation.

General Epistles & Hebrews (2 credits) – A study of the content of each of the letters emphasizing the uniqueness of thought in their respective authors.

This is the Monday night class in Hancock at 7PM and can be taken online or independently. If you are interested, contact the seminary at 906-482-3337 or email to cilseminary@ilseminary.com.

For a complete class schedule go to <https://ilseminary.org/classchedule.htm>.

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



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The Thrivent Choice® program offers a way members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach funds. As a benefit member, your ownership of Thrivent Financial products and services help make this support possible.

Remember....If you are an eligible member 16 and older you can recommend how to distribute Thrivent Financial charitable grant funds thought 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 <http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.



HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP THE SEMINARY

Several years ago, the Seminary board of directors established the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. Funds contributed to the endowment are not used for current day to day operations. Only the annual 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.

While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution 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. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.