



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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Dear Friends,

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. ² For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. ³ And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. ⁴ Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. ⁵ Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. ⁶ The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord.” **Isaiah 60:1-6**

The season of Epiphany in the church year focuses on the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the whole world. The very word “*epiphany*” means “manifestation” or “appearing.” For this reason, the season of Epiphany is often referred to as the Season of Light. Epiphany begins with the visitation of the wise men, in which God leads the wise men to the Christ-Child by way of ancient prophecies and a miraculous star. Because these wise men were from the east, tradition suggests that they were Gentiles (people who were not Jewish by birth). This event highlights the fact that God did not send His Son for the people of Israel alone, but for all people.

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany, the church traditionally celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. At the baptism of Jesus, all three persons of the Godhead are evident. Jesus, of course, who is baptized; the Holy Spirit, who descends upon Jesus as a dove; and the Father who speaks from heaven **“*This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*”** On subsequent Sundays during the season of Epiphany, the appointed readings emphasize how God makes His Son known to the world through His miracles and through His teaching and preaching. Epiphany comes to a dramatic conclusion with the festival of the Transfiguration. On this Sunday, the church observes the remarkable manifestation of Jesus on the mountaintop, where Peter, James and John are given a glimpse of Jesus’ divine glory, which is greater than any other biblical figure, including Moses or Elijah. Once again, God the Father audibly speaks from heaven declaring Jesus to be His beloved Son. Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One, the central figure in all of human history and the One to whom we should listen and follow.

We as Christians, follow the One who lived, suffered, bled, died and rose again for us. God has not only called us to follow the Light of the world, He also uses us to bring light to a fallen humanity; to make Jesus known to a world that needs His Epiphany.

May the Lord bless you for your support of the seminary as we continue to make Jesus Christ known through God’s Holy Word.

“*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts...*” **II Peter 1:19**

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



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It's not too late to join in the Monday night class on the Gospel of John which will continue through April 25. This class is an exegetical study of the text of the Fourth Gospel emphasizing its structure and composition.

At the present time this class will be online via Zoom. If possible, a \$50 donation would be appreciated. Please contact us if you would like to be included in this class. Call 906-482-3337 or email cilseminary@ilseminary.com.

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



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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.