



# 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 2023

Dear Friends,

***“I, Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. <sup>17</sup> And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let him that heareth say, ‘Come.’ And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”***  
**Revelation 22:16-17**

Philipp Nicolai was a hymn writer who lived in Westphalia, the northwest region of Germany during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Nicolai was perhaps best known for writing and composing the music for the hymns “*Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*” and “*O Morning Star How Fair and Bright*” (# 159 and # 66 in our hymnal, *The Hymns and Songs of Zion*.) These two hymns were so well regarded, that they became known as the King and Queen of Chorales.

Nicolai also served as a Lutheran pastor in the village of Unna during a dreadful time of pestilence. Between July of 1597 and January of 1598, over 1300 people died of the plague. During a single week in August, 170 individuals were victims of this deadly pestilence. In the midst of this deep distress, Nicolai wrote a series of meditations entitled “*Freuden Spiegel*” or “*Mirror of Joy*” in English. It was his prayer that these meditations would bring comfort to his readers in the midst of their great sorrow. Both “*Wake, Awake*” and “*O Morning Star*” arose from Nicolai’s “*Mirror of Joy*.”

In one version of “*O Morning Star*”, Nicolai reminds us that God blesses us even in the midst of sorrow “*Earth’s deep sadness may perplex us, and distress us, yet with heavenly joy You bless us.*”

God not only speaks light and life into a world of suffering and death, but also overcomes the dominion of darkness by the finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ. We have the forgiveness of sins, Life and salvation through the Cross of Christ. Nicolai echoes this thought in the fourth verse of the same hymn:

*“Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us when not yet begun  
Was this old earth’s foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above;  
This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia!  
Christ the living,  
To us giving  
Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!”*

Thanks be to God for His Son Jesus, the Bright and Morning Star, who paid our ransom with His Holy and precious blood, who gives us life and who never fails us.

***“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: <sup>20</sup> Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...”***  
**I Peter 1:18-20**

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



## ***DONATIONS RECEIVED....***

**In memory of Albert Saari**

From Janis Saari

**In memory of Calvin Naasko**

From Janis Saari

**In memory of Don Bielinski**

From Pamela Bielinski

**In memory of Bill Bergstedt, Sr.**

From Robert & Sandra Caviness

**In memory of Bill Bergstedt, Jr.**

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**In memory of Dave Jukuri**

From Erik & Karen Kukkonen

**In memory of Kirk & Milly Otto**

From Kirk Jr. & Carol Otto

**In memory of Vieno Stalo**

From Donna Gustafson Flaherty

**In memory of Peter Sandretto, Sr.**

From Donna Gustafson Flaherty



### **DEUTERONOMY ON MONDAY NIGHT**

It's not too late to join in the Monday night class on Deuteronomy which will continue through the beginning of May. This class is an exegetical study of the book with an emphasis upon its place in the Pentateuch and its influence on the New Testament.

Deuteronomy will be offered in person at the seminary or 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](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com).