



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

January 2025

Dear Friends,

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. ⁴ And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. ⁵ And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. ⁶ And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. ⁷ But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? ⁸ And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? ⁹ Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. ¹⁰ So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. (Luke 17:3-10 KJV)

How many times? Jesus says every time. Every time a person sins and repents they are to be forgiven. Isn't that a little much? No wonder the disciples told Jesus to give them more faith. They couldn't understand how they would ever be able to fulfill what He said so they asked for more faith. However, as Jesus indicated, they didn't need more faith; they simply needed to be obedient servants and do what they were told. They had all the faith they would ever need; they only needed to be obedient. So is the wideness of God's grace. He doesn't explain it, He simply gives it. It seems impossible doesn't it? Doesn't God get tired of forgiving us after a while? Obviously not, God would not and could not invoke upon us what He wouldn't do Himself. God showed us the depth of His forgiveness and grace on Calvary's cross. There the Son of God bleeding on the cross forgave us, not just once but once forever (Hebrews 10:12). The disciples couldn't fulfill Jesus expectation given their circumstance at the time Jesus uttered these words but after His death, resurrection, ascension and sending of the Holy Spirit they not only understood; they did it. They forgave a world that treated them horribly, even at times imitating their Lord in forgiving the very people who were putting them to death. Those who had experienced so great a grace dispensed the same. The disciples received so much grace from God in covering their own sins that it became second nature to do the same for others; a new nature, the nature born of God; an eternal nature from a new birth in Jesus Christ. In this way we begin the new year, the same way we ended the last; forgiven. How sweet the sound, not just once but forgiven forever. So let us begin this year forgiven and forgiving, that grace would be the watchword of the kingdom and we would be found obedient servants For Jesus' sake.

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23 KJV)

Happy and Blessed New Year,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED...

In memory of Don Kilpela

From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of Kathleen Forsman

From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.

From Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of Ross, Kent & Kris Wolfe

From Fayth Wolfe

In memory of Donald Bielinski

From Pamela Bielinski

In memory of Rudolph & Sylvia Keskitalo

From Michael & Susan Keskitalo

In memory of Einar Fiskari

From Michael & Susan Keskitalo

In memory of Aurora Grace Mixon

From Dale & Carolyn Qvestad

In memory of Ivan & Iris Seppala

From Dale & Carolyn Qvestad



THANKS TO YOU, the matching funds program was a huge success. We are pleased to report that donations received reached \$25,000 and will now be matched by a generous donor. May God bless your generosity and continued support!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL CHOICE DOLLARS PROGRAM IN 2024

THANK YOU to those who made contributions through Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars Program. The seminary received **\$1,935** in the calendar year 2024. For more information about Choice Dollars, visit <http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.





2025 SPRING SEMESTER



Class begins Monday, January 20th	<u><i>Monday</i></u>	<u><i>Tuesday</i></u>	<u><i>Wednesday</i></u>	<u><i>Thursday</i></u>	<u><i>Friday</i></u>
8:30a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	History of the Medieval Church	Pastoral Counselor	History of the Medieval Church	Pastoral Counselor	History of the Medieval Church
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Lutheran Confessions	Pastoral Counselor	Lutheran Confessions	Ezra/Nehemiah/ Esther	Lutheran Confessions
11:00 - 11:50a.m.	Science & Christianity	Ministry to the World/Intro to Missions	Science & Christianity	Ministry to the World/Intro to Missions	New Testament Greek Readings
12:00 – 12:50p.m.	Homiletics		Homiletics		
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	The General Epistles & Hebrews				

History of the Medieval Church and the Reformation (3 credits) – A historical analysis of the Church of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Lutheran Confessions (3 credits) – An in-depth look at the three ecumenical creeds and the documents that make up the Book of Concord.

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

Homiletics (2 credit) – A study of the objectives, construction and delivery of sermons.

The Pastoral Counselor (3 credits) – A course about the dynamics of the Pastoral counseling process designed to provide insight into human nature and the close relationship between body, soul and mind in human behavior. Students learn to apply Biblical teachings to help people resolve problems in their lives.

Ministry to the World/Intro to Missions (1 credit) – The biblical basis for mission work along with a history of the methods employed to carry out such work.

Ezra/Nehemiah/Esther (1 credit) – An inquiry into the structure, content and meaning of these important Post-Exilic books emphasizing the impact of the exile upon Hebrew culture.

New Testament Greek Readings (1 credit) – A course designed to apply the principles learned in New Testament Greek and facilitate the mastery of the language of the New Testament through reading selected portions of its text. (New Testament Greek prerequisite).

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

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



CHOICE DOLLARS DETAILS: Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

Eligibility requirements: To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations: Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

Choice Dollars expiration date: Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

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

THRIVENT CHARITABLE IMPACT & INVESTING™

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing.™ All 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. To learn more about this organization, go to www.thriventcharitable.com.

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.

ANOTHER OPTION FOR GIVING – PayPal

Online giving is as easy as clicking the DONATE button on our website: <https://ilseminary.org>. Simply go to the *How to Contribute* tab and tap the yellow DONATE button to begin. There are options for credit and debit card donations and even the option to help the seminary cover the PayPal processing fee. (Note we are charged 1.99% + \$.49/transaction fee). As always, we are thankful for your continued support!