



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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“Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. ³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? ...” John 18:37-38

Pontius Pilate asks Jesus a question that certainly resonates with us today. In an age where there is great mistrust in the common sources of information, such as the media, government and the academy, we are quite interested in hearing the answer that Jesus might give. While Jesus does not respond to Pilate’s question during that interrogation, we can hear His answer throughout the Gospel of John. There are, in fact twenty-two references to the word “truth” in John’s Gospel.

Jesus Christ is not merely interested in the truth. He is the embodiment of truth.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth....¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” John 1:14, 17 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

As Christ prepares His disciples for His departure, He promises to send the “*Spirit of truth*” to guide them. The Spirit will do so by directing them to Christ.

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me...” John 15:26

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” John 16:13

To come to a proper and truthful understanding about ourselves, the world around us and even God Himself, we must hearken unto the voice of the Spirit of truth as He reveals Christ through the Holy Scriptures. Jesus Christ is the prism through which we can more fully see and engage the world. The author Paul Little writes, “*Throughout the ages, and perhaps especially today, it has been a great test of faith to believe that God is good. There is so much which suggests the contrary. Helmut Thielicke points out that fabric viewed through a magnifying glass is clear in the middle and blurred at the edges. But we know that the edges are clear because of what we see in the center. Life, he says, is like the fabric. There are many blurred edges which we do not understand, but they are to be interpreted by the clarity we see in the centre—the cross of Christ.*” It is in the Cross that speaks to us of the truth of God’s forgiveness, life and salvation.

May God grant us grace to continue to fix our eyes and hearts on the center of the fabric of our existence, Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ³³ They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? ³⁴ Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. ³⁵ And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. ³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:31-36

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Donations Received...



In memory of Darlene Sunnarborg
from Jim & Barb Murdock

In memory of James Mickelsen
from Kirk Jr. & Carol Otto

In memory of John Jukuri
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In memory of Paul Suomala
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CLASSES OFFERED IN THE FALL...

Daily classes being offered in the fall beginning Wednesday, September 4, 2019:

Principles of Biblical Interpretation (3 credits) – A history and study of the hermeneutical techniques and their application to the scriptures, including the methods of Textual Analysis.

Deaconess History (2 credits) – A study of the role of deaconesses through the history of the Christian Church.

The Monday night class in Hancock and Thursday night class in Negaunee will be **1 and 2 Thessalonians: Anticipating the Last Day with St. Paul**. In Hancock at 7PM from September 9-December 16 and at 7PM at the Eastwood ALC (Negaunee) from August 29-October 3. This class is a study of St. Paul's correspondence with the Thessalonians in light of the eschatological discourses of Jesus with a focus on how Paul encourages the believers to hold fast in the faith as it was handed down to them in anticipation of the glorious future promised them in Jesus Christ. Early registration for on-line capability is encouraged as there are only 10 spots available.

Additional fall classes will be published as soon as they are finalized. Feel free to contact us by phone (906)482-3337, email cilseminary@ilseminary.com or check our on-line class schedule for updated information at <http://ilseminary.org/classschedule.htm>

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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.