

July 2020

Dear Friends,

Four years ago I used the letter below as the centerpiece of our newsletter in July of 2016. Never can I recall a time we have needed to give heed to such majestic instruction as now.

Washington's "Earnest Prayer"

The Prayer below was written by Washington at Newburgh, New York, at the close of the Revolutionary War on June 14, 1783. It was sent to the thirteen governors of the newly freed states in a "Circular Letter Addressed to the Governors of all the States on the Disbanding of the Army."

Circular Letter Addressed to the Governors of all the States on the Disbanding of the Army, June 14, 1783

I have thus freely declared what I wished to make known, before I surrendered up my public trust to those who committed it to me. The task is now accomplished. I now bid adieu to your Excellency, as the chief magistrate of your State, at the same time I bid a last farewell to the cares of office and all the employments of public life.

It remains, then, to be my final and only request that your Excellency will communicate these sentiments to your legislature at their next meeting, and that they may be considered the legacy of one, who has ardently wished, on all occasions, to be useful to his country, and who, even in the shade of retirement, will not fail to implore the divine benediction on it.

I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection; that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for brethren who have served in the field; and finally that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

The wisdom of our founders was immense and remains such today. However, even that once unassailable reasoning is under assault. How can this be remedied when people do not even know the contribution of such great, though faulty, human beings? Washington provided the answer, "earnest prayer." It is time to take then General Washington's words to heart and pray. None of us know the future but we know that the prayer of the righteous avails much. We Christians who follow in the path of Jesus must invoke that name in prayer with verve and fervor that we may be renewed in "charity (love), humility and pacific (peaceful) temper of mind." The time for some necessary changes may be upon us and that time may yield devastation or a time of renewal. By God's grace, through prayer, we will see the latter. God be with you all. We are thankful for your continuing support in your gifts and prayers. Lord, teach us to pray.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



Donations Received

In memory of Rev. Rodney Johnson

from Ken Seaton
Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier
Dale & Joanne Mattinen
Reuben & Anita Aho

In memory of Shirley Myrmel

From Les & Sara Liimatainen

In memory of Harold & Shirley Myrmel

Deborah Hendrickson

In memory of Jack & Betty Bergstedt

Kevin & Kathleen Liimatta

LOOKING forward to the Fall Semester



Tentatively the daily classes offered this fall will be History of the Ancient Church, Ministry to the World, Pastoral Counselor, Ministry to the Aging and possibly other Biblical classes which will be announced. All daily classes begin on Wednesday, September 9.

The Monday night class on Ephesians/Colossians/Philippians will begin on September 14 from Hancock, MI and available on Zoom.

All participants previously taking the Thursday night from Eastwood ALC-Negaunee are invited to join in on Monday night. All we need is your email address and your computer needs to be equipped with a webcam and the Zoom software. (Prior to the start of class, we will conduct tests to be sure everyone is able to join in).

If you are interested in any of the classes, please send an email to cilseminary@ilseminary.com. For additional information, you may also contact the seminary at (906) 482-3337.



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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.