



June 2013

Dear Friends,

“For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. ⁴ He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live ⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. ⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

Proverbs 3:3-7

Tradition has it that Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs as instruction for his children, and these words of wisdom are no less important for us today. In the third chapter of Proverbs, Solomon emphasizes the value of pursuing wisdom. In the latter chapters of Proverbs, we discover that wisdom is also pursuing us.

“Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? ² She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. ³ She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. ⁴ Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. ⁵ O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. ⁶ Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.”

Proverbs 8:1-6

The wisdom of God is not a static wisdom, like a book sitting on a shelf, but a dynamic wisdom that calls out to us, beckoning us to listen. It is God's proclaimed Word that breathes life into those who were *“dead in trespasses and sins.”* **Ephesians 2:1** God not only calls us to embrace wisdom, He gives us wisdom in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. *“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; ²⁴ But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”*

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

In the same way, Christ not only calls us to repentance, He is also the One who works repentance in our hearts. Jesus not only calls us to believe in Him, He is also the One who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. God has accomplished everything for us through the cross of Jesus Christ. May God grant us grace to hear the voice of wisdom *“...for I will speak of excellent things...”* There is nothing more excellent than the message of Christ, *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins...”*

Colossians 1:14

“But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: ³¹ That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

I Corinthians 1:30-31

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas

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The Fund is located at the Lutheran Community Foundation, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the charitable, religious and educational purposes of Lutheran congregations, institutions and communities, and benefiting society in general. It offers individuals and organizations the opportunity to create permanent charitable funds to benefit the charities and causes representing their diverse interests and concerns. At the Foundation, our endowment fund will be invested for long-term appreciation. Only a part of the income from the fund will be available to be spent each year; the remaining income will stay in the fund to build a buffer against inflation and future market fluctuations. One of the many advantages of this relationship is that our donors may work directly with the Foundation to achieve their charitable goals and remain anonymous.



Introducing our Deaconess Program

The Deaconess program at the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary provides educational opportunities for women. We have become increasingly aware that women are looking for sound biblical counsel from other women, particularly regarding areas that are specific and sensitive to women. A deaconess is a woman who is a church-worker and is trained and dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Christ through acts of mercy and spiritual care. The role of a deaconess is to minister to other women by engaging women in diverse settings and specialization, whether in a congregation, in an institution or on the mission field. The Deaconess serves congregations using her gift to bless and serve other women.

Titus 2:3-5 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

Upon fulfillment of the program requirements shown below, students receive a Deaconess Certificate endorsed by the faculty. Along with the Deaconess Certificate a student may also receive an additional degree outside the Seminary such as Nursing, Teaching, Counseling, etc. in order to focus on a specific calling.

You may also take the deaconess courses without acquiring a Deaconess Certificate. The courses of study include:

Orientation to Deaconess Studies. 3 credits

An overview of the issues of women's ministry in the contemporary church.

Deaconess History. 2 credits

A study of the role of deaconesses through the history of the Christian Church.

Working as a Deaconess I. 2 credits

A course which explores the use of Deaconess skills involving both congregational and personal care and the employment of such skills in the current church setting.

Working as a Deaconess II. 2 credits

A second course which explores the use of Deaconess skills involving both congregational and personal care and the employment of such skills in the current church setting.

For additional information regarding the Deaconess Program, please refer to our on-line catalogue at <http://www.ilseminary.org/catalog.pdf>