

June 2017

Dear Friends,

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. ¹⁷ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: ¹⁸ 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; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰ Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, ²¹ Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

I Peter 1:13-21

When I was in college, I was introduced to a children's book entitled “The Velveteen Rabbit” by Margery Williams. The book describes a story of a toy rabbit, made of velveteen, who becomes the possession of a young boy. While the Rabbit enjoys his time with the young boy, he discovers that other toys in the nursery seem to be different than he is. They seem to be more real. The following passage is an excerpt from the book which describes a conversation between the Velveteen Rabbit and the Skin Horse, a toy that helps the Rabbit understand who he is:

“What is Real?” asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. “Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?” “Real isn't how you are made,” said the Skin Horse. “It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become Real.”

The Skin Horse goes on to share “...once you are Real you can't become unreal again. It lasts for always.”

Whenever I read that story, I am reminded of the story of our own existence. All of humankind, made in the image of our Creator, became distorted (unreal, if you will) because of Adam's disobedience. But God has brought restoration, by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to suffer, to be crucified, to die and to rise again for His fallen children. In effect, God's love has made us real!

The Apostle Peter shares that God has loved us for a very long time. In fact, God has loved us from eternity. *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰ Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...”* Before you first became aware of your sin, before you took your first breath, ...yea, even before the world was created, God loved you with a love that will last “for always.” Even though we celebrate the Christ event that took place some two thousand years ago, God had already determined to love us from the very beginning. Thanks be to God for the forgiveness of sins, Life and salvation given to us through Jesus Christ, *“...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”*

Revelation 13:8

“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

Jeremiah 31:3

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas

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In memory of Ernest & Martha Bylkas
From Pastor Ernest III, Joy and family

In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.
From Pastor Ernest III, Joy and family



As summer approaches and classes have ended, the Seminary remains busy!! Class planning for the fall semester is being done. Stay tuned for courses to be offered beginning September 6th. Visit <http://ilseminary.org/classchedule.htm> for a detailed list to be announced in the near future. In addition to preparing for upcoming classes, the Course Catalog is being updated and will be ready for publication soon.

Both Pastor Jay Weidner and Pastor Chuck Bylkas will be teaching at the ALCA annual convention, July 13-16, 2017. Pastor Jay will be teaching a seminar on the Lutheran Reformation and on Election & Predestination. Pastor Chuck will be conducting a seminar on Hymnology.

With the support of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, God enables us to continue training students for the ministry of His Word. Thank you for your part in helping us accomplish this mission.

1967 - 2017



SAVE THE DATE...OCTOBER 8, 2017
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-LUTHERAN SEMINARY

The seminary announces plans for a 50th Anniversary celebration which will take place at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 3:00PM with refreshments to follow. Plymouth, Minnesota is where the seminary was founded and we would like to celebrate the anniversary as part of our annual Seminary Rally. Please **SAVE THE DATE** and join us for this special occasion.



The Thrivent Choice® program offers a way members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach funds. As a benefit member, your ownership of Thrivent Financial products and services help make this support possible.

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HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP THE SEMINARY

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has created an endowment fund so that our supporters may make gifts that will provide ongoing support. Our Endowment Fund is designed to preserve the principal and a portion of the earnings, and use the remainder of the earnings to fulfill our mission. Because only a portion of the annual earnings on our Fund is used each year, the Fund continues to grow, buffering the Fund against inflation and providing a permanent source of support to our mission.

The Fund is located at the **InFaith 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.

We invite you to participate in supporting the endowment. You may make gifts during life or at death. If you would like to learn more about the purpose of the endowment and ways you may give, please visit <http://www.infaithfound.org/ilseminary>.

The students and staff at the Inter-Lutheran Seminary appreciate your continued support!