



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

I Timothy 4:12-16

One of the great privileges that I have had in the course of my pastoral ministry is to participate in the ordination service for several pastors that have served or are currently serving in our Apostolic Lutheran Church federation. As part of the ordination service, several passages are read from the Apostle Paul’s pastoral epistles to Timothy and Titus. The above passage from I Timothy 4 is particularly notable for two reasons.

First, the Apostle Paul gives a strong word of exhortation to Timothy, that he not only be a good example to his congregation with regard to his personal conduct, but also that he dedicate himself entirely to the study, meditation, preaching and teaching of the Word of God. This has always been a good reminder for me (and perhaps other pastors), that I not become so distracted by other activities in the church so as not to give myself wholly to the attendance to God’s Word. The Apostle Paul exhorts that my own spiritual well-being as well as that of my congregation depends upon that very dedication to the Holy Scriptures. God has chosen to reveal His great love for us by the hearing of the glorious Gospel of the crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Second, the rite of ordination is no ordinary ritual. The Apostle Paul encourages Timothy to ***“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”*** Paul indicates that a unique gift is given to Timothy by the Word of God and by the laying on of hands of fellow pastors. While it is true that God is the one at work in the sacred acts of preaching, Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, it is also true that He uses human beings as His instruments to administer His means of grace. So it is with ordination. God is actually bestowing a gift to the one who is called to the Office of the Public Ministry. Ordination does not make the pastor more important than anyone else. Instead, ordination is the giving of a gift to set the pastor apart for the purpose of ministering Word and Sacrament to God’s people. How marvelous that God not only calls men to serve as pastors, but also equips them with the gift to carry out that very important ministry as well.

Please continue to pray for us at the Seminary as we continue to engage our students with the Word of God. We echo the words of the Apostle Peter ***“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.”*** **John 6:68** Thanks be to God that He has given us the forgiveness of sins, Life and salvation through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. As always, we thank you for your continuing support of the seminary through your prayers, gifts and words of encouragement. God bless you.

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; 14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

I Timothy 6:12-16

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



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FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

We have started to plan for the fall semester which begins on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. The "tentative" daily classes include History of the Church: Reformation to the present, Christian Dogmatics I, Eschatology, Churches, Sects & Isms, Pastoral Work & Administration, and Koine Greek Readings. The Monday night class on Genesis will begin September 11, 2023, at 7PM. A final schedule should be available soon or view the latest information on our website <https://ilseminary.org/classchedule.htm>. If you are interested in taking classes or have questions, feel free to call 906-482-3337 or email cilseminary@ilseminary.com.



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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!