

March 2017

Dear Friends,

<To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.> O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? (Ps. 8:1-4 KJV)

When I was a student at our seminary I had the distinct pleasure of taking a class called *Science and Christianity* taught by one of our awesome founders; Dr. Al Saari. It was pure joy to sit in the little classroom in the back of the Plymouth MN church and listen to him expound on the subject which he obviously loved. Unfortunately, Dr. Al and his family have had to suffer through some difficult times in recent years which haven't allowed him to keep teaching and we need to keep he and his family in our prayers. However, his teaching continues on. Now I have the privilege of teaching that class and imparting so much of what Dr. Al taught me to our present students. I realize now more than ever what it was that spawned that fascination in Dr. Al; it was the contemplation of the magnificence of God seen in the wonder of His creation. Moses was first given to record it, David hymned it and all of us daily experience it in all its glory. The whole of Dr. Al's science education, properly understood, bore testimony to the goodness of God and he enjoyed bringing that to light for all of those who had the honor to listen to him.

One of the resource materials that we currently use in the class is a book by John Lennox; God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?. Lennox is a Reader in Mathematics at the University of Oxford and by the end of the book answers the question in his title with an emphatic, "No." To the contrary, science simply bears testimony to the miraculous design that the designer intended for it, recorded by Moses and hymned by David. A design that even the most ardent opponents admit seems to be there but must reject because their own assumptions will not allow for such a possibility. It's always amazing to see students go through what can be very complex material and witness how Lennox artfully brings them to a greater appreciation for their faith in their Creator while at the same time using science to silence those would oppose the very idea of His existence. So it is that reading Lennox harkens back to the days at Plymouth when Dr. Al did much the same for us in that classroom, giving us a solid appreciation for the creative work of our God and even more, the redemptive work of Jesus; His Son. Blessings on you and your family Dr. Al and thank you. Please know that your teaching continues to awe and instruct all who would learn at the institution you worked to found and dedicated your life to in so many ways.

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner



## *DONATIONS RECEIVED...*

*In memory of Eugene "Gene" Tauriainen*  
From Eleanor Tauriainen

*In memory of George Pelto*  
From Jack & Elaine Bergstedt  
Edwin Jr. & Kathleen Bergstedt

*In memory of Peter Bergstedt*  
From Edwin Jr. & Kathleen Bergstedt



## **SPECIAL CLASS BEING OFFERED**

Pastor Elmer Yliniemi will be teaching **History of the Laestadian Church**, April 24-28 and May 1-5, 2017 from 9AM-Noon in Hancock. This is a 2 credit class and is an investigation of the origin and impact of the Laestadian movement both in its native Finland and in the United States. Online students welcome!



**THANK YOU** for supporting the Inter-Lutheran Seminary by making your Amazon purchases through **AmazonSmile**. The seminary recently received \$42.66 as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2016.

Have you ever have used Amazon.com to do your shopping? Now AmazonSmile offers the same products, same prices and same service and will also donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

Simply log use in by using this link....

**<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0918317>**

which will bring you directly to smile.amazon.com in support of our organization.



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.

Remember....If you are an eligible member 16 and older you can recommend how to distribute Thrivent Financial charitable grant funds through Choice Dollars®. Member eligibility and the Choice Dollars designated are based on:

- Holding a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position; or
- Having \$750 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products; or
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products.

For more information about Choice Dollars, visit <http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.



## **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!**