



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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a Minnesota Corporation

March 2023

Dear Friends,

Like so many things we encounter in daily life (days of the week for example), the month of March is named for a pagan god. The original name of the month was Martius and was dedicated to the Roman god of war, Mars. It was from early times the first month of the 10-month year and was understood as the time when the winter weather abated and the time for campaigning in war would begin. After 153 BC it became the third of 12 months which started with 2 winter months January and February. March was the first month of the year in Russia until the 15th century and Great Britain used March 25 for New Year, including the colonies that would eventually comprise the USA, until 1752. Iran and Ethiopia still celebrate New year in March. We celebrate the beginning of Spring in March and in many places March marks a return to more seasonable weather and the end of the hardships of Winter.

Out of the kindness of our Lord and the triumph of the Gospel throughout the world the pagan emphasis on March lost its place so that few people even know of its existence and in its place Christianity placed the emphasis on a season for reflection upon the Passion of Jesus. We call that season Lent, derived from the Latin word for Spring and we commemorate it as a season for fasting and prayer as we encounter for 6 weeks the texts of the Scripture that indicate the depth that God was willing to go in sending His Beloved Son to suffer and die for us and purchase our redemption through His blood. What started out as a time of pagan observance has become for us a most beautiful time to reflect upon the triumph of God over the darkness that had beset the ancient world and the liberation He provided from that darkness in the Light of the World, the Resurrected Son, Jesus the Christ.

One important aspect of the ancient understanding remains. It is the time for a renewed campaign. Time to march. In our world there is a powerful movement afoot to restore the fortunes of paganism and steal the light of the Gospel from the world. Christians must be vitally aware of this trend and vigilant to confront it everywhere. We need to educate ourselves in the ways that this neopagan movement is being reintroduced in the world and rise up to combat it in every forum with the truth of the Gospel, following through with the instruction of Ephesians 6:13:

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph. 6:13 KJV).

Knowing our struggle is not with flesh and blood:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. (Eph. 6:12 KJV)

We, by God's grace, are doing our part to fight the good fight of faith and teaching God's Word so that the Light of Christ may continue to shine bright in this Lenten season and always. We thank you for your support in this work and ask that you continue to do so in prayer and financially as we carry out our calling in ministering to the people of God.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



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In memory of Walter Hendrickson
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**Thank
you!**

for your continued support of the Inter-Lutheran Seminary.

With the support of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, God enables us to continue training students for the ministry of His Word. We appreciate your fellowship in the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for your kindness and thanks be to God for the riches of His grace through Christ our Lord.

ATTENTION SUPPORTERS: There are several ways to support the Seminary.



The AmazonSmile program has been discontinued as of February 20, 2023. The seminary has appreciated your support since this program began in 2013. Amazon says it will provide a final donation to each of the 1 million-plus nonprofits that used AmazonSmile, equivalent to 25% of what the charity received from the program in 2022. Again, thank you for your support!!



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The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing™ (formerly InFaith Community Foundation). All 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. To learn more about this organization, go to www.thriventcharitable.com.

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!