

May 2020,

Dear Friends,

And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. 11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. 13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me. 14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. 15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. 16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.
(2 Sam. 24:10-16 KJV)

Admittedly, I haven't spent a great deal of time musing on this passage but I did wonder why God chose a plague of the three options presented to punish David for his sin. Witnessing the destruction and suffering all around us now I can see why God used a disease to reprove David's transgression. No doubt the impact was so great and severe that David would never again act so foolishly contrary to God's commandment.

Never in the history of our lives have most of us faced a pandemic of the magnitude we are dealing with now. It is hard to even imagine the scope of the outreach of this disease and the devastation it has wrought both in loss of life and loss of economic viability. Sadly, situations like these are compounded by the paralyzing fear of the unknown that accompanies them. In this season we are reminded how close our Lord is to us. Jesus became one of us, suffered, died and was raised for us so that we would not suffer in consequence for our sin like David nor live in fear but understand that His perfect love, demonstrated to us so incredibly on the cross, casts out all fear. Jesus told the women who came to the grave to stop being afraid and He told His disciples that He was giving peace, God's peace, to them so that they would freely go out into the world without fear, knowing He was with them and watching over them. Please know that while we observe the restrictions that we must to keep this virus in check that it is the Lord who keeps and sustains us preciously in His very own hand. He loves His world so greatly that He gave His only begotten Son, the Beloved, to save us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. We are praying for all of you and asking that God would keep His hand of protection upon you and yours and assure you of the same. We also ask that you would remember us at this time as it is the case that during these times of uncertainty our donations drop off drastically. As we come to the close of our semester, we still continue to have our classes and find that in these moments it is all the more incumbent upon us to keep bringing the Word to people and teaching them through that life sustaining gift to humankind. Thank you for your kindness to us. God is with each and every one of you! (2Timothy 4:22)

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



In memory of Rick Hurula
from Donald & Pamela Bielinski

In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.
from Judy Bylkas

In memory of Ernest Bylkas Sr.
from Judy Bylkas

In memory of Martha Bylkas
from Judy Bylkas



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FALL SEMESTER

As the spring semester comes to a close, we have already started planning for the fall semester. The Monday night class will be Ephesians/Colossians/Philippians. This class is a study of the books of Ephesians, Colossians & Philippians with an emphasis of the power of the resurrection and who we are in Christ.

The Monday night class is tentatively scheduled to start on September 14 at 7PM. Daily classes will be offered beginning Wednesday, September 9. Stay tuned for details of the upcoming daily classes.

Also, online classes are available through Zoom. If you are interested in taking a class or would like to get additional information, please call 906-482-3337 or email ilseminary@ilseminary.com.

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HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP THE SEMINARY

Several years ago, the Seminary board of directors established the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. Funds contributed to the endowment are not used for current day to day operations. Only the annual 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.

While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution 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. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.