

November 2019

Dear Friends,

“For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; ⁸ But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; ⁹ Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:7-9

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Lutheran Reformation was based on five foundational tenets, also referred to in Latin as the “solas.” The reformers asserted that we are saved by grace alone (*sola gratia*), through faith alone (*sola fide*), as revealed by the Holy Scriptures alone (*sola scriptura*). So since Jesus Christ alone is our Saviour (*solus Christus*), then God alone deserves all the glory for the salvation that He has given (*solus Deo Gloria*).

The emphasis on *sola scriptura*, is especially vital, because there is always a strong temptation to seek other sources or revelation from God. The reformers insisted that God’s Word must always hold the highest priority, referring to the Holy Scriptures as the *norma normans* or “the norm above all norms.” The Word is the highest rule for faith and life for the Christian. It must be regarded in higher esteem than feelings, reason or tradition, because God’s Word does not change in the way that other sources of revelation do. ***“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”***

I Peter 1:24-25

For this reason, the Seminary remains dedicated to the teaching and preaching of the Holy Scriptures. It is God’s Word alone that can bring the gifts of repentance and faith to sinners in need of God’s grace. It is God’s Word alone that delivers the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through the blood and the finished work of Jesus Christ. It is God’s Word alone that continues to lead us and guide us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is God’s Word alone that brings us life. ***“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.” John 6:68*** May God grant us grace to heed the words of the Apostle Paul to Titus, so that all of us, both pastors and parishioners would hold fast to His faithful Word. Thank you for your faithful support to the Seminary and the work to which God has commissioned us. God bless you!

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:31-32

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylka



Donations Received...

In memory of Walter Hendrickson
from Verna Ann Hendrickson

In memory of Larry & Harriett Rasaka
from Wayne & Anne Waldal



FOR THE MATCHING FUNDS

We are very happy to announce that the Matching Funds Program was a success! We have matched the \$20,000 that our donor pledged to contribute if we met this goal. Thanks be to God!

Your continued support of the seminary is deeply appreciated and enables us to continue to grow as a seminary and carry on the work of teaching and preparing our students for ministry. God bless you again for your generosity!



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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.