

November 2020

Dear Friends,

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. (2 Corinthians 2:14 KJV)

There have been some people I have heard musing on this current year and saying it offers little to be thankful about. Difficulties are not pleasant and often they are hard to press through. Certainly, the current pandemic and its variety of painful circumstances qualify as troubles unique to the experience of most of us. The present time is filled with tribulation no doubt, but it is not unprecedented in that regard. The Apostle Paul went through many such times of trial and offered the words quoted above. Our victory is in Christ and nothing can take that from us. We, of all people, always have much to be thankful for. We are the children of God, robed in righteousness through the finished work of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We have been brought from death into the kingdom of God's own Son enjoying a new life that continues into eternity. We have indeed been most blessed. George Washington, the Father of Our Nation, so prayed:

*Almighty God, and most merciful father, who didst command the children of Israel to offer a daily sacrifice to thee, that thereby they might glorify and praise thee for thy protection both night and day, receive, O Lord, my morning sacrifice which I now offer up to thee; I yield thee humble and hearty thanks that thou has preserved me from the danger of the night past, and brought me to the light of the day, and the comforts thereof, a day which is consecrated to thine own service and for thine own honor. Let my heart, therefore, Gracious God, be so affected with the glory and majesty of it, that I may not do mine own works, but wait on thee, and discharge those weighty duties thou requirest of me, and since thou art a God of pure eyes, and wilt be sanctified in all who draw near unto thee, who doest not regard the sacrifice of fools, nor hear sinners who tread in thy courts, pardon, I beseech thee, my sins, remove them from thy presence, as far as the east is from the west, and accept of me for the merits of thy son Jesus Christ, that when I come into thy temple, and compass thine altar, my prayers may come before thee as incense; and as thou wouldst hear me calling upon thee in my prayers, so give me grace to hear thee calling on me in thy word, that it may be wisdom, righteousness, reconciliation and peace to the saving of the soul in the day of the Lord Jesus. Grant that I may hear it with reverence, receive it with meekness, mingle it with faith, and that it may accomplish in me, Gracious God, the good work for which thou has sent it. Bless my family, kindred, friends and country, be our God & guide this day and for ever for his sake, who lay down in the Grave and arose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Let us persevere as he did keeping the words of thanksgiving ever in our hearts and in our prayers. A most blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours! We are very thankful to you for Your kindness towards us. Thanks be to God!

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner



## *Donations Received*

**In memory of Joe & Carol Giachino**  
From Dennis & Janet Hietala

**In memory of Larry & Harriet Rasaka**  
From Wayne and Anne Waldal

**In memory of Robert Nominelli**  
From Norma Nominelli

**In memory of Oscar & Ailie Sunnarborg**  
From Neil & Debra Sunnarborg

**In memory of Ernest Sr. & Martha Bylkas**  
From Dale & Joanne Mattinen

**In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.**  
From Dale & Joanne Mattinen

**In honor & thank you to all Pastors of the Federation**  
From Neil & Debra Sunnarborg



## **MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM**

Recently we had a kind and generous donor come forward with a new matching fund donation of \$20,000.00. We are seeking additional donations above and beyond normal giving that would be matched dollar for dollar within this program. The program continues through December 31, 2020. If you are able to contribute to this program, please earmark your contribution "matching funds" in the memo section of your check.

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!



*Happy Thanksgiving!*  
*To You And Your Family*

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



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.

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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 thought 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**

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.