



# Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • [www.ilseminary.org](http://www.ilseminary.org)  
*a Minnesota Corporation*

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Dear Friends,

When I was in elementary school there were some standard things that were required as we came into the thanksgiving season. First, was the drawing of a turkey using your hand as a template to trace around which the teacher always hung somewhere either in the classroom or the hall outside it. Eventually that work of art would make its way home for my parents to admire. A true, modern thanksgiving tradition. Second was to write an essay on what you were thankful for. That usually included my family, home and other sundry items as they came to mind. This literary gem also inevitably made it home to the same fate of the turkey drawing. Last month we celebrated the 57<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of this seminary at our annual Seminary Rally. It was wonderful to be able to recount all the marvelous people who did such great things in founding and sustaining this institution. Also to introduce and reintroduce people to the students we have now and the continuing outreach that the little hole-in-wall seminary (as Pastor Ken Hendrickson used to jokingly refer to it) still has here in the USA and in other parts of the globe. The many facets of which your gifts have supported over the years.

Now as we once again come to Thanksgiving it is time to recall what we are thankful for. I am very thankful to God for this seminary. Not just the fact that it has given me a job for the past 39 years but for so many of the blessings I have received through it. First, I had the opportunity to meet some of the most marvelous Christian people on the face of this earth who organized, supported and attended this institution. Each of them had a profound effect on my training and development creating an incredible debt that I could never repay. Second, through this seminary and its people I came to be associated with our church federation that I have come to treasure and respect, from which I have been so powerfully ministered to and been privileged to minister to in return. Third, I witnessed such a deep love for the Word of God in so many people that the need for imitation of that dedication became obvious, the cultivation of which is its own reward. Fourth, it provided the means for me to always be a student as teaching a subject always requires learning and relearning to be able to impart one's understandings to others so that they may be engaged in the same process. This list could continue for a while but suffice it to say I am deeply grateful to God for the bounty He has provided for my life in this seminary.

Finally, I am very thankful for all of you and your continued support of this seminary. You have been given the opportunity to bless it for years with your kindness and generosity and you have been faithful beyond our greatest expectations. Thanks be to God for you. A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours!

(I promise not to send you one of my terrible, hand turkey drawings. :) Blessings on you all!

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner

## DONATIONS RECEIVED...



***In memory of Dale Maikkula***

From Myrna Maikkula

***In memory of Mary Maikkula***

From Myrna Maikkula

***In memory of Lila Maikkula***

From Myrna Maikkula

***In memory of Verna A Hendrickson***

From Audrey Krutzig

***In memory of Ed & Shirley Hulkonen, Sr.***

From Pastor Raymond & Marlene Hilman

***In memory of Tim Simula***

From Pastor Raymond & Marlene Hilman

***In memory of Betty Kilpela***

From Pastor Raymond & Marlene Hilman



## GET TO KNOW OUR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Scott Seppala is a full-time student who lives in Houghton, MI with his wife Illa and seven children. He will be finishing up his degree this December and has accepted a pastoral position at the Eastwood Apostolic Lutheran Church in Negaunee starting in January 2025.

Caleb Maunu is a full-time student who lives in Hancock with his wife, Sheri and four children (with one on the way!). He will continue to take classes until his one-year internship begins July 2025 at the Eastside Apostolic Lutheran Church in Greer, SC.

Michael Mattinen is a full-time online student who lives in Cloquet, MN with his wife, Heidi, and their four children. He will continue to take classes until his one-year internship begins June 2025 at Esko Apostolic Lutheran Church, Esko, MN.

Tyler Johnson is a full-time online student who lives in Taylors, SC with this wife, Jodi and their four children. He is in his first year at the seminary.

Garrett Traffie is a full-time student who lives in New Ipswich, NH and is in his first year at the seminary. This semester he is taking Greek so additional classes are limited until the Spring.

Travis Fredrickson is a full-time student who lives in Calumet, MI with his wife, Gwen and their son. He is in his first year at the seminary. His wife, Gwen, is taking Deaconess classes part time.

Other part time students are Bruce Ruotsala taking classes online from New Ipswich, NH, Rev. Chad Tyler taking classes online from West Falls, NY, Ken Helmes taking classes online from Finland, Bjorn Lampinen taking classes online from Woodland, WA, Garrett Kandoll taking a class online from Sequin, TX, Matthew Holmgren taking a class online from Vancouver, WA and Cindy Koivu Bermeduz taking Deaconess classes online from Alhambra, CA.



**Thank You, LORD!**

## **MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM CONTINUES UNTIL DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

We are so THANKFUL that a kind and generous donor has come forward with a matching fund donation of \$25,000 for the year end of 2024. The seminary is seeking additional donations above and beyond normal giving that would be matched dollar for dollar within this program. If you are able to contribute to this program, please earmark your contribution "matching funds" in the memo section of your check. As always, we sincerely appreciate your continued support.

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



**CHOICE DOLLARS DETAILS:** Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

**Eligibility requirements:** To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

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Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

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

## **THRIVENT CHARITABLE IMPACT & INVESTING™**

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing.™ 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](http://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!