



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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a Minnesota Corporation

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Dear Friends,

If April showers
bring May flowers,
what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims.

I remember the day my brother came home from elementary school and told me this little joke. It would have been about 1960 at a time when people put out their cornucopias, paper pilgrims and turkeys. There were always the standard stories of the pilgrims' arrival in 1620 and the first thanksgiving. Through the years I have learned that these events have been exaggerated, embellished and sometimes purely fabricated yet still there remains a fascination with the original story. While exactly all the pilgrims did may be open to varying interpretations, the essential gist of the story is quite factual. They were people who came here as they believed they were directed to by God. They came to find a new promised land, a place where God would freely bless them as they industriously worked the land under His auspices. They were at a certain level utopianists, many of them with leanings toward amillennialism/post-millennialism who believed that God would usher in a golden age of harmony if they would remain faithful to their religious expression now liberated from the fetters of Kings.

The pilgrims could never have realized what their experiment would yield. The present colossus would not even have been possible in their view. Still the present manifestation is what came of the "pilgrim dream". However the dream isn't yet concluded. There is a future still to be realized and that future is in the hand of the same God the pilgrims worshipped in freedom, the one to whom they offered thanks for bounty and providence. The lesson of the pilgrims isn't found in their history as much as in their confidence. Confidence to face the future guided by the hand of the true God, this is the legacy the pilgrims left to their descendants and we are misguided if we give in to the present spirit of pessimism that permeates a faithless age and lines the pockets of those who market their dark vision without conscience. So Psalm 121:

<A Song of degrees.> I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ² My help *cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. ³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD *is* thy keeper: the LORD *is* thy shade upon thy right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. ⁸ The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.
(Psalm 121:1-8 KJV)

God remains with us. The pilgrims were right; we are wise to trust in Him. Happy Thanksgiving!

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED...

In memory of Annette Dahlmeier

From Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier
Kirk Jr. & Carol Otto

In memory of Myrna Maikkula

From Joyce Tibbs



DOUBLE YOUR DONATIONS

The seminary's matching funds program continues through December 15, 2025. A kind and generous donor has come forward with a matching fund donation of \$25,000 for the year end of 2025.

We are 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.

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



²⁰ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:20 (KJV)

ATTENTION SUPPORTERS:
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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.

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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.

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!