



# 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

October 2023

Dear Friends,

***“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; <sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: <sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: <sup>25</sup> Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; <sup>26</sup> To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” Romans 3:21-28***

It was over five hundred years ago, that Martin Luther posted the ninety-five theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg. Legend has it that it was this event that sparked the Reformation. Luther sought to correct many of the false teachings that permeated the church during his time. The most significant of these corrections was how one is justified in the sight of God. Luther himself struggled with the dilemma of obtaining mercy from a just God. For Luther, the fact that God is just, meant that He punishes sinners. No matter how hard Luther worked to confess his sins and to follow God’s will, he never felt at peace. How could Luther preach and teach about a loving God, when God was always angry with him? When Luther finally discovered the Gospel, he experienced a peace and freedom that only Christ can give. Luther tells us in his own words:

*“Night and day, I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that “the just shall live by his faith.” Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through sheer grace and mercy, God justifies us through faith. Thereupon, I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the “justice of God” had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven...*

*If you have a true faith that Christ is your Saviour, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God’s heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love. This it is to behold God in faith that you should look upon His fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger, nor ungraciousness. He who sees God as angry does not see Him rightly, but looks only on a curtain, as if a dark cloud had been drawn across His face.”*

May God grant us grace to “see Him rightly” and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed to purchase our redemption; so that we who have been justified by faith might continue to live by faith.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support for the seminary, through your prayers, gifts and words of encouragement. God bless you!

***“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, <sup>5</sup> For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; <sup>6</sup> Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...” Philippians 1:3-6***

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



## DONATIONS RECEIVED



***In memory of Jill Sanko***

From Joyce Tibbs

***In memory of Ernest Bylkas Jr.***

From Judith Bylkas



The Board of Directors of the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary invite you to attend the Annual Seminary Rally on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at 3:30PM at Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot Street, Hancock, Michigan. Dinner will be served after the service. All are welcome!



We are pleased to announce that we had a kind and generous donor come forward with a matching fund donation of \$25,000 for the year end of 2023. We are seeking additional donations above and beyond normal giving that would be matched dollar for dollar within this program. The program begins October 1 and runs through December 15, 2023. 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!

**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:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

**Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations:** Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

**Choice Dollars expiration date:** Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

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!