



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

October 2025

Dear Friends,

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³ Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. ¹⁶ Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. ¹⁷ Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” I Timothy 1:12-17

One of the great gifts of the Lutheran Reformation was the teaching referred to as “*Sola Gratia*.” *Sola Gratia* is a Latin term that means “*by grace alone*.” Luther asserted, rightfully so, that God has chosen to save us, not by any works that we have done, but solely by His Divine grace. Luther made this assertion based solely on the Holy Scripture, especially the epistles of the Apostle Paul.

“But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. ¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. ¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. ²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: ²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:15-21

In this passage, Paul not only speaks about the nature of God's Divine favor, but also the magnitude of God's grace. Paul knows this not only through his study of God's Word, but also by his own experience of God's grace, as he shared with Timothy. Paul refers to himself as the chief of sinners, because of his persecution of the church. Paul indicates that God showed him mercy “*for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting*.” It is as if to say that if God can grant grace to the Apostle Paul, he can surely lavish His grace on anyone. God's grace is not contingent anything that we do. God bestows His forgiveness, Life and salvation to us, *because He is gracious to sinners*. God is gracious to us, because of Jesus and His finished work at Calvary's cross. Praise be to God for the marvelous gift of His grace in Christ.

“Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 106:1

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Seminary as we endeavor to minister God's Word to His people. May God pour out His Spirit upon us as we continue to partake of His amazing grace.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

Yours in Christ,
Chuck Bylkas



DONATIONS RECEIVED...



In memory of Lois Matson

From Linda Wirkkala
Vancouver Ladies Bible Study
Pastor Raymond Hilman & Marlene

In memory of Greg Helmes

From Pastor Raymond Hilman & Marlene

In memory of Don & Vi Salo

From Richard & Marilyn Howk

In honor of Wayne Juntunen

From Richard & Renee Riemersma



*The Board of Directors of the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary
invite you to attend the Annual Seminary Rally
on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at 3:30PM
at Laurium Shining Light Church,
645 Tamarack Street, Laurium, MI.
Dinner will be served following the service.
All are welcome!*



MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY

We have some exciting news!! 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. The program begins October 1 and runs through December 15, 2025. 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 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:

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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.

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!