

September 2014

Dear Friends,

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. (Matthew 14:25 KJV)

The fourth watch of the night was the last watch of the night beginning at 3 A.M. and ending at 6 A.M. Having recently preached on this text I was later struck by an analogy to life illustrated in the watches of the night. As I look upon many congregations I see that they have aged. In many of them it appears that older members outnumber the younger, in some cases substantially. The aging baby boomers and their parents have definitely entered the watches of the night and many are in the fourth watch. The fourth watch is often long and filled with a longing for day, yet also eyes grow heavy and there is a desire for rest. Many of the older members of churches have worked hard through the day and find it hard to keep watch through the night, they're tired and need rest. Yet in spite of their desire for sleep their eyes are set on the sunrise, the dawning of the new day for them. In the struggle between these two poles steps Jesus, Jesus reorients their focus away from both their slumber and the coming dawn. Jesus places their focus upon Him. He shows them the way to go and delivers them, He keeps them precisely where he wants them and keeps their eyes fixed on Him; "the author and finisher of their faith."

Years ago the major work of the church was youth ministry, now we need to be equally prepared to minister to those who are in the later watches of the night. It is necessary for us to help them to see the Jesus who comes walking toward them on the water, the Jesus who still directs their lives, the same one who gives them strength even when their bodies fail. It is now the ministry to the elders that will equip the church for the future. This is the step that we must now take, ministry to the aging must stand alongside youth ministry as we work to edify the entire body of Christ.

May God give us the grace to meet this new challenge and take up His sacred calling to minister to all His children as we ourselves seek rest while waiting for the new daybreak.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



Donations Received...

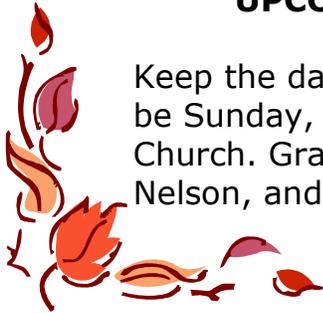


In memory of Vernon Maunu
from Lillian Maunu & family

In memory of Pastor Waino Aili
from Marc & Marlene Aili



UPCOMING SEMINARY RALLY & GRADUATION



Keep the date open...the annual Seminary Rally & Graduation will be Sunday, October 12, 2014 at the Laurium Apostolic Lutheran Church. Graduates include Charles Jousma, Nick Kandoll, Brittany Nelson, and Ray Stenersen.



Fall Semester Begins Soon

The fall 2014 semester will begin soon and we are looking forward to another year of instruction for students both in the classroom and on-line.

The following classes are scheduled for the fall semester which will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd. The Thursday night in Negaunee will begin September 4th at 7PM and the Monday night class in Hancock will begin September 8th at 7PM.

Daily Classes:

Christian Ethics (3 credits) - A study of the systems of ethical thought and an analysis of how the ethical dilemmas of humankind should be addressed by those who confess Christ.

Romans (2 credits) - Exegesis and interpretation of portions of the epistle emphasizing its doctrinal content and theology.

Genesis (2 credits) - A study of the origin, thought and doctrinal contents of the book of Genesis.

Ministry to the Aging (1 credit) - A study of the various facets of ministering to senior citizens as vital members of the Body of Christ.

Edifying Church & Family (1 credit) - A course to develop an awareness of the dynamics of Pastoral duties in shepherding the flock, and the care of family with the necessity of maintaining personal, familial and congregational health through the resources that God has provided.

Isaiah (2 credits) - An exegetical study of the book of Isaiah, theories of its development and its impact upon the New Testament.

Galatians (1 credit) - An interpretation of the epistle according to the Greek text along with an analysis of its structure and doctrinal content.

New Testament Greek (6 prerequisite credits) - A course in the rudiments of the language of the New Testament.

Koine Greek Readings (1 credit) - A course designed to apply the principles learned in New Testament Greek and facilitate the mastery of the language of the New Testament through reading selected portions of its text.

Orientation to Deaconess Studies (3 credits) - An overview of the issues of women's ministry in the contemporary church.

Monday (in Hancock) & Thursday (in Negaunee) Night Class:

Gospel of Luke (2 credits) - An in-depth analysis of the Third Gospel with an emphasis on sound and segmentation.

For additional information or if you would like to enroll in a class, please email cilseminary@ilseminary.com or call 906-482-3337.