

September 2020

Dear Friends,

5I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:6That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.7I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.8Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it. (Isaiah 45:5-8 KJV)

These verses from Isaiah are part of one of the greatest discourses in Scripture in which God distinguishes Himself from pagan idols. Chapters 44 -46 have the prophet speaking for God to show that the calamity that will befall Israel and its restoration both come from the hand of God. God is not at all like the gods of the pagans who have a god for sunlight and a god for rain, a god for summer and a god for winter, a god for triumph and a god for tribulation, etc. God alone is God and He alone directs things upon the earth. God ordained the exile of Israel because of their falling away years before it historically occurred and had already given its restoration through Cyrus even before the exile had come. Only God is God, there is no other.

These chapters are worth a good reading as they serve as a reminder that we are not able to plumb the depth of God's actions trying to reconcile them with our thoughts and we are being foolish when we attempt to do so. In the middle of anything like our current pandemic people try to speak for God and explain His actions. They wind up sounding much like Job's friends who seem to say many things that sound quite correct while being entirely off the mark when it comes to God. We do not know why God allows us to endure something like a pandemic, but we know who to turn to for relief. We turn to God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The God who created all things reigns over all and vigilantly watches over all His creation, even the sparrows and the lilies.

So, we start another school year where we ended the last, in the middle of a pandemic. We never thought we would still be in this situation, but we are. Now what do we do? We pray and give thanks to the God who gave His only-begotten Son to suffer and die for us to redeem us through His sacrifice and cleanse us through His blood, making us blameless in His sight and giving us life eternal. We remember that the God who did such a wonderful thing for us will never leave us or forsake us and we press on in the pathway He has given us to travel. We continue to instruct our students in the Word of God and remain anchored in the gospel as we always have whether in a pandemic or not. We continue to proclaim the stunning and gracious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and lead our students in the same. In all these things we praise God for His goodness and infinite mercy and will see to it that He receives all glory and honor as He is due. We will continue to do so even though for now we cannot have classes in any other way than online. We thank God for His faithfulness in allowing this ministry to continue. Thank you for your support through these many years, it means so much to us. We pray for your continued good health and that God would end this plague we are enduring by His grace.

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner



## *Donations Received*

### **In memory of Pastor Rodney Johnson**

From Dennis & Janet Hietala  
Mary Anne Storm  
Bob & Gert Antioho

### **In memory of Judy Maki**

From Eugene Maki  
Mary Anne Storm

### **In memory of Rev. Andrew & Mrs. Mary B. Mickelsen**

From Mary Anne Storm

### **In memory of Ed & Hilda Storm**

From Mary Anne Storm

### **In memory of Sylvia Estola**

From Mary Anne Storm



*Tentative*

## **UPCOMING FALL SEMESTER**

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
9:00 - 10:50a.m.	Ancient Church History		Ancient Church History		Ancient Church History
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Ministry to the World		Ministry to the World		Ministry to the Aging
11:00 - 11:50a.m.	Christian Education		Christian Education		Ministry to the Youth
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Ephesians/ Colossians/ Philippians 7PM Via Zoom				

Daily classes offered in the fall begin, Wednesday, September 9, 2020:

**History of the Ancient Church** (3 credits) - A historical analysis of the major people and events that shaped the Christian Church from the Apostolic Age to 600 AD.

**Ministry to the World** (2 credits) - The biblical basis for mission work along with a history of the methods employed to carry out such work.

**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.

**Christian Education** (2 credits) – The principles of the theology of Christian Education. Preparation for teaching Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Classes, etc.

**Ministry to the Youth** (1 credit) - A study of philosophies and methodologies involved in working with youth.

This fall the Monday night class in Hancock and originally the Thursday night class in Negaunee will be incorporated into one class beginning, Monday, September 14 at 7PM via Zoom. Jay will be teaching the class on **Ephesians/Colossians/Philippians**. If you are interested in joining this online class, please contact us by phone (906) 482-3337, email [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com) .

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