



# 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*

September 2025 (Pentecost)

Dear Friends,

<A Psalm of David.> Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless* his holy name.<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:<sup>3</sup> Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;<sup>4</sup> Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;<sup>5</sup> Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Ps. 103:1-5 KJV)

During my convalescence from my recent back problems, I began praying this Psalm. No one knows its occasion, and that is fitting as it applies in almost any circumstance. It is in Hebrew that I read it, and it is very rich in the terms employed as they are used in other parts of the Scripture. The word translated "soul" is the same one used in Genesis 2:7 indicating that God's breath made Adam a living being. It is from the breath of God, the Spirit, that the human being receives its spirit. Only the Spirit knows the things of God and brings forth that understanding in our spirit. That Spirit is now dwelling in us as the downpayment of the promise to be fulfilled for us at the consummation of all things. Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Cor. 1:22 KJV) That Spirit also testifies that God is also in union with us through Christ and richly blessing us in all things. *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:<sup>27</sup> To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (Col. 1:26-27 KJV) In the New Testament we understand the fullness to which David was referring. All that is within us, our now reborn spirit together with the Holy Spirit, blesses the Holy Name of God. The Spirit reminds us of all the marvelous things God has done for us and continues to do for us. He forgives all our iniquities in the name and blood of Jesus. He heals all our diseases. He redeems us from destruction (the pit in Hebrew). He pours out His grace upon us continually in Jesus Christ. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. (or in Greek, grace upon grace in a steady stream) (Jn. 1:16 KJV) He gives us every good thing all of our lives. He even renews our youth when we are old. So many are His uncountable blessings to us that we do well to remember the immense benefits that he has poured out upon us in His grace. In our human frailty we may forget but the Spirit constantly reminds us and keeps us in tune with the Psalmist. We too bless the Name of the Lord with all that is within us.

That is how we begin this new school year. We are mindful of how God has blessed our seminary so richly through the years and we understand that God, through Jesus Christ and by the power of His Holy Spirit, will continue to do so. You have played such an important role in that blessing. You have graced us through these many years with your prayers and financial support. We look forward with great expectation to another marvelous year of His grace and we thank you for your many kindnesses toward us.

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner



## **DONATIONS RECEIVED...**

### ***In memory of Jean Anderson***

From Reuben & Anita Aho

### ***In memory of Norma Sarver***

From Reuben & Anita Aho

### ***In honor of Ernest Bylkas***

From Judith Bylkas



## **MONDAY NIGHT CLASS BEGINS SOON**

The Fall semester's Monday night class will be on the **Prison Epistles** which begins on September 8, 2025, at 7PM. It is a 15-week course that is available in person at 916 Pine Street, Hancock or online using Zoom. If possible, we ask for a \$50 donation to attend the class.

The Prison Epistles is an exegetical study of the Apostle Paul's letters to the congregations in Ephesus, Colossae, Philippi and to Philemon.

If you are interested in taking this class, please contact the office at 906-482-3337 or email [cilseminary@ilseminary.com](mailto:cilseminary@ilseminary.com). Also, for a complete class schedule go to [www.ilseminary.org/class schedule.htm](http://www.ilseminary.org/class%20schedule.htm) or for class descriptions go to [www.ilseminary.org/acadinfo.htm](http://www.ilseminary.org/acadinfo.htm), then Courses of Study.

We hope you can join us!!



**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!