



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

June 2009,

Dear Friends,

As many of you already know on April 17th of this year my wife Theresa and son Adam were involved in a terrible car accident. Tragically Theresa died in the accident but by God's grace Adam survived and after 11 days in the hospital is now home recovering from his injuries and doing well. A request was made to include the transcript of the homily I wrote for Theresa's funeral in this newsletter. So here is the homily.

In one of the cards we recently received a sister in Christ and friend of our family had written; "Theresa had the gift of making each person she was with feel special. I felt it and miss God's Spirit she had ...until heaven." This was indeed the case. Theresa remembered the likes and dislikes of almost every person she met. She counted it a privilege to serve them by ministering to their likes and avoiding their dislikes. She faithfully remembered birthdays and other special occasions taking great pains to see to it that no one was forgotten. Many was the time she would find something she really wanted, buy it, get it home, then decide that someone else could use it more than she, so she would send it off to them as a gift. Many of you have such gifts that came from her kindness and generosity. This brings to mind the story recorded in Acts 9:36-41.

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.³⁷ And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid *her* in an upper chamber.³⁸ And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring *him* that he would not delay to come to them.³⁹ Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.⁴⁰ But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning *him* to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.⁴¹ And he gave her *his* hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. (Acts 9:36-41 KJV)

The clothes and garments that Theresa made were not of cloth like Dorcas' works were, rather it was the fabric of many lives that Theresa worked with. She did her acts of kindness not to gain recognition but because the people she did them for were more important to her than herself. She simply wanted to bless them and bless them she did. Yet it wasn't Theresa who blessed them it was the Lord working through

Theresa by His Spirit to minister His grace through her, He was the driving force behind her gift of hospitality and it was He who was faithful in her faithfulness. In Acts 9 Peter is sent by God to raise Dorcas from the dead but for Theresa it wasn't Peter who appeared to raise her it was Jesus Himself. He did not however raise her to be found mortal once again but in His faithfulness He raised her immortal. He took away her garment of grief and clothed her with righteousness and glory. Her true husband, who faithful to His word had prepared a place for her took her for Himself to bring her to her eternal home robed in eternal peace. There she stands in His brightness with all the saints glorifying God in all His splendor.

It does no one any good to speculate on the reasons for her departure for endless questions can be raised but no answers found. We only know that on April 17th three earthly lives ended in a horrible car accident and one life was preserved. It is as Job says; "the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Yet the scripture adds: "In all this Job sinned not nor charged God foolishly." We must not rob God of His glory by substituting our poor thoughts for His marvelous ways that are beyond our finding out. We can only come to Him for His comfort that is without end and extend our deepest sympathy to the Bunnin family as well.

This service is a testimony of life and not of death. It is a celebration of the gift of life given to humankind through God's Son who shed his blood on Calvary's cross to redeem lost sinners. It is a testimony to the power of the resurrection, every day is Easter, God's mercies are new every day. The suddenness of Theresa's death serves to awaken us to the reality of our untimed departure known only to God and to allow us the opportunity to be made ready, to be found in Christ washed clean in His blood and ready for His appearing. Theresa's life is a testimony to Him who so loved the world that He gave His Son to save it. Now is the day of grace and God is yet calling sinners to repentance. God's grace is greater than all our sin and He has indeed prepared a place for all who will come to Him. Please come to Him. All the Scriptures we heard today speak in unison of one thing, the resurrection of all those who are in Christ. God desires that we would all be found there even as our precious Theresa was. If you do not have this peace then repent and be found in Him today. Receive of His grace and mercy and have your heart made ready through the blood of His Son. Let Him take the fear of death from you and give you the assurance of eternal life through His shed blood and find peace even as Theresa did. She will be sorely missed and is greatly loved by us but how great will the promised reunion be when we see one another in glory. Now we extend to you dear Theresa the Christian Good Night, but we'll see you in the morning. Thanks be to God!

Waiting together with you for that marvelous Day of Resurrection,

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner

P.S. Thank you for all the love, support and prayers during the past month.



MEMORIALS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF THERESA WEIDNER



Raphael & Renee Aho
Reuben & Anita Aho
Dave & Ruth Ahonen
Robert & Gertrude Antioho
Anna Anttila
Brian & Heather Bergstedt
Edwin & Kathleen Bergstedt, Jr.
Loren & Priscilla Bergstedt
Donald & Pamela Bielinski
Arbutus Bleise
Matt & Allison Brintlinger
Donald & Maria Britz
Ernest & Judith Bylkas
Chuck & Joy Bylkas
Mike & Annette Carriere
Christian Men of the Northland
Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier
Myra Demotts
John & Robin Dueweke
Robert & Carol Dunstan
Robert & Jean Edwards
Donald & Kathleen Fox
Clark & Sally Givens
Gladys Godell
Peter Gundersen & Jimalle Jones
Kenneth & Sylvia Hanninen
Gerald & Audrey Harjala
Yvonne Hawley
Tom & Jean Heider
Aaron & Renee Hendrickson
Deborah Hendrickson
Neal & Cheryl Hendrickson
Verna A. Hendrickson
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Holombo
Edward & Anita Hulkonen
W. Jack & Ada Hurula
William & Priscilla Hutley, Sr.
Allen & Donna Jarvi
Larry & Mae Johnson
Philip & Rene Johnson
Rod & Dolly Johnson

David & Barbara Jukuri
John Jukuri
Kristine Jukuri
Gary & Janice Kangas
Norman & Shirley Kangas
James & Angela Karbowski
James & Elma Keskitalo
Daniel Kilpela
Eldon & Alice Kinnunen
William & Helen Kinnunen
Richard & Maxine Kohl
Jeanne Kulju
Marie Kurtti
David & Susan Lakanen
Roger & Myrtle Larson
Arthur & Joan Lasanen
George & Carol Lepisto
Russell & Duffy Lepisto
Les & Sara Liimatainen
Ronald & Doris Liimatainen
Franklin & Jane Liupakka
William & Ruth Lucier
Fred & Beverly Luoma
David & Kathryn Magunson
Eugene & Judy Maki
Paul & Anja Marin
Philip & Jill Marin
Gordon & Majorie Mattila
Sanfred & Patricia Mattila
Dave & Marilyn Mickelsen
Jim & Mary Lou Mickelsen
Kim & Sueann Mickelson
James & Barbara Miller
Gary & Lyndell Moberg
Kevin & Mary Kay Myrmel
Gordon & Julia Nelson
Dale & Janell Niskanen
Mary Nominelli
Bob & Norma Nominelli
Stuart & Evelyn Olson
Kirk & Carol Otto, Jr.

Painesdale Apostolic
Lutheran Church
Evelyn Palosaari
Edwin & Anne Paulson
Joseph & Judy Pekola
Eleanore M. Puumala
Dale & Carolyn Questad
Clifton & Faye Rautio
Gordon & Holly Rintala
Daniel & Gerrie Roberts
Terry & Ruth Rogers
Frank & Nancy Rugani
Betty Ruohonen
Al & Janis Saari
Paul & Debbie Saaranen
John & Suzanne Sanregret
Kenneth & Lois Seaton
Roland & Sarah Seppala
Timothy & Michelle Seppanen
Eugene & Arlene Silkowski
Timothy & Arlene Simula
Ruth Somero
South Range Apostolic
Lutheran Church
Scott & Karen St. Peter
Fraser & Carla Strome
John & Helen Sullivan
Arnold & Ruth Sunnarborg
Neil & Debra Sunnarborg
Brian & Adele Taavola
Bruce & Jean Taavola
Joyce Tibbs
Larry & Sharon Wahala
Dick & Anita Walrath
Jay & Adam Weidner
Marion Weidner
Gary & Helen Westerholm
David & Gladys Wiitanen
Linda Wirkkala
Orval & Beth Wirkkala
Ross & Fayth Wolfe
Elmer & Miriam Yliniemi



ADDITIONAL MEMORIALS RECEIVED

*Memorial received in memory of **John Somero** from Ruth Somero*
*Memorial received in memory of **Helen Elaine Luoma** from Karen Zimmerman & Mike Luoma*
*Memorial received in memory of **Darlene Heikka** from Gary & Helen Westerholm*



Seminary Plans for Fall Classes

We have finalized the class schedule for the fall semester. Full time students will begin on Wednesday, September 2. Genesis will be taught on Monday night in Hancock beginning September 14 and in Negaunee beginning September 3. The complete class schedule is posted on our website www.ilseminary.org. Go to the *Academic Information* button then click on *Class Schedule*.

We hope you can join us this fall either in person or via the Internet. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to call (906) 482-3337 or send an email to: cilseminary@charterinternet.com.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS GivingPlus® Program helps you make a bigger impact.

Over the years the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary has been blessed with many generous donors who demonstrate their support of our ministry.

Financial donations can accomplish even more through a wonderful one-of-a-kind gifting program offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. It's called the GivingPlus® Program. A GivingPlus® gift form is enclosed for your convenience.

If you are a benefit member of Thrivent (own Thrivent Mutual Funds accounts and/or Thrivent Life Insurance Company products) we encourage you to make the most of your financial donation to our ministry through this program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

****PLEASE NOTE****

If you are receiving this newsletter in error or would prefer to be taken off the mailing list, please complete the form below and mail to: P.O. Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930. Or call 906-482-3337 or email: cilseminary@charterinternet.com. Thank you!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

I wish to be removed from the Inter-Lutheran Seminary's mailing list.