

May 2016,

Dear Friends,

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3

In the month of May, we observe two holidays that specifically remind us of the importance of honor: Mother’s Day (May 8th) and Memorial Day (May 30th). On these two days we are simply reminded to do that which we are truly called to do everyday. Honor.

In his small catechism, Martin Luther provides a meaning for the fourth commandment that involves honoring not only father and mother, but all those who are in authority over us. The Apostle Paul also tells us this in his letter to the Romans. ***“Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. ⁸ Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:7-8***

We bestow honor to whom honor is due, not only because of what they have done for us, but also because God has commanded us to do so. He has graciously called authority figures to serve us. It is this aspect of service that calls us to honor. ***“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. ²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. ²⁵ He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. ²⁶ If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. ²⁷ Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.” John 12:23-27*** Jesus teaches us that the path to honor is through service to others, even to the point of death. Jesus took this very path, which led Him to the Cross in order to win forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for you and me. He now bids us to follow Him.

We remember how our mothers have given so much of their lives to serve their children, just as we remember how many men and women in the armed forces have given their lives in service to their country. In their service, they are simply reflecting the True Servant, the One to whom belongs all honor and glory: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” Revelation 5:12-13



Donations Received



In memory of Wally Niemela

from Calvin Naasko

In memory of Dave Siirtola

from Joe & Carol Giachino

In memory of Ruth Sunnarborg

from Arnold Sunnarborg

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Annual SPRING SING service **hosted by the Inter-Lutheran Seminary**

You are invited to our Spring Sing service at the seminary on **Sunday, May 22 at 7PM**. The service will include singing by the students, staff and local musicians. The service will take place in the sanctuary which is located at 916 Pine Street in Hancock. Refreshments will be served afterwards. A free will offering will be collected and used to carry on the work of teaching and preparing our students for ministry. Hope to see you there!



Presenting our Deaconess Program

The Deaconess program at the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary provides sound biblical educational opportunities for women. A deaconess is a woman who is a church-worker and is trained and dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Christ through acts of mercy and spiritual care. The role of a deaconess is to minister to other women by engaging women in diverse settings and specialization, whether in a congregation, in an institution or on the mission field. The Deaconess serves congregations using her gift to bless and serve other women.

Titus 2:3-5 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

Upon fulfillment of the program requirements shown below, students receive a Deaconess Certificate endorsed by the faculty. Along with the Deaconess Certificate a student may also receive an additional degree outside the Seminary such as Nursing, Teaching, Counseling, etc. in order to focus on a specific calling.

You may also take the deaconess courses without acquiring a Deaconess Certificate. The courses of study include:

Orientation to Deaconess Studies. 3 credits

An overview of the issues of women's ministry in the contemporary church.

Deaconess History. 2 credits

A study of the role of deaconesses through the history of the Christian Church.

Working as a Deaconess I. 2 credits

A course which explores the use of Deaconess skills involving both congregational and personal care as well as the employment of such skills in the current church setting.

Working as a Deaconess II. 2 credits

A second course which explores the use of Deaconess skills involving community outreach and involvement with the employment of such skills in the current church setting.

For additional information regarding the Deaconess Program, please refer to our on-line catalogue at <http://www.ilseminary.org/catalog.pdf> or call (906) 482-3337.