



# 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

April 2025

Dear Friends,

***“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. <sup>39</sup> But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: <sup>40</sup> For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***  
**Matthew 12:38-40**

The three days.

This is our cause for celebration. As Christians worldwide gather for worship during the time of Holy Week and Easter, we are drawn to the singular act in human history: the death and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

This is the sign that Jesus speaks of when addressing the representatives of the scribes and of the Pharisees. Although Jesus had already performed many signs and wonders, the scribes and Pharisees demanded more. Jesus tells them that the greatest sign that will be given is the sign of Jonah ***“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”*** **Matthew 12:40** Jesus says this, because there is no greater sign that demonstrates both the power of God over the forces of darkness and the relentless love of God that would send His Son to the Cross. The events on those three days would forever change the course of human history. To say that this sign of Jonah was an earth-shattering event is no exaggeration. The Gospel of Matthew records that the earth literally shook when Jesus died on the Cross, and also when He rose from the dead. It is the sign of Jonah that sends forth the glorious message “Your sins are forgiven! The devil is defeated! Death is swallowed up in victory!”

In the celebration of the three days, we do not celebrate a mere historical event. The tremors of the Christ event still resonate in a deeply personal manner in us even today. The Apostle Paul says ***“For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. <sup>10</sup> And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power: <sup>11</sup> In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: <sup>12</sup> Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; <sup>14</sup> Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; <sup>15</sup> And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*** **Colossians 2:9-15** Jesus was crucified for you. Jesus died for you. Jesus rose for you. Because He lives, you too shall live. Praise be to God! God bless you during your celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

Christ is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylka



## *DONATIONS RECEIVED...*

### ***In memory of Esaías Somero***

From David Kangas

### ***In memory of Ernest G. Bylkas Sr.***

From Judy Bylkas

Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

### ***In memory of Ernest G. Bylkas Jr.***

From Judy Bylkas

Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

### ***In memory of Martha Bylkas***

From Judy Bylkas

Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family



## **STUDENT TUITION PROGRAM**

As noted in the past, the seminary has established a **student tuition program** for those students taking classes for credit. This is an opportunity for students to receive help with paying tuition bills. Using the designated funds the seminary has received, the students can pay a portion of their bill and the seminary will match that payment thus lowering the balance due.

Many students, especially those taking classes full time, find it difficult to juggle working a job and taking classes. This program helps lower their bill, taking away the stress of outstanding tuition bills.

If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please earmark your check “**student tuition program**” and it will be used specifically for this program.

As always, the seminary appreciates your continued support!!!



**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!