



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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January 2026

Dear Friends,

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. ¹⁶ And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.¹

In October of 2025 I had the pleasure of assisting in the ordination of Pastor Scott Seppala at Eastwood Apostolic Lutheran Church in Negaunee MI. The text I chose for that occasion appears above. Since that time this passage has been persistently on my mind. While preparing that message I was amazed at John's usage of the Greek root word translated as full and fullness. John tells us that Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Father, is full of grace and truth. There is nothing surprising about that statement as the balance of the Gospel bears witness to it. Jesus spends His earthly sojourn demonstrating God's grace to humanity and that He is the true, real God. We are made to witness by John's testimony that God has become flesh and has done so to purchase our redemption. Jesus goes to the cross to shed His blood to save us by forgiving all our sin, taking away the sin of the world. That was His mission and He fulfilled it entirely so showing God's grace to the world. This is remarkable but expected as the Gospel unfolds. The statement that is particularly shocking though is that found in verse 16; "And of His fulness have we all received, and grace for grace." Jesus is full of grace and truth and of that fullness all of us have received. All of us have received grace and truth from His fulness. We have not received it partially but fully, of His fulness. God has withheld nothing of His fulness from us, he gave us all in Christ. Still John follows that up by telling us this grace goes on and on. This is grace for grace that is inexhaustible. The Greek preposition used here means "in the place of," and in this usage gives the idea of grace in the place of grace in an endless stream. As we need God's grace, we don't exhaust it at all, the application of grace to us is done again and again into eternity. God's grace goes on forever and comes from the fulness given us in Jesus. It is there whenever we need it and we need it all the time. The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin 1 John 1:7. It is in this grace that we begin a new year. God's mercies to us are new every day.

Thank you for supporting us in years past and kindly doing the same in this new year. A Blessed and Happy New Year to all of you in the fulness of His grace!

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED...



In memory of the Seminary Founders
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THANKS TO YOU, the matching funds program was a huge success. We are pleased to report that donations received reached \$25,000 and will now be matched by a generous donor. May God bless your generosity and continued support!



CHOICE DOLLARS PROGRAM IN 2025

THANK YOU to those who made contributions through Thrivent Financial **Choice Dollars** Program. The seminary received **\$2,078** in the calendar year 2025. For more information about Choice Dollars, visit <http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.





2026 SPRING SEMESTER

Class begins Monday, January 19th	<u><i>Monday</i></u>	<u><i>Tuesday</i></u>	<u><i>Wednesday</i></u>	<u><i>Thursday</i></u>	<u><i>Friday</i></u>
8:30a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	History of the Ancient Church	Old Testament Introduction	History of the Ancient Church	Old Testament Introduction	History of the Ancient Church
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Christian Dogmatics I	Old Testament Introduction	Christian Dogmatics I	Pastoral Work & Administration	Christian Dogmatics I
11:00 - 11:50a.m.	1 st & 2 nd Thessalonians	Pastoral Work & Administration	1 st & 2 nd Thessalonians	Pastoral Work & Administration	Greek Readings III
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Gospel of Luke				

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.

Christian Dogmatics I (3 credits) – Lectures, readings and discussion of various Christian Doctrines including an in-depth look at the prolegomena for doing any study of systematic theology.

Old Testament Introduction (3 credits) – An introductory study of the origin, authorship, purpose and reliability of the Old Testament writings with special attention devoted to their literary design and individual and corporate unity.

Pastoral Work & Administration (3 credits) – A thorough study and discussion of pastoral theology and its application in the office of the ministry.

1st & 2nd Thessalonians (2 credits) – The study of St. Paul's view of the eschaton recorded in the Thessalonian correspondence reflecting the teaching of Jesus and other New Testament Literature.

Greek Readings III (1 credit) – More in depth texts from the Greek New Testament and Septuagint to be read and translated to enhance the skill of interpreting the Bible from the Greek Scriptures.

Gospel of Luke-Monday night class (2 credits) – An in-depth analysis of the Third Gospel with an emphasis on sound and segmentation. This course is available in person or on Zoom.

If you are interested in attending, please email cilseminary@ilseminary.com or call 906-482-3337.

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.
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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.

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!