



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

July 2026

Dear Friends,

Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser:
Teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.
The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom:
And the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding. Proverbs 9:9-10

Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge:
But he that hateth reproof *is* brutish. Proverbs 12:1

In May, Loren Bergstedt, one of the most faithful and honorable men who has served on the board of this seminary went to be for eternity with His Lord. The passages from Proverbs quoted above fit this wonderful man perfectly. He had an insatiable appetite for learning and when we first met as he was serving as Chairman of the Congregation of the Esko Apostolic Lutheran Church we would often stay long after board meetings to discuss a wide range of topics until the wee hours of the next morning. He was well informed but never overbearing in his opinions, assured and always gracious. They are conversations and memories that have stayed with me through these many years. So deep was his understanding and so magnanimous his personality that I asked him to serve on the board of the seminary. He accepted the opportunity with the same provision he often voiced that he felt unworthy of the position. Loren was more than worthy, he was the epitome of a great board member: thoughtful, insightful and never abrasive. He consistently provided immense wisdom to the operation of the seminary and faithfully supported it financially. His giftedness was recognized by all and he soon became chairman of the seminary board. A position he served in flawlessly for many years. All of these characteristics are directly attributable to Jesus the Christ whom he served with the fulness of his life and by whose Spirit he manifested His glory and goodness. There is one instance of a late night conversation with Loren the remains fixed in my mind. After I had returned from an intensive session of my graduate work at Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne, Loren asked me what I had learned. I replied that I didn't know that I could break it down and explain it. Loren looked right at me and with an unaccustomed sternness said, "You better. We don't send you there just to educate yourself. We do it so that you can teach us." Those words have stayed with me all of this time. There isn't a moment that I approach my study or my instruction without recognizing the greater need of clearly communicating the depth of God's goodness to others. When Loren had to resign from the board because he didn't feel he could perform in the office any longer we accepted his resignation with great regret. His passing reminds me always of the great investment God makes in people who serve His kingdom, how He never fails to provide those whom He has gifted to serve with marvelous gifts that bless other people and continue to do so. In Loren we were so blessed.

Thanks be to God! God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED...

In memory of William Forsman

From Joel & Susan Baker

In memory of Bev Aho

Kirk Jr. & Carol Otto

In memory of Loren Bergstedt

David & Ruth Croze

Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier

Pastor Chuck Bylkas, Joy & family

Gar, Jodi & Josh Heikkinen



MAINTAINING

THE CAMPUS

We are currently working on a series of significant improvements aimed at preserving the campus facilities and enhancing the appearance of its buildings. Projects involved replacing the roof which included interior insulation, siding installation, staining of the new staircase, repainting the sign and deep cleaning floors of the classroom building.



The restored buildings contribute to a safe and attractive campus setting and demonstrate the seminary's dedication to providing a well-maintained environment for learning, fellowship and ministry preparation. The seminary extends its sincere gratitude to those who have contributed to the success of these improvement projects.

**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!