

June 2022

Dear Friends,

"But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶ Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. ¹⁸ And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. ²¹ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done." Acts 4:15-21

This is quite an astonishing turn of events for the Apostles Peter and John. Not long before this, they were in the upper room with the other apostles, terrified that they might lose their own lives for following Jesus. Now, Peter and John boldly stand before the Sanhedrin, the group of religious leaders that could most certainly deliver them into hands of the Roman authorities to meet the same fate as their Master. What accounts for the newly found courage of Peter and John? The answer is simple: Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost, God poured out His Holy Spirit on the apostles, transforming them into fearless messengers of the Gospel. They no longer feared for their lives, because they had found something worth dying for... *Someone* worth dying for. It is not that Peter and John were *unwilling* to refrain from preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus, it is that they *could not* refrain from doing so. They good news was simply too good for them to remain silent. "*For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*" The Holy Spirit had filled their hearts with an everlasting hope to the point of overflowing.

This is perhaps the most important truth concerning what we call evangelism or sharing the Good News. God reveals His great love for us in such a profound way that we simply must speak of "...the things which we have seen and heard." We not only must share the Gospel, we will share it, because it is the greatest news the world has ever known. Each one of us are called to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even as the Apostle Peter shares in his first epistle "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear..." I Peter 3:15 The Holy Spirit reveals the greatness of God's love for us, that His own Son would suffer and die for our sins, cleansing us with His precious blood. Not only so, but Christ also was raised from the dead, destroying the power of death, and granting us newness of life as we await Eternal Life with Him. The Spirit works in each one of us, transforming us into instruments that proclaim the music of the Gospel both in Word and in deed. May God grant you grace to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Once again, we thank you all for your prayerful support of the seminary as we endeavor to train our students to preach and teach the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Chuck Bylkas



DONATIONS RECEIVED ...

In memory Paul Marin From Norma Nominelli Ken & Jackie Kangas

In memory Ernest Sr. & Martha Bylkas From Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SEMESTER

Even though the Spring semester has just ended, plans are being made for classes this Fall. The following classes are tentatively being offered.

Daily classes include: Isaiah, New Testament Introduction, Ephesians/Colossians, New Testament Greek, and Evangelism which will begin on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. The Monday night class will be the Gospel of Mark and will begin on September 12, 2022, at 7PM. Please stay tuned for a final schedule in the next couple months or view the latest information on our website https://ilseminary.org/classchedule.htm.

If you are interested in taking classes or have questions, feel free to call 906-482-3337 or email cilseminary@ilseminary.com.



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The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing[™] (formerly InFaith Community Foundation). 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.