

Thanksgiving and Christmas Newsletter!

Thanks for supporting me here at Concordia St Louis Seminary! I pray you all are doing well while staying healthy and warm as the cold weather is approaching! It has not yet snowed in Saint Louis, but it will soon I have no doubt! My classes have been going well and I have really enjoyed my Prophet's class. This class is a discussion on the major and minor prophets in the Old Testament. We read through all of them but only have enough time to discuss a couple of them. Something interesting that I have learned is all the prophecies of Jesus in the prophets. The prophecies about a coming Savior were written multiple centuries years before Jesus was born, which I think is beautiful. God's sovereignty over all creation is something I have looked on when life is out of control. Especially during this election season, God is in control regardless of who our president is. God is in charge and has complete control.

This semester has been very busy and exhausting yet joyful and encouraging. I am very excited to go back home to Michigan for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It will be great to see my family, friends, and animals. I ask for prayers for strength and peace of mind. I know God wants me to be a pastor but seminary is very difficult. It is full of joys but also difficulties (just like anything in life). It is very difficult balancing all the responsibilities while finding time to rest. Yet, God has blessed me with amazing friends here and professors who really care about us. I'll be praying for all of you this holiday season. Lastly, I cannot thank you enough for sponsoring me and praying for me. Without you, I wouldn't be able to be here. God has blessed me so much because of your donations and prayers and I greatly appreciate them all.

A Psalm that has been on my mind is Psalm 97

¹The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;

let the distant shores rejoice.

²Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.

⁴His lightning light up the world,
the earth sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.

God is so powerful and so majestic, yet He comes to us in His Word and Sacraments. He has chosen you in your baptism and He will not leave you nor forsake you, regardless of what your circumstances look like. God is immeasurably higher than us yet so incredibly near. He will draw near to you as you draw near to Him while reading the Bible (James 4:8). I encourage you to continue praying. God hears your prayers, and I know you more than I can explain!

Love, Matthew Nelson ☺

thinking of you all! hope you all are doing well! take care!