



Dear friends,

Christmas is about _____.

Most people fill in that blank with good things: family, friends, children, peace on earth, giving. Those are all fine enough, but not one of them hits the heart of the matter. Christmas is about God's great, good gift of his Son.

In Romans 5, Paul gets to the heart, "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

It took only two sentences for Paul to sum up the difference between our giving and God's, the great chasm between our kind of love and his. We give gifts—and might even give up our lives—to someone good, someone we care about, someone who has earned our love and respect. But Jesus gives up his life not for the good, not for the pretty good, but for sinners like you and me.

Yet still, God gives! Still, Jesus comes. He comes for you, to free you from your prison of guilt, greed, and shame. He comes for you, to give you what you could not find or earn or gain. He comes to give you his life, now and forever.

May I ask, as you are able, to consider a gift to the Seminary Fund. Your support allows us to prepare men who, motivated by the depth of God's gift for them, can't help but share that good news with others.

Paul Wendland

President Paul O. Wendland

P.S. Please join us for our Christmas concert on Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. If you can't be here in person, you can stream the 3 p.m. (central) concert live via a link at www.wls.wels.net.