

April 2017

Dear Friends,

***“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. <sup>17</sup> And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. <sup>19</sup> Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.” Galatians 3:16-19***

The story of Abraham is certainly a remarkable one. God called Abraham (then Abram) to leave his home country to an unknown land that God will show him. God promises to make of Abraham a great nation, to make his name great and to bless all families of the earth through him. The problem is that Abraham is already seventy-five years old and has no children. Where will this great nation come from? It is not until Abraham is a hundred years old that God blesses Abraham and Sarah with Isaac. Just when the promise is beginning to come to fulfillment, God commands Abraham to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice. If Abraham does so, what will become of God’s promise? In faith, Abraham obeys, but God intervenes to spare the life of Isaac and all of Abraham’s descendants to follow.

As compelling as Abraham’s story is, God’s promise to bless all families and nations of the earth through the seed of Abraham would not be fulfilled until many generations later. The Apostle Paul says that the promise would not be fulfilled by many seeds, but by one seed, “...***which is Christ.***” This is the same seed spoken of in the garden of Eden, who would crush the head of the serpent. This is the same seed that would fall to the ground and die in order to bear much fruit. “***And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.***” **John 12:32**

During the time of Holy Week and Easter, we celebrate the triumph of the seed of Abraham. Jesus Christ enters into death in order to destroy it. As He goes to Calvary’s cross, Christ delivers us from sin, death and the devil. We have the forgiveness of sins by His blood, newness of life and the certain hope of eternal Life, through the death and Resurrection of the seed of Abraham. May God fill our hearts with joy as we celebrate the finished work of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

***“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man... <sup>14</sup> Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; <sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. <sup>16</sup> For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” Hebrews 2:14-18***

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



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**ADDITIONAL HISTORY CLASS  
OFFERED AT THE SEMINARY**

Pastor Elmer Yliniemi will be teaching **History of the Laestadian Movement and Apostolic Lutheranism**, April 24-28 and May 1-5, 2017 from 9AM-Noon in Hancock. This is a 2 credit class and is an investigation of the origin and impact of the Laestadian movement both in its native Finland and in the United States. Online

students welcome!



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The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has created an endowment fund so that our supporters may make gifts that will provide ongoing support. Our Endowment Fund is designed to preserve the principal and a portion of the earnings, and use the remainder of the earnings to fulfill our mission. Because only a portion of the annual earnings on our Fund is used each year, the Fund continues to grow, buffering the Fund against inflation and providing a permanent source of support to our mission.

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**The students and staff at the Inter-Lutheran Seminary appreciate your continued support!**