

October 2016

Dear Friends,

*“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> And did all eat the same spiritual meat; <sup>4</sup> And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”*

*I Corinthians 10:1-4*

During my recent travels, I met up with an old friend that I had not seen in quite some time. He and his wife had moved to Wyoming where they resided for several years. My friend was excited to share the story behind Independence Rock, a famous landmark in Wyoming. Independence Rock received its name from a fur trader who had a great celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1830. Many of the settlers traveling west on the Oregon Trail have their names engraved on Independence Rock, signifying their historic journey. The importance of this place was highly significant for the early settlers. They needed to reach Independence Rock by July 4<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid the deadly snowstorms that they would encounter as they traveled through the mountain passes.

As my friend told me this story, my thoughts moved to similar places of remembrance in the Scriptures. Jacob set up a stone as a pillar in remembrance of his vision of the ladder reaching up into heaven. *“Surely the Lord is in this place.” Genesis 28:16* As the people of Israel crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, God instructed Joshua to carry twelve stones from the river to establish a place of remembrance. *“And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? <sup>22</sup> Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. <sup>23</sup> For the Lord your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: <sup>24</sup> That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever.” Joshua 4:21-24*

In his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul speaks about a different kind of rock, a spiritual rock. As God led his people out of bondage in Egypt, they were united unto Moses, nourished by manna and quail for food and with water that came forth from the rock at Massah and Meribah. Paul teaches us that God is always present with us, nourishing us and uniting us as His people. He has done so because of the spiritual Rock from which we drink, which was and is Christ. It is this gospel to which the entirety of the Scriptures testify. This is why the Apostle Paul says *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” I Corinthians 2:2* Over and over again, God tells us in His Word that He alone is the giver of life. Everything in the Holy Scriptures points to Christ and His redeeming work at Calvary’s cross. God loves, forgives, comforts and sustains us. Our hope is in Him alone. As the hymn-writer has said:

*“On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.”*

May the Lord strengthen us in faith as we continue to stand upon that life-giving Rock, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



## ATTENTION: BOARD MEMBERS

There will be a Board Meeting on Saturday, October 8, 2016  
at 10AM in the seminary's classroom building.



The Board of Directors  
of the  
Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary  
invite you to attend the  
**Annual Seminary Rally**  
on  
Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 2PM  
at  
Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary  
916 Pine Street – Hancock, Michigan  
  
Refreshments following service.

(Meet the students and learn more about the ministry of the seminary.)



## *DONATIONS RECEIVED...*

### *In memory of Clifton (Skip) Rautio*

From Verna A. Hendrickson  
Paul & Lorraine Tomasi  
Gary & Helen Westerholm

### *In memory of Jeremy Kuivanen*

From Gary & Helen Westerholm



### **SAVE THE DATE....**

*Winter Night of Music*  
at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI, to benefit the seminary on  
Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7PM. Join us for an evening of  
Christmas caroling and special music.  
Refreshments will be served.



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