



*"Which hope we have as an Anchor of the
soul,
both sure and steadfast."*

Hebrews 6:19

Vol. 52, Num. 7

THE ANCHOR

March 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Last week the Casper City Council voted to adopt a resolution of non-discrimination, giving special attention to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). While this is not a law, it is a step toward one. And these SOGI laws, as most of you know already, have been used in other states and communities to persecute Christians and try to force them to celebrate what our God forbids us to celebrate (e.g. gay marriages and gender reassignments). A number of us from Mount Hope were at the City Council meeting along with many other concerned Christians. Some of our members spoke out to the City Council, explaining how this resolution could hurt Christians in the community and is not good for Casper. I wanted to share with you Pastor Hill's speech before the Council. Although the City Council did not vote in favor of the Christian conscience, Pastor Hill's confession shows why we Christians, so long as we have and confess God's Word, have the truth and the victory that cannot fail. We have Christ, our God and Brother, and so we have the genuine love of God, a love that doesn't ignore sin but addresses it with the self-sacrifice of God Himself on the cross, and it's this love that our city and this world need.

"I will speak of your testimonies before kings and not be put to shame." (Ps. 119:46)

Mr. Mayor,

My name is John Hill. I live at 3630 Navarre Road here in Casper. I have lived in Casper for 22 years and raised my family here. I was pastor of Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, for almost 20 years and now serve as bishop, caring for 40 congregations in Wyoming and 20 more in the Nebraska Panhandle.

Thank you for permitting me to speak to this resolution. I urge you to vote no to this resolution or to replace it with one that treats all people equally.

It had been my original intent to address this resolution before you merely as a private citizen. I find now that I must speak on behalf of our churches, especially on behalf of Trinity and Mount Hope Lutheran Churches here in Casper. In recent years, the traditional Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality has come to be treated as immoral—as unloving or intolerant—by many in our culture. We now have genuine concerns that efforts are being made, first, to intimidate

Christians and their churches into silence, and second, to impose penalties under the law for carrying out their faith in their churches, their lives, and their businesses.

Our Scriptures teach us to “do good to all people.” This is an application of the general rule that we are to “love our neighbor,” even those who mistreat and misuse us. Some people would like for the Christian religion to go no further than this simple precept.

But these same Christian Scriptures clearly distinguish between right and wrong, between immoral beliefs and actions and the beliefs and actions which accord with God’s own eternal being and purposes. Our consciences, our speech, and our religion are all bound up with these Scriptures. Like all Americans, we Christians have thrived upon the free exercise of these most fundamental human rights: freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, freedom of religion.

It has been suggested by some that most Christians in our community, and Christian churches, support this resolution. Traditional Christians certainly oppose the unjust treatment of people, whether as individuals or as groups. It is immoral. Just laws should protect all people equally without reference to specialized classes of people. Before the law, we should all simply be human. Traditional, Biblical Christianity goes a step further and seeks to do good to all.

But traditional Christianity holds to the divine revelation of man’s nature, that man is a moral creature, made by God, and that man needs to be redeemed from the evil that arises in our hearts and that we see played out in the world around us. This is the part of our religion that now seems immoral to many people, the part that this resolution works to silence. Biblical Christians and their churches will always oppose and preach against sin, all sin, especially our own. No resolution, ordinance, or law can change that. God commands us to speak against falsehood and wrong out of love to our neighbor.

Yet our Scriptures have more to say. The sins we preach against are the sins for which our God became man and died. Denying that they are sins would be denying that our God satisfied the penalty for those sins by His death. Our message of love and forgiveness is a message about a God who died to give help to people with real, day-to-day sins. This is our religion. We cannot be silent about these matters.

Mr. Mayor, it is neither good nor right to pass resolutions or enact laws designed to make the exercise of such religion illegal, or, more likely, to intimidate Biblical Christians into silence. Instead of passing this resolution I urge you instead to support the broad and universal protections that are already in place for everyone in this community, which include protections for all against unjust treatment. For our part, we Christians will seek to defend the civil and legal protections of all people, even while carrying out our religious convictions with integrity. We ask that you not inhibit this great human freedom.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

From the School . . .

What's new in March?

You are enthusiastically invited to attend our annual **Strings Dinner on March 4th** at 5:00. This fundraiser helps us purchase new music, fix broken instruments, and improve our strings program. This year our students will play movie music.

If you like music, come listen to **Bethany Band on Friday, March 9th**, at 9:00 a.m. in the gym.

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is now open. Please see Mrs. Harris for registration papers. If you'd like a tour of the school or to learn more about it, please give us a call. Please note that we are changing our preschool program so that we will offer 4-year old preschool Monday through Friday.

High School Exploratory Committee: For several years some of our school parents have asked us to consider starting a high school. The Board of Education has put together a committee to explore its feasibility. If you have concerns or helpful ideas, please contact Angie Hill.

Donate: Some of our literature books are quite shabby as they've been used for over 15 years. If you would like to donate books to the school, we're looking for sets of: *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Little House in the Big Woods*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, and *The Hobbit*.

Trinity Fundraiser for MHLS: Watch for news about a fundraiser for our school on April 24th, hosted by our sister congregation across town!

Many thanks for all of your support.

In Christ,

Angela Hill

Lessons in Making Hearts

Students can surpass the objectives made for a particular task. One of those occasions happened while the preschoolers were cutting out hearts. My goal was for students to be able to cut curved lines to make hearts. The students, however, used the hearts to sort and discuss the vocation of family:

“You need to lay down the biggest heart first. It is the daddy heart. He protects and is the leader.”

“The mommy heart comes next. She is medium sized heart. The mommy heart is hugged by the daddy heart. She needs to be protected by the daddy heart. She helps the daddy with all work they need to do.”

“The kids come next. They help the Daddy and Mommy take care of each other.”

“The smallest heart is last, because it is the baby heart that needs the most looking after.”

I asked if they would make a heart for being a part of God’s family. One of the children excitedly said, “Cross!” How valid this child’s statement was! Jesus dying on the cross is God’s perfect love for us. We are His children. May we ponder and cherish God’s great love for us during this season of Lent. *Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed “1 Peter 2:24*

Please tell the people that you know that have children (preschool-8th grade) that registration is open for the 2018-2019 School Year

Make sure to attend Mount Hope School Strings Dinner Sunday, March 4th at 5:00 p.m. There will be fine music and food. We love you, Mr. Hedlund! You demonstrate great dedication for the beauty of music and great care to your students.

Miss Tarayca Walters, Preschool Teacher

OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer In: None
Reception by Profession of Faith: None
Transfer Out: None
Removed by Self-Exclusion: None
Funeral: None
Wedding: None
Baptism: None
Adult Confirmation: Simon Watts, Feb. 25, 2018

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Breanne Metz II	Mar. 4	12 years
Robert & Dorothy Harris, Sr.	Mar. 7	59 years!

John & Janet Rudd	Mar. 20	52 years!
Lloyd & Janet Walters	Mar. 26	43 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mar. 1	Michael Lee	
Mar. 2	Robert Pavey	
Mar. 5	Dan Klassen	
Mar. 6	Stormy Tatro	9
Mar. 8	Eric Graham	18
Mar. 9	Sheila Goldsmith	
Mar. 9	Randy Sorenson	
Mar. 10	Benjamin Craig	
Mar. 10	Mark Mehn	
Mar. 13	Sarah Thompson	
Mar. 16	Luke Sorenson	

Mar. 17	Shannon Eskam		
Mar. 17	Connor Glynn	MHLS	7
Mar. 19	Nathan Edwards		
Mar. 21	Arwyn Plumb		10
Mar. 21	Sydney Soliz		
15			
Mar. 21	Emily Walters	MHLS	
12			
Mar. 22	Tim Switzer		
Mar. 24	Anna Baden		
Mar. 25	Michele Sorenson		
Mar. 27	Alexandria Lewallen		
Mar. 31	Myah Towers	MHLS	
11			

News & Notes

LWML NEWS

”I bind this day to me forever, By the power of faith, Christ’s incarnation, His baptism in the Jordan River, His cross of death for my salvation, His bursting from the spiced tomb, His riding up the heavenly way, His coming at the day of doom, I bind unto myself today.” LSB 604 verse 2

You are invited to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, March 10th, at 9:00 am. We will start out our meeting with some socializing and goodies. The meeting will be a short business meeting and program on Saint Patrick. Please bring your singing voices and smiles.

In God’s love and service,
The LWML Board

Good Shepherd News

The Good Shepherd Auxiliary prayerfully and financially supports Bethesda Lutheran Communities, which serve people with

developmental disabilities in group homes. Our members at Mount Hope join in the mission to reach forward in Faith, Word, and deed by sharing the love of Jesus.

The membership drive started during January has raised over \$300 for the Bethesda homes. There is time, yet, to become a member with your support of \$10 for the suggested annual donation. Just let Deloris Radtke know about your intent. Thanks to all who participated in this act of love for Good Shepherd’s cause.

The month of March brings “Socks of Love.” In the past, a special sock collected coins for the Good Shepherd group. We will continue to “sock it away” this month when we meet **Friday, March 16, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall** for refreshments, followed by a business meeting. Please come share in the devotion, sweet treats, and fine fellowship.

In the Shepherd’s care,
Debbie Lee, President

Weekday Bible Studies will be put on hold until after the Lenten season. See you in

April!

GEMÜTLICHKEIT IS POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL. BE LOOKING FOR DATES AND TIMES IN YOUR APRIL ANCHOR!

The Food for Thought Project THANKS YOU for your contributions of food in 2017. March will continue with the need for **fruit cups**. Please leave your donations on the food box in the school wing. **THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER and SERVICE SCHEDULE!

Mar. 7 -

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Soup Supper
(hosted by the Board of Ed)
7:00 pm - Vespers Service

Mar. 14 -

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Soup Supper
(hosted by the Church Council)
7:00 pm - Vespers Service

Mar. 21 -

5:30 - 6:30 pm - LAST Soup Supper (hosted by the Youth Group)
7:00 pm - Vespers Service

Mar. 29 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm - Divine Service

Mar. 30 - Good Friday

7:00 pm - Divine Service

Mar. 31 - Easter Vigil

8:00 pm

April 1 - Happy Easter!!

6:30 am - Sunrise Divine Service

8:00 - 9:30 am - Easter

Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 am - Divine Service

SAVE THE DATES!

WHAT: Lander Youth Camp

DATES: August 5-9, 2018

WHO: Children aged 10 - High School

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - June 1.

Registration info will be coming soon.

Please speak with Pastor Preus or Michele Sorenson if you are interested, or have any questions.

COME BE A PART OF THE NEW BABY BRIGADE!

We are expecting some new babies in our congregation! If you are able to help our families with newborns by delivering a meal, please contact Kirsten Southard at 307-315-3373.

The Great Easter Egg Hunt is Coming!

We will again be having an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Easter morning, starting at 9:30 am. If you would like to help by donating **FILLED** plastic eggs, or by helping in any other way, please

contact Tiana Harris at

307-267-4105. Thank you!

