



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

Hebrews 6:19

Vol. 52, Num. 9

THE ANCHOR

May 2018

From the Pastor . . .

On Good Friday of this year, a National Public Radio (NPR) reporter published a piece on Easter, in which he described Easter in the following way:

"Easter—the day celebrating the idea that Jesus did not die and go to hell or purgatory or anywhere at all, but rather arose into heaven—is on Sunday."

Now I listen to NPR on a regular basis as I drive to and from church and make visits. It's the major way I get news, actually. And what's obvious to any listener of NPR, it isn't exactly friendly to conservative, biblical teaching on morality (say on abortion or marriage or transgenderism). But what is equally obvious is that they are very smart reporters, highly educated, and well-spoken. They're no dummies. That's why I continue to listen to them even though I disagree with much of what they say. So the question is, how could an educated reporter give such an uneducated definition of Easter?

Easter, of course, is the celebration not that Jesus *"did not die...but rather arose into heaven,"* but that *He did die*, and then rose *bodily* from the grave. Any child in our church, in our Sunday School, in our school, is well-educated enough to tell you this.

But the time is coming and has now come that those who do not attend a Christian church or do not attend a school like Mount Hope Lutheran School, will very likely never be exposed to this basic truth of what Easter is, which the Western World has known – if not believed – for the greater part of the last two thousand years. The times are changing.

The basic definition of what it means to be educated has changed, in fact. It used to be that to be educated you had to know about your history, and that history, whether the history of the United States or of Europe or of the ancient world, is so obviously incomplete without a basic knowledge of what Christianity is and what the Bible teaches. The "canon" of literature that used to be read in schools, which included Genesis and one of the Gospels, if not the entire Bible, gave students at

least some exposure to what their ancestors believed and fought for, and how they lived their lives. But as the educated reporter from NPR demonstrates, a person can now go through an education from Kindergarten through a four-year college degree, and not know the basics of the single most important event in world history, the event, whether one believes it or not, that shaped the formation of the Western World, without which America would not be America.

This is why we support Mount Hope Lutheran School as a Christian and a classical school, so that kids growing up in this world of ours will not be ignorant of their own history, and especially of the great history of the Bible. And we who are parents and grandparents, no matter where our children attend school, need to be aware that kids growing up in this world will not learn what we learned, not about Easter or Christmas or basic morality, unless we make the intentional effort to teach it to them. They won't learn it on TV, on the radio, or in the public school system. And so we Christian parents and adults, as it has always been – and sending a kid to a private school like Mount Hope doesn't relieve us of this duty – we are responsible for bring up our kids in this knowledge. And this happens at home especially, and through weekly attendance at church. Besides my Bible and my hymnal, the most precious book in my home is the book of Bible stories we read to our children before they go to bed. It seems like kid stuff. It isn't. I still learn reading them. And anyone reading them will know what some of the most educated in this world no longer know, what Easter is, and why it matters for history and for life. And this knowledge, of course, is not just academic, not just a sign of a good education, but knowledge of the highest order, knowledge of God, who He is, and of ourselves, who we are, why we are in this world, and how to live our life, and how to deal with death, and everything in between. It's the knowledge everyone in our community needs, and we with our church and our school are in the perfect position to give it to them. God bless our mission as both church and school, as parents and grandparents, as Christians who love His Word, and preserve this knowledge among us now and always.

Pastor Preus

From the School . . .

This past Friday, the vast majority of our students participated valiantly in the annual Poetry Recitation Competition. They presented themselves and their skill in front of an audience of staring eyes and impatient ears in order to share with that audience some of the better thoughts of men (and women) and to participate in the noble art of rhetoric and oratory. It was not only a useful thing to

do—in learning to speak publicly and exercise the brain in memorization—but it was also a brave and virtuous occupation. I speak for all the teachers and faculty when I say we are proud of our students and thoroughly enjoyed the event!

One of my favorite quotes is from a long poem called “The Prelude” by the 18th-19th century poet, William Wordsworth. In “The Prelude,” Wordsworth throws himself into a meditation on the highest and the basest inclinations of the soul. In his estimation, man’s inclinations are highest when his spirit and his intellect are raised in wonder and joy at the beauties of nature and God, and when he is taught to articulate that joy. At the end of “The Prelude” Wordsworth writes:

...What we have loved,
Others will love, and we will teach them how;
Instruct them how the mind of man becomes
A thousand times more beautiful than the earth
On which he dwells...

As a teacher, I say this to myself almost daily, especially on harder days when I am tired or when students do not want to learn. Wordsworth was himself, undoubtedly, a bit of a fanatic, so much so that I would call it an idolatry of his own intellect and imagination. He writes in this same poem that faith flourishes from the progress of the imagination. If he were here we could ask him what he means exactly. The Bible teaches us that faith comes by hearing of the Word of God. *Which is that Word of God?* Christ’s word in the last chapter of Matthew, which commands his pastors to baptize all nations in the Name of the Trinity and give them faith by possession of the Holy Spirit through Baptism. Wordsworth is so close in his correlation of joy and wonder to Love and Beauty, for we know that God Himself is Love and the source of all beauty. Wordworth takes it too far, or at least walks a fine line of terms when making declarations about the sources of faith and the divinity of man’s soul. So here is a good lesson. Poetry is written by men (yes, yes: and by women), and it is very often full of folly—so are all manner of words written and spoken by men. Only God’s Word is perfect and everlasting, and we should read poetry with a close eye; it is of course the only way to read poetry. Poems are impressive because you can pack a ton of meaning into a very brief saying, and they are vague and ambiguous, giving the reader room for inspiration and brainstorming. But the poet’s meaning should, like every thought of man, be made subject to God’s meaning. It is the great irony and horror of humanity that he should be so like God in his reason and ability to speak wisdom and yet also speak folly and black thoughts. Shakespeare asks in *Hamlet*,

“What a piece of work is a man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty!
in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel!

in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust?" II.2

So we read poetry and we learn how to speak it with grace and nobility like Cato and Churchill, and we teach others how to read it and love it. But more than the love of poetry, more than rhetoric, more than music, or arithmetic or geometry or Latin, more than any of these beautiful things, we strive to teach our students the love of God and his Word, his wisdom and his grace. These come before any true appreciation of the arts and the intellect, and any true understanding of humanity.

Miss Amanda Gehrke
1st & 2nd Grade Teacher

OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer In: Jace, Sage, and Paul Jacob from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Laramie, WY
Reception by Profession of Faith: None
Transfer Out: None
Removed by Self-Exclusion: None
Funeral: None
Wedding: None
Baptism: Evangeline Grace Jacob, April 29, 2018
Adult Confirmation: None

May 4	Kate Olson	
May 8	Betty Bayer	
May 9	Mackenna Metz	MHLS
7		
May 9	Weston Metz	MHLS
7		
May 9	Rachel Walters	
May 13	Ainsley Weaver	
2		
May 13	Hannah Weaver	
2		
May 16	Russel Paulson	
May 16	Isaac Preus	1
May 20	Rebecca Thorne	
May 20	Tyler Thorne	
May 21	Emma Graham	16
May 21	Paul Sorenson	
17		
May 23	Larry Harrington	
May 23	Mary Preus	
3		
May 27	Tarayca Walters	
May 28	John Rudd	
May 30	Martha Preus	
5		
May 31	Kasey Southard	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May 10	Jared & Anne Lee	8
yrs.		
May 22	Bob & Wendy Doctor	36
yrs.		
May 26	Chad & Kaylee Trautman	
1 yr.		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Date	Name	Age
May 3	Tucker Glynn	3
May 4	Christine Bonds	

News & Notes

LWML NEWS



*The beauty of song fills the
spring air.*

*What better time is there then to
learn and sing hymns of the
Reformation.*

We will meet on

*Saturday, May 12, at 9:00 am,
starting with refreshments, then
Pastor Preus will lead the
historical study.*

*Praise God for Pastor Preus's
willingness to give of both his
time and teaching us the
importance of being declared
righteous before God.*

*We will have a short business
meeting to prepare for the LWML
picnic in June.*

*Debbie Lee and Bev Woodcock
will be our delightful hostesses.
God is indeed good! Praise Him!*

**In God's love and service,
The LWML Board**

LWML Convention June 21-23, 2018

**In-gathering requests to support
Wind River Lutheran Mission – Ft.
Washakie. You can help by
purchasing Wal-Mart gift cards
(available through the Scrip
program) that can be used to buy
needed items to fill backpacks to be**

**distributed at Christmas. Contact
Debbie Lee with questions
at 307-439-9833.**

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.

Our members meet
**Friday, May 20th, at 9:30
am in the Fellowship Hall** for
refreshments, followed by a
brief business meeting. Please
come share in the devotion,
sweet treats, and fine
fellowship. We break for the
summer and will not meet
again until September.

**In the Shepherd's care,
Debbie Lee, President**

Bible Studies for May

Monday evening Bible Study
will continue **through May 21,**
and **Wednesday morning
Bible Study** will continue
through May and into June.
Come join us in the Fellowship

Hall for these two opportunities
to learn more about God's
Word.

**GEMÜTLICHKEIT will not
be held in May. Be watching
your Anchor for the next
one!**

The Food for Thought Project THANKS YOU for
your contributions of food this year! May 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!**

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.**

**Saturday, May 19, from
9:00 am - noonish is our
Annual SPRING CLEANING!**

**Come help us give our church
a good cleaning, inside and
out! Hope to see as many of
you there as can make it -
many hands make light work.
Lunch will be provided.
Questions? Ask Wally Aakre.**

**Speaking of cleaning the church,
we are in need of more weekly
cleaners. If you are
interested, please let Wally
Aakre know. Thanks.**

**Please check the Prayer
List and let Wendy know
if there are any changes
that need to be made -
Thank you!**

DIRECTORY CHANGES

New Member Contact Information:

**Devon Holthus
1037 Dundee
Casper, WY 82609
(307) 462-6359**

**Scott Redfield
3857 Salt Creek Highway**

Casper, WY 82604
(307) 340-1665

Simon Watts
311 S. Lowell St.
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 247-4920

Jace, Sage, Paul and Evangeline Jacob
6640 King Salmon Dr.
Casper, WY 82604
(307) 622-3551 (Jace's cell phone)
(307) 203-7111 (Sage's cell phone)