



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

Hebrews 6:19

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THE ANCHOR

September 2017

From the Pastor . . .

Some Reflections on the Order of Creation

I just returned from a conference in Lincoln, NE on the order of creation in the Bible. The order of creation is the order between men and women that God set up when he made Adam and Eve. He gave to each distinct roles. Adam and Eve were equal before God, as are all Christian men and women today – made in the image of God to love Him, serve Him, and know His will. But if by “equal,” we mean “the same,” then men and women (obviously!) were not created “equal,” were not created “the same.” They’re different. This is a biological fact, of course, but it also touches on the roles we are to play here on earth. Dads can’t be moms, for instance, not just because they aren’t physically built to be moms, but because they don’t (and shouldn’t!) think or feel like moms. So also, moms can’t be dads.

In our day, of course, the world has declared the sameness of male and female. The insanity has gone so far that recently a sportscaster was attacked for saying that men can run faster, on average, than women. Now that’s a fact, but since it’s a fact that proves that men and women are different, the fact has to be hidden and covered up, as if we should consider it shameful not to be faster than someone else! I wonder if these champions of equality would get angry if we said that women are better at giving birth than men? Is that offensive? It’s hard to know what to say and what not to say in a culture that denies the most basic and obvious differences between men and women.

But God celebrates these differences. He created them. He created men and women as complements, completions one of another. Specifically, He created woman for man, because it “was not good” for man to live without her, because creation was not perfect, not complete, not finished, until woman was created. What man cannot do, woman can do, and what woman may not do, man is given to do. This is how God created it, and what God created is “very good” (Gen. 1:31).

St. Paul, and the Christian Church, are now regarded as sexist or misogynistic because they deny women certain roles in the Church (to publicly teach and preach in the services of the church – cf. 1 Timothy 2:8-15 and 1 Cor. 14:33-40). But St. Paul and the Christian Church are simply repeating and applying the obvious – that men and women are different, that God as given them different roles to play, and that they complete each other. That may be considered “sexist” in our day (if “sexist” means asserting the obvious difference between men and women), but it is a laughable lie to call it “misogynistic.” “miso” means “hate” and “gyne” means woman. Misogyny is hating women. To accuse God and St. Paul of that would be hilarious if it weren’t so serious. The fact is that God’s Word through Paul was a breath of fresh air for women. Paul asserted against the pagan and Jewish culture of his day, which made it easy for men to abandon their wives, have more than one wife (Judaism), beat and cheat on their wives without consequence (Roman), and in general considered woman less than man (not

just “different” but “less) – Paul asserted against this that a wife has as much authority over her husband’s body as he has over hers (1 Cor. 7:4), that husbands should love their wives as their own bodies and sacrifice their lives for them (Eph. 5:25-29). When Paul tells women to submit to their husbands he explicitly says that this is what *all Christians* do to Jesus (Eph. 5:24). So how could this be a bad thing, a matter of inferiority? Is this how we think of the Church, that we are all the unwilling slaves of Jesus by our submission to Him? Of course not! To submit is a virtue, and it’s so glorious a virtue that you can’t be a Christian, whether male or female, unless you learn what it means to submit, to submit to Christ as His Church.

The fact is that men and women are different and those differences are awesome, created by God. Submitting to your husband is a good thing, loving your wife is a good thing. Learning God’s Word in Church is a good thing (1 Timothy 2:11), teaching God’s Word in Church is a good thing (1 Tim. 2:12). They’re different and good. Man and woman are different. That’s good. And we are equal in the Gospel, heirs of everlasting life, all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26). That’s good. God created men men and women women. That’s wonderful. He’s made us all together one body, one Bride, one Church, in Christ. That’s wonderful. Yes. Everything our God does is wonderful.

From the School . . .

Our Father, who from heav’n above

Bids all of us to live in love

As members of one family

And pray to You in unity,

Teach us no thoughtless words to say

But from our inmost hearts to pray.

LSB 766

With great joy and thankfulness we begin a new school year at Mount Hope. This past week boys and girls brought their school supplies to their classrooms and got measured for their desks. Our teachers have organized their classrooms and made them beautiful. School parents came earlier in August and cleaned the whole school. We are all delighted to return to school, ready to increase in knowledge and wisdom.

This year we welcome Mrs. Erin Christensen, who will teach Kindergarten in the mornings. Mr. and Mrs. Christensen just moved here from Laramie and attend Trinity. We are so pleased to have Mrs. Christensen with us. She has already proven to be a hard worker with keen insight into teaching. Please make sure you meet her. We also welcome Mr. Sage Haight (also from Trinity) who will teach gym. The teachers all teach multiple subjects to multiple grades all day long so it’s a great help to have Mr. Haight come for P.E.

The Luther hymn at the top of this article is the theme of our Kindergarten class this year. What wonderful words to be impressed upon our children’s hearts. All of the classrooms have chosen a Luther hymn this year in honor of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Come walk through the school and see if you can figure out which hymn each class is learning.

There are plenty of ways you may be involved in the school too. We try to post our events in the monthly calendar but we also publish a digital newsletter. If you would like to know more about the school, let us know and we’ll put your email address on our list. You may also go to our website: mounthopecasper.org. Here are some things you might consider doing:

Purchase Scrip Cards: Mrs. Tiana Harris has become an expert at managing Scrip. If she knows you use certain cards, she will go out of her way to make sure you have them whenever you need them. From September 1st, 2016-June 1st, 2017, we earned \$1604.75. Considering not many people regularly bought Scrip cards, we did very well. Just think how easily we could raise ten times that much if people simply bought Scrip cards for products they are going to buy anyway! Please come by Tiana's desk for an order form.

Playground Updates: Some of our school parents met in August and made a plan for improving our playground. They are going to replace boards on the main playground structure and then paint all of the wood with a rubberized deck stain. They also plan to pour some concrete on the edge of the field where they want to install two tetherball poles. Finally, they plan to install a basketball hoop on the edge of the parking lot. If you want to help these industrious families, they plan to start working on September 9th. This project will take several weeks so check in with us if you want to know when we're working. Thank you to our PTO for funding these improvements.

Thank you so much for all of your support. It is a great honor to support the church and our school parents in their vocation of raising children in the way they should go.

In Christ,

Angela Hill

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

The total eclipse had people travel from the entire world to our small city. God displayed His marvelous handiwork in the moon covering the entire sun. He never wants His creation to be in the void of complete darkness. Even when there was a sliver of the sun remaining, you could not look at its light with the naked eye. The sun was still too bright. Even when the sun was completely blanketed by the moon, there was not total darkness, but the beauty of twilight. Mount Hope Lutheran Church was one of the best places to see the total eclipse. If only people knew the Light of Truth revealed within Mount Hope Church and School! Here God's Word is revealed to us in His Word and sacraments. As we begin a new school year, we are thankful to the parents and their children whom we serve in the training of God's Word. Jesus is the Light and the Word that came down to earth to take on our flesh so that all that is beautiful, true and good may be shown in its brilliance reflecting the Light of the Son. Praise God in what He does every day as we gather together as a school. It may appear to be simple, but it is just as great as the work of God!

In Christ's service,

Tarayca Walters

Preschool Teacher

I would first like to say thank you again for all the support given to me by the school, church, and parents last year. It was new and challenging teaching in a new place for the first time, and you were a blessing to me.

It was a refreshing summer, and the solar eclipse was certainly a crowning moment for the final weeks leading up to school. I am excited to start a new year of school with students who are no longer strangers as they were last year, but are near and dear to me. I am sure they have grown in maturity—and height, no doubt—over the summer hauls!

The 1st and 2nd Grade will share a classroom this year and be challenged—some for the first time in their lives—to read classic literature, and to memorize clever poetry, Bible verses, and even Latin verb conjugations. We are also very excited to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. One way the school will celebrate is by memorizing and singing the beautiful hymns of Martin Luther. They are unfailingly pithy and rich in solid Christian doctrine. The Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grades will learn “We All Believe in One True God”—a Trinitarian hymn based on the Nicene Creed—as well as “A Might Fortress Is Our God” with the upper classmen.

There is much to do and much to learn, and I am looking forward to getting started!

Miss Gehrke, 1st and 2nd Grade

And let us be sure of this: We will not long preserve the gospel without the languages. The languages are the sheath in which the sword of the Spirit is contained. - Martin Luther

Through language we demonstrate and activate our humanity, and channel the faculties of memory, imagination, and thought. - Stratford Caldecott

Language is vital to education. It is both a tool and a skill in communicating precisely what is good, true, and beautiful in all subjects. It activates our humanity by affecting our emotions and our reason, and preserves our humanity through Christ and the salvation He won for us, which we hear and believe through the language of Holy Scripture. As the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class joyfully begins its study in language this year, we are grateful for such a church and school that not only supports, but also prioritizes language.

In Christ,
Miss Ekin
3rd, 4th, 5th Teacher

The Contest Begins Anew

Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1b-2

So we also must consider that a contest, the greatest of all contests, lies before us, for which we must do all things, and, in preparation for it, must strive to the best of our power, and must associate with poets and writers of prose and orators and with all men from whom there is any prospect of benefit with reference to the care of our soul.

Basil the Great

A great battle lies before us, a contest, a glorious race. A new school year rests on our horizon. Basil the Great, a mighty Greek theologian of the fourth century, knew what it was to do battle. He fought against poisonous Arianism while defending the true Christian confession of the Nicene Creed. He understood that for a Christian to run the race and keep his eyes fixed on Christ, he needed great training. The writer of the Hebrews exhorts us to throw off any sinful burdens, any hinderance. How fitting for our students to begin each day with prayer, singing, and repentance. They receive the forgiveness of sins, Christ removes their sin from their shoulders daily, and they go to class light and free, ready to train.

Mount Hope does not offer a light load. To call oneself a student at our school, whether in the Augustine, Athanasius, or Ambrose House, means calling oneself a warrior. Each day, the students struggle to attain the high standards we have set for them. And as they succeed, and yes, sometimes fail, they begin to grasp the beautiful challenge that we, as Christians, confront in this life. Understanding the connection between the human and the divine is no simple endeavor. But let us run the race with endurance. Christ is our prize. He has already awarded us with Himself. And like our students at Mount Hope, let us prepare ourselves as best we can for whatever God gives us.

Please pray for our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students this year: Emily Walters, Gannet Hackett, Evie Witkop, Afton Stewart, Essence Koch, Lindsey Scott, Josiah Blom, Marie Walters, Jeremiah Miller, Paige Gaither, Paige Wilson, and Morgan Witkop.

In Christ,

Miss Olson

6th, 7th, 8th Grade



OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer In: None

Transfer Out: None

Peaceful Release: None

Funeral: None

Wedding: Heather Judd & Sean Smith, 6/17/17

Baptism: Benjamin Curtis Gonzalez, 6/18/17

Adult Confirmation: Juan Ramon Gonzalez, 8/20/17

Jr. Confirmations: Syerra Chance Tatro, Dezirea Cheyenne Tatro, Tristin Logan Jacob – 6/11/17

Jeff & Linda Snyder	Sept. 3	23
Ed & Gentri Engelke, III	Sept. 4	18
Darian & Shannon Eskam	Sept. 22	10
Don & Shirley Olson	Sept. 22	61!
Rev. John & Angela Hill	Sept. 26	25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sept. 3	Zanadu Nice	MHLS	9
Sept. 7	Susanne Castillo	MHLS	6
Sept. 10	Esther Hansen		
Sept. 11	Anthony Airisa		
Sept. 12	Michele Lewallen		
Sept. 18	Adam Metz	MHLS	9



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 21	Landri Engelke		17
Sept. 21	Jonah Snyder	MHLS	8
Sept. 24	Dorothy Harris		
Sept. 30	Mark Brattis		

We look forward to seeing you at any of these meetings you are able to attend.

In Christ
The LWML Board

News & Notes

LWML NEWS

Jesus Christ Above All
Fall Rally

Hosted by Mount Hope Ladies Auxiliary

This fine event will be held **September 16 in the fellowship hall. Registration will begin at 9:30a.m.** Pastor Preus will lead us in Matins at 10:15 a.m. Lunch will be provided for our out of town guests of the LWML Powder River Zone. There will also be a business meeting held in the afternoon. There will also be an Ingathering for our local hospice patients. Please bring *new* fleece blankets, quilts, and comfy lounge wear.

If you would like to help prepare for the Fall Rally please plan to attend the planning meeting on **Saturday, September 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** We will also have a short business meeting at that time.

Make sure to mark your calendar for **our regular LWML meeting on October 6 with refreshments at 9:00 a.m. and Bible study with Pastor Preus at 9:30 a.m.** Our theme for this year is "Justified by Faith" We also begin making baptism cards for our MHLS students.

BIBLE STUDIES ARE STARTING IN SEPTEMBER!

Two opportunities for Bible study are coming your way in September! Starting **Monday, September 11 at 7:00 pm**, we will begin the study of Revelation. We will also have a morning Bible study (subject TBD) starting **Wednesday, September 27 at 9:30 am**. Hope to see you there!

**JR. CONFIRMATION STARTS
SEPTEMBER 13, 4:15 pm IN
THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

NEW CARDS AVAILABLE IN BOOK NOOK

We have new sympathy, wedding, confirmation, and baptism greeting cards available in the Book Nook. These are lovely cards with scripture and hymn passages printed in beautiful calligraphy. Check them out!

SEPTEMBER GEMÜTLICHKEIT!

WHEN: Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 pm
WHERE: the Hyde's cabin

**Meet up at Pastor Preus's house
at
6:40 pm if you don't know the
location of the Hyde's cabin.**