



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

Hebrews 6:19

Vol. 52, Num. 2

THE ANCHOR

October 2017

From the Pastor . . .

A Note on the name "Lutheran" and the Reformation

The Lutheran Church bears the name of Martin Luther. Luther resisted this. He didn't want a church named after him. The Roman Catholics called Luther's followers "Lutherans" to make fun of them, to say they were following a man and not the true Catholic Church. But the name stuck anyway. That's what often happens with insults. If you call me a cheesehead enough (and I assume that this is meant to be an insult – I mean, cheese for a head? That can't be good.), I'll own it and be proud of it, because I know what it means. It means I'm a Packer fan, which, of course, I happily am. I'll even put a big block of cheese on my head and glory in being a cheese head.

Well, the same thing happened with the name Lutheran. The Roman Catholics kept on insulting those who believed the Bible's teaching that we are saved by faith alone, they kept on mocking them and calling them Lutherans, so the Lutherans finally said, "Fine. We're Lutherans. If that means we believe what Luther teaches, that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, that it is the only source for the Church's teaching, that God is Trinity, that the Son of God has taken all our sins away on the cross, that we receive this forgiveness through faith alone, by the Word alone, by the body and blood in the Lord's Supper and in the waters of Baptism – if that's what it means to be a Lutheran – yes, I'm a Lutheran and proud of it." And ever since, we've called ourselves Lutherans. Not because we worship a man, but because we worship the God-man, Jesus Christ, whom Luther preached faithfully according to the Scriptures.

The Reformation started 500 years ago, on October 31st, 1517, with Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. Luther wasn't trying to start a new Church. And he didn't. There is only one Church, as we confess, "I believe in **one** holy Christian and apostolic Church." And that is the Church of Christ, founded on the Word of the Apostles in the New Testament.

The Lutheran Church exists because it is our duty and privilege as the members of Christ's Church to keep Christ's Word pure. And the Lutheran confession is the pure confession of the Bible. And this is something for us to celebrate this Reformation and always. Not that we have been so good and faithful, but that God has been good and faithful to us in preserving His Word in its truth and purity among us.

We insist on the purity of God's Word because we love people. Let's never forget that. Luther posted the 95 Theses and held fast through the Reformation, at the risk of his own life, because he loved people. He wanted them to have their eyes opened, to be freed from the slavery of having a bad conscience, of constantly trying and failing to make it right with God by their own works or by spending their money. He wanted people to know the truth of the God whose righteous wrath against sinners was swallowed up in His love, as He took our curse upon Himself and suffered death to deliver us from our punishment and reconcile us to Himself. And this is what we want. We want it for ourselves, our children, our community, and for the world.

We love God's Word and we love people. The two go together. That's Luther's legacy. That's what it means to be a Lutheran. Happy 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!

From the School . . .

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Yellowstone Trip

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Proverbs 19:21

Over a week ago, the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, Miss Carissa Beck, Pastor Preus, and I returned from our trip to Yellowstone Park. We came back to school on a hot Thursday afternoon shedding layers of clothing and trying to re-acclimate to summer after spending four days in the middle of a snow storm. Almost all of our plans had changed because of that snow storm. The week turned into a living lesson that our best laid plans often fail and no matter how hard we attempt to predict the future and anticipate trouble, we will continually be reminded Who is truly in charge of our little lives.

The wild nature of Yellowstone is the perfect setting to experience the Father's creation in all of its unpredictability. There is a severe lack of cellular signal and no easy way to check the weather. On Tuesday, after a spontaneous snow ball fight led by Pastor beside Sylvan Lake and a phenomenal grizzly bear sighting right on the road, we were ready for the Lower Loop: Old Faithful, Grand Prismatic Spring, Gibbon Falls. But alas, the road to Old Faithful was closed due to snow related car accidents. We hopped over to West Thumb Geyser Basin, more than a little disappointed. But the West Thumb trail offered us a gorgeous walk with the lake in the foreground and mountains across the water, not to mention the glorious deep blue and green pools and steaming geysers – a stop we never would have experienced if not for the snow.

Shifting gears, we headed to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, something originally planned for the next day. The view of the waterfall with snow falling and fog rising from below was grand indeed. The hike along the canyon edge offered spectacular views. But suddenly the snow was falling more heavily and the other side of the canyon was much harder to make out. Our camp, the Boy Scout Camp just outside of the park, lay on the other side of tall mountains, passable only by the East Entrance Road.

And so we found ourselves stopped on top of a mountain, white swirling around our two cars (each car aptly named Mr. Fogg and Passpartout by the students in reference to the adventurous main characters from their Literature book, *Around the World in Eighty Days*). There we spent a nerve-racking hour, waiting for a plow to lead us down the mountain and back to our warm cabins. We arrived safe and sound, praising God for four-wheel drive and excellent park rangers.

The next day had been set aside for the Upper Loop – not possible due to the storm and the East Entrance of the park being closed. So instead we embarked on a hike ten minutes from camp. The trek rewarded us with breath-taking views of snow sprinkled mountain tops and still, undisturbed forest glades (though not so undisturbed after our frolicking.)

As wonderful as our unplanned adventures turned out to be, the best parts of the trip were probably those back at camp where the students plunked out *We Praise You and Acknowledge You* on the dining hall pianos and sang hymns in harmony with Pastor during their free time, not to mention spotting the resident bison, who received the name Buford, and Michael the Moose.

The devotion time each morning and evening drew us closer together as a class and reminded us constantly that the center of our lives as Christians is still found in the Word of Christ Jesus even in the wild, away from church and school. Pastor read the book of I John, which reminds us that God is love, love manifested in His Son, and that we, as His beloved children, love one another. We could not have asked for a more fitting beginning and end to our adventurous days. And we could not have asked for a better trip to one of God’s most beautiful creations.

In Christ,

Miss Olson

6th, 7th, 8th Grade



OFFICIAL ACTS

- Transfer In:** None
- Transfer Out:** None
- Peaceful Release:** None
- Funeral:** None
- Wedding:** None
- Baptism:** None
- Adult Confirmation:** None



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Rex & Ruth Thorne	Oct. 7	50!
Vince & Kaitlyn Glynn	Oct. 25	9
Harlan & Bonnie Winckler	Oct. 29	1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Oct. 3	Kay Burwell		
Oct. 5	Tristin Jacob		13
Oct. 5	Owen Towers	MHLS	8
Oct. 7	Darian Eskam		
Oct. 9	Wilma Miller		
Oct. 10	Rev. John Hill		
Oct. 10	Pam Schuler		
Oct. 13	Madison Williams	MHLS	8
Oct. 14	Gene Carl		
Oct. 14	Miriam Temme		
Oct. 17	Ron Tattro		
Oct. 18	Jet Engelke		10
Oct. 20	Linda Johnston		
Oct. 23	Daphne Wendinger	MHLS	7
Oct. 27	Syerra Tatro		15
Oct. 30	Connor Eskam		7
Oct. 31	Hannah Cordova		11
Oct. 31	Logan Soliz		17

study with Pastor Preus at 9:30 a.m. He will be preaching on the 95 Theses. Our hostess for this gathering is Paula Thoroughman. Our theme for this year is "Justified by Faith" We also begin making baptism cards for our MHLS students. Don't miss this meeting; we have lots of activities and Bible studies happening this 2017/2018 year. We are stronger with your help and participation, ladies!

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

September Meeting Highlights: We hosted the Powder River Fall Rally with representation from all over our Zone. A fantastic result . . . Zone members brought **37 blankets & quilts, and 17 sets of loungeware** for our in-gathering donation, benefitting Central Wyoming Hospice & Transitions here in Casper. We also had Divine Service, led by Pastor Preus, held elections, revised by-laws, and heard about the National Convention this past June.

Make sure to mark your calendar for **our regular LWML meeting on October 14 with refreshments at 9:00 a.m. and Bible**

Good Shepherd News

Good Shepherd Auxiliary meets the 3rd Friday of the month. **This month, we will be meeting on Friday, October 20, at 9:00 am.** We gather to enjoy devotions, refreshments, and one another's company. Hope you can join us!

Debbie Lee
President

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Two opportunities for Bible study in the Fellowship Hall are available (in addition to our Sunday morning Bible Study at 10:30 am). We will continue the study of the Book of Revelation on **Monday evenings, beginning at 7:00 pm.** We will also have a **Bible study on Wednesday mornings, starting at 9:30 am.**
Hope to see you there!

**JR. CONFIRMATION
CONTINUES ON
WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING
AT 4:15 pm IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

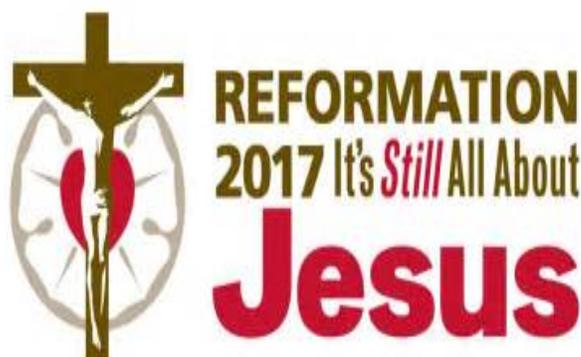
OCTOBER GEMÜTLICHKEIT!

WHEN: Wednesday, October 25, at
7:00 pm.

WHERE: Pastor Preus's house
(3721 W. 46th Street)

DIRECTORY UPDATES

The 2017-18 Church Directory has been distributed and placed in your mailboxes. **PLEASE** double check your contact information and let Wendy know **IMMEDIATELY** if there are any errors or changes that have occurred.



October 31, 2017

7:00 pm

Vespers Service at
Mount Hope Lutheran
Church.

Join us, along with the
congregation from
Trinity, as we celebrate
this momentous occasion!