



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

Hebrews 6:19

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Vol. 52, Num. 16

THE ANCHOR

December 2018

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## From the Pastor . . .

This Advent Season our midweek services will concentrate on the Book of Jonah. Jonah lived some 3000 years ago, but his history is remarkably applicable in our day. He had to deal with an unbelieving world. He had to struggle with his own fear and discontent with his lot in life. He had to learn humility and repentance and reliance on God and God's Word. And he had to confess the only true God to people who, he thought, didn't want to hear it. Jonah, of course, was the prophet God sent to the pagan city of Nineveh, center of the ancient Assyrian Kingdom. Jonah didn't want to go, because the Assyrians were known to be especially cruel and wicked and ruthless. But through a ship, a storm, and three days in a giant fish, God made the unwilling Jonah go, and the result was the repentance of the entire city.

Jonah is a type, a picture, of Christ. Jesus says so: "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40). And just as an evil city was saved through Jonah, so the sinful world is saved through Christ. But whereas Jonah went unwilling, and had to be constrained and forced, God took on human flesh willingly and was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. And whereas Jonah was unhappy that God didn't destroy Nineveh as He threatened to, Jesus gives up His life to spare the destruction of the world His Father so loves, that all who believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jonah teaches us about ourselves, our sin and our struggles in a wicked world, our lack of faith, our need for God's Word, our fear of death, our need for humility before our God, and God's gracious rescue of us from every evil. As with all the Bible, Jonah teaches us also about our Savior and His unbounded love for us, in which Jonah trusted and which we celebrate as we prepare this Advent Season for Christmas, the Feast of our God's Incarnation. I invite everyone to come for midweek services, Wednesdays at **6:30** on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the 12<sup>th</sup>, and the 19<sup>th</sup>. The school children will be singing for us on the 5<sup>th</sup> as well, a beautiful rendition of "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People," and recitations of the Christmas Gospel. I hope to see you there!

Pastor Christian Preus

# From the School . . .

## The Goal and Purpose of a Christian, Classical Education

A classical education examines reality - what *is*. Its goal is to know the Truth and love that Truth. This begins with the examination of great questions. And the primary question asks what it is to be a human being. The Western Tradition has sought to answer this question for thousands of years. The particular goal of a Christian classical education is to answer that question through the examination of Scripture and the Great Books.

Because even the ancient pagans understood that humanity is closely tied to the divine, the Great Books include works of unbelievers. But a Christian classical education understands that the first place to begin when answering this question is with Christ, the God-Man. The story of the Gospel, from Creation to the Fall to the rebirth in Christ's life and death, permeates a true education because it is the Truth and provides the foundation for all further examination of human life. The human life is built upon the wondrous work of God's salvation which was done for us, the crowning jewel of His creation.

So then what is a human being? If my students asked me that question in class, I would praise them for seeking a challenging and beautiful discussion. They have begun down the road of learning and they have begun to love this learning. But thirteen or fourteen years old is a young age for this education to suddenly be cut short. They have only just begun! They have received a firm, solid foundation by now, but the purpose of that foundation is to provide ground upon which to build. The blueprints are prepared, the materials are available, and the work must be done. A student at one of the high schools in town could certainly receive many good things from the education offered there, but ultimately, the purpose of those schools is simply a different one from the purpose of our Kindergarten - Eighth grade education at Mount Hope. A *Christian, classical* high school continues in the same purpose as our elementary education. It intentionally provides the guidance and content that our students need to continue to grow in knowledge and love of the Truth.

Mount Hope has given so much for these children. Our church values what they learn in our school and has made that education a priority. We have wonderful students and parents who care deeply about what they learn. We have named this high school an academy because "academy" means a place, or more literally a garden, where study and training takes place. Is there a better word to describe the place where our students will have an opportunity to cultivate their minds and prepare themselves for a lifetime of learning and serving their neighbor? Here they will build upon the solid foundation that Mount Hope Church and School has provided for them. The frame which they will create during these years will give them a lasting structure in which to live.

Thank you for your support and love for our students and our school. As we work towards providing our students with the next level of their education, your support and prayers will be more needed than ever. The devil lurks ever near at hand, hoping to destroy the good works of God the Father, but we will continue to do the Father's good work, defying the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. We pray with our students and the great Christian theologian, Augustine:

“O Lord, my King and my God, for Thy  
service be whatever useful thing my  
childhood learned; for Thy service, that  
I speak - write - read - reckon.”

In Christ,  
Miss Olson  
6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **From Your Stewardship Board**

Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances. We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother. But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life with food and

clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list - every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you - your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

### STEWARDSHIP SHOUTOUT: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

Not many people know just how much time and effort it takes to be a Sunday School Teacher. Every Sunday our wonderful and dedicated teachers take our children to assist parents in teaching the faith. Not only do they do this every Sunday, but they also take the time to prep the work, ensure each child has adequate materials, and order supplies for the lessons to come... all voluntary! We especially want to thank Tiana Harris, Dottie Olinger, Athena Curry, Amy Graham, Jeannie Sides, Randy Thoroughman and the Board of Education for assisting in teaching the faith! Thank you also to Benjamin Craig, Dan Graham, Rebecca Cordova, and all those who have taught in the past and assist in the children's Christmas program! Faithful stewards, giving of their time, talent, and treasure to teach our children the Christian faith, we thank you!



### OFFICIAL ACTS

**Transfer In:** None

**Transfer Out:** None

**Removed by Self-Exclusion:** None

**Peaceful Release by Request:** None

**Funeral:** Michael Dennis Olson, died Nov. 5, 2018; Funeral at Oregon Trail Veteran's Cemetery, Nov. 12, 2018

**Funeral Remembrance:** Brenda Peters, Dec. 9, 2018 (died Nov. 22, 2018)

**Wedding:** None

**Baptism:** Rylee Limmer, Dec. 2, 2018

**Adult Confirmation:** TJ & Cristan Limmer, Dec. 2, 2018



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 7      Jeremy & Denise Wendinger

11 yrs

Dec. 11      Dan & Amy Graham

19 yrs

Dec. 29      Dale & Debbie Lee

39 yrs

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Date	Name	Age
Dec. 1	Jessica Jacob	16
Dec. 1	Kirsten Olson-Southard	
Dec. 1	Kaylee Trautman	
Dec. 4	Nickolas Lewallen III	
Dec. 4	Vickie Pavey	
Dec. 8	Gabe Bouse	
Dec. 8	Martin Ritzman	

Dec. 9 Macei Engelke  
 15  
 Dec. 14 Linda Snyder  
 Dec. 15 Jeannie Sides  
 Dec. 17 Joyce Karst  
 Dec. 18 Brittany Johnson  
 Dec. 20 Brody Parks  
 12  
 Dec. 22 Thomas Graham  
 14  
 Dec. 23 Sam Cordova III  
 Dec. 23 Emmett Curry  
 9  
 Dec. 23 Sagel Jacob  
 Dec. 24 Lloyd Walters  
 Dec. 26 Don Sides  
 Dec. 26 John Sides  
 Dec. 27 Debbie Holthus  
 Dec. 27 Devon Holthus  
 Dec. 29 Dr. Christina McCann  
 Dec. 31 Beverly (Geise)  
 Woodcock

Kleenex, Christmas goodies, a small stuffed animal, a devotion, a book mark, and packets of hot cocoa, tea, or apple cider. Praise God for His great love that send His Son to set us free from sin and death!

We will have our regular business meeting to start up the New Year on **Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am.**

Merry Christmas!  
 The LWML Board

## News & Notes

### LWML NEWS

"This is the Christ, Our God Most High,  
 Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
 He will Himself your Savior be,  
 From all your sins to set you free."  
 LSB 358, v. 3

Please join us is celebrating our Savior's birth on **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am.** We will be making small Christmas baskets for our fabulous shut-ins and signing Christmas cards that Rebecca Cordova is preparing for us.

Please bring an item to go in our baskets. Items that have been brought in the past are: sugar-free chocolates, warm socks, chapstick,

### Good Shepherd News

There will be a **Christmas Brunch at Perkins on December 14, at 9:30 AM** for anyone that would like to celebrate the Good Shepherd Auxiliary's Christmas gathering. Please let Deloris Radtke know if you are coming so that we may reserve adequate table space (577-0018).

"Blessing Bethesda" is underway through Ministry Consultant, Sue Hart, of Littleton, CO. Gift cards in the amount of \$100 were sent in support for Bethesda residents who may not be remembered at Christmas. Through Bethesda Auxiliary, we have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with those living with intellectual and

developmental disabilities with  
Word and deed.

Christmas blessings always,  
Debbie Lee

Bible Studies and Morning Services  
for December

**Wednesday morning Bible Study  
WILL be held December 5 and  
12, then resume January 2.**  
**Matins** will be held **Monday,  
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday  
mornings at 8:05 am. Divine  
Services** will be held **each  
Wednesday morning, beginning  
at 8:05 am.** Please join us for these  
opportunities to learn, grow and  
worship!

**HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS  
EVERY FEW MONTHS TO  
SPARE??**

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

**Advent and Christmas  
Service Schedules**

Midweek Advent Vespers Services:  
December 5, 6:30 pm (MHLS children are  
singing)  
December 12, 6:30 pm  
December 19, 6:30 pm

Sunday School Christmas Program:

December 16, 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Services:

December 24, 5:00 pm – Service of Lessons  
and Carols

December 24, 11:00 pm – Divine Service

Christmas Day Divine Service:

December 25, 10:00 am

**There will be NO  
GEMÜTLICHKEIT in  
December. Be watching your  
Anchor and Bulletin for the  
January date!**

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

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

### Looking for a few good men!

We are in need of more ushers for our services. If you are a confirmed male member of Mount Hope and would like to volunteer to be an usher, please let Wendy know, and she will be happy to add you to the list! Thanks in advance for your willingness to serve! 😊

### Need Ideas for Christmas Presents?

God's Creation Calendars are for sale for \$10. They are available on the table in the narthex. All proceeds go to MHLS.

Mount Hope Lutheran School will be doing the Wind City Gift Certificate Fundraiser again this year. We have a unique opportunity to earn money for Mount Hope Lutheran School while completing our Christmas Lists! Wind City Books (152 S.

Center) has again generously offered to give our school 20% of any gift certificates that we, as a school and church community, purchase between November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. Talk to Tiana Harris about signing up to purchase gift certificates. Checks need to be made out to MHLS PTO and they will be ready for pick-up at Mount Hope no later than December 18<sup>th</sup>. These gift certificates are perfect for giving to teachers, mailmen, office staff, coworkers, Secret Santa, and as stocking stuffers. They can be made out in any dollar amount, although increments of five would be appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support of our school!