



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

Hebrews 6:19

Vol. 52, Num. 8

THE ANCHOR

April 2018

From the Pastor . . .

Easter is forty days long. This isn't just a matter of the Church calendar. Lent being six weeks is arbitrary. The Church decided on that. She could have made it two weeks or eight (in fact, it started as only one week). The same goes for Advent and for the twelve days of Christmas. The Church decided those times. But not Easter. Easter lasts forty days because Jesus Christ walked this earth in His resurrected body for forty days. On Easter Day He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, then to Peter, then to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus, finally to the ten disciples together (Judas being dead, and Thomas gone). St. Paul tells how later in those forty days He appeared also to over 500 witnesses at the same time. And from the Gospels we know He appeared at least four more times to the apostles before His ascension to the right hand of God's power (John 20:24-29, John 21, Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53).

And so we should get it out of our heads that Easter is a single day. That's hard to do, of course, because that one day is packed with so much religious and cultural significance, with the Easter Vigil, the Sunrise Service, the Easter Breakfast, Easter egg hunts, a day celebrating with family and friends. That's Easter in our minds. And of course, Jesus only rose once. That first day was the defining day, when for the first time Man broke the bonds of death by His own power, the power of God, because this Man is God. But no one witnessed the rising itself that Easter morning. No one saw Him burst from the tomb. What the disciples saw were two things - an empty grave and Jesus Himself, after He rose. And this they saw not just on Easter Sunday but during the forty days of Easter. And it is their witness these forty days that forms the foundation of the Easter preaching.

The term witness has grown to mean something like confessing. We witness about Jesus. But the term witness in the Bible (*martyr*) is the word for an eyewitness. The point is that these men saw the resurrected Jesus, and as Peter points out in Acts 10, ate and drank with Him. Their message is not the hopeful dream of pious emotion, but what their eyes saw, their ears heard, and their hands handled (1 John 1:1-2). And what we hear now in Church Sunday after Sunday, what we read day after day in our New Testaments, this is the Easter message of Christ's resurrection, based on those first forty days of Easter, when these eyewitnesses witnessed the certain proof of the greatest event in all history - that the Crucified is risen.

So I have a recommendation. Celebrate Easter every day for these forty days. Read the resurrection accounts at home (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21, 1 Corinthians 15, Romans 6, Acts 10). Pick an Easter hymn and learn it by singing it every day. (I recommend "Awake My Heart With Gladness" or "Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's Won.") Every morning say "Happy Easter." And, of course, since every Sunday is a little Easter, come to Church and stay for Bible Class. We have the greatest and most beautiful treasure imaginable in the truth of Christ's resurrection. Our sins are buried in the tomb, our death is transitory, heaven and our own resurrection await us. Forty days is a good start at celebrating what will take an eternity to enjoy.

From the School . . .

Over Holy Week I traveled to Spain to visit a dear friend. It is thrilling to be in Europe walking on Roman roads amidst beautiful architecture, including the centuries old cathedrals. It was especially interesting this time of year because of Semana Santa in Seville, what the Spanish call their Holy Week celebration. All week long, various streets are filled with crowds who gather to watch processions of pasos, wooden float-like structures carrying ornate statues of Christ or the Virgin Mary, accompanied by orders of church brotherhoods, altar boys carrying processional crosses and censers, and a band. These festivities are incredible to experience, the brass and percussion appeal to the ears and emotions with stately melodies, sweet incense begins to cloud the streets, and hundreds of wax candles flicker warmly as petals are tossed from the rooftops.

As lovely as it is to see such a beautiful public celebration of the church, there is hardly a trace of the real reason for the week's festivities. The Roman Catholic culture of Spain has focused so much on the outward social event of Semana Santa that they have completely brushed aside the personal aspect of it, that is the death of Christ to redeem me, a sinner.

While traveling I read T. S. Eliot's *Christianity and Culture*, which helped my own reflections on Spain's Christian culture. Eliot carefully defines religion and culture -- two elements that shape society, and points out that education is a major component in forming these elements. It is so comforting to come home to Mount Hope where we have a community, however small and seemingly less grand than Spanish processions, that insists on the truth and purity of the Gospel. The fact that we have a school with students who love learning this truth and take it personally, shows the well-being of our own church and school society.

In Christ,
Miss Ekin



OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer In: Devon Renae Holthus, from Trinity Lutheran Church, Casper, WY; Scott Redfield, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lusk, WY

Reception by Profession of Faith: None

Transfer Out: None

Removed by Self-Exclusion: None

Funeral: Sheila Kathy Goldsmith - died March 13,

2018; funeral March 24, 2018

Wedding: None

Baptism: None

Adult Confirmation: None



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Kasey and Kirsten Southard April 28 10 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Apr. 3	Clark Gangwish	
Apr. 3	Mike Olson	
Apr. 7	Alexys Cordova	
Apr. 7	Scott Talbott	
Apr. 8	Dottie Olinger	
Apr. 8	Mariah Parks	14
Apr. 9	Amy Graham	
Apr. 12	Hunter Glynn	MHLS
9		
Apr. 13	Bonnie Winckler	
Apr. 15	Robert Medina	
4		
Apr. 16	Bob Doctor	
Apr. 16	Mary Doss	
Apr. 16	Pierce Holden	
14		
Apr. 16	Denise Wendinger	
Apr. 17	Kim Kittel	
Apr. 18	Erika Medina	
Apr. 19	Chad Trautman	
Apr. 20	Amy Plumb	
Apr. 23	Charles Osterloh	
Apr. 25	Cheryl Burwell	
Apr. 26	Judy Wilson	
Apr. 28	Mary Long	
Apr. 30	Emerson Eskam	

News & Notes

LWML NEWS

You are invited to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, April 14th. Our meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. We will start off the season of spring with a brief business meeting. This meeting will be kept short so that we can join in a tea luncheon hosted by sisters in Christ at Trinity. Thanks be to God for the fellowship that

we share with those fine ladies! The Tea Party starts at 11:30 a.m. At Trinity. Debbie Lee and Bev. Woodcock have agreed to be our hostesses for May meeting. Jesus has Risen! He has risen, indeed! Alleluia! See you ladies in April!

**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 annual membership drive that began in January raised \$520 for the Bethesda homes. Thanks to all who donated in this act of love for Good Shepherd.

In April we will meet **Friday, April 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.

In the Shepherd's care,
Debbie Lee, President

Bible Studies are starting up again April 4! Come join us in the Fellowship Hall each Monday evening at 7:00 pm and each Wednesday at 9:30 am.

GEMÜTLICHKEIT is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, at 7:00 pm at Pastor Preus's house. Men of all ages are invited to come enjoy fellowship and discussion of the Word.

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

A Big "THANK YOU" goes out to all who helped make our Easter breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt a wonderful success! :)

Another big "THANK YOU" goes out to Bob and Hazel Suedes for providing our church with palms for Palm Sunday and

lilies for Easter! We appreciate all you do to make our church beautiful!

TRINITY BENEFIT FOR MHLS

Our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church, is planning a benefit for Mount Hope Lutheran School on April 24th, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. On the Hook Fish and Chips will provide the food and our Trinity friends are putting together a silent auction. You may get tickets for the dinner from Tiana Harris in the near future (\$5 - 1 piece of fish; \$10 - 2 pieces; \$15 - 3 pieces). Please join us for a lovely evening at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1249 S. Missouri. Funds raised will go to MHLS Development Fund.

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.