



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

Hebrews 6:19

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THE ANCHOR

June 2017

From the Pastor . . .

Our Baptism and the Church Year

The Church Year organizes the times of our life according to a certain biblical pattern. Following this pattern may seem dry and derivative to many today, a slavish observance of ancient ritual for conservatism's sake. But the fact is that humans naturally order time according to certain events. Birthdays, secular holidays, vacations, etc. – most people pay attention to such events as time-markers. Throughout history people have marked time by spring and fall equinox, winter and summer solstice, full moons, and other events. At a micro-level, we even order our days around certain key events, whether that be breakfast or dinner, getting off work, having a drink, or watching a show. People order their lives around events instinctively. So, what events are most important to us, to Christians? Here we can learn from the Church Year what Christians have always considered the most important events in Christ's life, and thus in our lives as Christians.

The most important event in the history of the world was the death and resurrection of Jesus, God in the flesh, whereby he made satisfaction for the sins of the world and won salvation for all people. The most important event in our lives as Christians is our Baptism, in which, as St. Paul tells us, we died and rose with Christ our Savior (Rom. 6:1-4). The church year recognizes this. First, it recognizes it by locating the regular time for Divine Service on Sunday, the day that Jesus rose from the dead. This observance of Sunday as a mini Easter has actually been around longer than the annual celebration of Easter at a specified date. Thus just as the event of the resurrection from the dead informs our lives, so it determines our time.

But secondly, the church year recognizes the significance of Christ's death and resurrection by making the center of the Church Year Easter, which, along with preparation for it (Lent, Passion/Palm Sunday, Holy Week, the Triduum) and the Easter Season that follows up to Pentecost, comprises several months. The readings and other propers (gradual, introit, collect, hymns) for the days of Lent focus our attention on the life of Jesus which he lived for us and the death of Jesus which he died for us, narrating his progress toward crucifixion and resurrection. And then from Easter to Pentecost they focus on the joy and victory we have in the life and forgiveness of sins won by Christ's death and resurrection. Since the life of a Christian is constantly to die to sin and rise with Christ, to live in our Baptism, the Church Year's focus on Easter and the life of Christ informs our very lives.

The other great festival around which the Church Year is formed is Christmas and the festival closely associated with it, Epiphany. Since Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth, the appearance of God in the flesh, it is rightly associated with Epiphany, the celebration of God's manifestation of himself to the world in Christ. Especially now that Advent has been swallowed up by secular culture in a two month preparatory race for buying gifts and listening to sappy Santa Claus songs, it's important for us Christians to take the time to consider what Christ's coming in the flesh means for us. The three "comings" of Christ highlighted during Advent (that he came in the flesh on this earth, that he comes now through Word and Sacrament, that he will come again to judge the living and the dead), lead us to see how the story of Christmas and Epiphany is not some far away historical occurrence, but is also happening here and now and in our future. The incarnation of God has had cosmic ramifications. He has permanently entered our world and our flesh, and his self-revelation as a humble babe who is yet the glorious God of hosts teaches us sinners to understand our frailty, to take comfort in the frailty taken on by God himself for us, and to look to the humble means by which Christ still comes to us in

Word and Sacrament while looking forward to his glorious coming in power on the Last Day. Then, the celebration of Epiphany and the Epiphany Season assures us again that Christ has come for *us*, for the entire world, just as he has taken on *our* flesh in the incarnation.

By focusing the year around the Christmas and Easter celebrations, the Church Year invites Christians to live the life of Christ in faith, that is, to see and celebrate that Christ was incarnate, born, lived, died, and rose for us. As we enter into the season of Trinity, which we are now approaching, we will spend months listening to Christ's teaching and seeing his great miracles, all in light of the celebration of Christmas which began our year and of Easter which is the center and focus of our years and our lives. We Christians who live in our Baptism, who daily die and rise with Christ in repentance, can thank God for the Church Year and its focus on Christ's life, death, resurrection, and teaching.

From the School . . .

*My son, if you receive my word,
and treasure my commands within you,
So that you incline your ear to wisdom,
And apply your heart to understanding;
Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,
If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as hidden treasures
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
And find the knowledge of God*



Proverbs 2: 1-5

God has blessed Mount Hope Lutheran preschool with a good year. The preschoolers have settled and made MHLS their home. The children are now eager to greet Pastor Preus and know that he is their shepherd that has faithfully preached God's Word to them. They have also been nourished with God's Word by Pastor Olson and Pastor Hill. Within the classroom, the children have begun the very basic building blocks of their education. Parents, you are these students' life long teachers. Please read God's Word to them, pray at every opportunity, memorize hymns and Bible verses together. We would be overjoyed to see you in attendance at Mount Hope Lutheran Church or at our sister congregation Trinity Lutheran Church. During the summer months, please read with your children, review their phonograms, and provide opportunities for them to have adventures and play outside. I look forward to the students that are able to attend next year as big kindergartners. For those students who will not be attending next year, I strongly encourage you to visit us and know you can always come back home. May God keep you in the safety of His Word and keep your families strong in the Truth and Light of our Risen Savior.

In Christ's service,

Tarayca Walters
Preschool Teacher

The Kindergarten and 1st Grade successfully ended the school year and now venture off into summer with the history timeline, poems, and hymns running through their heads. Learning to read and hear good stories, such as Aesop's Fables, fairy tales, Greek and Norse myths, and Bible stories, is another feature of these grades and the students all have made great improvements in building a strong foundation of language and knowledge for the rest of their education. Thank you to the congregation for all your prayers, care, and support; it is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

Miss Lydia Ekin
Kindergarten/First Grade Teacher

Second Grade is really an exciting year. Between the ages of seven and eight years, a child experiences such rapid academic growth and progress. Several of my students have come from a very basic knowledge of letters and reading to being able to read good literature. They have come from just learning to write to taking pages and pages of notes and doing it with good penmanship. They have learned methods for memorizing complex, tongue-twisting poems and speeches in very short amounts of time, and how to give recitations in front of strangers. They have learned much about friendship and the need for daily forgiveness of others. Second Grade straddles the line between learning how to be a student—as they do in Kindergarten and First Grade—and studying real content—as they do in Third Grade and onwards. It was very interesting and lovely to see their great leaps of understanding and maturity in these least nine months. Not that we didn't have many hard days, but that is what it takes, and I will always remember my very first, tiny class of Second Graders, our challenges and victories, tears and joys, the tea parties and read-aloud time, tag on the playground, and how much they wonder at the world. It was a learning experience for us all. I love the Second Grade.

Miss Amanda Gehrke
Second Grade Teacher

The Lord blessed the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade classroom again this year. The students and teacher all learned a great deal and grew, not only in knowledge, but also in patience and character. The class had the particular joy of celebrating the rebirth of our classmate, Samuel Castillo, who was baptized and made a child of God at Easter Vigil. It is difficult to sum up all that the class learned in a short paragraph, but Samuel's baptism provided us with a wonderful opportunity to remember God's abundant mercy and love that was poured out for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. It is my pleasure to announce the promotion of Rylee Koch and Paul Olson to Fourth Grade, Samuel Castillo, Noah Waterbury, Myah Towers, Kylie Williams, and Malachi Moore to Fifth Grade, and Emily Walters to Sixth Grade. I have been honored to teach them all this year. Thank you for your continued support through prayers and interest in our school.

In Christ,
Miss Kate Olson
Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Teacher

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you . . .” (1 Corinthians 11:23a)

Education is the handing over of what has been received. It is not discovery of things never known. It is not a vague and endless journey. It is not a purely creative endeavor. Education is the means by which truth is preserved from one generation to the next, delivered over to new minds by the older one that knows mortality will destroy knowledge unless it is passed on.

In my twelve years as teacher for Mount Hope, I have striven to hand over to my students all the human knowledge and heavenly truth I possess. Now I hand over in a different way, sending the eighth graders— Jessica and Samuel—to high school, and commending my sixth and seventh graders—Josiah, Tristin, Essie, Lindsey, Afton, Paige, Jeremiah, Marie, and Paige—to the capable care of Miss Olson. I pray that as Mount Hope Lutheran School continues to hand over the riches of earthly knowledge, it will also hold fast to its purpose of training children not just for earthly vocations, but in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Amen. Grant it, dear Lord!

Miss Heather Judd
Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Teacher

OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer In: None
Transfer Out: None
Peaceful Release: Bob & Norma Hallcroft
Funeral: None
Wedding: Kaylee Cordova & Chad Trautman, 5/26/17
Baptisms: Samuel Ramone, Annaleah Liberty, and Susanne Simone Castillo, 4/15/17;
 Noemie Marisa Kidd, 4/30/17;
 Isaac John Preus, 5/21/17
Adult Confirmations: None
Reinstated through Profession of Faith:
 Lloyd Olin Walters

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date	Years
Chad & Becky Thorne	June 1	26
Kevin & Deanna Karst	June 4	34

Name	Date	Years
Robert & Vickie Pavey	June 5	41
Charles & Joan Osterloh	June 10	55!
Larry & Pam Harrington	June 14	45
Darrell & Betty Bayer	June 19	57!
Nickolas & Michele Lewallen Jr	June 24	28
Bryan & Stephanie Soliz	June 26	24
Dewayne & Kathy Clifford	June 28	53!



June 1	Nickolas Lewallen IV	2
June 4	Dan Graham	
June 4	Brittney Linaman	
June 6	Verna Larsen	
June 8	Debra Goldsmith	
June 10	Minnie Blacksmith	
June 10	Pattie Gould	
June 10	Scott Sonesen	
June 12	Tiana Harris	
June 14	Arlen Lutkins	
June 17	Payden Talbott	
June 19	Kylie Williams	MHLS 10
June 20	Ozie Blanton	
June 20	Katherine Suedes	18
June 27	Abraham Preus	MHLS 6
June 28	Luke Drury	
June 29	Daniel Airisa	14

NEWS & NOTES

SINGLE SERVICE FOR THE SUMMER!

Beginning Sunday, June 4, 2017, we will be having one divine service each Sunday, starting at 9:00 am, with Bible Study/Sunday School to follow from 10:30 to 11:20 am. Mark your calendars, and tell your friends!!

LWML News

May 13th Meeting Highlights:

- Welcomed New Members **Christina Lewallen** and **Dr. Christina McCann**
- LWML is hosting the Judd/Smith rehearsal dinner on **June 16th**. Please call **Paula Thoroughman @ 277-4192** to sign-up for set-up, food, cooking, serving, or clean-up.

Year-End LWML Picnic: We will be celebrating in line with our theme, **"Come and See What God Has Done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man."** Psalm 66:5. The congregation is also invited to join us. Burgers, hotdogs, brauts, and cake will be provided. **Please bring your favorite picnic side dish to share.** After the picnic, a brief business meeting will be held for the purpose of wrapping up the year and the election of officers for 2017/2018.

SAVE THE DATES!

July 7-9, 2017 - Father-Son Retreat on Casper Mountain. More information coming in the future!

August 6 - 10, 2017 - Lander Lutheran Camp. All youth 10-18 years old. Registration packets are on the table in the narthex.

Cost: \$70 if postmarked by June 2, 2017

\$85 if postmarked between June 3 and July 7, 2017

\$100 if postmarked after July 7, 2017.

June 26 - 30, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon - Vacation Bible School. Trinity Lutheran Church is sponsoring **Mighty Fortress**, a Vacation Bible School program, for 3 year olds through 5th graders. At **Mighty Fortress**, students will study the Bible accounts of **God's Might Tumbles Jericho's Walls** - Joshua 6:1-20, **God Delivers King Hezekiah's Kingdom** - 2 Kings 18-19, **God's Word Reforms King Josiah** - 2 Kings 22:1-23,30, **King Jesus Enters Jerusalem** - Luke 19:28-40, and **Jesus Wins the Victory** - Luke 23:1-24:12. Students will meet old friends and new friends, sing songs, make crafts, enjoy snacks and other fun activities. In order to have enough materials for everyone, **preregistration is encouraged.** You may preregister during the morning hours at the church, 1240 Missouri. For more information, **please call Tonya at the church office, 234-0568.**

June's GEMÜTLICHKEIT is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, at 7:30. Look for more info in the bulletin as the date gets closer.

Youth Group Calendar of Activities!

- **June 2 @ 7:00 pm - Mike Lansing Field - Sheridan vs. Casper baseball game. \$5 entry fee. Food truck will be there.**
- **June 10 @ 10:00 am - Float the River. Let Dan Graham know if you are**

coming. This is a youth /family event. Be at the Robertson Road River access at 10. Then, we will drive out to Bessemer Bend and float in to Robertson. We should be done around 1:30 or later, depending on the current of the river.

If you are good with a mower and or weed eater, come with your equipment to **Bob and Hazel Suedes's House** (13770 E Meadow Lane, Evansville) on **Saturday, June 10, starting at 9:00 am.** Hope to see you!