



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

Hebrews 6:19

Vol. 52, Num. 13

THE ANCHOR

September 2018

From the Pastor . . .

The news has been abuzz lately with another scandal in the "Church." It's the usual scandal, and since it involves things St. Paul tells us not even to speak about among ourselves, I'll refrain from being explicit (Eph. 5:3). What I will say is the obvious, that this scandal in the Roman Catholic Church flows from their disavowal of marriage as a natural and beautiful good for all people, including pastors (1 Tim. 3:2, 4:3; Titus 1:6), excepting only those to whom God graciously and rarely chooses to give the supernatural gift of celibacy (Matt. 19:11, 1 Cor. 7:7-8). The Roman Catholic Church's institutionalized, enforced celibacy has been for a long time a source of their institutionalized, moral degeneracy. And so it echoes the world with its general ignorance of marriage, its blessings of children, and the great honor of mothers and fathers raising their children to be godly.

And so, especially as we start a new school year here at Mount Hope and here in Casper public schools, and as our attention turns again to the education our children need to thrive in this life, we have two things to stress. Because these are two things our children desperately need to know. And they need to hear it from us.

First, we need to know what the Church is, that it is our home, that no harm will come to us in this Church where our almighty and loving Father will protect us from all evil. When the news speaks about there being a scandal "in the Church," we should all cringe. By "the Church" the media means "the Roman Catholic Church." But thank God even our seven-year-old children know what the Church really is, the lambs of Christ who listen to the voice of their Shepherd. We whom our Lord brings before Himself to hear His Word and to receive His body and blood, we who trust in the name of our Lord to save, we are the Church. And no scandal can bring down this Church. It is built on the Rock of Christ. If the Roman Church falls, it falls because it stands on a sinful man. If the LCMS falls - God forbid - it falls insofar as it's a human institution. The Christian Church will never fall, because it stands on the God who has become a man to redeem mankind and make us partakers of His divinity (2 Pet. 1:4). No scandal in the Roman Catholic Church, no scandal in any other church body or congregation, should ever make us waver in this certainty that, despite the scandals and the sin and the devil raging about us, our Lord will keep his flock and fight for us once again.

Second, we who are safe in Christ's Church also have a life to live in this world. And we begin very early to form opinions of what this life should entail. It should entail remaining

Lutheran, faithful to the Christian faith all our lives. It should also entail marriage and children and family. I know there are exceptions to this. But the good and general rule is what God instituted in Paradise. Marriage is good. God has so formed man's and woman's bodies and minds that we need each other as husband and wife on this earth. Our children's great goals should not be to chase this or that career, to make this much money, or have this or that kind of house. These are American goals. Fine if you reach them, but way down on the list of priorities. The great goal should be to stay a committed Christian and Lutheran, to find a Christian and Lutheran spouse, to raise Christian and Lutheran children, to remain faithful throughout our lives.

This is what the Bible praises (Ps. 127, 128, Eph. 5-6, 1 Tim. 5:14). It's what the Roman Catholic Church needs to learn to praise if they are to repent and deal with their scandal. And thank God, it's exactly what we praise here at Mount Hope. The virtues we intentionally teach our children simply aren't geared toward the world's standards of making money and seeking fame or based on a Roman Catholic moral rulebook. Instead they're based on God's Word and aimed at the Christian life, at remaining Christian men and women who recognize that what God praises in the Bible - including marriage, children, and family - we His children praise here on earth, that this makes for our happiness and contentment as we look toward our heavenly goal.

Christ bless and keep His Church, strengthen our marriages and families, and give our children a love and zeal for what is good and true and beautiful according to God's Holy Word.

Pastor Preus

From the School . . .

*Shepherd of tender youth,
Guiding in love and truth through devious ways;
Christ, our triumphant king,
We come Your name to sing
And here our children bring to join Your praise.*

LSB 864

At the beginning of another school year, we joyfully anticipate the return of our students to chapel and to their classrooms where they may increase in wisdom and stature. We have 52 students registered in our preschool through eighth grade. As 37 of those students belong to Mount Hope or Trinity, I am pleased to remind you that Mount Hope Lutheran School is truly your church's school. We are greatly blessed and thank you for all that you do to make our school possible.

Please welcome and get to know our new first and second grade teacher, Anna Hahn. She and all of the teachers will be installed on Sunday, September 2, at 9:00 a.m. Please come and visit with the faculty at the Teacher Appreciation Potluck Brunch following Bible class.

Thank you to those of you who have made donations to the school over the summer. Please remember that if you want your gift to go to a child's tuition, you need to write, "Tuition Assistance," on your check. We will receive \$26,000 from the Ace Scholarships this year but will still need some help for a few of our families.

You are always welcome to come visit the school and join us for chapel at 8:05 a.m. Please keep our students and staff in your prayers.

In Christ,

Mrs. Hill

504- LSB Father Most Holy

"Father most holy, merciful and tender;
Jesus our Savior, with the Father reigning;
Spirit of comfort, advocate defender, Light never waning."

It is good to see the blessings God has given to us. Mount Hope Lutheran School is one of those blessings given to "assist parents in providing a Christ-centered, classical, Lutheran education..." so that the children are prepared for life as Christians until they are home in heaven. (MHLS manual pg. 3)

Now preschool is just the very beginning, but praise be to God for the eight students and their families! May these students continue their education at Mount Hope Lutheran School. May God continue to be with many people that make our school possible. Praise God Most Holy and tender!

In Christ's love and service
Miss Tarayca Walters
Preschool Teacher

As Mount Hope's school year opens at last, I am so excited to begin teaching first and second grade! My move from Wisconsin to Wyoming has been piled with blessings, thanks to the welcoming, generous, and faithful people here. Thank you for making this congregation a home to me.

While the privilege of teaching is exhilarating, especially for a first-year teacher, it is also tremendously weighty. C.F.W. Walther expresses this grave responsibility in his prayer for the Christian upbringing of our little ones:

"Lord Jesus, the most precious treasure with which you have entrusted us are our dear children. You have given them immortal souls, which have been purchased with Your blood and made Your possession, and in Holy Baptism You have made them temples of Your Holy Spirit. You instruct us, 'Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'"

With these truths as a foundation, Pastor Walther fittingly continues with this petition: “Give us all the same mind to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in Your stead to be their teachers, their leaders, their guardians, their providers in body and soul.”

Those who bring up our students work in God’s stead, teaching God’s truth to God’s treasured children. How sobering. How joyful! Please pray for teachers, parents, and the young ones in our classrooms and homes, that God’s Word would be taught in its truth and purity and that each child would grow in knowledge of his Savior.

I look forward to a year of hard work and happy learning!

In Christ,
Miss Hahn
1st and 2nd Grade

In a conversation on education, the famous Greek philosopher, Plato, records Socrates stating the following in the second book of the *Republic*:

“A young thing can’t judge what is hidden sense and what is not; but what he takes into his opinions at that age has a tendency to become hard to eradicate and unchangeable. Perhaps it’s for this reason that we must do everything to insure that what they hear first, with respect to virtue, be the finest tales for them to hear.”

Thinking of the bright, young faces of the 14 students who will soon be walking into my classroom every morning, I am struck with a feeling of heavy responsibility. As Plato says, opinions formed at the ages of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are hard to change, and it is up to their parents and teachers to insure that they hear good and useful things to prepare them for life in this world. But there is also a sense of wonderful joy. At Mount Hope, we get to hear and study scripture in chapel and in the classroom. The students will hear and read some of the finest tales this year as we study the ancient world of Rome and Greece on which our Western Civilization is founded. I joyfully look forward to my fourth year of teaching the timeless truths from these tales to the children who come down the hall, energetically humming the hymns they just sang in chapel. Thank you, for all your prayers and support as we begin the year!

In Christ,
Miss Ekin
3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade

Bitter the Root, Sweet the Fruit

Each year in the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade classroom the students inevitably ponder the wisdom of a Greek educator, Isocrates, who taught that education's root is bitter, its fruit is sweet. The students compose an essay examining and explaining this maxim, and a general discussion ensues. The students agree that learning is difficult, homework takes time away from more enticing entertainment, and not everything makes sense the first go-round. That part of the maxim is easy for them to relate to. For the most part, however, these students have not yet tasted the sweet fruit that this hard work produces - or at least they haven't recognized the taste. They must trust their teachers, their parents, and those ancient voices who promise that this time and effort is well spent. The life of the student is one of hope, patience, and trust. Hesiod, a Greek writer, reminds the student that

Before the gates of Excellence the high gods have placed sweat
Long is the road thereto and steep and rough at the first.
But when the height is won, then is there ease,
Though grievously hard in the winning.

Though Hesiod was a pagan, he recognized the reality of life that we Christians know to be true as well. Life is not easy to live, and to live rightly is an even harder task. The Lord does not always make our path easy, though He does promise to lighten our load and remove the sin and temptation that we bring upon ourselves. The life of the Christian, like that of the student, is one of hope, patience, and trust in our good, Heavenly Father. We too must simply listen to our Father's voice when He tells us that though we suffer and struggle in this earthly life, a reward awaits us - a Crown of Life. The Christian life does not always appear beautiful, but it is. The devil would deceive and mislead and paint the pain as an ugly punishment from an angry God. But the Christian must remember that the awful cross that we each carry mirrors that cross upon which our Savior died. There is nothing more beautiful than that picture.

Our students at Mount Hope face myriad challenges each day, week, month, and year at our school, all with the aim of building virtue and endurance to live life well and never falter in their Christian faith. In support of their endeavor, please pray for our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, and one ninth grader this year: Samuel Castillo, Hannah Cordova, Myah Towers, Kylie Williams, Noah Waterbury, Paul Olson, Silas Witkop, Emily Walters, Evie Witkop, Afton Stewart, Essence Koch, Lindsey Scott, and Morgan Witkop.

In Christ,
Miss Olson
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade



OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfer In: Peter, Athena, Emmett, Sophia & Isabella Curry from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmond, OK; Anna Hahn from Pela Lutheran Church, Waupun, WI.

Reception by Profession of Faith: Carrie, Preston, & Ashton Rosburg

Transfer Out: Rev. Bill & Erin Maggard to Grace Lutheran Church, Rialto, CA; Luke Drury to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Belgrade, MT

Removed by Self-Exclusion: Shawna Seely

Peaceful Release by Request: Torie Jacob

Funeral: Ozie E. Blanton, death June 28, 2018; funeral July 7, 2018

Wedding: Jonathan Olson & Marie Hill, July 14, 2018

Baptism: James Patrick Lewallen, June 17, 2018; Ayden Noah & Aspen Grace Trautman, June 24, 2018

Adult Confirmation: None

Sept. 7	Simon Watts	
Sept. 10	Esther Hansen	
Sept. 11	Anthony Airisa	
Sept. 12	Michele Lewallen	
Sept. 18	Anna Hahn	
Sept. 18	Adam Metz	MHLS
10		
Sept. 21	Landri Engelke	
18		
Sept. 21	Jonah Snyder	MHLS
9		
Sept. 24	Dorothy Harris	
Sept. 26	Mandy Bouse	
Sept. 30	Mark Brattis	

News & Notes

LWML NEWS

Please come our first meeting of our new year on Saturday, September 8th at 9:00 a.m. We will have short business meeting along with a brief synopsis of the LWML Wyoming District Convention by our own Debbie Lee. We will also busy as bees making baptism cards for the students at Mount Hope Lutheran School. The hostesses for September's meeting will be Janet and Tarayca Walters. We hope to see you there!

**In God's love and service,
The LWML Board**



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 3	Jeff & Linda Snyder	24
yrs.		
Sept. 4	Ed & Gentri Engelke III	
19 yrs.		
Sept. 22	Darian & Shannon Eskam	11
yrs.		
Sept. 26	Pr. John & Angela Hill	26
yrs.		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Date	Name	Age
Sept. 3	Zanadu Nice	MHLS
10		
Sept. 7	Susanne Castillo	MHLS
7		

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.

Our members meet the third Friday of the month. The next meeting will be **Friday, September 28th, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall** for refreshments, followed by a brief business meeting. Please come share in the devotion, refreshments, and fellowship.

In the Shepherd's care,
Debbie Lee, President

Bible Studies and Morning Services
for September

Wednesday morning Bible Study continues in the **Fellowship Hall, beginning at 9:30 am. 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!

GEMÜTLICHKEIT will be held **Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 pm. Be watching your bulletins for its location!**

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

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.

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