

Pastor's Pen



**You have come to Mount Zion,
to the heavenly Jerusalem,
the city of the living God.
You have come to thousands upon thousands
of angels in joyful assembly,
to the church of the firstborn,
whose names are written in heaven.**

Hebrews 12:22-23

Living Hope

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1

You have been born again into a living hope. When did this happen to you?

“I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. John 3

In Holy Baptism the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ brings new life to you in a living hope. The Holy Spirit is poured into your heart. You are a Child of God for the Lord has given you His Name. In this living hope—the Holy Spirit at work on you, gifting you faith—you are a new Creation in the Risen Christ. This living hope is alive in you for the old has gone, the new has come. Living in Jesus you desire to hear the Word of the Lord.

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. John 6

The Word of the Lord is living, sharper than any double edged sword (Hebrews 4). In this new life you get to hear God speak, in His living Word as it is preached, taught, read and studied. Peter is so bold in the Epistle to declare—Baptism now saves you! 1 Peter 3

This living hope in Jesus believes and trusts Christ to rescue you from your sin, death and the devil. The Lord takes care of your life. Jesus does the rescue: on the cross—Good Friday; He has risen from the grave—Easter; and fills His Word with power to bring you life.

Baptism—now saves you-- It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. 1 Peter 3

Summer is coming to a close; fall activities are at hand. Living in the Crucified and Risen Jesus Christ, living hope is alive and well in you. Swim in the living waters of your baptism—life giving waters (John 4). Open your ears up to hear the living God proclaiming His forgiveness to sinners. Look for opportunities to study God's Holy Word at Zion. Parents rejoice in the time the Lord has given you with your children to gather around the Word of the Lord.

In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3

Look forward to Confirmation, Sunday School, mid-week and youth studies. Living hope is alive and well, for the Lord is at work on you, His Baptized Child, filling you with life— life eternal.

Hold the Living Word of God sacred, and gladly hear and learn it. (3rd Commandment meaning)

Peace.

Pastor Berndt