



Lewiston Church of Christ

February 21, 2021

Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM

Sun. Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Jerry Bolm: 208-360-9186

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

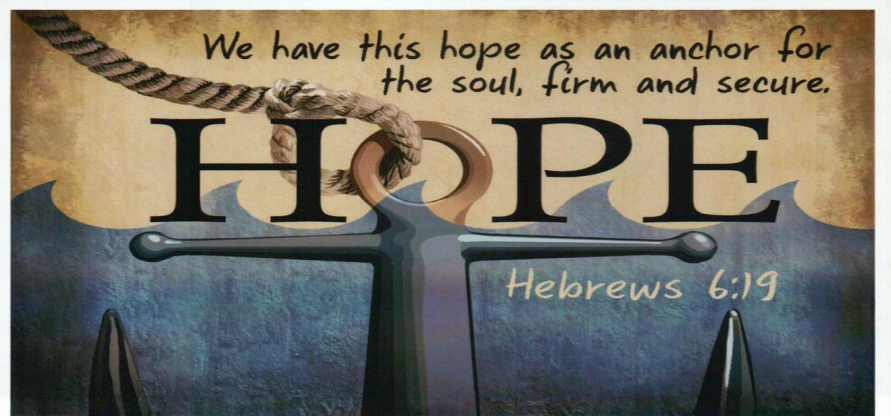
Secretary – Renee' Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

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Death Defying Hope

Some people can go through life without giving much thought to death. Not me. I am a minister. This challenging role brings me into contact with people who are lonely, depressed, heartbroken, confused, sick, and dying. It also places me in a position to offer death-defying hope to people grieving the loss of a loved one. Any minister who cannot handle this challenge in good faith should find other work.

To do this job, a minister cannot live in a cloud of theories, ideas, and concepts. One must come down to earth to sit, listen, cry, and stand with people in their most difficult moments of need and/or loss. However, coming down to earth does NOT mean losing sight of heaven. A faithful minister needs a clear and uncompromising belief in eternity.

Funerals in particular offer a minister the precious opportunity to sit and stand with people in great moments of loss, need, and grief. Their pain cannot be glibly fixed in the moment, but it still must be faced. That's when a death-defying hope becomes essential. Not everyone will embrace this hope but the minister MUST offer it to those engulfed in grief. If he cannot offer a God-given hope that is stronger than death, then he is a poor excuse for a minister.

Death is not a pleasant topic. Nevertheless, it is an indispensable teacher for those who long to live well. Human helplessness and mortality can teach us to live well with a clear eye on heaven. Jesus' advice about storing up treasures in heaven reminds us that life is too short for pretense. Heaven makes us real. It lifts our aim higher as we pursue goals more important than mere survival. Aiming at heaven makes us fearless on earth.

Christian hope is the ultimate win-win scenario. It not only engenders better living here on earth, but we get heaven as well. Paul made this death-defying point perfectly when he wrote, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)