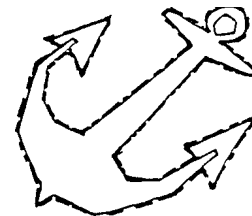


Hope's Anchor

Hebrews 6:17-20



Hope Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
2636 SE Minnesota Topeka, KS 66605
John Domsch, Pastor Office: 266-5206
E-mail address: pastor@hopelcms.org
Web address: www.hopelcms.org



January 2005

Epiphany

Mission Emphasis

Mission emphasis weekend is January 22-23, 2005. Rev Victor Samuel, a native of India, will be our guest speaker for both the Saturday evening and Sunday morning services. He will also be available for a question and answer session during Adult Bible Class.

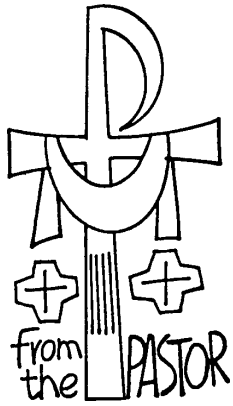
Rev Samuel was born in Madras, India. He is a fourth-generation Christian. Ever since his great-grandfather became a Christian, Victor's family have all been disciples of Jesus. He attended Christian schools in India, and he went to work for the U.S. Embassy in Madras, retiring in 1991. Under special immigration status, he came to the United States and attended Concordia Seminary in St Louis, Missouri. Rev Samuel served two LCMS congregations before his retirement in 2003.

Rev Samuel has a wife, Mary, and four children: Bennett, Sheila, and twins Samson and Sylvia. Mary and Samson still live in India. Three children live in the U.S. Bennett and Sheila live and work in Louisville, Kentucky. Sylvia and her husband have recently moved to Denver from Minneapolis.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ knows no cultural or ethnic boundaries, as we know. Rev Samuel has a wonderful story to tell about his life as a Christian in the nation of India. His experiences will be interesting, informative, and exciting as we hear from him about life on the front lines of the faith.



Sharing Christ Person-to-Person Builds HOPE



Years ago, amid the clutter of tattered ribbons and torn wrappings, a teenage voice had the perfect solution for the wreckage in our living room: “Why don’t we turn out the lights. Then no one can see the mess.”

Epiphany is the season when the Church turns up the lights to better see Jesus and what He’s doing about the mess we live in. “Epiphany” is a Greek word meaning, ‘manifestation’ or “showing forth”. Jesus is shown to be God and man, the Promised Messiah, Savior of Jew and Gentile alike. His glory is revealed.

We need that light this time of year. In the dark and cold days of winter we need Jesus’ light and warmth to ward off cabin-fever so we can “manifest” Him to each other in our homes. When patience runs short, when tempers flare, we realize that our lives are a mess.

At the heart of this mess is sin—not the weather, not the wife, not the husband, not the kids—that natural inclination to have my will be done, no matter the cost. This self-will is in opposition to God and others. The world around us has cute slogans to help us: “Compromise.” “Be kind.” “Be nice.” This Law language reveals the problem. We do not want to do these things. When there is a consequence to be avoided or a reward to be gained, then it may happen. But take away the threat or the reward, and it’s the same old mess.

The only real way out of this mess is to know that the Child of Christmas is also the Christ of the Cross. We see Him at His best, we see Him at His giving-est on the cross of suffering and death. “No one takes My life,” He said, “but I lay it down willingly.” We see Him in His glory as He walks out of His tomb to seal our salvation. In the midst of people who measure strength by power and privilege, money and success, we measure strength according to Him who died and rose to destroy sin and rob death of its victory.

Into the spiritual darkness of this world, the light of the World shines. We are also lights. He shines through us. Or does He? The answer to this question lies in Word and Sacrament. Is His Word our delight? Do we meditate upon His Word regularly? Is our Baptism an ongoing, daily death and resurrection? Is Christ’s Body and Blood our wilderness food? In the means of grace is where God’s Son manifests Himself to us most clearly and ever brightens our dim lights. He brings the light of His love and forgiveness into our lives, into our homes, into our relationships. As we study and reflect together, worship and feast together, His strong Word nourishes, strengthens, and preserves us in the true faith.

Is it possible to spend this Epiphany showing forth the light of life in Jesus to each other, messy as we are?

I think so. Shine on!

Thank You

Most of you have probably seen the beautiful nativity painting in the narthex. This is the work of our own Debby Pufahl. She has given the painting to the congregation, and it will be permanently displayed in the Bible Class room. Thank you, Debby for your gift.

Senior Wisdom

If the word “sniffles” were replaced with the medical term, “nasal leakage,” people would be a whole lot more serious about finding a cure for the common cold.

Health is the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach a person to use the Internet and they won’t bother you for weeks.

Some people are like Slinkies.....not really good for anything, but you still can’t help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Whenever you feel blue, start breathing again.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut save you fifty cents?

*Sharing Christ Person-to-person
builds*

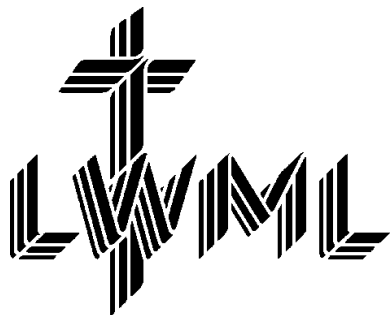
Hospitality

Outreach

Prayer

Education

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



The LWML Advent Brunch was held on Saturday, December 11th. 25 members and guests took advantage of the wonderful food and good fellowship. Prayer partners were revealed as the members opened their gifts to find out who had been keeping them in their prayers this past year. We also received our new names for next year. The planning committee hopes that everyone had a good time and no one left hungry. The next Saturday, December 18th, 17 Christmas baskets were filled and distributed. Thanks to all who contributed towards those baskets.

Dates to look forward to:

- January 5, 2005 - LWML Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- January 6, 2005 - Dorcas Circle, 1:30 pm, Gladys Neuhaus, hostess
- January 6, 2005 - Ruth Circle, 7:00 pm. Barbara Eberhart, hostess
- February 9, 2005 - Potato Bar Pre-Lenten Service Dinner
- February 21, 2005 - Noodle Making Day
- April 4, 2005 - Chicken and Noodle Dinner
- June 16-19, 2005 - LWML National Convention in Tampa, FL

* * * * *

Here's another item from The LWML Catalog

This unique pure silk scarf was commissioned by LWML and is 11" wide x 58" long.
Note the LWML logo in the lower left corner.
It is a colorful tropical floral pattern which will complement many outfits in your wardrobe.

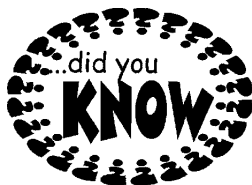
Catalog number 10025 \$18.00

Please see our Treasurer, Betty Hunter, for the deadline of the next order.



LWML Scarf

* * * * *



.....that it's only 52 days until our noodle making day? And it's only 90 days until the Chicken and Noodle Dinner? Didn't we just have the Oktoberfest?

Please remember to put your recipes in the box in the narthex for the cookbook that the Parish Fellowship will be sponsoring.

Prayer Chain Report

Birthdays

Adopt a Student

The Board of Stewardship has committed to raising \$1,000.00 for the Concordia Seminary Adopt a Student Program. This is a program to help seminary students with their tuition. One hundred percent of your gift will be used to provide future pastors with full-tuition grants.

We do not have a deadline for raising this money. We will keep the project going until we reach our goal. There will be a chart in the Narthex of the church to record our progress. Please use a Designated Gift envelope for your contribution to the Adopt A Student Program. May God bless our efforts to help our future pastors.

Singles

At our November meeting we decided to attend the matinee performance of "The Foreigner" (a comedy) at the Topeka Civic Theater on Sunday, February 6 at 2:00 pm. This is open to all, not just Singles, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Joyce Schwartz or Sharon Rosenow for ticket information.

With Lent just around the corner, the Singles will serve the pre-service meal on the second Wednesday of Lent or February 16 at 5:00 pm. We'll make final plans for that at our next meeting which will be January 31 at 7:15 pm in the basement of Hope.

Do you enjoy talking? Do you like eating? Or maybe discussions dealing with events that pertain to single individuals? If you have said yes to at least one of these questions then you should plan to attend the Singles Meeting that is held once a month at Hope. There are no dues to pay, no minimum or maximum age, just a requirement that you would like to have fun. Or maybe learn more about some of the other singles in the congregation. So join us on January 31 and have some fun also!

Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school
but they can in prison?

If your birthday is not mentioned, please call the church office and notify the Secretary. Thanks.

Wedding Anniversaries

If your anniversary is not mentioned, please call the church office and notify the Secretary. Thanks.

Changes

*Please make the following changes to the **Prayer and Membership List**. The actual change is underlined.*

Famous Last Words

"While theoretically and technically television may be feasible, commercially and financially it is an impossibility."

- Lee DeForest, American inventor (1873-1961)

"Video won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night."

- Daryl F. Zanuck, 20th Century Fox, commenting on television in 1946

Board Reports - November

Board of Evangelism - Lou Bauerle

Christmas is the day we celebrate our Lord's birthday. Bring someone with you to our worship services. Many people don't even know who Jesus is. Hope members who helped with the Winter Wonderland benefit for TARC were Ralph Knehans, Letha & Jerome Waggle, Mark and Lou Bauerle. At this very busy time of the year, don't forget the shut-ins.

Board of Education/Youth - Margaret Knehans

During January the Board will meet with Pastor to work on goals. The Cradle Roll has added a new child. Sherry Knehans has taken over the Cradle Roll. Cletus' Bible Study will meet for the last time this year on December 14. A big thanks to Cletus for being our leader. The goals for 2004 have been met. Correction: Last month it was noted that three books were donated to the library by Edna West. It was Edna Keiser who donated the books, and we thank her.

Board of Elders - Mark Bauerle

Elders still working and focusing on our 2004 goal statement. Thank you to all the members of Hope for their time and talents used in serving the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Board of Parish Fellowship - Joyce Schwartz

The Christmas Card Mailbox is in the Narthex. We delivered the first cards on Sunday, December 5. Monies received will go to the HVAC project. We will also have gift bags for the children following the Christmas Eve service. Please put your favorite recipes in the box on the table in the narthex. They'll be included in the new cookbook we're planning for 2005. The LWML served lunch to 27 people prior to the Voter's meeting on November 21. The Annual LWML Advent Brunch will be Saturday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited. We will reveal our Prayer Partners and draw new ones for 2005. We will put together Christmas Baskets on Saturday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. We need homemade cookies, candy, sweet breads and fruit. Singles will extend an invitation to the congregation to join them at Topeka Civic Theater for a showing of "The Foreigner" on Sunday afternoon, February 6.

Board of Stewardship - Barry Beagle

Mission Site Purchase Fund balance: \$12,159.78; Adopt-A-Student balance: \$1,535.00; HVAC received \$2,355.00 during November; Promissory notes issued remain at \$16,500.00.

Board of Trustees - Dick Passow (*report given by Allen Neuhaus*)

Made monthly safety checks and replaced light bulbs. Called KPL again about the leaning light pole. They said they will get to it as soon as they can. Also told them the light on the North end of the parking lot was burned out. Someone will be out this week to replace the light. Somework was also done on the organ.

Recipes for Cookbook

As you gathered your recipes for the holidays, did you give your favorites to the Board of Parish Fellowship for the new cookbook? If not, there still is time. Some recipes from Hope's previous cookbook will be used again, and your favorites will be added to make this effort the best of the best. Please put your recipes in the box on the table in the narthex.

Invitation

Hope Singles invites the congregation to join them for a performance of "The Foreigner" at Topeka Civic Theater, Sunday afternoon, February 6, 2005 at 2:00 pm. Reservations need to be made by January 9. Please contact Joyce Schwartz or Sharon Rosenow to purchase tickets or for more information.

Birthday Dinner

Due to the holidays there was no birthday dinner for the past two months. We will celebrate November, December and January birthdays at the upcoming January birthday dinner. Watch the calendar and Sunday bulletin for the date, place, and time.

Anchor Ideas Wanted

What would like to see in the Anchor during 2005? Your input is valuable in keeping the Anchor interesting enough to read. Please call the church office and give Jan your ideas.

Famous Last Words

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

- Western Union internal memo, 1876.

Lutheran Fine Arts Council

Following are future events sponsored by the Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka (LFACT).

January 30 Concert

Please mark your 2005 calendar for another great music event. Sponsored by The Lutheran Fine Arts Council and Washburn University, the Lutheran College Symphony Orchestra of Decorah, Iowa, directed by Dr. Daniel Baldwin, will appear at White Concert Hall on Sunday January 30, 2005, at 3:00 pm. LFACT is also asking for volunteers to house the 75-80 members of the orchestra overnight January 30. If you can help, please contact Dee at 272-3236 or Sharon at 256-2149.

March 13 Writing Contest

Student writers, it's again time for the Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka Children's Writing Contest. Children who attend Lutheran churches or Lutheran schools in Shawnee County are eligible and are invited to submit a short story or poem for competition. The theme is the author's choice. Grade ranges for contestants will be 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9. Contestants may enter two poems of any style and one short story up to 4,000 words. Poetry up to 60 lines will be accepted for competition. The poem must be clearly printed. Entries over 20 lines MUST be typed. Any one short story from an author will be accepted up to 4,000 words. Prose entries must be typed in 12 point type/font and double spaced. Editorials, essays or articles will not be judged. Additional details will be available later and entry forms are available at your church and TLS. The entries will again be judged by the Kansas Author's Club. During a March 13 ceremony at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries in each grade level. We especially encourage younger writers to enter their work so that all prizes may be awarded. There is no entry fee. Entries will be accepted until January 10, 2005 and are to be returned to any Lutheran Fine Arts Council member or mailed to PO Box 4797, Topeka, KS 66604-0797. For more information, contact Myron Dunavan at 785-246-2123.

April 9 Needlework Show

Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka has scheduled a Needlework Show and Sale at Christ, 3509 SW Burlingame Rd, on Saturday, April 9, 2005 from 9am to 3pm. This event is open to all Lutheran needle workers to exhibit their creative art for show and/or sale. Registration forms with all the information relating to eligibility, type of needlework, fee and contact people, are available at the church office. More information will be made available in the coming weeks. Questions? Call Helen Laughlin at 233-9357 or Juanita Herrmann at 357-7232.

On the Front Lines

We hear little of persecuted Christians around the world. Below is a message from a former Coptic priest, now a LCMS Lutheran in the Rocky Mountain District of our Synod. He keeps in touch with many emerging Christian groups throughout the Islamic world. Rev Naeem has been a guest on Issues, etc. Here is his report to District President Golter.

Greetings in His name.

God has blessed us (BOLM) by the conversion of a member of the royal family in Saudi Arabia, early this month. His Islamic name was Mohamed maederos, and he became Mark Gabriel. Unfortunately he was arrested last Friday and he is jailed now. Pray that the Lord may support him and his family, give them guidance and wisdom to pass this hard times, and God may provide a way for them to come out of Saudi Arabia.

Also an Imam and 50 members (in a mosque in Algeria), converted to Jesus last week and they converted the mosque into a church after baptizing them. This man became John Mathew, and he prays that the Lord may provide him with many Muslims to be baptized every week. About 25 newspapers in the middle east are publishing and writing many articles about this miracle, and they ask the terrorist Muslims to go and kill all those new Christians. Please pray that the Lord may protect them and use them to reach many lost Muslims.

We hope that many of those converts be Lutherans. We are looking for many Lutheran materials to be provided in Arabic.

Praise the Lord! Please support those people spiritually, psychologically and financially.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Dr. George Naeem
Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM)

500 Years Later

“If my son were as heretical as you, I myself would order him to be burned immediately.” With these words directed to Carlos de Sesó—a Spanish Lutheran condemned to die in the 16th century—King Phillippe II of Spain closed the door to any attempt to establish a Lutheran church in that country.

“During that century, the Inquisition rooted out any movement questioning Catholic beliefs,” said Walter Ralli, a missionary from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (IELA) to Spain. “Spanish Lutherans were persecuted and even died because of their commitment to the Gospel of grace. But now, God is opening doors in this beautiful country, once again proving that the timing is in His hands.”

One of the “open doors” witnessed by Ralli and his wife, Paola, last spring was the profession of faith of Juan Carlos Garcia Cazorla, an aeronautical technician and former teacher of Catholic doctrine, and his wife Ana, and three children, Eduardo, Irene and Diana. “They are the first Lutheran family in Seville nearly 500 years since the Inquisition extinguished the community that existed there.” says Ralli.

Ironically, it was a monk from Seville who was forced to flee from Spain for his Reformation involvement, who first translated the entire Bible into Spanish in 1569. “Now, (it is the Cazorla family who is) called by God to transmit the Gospel of grace in that area and to be instruments of His love.”

In 2000, the foundation for the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Spain was laid by a Lutheran family in Toledo, and the IELA responded by sending its first missionary. The Rallis arrived in the Asturias providence in 2002 to build on the foundation of mission outreach already established in the area, plant a congregation and extend outreach into other areas of Spain.

Since, God has continued to open doors. Members of the growing church body come from Madrid, Seville, Cantabria, Andalucia and Asturias. LCMS World Mission partners with the IELA by offering financial support for the mission. It also enlisted support for the mission. It also enlisted the expertise of Dr. Arthur Just of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, to assist with missionary training for three months in 2002.

“Spain is a country very rich in historical culture, literature and in the people’s search for the nourishment of knowledge, demonstrated by an inclination toward reading and a great appetite for debate,” explains Ralli. “This characteristic opens great doors to the mission.”

The mission is seeking contributions for a Lutheran library. It is in need of Biblical, historical, doctrinal, pastoral, and children’s materials in Spanish. Before making a donation, those interested in helping should contact the mission at: redimidos@hotmail.com.

Tsunami

LCMS World Relief and Human Care is responding to catastrophic need in Southeast Asian countries affected by what has been called the world’s most powerful earthquake in 40 years. On Sunday, 26 December, an earthquake measuring 9.0 occurred in the Indian Ocean about 100 miles west of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The epicenter was about 6 miles below the surface. A tsunami, or seismic wave, radiated outward in all directions from where the earthquake struck, causing massive destruction and loss of life in Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, and other Southeast Asian nations.

Efforts are underway to respond to the most urgent needs for shelter materials, safe water, emergency food, and medicines. In the coming weeks, the hundreds of thousands of survivors displaced by the tsunamis will continue to need shelter, water, food and medical assistance; additional aid will be necessary to avoid disease that might result from unsafe water and the challenges inherent in dealing with the bodies of the dead.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care is working to respond through LCMS expatriate missionaries and other Lutheran church partners in Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia, as well as through our inter-Lutheran partner, Baltimore-based Lutheran World Relief. There is an urgent and ongoing need for financial assistance.

For additional information, please call LCMS World Relief and Human Care, 1-800-248-1930, ext. 1380.

To donate by mail, please make your check payable to LCMS World Relief/Human Care, mark it “Asia Tsunami” and send your gift to:

LCMS World Relief and Human Care
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-9810