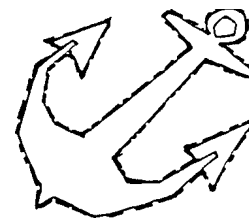


Hope's Anchor



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

Hebrews 6:17-20



February 2005

Thank you!

Ten years, nine months and six days. Seems like yesterday that I was introduced as your interim pastor. It began a new chapter in my life and also in your life as a congregation. District President Schmidt thought we would fit well together in doing what was needed. He was right. What began as a limited-tenure call blossomed into a relationship. The problems we faced at that time are in the past and need to remain there. Only challenges and opportunities must remain before you as you begin yet another chapter in your lives as the people of Hope under the grace of God.

One large challenge has already been partially met. Our vision of starting a daughter congregation took shape in the Fall of 1995. A Site Committee was appointed and their work culminated in the purchase of six acres of land at the northwest corner of 45th Street and Paulen Road. On Tuesday afternoon, February 15, 2000, at 4:00, the legal representatives of Hope Lutheran met with the landowners and signed the necessary papers. Included in the transaction was an option to purchase an additional six acres at the same site. That option will be exercised next January. In the meantime, you have the opportunity to finish paying off the HVAC loan, and continue saving toward the purchase of the final six acres. The end of phase two is in sight, and phase three can then begin. It's exciting! If there's one thing I've learned about the people of Hope, it's that you will accomplish whatever you make up your minds to do. Do this!

Thank you for accepting me as your pastor, for the difficulties we have faced and overcome, for the laughter we enjoyed together, for your love and friendship. And for the always delicious food! I'll think of you as I exercise to lose the weight I've put on. I know you will show both your vacancy pastor and your next pastor the same kindness you showed me. Being disciples of Jesus, trusting His promises, receiving His blessings is a life second to none. You share that conviction, and, with the challenges that are coming, I pray you always will.

Thank you for being you.

The Lord's Prayer The Lord's Passion

The theme for our midweek Lenten services will be "The Lord's Prayer—The Lord's Passion."

Prayer is an integral part of our Lord's walk to the cross. As we walk with Him, we will pray with Him, and we will see how the Lord's Prayer is a model for the prayers of all embattled warriors.

Ash Wednesday is February 9 this year. Each of the midweek services will begin at 7:00 and will be preceded by a light meal served at 5:15. The LWML will serve the first meal.

Ash Wednesday - Our Father, who art in heaven (Matthew 6:6-9)

Midweek 2 - Hallowed be Thy name (Matthew 6:9; Mark 14:30-31)

Midweek 3 - Thy Kingdom come (Matthew 6:10; 26:29)

Midweek 4 - Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10; Mark 14:32-42)

Midweek 5 - Give us this day our daily bread (Matthew 6:11; John 19:23-24)

Midweek 6 - Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us (Matthew 6:12; Luke 23:24)

Maundy Thursday - Lead us not into temptation (Matthew 6:13; John 11:47-50)

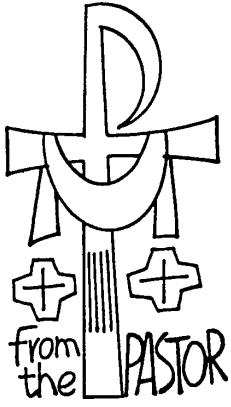
Good Friday - Deliver us from evil (Matthew 6:13)

Easter Sunday - Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever (Matthew 6:13 (KJV), 28:1-10)

Use the **GREEN** envelope

Sharing Christ Person-to-Person Builds HOPE

Senior Wisdom



Each of us owns something fairly complicated and not easy to fix, like a computer or a watch. When these things do not work as they are designed, who is best qualified to repair them? We might agree that the manufacturer would be best qualified. After all, he designed and made the product. If anyone would know how to fix it, he would.

That bit of practical wisdom is also true between God and us. We are not here by some quirk of fate or random event. God deliberately created us. Only He can truly repair our broken lives and make us into the people He originally designed us to be. God is the only One who can give us new life. For you

and for me, God and life go together. Without God there is no life. In a relationship with God is the life everyone desires.

So why doesn't everyone catch on to what seems so obvious? Sin. The power that corrupts and throws everyone into disrepair and brokenness also blinds people. Spiritually blind people cannot see spiritual realities.

For example, we live in a disposable culture. People are more interested in something cheap than in something that costs more but will last longer. If it breaks, if I get tired of it, if I don't want it, I'll throw it away and get another.

This "disposable" attitude is reflected in every area of life. Unborn babies are disposable. Elderly people are disposable. Life itself is cheapened, and it's only natural that spiritual life falls victim to this same disposable attitude that permeates our culture. For a growing number of people, Bible study is optional, Baptismal promises have little value, and Holy Communion is a lenient exercise in community building. Great Christian truths are reduced to pious opinions, discipleship is reduced to church membership, and church membership is based on feeling good and being well entertained. Liberal theology contributes to this disposability by first finding out what people want to hear and then saying it. Finally, even the resurrection of Jesus becomes a cheap, disposable doctrine. "Did Jesus rise from His grave physically alive?" "No, this is just a way of saying that Jesus was an important world figure."

How can such attitudes and the lives they break be fixed? Better education? Reorganized structures? Revamped economics? No. Something else is needed

"Something" is really Someone. Jesus Christ is the Source of new life, the God who takes great delight in repairing broken people. To Him we are fixable, not disposable. As a matter of fact, He joined us in the trash in order to fix us. He found us in our state of disrepair, took upon Himself our sin and brokenness and He died—One for everyone, once for all. He paid His life's blood to obtain new life for us. Nothing cheap about that!

When He walked out of His grave on Easter morning, He left sin and death and brokenness and disrepair behind. In His resurrection we have new life. He's alive! So are we, by God's grace through faith in Jesus. The Creator "fixes" His creatures. His Son paid the price. We are precious in God's sight. Not cheap. Not disposable. He gave us new life free of charge. Now we can serve God and other people as we were created to do.

When you're dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, remember Algebra

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth

Don't sell your mule to buy a plow

Two can live as cheap as one, if one don't eat

When praying, don't give God instructions just report for duty

Never give the devil a ride, he'll always want to drive

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives are developed

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it

We don't change God's message. God's message changes us

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything

It doesn't take a very big person to carry a grudge

Every path has some puddles

Don't wrestle with pigs. You'll get all muddy, and the pigs will love it

Forbidden fruits create many jams

Man's way leads to a hopeless end. God's way leads to an endless hope

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord

Sharing Christ Person-to-person builds

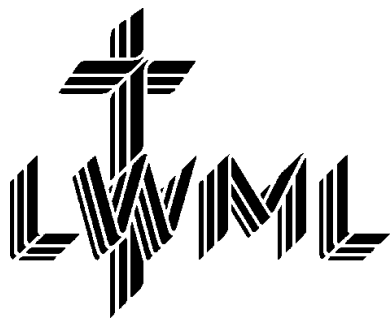
Hospitality

Outreach

Prayer

Education

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



As the LWML looks forward to another year of serving the Lord, we do it with heavy hearts. The LWML is losing a good friend when Pastor Domsch retires. He has certainly assisted with all the activities we have had from greeting attendees of our dinners to actually helping with the making of noodles and bierocks. (And we have pictures to prove it!) We feel that the kind of desserts that we normally served at our functions were forever changed due to his dislike of cake. We all learned to be better pie makers. He has helped us with our understanding of the Bible with studies at our Guild meetings, provided the opening of the LWML Topeka Zone Spring Tea when it was held at Hope and most of all was very happy to take home any leftovers that we offered to him. It is no doubt that the LWML will miss him but we wish him the best in retirement. You leave us many fond memories. Thanks, Pastor for your support of the LWML.

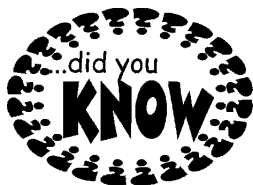
Dates to look forward to:

February 2, 2005 - LWML Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm
February 3, 2005 - Dorcas Circle, 1:30 pm, Gladys Neuhaus, hostess
February 3, 2005 - Ruth Circle, 7:00 pm. Dee Byers, hostess
February 9, 2005 - Potato Bar Pre-Lenten Service Dinner
February 21, 2005 - Noodle Making Day
April 4, 2005 - Chicken and Noodle Dinner
April 23, 2005 - LWML Topeka Zone Spring Tour @ Garnett
June 16-19, 2005 - LWML National Convention in Tampa, FL

* * * * *

The LWML will sponsor the first pre-Lenten Service supper on Ash Wednesday, February 9th at 5:30 pm.
We will have our traditional Potato Bar.
The free-will offering will go to the HVAC Fund.

* * * * *



.....that it's only 20 days until our noodle making day? And it's only 62 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

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

The Singles brought the New Year in by celebrating at Sharon Rosenow's home. After making sure everyone had partaken of the food we played a rousing game of "Catch Phrase." There were 10 members of Hope and 3 guests present. Everyone seemed to have a good time and arrived home safely.

With Lent just around the corner, the Singles will serve the pre-service meal on the second Wednesday of Lent or February 16 at 5:30 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.

We had 16 interested participants that will be going to see "The Foreigner" at the Topeka Civic Theater on Sunday, February 6 at 2:00 PM. Will review that particular event in next month's column.

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.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage

Birthdays

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.

Retirement Cards

Retirement cards for Pastor Domsch can be put in the Mailbox. No postage is necessary to mail them.

Mailbox

The narthex mailbox is now available all year long. It can be used for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and for all occasions. Place proper postage in box. It will be checked every Sunday.

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.

Board Reports - January

Board of Evangelism - Letha Waggle

Mission Sunday – Rev Victor Samuel will be our guest speaker at the Saturday and Sunday worship services and the Sunday Adult Bible Class. We will have a pot-luck dinner on Sunday.

Board of Education/Youth - Margaret Knehans

The Board of Education has developed their goal for the year 2005. The Cradle Roll remains the same with 2 children. Cletus' Bible study will resume in February. It will be held the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Everyone is welcome. The Adult Bible Class has purchased some new Bibles for the class. They are really nice. They were purchased with Bible class funds.

Board of Elders - Cletus von Soosten

During 2005 the Elders will continue visiting members. Thank you to all the people of Hope who used their time and talents this past year in serving the Lord through our congregation.

Board of Parish Fellowship - Joyce Schwartz

Thanks to all for using our Christmas Card Mailbox again during Advent. We earned over \$237 for the HVAC Fund and spent \$9.25 for cards that had to be mailed. The mailbox will remain in the Narthex for use throughout the year, for birthday, anniversary and any other cards you would like to mail to friends and family here at Hope. We gave out gift bags to children following the Christmas Eve service. There was a stuffed animal, an orange, apple and candy in each bag. Darlene Self furnished two ice cream cakes to celebrate her 80th birthday Sunday, January 9. We will serve dinner prior to the Lenten Service on Wednesday, March 2. We are planning a new recipe book and would appreciate any recipes you would like to share. There is a box for recipes in the Narthex. We have begun planning for our third annual Sister-To-Sister Tea. So, ladies, mark your calendars for Saturday, July 16. We will also need servers.

Thanks to all who came to the LWML Advent brunch on Saturday, December 11. There was lots of good food. We revealed our prayer partners for 2004 and drew names for 2005. Everyone got a gift and had a good time. We filled Christmas baskets on Saturday, December 18, helped in the kitchen for Joe & Tillie's 50th Anniversary, bought and placed the new blue attendance registers in the pews. The LWML will serve lunch prior to the Voter's meeting on Sunday, January 30 and will have a potato bar prior to the service on Ash Wednesday. Mark your calendars for noodle making day, Monday, February 21. Bring your rolling pins & cookie sheets. Lunch will be served for all who help. Also we will be asking for donations of flour and eggs, so watch your bulletins. The Chicken Noodle Dinner will be on Sunday, April 4.

Board of Stewardship - Barry Beagle

Mission Site Purchase Fund balance: \$12,864.78; Adopt-A-Student balance: \$1,555.00; HVAC received \$395.00 during December; Promissory notes issued remain at \$16,500.00.

Board of Trustees - David Eberhart

Made safety checks and did minor maintenance. The Saturday service cancelled on January 8 was due to a power failure as a result of the ice storm. The backup battery on the furnace did not last as long a time as the power was off, so there was no heat. The drain that goes directly to ground from the sacristy sink is apparently plugged. We will solve the problem when the weather permits.

Congratulations

Pamela Johnson-Betts will be honored Tuesday, March 29, by the Career Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA).

The distinguished career of the 2005 honoree, includes: Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging; Executive Director, Kansas African-American Affairs Commission; Director, Office of Government and Community Relations (KDHE); Resource Development Specialist, SRS; Director, Comer Project (TPS); Adjunct Instructor, Washburn University; and Comptroller, Kansas Division of Southwestern Bell.

Her awards, honors and community service include: City of Topeka Outstanding Community Service Award; Boy Scouts of America Whitney M. Young Service Award; Project Equality Pride in Excellence "Individual Award"; Lifetime Achievement Award from Living the Dream, Inc.; Brown Foundation "Local" Award; Kaw Valley Girl Scouts "Women of Distinction" Award; Mayor's commission on the status of women "Outstanding Individual" Award; Director, Stormont-Vail Regional Healthcare Center; Washburn University Women's Alliance; Leadership Steering Committee and Executive Director Search Committee; Let's Help; Advisory Committee WU School of Social Work; State Chair; Project Topeka; and Leadership Kansas participant.

Congratulations, Pam, from your brothers and sisters in Christ at Hope. We pray God's continued blessings upon you as you serve Him and others.

There are more churches in Las Vegas than casinos. During the Sunday offering, some people contribute casino chips in place of cash. Since there are so many casinos, Catholic churches send all the chips into the diocese for sorting. Once sorted, a junior priest takes the chips and makes the rounds to each casino turning chips into cash.

He is known as the Chip-monk.

Mission News from the Mehl's

Lutheran Fine Arts Council

Mission news from John, Susan, Katrina, Louisa & Theodore Mehl

December was a busy month in Eurasia. Our theological educators were busy with classes in Slovakia, Sweden, Russia, Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan. Excellent progress was made for expanded theological education work in Slovakia by our missionaries Dr. David Daniel and Dr. Robert Rosin.

In Russia, Rev. Brent Smith joined with the leadership of our partner church, the Ingrian Ev. Lutheran Church, to hold an Ablaze pastor's conference. The meetings were held at the church in Koltеше, near St. Petersburg. In the photo at the left you can see the pastors after the opening worship service. Rev. Brent Smith and Dr. Rosin were presenters at the conference, where the topic was Gospel outreach.

The missionaries of LCMS World Mission in Eurasia also took time to meet in Moscow, where we talked about how to best use the resources entrusted to us so that we can reach the most people with the Gospel.

Ordination: After the Moscow meeting, three of us traveled to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan for the ordination of their first pastor, Yakov Mametov. Yakov has been in Rev. Bob Pfeil's classes in Bishkek for a number of years. Yakov was examined and found fit for ordination. In the photo on the right you can see John reading the rite of ordination. Over 200 people attended the service, some coming from as far as 120 kilometers. It was a great day for the church.

We are very thankful that God has used the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as His instrument in Kyrgyzstan in such a powerful way. God has richly blessed the work of the missionaries there.

We are very thankful that God has used the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as His instrument in Kyrgyzstan. Our missionary Tim Nickel recently reported:

Baptisms (adults and children, adults mostly among Kyrgyz people, as Russians are 60% already baptized): 33 since July.

Confirmations (have learned the catechism, believe its teachings, and are ready for Holy Communion): 35 since July.

Church Plants (Word and Sacrament ministry to groups of confirmed believers meeting regularly): 4 since July. Since 2000: 16.

Bible Study Groups (groups that meet regularly for Bible study to learn Bible and Catechism): 7 since July.

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.

News from the Heineys

Dear Friends,

First of all, we want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We didn't get a picture card out last year, so wanted to be sure to update it this year. Our family is growing and doing well overall. The kids continue in their schooling. Joel will graduate high school this year and is planning to attend a local community college for at least his first year next year. Where does time go??? It seems like only a couple of years ago we had him under the tree as our greatest gift! Jonathan is a sophomore this year. The highlight of the year for him was when his football team won the state championship. They got to play in the Ram's stadium and have been quite the celebrities in our small town here. Katie is home schooling and has become quite adept at cake decorating after a class she took. She will start high school next year (ouch!) Andrea is also at home this year in the 5th grade. She started confirmation classes and is almost as tall as Mom (after that I will be the shortest in the family!) We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas this year in New York with my family.

We don't see much of Tim these days. He returned from his last trip to Guinea on the 12th of December. This trip centered on agriculture and finding out how the Kansas District can help their partner church in Guinea to improve their farming. We had a crack team once again...a total of nine travelers counting Tim, our largest so far!

This trip started with the obligatory disaster. Of 12 pieces of luggage only 3 showed up in Conakry, so most of them went the entire trip without their own belongings, borrowing from each other and buying necessities in the market. But it did not hinder their spirits or the work they set out to accomplish. The team visited our churches in the Forest region and was able to visit the work in the Maninka area as well. They talked with farmers to try and determine what the best way to help would be. Tim said that the response was wonderful. The people were thrilled that people were taking the time to help them with what is the most important aspect of survival for them. They didn't just talk with people, but actually were able to visit farms, take samples, and made suggestions for improvement. Jon Oetting's last letter described how this can affect the evangelistic work being done in the Maninka area: "The Maninka farmers included members of the village groups that gather with Tim Norton to learn Bible passages in the indigenous language. One of these Bible study groups has planted some crops in a plot of ground granted to them by the village leaders. The proceeds from the harvest go toward the expenses of the group so that they can continue meeting together, studying their reading and writing in the Maninka language and hearing the Gospel! We are very thankful for the arrival of this group because of the significance it could have for advancing the evangelistic work in two Maninka villages and the surrounding area."

We praise God for all He is doing and continues to do through these trips. As frustrating as things can get, and for as much as continues to go with, God's purposes are being fulfilled and His Word goes out, Tim believes God was directing every aspect of the trip. The team "just happened to" run into a local agric worker on the road one day who doing research on seeds in our area. They were able to learn a lot from him as well. Another of those "chance meetings" that seem to have heavenly fingerprints all over them!

Another great aspect of the trip was the final arrival of Rev. Ron Mudge from Togo. Ron had planned to visit Guinea on Tim's last trip but was delayed by flight schedules and never make it. Ron was able to meet with our leaders to discuss the Theological Education program in Guinea. Twelve men signed on for the training program and have already paid their fees. We pray this will greatly strengthen the teaching done in the Forest.

Tim is getting ready now to leave on the 8 of this month for a meeting in South Africa. All African missionaries are gathering to discuss strategy and fellowship together. Pray for all these people traveling to and from their areas. Shortly after that we will be ready for another Guinea trip already! This will be another focusing on teaching so will include several pastors from the Kansas District. Pray for those who will begin their theological training, that God will use them to bring many more to Christ. And pray for this next trip coming up in February, for physical safety and many spiritual rewards.

Thank you for all the cards, letters and gifts you sent this Christmas. We appreciate each one, and will use those cards in our prayer time this coming year as we remember each of you. God be with you as you share the light of the Good News that is Christmas this coming 2005!