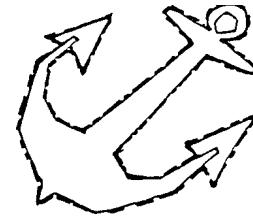


Hope's Anchor

Hebrews 6:17-20



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



May 2004

Strange Events in Jerusalem

Disciples of Jesus of Nazareth are in the news again. Fifty days ago they startled all of Jerusalem by insisting that Jesus had risen from the dead. Ten days ago they again raised the eyebrows of a skeptical citizenry by announcing that Jesus had ascended into heaven.

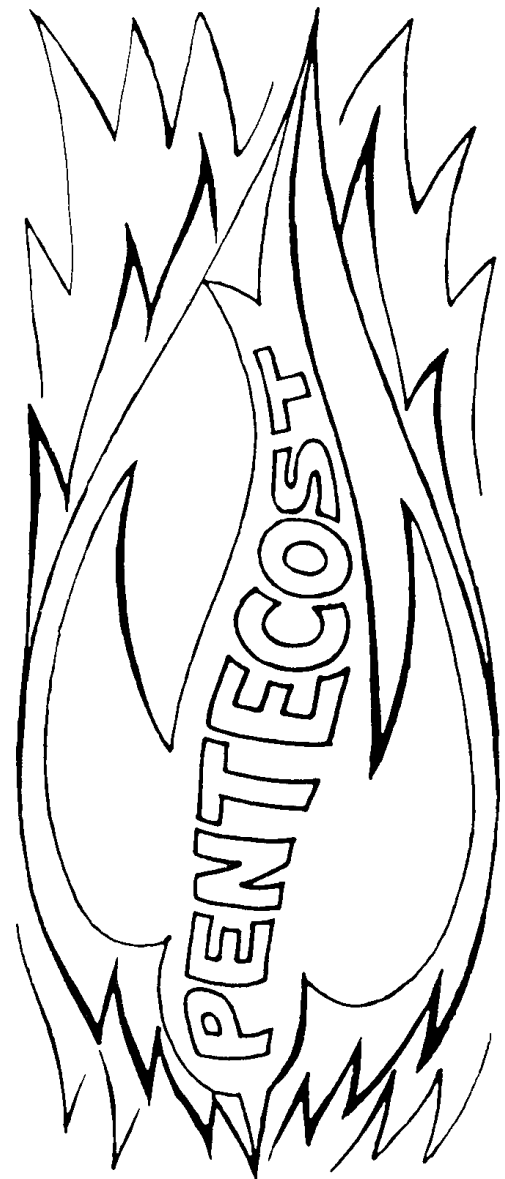
People from all over the world are in the city for the Feast of Weeks. Many were in the temple giving their offering of firstfruits, when they heard a sound like a strong wind and saw a phenomenon that looked like tongues of fire resting on the heads of Jesus' disciples. Then His followers began telling the people "this is the day Prophet Joel spoke about," and they told everyone how Jesus was crucified and died seven weeks ago just before Passover. They also repeated their contention that Jesus rose from death: "God raised Him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it."

In an interview with a man who had come all the way from Rome, this reporter asked, "How did you know what these men were saying?"

"I didn't understand all of them," he said, "but one of the men was speaking my language. What he said really bothered me, so I asked him what I could do. He said, 'Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins.' I must admit I didn't see the connection between baptism and forgiveness until after I was baptized. He was right, God's forgiveness brought me peace of mind and heart."

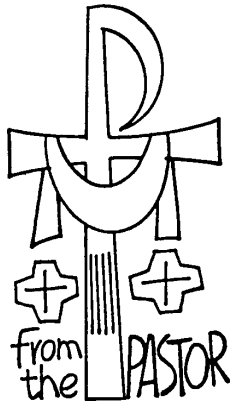
A nearly identical story was told by person after person from all over the world. Those who followed these strange events are saying hundreds and hundreds of others were also baptized. One estimated the number of baptisms at about three thousand. "It's a miracle," he exclaimed.

Religious leaders are trying to spin these events to their own advantage. However, there are too many people who know what really happened, and it remains to be seen whether vested interests or the truth prevails.



Use the **GREEN** envelope

Sharing Christ Person-to-Person Builds HOPE



“Can we take our ties off now, dad?”
“Grandpa wants to take some pictures.”
“Can we take them off when he’s done?”
“There will be more pictures, so don’t change clothes yet.”
“Are you supposed to get a headache when you wear a tie, dad?” It was like being in the middle of Family Circus.
“Are you glad when you change clothes, dad?”
He had me. “Yes, son, but let’s wait until the pictures are finished.”
“I’m glad grandma forgot her camera.”

Thinking about Confirmation two Sundays from now, it seems like yesterday that my sons were confirmed. It was seventeen years ago. But, the news is still the same. It may come in different words, but sin is still worthy of headlines. Everyone blames everyone else for the inability to deal with crime, scandal, and inhumanity, especially in an election year. It’s a harsh world in which we live, a world that hates Christians because it hates our Lord Jesus.

In the midst of my paternal nostalgia, I wonder how God felt as the fullness of time approached and His Son left home. I wonder if the Father was a bit wistful. The perils of childhood, the concerns of adolescence, the temptations of the world, the hostility of enemies—would His Son survive?

The important thing for us is that God acted. The Son left His heavenly home and came to earth to live among us. The Father clothed His Son in human flesh and placed Him in this world torn apart by sin. Throughout His life and ministry Jesus was tempted by Satan and his stooges. He did not yield. His enemies could not seduce Him away from His Father. Again and again, Jesus trusted His Father’s Word and would not turn aside. Since sin cannot tolerate righteousness, Jesus had to go. A mock trial was held, Jesus was crucified. He died and was buried. Sin won—or so it seemed.

Three days later, Jesus was back with His men. He was alive and well. He had been raised from death exactly as His Father promised. Now it was time to get His men ready to tell the world that sin has been defeated, death is dead, and we live by the Father’s Word.

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. He went back home. The faithful Son was given a hero’s welcome and now rules as the King of heaven and earth. One day He will be back. In the meantime, you and I wait and trust the Father’s Word and promise.

As the days of our dying world become more like those of Noah, we take heart in our Father’s Word and promise, and share them with others while there is still time.

He who came down, went up. Those who trust the Father’s promises will too!

Thank You

- to Cletus and Myron for mowing the lawn
- to Karen Figge for making the Lent and Easter banners. These banners are in memory of Tinker Hamblin from her family
- to Debby Pufahl for her cover art on the Lent and Easter service orders

Senior Wisdom

My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash and it is gone.

It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now, of course, there’s shipping and handling, too.

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I had any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn’t have signed up in the first place!

Life is not about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stumps.

A bumble bee is faster than a John Deere tractor.

Don’t skinny dip with snapping turtles.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.

Meanness don’t happen overnight.

*Sharing Christ Person-to-person
builds*

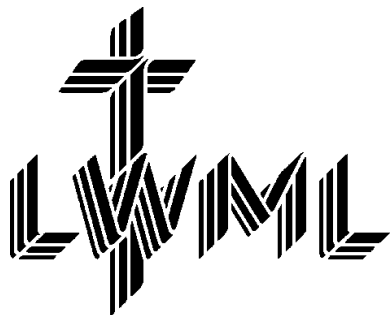
Hospitality

Outreach

Prayer

Education

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



With the coming of the warm weather, the LWML has put away their pots and pans for pre-Lenten service dinners and the Chicken and Noodle dinner and is thinking more in the line of "outside" cooking. So therefore, we are inviting the Hope Congregation to put June 20th on their calendars and come out to 4134 SE Shawnee Heights Road at the home of Gladys and Allen Neuhaus for a picnic. The LWML furnishes the meat and tableware and we ask that you bring a side dish to share. And maybe a lawn chair or two. Besides good food we have good fellowship. A good time to meet some new friends and also a good time to get reacquainted with some "old" friends. We'd love to see you there. Let's not forget the Board of Parish Fellowship's

Sister to Sister Tea that will be held on July 17th. Last year's tea was fun and this year's promises to be that and more. So be sure you reserve that date and participate!

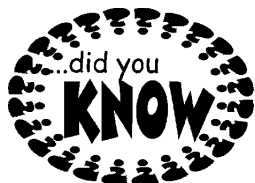
Dates to look forward to:

May 6, 2004 - Dorcas Circle, 1:30 PM@ Hope, Marjean Parker, Hostess
May 6, 2004 - Ruth Circle, 7:00 PM@ Hope, Terry Carlson, Hostess
May 10, 2004 - 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM - Quilting@Hope
May 24, 2004 - 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM - Quilting@Hope
June 20, 2004 - LWML sponsored congregational picnic at Gladys and Allen Neuhaus' home.
July 17, 2004 - Sister to Sister Tea
October 3, 2004 - LWML Sunday
October 31, 2004 - Oktoberfest

* * * * *

The women of the **Kansas District LWML** radiate **SONSHINE** in the **Sunflower State!**
Their strong commitment to mission and ministry is centered on **Christ**;
they are willing to explore ideas and ways to let that **Son** shine brightly in their lives.

* * * * *



.....that the LWML District Convention held in Wichita on April 23-25 was the 30th biannual convention? That's 60 years for Lutheran Women on a mission. Stories and tidbits from that convention will be shared here in forthcoming issues.

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

The Singles served breakfast immediately following Sunrise Service on Easter, April 11, and also treated the Fellowship gathering on Sunday, April 18 with biscuits and gravy. We are not going to do this every Sunday, so you'll have to be satisfied with doughnuts.

At our Singles meeting on the 19th, we made tentative plans to have a cook-out at Sharon Rosenow's on May 21. Call Sharon later to see what ingredients might be needed for that cook-out. We also decided to sponsor a baseball trip to see the Kansas City Royals vs. the Minnesota Twins on July 15. So watch for more information on that in the Sunday bulletin.

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 more about some of the other singles in the congregation.

Lutheran Fine Arts Council

In an effort to provide Lutheran artists with an opportunity to share their talents, the Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka is considering a show or competition for Lutheran adults 18 and over. If you are interested in participating in a show or competition in any fine arts medium, please call Ann Mah at 266-9434 or e-mail her at Lmah@cox.net regarding your interest.

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.*

On Life and Death

Once the chess game is over, the king and the pawn go back in the same box.

Board Reports - March

Board of Evangelism - Lou Bauerle

Hope everyone had a wonderful Resurrection celebration. Jesus died and rose for us. The Board is planning different events; watch for details in the bulletin. The Evangelism board served Lenten Supper, Wednesday, March 17. Let's pray for our friends, families and also our enemies.

Board of Education/Youth - Margaret Knehans

The library is serving several people with both tapes and videos. Pam ordered Sunday School materials. Cletus's Bible Study class has finished the series on Galatians and the next series on Ephesians begins April 27th.

Board of Elders - Mark Bauerle

Elder's still focusing on our 2004 goal statement. Thank you to all the groups that served the suppers before each Lenten service, to the Singles who served the Easter Breakfast, and to all the members of Hope using their time and talents to serve our Lord and Savior.

Board of Parish Fellowship - Joyce Schwartz

Board members served a spaghetti dinner prior to the Lenten service on March 24. Thanks to all who helped and who came to eat. The LWML served 202 people at the Chicken Noodle Dinner and had 23 takeouts. We will serve a chicken casserole, salad & desert prior to the Voters meeting on Sunday, April 18. Admission is a bar of soap. Five Hope ladies attended the Topeka Zone Rally in Vassar on March 20. Beth Heiney was the guest speaker. The Kansas District LWML Convention will be in Wichita, April 23-25. Delegates from Hope are Sharon Rosenow & Joyce Schwartz.

Board of Stewardship - Barry Beagle

Mission Site Purchase Fund balance: \$10,084.78, enough to purchase the first of the next six acres; Adopt-A-Student balance: \$1,355.00. HVAC received \$275 during February. Promissory notes issued remain at \$16,500.00.

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

Made usual monthly safety checks and did minor maintenance items. Installed light under cabinet in Sacristy as requested by the Altar Guild. Dick is aware of the broken tile at the west doors and said he would take care of it.

Questions? Questions?

The Book "I Believe But I Have Questions" by Jane Fryar is in the Hope Library. It's a very readable book and covers such topics as:

What do I do when I sin?
What does God think of me?
What do I do when I can't do it all?
How can I make my life count?
How can I share Jesus' love with others?
Why don't I see more growth?

It is a good book to read after you have your daily devotions.

There are many good books in the Hope Library. I encourage you to browse through the shelves and select a book or video to enrich your Christian life.

Margaret Knehans

Life Quotes

"It's not just the 'big' and 'churchy' things that serve God. Martin Luther said that the mother changing a dirty diaper is serving God as much as the preacher in the pulpit! We make decisions and do things every day that are influenced by our faith that we do not even think about. The way we dress, the way we speak, a friendly smile, helping a friend, helping a stranger, the way we relate to our spouse, children, boss, co-workers, the people at the coffee shop, the clerk at the store...the list is endless. Throughout history, Christians have championed reaching out to the vulnerable and needy as a natural response of faith."

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

"The history of the world is the history of ordinary men and women - 'very nice' men and women - performing extraordinary acts of brutality when the restraining influence of Christianity is lifted from a culture. It is precisely because man's capacity for depravity is so great that we must be vigilant in proclaiming and living by a distinctively pro-life ethic. This ethic affects the way we view conception, the elderly, the disabled, and the mandate to procreate for the glory of God."

Doug Phillips, The Vision Forum

Lutheran Braille Workers

Work Center #31

Lutheran Braille Workers had its start during World War II. When word spread that Hitler had destroyed brailled Scriptures in Germany, a blind ministerial student from California asked for help to bring the German Braille Bible back to the blind in Germany. This cause soon won the heart of a determined woman, Helene Loewe Koehler, who eventually founded Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW).

In the early years, LBW operated from Mrs. Koehler's home. Each Braille Bible was produced by hand using a slate and stylus. Each Braille letter was individually pressed or punched. As you can imagine, it was a very time consuming process, requiring enormous amounts of effort and patience.

In time, production techniques advanced to the use of metal plates and roller presses. We now use computer programs to facilitate translations. But the volunteer spirit has always prevailed.

Today, master "plates" of the Scriptures, Bible stories and edifying reading are produced in Braille and sent to our Work Centers where dedicated volunteers print, emboss, collate, and bind each copy—even shipping them to their final destination.

Every day we receive letters of thanks from friends who can now read and study God's Word, as well as more request for Braille Bibles and other devotional resources.

An Oklahoma City woman writes: "I've been teaching from your Large Print books at my local nursing home for 19 years. I can't begin to tell you how much the patients enjoy them. They are hungry for the Word of God."

From Lima, Peru: "It has been my joy as a missionary pastor to watch David grow in the Christian Faith as he studies the Braille Bible you so graciously provided."

And from Nigeria... "It is great and wonderful what our God does for us. We cannot express our gratitude for your help in knowing the Gospel."

The cost of a commercially produced English Braille Bible is more than \$1,100, and Braille Bibles in other languages are even more expensive. The good news is that Lutheran Braille Workers has reduce this cost to just \$144 per Bible - a saving of more than \$900 - thanks to committed volunteers and our streamlined operations. And because loyal friends who understand the eternal impact of God's Word contribute generously, we provide Bible and Scripture resources absolutely free, eliminating all costs to the blind and visually impaired!

Please prayerfully consider the importance of providing God's Word to men, women and children who are blind and visually impaired. Then please send a generous gift today. Your gift is needed.

In 2003, Work Center #31 of Lutheran Braille Workers, located at St John Lutheran Church, 901 Fillmore, Topeka, produced and shipped 22,839 books and pamphlets of Christ-centered material to Africa, Central and South America, Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic and the United States. This included 8,950 Spanish Large Print Bibles. Each Thursday morning volunteers gather to collate, punch, bind, check and ship these books. Volunteers are from Faith, Prince of Peace, Calvary, and St John congregations.

It is a joy to come together each Thursday morning at St John's to work on the Spanish large print sent from the home office in Yucaipa, California. More volunteers are needed to help on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 11:30 am and experience the satisfaction of helping many sight-impaired and blind to read God's Word for themselves. Many thanks to those who have helped and will help in spreading God's word.

Many Braille books and large print books in foreign languages are sent from approximately 100 work centers in Canada and the United States. Many requests are received for our books which are free upon request.

Eileen Heller, Leader

Job Interview

At the end of a job interview, the interviewer asked a young engineer just out of college what kind of salary he was looking for.

"In the neighborhood of \$140,000 a year, depending on the benefits package," he said.

"Well, what would you say to a package of 5-weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car...say, a red Corvette?"

"Wow! Are you kidding?" the prospective engineer responded.

"Yes, but you started it."

Wahhabi Assassins

By Uwe Siemon-Netto UPI Religion Editor

As soon as Sheikh Mohammed Mohammed Ali leaves his house in Baghdad for a drive around town, he takes off his white turban that marks him as a Shiite Muslim scholar, and places it on the seat next to him in his Toyota. “Many Shiite clerics are doing this. It’s safer that way,” he told United Press International Monday in a telephone interview from his London home where he had just returned after an extended stay in Iraq. “My turban would make me a target of Wahhabi assassins, who have already killed so many Shiite scholars. That’s why I wear the turban only indoors—and always in the mosque.”

The Shiite clerics’ turbans, which are distinct from the headgear of Sunni imams, come either in black or in white, depending on whether the bearer is a direct descendant of the prophet Mohammed—in which case black is the proper color—or not. Mohammed Mohammed Ali wears white.

Wahhabis, a puritanical sect that originated in present-day Saudi Arabia in the 18th century, have traditionally not been part of the religious scene in Iraq. “They have begun infiltrating the country already in the last 10 years of Saddam Hussein’s regime,” said Ali, who before the outbreak of the war was a leader of the London-based Iraqi National Council. “The Sunni sects in Iraq used to be non-violent. But then the Wahhabis came and bribed Iraqi Muslims to join them. This way they took control of mosques even in Najaf and Karbala (the Shiites’ holy cities), and in Basra in the South.” Complaints by Shiites that Wahhabi infiltrators target them for assassination have been common almost since the beginning of the current war more than a year ago. They also claim that adherents of this sect are intent on provoking a war between the Shiite majority and the Sunni minority.

But the sect’s spokesmen angrily contest reports in some of the most respectable Western media, including London’s Daily Telegraph and the Christian Science Monitor, that its agents are fanning the Iraqi insurgency.

A book titled “The Wahhabi Myth” authored by Maneef James Oliver and authenticated by Sheikh Naasirud-Deen al-Albaanee, a top religious leader in Saudi Arabia, attributes the extremism of Osama bin Laden and his fellow terrorist to a different source. “They are adherents of a newly risen sect called Qutbism, whose origins come from Egypt, not Saudi Arabia,” he wrote. This movement is named after Sayyid Qutb who founded Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood. As the London newspaper, The Independent, observed two years ago, this is not an Islamic tradition but very much a Western-based ideology.

In an article titled, “How Marx turned Muslim,” the Independent’s correspondent John Gray explained, “The inspiration for Qutb’s thought is not so much the Koran but the current Western philosophy embodied in thinkers such as Nietzsche, Kierkegaard and Heidegger.”

But Mohammed Mohammed Ali, a moderate Shiite scholar propagating interfaith harmony as the only possible means to bring peace to Iraq, does not see things that way. “In the last 10 years there have been huge transfers of funds to Iraq to make Muslims convert from their own sect to extreme Wahhabism,” he said. “This happened with the support from politicians in the Gulf states and many other Arab countries.”

While a prominent Wahhabi cleric, Sheikh Muhammad Bin Saalih al-’Uthathmeen, condemned terrorist outrages such as suicide bombings, saying their perpetrators would go to hell, the tradition of Wahhabi violence has a history of almost a quarter of a millennium.

In “The Wahhabi Movement,” historian Ted Thornton reminded his readers that in their zeal Wahhabis even once declared holy war on fellow Muslims, an act expressly forbidden by the Koran. They destroyed other believers’ minarets and grave markers and, in 1802, the tomb of the Shiites’ Imam Husayn in Karbala, their holy city in Iraq, an event that has remained unforgotten to this very day.