

GOD'S GUIDANCE FOR TOUGH TIMES

The bad news keeps piling up. The Dow hits another record low. The number of unemployed hits a record high. Home values are falling while the housing foreclosures are rising. Unfortunately, Hope members are not spared from the pain of the current economic recession. Some of us have already lost our jobs; others still will. Some are falling behind on house payments; others are already "under water." Retirement nest eggs have disappeared; saving accounts drained; dreams lost.

When Christians are faced with the kind of hard economic times that we are currently enduring, what are we supposed to do? The answer is fourfold:

Pray. God wants us to cast our anxieties on him because he cares for us. Whether we are praying for ourselves or for a fellow believer who's out of work, we are invited to turn to the Lord "*in the day of trouble.*"

Trust. In Psalm 37:25, King David confesses, "*I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.*" Because we are more valuable to God than the birds and the flowers, we can trust in God's ability to supply all we need in life. God makes us the promise, "*I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you*" (Is. 46:4).

Thank. It's easy for us to take for granted our material blessings — or worse, blame God when they are taken away from us. How much better to thank God for what we have here on earth—and more importantly, thank him for our eternal treasures in heaven, namely, his love, forgiveness, peace and protection.

Seek. God's guidance, that is. When our economic path looks dark and discouraging, God's Word provides "*a lamp to my feet and a light for my path*" (Psalm 119:105). Through his inspired Scriptures, God offers real help for the financial

challenges we face in life. Find hope and strength in God's Word for our lives!

- Pastor Kehren

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 5—Palm Sunday

8 & 10:30 AM (Hope School Children K-8 sing)

April 9—Maundy Thursday with Lord's Supper

7:00 PM

April 10—Good Friday Tenebrae Service

7:00 PM

April 12—Easter Sunday Festival Worship

8:00 & 10:30 AM

April 12—Easter Events

Continental Breakfast 9:15 – 10:15 AM

(No Sunday School or Bible Class)

Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 AM

Easter Breakfast 11:30 AM in the fellowship hall

CHILDREN'S CROSS FOR EASTER

Last year's Easter Cross for the children to decorate was a big success. So the Altar Guild will once again have a small cross at the entrance of the church on Easter morning. Please have all the children bring flowers (real or artificial) to decorate the cross to honor Jesus, our Risen Savior. It is our hope that the children will experience a special joy in having their own cross for all to enjoy.

IN THIS ISSUE...

PASTOR’S MESSAGE.....1

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE..... 1

CHILDREN’S CROSS FOR EASTER 1

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS2

HOPE FOOD CLOSET2

VISION DOCUMENT PRAYER REQUESTS.2

HOPE SCHOOL NEWS.....3

YOUNG AT HEART.....4

THANK YOU, THANK YOU5

LWMS SPRING RALLY5

NATIONAL LWMS6

TOGETHER6

AWARDS..... 11

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Dear Members of Hope,
As you know; we are moving forward with our activities related to our Vision and are making progress. I want to thank the Ministry teams and Council Members for all of the activity, action and commitment toward achieving our vision.

Although the teams and Council are active and making a lot of progress, we still are in need of your participation. As you know we still have two Ministry Leader vacancies; Worship Ministry and Outreach Ministry. We have appealed to you in Announcements, Open Forums and in many cases face to face with no results. I am asking again; if you have the ability to serve Hope in one of these roles then please raise your hand. These two teams are functioning but with only temporary leadership. This means these teams do not have permanent-consistent representation on the Council. As a reminder; if you want to know more about these

positions, you can see the job description on our Web-site at: www.hlcpenryn.org .

On a different topic, this is a busy time of year and we have a lot of activities planned and expect to see a lot of visitors to our church. With that in mind I would like to remind everyone of the spring cleaning day on Saturday April 4th. Please put this in your schedule and plan to stop by for an hour or two to help with the cleaning.

One more item that I want to mention is that the Council (although always busy) is coming into a very busy time of year; it’s budget time. This is often a challenging process and requires a lot of work, focus and patience. I ask that you talk to us and share your ideas and concerns, keep us and our work in your prayers and consider what you can do to contribute by using or sharing some of the many gifts that The Lord has blessed you with.

Finally, I want to wish you all a blessed Easter. That’s all I have for this month.

In Christ, Steve F

HOPE FOOD CLOSET

All food donations are given to Betty N’s Hope Food Closet. Please help by purchasing the designated items for the month.

Leave your purchases on the counter on the East side of the kitchen. Thank you for your outreach to the community.

April: Baby food \ baby cereal \ formula

VISION DOCUMENT PRAYER REQUESTS

We are now proceeding with the implementation phase of Parish Assistance. Please join in praying for the leaders and congregation as God leads us in accomplishing the works of service before us.

Pray that...

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

- God will lead and bless us in carrying out the tasks in the Vision Document

HOPE SCHOOL NEWS

- God will direct the Council in filling the need for an Outreach Ministry Leader and a Worship Ministry Leader
- Coordinators include other members to help carry out their tasks
- all ministry leaders are able to complete their budget plans
- work on the New Member Handbook progresses
- the elders and Member Care Coordinator are able to meet and develop visitation procedures
- men are willing to help and serve the Easter breakfast
- members invite unchurched family and friends to our Easter services and breakfast
- purchases for the visitor gift bag are completed and implemented
- all details are considered to add a Community Event Coordinator to the Outreach Ministry
- plans to train adult and youth to effectively greet guests completed and implemented
- the addition of a school link to the church Web site goes smoothly
- the Support Ministry is able to reach and motivate all members with the Stewardship presentation
- willing volunteers to help on the pre-Easter workday
- members eager to serve on a "worship committee"

Give Glory and thanks to God...

John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by

- completing the work you gave me to do.
- for a successful Parents Night Out and 6 non-member children participated
- for the willing helpers and work accomplished caring for the property the Lord has blessed to us
- that the new hymns and liturgy introduced have glorified God

Art Fair/Open House

What an awesome, loving God we have that blesses us every day with more than we need! In order to allow you to see some of the artistic talents that he has blessed our students with, we will be holding our annual School Art Fair on Monday, April 27, at 7:00 PM. Also, this year we will be opening this event up and making it an open house where any family who is interested in learning more about the difference that a Christian education at Hope Lutheran School can make will be able to see the classrooms and meet the teachers. If you can think of a family who would benefit from attending that night, please send their contact info to principalleifer@sbcglobal.net.

Help Improve Technology at Hope School

Companies want employees who are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow. Parents want children who are computer literate. Students want to be able to network with friends, download music, and play the latest games all while doing research for a homework assignment. What do all of these have in common? Technology! We, at Hope School, want to make sure that our students know the proper use of technology. If the Lord has blessed you with the abilities or the resources, please consider making a donation of your time, talents, or treasures towards improving technology at our school. To find out more specifics, please email principalleifer@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!

Play Performance on May 15

"Hi ho, hi ho! It's off to work we go!" This year the students of Hope Lutheran School will be performing The Tale of Snow White. See what happens when two siblings have different ideas of how this classic story goes. Enjoy a fun-filled Friday night and bring your family to see this hilarious remake of the old classic. Seating will begin at 6:30 with the performance at 7:00.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up for the 2009-2010 school year will be held on Wednesday, April 29, from 1:30-3:00 PM. If you know of any children who will be kindergarten age for next year, please pass their contact information along to Miss Krug so that we can send them a personal invite. This way we can help the children see what a day in the life of a Hope student is like, and help the parents see what a difference a Christian education here at Hope can make.

Wish List

Projector Mounts for Ceiling
Document Cameras
SMART Board Interactive Whiteboards
Newer Computers for Classrooms
New Desks

YOUNG AT HEART

Mark your calendars; The Young at Heart will meet on April 21, 2009 at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a general potluck meal and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share.

We continue to support the India Orphanage with our monies and prayers. Here is the latest update.



WELS BWM ***Adopt an Orphanage Project***

Dear Friends, March
8, 2009

Time passes swiftly when your days are full. It has been too long since I last wrote. Let me bring you up to date on our lives and the orphanage project.

I left India in December to spend Christmas with our daughter and granddaughter. It was a wonderful time. We cherish the time we have with our grandchildren. Pastor Krueger joined me in January and we traveled to Wisconsin to be with our son Micah and his wife at the birth of their second child. We arrived in Milwaukee on the 15th of January. Abigail was born on the 16th of January, the coldest day of the year! She and her mother are doing well. We are happy to note that she has red hair like her mother. We (meaning grandma) had been hoping for

a red-headed grandchild. Pastor Krueger baptized her on our last Sunday in Wisconsin.

On our return to Texas, Peter and his family flew to San Antonio for a few days. It was so good to see them. Peter recently had another good report from his doctors. He has to be seen again in three months.

There will be a number of changes to the orphanages we support this year. We are closing two homes because the pastors who supervise those homes have taken on additional responsibilities which make it difficult for them to continue caring for the children. You may wonder what happens to the children when an orphanage closes. We make every effort to place the children in another orphanage. In the above cases, the children will be offered places in the two remaining Guntur orphanages even if it means that a facility will have more than 30 children for a time. Whether the children move or not is entirely up to the children's guardians. We never close a facility without offering the children places in another. All of our children have families to which they can return if the family so decides.

We continue to make plans to open a 4th orphanage in an area north of Guntur. The caregiver is a seminary student whose wife and grown children will supervise the children and teach them while he is at the seminary. You will learn more about Elder McCaulay and his family in a future update. All these changes will take place in June after the school break.

The end of the school year is fast approaching. The government of Andhra Pradesh recently declared that half-day school will begin on March 16. Canceling the afternoon sessions is done because of the heat at the end of the school year. The schools are not in session for the month of May, which is the hottest month of the year.

We had another example of the Lord's tender care this year. There was a fire in a building which Trinity Children's Home had been occupying. The caregiver had lived in a thatched room on the roof. Since the children had moved she and her children spent their evenings at the new facility where she taught the children. Sparks from some fireworks set the thatch on fire and the temporary structure burned in minutes. We are very thankful that the caregiver and the children were not home at the time of the fire and that no one was injured putting out the blaze. We are

thankful to the Lord for leading us to move the children to another building.

The daughter of Elder D. John Lazarus who supervises Bethlehem children's home was struck by a car while walking on the road in her village. She was hospitalized for some time and lost the great toe on one of her feet. She is now at home and has been allowed to begin walking in the house. We ask for your prayers for her continued recovery.

One of the boys in our Guntur orphanage is having heart surgery on March 9th to close an opening which should have closed at birth. The problem was discovered when he fainted at school. Please pray for his quick recovery. He will have the surgery in Hyderabad, the capital of our state, where more advanced medical care is available. The government will pay for the surgery.

We thank you all for your continued prayers and for your emotional and financial support of the orphanage program. Because of your generosity we are able to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of close to 300 children. We understand that the economic times are very difficult and this might cause some to divert their resources to other things. We are confident that the Lord will continue to provide the means to support this ministry. We ask that you continue to remember the children and the caregivers in your prayers and we will continue to share the blessings of this work with you.

In His Service,
Susan

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Sincere thanks to all of you for the cards and prayers during my recent illness. I also want to thank Pastor Kehren for his visits to me at the hospital. God bless and keep you all in His gracious care.

Chuck H



Thank you to everyone who helped with the set-up, cooking and serving of the Lenten Soup Supper. The soups were tasty and the fellowship was great. Thanks especially to the people who cleaned up after the event.



Dear Christian Friends,

My family and I would like to thank everyone who has sent cards, brought meals, and called us to give their support after my Dad passed away. We take great comfort in knowing my Dad is now in heaven and is no longer suffering with his cancer. We appreciate all the love and support from our church family, what a blessing!

With Much Gratitude,



We received 3 letters from the local Administrator (Claire) of Project Linus thanking the ladies that make quilts at Hope Lutheran on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Claire stated that all of the quilts were absolutely beautiful and they would be much appreciated by the children.

28 quilts went to the River Oaks Center for Children
7 quilts went to the Rio Vista Police Dept. patrol cars
6 quilts went to the Sacramento Children's Home



Thank you to everyone who has been collecting Box tops for Education and soup labels. Hope School is no longer collecting soup labels. The school is only collecting Box tops for Education. Thank you for your support.

LWMS SPRING RALLY

The 18th of April is the day of the Redwood Circuit LWMS Spring Rally to be held at Christ in Lodi. Registration will begin at 9:00a.m. All those who plan to attend need to sign up on the sheet provided for this purpose located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. This must be done prior to April 3 so the ladies in Lodi can plan for lunch. There will be no babysitting available in Lodi. Car pooling will be available.

Most of us have known or at least come in contact with persons who have developmental disabilities and perhaps wondered how to share Christ with them. This is an opportunity to get first hand information from a professional.

Pastor Dallas Miller is the current administration of Jesus Cares Association and Director of Spiritual Services for The Lutheran Home Association of Belle Plaine, MN. The formal mission statement of Jesus Cares Ministries is: to assist congregations in meeting their responsibility to share the Gospel with

people who have a developmental disability, their families and communities.

Pastor Miller graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in Secondary Education in English and concentrations in Spanish and Psychology. Following college he spent two years as an officer in the US Army in the US and Vietnam, took his pre-seminary training at Bethany Lutheran College before attending Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The 25 years prior to coming to the Lutheran Home he served congregations in Minnesota at Morris and rural Goodhue. He has spent 20 years as Chairman and member at large on the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's MN District Special Ministries Committee. He and his wife Mary have three grown children.

His presentation to the Redwood Circuit will begin with the Opening Devotion formatted to the Simplified Worship Service that is used by JESUS CARES MINISTRIES, "Worship at the Cross."

In his presentation he will include "The Joys of a Special Ministry to Special Children of God". This will include the 'who, what, when, where and why' of Jesus Cares Ministries.

The final portion of the presentation will consider: "How does one start such a ministry here?" THERE WILL BE TIME SAVED FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

I believe that anyone attending will be more than pleased at spending a day learning how to witness to those SPECIAL People.

Mary Ann F, Reporter

NATIONAL LWMS

It is once again that time of year when officers are chosen by the National LWMS. There are also choices of Home and World Mission to be made. After services ballots will be passed out to the Women of Hope for them to vote. There will be a box in the church entry for the ballots to be placed after each lady has voted.

The National will be electing a President, Treasurer, Spiritual Growth-Mission Awareness Coordinator & Pastoral Advisor.

The Mission projects that you are choosing from are:

Home: Summer Student Assistants or WELS-Canada Evangelist and Pastoral Studies Institute Training.

World: Cameroon Projects or Partners in Apache Learning.

Each lady will be given a biographical sketch of each one running for each office and detailed information about each of the Mission Projects.

If there are any questions please contact Mary Ann Frank, who is the LWMS Reporter from Hope. May God guide you in making these decisions.

Biographical sketches and ballots for National LWMS officers will be passed out at services on April 5. Along with National officers please choose projects for Home & World Missions for the upcoming year. Mark your ballot and place it in the box provided in the entry. Ballots are to be returned to National before May 25.

In Christ,
Mary Ann

TOGETHER

News from the WELS



March 2009
Website: www.wels.net

March 2, 2009

SC WRESTLES WITH TOUGH DECISIONS From the office of President Mark Schroeder

At its meeting last Friday and Saturday, the Synodical Council (SC) began the difficult task of planning for the synod's ministry and budget for the next two years. The Synodical Council heard preliminary reports on how reductions might affect various areas of ministry. After much prayer and discussion, the council provided direction for the areas of ministry as they work together to produce a budget for consideration at the April meeting. Once the Synodical Council adopts a budget to recommend to the convention in July, the information will be made available to the members of the synod.

The planning and budgeting task has been made much more difficult, of course, by recent financial developments that will require significant changes to the scope of our synod's work. The Synodical Council is determined to produce a budget recommendation that will provide for as much ministry as possible with reduced financial support. They have directed the areas of ministry to look at every possible strategy for reducing costs and to outline priorities for the reductions that will need to be made. As one cost-savings measure, the council adopted a one-year freeze on salaries for synodical workers.

The Synodical Council also discussed our synod's finances in the longer term. The council recognized that planning for ministry is currently based on *anticipated* gifts from congregations, individuals, and organizations. It adopted, in concept, a new approach to planning and budgeting that will assure that our ongoing ministry is set at a level that is sustainable on the basis of anticipated Congregation Mission Offerings, together with other funds that will be spent only in the year after they are received. This plan will be developed in more detail in the coming weeks.

Please remember in your prayers the members of the Synodical Council, together with the various administrators, boards, and commissions as this difficult work continues.

ELCA task force on same-gender clergy

In February the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) released a report and recommendations from its task force on sexuality. The report and recommendations will be considered by the ELCA Church-wide Assembly in August. The lengthy report recommends that the ELCA allow both men and women in "monogamous, lifelong, same-gendered relationships" to serve as pastors in ELCA congregations. Observing that there is not full agreement on this issue by all members and congregations of the ELCA, the task force recommends that individual congregations be allowed to make their own choice in whether to employ pastors in such same-sex relationships.

This recommendation is yet another step away from clear biblical teaching by a church body that bears the name "Lutheran." WELS continues to maintain and teach that all homosexual behavior is contrary to clear biblical teaching and is in direct opposition to the will of God. Since the practice of homosexuality is inherently sinful, regardless of whether the

relationship is "monogamous and lifelong," WELS will continue to maintain that practicing homosexuals will not serve as pastors in our congregations. In Christian love, we will also continue to recognize that, no matter what the sin, God continues to call people to repentance and to offer his full and free forgiveness in Christ.

It is our prayer that the Church-wide Assembly of the ELCA will reject the recommendations of the task force and will return to basing its teachings and practices on the clear Word of God.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Also in this Issue...

CEF makes \$1 million grant to Home Missions

In an effort to help manage the unforeseen financial struggles facing the synod, WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF) has made a special \$1 million grant to support the work of the Board for Home Missions.

BPS administrator hired for new position

Rev. Bruce Becker, administrator of WELS Board for Parish Services (BPS), announced today he is resigning his call effective Mar. 15 to take a position with Time of Grace Ministries based in Milwaukee.

Registration begins for 2009 youth rally

Online registration opened today at 9 a.m., CST, for WELS' 2009 International Youth Rally, one of the synod's largest gatherings of WELS members.

March 16, 2009

WELS CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

From the office of President Mark Schroeder

The latest WELS membership statistics have just been released, and once again they show slight declines. Total baptized membership dropped from 394,241 in 2007 to 389,364 in 2008, a decrease of 1.2 percent. Communicant membership also declined slightly, from 311,283 in 2007 to 308,430 in 2008. Membership in WELS world mission churches, however, increased by 1,151 baptized souls, from 78,976 in 2007 to 80,127 in 2008.

The congregations of the synod experienced a 3.3 percent decline in the number of infant baptisms

(from 6,900 to 6,673) and a 2.4 percent decline in adult baptisms and confirmations (from 4,393 to 4,287). On the other hand, there was a 3.8 percent increase (from 2,126 to 2,207) in the number of adults who joined the synod by profession of faith (generally those who come from other Lutheran church bodies not in fellowship with WELS).

Enrollment in WELS elementary schools continued the downward trend of recent years. Total enrollment in 2008 was 19,032 compared with 21,174, a decline of 10 percent. But the enrollment in preschool and early childhood programs grew by 5.6 percent, from 3,285 in 2007 to 3,471 in 2008.

Statistics like these can be disappointing, since they portray a continuing trend of lower membership and elementary school enrollment. But they can also serve as an encouragement to every congregation and every member of the synod to rededicate ourselves to our mission of sharing the gospel with as many people as possible. We want to be as faithful and diligent as possible in planting the seeds of the gospel, with the full confidence that results of faithful ministry are in God's gracious hands.

Serving in Christ, Mark Schroeder

Also in this Issue...

Prange accepts call to be BME administrator

Rev. Paul Prange, president of Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, has accepted the call to be the new Board for Ministerial Education (BME) administrator.

WELS' work in Nepal and Pakistan

Board for World Missions (BWM) Administrator Rev. Dan Koelpin is returning today from a two-week trip to Nepal and Pakistan.

March 18, 2009

Clarification of statistical information

This week's issue of "Together" reported a number of synodical statistics for 2008. In two cases, those statistics were incomplete, with the result that an incorrect picture was given.

In regard to WELS elementary school enrollment, the president's message stated: "Total enrollment in 2008 was 19,032 compared with 21,174, a decline of 10 percent." These figures were taken from the congregational portion of the WELS *Statistical Report*. But this section of the *Statistical Report* only indicates the enrollment of WELS students in our schools and does not include non-WELS students.

The Commission on Parish Schools has provided the complete enrollment information. The correct information on total enrollment is:

2007 total enrollment at WELS elementary schools was 25,712.

2008 total enrollment at WELS elementary schools was 25,289.

This represents a decline of 1.6 percent, not the 10 percent decline previously reported.

The same problem occurred in the statistics for early childhood education. The original report stated, "The enrollment in preschool and early childhood programs grew by 5.6 percent, from 3,285 in 2007 to 3,471 in 2008." Again, these were only WELS children enrolled. The correct information is: 2007 total enrollment in early childhood education was 9,567.

2008 total enrollment in early childhood education was 9,823.

This represents an increase of 2.7 percent, not the 5.6 percent originally reported.

Our apologies for the incomplete information.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child. Following the roar of thunder, lightning, like a flaming sword, would cut through the sky.

Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly and with each the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drew up beside the child she lowered the window and called to her, "What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?" The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty. God keeps taking my picture."

TAHOE TUNES

By: Jacob B
(To the tune of Bingo)

We went to a quite awesome lake,
The lake is called Tahoe.
TAHOE, TAHOE, TAHOE,
And Tahoe is its name.

We went on a hike called Vikingsholm
Over-looking Lake Tahoe,
TAHO-clap, TAHO-clap, TAHO-clap
And Tahoe is its name.

We also went on Da Ow Ah Ga trail
Near Lake Tahoe,
TAH-clap, clap, TAH-clap, clap, TAH-clap, clap,
And Tahoe is its name.

Then we went Frisbee golf
At Lake Tahoe,
TA-clap, clap, clap, TA-clap, clap, clap, TA-clap, clap,
clap, and Tahoe is its name.

We roasted s'mores on a campfire
Near Lake Tahoe,
T-clap, clap, clap, clap, T-clap, clap, clap, clap,
T-clap, clap, clap, clap, and Tahoe is its name.

Oh my, that trip was very fun,
At Lake Tahoe,
Clap, Clap, clap, clap, clap - Clap, Clap, clap, clap,
clap - Clap, Clap, clap, clap, clap and Tahoe is its
name.

MY TRIP

By: Jacob B
To the tune of Yankee Doodle

Jacob Benner went to a lake,
The lake was called Tahoe,
He enjoyed swimming
And of course, eating
Lots of s'mores.

Yes, it was an awesome trip
And the views were amazing,
It was all fun and games
Until we had to leave.

TAHOE ALPHABET

By: Sean S

A is for aching ankles and arches after the not so arduous ascent from Vikingsholm to the parking lot.

B is for beach ball, band aids, bees, and a big hot air balloon.

C is for cattails and cool crawdads.

D is for dense darkness from dusk to dawn.

E is for eating edible eats.

F is for fantastic view that was not foul, but my favorite.

G is for giggling, gregarious boys playing blackjack.

H is for "hee-hees" and "haw-haws" from the boys playing "Black Jack."

I is for incredibly intense blue and incredibly icy water.

J is for "Jeepers! A jumble of jeeps--must be a jeep jamboree!"

K is for knowledge about survival, given by kind Mrs. Haver, to us kids.

L is for long, likable hikes.

M is for Mmmmmmmmm!! Many mini-munchies.

N is for nice, neat campsites near the lake.

O is for open tents only when going in or out.

P is for people pushing piles of sand.

Q is for "Quick! Quit talking! Quiet!"

R is for roasting really rad hot dogs.

S is for sore fingers from sneaky slivers.

T is for towering trees teetering over the tents.

U is for units 44, 46, 47, 48, 49--our campsites.

V is for very vibrant vehicles at Vikingsholm.

W is for "Why am I with all these wily women?" wondered Dr. Heyn. "All they want of me is my wit and wisdom."

X is for X-cellent X-ample of student behavior X-hibited on the trip.



AWARDS

On Sunday, March 22, the Fleet Reserve Association and the Ladies Auxiliary held an Awards dinner for the winners of the Fleet Reserve Association Americanism Essay Contest. There were approximately 95 winners & their families, teachers and their families and members of the FRA/LAFRA in attendance.

Mary Ann F, LAFRA President and Americanism Chairman gave out the US Bonds and Certificates to the winners.

Elmer, Mary Ann and Bill (members of the FRA/LAFRA) are particularly proud of the students at Hope. For the past three years Hope has participated in this essay contest and has had winners each year. This year James B (Jimmy) won 2nd place 7th grade and Amy H 3rd place 7th grade. Michael M won 2nd place 8th grade. Even though Amanda H is now going to Del Oro she is still a member of Hope and won a 3rd place 9th grade.

Each year as the essays arrive they are accompanied by a cover sheet. The cover sheet is numbered and the essay with the same number and the two are then separated. Three different people read these essays and evaluate them. The three do not know how the others have evaluated so everything is done without the knowledge of others. The evaluation numbers are then put together, added and divided by three. Highest is 1st, etc. First place winners in each grade level (7-12) are sent to Regional where they are again judged. First place winners in Regional are sent to National. National has several prizes with the top award being \$15,000. Each year the title of the Essay changes but it always has something to do with Americanism.

One of the essays submitted this year, a 12th grader from Elk Grove, won a 1st at Regional so her essay went on to National.

TO THE STUDENTS & MEMBERS OF HOPE: Keep writing through 12th grade.

What the American Flag Stands For

By James B 2nd Place 7th Grade

For what does the American flag stand? What do you think? It is a matter of opinion. One can ask 10 different people and get 10 different answers. The two ways that I describe the flag are the same way I feel every time I look up at one of our country's most emotional symbols.

One way to express the flag's meaning is by using its colors. Numerous sources say that red stands for hardiness, valor, and courage. Red can stand for freedom and bravery. Many say it is for those that died and shed their blood for the good of the country. Blue may stand for vigilance, perseverance, and justice. And finally, white is often said to stand for purity, innocence, and peace. Every time I look up at the flag I am reminded of my thankfulness for the soldiers who fought for us and what the result of their bravery was.

Pledging allegiance to the flag means even more to me. Whenever someone says these famous words he is swearing an oath of loyalty to all of America. Every single time that one has recited those words, he is stating his pride of this great nation. In other words, the flag reminds me of my loyalty to my country.

So what does the American flag stand for? It stands for all of America. It stands for the proud citizens of America. And ever since Betsy Ross first sewed it together it has stood for the freedom, justice, and liberty on which this country was based. That is what I truly believe the American flag stands for.

What the United States Flag Stands For

By Michael M 2nd Place 8th Grade

Imagine that you asked someone, "What does the American flag stand for?"

Most people would probably say, "It stands for the United States and the people who live here." However, I think that it stands for freedom, unity, the area that we have conquered, and the blood that was shed to get us here. This is how each color fits in with my thoughts and description of THE AMERICAN FLAG.

First of all, the white stripes stand for freedom. Freedom fits into the white stripes because, the way I see it, just like the white, our rights, citizenship, and freedom are relatively unobscured. Also the stars stand for unity to me because like the states, there are many stars but they all work to form one flag.

Next, the blue stands for all the land that we have conquered and all the seas that we have traveled on and conquered. This comes to mind when I look at the blue because a lot of the time, people think of the seas and oceans as "The Big Blue".

Last, the red stands for all the blood that was shed for this country. It stands for the troops, for those who served their country, and for those who made the ultimate sacrifice to make this country what it is. It stands for those men and women who gave us our freedom and our rights. It stands for those who made this country.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Finally, to conclude this essay, The United States Flag stands for power, rights, and freedom. These colors symbolize all that America has been through and that we have remained united staying true to our name, The United States of America.

What the United States Flag Stands For

By Amy H

3rd Place 7th Grade

The first American flag was up and flying in June of 1777. Now, about 230 years later, even though the flag has been changed, it still stands for the same things. The flag, in my reasoning, has one meaning for each color.

Red stands for the blood that was and is still shed for our country's sake. In the Revolutionary War men and women fought for freedom. Not even 100 years later, in the Civil War, more blood was spilled than in any other war. This firm conviction was to abolish slavery once and for all. World War I, II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, show the bravery and dedication of our troops to secure and protect our rights and even to fight for others' freedoms.

White stands for the progress in our country. We have many blessings including telephones, electricity, and cars - items that some countries could only dream of having. We are one of the wealthiest countries in the world. We have a strong, successful military and we believe that all people are created equal and enjoy the same rights.

Blue stands for the things that we share with other countries. This would include treaties with other countries concerning nuclear weapons, trade, and the environment. We share common ideals with our allies such as England, Israel, Canada, and Mexico. Our interest is to protect our freedoms and the world we share.

In conclusion, the flag stands for our wonderful freedoms that we enjoy daily. The flag reminds me of all our blessings and the brave men and women who fiercely fought and continue to protect our freedoms today.

What the United States Flag Stands For

By Amanda H

3rd Place 9th Grade

While I was starting this essay, a family down the road put in the most amazing statue. It is a statue of a soldier holding the American flag high up on a rock. The flag is always lit up day and night. To me, it stands for our soldiers--always ready to protect us, our government--trying to make our nation better even if we are in crisis, and lastly, how the nations look up to us as the standard they wish to achieve. It is so moving and powerful that it completely inspired me.

First, the flag portrays the men and women who are ready and willing to give their lives to protect us and our country. They leave their families and often go to distant countries to ensure the lifestyles we enjoy. They are ready at all hours of the day or night to protect us and our freedoms. Just as on this monument our flag can be seen by the light of day as well as by floodlights at night, our troops are guarding us a full 24 hours a day without fail.

Furthermore, the flag also represents our government. Even with everyday pressures they still try to improve the way we live. They work tirelessly trying to fix our economy and they persevere in this duty. As the flag on the monument stands high and proud 24 hours each day, our government works without end to improve itself and the country we share.

Finally, the flag shows other countries what a great nation we are. Nations around the world look up to us and use our governmental ideals as models to build their own. They want to be able to better their own lives and enjoy the freedoms Americans do. When I pass the monument, I think of all the great opportunities and freedoms I have and I know others around the world wish they had these great privileges, too.

I don't personally know who put up the flag monument, but it reminds me of our troops, government, and the example we set for others.