

The Season of Pentecost

In May we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit during the Day of Pentecost, a day in which the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised would be our Advocate, descended upon the people like fire from heaven. The people began to speak in a different language as the Holy Spirit gave them ability, according to the book of Acts, chapter 2. The passage then goes on to say that those who were listening to this new language, which sounded like gibberish, understood what was being said, but they understood it in their own native languages. Those listening to this gibberish could interpret it by the Jews who spoke Hebrew, Arabs in Arabic, by Greeks in their own Greek language, and so on. It is a story of God bringing people of various nationalities and ethnicities with various languages into one language, one people, so that all could understand this common language of the Spirit.

The Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel tells a different story. In the beginning the people had only one language. They said, "Let's build a city and a tower that reaches the heavens", and so they did. In mutual understanding and effort, they accomplished what they set out to do. The Lord came down, looked at the city and tower, and was so threatened by what the people could do, decided to "confuse the language" of the peoples and scattered them throughout the land, so that they could no longer accomplish such great things. According to this biblical myth, this is why we have so many languages spoken today.

It would seem that God has mixed emotions about our abilities to communicate. On the one hand he doesn't want us to communicate too well, lest we threaten his sovereignty. On the other hand he wants, for a brief minute at least, wants us to understand each other for the sake of the gospel. I say momentarily, because here we are, 2000 years later, arguing over language. Should we require one official language that reflects and promotes the unity of the country or should we allow different languages to be spoken, reflecting the diversity of the people, and not require just one official language? But there is diversity even in the English language. Ever try watching an Irish or Scottish film? There is a reason for subtitles in these movies. In Sweden, I would have to read the Swedish subtitles just to understand what the people from Scotland were saying!

Language is a difficult thing. It can be both enriching and confusing, unifying and divisive. Language is both a rock upon which faith is built and it is a stumbling block that hinders mutual understanding the truth and is an impediment to faith. Therefore, it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that real truth can be spoken and understood, if the Holy Spirit first opens our hearts to the truth of the gospel.

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Save the Day. Donate Blood.

Mt. Hope Church
Blood Drive on
Tuesday, May 17, 3:00-
7:00 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall.
Appointments
encouraged. Walk-ins
welcome after 4:00
p.m. please. Sign up in
the Fireside Room or
contact Sandy Alioto
at 414-546-1716.

Book Group

Join us on May 18 at
1:00 p.m. We'll
discuss Living in the
Shadows of
Milwaukee, by Laura
Marsh. Find out all
you need to know
about homeless people
direct from the real-
life experience of a
couple who found
themselves there. All
are welcome to join
us.

Celebrate! Special May Birthdays and Anniversaries

90+ birthdays:
Mary Davis-96
Nancy Meiling-90
Phyllis Solberg-92
Eva Stramowski-94
Vera Thoren-91
Dorothy Wendlandt-
98

*50+ wedding
anniversaries:*
Frank & Diane
Jansoch -64th
Judd & Christine Poe-
ske-56th



FROM offerings TO ministry

**What does worship
mean to you?** Have you
ever really considered this
question?

We're using Romans 12
to focus our attention on
offerings this year.

*I appeal to you therefore,
brothers and sisters, by the
mercies of God, to present your
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy
and acceptable to God, which
is your spiritual worship. Do
not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the
renewing of your minds, so
that you may discern what is
the will of God—what is good*

and acceptable and perfect.

Discerning the will of
God is a part of worship.
In biblical terms, there are
two main types of
worship – to bow down
and to serve. We sing
and pray and share the
Lord's Supper. We visit
and clothe and feed those
in need. Part of our
ministry at Mt. Hope is to
offer many different
opportunities for
worship.

As we move forward with
faith and praise this year
at Mt. Hope, part of our

discernment as a
congregation is to decide
how to use our gifts, both
financial and spiritual, to
follow the will of God.
We read in Philippians, "I
can do all things through
him who strengthens
me."

We're not alone! What
gifts will you share to
enable Mt. Hope to move
forward with faith and
hope? How will you bow
down and serve? What is
the will of God for your
life? What does worship
at Mt. Hope mean to
you?

Coming Events

Youth Benefit Concert

Join us for great music
and family fun with a
concert to benefit Mount
Hope youth! Kathie
Lingafelt is a Christian
singer, and we are blessed
to have her perform for
us on May 7 at 6:30 p.m.
A brief intermission from
7:15-7:30 p.m. with
treats, refreshments, and
fellowship in the newly
renovated Chapel space!
A free-will offering will
benefit Mt. Hope youth.

Shower of Blessings

You're invited on
Mother's Day, May 8th, 8
-11:00 a.m. in the
Fireside Room to the Mt.
Hope's Shower of
Blessings celebration! It is
our turn to shower the
needy children within our
community at the Good
Samaritan Outreach
Center with desperately
needed new baby items!
Please join us for
refreshments and to
donate for a great cause,
and help our church and
community bless one
another and share God's
love

Sunday School Volunteer Appreciation

On May 15, the last day
of Sunday School for the
year, we'll celebrate the
volunteers that dedicate
their time and energy to
work with our children!
A breakfast will be
provided, from 8:30 to
10:00 a.m., for the
Sunday School
volunteers. There will be
a pancake bar, sausage,
juice, and coffee.
Sunday School volunteers
will be recognized at the
10:00 a.m. service as well.
*If you are able to help serve or
make the food, contact Colleen
Hammerer or Emily Davis.*

Highlights from the Congregation Meeting

On Sunday, May 1st, Mt. Hope held its first post-annual congregation meeting. This congregational meeting was scheduled as a forum in which the congregation can keep informed about the progress we have made toward the goals we set in January.

- Keith Paukner reported that the two goals of **Chapel redesign** and **Youth Room renovations** are nearly complete.
- Glen Norton told us that the **Youth** Committee is a group that is working enthusiastically and diligently to ensure that there will be enough programming next year from Kindergarteners to Senior High.
- Cindy Halverson spoke on behalf of the **Stewardship** Committee and about their plans for a year-long Stewardship program.
- Paul Canestra presented ideas about the **Learning** priorities and our need to further develop the program structures before we begin to reach our goals for more opportunities for learning.
- Lynne Loosen gave us an update on the **Clothing Closet** and the target date of September 1st as within reach.
- Pastor Brian spoke about the **Alzheimer's Support Groups** which will hopefully begin in October.

These congregational meetings are held three times a year which includes the annual meeting. They are held to keep the congregation informed about the goals and priorities and any changes to them during the year. We are on track to reach our goals this year and we are planning to build on these goals for next year.

Third World Mission Store

After you check out the transformation of the Larson Chapel, stop in the Third World Mission Store. The SERRV products we sell help you care for people around the world by treating artisans fairly, fighting poverty, promoting women's rights, and educating children.

As we enjoy Spring, let's celebrate the special women in

our lives with love. Let's be proud of those in our midst who will be enjoying commencement. Let's remember to thank those who have been educating and loving our children this past year. We have cards, products, and gift items for all occasions.

*Pat Morris,
Coordinator*

Summer Fun!

Mt. Hope Family picnic and pool party at McCarty Park on Sunday, July 24, 4:00-8:00pm. Picnic is from 4-6 p.m., and swimming is from 6-8 p.m. Sign up is required by July 10. \$2 per person, children under 3 are free. Sub sandwiches and bottled water will be provided. We ask that you bring sides and desserts. Bring any extra non-alcoholic beverages you wish for yourself.

Annual Brewers Game outing is on Saturday, July 30 when the Brewers take on Pittsburgh at 6:10 p.m. Further info and sign-up will start soon. We look forward to seeing you there!



May Calendar

Sunday, May 1st

8:30 a.m. **Worship**
 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. **Congregation Meeting**
 10:30 a.m. **Worship**
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, May 2nd

6:00 p.m. Financial Management Committee

Tuesday, May 3rd

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580
 7:30 p.m. Milwaukee City Chorus

Wednesday, May 4th

10:00 a.m. Quilter's Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering
 5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group

Thursday, May 5th

2:00 p.m. Bible Study

Friday, May 6th

9:00 a.m. Woman's Club of West Allis

Saturday, May 7th

9:00 a.m. Executive Committee
 5:30 p.m. **Worship**
 6:30 p.m. Kathie Lingafelt Christian Concert Youth Benefit

Sunday, May 8th

Mother's Day
 8:00-11:00a.m. Shower of Blessings Celebration
 8:30 a.m. **Worship**
 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
 10:00 a.m. **Worship**
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, May 9th

Tuesday, May 10th

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group
 9:00 a.m. Cleaning Crew
 10:00 a.m. Communications and Marketing
 6:00 p.m. Congregation Council
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580
 7:30 p.m. Milwaukee City Chorus

Wednesday, May 11th

10:00 a.m. Quilter's Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering
 5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group

Thursday, May 12th

2:00 p.m. Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Planning

Friday, May 13th

Saturday, May 14th

5:00 p.m. Blood Pressure Screening
 5:30 p.m. **Worship**
 6:15 p.m. Blood Pressure Screening

Sunday, May 15th

Day of Pentecost
 8:30 -10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
 8:30 a.m. **Worship**
 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening
 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
 10:00 a.m. **Worship**
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening
 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner at Serenity Inn

Monday, May 16th

Tuesday, May 17th

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group
 3:00-7:00 p.m. Blood Drive
 6:30 p.m. Staff Support
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580
 7:30 p.m. Milwaukee City Chorus

Wednesday, May 18th

10:00 a.m. Quilter's Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering
 1:00 p.m. Book Group
 5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group

Thursday, May 19th

2:00 p.m. Bible Study

Friday, May 20th

Saturday, May 21st

5:30 p.m. **Worship**

Sunday, May 22nd

The Holy Trinity
Hephatha Sunday
 8:30 a.m. **Worship**
 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
 10:00 a.m. **Worship**
 11:00 a.m. Confirmation: Year End Party

Monday, May 23rd

Tuesday, May 24th

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group
 9:00 a.m. Cleaning Crew
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580
 7:30 p.m. Milwaukee City Chorus

Wednesday, May 25th

10:00 a.m. Quilter's Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering
 5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group

Thursday, May 26th

2:00 p.m. Bible Study

Friday, May 27th

Saturday, May 28th

5:30 p.m. **Worship**

Sunday, May 29th

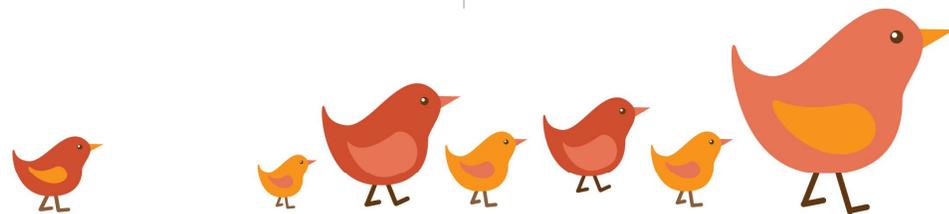
8:30 a.m. **Worship**
 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
 10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Monday, May 30th

Memorial Day
Church offices closed

Tuesday, May 31st

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580
 7:30 p.m. Milwaukee City Chorus



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY