

Visions of Hope

April 2, 2017



F4356 State Hwy 97
Edgar, WI 54426

Mission Statement:

Hope's Mission is to teach the Bible and follow Christ's example by giving back to the community and those in need

Website:

hope4centralwi.com

Email:

hope4centralwi@yahoo.com

Sunday School
8:45-9:30 am

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Pastor:

David Lathrop
715-574-1419 (cell)
715-352-2555 (church)

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

April 9

April 16

Ushers

Larry Peterson
Chad Bender
Jay Borchardt
Ken Schilling

Greeters

John Hamann
Ken & Rose Schilling

Readers

Jerry Anderson
Rose Schilling

Acolyte

Korbyn Bauman
Anna Fehlhaber

FROM THE
PASTOR

Dear Hoppers,

Thank you for all your cards and well wishes last Sunday. And, once again, I thank you for the honor of serving as your pastor for the last 5 ½ years.

The new murals in the narthex look very nice. If you have not seen them yet, one features Hope's mission statement and the other has a Biblical quote, Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20 is certainly an interesting choice for a Biblical quote as it comes from a section of Christ's teaching about the authority of the church to properly discipline it's members (Matthew 18:15-20). The church is made up of sinners trusting in Christ for salvation so it is not surprising that, at times, they would sin against each other. Thankfully Jesus provides us with some instruction on how this is to be addressed.

I look forward to waving palms and shouting "Hosanna" with you on Sunday as we remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dave

Friday when I drove past Jay's house on my way home from church, I saw that he must have just let out the cows in the pasture for the first time this spring. Now, that is an amazing sight. They kick up their heels and hop around, you can just see the joy they feel, just to be free.

That's how we should be when we experience the joy of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In our Friday morning bible study, we are learning what God has to say about the truth. Not the truth we manufacture to fit our sinful lifestyle but the truth from Gods word. The real truth. The presence of Christ, from the very beginning at His birth, till now and forever after, was meant to bring joy. The truth is the church and the world suffer from a saddening lack of old fashion, simple hearted, over flowing, bubbling Christian joy. Paul said to the church, "*Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice*".

It's a pity that joy is not as easy to find as trouble. Some people I know look for trouble like it was buried treasure. They worry that things will go wrong, that means they should be filled with joy when things go right. We're so glad when we find joy in the simple things of life. We need more practice on being joyful for what we already have. There is an old joke that says "some wives are so concerned about their husband's joy that they hire private detectives to find out why he is so happy". If you want to be happy, do something every day to make someone else happy, even if it's only leaving them alone (don't hire that detective just yet).

Jesus wants you to have real joy. Joy that is really true. Joy that is lasting, joy that is the greatest of all joy! *Jesus said, "Be of good cheer, your sins have been forgiven." "Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid." "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." The Bible says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" The Bible says, "It's good for you to laugh, it is good for you to have joy"*. If you are happy, some of us need to inform our face. We should always have a smile on our face when we meet others, a friendly smile might lighten their day, (but they might just wonder why you are so happy and joyful)!!

The joy of Jesus Christ is real joy. It's lasting joy. It is joy that is unending and full of glory. It is joy that is unshakable because it is not fragile. It is joy that will endure the storms of life. It is real joy that transforms the sob of our tears into a new song. It is joy that heals the broken heart and gives it new life. It is joy that turns a bitter frown into a radiant smile. It is joy that turns the deepest despair into the greatest delight. And only our Lord and Savior; Jesus Christ can supply you with such joy.

This is joy that cannot be imitated, it cannot be duplicated, it cannot be purchased in a pill, it cannot be bought in a bottle. It is joy that is found in Jesus Christ, for He and He alone is the source of joy. My next question is, have you lost your joy? Some have.

Psalm 27:1-6

¹ *The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

² *When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.*

³ *Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.*

⁴ *One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*

⁵ *For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.*

⁶ *Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent, I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.*

Joy is not something, it's SOMEONE. Joy is Jesus, He said in John 15:11, "*These things have I spoken unto you, that my JOY might be in you and that your joy might be full.*" I want you to get 2 phrases there, "My joy" and "your joy". So, whose joy is it? It's His joy. The only joy that you can have outside of Jesus Christ, is a synthetic joy. Synthetic joy is destroying America. Drugs represents a synthetic joy. I'm not only talking about the illegal drugs on the street. I'm talking about the legal drugs sold across the druggist counter. Many are addicted to legal drugs. They cannot live their lives without running to the bottle for some sort of synthetic assistance.

When things get rough and the crisis of life demand character and strength, we run for a pill and drift off to lala land rather than share our problems with Christ. I want to tell you something, Jesus Christ is greater than any problem you may have and Jesus Christ is the answer for any problem you possess. If we will cling to Him instead of the bottle, He will deliver you and give you the answer.

Drinking alcoholic beverages is synthetic joy. It takes an effort to be a man of distinction, but for \$15 and a fifth of whiskey, a moron can become a monarch. From a spineless, phony nothing, to William the Conqueror. THAT'S SYNTHETIC JOY. Escapism is America's synthetic joy. Joy doesn't come to the man or woman who cave in to anything and everything that places a strain on their conscience. We have redefined sin in America, rather than repent of sin, we can have joy of our making not His. We are no longer sinners, we are with it. We have just redefined the evil.

Whenever we have a national crisis, rather than hold the line in the law, we change the law to include the corruption of the evil. If we continue on this course, as an American society, we'll have to change the national emblem from that of an eagle to that of a buzzard. We have redefined morality. Rather than denounce homosexuality, we just redefined it. It is now an acceptable secondary lifestyle. We have redefined murder, so abortion can be accepted. And every doctor who participates in it, can hold his head up high, when he walks through the streets of our city. Not so, the murder of babies will be punished in the afterlife if not here in this lifetime.

Our society pushes synthetic joy. But, has it produced real happiness? Has it produced lasting joy? No way! America is the most violent society on the face of the earth. We are a nation of addicts. Things are going to the sewer. It has not produced joy. Suicide rates are running off the charts. The divorce rate is over 50% and it's ok to kill another human being. It's time to go back to what works. And having a relationship with Jesus works "*now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore, will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.*" "*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*"

Jesus Christ can fill the empty, meaningless life. Without joy, there is nothing within our souls that we will want to reproduce. If you are looking for joy, don't look for it in a bottle. You are looking for Jesus Christ the Son of Glory, the Prince of Peace, the King of Joy, who came into the world to bring victory to every heart and to every life. And I challenge you to pursue the holiness of Jesus, because that joy unexplainable, that's a joy that's full of glory. You know, that kind of joy that fills your heart to overflowing, that real joy comes from living right and being right with God. Our joy will be found in doing that which is pleasing in the sight of Christ our Lord. Seek out God's truth and you will have real joy!

Your sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling

Hope's Happenings

Wednesday: March 29 Attendance 39
 Offering: Regular \$315.00
 Total \$315.00

Sunday: April 2 Attendance 136
 Offering: Regular \$4395.00
 Building \$235.00
 Sunday School \$9.00
 Mission \$100.00
 Loose \$3.00
 Sign \$120.00
 Nigerian Well \$150.00
 Total \$5012.00

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers



Joyce LeVoy—St. Joseph's Hospital
 Jim Decker—now in the House of the Dove—friend of the Streckert's
 Shelly Sonnetag—cancer—friend of Jay Borchardt and Ken Bauman
 Sara Koss—leukemia—niece of the Kamenick's
 Jim Brant—failing health—friend of Leroy Syring
 Patty Rueter—cancer—Beth Leffel's niece
 John Hamann—home recuperating from hip surgery
 Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
 Emery Rahm—cancer—friend of the Viegut's
 Scott Campbell—stage two leukemia—relation to the Streckert's
 Don Hansen—Bladder cancer
 Paulette Kroll—Myleloid Leukemia—receiving chemo treatments
 Bill Brayton—DeEtta Peterson's brother
 Amy—cancer—friend of Barb Mohr-Borchardt
 Dylan, Logan Weichelt—sons of Bryan & Stacey
 Sawyer Mueller—microcephaly—Daryl & Beth's son
 Jennifer Bohman—prayers of healing
 Dennis Bohman—Colby Nursing Home

The Bulletin Board

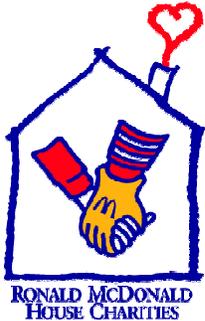
- Lenten Worship Services will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm
 - Choir will practice immediately following Service and again on Saturday, April 8, 9:00 am
 - April 13—Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm—*"Lest We Forget"*
 - April 14—Good Friday service at 7:00 pm—*"Day of Darkness"*
- **ALL Sunday School Choir** practice will be held April 2 & 9 from 8:30-8:45. The Sunday School children will be marching and singing Ho-Ho-Hosanna with palm branches on Sunday, April 9.
- Council will meet Sunday, April 23 following Worship Service
- Quarterly Meeting will be held Sunday, April 30 immediately following Worship Service



THANK YOU!
 / Farewell Party for
 Pastor Dave
 Sunday, April 2
 We wish Pastor Dave
 and his family
 the very best



Hope's Happenings



APRIL MISSION PROJECT is for the Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield. Needed items are:

grocery store gift cards, fresh milk, bread, butter, chicken, beef, fresh fruits and veggies, whole grain breakfast bars, chocolate chips, raisins, flour, brown sugar, ketchup, ranch salad dressings, canned tomato/V8 juice, regular ground coffee (No canned vegetables needed at this time), store gift cards, paper towel, Swiffer sweeper cleaning sheets, furniture dusting wipes, forever stamps, white paper, permanent black markers, Avery 5160 white address labels, volunteer house maintenance person, new shark vacuum cleaner. Any questions, contact Rose Schilling 715-352-2884 or 715-551-1266



Vacation Bible School: will be the week of July 24-28 from 5:30-8:00pm. There will be a light supper served from 5:00-5:30pm. Children age 3 through children entering 6th grade are welcome. Please turn registration forms in to Michelle Bauman or Jen Kunkel by Sunday, May 7th. (see attached form)

Please also watch for a sign-up for volunteers in the upcoming weeks.



- Any member of the Youth Group that can help prepare Palm Sunday Brunch, please plan on helping in the kitchen on Palm Sunday morning around 9:00 am. See Scott, Cedric or Ron with any questions.
- The Youth Group has an opportunity to do a service project. We will be decorating for the Wausau Children's Festival at the East Gate Hall at Marathon Park on Friday April 7th, from 3:00 to 7:00. Please communicate with Ron, Scott or Cedric if you will be attending or not and if a ride is needed, as there are different options that we can do. Depending on the number of kids attending, we may also go to the Wausau on Water Center for laser tag.



Highway clean up will be Sunday April 30 starting at 1:00 pm

Wear boots for those darn wet spots and remember to wear gloves.

Other supplies will be provided



Christian Women

will meet

Tuesday, April 11

12:30-2:00 pm

at Belvedere Supper Club