

# Visions of Hope

April 30, 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

**Interim Pastor:**

Mark Reiff  
920-634-1246 (cell)  
715-352-2555 (church)

**Secretary:**

hopelcsec@gmail.com

**Duties List**

**May 7**

May 14

**Ushers**

**Rick Bradley**

**Ron Kunkel**

Russ Bauman

Andy Yoder

**Greeters**

**Rick & Sandy Bradley**

Pam Ludwig

**Readers**

**Jen Kunkel**

Gary Ludwig

**Acolyte**

**Madison Borchardt**

Anna Peterson



This coming Sunday is always referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday" because our three-year lectionary always focuses on readings from the 10<sup>TH</sup> Chapter of John's Gospel. This particular chapter explores in detail one of the great "I am" sayings of Jesus, namely: I am the Good Shepherd.

Jesus' tenderness and care for those who follow him is at the heart of this passage as we come to understand that Christ, the Good Shepherd, also lays down his life for his flock. Clearly, we are to understand that we are that flock, that community, that body of believers for whom the Savior died not only to deliver us from the jaws of the evil one but also that we might belong to him, serve him, and live in him until the day of resurrection.

Yet, as we grow to understand the deeper meaning of this passage we also come to see that in most every respect we are called to a different way of life. This new life, to which we are called, is authentically counter-cultural. As N.T. Wright puts it a life that is "an up-side down ambition, a self-giving love that, as Peter saw, would then be imitated by his followers – the world waits to see what can happen when wandering sheep, brought home by the Shepherd's love, then start to live by the same pattern."

In preparation for this Sunday's worship I urge you to read the scripture appointed for this Sunday: Acts 6:1-9: 7:2a-51-60, Psalm 23, I Peter 2:4-10, John 10:1-10. As you read these passages reflection on them, pray about them, and let them form your mind and heart around Jesus the Good Shepherd. And then come to worship this Sunday and expect to encounter the life changing love of Jesus.

Pac Christi  
Pastor Reiff+

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25-29).*

Children have a remarkable way of making friends. When they move into a new neighborhood, they almost immediately begin watching for other children playing outside and begin to make their way over to the other kids and start talking to and playing with them. Sometimes, the "new" family doesn't even get the moving van unloaded before some of the neighbor children spot the new kids, and come over to get acquainted. It does not take long before friendships are developed--some of which even last a life time.

But something happens to most of us as we "grow up"; we move into new neighborhoods, workplaces or even churches, and we make acquaintances--but seldom do we build friendships like we once did. Being the "new kid" was very exciting when we are kids, but as adults, not so much. We are not nearly as brave as we once were, and we only venture outside of our safe zones as far as we have to. And each day we return to the safety and seclusion of our private lives and call it a day. And heaven forbid we would ever evangelize to our acquaintances.

We actually should remember that we are children still, as we are the children of God. We all could take a lesson from the children who are going out and making friends. As those friendships of the children develop, they soon get to know the neighbor kids and soon after, the neighbor kids' parents. It is not long before they have been in most of the houses on the streets, eaten a meal with many of the families and spent the night with some of them. All in the course of developing friendships.

As adults, we sometimes get irritated by the incessant knocks at the door by neighbor kids wanting to know if our kids "can come out and play", or those same children using our door like it is a revolving door--in and out, in and out. But to them it is part of their adventure--getting to know kids and the parents of kids-- running from house to house. And to us it should be an illustration of the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:16-20) *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

Sure, we probably don't picture our children standing up in front of the TV at the neighbor's house and preaching the Kingdom of God, but we do see them going to the neighbor's homes. And no, they are probably not actively making disciples--yet. But they are making friends and laying the foundation for God's future possibilities. When the parents are godly and true and faithful followers of Jesus, the kids will then carry that light they see in mom and dad to the entire neighborhood. Then mom and dad can be singing "This Little Light of Mine" with a whole new perspective. It's a nice turnabout when "believing like a child" and seeing the enthusiasm they have can actually renew our faith. I think I learned as much from my VBS class as they learned from me. When I asked how we are all the same, their response was, "well, we all go to church" and "we all go to vacation bible school". I was talking worldwide and they were talking about their world. As the parents of the children of Hope, you need let your children know that you are very pleased with the way they openly talk about their faith in the way they show their faith. Thank you, you are doing a great job.

As parents, we are the caretakers of their faith walk for now, and as we watch our children boldly go into the world they can be our inspiration to be as open and guileless as they are. As an influence on our children, we are often reflected in their actions and words. The light of God in us should be reflected in them as well. And as they go into the world they are our little lights who will quite possibly show and share their love of God with those round them. We never know when the smallest mustard seed will open the door of forgiveness and salvation for the parents. All of our children are "lights", and we are all "this little light of" God's, so we should all to be a reflection of our Heavenly Father. If we live in faith, people will know we belong to God and we long to live in His mansion with many rooms.

Our children are getting into the households of our neighborhoods and these children might be very means that God uses to help complete His great commission and a way for us and our children to minister to other families. We are His children, and making friends and spreading the word of God is just another part of moving into God's neighborhood. Some friendships will last a lifetime--and some will last forever as God uses us to bring a little light into the lives of our friends, family, and neighbors.

As members of Hope we have great responsibility to make sure our children keep their childlike faith and we also have the responsibility to make sure they always have the tools they need to continue to grow in faith. Our future as a church and as children of God depends upon how well we nurture our children, show our faith and our commitment to follow the word of God.

God bless our children  
Your sister in Christ  
Rosie Schilling



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Please remember the following people in your prayers

- Ron Bjorklund—Health issues—friend of the Peterson's
- Joyce LeVoy—UW Madison
- Sara Koss—bone marrow transplant—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
- Scott Campbell—stage two leukemia—relation to the Streckert's
- Don Hanson—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

# Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	April 30	Attendance 95
Offering:	Regular	\$2015.00
	Building	\$10.00
	Sunday School	\$8.00
	Missions	\$80.00
	Loose	\$2.00
	Sign	\$90.00
	Prayer Garden	\$225.00
	El Salvador	\$100.00
	Total	

## Ladies Night Out

Please join us on  
 Tuesday, May 16th  
 with desserts at 6:00 pm and  
 speaker at 7:00 pm.  
 Speaker is Cynthia Ruchti,  
 formerly on The Heartbeat of the Home  
 on 88.5 The Family.

## The Bulletin Board

- We would like to recognize all of our graduates. If you are graduating, please contact the church office at [hopelcsec@gmail.com](mailto:hopelcsec@gmail.com). with information where you are graduating from and what your future plans are. If you are graduating from High School, please include a picture, what school you are graduating from and what your future plans are. Thank you
- There is a sign up sheet available for mowing the Church lawn this summer. If you have any questions please see Larry or Brian



....Thanks so much with your support and donations (mission project) we are able to help Randlin Homes stay open. Thank you from Staff and residents of Randlin Homes LLC  
 Checkout beautiful picture colored by residents on bulletin board.

*Audrey Kamenick and Erin Bender*

### Highway Clean-up, Sunday, May 7

Thank you to everyone who helped



### Our May Mission project is Baby Care Kits

Baby Care Kits are distributed as part of emergency relief efforts but they are also given to encourage expectant women to seek prenatal care. Help welcome the littlest ones into a caring international community and swaddle them with love!

Each kit contains 2 t-shirts, 2 gown or sleepers, 2 receiving blankets, 4 cloth diapers (flat fold), 1 jacket or hooded sweatshirt, 2 pair of socks, 1 hand towel, 2 bars of gentle soap, 2 diaper pins. Onesies can be used and made in to t-shirts, adult XL t-shirts can be made in to diapers. All items should be new or gently used and sizes 6 to 24 months.

Rummage sales are great places to pick up baby items as they are often outgrown before they are worn out. A tote will be put in the narthex to place items in and shopping lists are on the counter. If you have any questions, contact Rosie Bauman at 715-573-0524 or [rustyroseydairy@gmail.com](mailto:rustyroseydairy@gmail.com)