

# Visions of Hope

April 9, 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 16**

April 23

**Ushers**

Jay Borchardt

Ken Schilling

Lowell Borchardt

Daryl Mueller

**Greeters**

Ken & Rose Schilling

Russ Bauman

**Readers**

Rose Schilling

Ron Kunkel

**Acolyte**

Anna Fehlhaber

Jaicee Kunkel

FROM THE  
PASTOR 

Dear Hopers,

Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Together we will boldly declare, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Jesus was dead but on the third, he was raised to life and lives forever as our Savior and Lord.

Easter is my last day with you. As the departing pastor, I must remind you that, following Easter, if there are any needs that would require a pastor, contact Rev. Mark Reiff. I will no longer be available to conduct any hospital visits, funerals, counseling, etc.

Beginning on April 17, Mark Reiff will be your interim pastor. Please welcome him into your lives and accept his guidance and teaching.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Goodbye and God's blessings,  
Pastor David Lathrop

God doesn't look upon trouble as we do. Where we see stress, he sees opportunities. Where we see crisis, He sees growth and betterment. God's purpose in times of crisis and trouble is to teach His children precious lessons. Okay, I know we are not always receptive to those life lessons. They are intended to educate, and build us up. And when we learn from them and ride out these storms of life, we will see the great promise fulfilled. The trouble is we can't see our God for the problems in front of us. His glorious reward will come to us throughout eternity. We need to see the joy and opportunities through times of problems. Because we will learn that there is a sweet and wonderful joy we can have here too. We don't have to wait until Heaven. We can learn to make our life joy filled by seizing the crisis and growing from it. Let's face it, sometimes life on earth is so hard, we wish for the second coming. Unfortunately most of us are not ready. We need time to become the person that we are capable of being for our benefit and His glory. The truth is that time may be running out.

So when God tests you, or bad stuff happens, we need to see it as a time for us to learn and to trust Him by changing what is wrong with us while putting His promises in our heart. And when it is over we can look back and see that our trials have been necessary. We are better, He is glorified! I don't like going through trials, for many years I would try my hardest and get out of the storms of life. But they kept happening and happening, so I had to rethink my strategy from my purpose to what has revealed in His Word. And that is to recognize the crisis as a challenge from God to learn valuable lessons to make me grow in maturity and strength. And then I was receiving a better blessing than I ever had before.

As stated in *1 Chron. 4:9-10*, *There was a man named Jabez who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez, because his birth had been so painful. He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!"* And God granted him his request.

Satan is our adversary, he can and is the worst thief of happiness. But God equips us with tools to grow and learn to be our best for His glory. So things that are seemingly against us, He will turn around in His time and show us His way. We have to get out of His way and allow Christ to work, we have to give up control in order to reap His blessings. And this is how we become more than conquerors through Him who loves us and knows all.

To be a content Christian and happy with life, we need to see life as a series of problem solving and learning opportunities. Because the problems we face will either overwhelm and overpower us or grow and develop us. The path of joy is determined by how we respond to the storms of life. Unfortunately, most people including Christians will fail to see God's hand in their life. Choosing instead to focus on their problem and allowing it to take over their lives: Like a terrorist holding them at gunpoint and refusing to allow the help to rescue them.

Unexpected crises are a part of life, they are like storms. At this moment you are in one of three storm categories; either you just came out of a one, or you are in a one right now, or you are headed into one. Such as it is with crises, they can't be escaped, even if you hide in the storm shelter, (or pull the covers over your head) the problems are still out there pounding away! We need to learn how to prepare and ride them out, to prepare and ride them out by learning and maturing from them.

One of the great illustrations of both crises and storms in the Bible is in Acts 27. Paul is headed from one prison in Jerusalem to one in Rome for an appeal to Caesar. Paul and 275 of his companions were headed straight to

the biggest storm and crisis of their lives. It lasted many days, and they lost all hope, until Paul through the visit of an Angel reassured the crew.

Bad weather happens for scientific reasons, they are caused by low pressure zones, evaporation cycles and jet streams all converging. Some of us have experienced a real weather crisis on Sunday night and Monday. Our crises in life have a root cause too. So what is the cause for yours? To make this determination you must dig below the surface of your fears and experiences. You have to uncover things you may not want to face, but have to, to be able to get through them.

For Paul he had three reasons. 1. The ship captain did not listen to Paul's godly advice and focused on greed from the ship's owner, in effect bad advice. 2. They also let the bad advice escalate to the crew and their lust for profit and speedy return to the home port. 3. They relied on their greed and impatience to cloud a sound logical look to their circumstance and the right decision to make. Such as the captain, owner and crew knew that storms accrue where they were headed at that time of the year. So they relied on luck and misplaced hope rooted in greed, by a vote of public opinion that led to disaster. One bad decision escalated by another and so forth. Oh, yes, we know that feeling, that feeling that the world and everyone is against us.

God wants to use our problems for good, to make us better and stronger for our personal development and in turn for us to be able to help others in their lives. So the unhappy, confused and disillusioned Christian will react irrationally with their problems rather than taking the time through spiritual discipline to see the advantage they bring them. So what can we do to refocus ourselves onto the right path?

We need to be aware of relying on just what we know, instead of relying on the one who knows all. Because it will cause us to get impatient and then we will not listen to good advice or even seek it, then we will make bad decisions. So when the storm clouds begin to form, it's not a time to be impatient and ignore trouble, hoping it will go away. It is a time to seek His face in surrendered devotion and prayer. As they say "this might be the last chance we get".

Use the time to seek the reason. Maybe a bad decision you made? Bad advice you received? Sin? Or perhaps you are not growing in faith and practice, and God needs your attention. Maybe you cannot find the reason, Job was never given one. So if we took a careful look inside ourselves. We need to immerse ourselves in prayer and seek Godly advice. Not only seek His council but actually do as our Lord commands. And still God offers no reason for our trials and troubles. Then we shouldn't get hung up on seeking the reason why but more on the solutions God provides.

Some things are on a need-to-know basis, and we don't need to know, we just need to believe and follow. Maybe He doesn't want us to know because we are not ready for it. But in most cases the solution is there in plain sight. We just need to get through the distractions from the devil, and expectations of a fair and easy life out of our path, so we can see the map the Lord has made for us.

That doesn't mean we will quit praying for a better life, and that's good. Trying harder to seek and understand the gift of problem solving is for our benefit. God's gift of hope is there for the taking and we just need to quit being so hard headed and hard hearted, to accept what our Lord and Savior is offering.

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—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

**PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:**

For the family of Dennis Bohman who passed away last week

# Hope's Happenings

Wednesday: April 5 Attendance 34  
 Offering: Regular \$230.00  
 Total \$230.00

Sunday: April 9 Attendance 125  
 Offering: Regular \$1730.00  
 Building \$35.00  
 Sunday School \$9.00  
 Health Kits \$50.00  
 Loose \$18.00  
 Sign \$180.00  
 Nigerian Well \$1020.00  
 Hall rent \$50.00  
 Driveway \$10.00  
 Total \$3102.00

## The Bulletin Board

Lenten Worship service:

- April 13—Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm
- April 14—Good Friday service at 7:00 pm
- Council will meet Sunday, April 23 following Worship Service
- Quarterly Meeting will be held Sunday, April 30 immediately following Worship Service

**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), single portion sizes of fruit cups, cereals, mac 'n cheese, soups, etc for family lounge, 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.



Thank you to everyone who helped with our Personal Care Kits for LWR. We were able to complete **60** kits! And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it to me". Matthew 25:40

*Carol Anderson*

Thank you to Leroy Syring for donating and installing the coffee table counter top.

Thank you so much for letting us use the kitchen and church for our Veterans Dinner. We had 30 veterans and their spouses that attended, plus our 4-H families. It's a great community service project that includes our entire club, from the younger ones making placemats, centerpieces and everyone chipping in on the food.

*Tammy Kirsch*