

# Visions of Hope

August 27, 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 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**

**September 3**

*September 10*

**Ushers**

**Chad Erickson**

**Ron Kunkel**

*Rick Bradley*

*Ken Schilling*

**Greeters**

**Tammy Kirsch**

*Jodene Leffel*

**Readers**

**Ron Kunkel**

*Jerry Anderson*

**Acolyte**

**Jaicee Kunkel**

*Madison Borchardt*



**End of Summer House Keeping**

September is on the immediate horizon which means the end of summer is at hand. This also means that vacations end and schools begin anew, and, more importantly for Hope Lutheran Church, our activities kick back up into high gear.

As our Sunday School program resumes I would also like to offer an adult faith formation class on Sunday mornings. But I need your input. An initial Adult Class could focus on the video series Simply Christian with the accompanying book of the same title. However, I have no idea how many people would be interested in the class or what time on Sunday morning it could regularly meet. The class would require at least a 50 minute time frame to do it justice. Would we meet before or after our worship? What would work best?

Catechism and Confirmation is another subject that is also on my mind. We will be meeting on Wednesdays but what time would best meet the needs of our teens and families?

We also have several teens who are to be confirmed this autumn but I will need to meet with them to assess where they are in the preparations for that great day of Confirmation and to refresh them in their knowledge of our Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith. I also need to know who will be in our regular Catechism Class. Please call the church office and register your child with Barb Giese for the regular Catechism Program. Again, we need your response and input.

Cedric Lechleitner will be joining our staff as our High School youth leader. He is uniquely qualified for this position as he graduated from UW-LaCrosse this past June with a degree in Recreation Management. Cedric is also on staff of the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes program. He will be leading a weekly gathering of our church youth that will, hopefully, welcome youth from the broader community as well. The youth will meet at the church with Cedric on Wednesday evenings...details to follow.

It would also be wise for us to be pro-active and think about our future. We could assemble a visioning task force to reflect on the needs of our community and how we might, as congregation, organize to meet and serve them. There are a variety of things we could explore that would expand our ministry and, perhaps, grow our congregation.

Our location on a very busy highway between to urban centers makes our church an ideal hub for many activities that might meet a whole array of unmet needs in our area. As they say, "We need to think outside the box."

It is sad that our building stands unused and empty most every day of the week. As we reflect on our calling to be good stewards of what God has given us, hopefully, we can see new uses for our church property and its building, expand our ministry and serve some of the needs of the people in our greater community. This is nothing more, and certainly nothing less, than answering the call to be the disciples of Christ and serving the world in our lives as His body.

Pax Christi,  
Mark Reiff+

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In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:17).

There is a faith that can move mountains. Yet if that faith exists in someone today, won't we witness the proverbial mountain being moved? The question of faith and works asks, "Is faith really faith if there is no working out of that faith?" Do we believe that we can believe yet do nothing with what we believe? If we believe that we can believe yet not be inclined to act upon that belief, is it really a true belief? We all know good works won't guarantee a place for us in heaven, but expressing your faith through acts of kindness is not a bad thing.

While I believe the sky is blue I do not find it necessary to do something with that belief. Perhaps it is because that is a truth that just is--the mere acceptance of that fact is enough of an action to suit our purpose. Yet if we take belief a step further we find trust. It is the action based upon a belief that requires more than a mere acceptance of a fact. Belief would say "I believe God can move that mountain," while trust would say, "I believe God will. . ." (and not as some optimistic wishful thinking). I not only accept God's ability to do something, I am "fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Rom.4:21). Who better than God to keep all of his promises to us?

There is a belief that is nothing more than the acceptance of fact of who God is and His ability. For "the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19). But that kind of belief does not take the necessary step toward trust. Trust is the line that must be crossed to move from belief (as we know it today) into faith. I may believe that a chair can be sat in and that it will hold me up, yet until I sit in the chair I am doing nothing with my belief. We can usually see at a glance if the chair is sturdy enough to hold us, but would we believe as strongly if we didn't check it out first?

Many of us claim to have faith in God. By doing so, we would readily admit to a belief that who God claims to be to us--He is. He is our Protector, Provider, Redeemer and Savior. We therefore believe that He will protect us, meet our needs, deliver us from slavery to sin and provide us a means to be restored, renewed and revived. Yet at the same time, we might secretly make deals with God just to hedge our bets, like "Lord if you only make sure this promotion goes through, I will attend church every Sunday from now on".

Our actions might say something entirely different. For if we fully trust another person with a particular responsibility, then complete trust in them and their ability is something that puts our minds at ease. We relax and are at peace in regard to the task that we have entrusted that person to do. But this does not seem to be the case regarding our so called belief in what God can do. For we make claims regarding what God can do and how He will care for us, only to become anxious, worried and restless. We say that He is capable to care for us, and then we work as hard as we can to deal with the situations ourselves. Oh yeah, we think we are in charge. Wrong!! We have nothing to do with the outcome of our lives unless we put complete faith in God. Then a favorable outcome is possible because we are in agreement with God's plan for our life.

We have at our request a faith that will move mountains; while we remain content to struggle with molehills. Placing our trust in God's abilities will move us to act upon His direction; it will not lead us to make rash decisions while placing our trust in our own abilities. True belief will move us to take action, but keep in mind that the lack of faith will do the same. True belief will act upon what God wants to do--false hope will cause us to act for fear that God won't. Both will produce works, but only genuine faith will move mountains.

Your servant in Christ  
Rosie Schilling

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

Bob Nowak—recovering from heart surgery—Wausau Aspirus  
Krista Boe—uterine cancer—friend of the Bauman's  
Marianna Gennett—multiple health issues—Rose Schilling's foster mother  
Anita Bauman—stroke—Marshfield Hospital  
Duane Kamenick—knee replacement—home recovering  
Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's  
John Hamann—Home recovering  
Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law  
George Wright—fell broke hip and spiral break in upper femur—Bonnie's dad  
Mildred Imhoff—fell and broke her femur—Ken's mother  
Don Hanson—health issues  
Dorothy Wright—fluid on lungs and congestive heart failure—Bonnie Blake's mom  
Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke  
Scott Campbell—Mayo—treatment for myeloma—relation to the Streckert's  
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



....to all sent cards, prayers, and good wishes during my surgery and recovery time. Thank you Pastor Reiff for his visits.

*Duane Kamenick*

# Hope's Happenings



Sunday: August 27 Attendance 77

Offering:	Regular	\$910.00
	Building	\$30.00
	Sign	\$300.00
	Well	\$100.00
	Loose	\$75.00
	Mission	\$10.00
	Total	\$1425.00

Please join us on  
**Sunday, September 3**  
 in our 'Prayer Garden'  
 for our Worship Service.  
 Weather permitting.

## The Bulletin Board

- **September 4**, Office will be closed due to Labor Day
- **September 10**, 8:45-9:30 am Sunday School starts and will run from 8:45-9:30 before the service starts on Sunday mornings. Schedules and other class materials will be handed out on the first day of class. Hopefully everyone had a great summer...we can't wait to see all the kids again!
  - Blessing of Backpacks
  - Grandparents Day
- **September 11**, 6:00 pm Worship and Music Committee meeting

### Hello parents of college or military young adults.....

It's that time of year again, that I would like to update our information for these Hope members as they go off to school or are a part of our military branches. Can you please respond to me only with the information, so I can update what I have for Barb to post for everyone in church. I would like to have this completed shortly after Labor Day weekend, if possible. Please and thank you.

These are the members that I'm aware of. If you notice I'm missing someone, please let me know. Also, if your child is no longer in school or military, please let me know that as well and we'll remove them from the list. If you think I have their current address already, please send to me to make sure. If there are any additional needs/wants they have please let me know some of those as well, so we can share those needs with the church.



### I need addresses for these individuals please.....

Mason & Andrea (Krause) Reinhardt, Katelyn Krause, Chelsea Bauman, Jordan Bauman, Erika Peterson, Sarah Peterson, Kia Lechleitner, Xavier Lechleitner, Tyler Kirsch, Taylor Kirsch, Rachel Ludwig

Thanks for your help. Ron Kunkel



Our Mission Project for September is collecting items that can be used for bingo prizes in nursing homes. The following is a list: 50 piece puzzles, small snacks in bags, window clings, small knick-knacks (Dollar Tee has a nice selection), small pictures in frames (suggestions: scenery, animals, flowers, farm-related, hunting, sports), door wreath, bracelets and necklaces, small baskets to hold personal items in, large print word searches, sudoku, small stuffed toys, small bouquets of silk flowers in vase, hair combs and brushes, small hand lotion, lap robes, lip balm, small packages of kleenex, NO GREETING CARDS. Money donations will be accepted and will be used to get what is needed. All items are due September 29. Shopping lists available on coffee counter. Contact Jodene Leffel (715-352-2213) if you have any questions.