

# Visions of Hope

August 6, 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**

**August 13**

August 20

**Ushers**

Daryl Mueller

Brian Remus

Lowell Borchardt

Jay Borchardt

**Greeters**

Russ Bauman

Ken & Rose Schilling

**Readers**

Michelle Bauman

Rose Schilling

**Acolyte**

Riley Bauman

Anna Peterson



Tempus fugit is a Latin expression often found imprinted on clock faces and simply means – time flies. Indeed, does it ever! It is already the middle of August and soon it will be September, the beginning of the new school year, and the end of summer vacation.

Although, the last day of summer is September 20, with autumn beginning the next day, somehow the end of August and the Labor Day weekend is, at least emotionally, the end of summer. And we all know that means cooler temperatures, fall colors, and then the snow flies as we enter the season of nature's apparent death and rest.

The seasons come and the seasons go year after year for millenia, and, while I have stated the obvious, there is an awesomeness about it all. God's handiwork, nature, with its beauty and terror, is on full display year after year. It is an amazing world!

But because we are followers of Jesus Christ and members of his body, all of this time is not merely fleeting. Rather, it is important because it is God's time. Jesus said, "I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end." Everything in time and nature and the world points us toward God.

Our human time is *kronos* time. It is linear. It has a beginning point and an end. But God's time is *kyros*, which is an enveloping or invading time. It has no beginning or end. It surrounds and contains all of our fixed point *kronos* time.

With this in mind, it seems to me that the center of all time is fixed in the person of Jesus Christ. It is fixed in his birth, life, death and resurrection. His empty tomb, located in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem, is at the heart of it all and at the center of all time because its timeless!

In Jesus Christ, God entered fully into human time and redeemed it. It was the *kyros* moment to begin and end all *kyros* moments.

*Ecclesiastes wrote:*

*There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under the heaven:*

*A time for giving birth, a time for dying; a time for planting, a time for uprooting what was planted.*

*A time for killing, and a time for healing; a time for knocking down, a time for building.*

*A time for tears, a time for laughter; a time for mourning, a time for dancing.*

*A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up;*

*a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing.*

*A time for searching, a time for losing, a time for keeping, a time for throwing away.*

*A time for tearing, a time for sewing; a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking.*

*A time for loving, a time for hating; a time for war, a time for peace.*

When we read and reflect Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, this epic poem to human time, we come to recognize and understand the power and grace of what God has done, in His own divine time, in and through Jesus Christ. Not only has God redeemed all time, but for those who believe and trust in Him, he has made our time *holy time*.

Time for us is no long merely fleeting or flying; it is but a prelude to the immortal, eternal time that is yet to come. A time unlike any other. A time in which we, who are redeemed, and all of creation that awaits the revelation of the sons and daughters of God, will partake. It will be a time when all things will be made new and made whole. A time of re-creation and renewal. And a time of unbounded great joy in the eternal *kyros* time of God. Thanks be to God!

Pax Christ,  
Mark Reiff+

I had an interesting conversation with a lady in the check-out line at Joann Fabrics. I mentioned something about being thankful to God and she asked me how I know God was real and how I knew if the bible is true. I just said, "well I have blind faith". And I proceeded to tell her about the provenance of the bible and how we base our faith on the true written word of God. I felt as if I could have and should have shared more, but couldn't think fast enough to provide answers to her. So, when I got home I did some research. I think I will carry this with me for the next opportunity to share my faith. Now I am sharing my research with you. I hope this helps you to come to a greater understanding of what the bible does mean to Christians and why we rely upon God's written word.

Though Christians believe the Bible is the Word of God, it is obvious that the world as a whole doesn't pay attention to what the Bible says. A nineteenth-century philosopher said we should believe only what we can observe personally. Though advanced as a practical philosophy, it is impossible to live with this definition of faith. Everyone in his daily life is constantly believing and acting upon certain facts that are not necessarily proved.

For instance, if we drive a car across a bridge, how do we know by observation that the bridge will not break down? If we board an airplane for a flight to a distant city, how do we know whether the thousands of workers who put the plane together did a good job, whether the mechanics properly checked the plane, whether enough fuel has been added, and whether the flight crew is competent to fly the plane? We have been able to observe none of these factors, and yet we board a plane with a good deal of confidence. In everyday life, faith is a part of the way we live.

But faith is not a totally irrational step. After driving over many bridges and observing others doing the same, we assume that bridges are constructed safely. After flying thousands of miles, we assume that those involved in the process of flying have done their duty well. Though we have only partial knowledge, we believe it is sufficient upon which to base our faith. Although, we do not have all the proof that we think we need, that the Bible is the Word of God, we do have many signs of proof that are quite sufficient. A study of the Bible not only provides an object of faith, something to believe in, but gives us many reasons why we should believe what the Bible states. The answer to why we believe the Bible involves many facts that come together to provide an intelligent basis for believing. The Bible itself claims to be a supernatural book that God produced through human authors, all inspired by God of course.

The authors of the Bible do not claim to be men of supernatural knowledge, and they freely admit that God is the source of their information. This is brought out in a central text that states, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The claim in this statement is that all Scripture, that is, all the "holy Scriptures" (2 Tim. 3:15), comes from God, who guided the men who wrote it, even if we find it too complex at times. The men God choose to write were not just chosen by chance, all the holy words were guided by God and the very words they used to express the truth were exactly what God wanted them to use.

Because of this, the Scriptures are effective in teaching spiritual truth about God, about morals, about salvation, and about our future hope. The Scriptures are capable of rebuking those who are not obeying its commands. The Scriptures also provide correction. They answer the question, how can a person who is not doing the will of God correct his life and make it correspond to the will of God? That's one question we all ask at one time or another. God's word also provides training, or schooling, in righteous living as well as teach all the truth about God, His righteousness, His justification, and the righteousness that He can provide for a Christian. The end result is that as believers of God, and as we study the Bible we will be equipped thoroughly, as the Scripture states, for every good work into which God leads us.

The process of inspiration is beyond our understanding. In reading Scripture, however, it becomes evident that inspiration doesn't hinder human expressions and human choices. As illustrated in many Psalms, the Scriptures record the thinking of the psalmist, even his doubts and his fears. They state his struggles. All of this, is by divine design, and what is written accurately portrays the situation and helps us to understand something of the spiritual struggles that every godly person goes through. David also had several intelligent and faithful people to help him stay on the right track, even after some "poor choices" detours. This also explains how various sources of information can be used as a revelation from God. We can be assured what they wrote was accurate and true and that God would supernaturally correct any mistakes that otherwise might appear.

Inspiration does not deter a human author from expressing his own personality and his own vocabulary. For instance, Luke, who wrote the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, used medical terms because he was a doctor and showed insight into illnesses that other portions of Scripture might not demonstrate. God allowed this but guided him so that what he wrote was exactly what God wanted to be recorded. In other words, even if the author had freedom to express himself, God guided him in such a way that he never expressed what God did not want to be written; he did not leave out anything that God wanted to be recorded; and he did not state anything as true that was, not true.

2 Peter 1:21, "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." It's only natural that people attempt to limit the extent of inspiration, and that unbelievers challenge its supernatural character. Thankfully we know we can believe all that is written in God's word, because of our faith and the historical, plus scientific proof. In the history of the church various theories of inspiration have come up. It has been suggested that inspiration is mechanical, or dictation, and God actually dictated the Scripture. But this is not what the biblical scholars tell us and it isn't what the Bible teaches, as the Scriptures freely record the author's thoughts, his aspirations, his prayers, and his praise, and other expressions of himself in his human situation. If it were dictated, this would have no meaning and would actually be false.

A purely naturalistic view of inspiration is, of course, that the Bible is just a natural book inspired by God Himself. The only view that the Bible supports and that really answers the problem of inspiration is the concept that while the Bible was written by human authors who had human characteristics, the very words of Scripture were fully inspired by God, so that they are infallible, that is, they never will fail, and they are inerrant, that is, they will never affirm as true something that is false or untrue. The statements of Scripture, however, are subject to proofs, and there are abundant proofs that what the Bible claims is substantiated by its contents.

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## Hope's Happenings

|           |               |               |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Sunday:   | August 6      | Attendance 87 |
| Offering: | Regular       | \$1875.00     |
|           | Building      | \$25.00       |
|           | Sign          | \$260.00      |
|           | Mission       | \$270.00      |
|           | Sunday School | \$1.00        |
|           | Loose         | \$65.00       |
|           | FCA           | \$50.00       |
|           | Total         | \$2546.00     |



*(cont from page 2)*

One of the most dynamic and important reasons for believing in the inspiration of Scripture is that Jesus Christ affirmed this view again and again. In [Matthew 5:18](#) Christ said, "I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." In making this statement, Christ is offering the most complete definition of how far inspiration extends.

Many other instances illustrate that Christ affirmed the Scripture. In [John 10:35](#) Jesus said, "The Scripture cannot be broken," which indicates in the context that the very word of Scripture is accurate. In the gospel of Matthew a number of Scriptures are cited, claiming quotations from the Old Testament and affirming the accuracy of Scripture ([Matt. 1:22-23](#); 4:14-16; 8:17; 12:17-21; 15:7-9; 21:4-5, 42). In a similar way, the other gospels as well as the rest of the New Testament consistently support the concept that the Bible is inspired by God and, therefore, is a reliable source of divine revelation.

In His teaching Jesus frequently alluded to the Old Testament and quoted it as a reliable source of information. In [Matthew 12:40](#), for instance, He cites the story of Jonah as an illustration of the fact that He would be in the tomb three days and three nights, putting His stamp of approval on Jonah and its divinely inspired record. In [Matthew 24:15](#) He talks about "the prophet Daniel" and "the abomination that causes desolation," referring to [Daniel 9:27](#) and [Daniel 12:11](#). Whenever Jesus quoted the Old Testament, even though He was going to add truth to what the Old Testament revealed, He would affirm the fact that the Old Testament Scriptures were inspired by God.

The evidences of the inspiration of the Bible are found in many areas, and they serve to support the claims of the internal evidence. One of the important evidences for the inspiration of the Bible is found in the continuity of scriptural revelation from Genesis to Revelation. Though written by different authors, each of them independent as far as their own contribution was concerned, biblical truth and revelation can be traced through book after book, culminating in the book of Revelation.

For most of us Christians, the various arguments in support of the Bible, as the Word of God are unnecessary. Our own study of Scripture in connection with our Christianity and our faith in Christ plus our subsequent fellowship with Christ is all the evidence needed that the Bible is true and that its message can be believed. Such faith, doesn't discard all the evidences from the Bible because the Scriptures have abundant evidence that they can be believed as the very Word of God. But there is the confirmation of individual Christians who put their trust in God and found their lives transformed, people who have experienced God's supernatural power as He gives joy and peace through the Holy Spirit. We have fellowship with God and His truth, through His word, thrills us and brings us joy and peace in our faith.

Your sister in Christ  
Rosie Schilling



....for your generous donation again this year for the baby's baskets I put together. I have donated over 40 baskets to Project WARM this year and expect to once again make over 60 by the end of the year. Your donation is very much appreciated and goes such a long way in helping these moms with the necessities for their baby. Most have no support system at all so this basket means a great deal to them. Thank you for helping me make a difference.

*Julie Giese*

# Hope's Happenings

## The Bulletin Board

- August 13, Council meeting following worship
- August, 21, 6:00 pm packing school kits and backpacks

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

Ken Bauman—shoulder surgery  
Tom Streckert—shoulder surgery—home recovering  
Duane Kamenick—knee replacement—home recovering  
Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's  
John Hamann—Atrium  
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  
Joyce LeVoy—home recovering  
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

Praying  
For You

### PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:

For the family of Hertha Werner who passed away Sunday. She was 99. Funeral will be held Friday, 9:00 am visitation, 11:00 am funeral St. John ELCA

## ITEMS WE HAVE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR

Women of Hope Lutheran projects for July and August will be "Fill A Backpack!" and "School Kits" for LWR. These items are given locally to our schoolchildren, and school kits given to children overseas through Lutheran World Relief.

folders, wide-lined notebooks, rulers with centimeters, scissors (blunt tip) to complete our school kits. A few more backpacks are needed also. If you have not donated please consider (see list) on coffee counter. The items are greatly appreciated by the children we help. Thank you Audrey Kamenick

## We're Going Back To School



Sunday School will be starting on September 10th. Any parents that have children new to Sunday school or that have children who have previously participated in Sunday school that will not be attending should contact Michelle or Jen so we know how many children to plan for. Anyone interested in teaching or helping with Sunday school should see Michelle or Jen also.