

# Visions of Hope

December 11, 2016



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

Bible Study  
8:45-9:15 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**

**December 18**

*December 25*

**Ushers**

**Lowell Borhardt**

**Chad Bender**  
Larry Peterson  
Ken Schilling

**Greeters**

**Daryl & Beth Mueller**  
Gwen Bauman

**Acolyte**

**Haylee Schreiber**  
Riley Bauman

**Readers**

Rose Schilling

FROM THE  
PASTOR 

Dear Hoppers,

I'm looking forward to seeing the Hope Children's Christmas Program. They always do an outstanding job of presenting the Christmas message and I am sure this year will be no exception.

As well, I'm looking forward to celebrating the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Choir Cantata and the Christmas Day Communion Service. I hope you are also looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at one or both of these worship services.

Many of you are probably aware that New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year. During this service you will be encouraged to commit yourselves to keeping some sort of spiritual resolution for 2017. Maybe this means committing to reading through certain books of the Bible. Maybe it means committing to do some act of service. Maybe it might involve committing to a time of prayer or something else. Let's begin to think and pray about the possibility of having a spiritual resolution for 2017.

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Dave

I wrote this back in 2011, but as I read it, it seems like nothing has changed and we are still slaves to debt. Remember, your family would rather you were happy and stress free instead of having a ton of gifts you can't really afford. And the truth is if we focus on the reason for the season, we will realize that giving out expensive gifts does not bring you closer to Christ. Being happy and content with what you already have will bring you much peace.

*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law (Romans 13:8).*

I love Christian Book stores. I can literally spend hours slowly making my way from one row to the next, studying the titles and thumbing through pages. I remember one time when I had spent a couple of hours sifting through the many selections until I had found the one book I wanted. I then made my way to the checkout only to find out that the store did not accept credit cards. I could hardly believe it. I thought everyone accepted credit cards. But they did not, and so I walked back to where I had gotten the book and I put the book back on the shelf. It's really kind of funny when you think about it. I did not even think for a moment that a credit card would not be accepted. I simply assumed that it would be, and because of that assumption, I spent a lot of time picking out an item only to put it back on the shelf and leave with nothing.

The mindset of our society is one that has a "Buy now--pay later," mentality. If we want something now but have no money, "why should we have to wait?" We should be able to have what we want when we want it--right? I would not care to mention how many credit card purchases I have made in the past, only to justify them by assuring myself that I would pay the balance off with my next paycheck. But it's funny how many other things come up and seemingly make it impossible for me to do as I had planned.

We face a time of year in particular, when it is so easy to make the impulsive buys. We find ourselves in a bind where we got to get that last minute gift but have already run out of the funds to do so. Or we had the money, but just couldn't stay within our Christmas budget for one reason or another. And after all is said and done, we get to "enjoy" the memories of Christmas for months to come--each time the bill comes in the mail. That's when the stress begins and it doesn't end until we pay all the debt and that might not be until November of 2017.

In his book, "Debt Free Living," Larry Burkett offers us "three personal traits that lead to debt:" ignorance, indulgence and poor planning. The ignorance refers to a lack of understanding about the true nature of your financial situation, and sometimes a kind of "living in a dream world" approach to financial matters. False perceptions of what can be handled can get us in trouble, especially during big spending times such as Christmas. Indulgence must obviously be one of the worse downfalls of a "fast food" society that believes they should always "have it your way" and "get it in thirty minutes or less."

We have trained ourselves not to wait if we don't have to, and we often and easily give in to the need for immediate gratification.

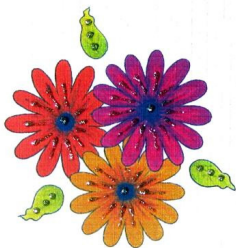
Poor planning hits us at many levels, but at this time of year it is often manifested in phrases like, "I should have put something on lay-a-way," or "If only I would have put some money aside for ...". Ken hates credit cards, if he doesn't have the cash on hand he is very reluctant to buy anything. I am learning better stewardship from him, so lately I am smarter with my purchases and spread the costs out over 6 to 8 months. I get a big kick out starting my Christmas shopping in June or July. My planning and buying presents throughout the year has been a tremendous help, and besides, I always have a lot of fun when Christmas approaches and I pull out the presents I have stored away--most of which I had forgotten I had bought and it's like Christmas for me too.

Credit and financial responsibility is something that varies so much from one person to another. But let's consider this: the gift of Jesus to the world was given to bring us freedom, and as we echo the sentiment of love through our own giving of gifts, may it be that it does not ever become something that enslaves us--chaining us to debts for years to come. But may we find a joy in giving of what we have--whatever that may be--and doing so debt free.

Here is praying for a debt free Christmas season.  
Your humble servant in Christ.  
Rosie Schilling

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

Betty Spring—cancer—friend of the Ludwig's  
John Hamann—Colonial Nursing Home in Colby for Rehab  
Roger Gennett—cancer—Rose Schilling's foster dad  
Lori Brehmer—breast cancer—Arden & Norma Viegut's daughter  
Jim Decker—had stem cell transplant, doing good—friend of the Streckert's  
Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke  
Emery Rahm—cancer—friend of the Viegut's  
Scott Campbell—stage two leukemia—relation to the Streckert's  
Bonnie Blake—home recovering  
Luke Zarins—neck surgery—Ken Schilling's nephew  
Ione Lathrop—home recuperating—Pastor Dave's mother  
Kim Heller—breast cancer—cousin of Jodi Krause  
Gloria Everhard—breast cancer (sister to Kim Heller)—cousin of Jodi Krause  
Don Hansen—Bladder cancer—undergoing chemo treatments  
Paulette Kroll—Myleloid Leukemia—receiving chemo treatments in Milwaukee  
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



Thank You

Thank you for your financial support last month. Thank you for remembering me and this ministry that the Lord has given me. This fall has been a busy time of ministry trips. I was in Uganda for most of October, then a few weeks home. But it's crunch time again. Today is Thanksgiving—I had some turkey with my dad at the nursing home but am scurrying to get things ready for my trip to Ukraine. I'd appreciate your prayers, especially to sleep. I struggle with jet lag in general, when I travel. But for some reason Ukraine is really tough for me. Please pray that I can adjust quickly to get good rest, so I can "be present" with my students and colleagues on this trip. God's grace and peace to you. *Ken Golding, International Messengers*

Thank you to all you good-hearted people for your contribution to the needs of others. We wish to thank you for all your support for those finding themselves in need. We can see during the disbursement of your items, it is especially appreciated during these holidays. Again, thank you for your generosity, and for the love and concern for other people. *Ivadeane Abegglen, Director and Volunteers of CUP Food Pantry, Colby*

# Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	December 11	Attendance 115
Offering:	Regular	\$3150.00
	Building	\$150.00
	Sunday School	\$6.00
	Loose	\$23.00
	El Salvador trip	\$80.00
	Other	\$25.00
	Mission	\$430.00
	Total	\$3864.00



**Sunday, December 18**  
 during 9:30 am worship  
 for the  
 Sunday School Christmas Program

## The Bulletin Board

- During Advent we will be collecting nonperishable food items, paper products, etc. for our local pantries. There is a box in the entryway to put your items in. Let's see if we can get it full
- **There will be NO newsletter the week of Christmas.** Please have items for the January calendar into Barb by December 19. Thank you
- We are looking into starting an Endowment Fund. Please let a council member know if you would be willing to be on a committee planning and directing this
- Mission money; Intersarsity; Salvation Army; Card Ministry; Bonnie Blake; Camp Forest Springs; and for part of cost for those going to El Salvador Mission trip
- **December 24** 5:00 pm Christmas Cantata
- **December 25** 9:30 am Christmas Day service



Our mission project for January is called "Sweet Dreams" We will be collecting NEW pillowcases, blankets, small stuffed toys, and pajamas (toddler to teen). The items will be given to children that have been removed from drug-related or domestic violence homes. Many times, because of the situation at home, the children when removed, have nothing to take with them. A pillowcase filled with the items will bring them comfort. You may donate one item or all. There is a list on the coffee bar. A tub is available nearby. Any questions call Audrey Kamenick 715-352-2714 or e-mail [kamenick@frontier.com](mailto:kamenick@frontier.com) Ending date is January 29th. Thank you



### Parents of First Communicants:

There will be a brief meeting after church service on Sunday, December 18 for parents of the kids that have first communion coming up this year. Please attend if possible. Thank you. First Communion will be held on February 26, 2017



.....to everyone who brought and bought goodies for the Women's Cookie Walk on Sunday. We took in \$434.00! WOW!  
 The money will be used to fund some of the Mission project supplies. Thank you all again very much!