

Visions of Hope

February 12, 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

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

February 19
February 26

Ushers

Chad Bender
Larry Peterson
Daryl Mueller
Brian Remus

Greeters

Scott Bauman
Gary & Dianne Bauman

Acolyte

Jaicee Kunkel
Anna Fehlhaber

Readers

Elaine Mueller
Beth Mueller

Micah 6:1 Hear now what the LORD is saying, "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice.

So, today I went to church...And, after the pastor said one thing during announcements, then my mind was off on a tangent the rest of the morning. (As it is now... I'm forcing myself to pay enough attention to write this). Oh, a text message. And another... The problem is we say we didn't understand the sermon, but we fail to admit that some of the problem is us, our minds wander. We are waiting for that "aha" moment, the big epiphany. And we are disappointed because we didn't get anything out of the sermon.

Ezekiel 2:8 "Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you."

Okay, so the pastor was talking about the variety of personalities in the church and I am wondering if I am one of the troublemakers? And I started to wonder... do I respect authority? When Jason was a teenager he played the song by John Mellencamp called "I fight authority and authority always wins. I sometimes wonder if that applies to me also. And that was where my thoughts wandered for the rest of the morning. The pastor was talking about stuff in 1 Thessalonians... I remember bits and pieces of it, but I could have listened better, not just hear, but actually listen.

One thing that I thought was, why does God let churches fail? Throughout the last year, that is one of the greatest things God taught me - sometimes, he chooses to use things like falling attendance to make me realize we are not reaching out to enough people and we are not providing the spiritual guidance they are looking for. God was the reason I didn't become depressed, or feeling like I failed those people with questions. God is the reason my faith stays strong.

God has done wonders to unite our church - given people opportunities to be the body of Christ - to do his work by showing his love and compassion. To pray for each other and support each other. It truly did intensify the sense of family with our church. Not only do each of us listen to each other, but we need to share our faith and share what we took away from the sermon.

Exodus 15:26 And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."

If everything in life stayed nice and perfect, there would be no need for God to support us. We wouldn't have the same urgency we have for prayer when things are going bad. We wouldn't need him to lend us His strength. We wouldn't need His provision for us. We wouldn't need His mercy. In essence, we wouldn't feel any need for Him. Likewise, we wouldn't need the prayer and support of the people around us. We would have no reason to come together in Christian fellowship. Without questions, there would be no opportunity to build our faith and character in Christ and no opportunity to unite us as a family.

Isaiah 51:4 "Pay attention to Me, O My people, And give ear to Me, O My nation; For a law will go forth from Me, And I will set My justice for a light of the peoples.

I remember... a long while back... praying that God use me however He wanted to. I meant it too - whatever the cost, whatever I need to do - that He would give me every chance he could to do His work. In hindsight, I'm thinking that probably wasn't what I really meant. I often wonder if this last year was a direct result of that prayer. God is up there, "Well, you asked for it." When I said that prayer, I didn't think about any possible difficulty actually happening.

I prayed for greater insight for those people who might - just might - have seen a glimpse of God and His glory, I prayed for understanding of God's word, enough to share with others. I prayed people would come to understand who Christ is, grown closer to him, or might have just had their heart softened just a little bit.

So, if you ever feel tempted to say that prayer - asking God to do whatever he can with your life, we should be prepared because God really does need each of us to be His helpers right now!! So, before you go to God and say something like that, I really challenge you to think: do you mean it? Are you just saying that because it sounds good, or do you really mean it? Are you just being lukewarm, or do you

honestly mean that you are ready to give up your life for whatever purpose God has for it? Are we really prepared to pray for each other, for greater understanding and to become closer to God?

Our Father in heaven, please give all of us the power of your Holy Spirit so we will be able to share your great mercy and grace. Father if it is your will, bring each of us closer to you by willingly follow the path you have laid out for us. Help us Lord to be more receptive of your word and help us to really listen, respond with our own ideas, but to absorb each and every word you provide to us. Help us to truly love and respect each other and to respect different opinions and points of view. And most of all help us to reach out to others and bring them closer to you. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen

I do mean that prayer. Every word of it. I hope you do too. After all, this life is only temporary, on the other hand, life with Jesus is everlasting.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Brothers, pray for us. Greet other believers with a holy kiss. I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Your most humble servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Shelly Sonnetag—cancer—friend of Jay Borchardt and Ken Bauman
Steven Brinkman—back surgery—Todd’s brother
Sara Koss—leukemia—niece of the Kamenick’s
Jim Brant—failing health—friend of Leroy Syring
Patty Rueter—cancer—Beth Leffel’s niece
Diane Blaczskowski—Atrium, Marshfield—Michelle Bauman’s mom
Elaine Mielke—broken ankle
Betty Spring—cancer—friend of the Ludwig’s
John Hamann—home recuperating from hip surgery
Jim Decker—stem cell transplant—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
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
Dennis Bohman—Colby Nursing Home



On behalf of Marathon County Department of Social Services I want to extend my sincere thanks for your donation to our Foster Care Program. Your donation of blanket sets will be used to help support children who are placed outside of their homes. Last year over 200 children were placed into out of home care in Marathon County. It is wonderful to see the support from our community members to help these children find some comfort in often times some very sad situations. Thank you again for your generosity. *Sara Klebenow, Foster Care Coordinator*

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	February 12	Attendance 110
Offering:	Regular	\$2495.00
	Building	\$80.00
	Sunday School	\$7.00
	Loose	\$5.00
	Sign	\$50.00
	Missions	\$60.00
	Driveway	\$20.00
	Total	



Children's Choir
will practice on
February 19 and 26
8:30-8:45 am

**They will also be singing on
February 26**
(Please note date change)

The Bulletin Board

- Mission money: Gideon's Ministry; Scott Wisnewski; Jonathan Swenson; FCA; David Lund from CRU; LCMC; Gas cards
- There will be NO Sunday Morning Bible Study on February 19
- Hope's Baked Potato Bar / Chili Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 19, 11:00-1:30.
 - We are in need of paper bags for carry outs
- First Communion will be held **Sunday, February 26,**
 - There will be special First Communion lessons on February 19 for all students receiving First Communion. This will be held during Sunday School time with Pastor
- Ash Wednesday starts March 1. Services will be held at 7:00 pm
- Jonathan Swenson will be at Hope on Sunday, March 5, 9:30 am performing WITNESSES



Remember the Homeless Veterans Donations to Randlin Homes

Randlin Homes offers a comprehensive recovery training and transition program in family care environment to homeless veterans that have struggles in life and willing to change.

Our mission project for February is to collect items needed: Laundry soap, napkins, cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, men's shaving cream, razors, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hair brushes, face soap, books, puzzles and word searches. Please put into tub near coffee hour counter. Shopping lists available. "Share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your homes." Isaiah 58:7
Deadline for items Sunday, February 26th. Thank you Any questions contact Erin Bender 715-223-6717 or Audrey Kamenick 715-352-2714

Please let Ron Kunkel or Scott Bauman know if your 7th or 8th grader is interested in our new Hope Youth Group by February 15th if you have not done so already. Once we determine who is interested, we will set up our first meeting which will be led by Cedric Lechleitner with occasional help from Rachel Ludwig. Ron will be at church Wednesday night during Confirmation Class if you have any questions from 6:30 to 7:30.

Hope's Happenings



Save These Dates!

*Ladies Night Out
May 16
More info to follow*

*VBS 2017
July 24-28
5:30-8:00 pm*

Hope Lutheran Church is having an

All you can eat!

**Baked Potato Bar
& Chili Dinner**

**Sunday, February 19, 2017
11:00 am — 1:30 pm**

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

...to get all Youth Camp reimbursement forms back to Ron Kunkel once you've signed up for your camp. Each child attending a Christian-based camp will be supported with \$250.00 to help cover the cost of camp. Forms are located on the Hope Kids bulletin board in the narthex. College students also attending these camps, can apply as necessary. Any questions, please let Ron know.

THANK
YOU
SO VERY,
VERY
MUCH!

El Salvador Mission Trip - Thank you so much to Hope Lutheran and its members for financially supporting us, as well as keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. The per person trip cost covered our bus ride to Chicago, our flight, room, board, & meals; but it didn't stop there. It also went to the following areas:

- 100 meal bags for area families (beans, rice, oil, flour, sugar, salt, soup, coffee)
- Gift of \$ for the local church pastor and his family
- Gift of \$ to the Kings Castle organization
- Gift of \$ to the missionary students that led our team for the week
- Pizza for the students
- Mechanical repair parts
- Payment towards oral surgery for one of the students

We gave a "brief" account of our trip on Sunday 2/5 and shared pictures/video this past Sunday, but for those of you that did not attend or if you would like to hear more, please feel free to ask one of us and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. There is a Facebook page (The Mill Church El Salvador Mission Trip) dedicated to the trip that has a lot of photos and video clips for your viewing pleasure. Thanks again,

Gary & Connie Lechleitner, Jen & Jaicee Kunkel