

Visions of Hope

February 25, 2018



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

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Sunday School
8:45-9:30 am

Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Pastor:

Mark Reiff

pastorreiff.hopechurch@gmail.com

920-634-1246 (cell)
715-352-2555 (church)

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

March 4
March 11

Ushers

Russ Bauman
Andy Yoder
Larry Peterson
Ron Kunkel

Greeters

Pam Ludwig
Jodene Leffel

Readers

Rachel Ludwig
Ron Kunkel

Acolyte

Madison Borchardt
Riley Bauman



It is with a heaviness of heart that I write to tell you that I will be ending my relationship with you and with Hope Lutheran Church as your pastor effective March 15. I have made this decision primarily for health reasons and because a goal that I have been working toward for several years has unexpectedly and surprisingly come to pass. I know that the future bodes well for you and for ministry in this place. I also know that you will be served well in the future by a very able and younger pastor who will not be facing some of the issues that I face as I attempt to grow older gracefully.

Please know that my time with you has been a genuine blessing to me and I hope to you. You are, and have been, a sincerely warm and welcoming community of faith. I have learned many things from you as a congregation and as individuals who are walking Christ's path. I will miss you. But I will always carry you in my heart and in my prayers.

I also know that I am being called to walk a different path in the remaining years of my life. To that end I have already purchased a home in another state and will be relocating there sometime after March 15. Nevertheless, as someone once told me, in every hello there is also goodbye or from its origin...God be with you.

With trust in the Lord and confidence in his plan and promise I know that the future will bring not only challenges but also great blessings to us all.

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff +

Consider "the Cross". It was once a symbol of death, but now a symbol of beauty to adorn necklaces, earrings, and the like. "The Cross" was a symbol of the end--to take up "the Cross" was to walk a road of hopelessness and helplessness. It once evoked feelings of dread and despair in the hearts of those who lived in the time of Roman crucifixions. But it now evokes thoughts and feelings of pleasantries as one gazes upon the beauty of the wood, precious metals or craftsmanship. And yet there are those who still look upon it today with an entirely different outlook. To them it is a symbol of life, through the death of one, it is a symbol of hope and new beginning and it is a symbol of love of a Heavenly Father for his children. Within these sentiments we find the true meaning of "the Cross". For now, we know "the Cross", is Christ Jesus.

During this season, we take a closer look at "the Cross". We consider what it meant to the people of the time and what it means to us today. And we consider what it meant to Christ and to His Father. We remember how Christ took up a cross, and willingly gave up His life so that many others could find life. Christ, "who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb.12:2). And we consider how "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor.5:21).

We consider "what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John.3:1). And how great a love this is, for "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John.15:13). And "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us, and don't forget we are still sinners and mankind has not improved much since Jesus time.

So now let us consider "the Cross" in our own lives today and every day. How Christ says to us, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" (Luke.9:23-25). We don't look at the cross to see Jesus alone, but to see all the sins of the world, past, present and future sins. The world once looked upon the cross as a symbol of suffering and shame. Much of the world around us today looks upon it as a religious icon without considering its implications, or they simply see it as an adornment worn on necklaces and the like--seeing it as not much different than a peace symbol. And though it invokes thoughts of Christ's sacrifice and death in the hearts of Christ's followers, it equally carries a meaning of self-death and self-sacrifice in the hearts of those who will follow Christ each day--giving up rights to personal desires and wants in this lifetime.

Consider "the Cross". How willing are you to die for Christ? Ok, ok, ok; if you don't want to die for Christ how about living for him. We must give up worldly treasures and let go of personal desires so that you can live for Him who gave his life for us. Will you say as Paul, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil.1:21)? Remember once again Christ's words, "whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

It was necessary that Christ should die so that others, through Him, might live. And now it is necessary for us to live for Christ so others have an example to follow. So now, are going to say "I am a sinner, who can I be an example for anyone"? Ok, so here's the thing, those you talk to are sinners also, so both of you are on a level playing field. We are sinners, but if we truly believe "we are saved by grace through faith" we can spread the joy of God's love, forgiveness and salvation through a life in Christ. In living for Jesus because He died for you; you are the perfect example of faith, because we did not see firsthand the death of Jesus but we believe anyway.

For us "the Cross" means life, forgiveness and salvation and everlasting life with God. For those who refuse to confess and repent "the Cross" means death, suffering and life with Satan. We have a choice, so my fellow sinners, let's choose wisely.

Your most humble servant,
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Duane Kamenick—home recovering
Brian—cancer—friend of Leroy and Beth Syring
Jim Krause—open heart surgery—Jodi's father in law
Brian Asplund—cancer
Bob Kudingo—stem cell replacement—Rose Schilling's foster brother
Dennis Woik—cancer—friend of Chad Bender
Marge Manecke—health issues
Corinne Kane—friend of Cassi Bauman
Linda Krahn—breast cancer—sister in law to the Kamenick's
Mildred Imhoff—chemo treatment—Ken's mother
Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's
John Hamann—home recovering
Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law
Don Hanson—health issues
Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
Bill Brayton—DeEtta Peterson's brother
Dylan & Logan Weichelt—sons of Bryan & Stacey
Sawyer Mueller—microcephaly—Daryl & Beth's son
Jennifer Bohman—prayers of healing

....for your recent donation of food, clothing, cleaning supplies, men's clothing, women's and children's winter wear and blankets for the Wausau Warming Center. Your generosity will help Catholic Charities to help struggling individuals and families right in our own community and we are honored by your support. Together we share the privilege of serving Christ in our most needy brothers and sisters. *Rochelle Nicks, Development Director*

....to everyone who helped make Valentine Day cards for our Veterans. We made 234! On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs they would like to thank you for your donation of the cards for our members to enjoy. *Shelley Jandt, Administrator*

....for your generous support of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. Your contribution will help us continue our work to honor veterans in North Central Wisconsin. With the help of hundreds of volunteers and with generous financial donations like yours, we have been able to make 30 flights since our beginning in 2009. To date, we have been able to give 2747 WWII, Korean and Vietnam era veterans the opportunity to visit "their" memorials in Washington DC at no cost to the veterans. This is only possible with your generous support. We offer our sincere gratitude to you in helping us further this wonderful and important cause.

Richard Jarvis, Treasurer



Hope's Happenings

Sunday: February 21 Attendance 39
 Offering: Regular \$215.00
 Total \$215.00

Sunday: February 25 Attendance 67
 Offering: Regular \$850.00
 Building \$20.00
 Sunday School 3.00
 Well \$100.00
 Loose \$55.00
 Chili Dinner \$30.00
 New Worship Center \$135.00
 Total \$1193.00

The Bulletin Board

- **Tuesday, March 6, 10:00 am Bible Study**
- **Wednesday, March 7, 2:00 pm Bible Study**
 - 5:30-6:45 pm Confirmation—this is for ALL youth (newly confirmed members as well). A light supper will be provided and will continue throughout Lent
 - 7:00 pm Lenten Services (missed from the March calendar)
- **Sunday, March 11, 2:00 am daylight savings time begins**
 - Adult Choir practice after worship

Katelyn Krause is hoping to go on a Mission Trip to North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina this summer from May 23rd through August 4th. This mission trip is run through Campus Crusade for Christ and has a price tag on it of about \$3,350. This mission trip is to strengthen leadership skills so students can become more comfortable with sharing the gospel with people they interact with, even strangers. They are trained by experienced staff and they will go to the beach at least three times per week to share the gospel with others. The goal is to spread God's word and bring people who may not know God personally to develop a relationship with Him. There is more information about the goal of the mission and how you can support the trip at the <https://give.cru.org/0973550> support page. Also, if you are able to support and would rather send a check or cash to the following address.... 1000 Edgewood College Dr. Madison, WI 53711, every little bit helps. This is a great opportunity for the congregation to be a part of God's plan for this summer. If they help send Katelyn this summer, and she brings someone closer to Christ, then you can be a part of that as well. Katelyn is also planning on coming back after the trip to share with us her experiences on the trip. Please consider supporting Katelyn and her trip.

If you are considering donating towards Kaitlyn Belanger's internship to the Rosebud Sioux, the items need to be in this Sunday, March 4th. As a reminder, they are asking for Feminine Hygiene Products (pads); Personal Hygiene Products; Baby Products (diapers, wipes, newborn clothes, blankets, etc.) and School Supplies (pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons etc.) Please give items directly to Rosie Bauman or Darrell Belanger. THANK YOU.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 18—First Communion for 5th graders



Peace Lutheran Church
 will be having a **Chili Dinner** on
Sunday, March 4, 10:30-1:00.
 Free will offering
 Carry outs available



March is the time for collecting health items to fill our kits sent out in the fall. If you would like to donate any of the following items needed to aid us in making the LWR Personal Care Kits, please leave them in the tote by the coffee area. Kits mean so much to people who have lost everything in a disaster or who left all they have behind to escape violence, many who are now living in refugee camps. We will be collecting the following items: Lightweight bath size towels (20"x40" or 52"x 27"); Bath size bars of soap, any brand (NO mini or hotel size bars); Adult-size toothbrushes; Sturdy, tough combs (NO picks or fine toothed combs); metal nail clippers. This year Thrivent is assisting us with costs in purchasing items. Please sign your name and address on the sheet by the tote if helping by bringing in items so they can see how many people were involved with this mission project. Any questions, please talk to Carol Anderson.