

Visions of Hope

February 26, 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

March 5
March 12

Ushers

Rick Bradley
Chad Erickson
Russ Bauman
Ron Kunkel

Greeters

Gwen Bauman
Debbie Bauman

Acolyte

Haylee Schreiber

Readers

Jen Kunkel

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Hopers,

It was great to see all those who came to celebrate with a number of Hope kids last Sunday as they ate and drank the body and blood of Christ for the first time.

Lent begins today and we will observe the beginning of this season with an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. Please come, receive ashes, repent and dedicate yourself to 40 days of preparation to remember the betrayal, suffering and death of Christ during Holy Week and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. If you are attending the Ash Wednesday please enter through the door towards the south end of the building (the old entrance before the addition was built) as our narthex is giving up its old wallpaper for Lent.

For our first Sunday in Lent, March 5, Jonathan Swenson (Paraphrase Theatre) will be with us performing "Witnesses." You won't want to miss that. I have seen him perform this before at Peace Lutheran a couple years ago and I can assure you it is a powerful and moving experience. It concerns the lives of several people who encounter Jesus.

Again, I want to remind you that God has Hope Lutheran Church in his hands and he is faithful.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dave

Happy Lent! Lent is a special time in the Church's calendar that takes place each spring in the run up to Easter. It begins on March 1st with Ash Wednesday.

Lent lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) and ends the day before Easter Sunday, on Holy Saturday. It is a solemn time when Christians remember how Jesus spent 40 days and nights alone in the wilderness being tempted by the Devil. Jesus used this time to prepare for His work by fasting and praying. You can read about this in [Matthew 4:1-11](#) and [Luke 4:1-13](#).

Christians spend the 40 days of Lent preparing for Easter Day. They set aside time to think about whether they are living in a way that makes God happy. We will ask for God's forgiveness for the times they mess up, and for his help to live in the way that he wishes, all of us have those times of doubt but the best thing is, "we are saved by grace through faith". We Christians especially remember all that Jesus did for each of them when he died on the cross on the first Good Friday. Jesus knew fully well what was in store for Him. The thing is He deemed us worthy of His sacrifice. As I have said before, He looked at the cross and then looked at us in love and said "You are worth it". We also remember how He overcame sin and death by rising from death on the first Easter Sunday.

Many Christians during Lent will give up eating certain foods or other luxuries, to help them concentrate on God. This is also a reminder of the fact that Jesus did not eat for the forty days that he was in the wilderness. Now we are not saying you should fast for 40 days or we are not suggesting that you give up anything. Instead why don't we add some things, like reading the book of Matthew, one of the most comprehensive books in the bible regarding the life of Jesus. A bible study I am doing at home is reading from the prophet Malachi and then reading the book of Matthew. This is very interesting because it was 400 years between the Old and New Testaments.

And we also could as Christians set aside time for fasting and praying. Fasting has been practiced for centuries within many different cultures and religions. The Christian tradition has its roots within the Jewish culture as found in the Old Testament. In one example Queen Esther calls upon the Jewish nation to come together in prayer and fasting, "Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 'Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.'" ([Esther 4](#)). For some Christians fasting and prayer often go hand in hand. A friend of mine has her family skip one meal and give that meal to the Salvation Army mission shelter. This is especially a hardship for her 14 year old son.

Lent is the season of giving up what we like, a time to go without. It is a hard thing for most of us to do. Who really wants to give up that candy bars, or pop? And really why would it make a difference to God; Do we really think that God looks at us and says "You did not give up candy during Lent of 2008, and you didn't eat fish on a Friday, so you can't enter heaven!" Not so. God really doesn't really want us to give up something as a symbolic gesture. Instead, He would like us to be hypervigilant about being thankful for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, His one and only Son.

If we think Lent is just giving up something we like, then we are missing the point. It is not about not eating candy or drinking a pop. Lent is not a punishment or a diet plan; it is an act of love, an act of total giving. But it should not be looked at as something that is sad, or a bother, but rather, as something that is hard but joyous. Lent offers us a time to reflect and grow in our faith. Lent is the preparation time for the Holy of Holy days, Easter, the day of the Risen Lord.

But to truly understand Lent, let's look at the days preceding to the Crucifixion of Christ.

So what did Jesus give up, did he decide that he was no longer going to eat meat on Fridays, or no more Coke. I don't think so. First off Coke was not invented, and secondly, he gave up something greater. We all know he gave His life (and that this is the greatest gift and sacrifice Jesus gave us), but let's look at what else he gave us, that we might have over looked.

Jesus gave us his Humility, when he entered Jerusalem on a donkey, a lowly animal, not worth much, not something a great leader would ride on. But he, the king of kings, the son of God, entered the great city as a lowly man, one of no great importance. When have you willingly been humble, when have you allowed yourself to be nothing of great importance? Jesus entered Jerusalem with great fanfare, palms were laid out for him on the ground, and the people waved the palms at him as He rode pass. He was treated as a King, a King who humbled himself, one who could have road the finest of animals, or even been escorted by many important people. But Jesus sacrificed the greatness, the ceremony and all the praise, for the humility of a donkey.

Jesus gave us his Dignity, when he washed the feet of his friends at the last supper. The act of feet washing was for the servants of the house, not the host or honored guest, and definitely not for the son of God. When have we ever washed the feet of our friends? Jesus became the servant master, the one who served us, even though he is greater than we will ever be. The humility this took was great, such an act of love, so simple yet so grand. To wash the dust from our feet, to wipe them dry, he who would save us all, on his knees to wash our feet from our weary travels. It is our dignity that we hang on to, we are always protecting it from harm, but Jesus freely gives of it.

So is a candy bar or a coke really too much to ask? And really are we doing enough? Jesus sacrificed for 40 days in the desert where he had to struggle with hunger, thirst and the temptations of the devil, we have 40 days to lent, in the comfort of our homes and if we slip up and eat something we are not to, really only you and God will know. So really what are we sacrificing? How are we suffering? God asks very little of us, and as humans we respond with very little. Basically we give what we are asked to, nothing more, and nothing less. So Lent is a time to go that extra mile, Lent allows us to experience a tiny bit of Jesus in the desert, or riding the donkey. So the next time you have a friend over, wash their feet, I don't mean literally, but you can humble yourself and give of your dignity in many ways, you can learn to live as a servant master; that is, to give of yourself, your money and your time to those in need, not only during Lent, but all year long.

May the Lord grant us greater understanding, and more time for reading and prayer. But most of all help us to be truly thankful for the greatest gift of all.

Your sister 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
Elaine Mielke—broken ankle
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

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	February 26	Attendance 181
Offering:	Regular	\$2000.00
	Building	\$40.00
	Sunday School	\$5.00
	Loose	\$189.10
	Sign	\$80.00
	Missions	\$110.00
	Driveway	\$10.00
	Youth Camps	\$50.00
	Total	\$2484.10



Sunday, March 12, 2:00 am

The Bulletin Board

- Lenten Worship Services will be held at 7:00 pm
- Jonathan Swenson will be at Hope on Sunday, March 5, 9:30 am performing WITNESSES
- **Youth Group** will meet after church this Sunday. Lunch will be provided and rides available for anyone needed
- There will be new opportunities coming up soon to participate in a Small Group Study. Look for more information soon



Our Mission project for March will be **Personal Care Kits**. Each kit includes:

- One light weight bath size towel—20"x40" to 27"x52" - dark color recommended (Lightweight towels are recommended as often they are washed in a river or water hole and need to air dry. Often all family members use one towel.)
- Two bath size bars (4-5 oz) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One **adult** size toothbrush in original packaging
- One **sturdy** comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clipper—remove packaging

You may bring in items for a kit and we will assemble it or if completing a kit, wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. Place items or completed kits in the tote near the coffee hour area. Shopping lists are on coffee counter. All items should be new and in good condition. Any questions talk to Carol Anderson (715-659-2463)

In the world's poorest regions, hygiene can be difficult. Accessible water can be scarce or far away. Soap can be almost impossible to buy when a family struggles to afford one meal a day. Towels, toothbrushes and combs can be hard to come by. That's why our gifts of Personal Care Kits make such a difference.



Thank you to all who donated to the Randlin Homes. A total of 291 items were collected. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is much appreciated by the veterans.

Audrey Kamenick and Erin Bender

Thank you so much for your support and prayers for our El Salvador trip! It means more than you know. You are a church full of love and compassion for others. Thank you for your partnership in advancing God's Kingdom. God bless your church family for your generosity.

Angie Bruesewitz, Mill Church

There are no words to say how thankful we are to have received the gift of money and groceries from you all. We are so blessed to belong to a church with such loving, caring and thoughtful people. Again from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you! God bless

The Steve Poppe Family

Hope's Happenings

What a Special day Sunday, February 26 was at Hope Lutheran Church!



The Children's Choir shared their special talent.

The 5th grade Sunday School children received their First Communion

Congratulations to:

Back L-R; Autumn Schreiner, Abigail Borchardt, Pastor Dave, Brianna Landwehr and Brooke Imhoff
Front L-R; Halle Bender, Justin Giese, Jorey Kunkel, Nathan Remus and Valerie Czech



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Peace Lutheran Church will be having their annual **Chili Dinner, Sunday, March 5, 10:30-1:00**. The cost will be a free-will offering. Carry-outs available.
- The Women & Men of St. John's Catholic Church, Edgar will be having a **Fish and Shrimp Fry ALL Fridays of Lent**. Serving from 4:00-7:30. For carry outs call 715-352-3111
- Colby Lions Club is having a **Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, March 12, 8:00-12:30** at the Colby Lions Pavilion in Colby. They will be serving potato and buttermilk pancakes along with sausage. Prices are \$7.00—adults; \$3.00 for children under age 12; and pre-school or younger are free.
- Ebenezer United Church of Christ will be having their 14th annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, **Sunday, March 19, 11:00-2:00**. Prices are: \$9.00-adults; 12 and under-free
- Marriage Conference, Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11. Guest Speaker will be Eric Tober from Faith Community Church, Waupaca. See poster for more information