

Visions of Hope

January 1, 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

January 8

January 15

Ushers

Chad Erickson
Russ Bauman
Scott Bauman
Rick Bradley

Greeters

Russ Bauman
Rick & Sandy Bradley

Acolyte

Jaicee Kunkel
Anna Fehlhaber

Readers

Chad Bender
Michelle Bauman

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Hoppers,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

First, I want to thank you for your Christmas gift. This was very generous of you. My family and I deeply appreciate it.

Secondly, I would like to invite you to share stories of answered prayer for a few minutes during a Sunday morning worship service. These stories could be anything from more ordinary to highly miraculous examples of divine intervention. We heard a very extraordinary and moving story of answered prayer last Sunday from Bonnie Blake and I look forward to hearing more. Please sign up for a slot on an upcoming Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Also on that same table are some slips of paper available to write your spiritual resolutions. Apparently a number of you did not see those papers last Sunday, so they will remain there this Sunday as well in case some may want to fill them out and place them in the basket.

Finally, on this Sunday, we will hear the story of Christ's Baptism. This is always a very appropriate day to conduct a baptism and so our son, Sean, will be receiving Christian baptism on this Sunday.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dave

(Isaiah 53:4-6) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned — every one — to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Some of you might remember the intro to the "Twilight Zone". Then the disembodied voice would say, "Imagine if you will".....A man who will die for you. He knows He will be beaten, whipped, humiliated, scorned, and mocked. He knows He will die a horrible death just for you. But He will look up at the cross then look back at you and He will say, "I love you, you are worth it".

God created us, but we were very disobedient, we sinned time and time again. So God sent His son to us. Was that just a whim on His part? In truth God sent Jesus to us so we might seek out a relationship with Him. God is the Supreme Being but Jesus was a human being. Not only that, God loves you so much that he wants you to know him now and spend eternity with him. *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."* God sent Jesus so that each of us could know and understand Jesus in a personal way and to embrace Him as our savior. Jesus alone can bring meaning and purpose to life. So, how well do you know the man who died for you?

We can say Jesus is not in the Christmas decorations that the stores put up before Halloween. Or in the commercials we hear on TV to buy this thing and your Christmas will be great and everyone will love you most. We would probably say Jesus is not in the Christmas decorations we put up in our house, not in the Christmas tree and not in the gifts.

As Lutherans we believe in the triune God, that is; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We say, I believe in God, "I got this, I'm good. "Oh, forgiving?. Yes, we believe in God, but do we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? So what does it take to begin a relationship with Jesus? Wait for lightning to strike? Devote yourself to unselfish religious deeds? Become a better person so that God will accept you? NONE of these. God has made it very clear in the Bible how we can know Him.

The truth is I think we all go through periods where we wonder where Jesus is. We should try very hard to reach out and find Jesus; we can begin a relationship with him right now. *Jesus says in John 7:38 "Come to me." "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*¹⁰ It was Jesus' love for us that caused him to endure the cross. And he now invites us to come to him, that we might begin a personal relationship with Him. Unfortunately many feel they are unworthy of God's grace and mercy.

Not true; *Jesus said I" have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."*

On the cross, Jesus took all of our sin on himself and completely, fully paid for it.

1 Peter 3:18 Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you

safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, our sin doesn't have to separate us from Him any longer. We deserve to pay for our own sin. The problem is the payment is death. Out of his love for us, Jesus Christ died in our place. The price has already been paid. *The Bible states that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God...by him all things were created..."⁴ Jesus was crucified for blasphemy -- for clearly identifying himself as equal to God -- which he was.*

To repeat *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."* Jesus not only died for our sin, he rose from the dead. When he did, he proved beyond doubt that he can rightfully promise eternal life -- that he is the Son of God and the only means by which we can know God.

Just knowing what Jesus has done for us and what he is offering us is not enough. To have a relationship with Jesus, we need to welcome him into our life...The Bible says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

We accept Jesus by faith. *The Bible tells us, "God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."* Accepting Jesus means believing that Jesus is the Son of God, who he claimed to be, then inviting him to guide and direct our lives. *Jesus said in John 10:10, "I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly".*

Some people might imply that accepting Jesus as a personal Savior will help them get out of trouble and danger. He is pictured as standing anxiously and ready to assist all who will simply sign a permission slip for Him to be a Savior. But the real truth is we should anxiously look for Jesus in everyday things and everywhere. As believers, we need to check and ask ourselves: Did Jesus live a holy life? Did Jesus die for our sins? Did Jesus rise again as a symbol that if we do live a Godly life, we will rise again also? So, then where is Jesus?

Jesus said, "I'm standing at the door and I'm knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in". What follows is a lifelong journey of change and growth as you get to know God better through Bible reading, prayer and interaction with other Christians. *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6. **When studying the Word** we often feel we can't find that personal connection to Jesus. We want Him to appear as something new and innovative. But the tried and true prescription of God's Word that is all the medicine we need. Don't overanalyze or complicate it; just read the gospel story, and soak Him in. This is where to find Jesus, in God's word.*

We have been given Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, so we should be like the man in the parable who found the amazing treasure buried in the field, he immediately sold EVERYTHING to buy the field and get hold of that treasure: Jesus Christ. Is Jesus Christ your greatest treasure? Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior? So where is Jesus in your life?

Jesus must be our most valuable treasure. He is someone who give up everything, including His life so we may have a closer relationship to Him. So where is Jesus Christ in your life? God gave us mighty power by His Word and sent His Son to us. He gave us the power of the Holy Spirit, miraculous power to live a Godly life and power to do righteousness things in the name of God. God promised us all of His sufficient Grace. (2 Corinthians 12:9) So then, have you found Jesus in ordinary life?

Salvation is by grace, by grace alone. It is also true that salvation is a free gift. But when Jesus opens up His hand we must receive that gift, take His hand and let go of the sins of the world. Something more than believing is necessary to salvation. A heart that is steeled in rebellion against God cannot truly believe. Anyone who tells sinners they can be saved without giving up earthly things, without repenting, without surrendering to the lordship of Christ are as dangerous as those who insist that salvation is by works and that heaven must be earned by their own efforts, by earning enough brownie points.

By the way: we should find Jesus in the store decoration that are put up before Halloween, we should be reminded that Jesus should be a permanent presence within our hearts every day of the year. We might find Jesus in the commercials we hear on TV not to buy the perfect gift; but to treasure the gift Jesus has already given us. We don't need to buy this special thing to make Christmas great, we need to accept the love that Jesus has already paid for. We could probably say Jesus is not in the Christmas decorations we put up in our house, not in the Christmas tree and not in the gifts. But perhaps they are, you know that funny fluttering feeling we get of Christmas Eve, let's keep that feeling year round. Our Christmas tree should remind us of God's gift to us of the beauty of nature and the gifts under the tree can help us cherish God's "gift" to us.

Jesus already did his part; Jesus looked at the cross, then looked at you, and said "you are worth it". Now it's up to you. Do you want to get to know the man that died for you? Let's pray He is in our hearts everyday as we strive to walk in the ways of Jesus and follow His example.

Amen

Yours in Christ

Rosie Schilling

Hope's Happenings

Christmas Eve:	December 24	Attendance	144
Offering:	Regular		\$706.00
	Sunday School		\$2.00
	Loose		\$195.00
	Total		\$903.00

Sunday:	Christmas		
Offering:	Regular		\$516.00
	Total		\$516.00

Sunday:	December 25	Attendance	95
Offering:	Regular		\$1070.00
	Building		\$10.00
	Mission		\$30.00
	Loose		\$6.00
	El Salvador trip		\$150.00
	Total		\$1266.00

Sunday:	January 1	Attendance	61
Offering:	Regular		\$1330.00
	Building		\$40.00
	Mission		\$30.00
	Sunday School		\$6.00
	El Salvador trip		\$180.00
	Total		\$1586.00

The Bulletin Board

December 11, 2016 Council Meeting

- We will use the money from Pasta Dinner for Bonnie Blake (\$500 per Month). Pasta Dinner proceeds- \$1,668.
- Discussed Pastor's Benefits. Ballot vote to be taken at Annual Meeting.
 - Do you agree to increase Pastors insurance benefits by \$250 per month to cover premium increase cost?
- Handicap signs are up.
- Will discuss Narthex project at January meeting.
- 1st Communion options: complete class together or split into 2 Sundays due to size of class. Pastor will meet with Parents next week and let them decide.
- Discussed Youth Director. Cedric Lechleitner is interested. Scott and Ron will work with him in January.
 - Also Brent Aschenbrenner (Jeff Tarras-FCA helper) may be willing to help as well.
- Scott talked with Thrivent rep about Endowment Fund. We will ask for volunteers to plan and direct fund.
- We will discuss Community Service comments in January.
- We will get \$50 gas cards for Keith Bauman, Barb Giese and DeEtta Peterson.
- Mission Money: Intervarsity-\$100; Salvation Army- \$300; Card Ministry- \$200; Bonnie Blake-\$500; Camp Forest Springs- \$200; and Divide \$1000 among the 4 going on El Salvador Mission trips, (this is in addition to the \$200 already paid; any additional money will be divided equally as well).



Our mission project for January is called "Sweet Dreams". We will be collecting NEW pillowcases, blankets, small stuffed toys, small children's books, and pajamas (toddler to teen) The items will be given to children who 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. If you would like to help make blankets the Women of Hope will be doing so Sunday January 22nd after church. A shopping list is on the coffee bar. A tub is available nearby. Any questions call Audrey Kamenick 715-352-2714 or e-mail kamenick@frontier.com. Ending date is January 29. Thank you

meeting

- **January 15, Council meeting AFTER church service**
(note time change)
- January 29, Annual meeting
Have items in to Barb by January 18. Thank you

Hope's Happenings

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers



Elaine Mielke—broken ankle
Betty Spring—cancer—friend of the Ludwig's
John Hamann—home recuperating from hip surgery
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
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

PRAYER OF SUPPORT:

for the family of Roger Gennett—Rose Schilling's foster dad—who passed away last week
for the family of Lydia Weideman—Nancy Goldschmidt's mom—who passed away on Monday

just a friendly reminder...

We are producing a pictorial directory for Hope Lutheran Church. The sitting session is being paid for through the treasury.

There will be no cost to you for the sitting session and each family that has their photo taken will receive a free 8 X 10 portrait. If you choose to purchase additional photos we will be getting a 20% discount for scheduling this photo session in the winter, plus \$10.00 off each photo and then another \$5.00 if you bring a nonperishable food item to fill the pantry of "Feed the Need". We need to fill up 60 time slots, if we don't they might cancel the photo shoot. Please call Rosie Schilling @ 715-352-2884.

There are reminder cards at church on the table with all the other information on the photo session. If you are willing to be a "host/hostess" for any 4 hour time slot, please contact me, Rosie Schilling @ 715-352-2884. Tammy Kirsch is my co-pilot. So if you can't reach me please give her a call 715-687-3135.



We delivered 461 items to Athens, Colby, Spencer, Stratford, and Edgar pantries. Your donations were very much appreciated.

Duane and Audrey Kamenick

Christian Women

will meet

Tuesday, **January 10,**

12:30-2:00 pm

at Belvedere Supper Club

Hope's Happenings



A huge thank you goes out to all those involved in this year's Christmas Eve service and contata. There are so many that worked to make it happen: Gayle and Diane for costumes and drama, the characters, Audrey for advertising and set up, Brian on sound, Scott and Beth for narration, and for all the long hours of practice the choir put in. You are all appreciated!

Bonnie

There's no way I can begin to thank my church family for the support I've received during the past several months. You are indeed fulfilling the mission of Hope Lutheran Church by reaching out to those in need. Thank you for your financial support, but most of all for your prayers and encouragement.

Bonnie

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and get well wishes while I was recovering from my knee surgery. Thanks also to all who visited, called and especially Ken would like to thank all those who brought food, and I thank you also, you saved me from a diet of hamburgers and fried eggs. I have to say the church family at Hope is the best in the world. Thank you my friends.

Rose Schilling

Thank you so much for the recent donation of 7 beautiful handmade blankets for the clients at the Women's Community. Your donation is greatly appreciated and very gratifying.

June E. Graham Jennings, Executive Director

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00 to help supply winter clothing to students in need. With your help we were able to help six students at Stratford and five students in Colby with winter clothing needs.

Tammy Krueger, Mill Church

Thank you for the grocery donation. We appreciate that you are always there for us.

Darlene Berg, Edgar Circle of Joy

Thank you for your donation of food to the Stratford Food Pantry. People and families who find themselves in hard times are very thankful to God and you.

The Stratford Food Pantry

Thanks to the congregation of New Hope Lutheran Church We are so thankful that you think of us every year with your generous donation of groceries for our Circle of Joy Food Pantry. It is so very much appreciated. "God bless all of you". Thanks to Duane and Audrey for delivering them to us. We enjoy your visit.

Athens Circle of Joy