

Visions of Hope

January 22, 2017



4356 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 29
February 5

Ushers

Gary Bauman
Keith Bauman
Jay Borchardt
Lowell Borchardt

Greeters

Tom & Tammy Kirsch
Jodene Jeffel

Acolyte

Anna Peterson
Riley Bauman

Readers

Jerry Anderson
Ron Kunkel

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Hopers,

It is excited to see several Hopers going on a short term mission trip. Gary and Connie Lechleitner and Jen and Jaicee Kunkel have heard the Lord's call to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19) and therefore will be leaving for El Salvador later this week with some of the folks from the Mill Church. Let's keep them in our prayers. We look forward to hearing about their experiences after they return.

On this Sunday we will have our quarterly meeting and this will include a vote about increasing my salary. Please be aware that this is not something I requested, rather it was suggested by others. I did, however, recommend that any salary increase could be considered as more of a cost of living adjustment due to increases in health insurance over the last couple years.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dave

A number of times during Jesus' earthly ministry the Scribes & Pharisees expressed their extreme disapproval of Jesus' habit of spending time with the down and out people of Society, those that the Scribes and Pharisees would call sinners. Jesus pursued the tax collectors, the drunkards, the prostitute and all those whom self-righteous people would never think of spending time with. Sounds like the modern day description of those conservatives Christians not voting the liberal Presidential candidate. If that wasn't BAD Enough, Jesus Made it Clear, that these were just the type of People He looked for. He invited this type of person to spend time with Him. Mark 2:17, When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Luke 15: 1-2

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." What's the first thing you notice about these two groups of people, all of them sinners?

Self-Righteous sinners (you know the ones who are convinced they are close to perfect, and have only sinned a little). And just plain Sinners those who saw their sinfulness and knew they needed for God to grant them grace. Sinners drew near to hear the Lord because they understood their NEED. Notice "drew near to HIM." They knew who could heal them spiritually. Now notice how the Pharisees and the Scribes conducted themselves around Jesus. They complained! People that complain often don't complain about themselves, but about others. Others are not right, others are not doing good works, and others are not as good as the self-righteous. What they found lacking in themselves are projected upon others.

Let's look at the complaint of the Scribes and Pharisees: "*This Man receives sinners and eats with them.*" Jesus involved Himself in a most intimate way with sinners, those that needed Him. He asked them to spend time with Him and He even had meals with them. The Scribes and Pharisees didn't realize Jesus' mission was not to save the "perfect", but to save the Sinners. The Jewish religious leaders of Jesus' day would never think of sitting down with or eating with the unrighteous. The problem was that the Scribes and the Pharisees had become their own standard for determining who was righteous. Jesus will teach these men in these parables that there are many spiritual truths that these religious leaders did not understand and were not practicing.

Psalms. 51:12, Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. Psalms. 25:7-9 Don't remember the sins I committed when I was young. Don't remember how often I refused to obey you. Remember me because you love me. LORD, you are good. The LORD is honest and good. He teaches sinners to walk in his ways. He shows those who aren't proud how to do what is right. He teaches them his ways. The Scribes & Pharisees that boasted in their understanding of Scripture, failed to know and practice the truths of Psalms. 25:7-9.

Pull out your bibles and read Luke 15:1-7 The three parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son are invitations for us to hear of God's great joy when we finally come to our senses, repent, and live lives that of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son are invitations for us to hear of God's great joy when we finally come to our senses, repent, and live lives that are pleasing to God. When we come to our senses and come back home to our Heavenly Father, we begin to find life, a life with meaning.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. We notice that the tax collectors and sinners were "drawing near to Jesus in order to hear him." We remember that Mary, in the Mary-Martha story, also drew near to Jesus, sat at his feet, and listened to him. Similarly, we are to draw near to Jesus in order to hear him.

And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured/grumbled saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." This sentence unlocks the meaning of the parable. Jesus portrays two groups of people who were in conflict: the tax collectors/other sinners versus the Pharisees/Scribes. We have seen this conflict several times before in the life of Jesus. The Pharisees also grumbled when Jesus ate with Levi, the tax collector (Luke 5:30) and also when Jesus stayed at the home of Zaccaheus, the chief tax collector (Luke 19:7).

So he told them this parable. As we have said repeatedly, Jesus' parables are often classic stories that are immortalized within our memories. This is another one of Jesus' great stories, stories that he created out of every day, familiar experiences. Jesus did not create his short homey stories with profound meanings by quoting the Old Testament or by quoting famous philosophers. Jesus taught the truth about God and the kingdom of God by using familiar, common, everyday experiences such as losing a sheep from the herd or losing a coin in a house. In today's world, Jesus may have used the universal American example of losing our car keys (which are still in the ignition) or misplacing our glasses. We search intensely, almost frantically, until our car keys or glasses are found (which I have found happens quite often).

"So He spoke this parable to them, saying." Now, I've never lost any sheep, but I have lost a couple of Goats in the past. "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?" The 99 sheep back in the wilderness are NOT lost, (so they think). They have NO need of someone to come looking for them... (so they think). They're not in danger (so they think). At the end of Luke 15, Jesus makes it clear that the Scribes and the Pharisees are always represented by the thing that is not lost. One of the 99 sheep is lost! Why would the shepherd LEAVE the 99 to go and look for JUST one LOST (sheep)? What does this tell us about the ONE "Lost"? What does this tell us about the Shepherd? It's the Lost He's most concerned about.

How difficult would it be to find a lone sheep in the wilderness of Palestine? There would be urgency on the part of the Shepherd, because of Wolves and Thieves that could harm or kill the sheep. Next we see the Persistence on the part of the Shepherd. "And when he has found it" Implies the shepherd did not stop UNTIL He found the lost sheep.

Now we see the Rejoicing on the part of the Shepherd, "he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6, And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!"

Notice the care and tenderness of the Shepherd; He "lays the sheep on his shoulders." The Scribes and Pharisees lacked tenderness, but that's the way of the self-righteous, Being preoccupied with "SELF" is the consuming element in their lives. Many can be religious and yet not be godly, because to be godly, as Christ most certainly was, we have to give of ourselves to and for others. You know, show love to one another, one of God's greatest commandments.

Next the Shepherd "Called friends" Rejoicing because the sheep has been found. Notice "my sheep". In each parable in Luke 15, Jesus emphasizes the Seeker's ownership of that which was lost and then restored. Jesus applies the Parable. "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance." Looking to the end of v. 7, Jesus is not saying that the Scribes & Pharisees don't need to repent or that they are truly "just." The Problem of the Self-righteous, the holier than thou... they don't see their Lost condition. Therefore they don't seek to be found by the Shepherd, carried by the Shepherd or cared for by the Shepherd. The Scribes and Pharisees are spiritually independent and self-righteous. Therefore they remain lost even though they believe in their own hearts that they are their own guides and are in no danger before a Holy God.

Notice the one who does the restoring of the Lost, who does the pursuing of the lost, who does the most rejoicing. It's the Lord Jesus represented by the Shepherd. This parable teaches us the following truths:

1. The value of a Lost Soul
2. The Persistence and Diligence of the Soul Winner (Christ Jesus)
3. The Caring heart of the soul winner, seeking out the lost and carrying the lost back to the fold.

The greatest Moment in a Christian's life after salvation is the time of rejoicing over the salvation of one you've led to the Chief Shepherd (God) by sharing your faith and spreading the assurance of God's love and forgiveness. We each need to make a point of fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters. Each of us has an opportunity to spread that small mustard seed. Each day we can represent the love of our Lord and Savior by sharing His love with our neighbors, friends and family. Let us pray every day for the power of the Holy Spirit and the ability to proclaim God's love for his "lost sheep". Let us be the "lost" who draw near to Him and give Him a reason to celebrate in heaven. We know how much He loved his "lost sheep", after all He died so we might live.

Your servant in Christ,
Rosie Schilling

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	January 22	Attendance 95
Offering:	Regular	\$2670.00
	Building	\$180.00
	Sunday School	\$3.00
	Loose	\$12.00
	El Salvador trip	\$330.00
	Driveway	\$30.00
	Missions	\$40.00
	Sweet Dreams	\$100.00
	Total	\$3365.00



Children's Choir
will practice on
February 5, 12.
They will also be singing on
February 19

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Diane Blaczkowski—transferred from hospital to 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—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
 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



The Bulletin Board

- Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 immediately following worship service. There will be a vote on whether or not to increase Pastor's insurance benefits to cover the premium increase cost
- Mission money: Bonnie Blake, local families in need and warming center
- Installation of new officers for 2017 was taken place on Sunday, January 22. Newly elected officers are: Secretary—Cindy Yoder; Trustee—Jay Borchardt; Cemetery Board—Leroy Syring; Parish Ed—Heidi Remus; Finance Committee—Ron Kunkel, Larry Peterson, Ken Bauman and Michelle Bauman
- On Sunday, January 22 we also had a send off for members who are going on the El Salvador Mission Trip. They are: Jen Kunkel, Jacee Kunkel and Gary and Connie Lechleitner. Good luck and safe travels
- Card Ministry will be sending Valentine's Day Cards to our Veterans in King, WI. If you would like to make some, please leave in Barb's office before February 8. Thank you
- First Communion will be held **Sunday, February 26**

Hope's Happenings



We are producing a pictorial directory for Hope Lutheran Church and the sitting session is **FREE!!!!** 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, **and we are ONE FAMILY SHORT.** if we don't they might cancel the photo shoot. Please call Rosie Schilling @ 715-352-2884 **NOW!**



Our mission project for January is called "Sweet Dreams". We are in need of **Children's pajamas (winter or summer) and children's books** (good condition) to fill our pillowcases. These 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.

Any questions call Audrey Kamenick 715-352-2714 or e-mail kamenick@frontier.com. Ending date is January 29. Thank you

All you can eat!

Baked Potato Bar & Chili Dinner

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



Hope Lutheran Church

A Free Will Offering will be accepted

Proceeds will go to mission projects

There is a sign up to help donate food for this fundraiser. Please sign up as soon as possible. Thank You