

Visions of Hope

July 2, 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 Worship
9:30 am

Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Interim Pastor:

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

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

July 9

July 16

Ushers

Rick Bradley

Ken Schilling

Gary Bauman

Russ Bauman

Greeters

Debbie Bauman

Elaine Mielke

Readers

Rachel Ludwig

Chad Bender

Acolyte

Anna Peterson

Anna Fehlhaber

The following devotion is from the Billy Graham website

Thank you, God for the times You have said "no." They have helped us depend on You so much more.³

Thank you, God, for unanswered prayer. It reminds us that You know what's best for us, even when my opinion differs from Yours.

Thank You, Lord, the freedoms we have, especially the freedom to worship you without fear You have protected us more than we may ever realize.

Thank You, God, for the doors You have closed. They have prevented us from going where You would rather not have us go and to protect us from harm.

Thank you, Lord, for the relieving the physical pain You've allowed in our life. Help us to more closely relate to Your sufferings on our behalf.

Thank you, Lord, for the alone times in my life. Those times have forced us to lean in closer to You.

Thank you, God, for the uncertainties we've experienced. They have deepened our trust in You.

Thank You, Lord, for the times You have held us up even through even when we didn't even know we needed you to rescue us.

We pray for those lost, alone and lonely. Help us to reach out and share the good news of your grace and salvation. God, we thank You for the tears we have shed, because they have kept our hearts soft and full of understanding for others in need.

Thank You, God, for being there during the times of trouble where we haven't been able to control our circumstances. They have reminded us that You are our sovereign God and how much You love us, and will take care of us in our time of need.

God, we pray for those people whom You have called home to be with You. Their absence from this earth keeps a longing in our hearts for heaven.

God, keep us mindful that we have an inheritance of this earth and all of its riches, help us to maintain this wonderful gift and treasure the earth as it is your creation. ...something that this world can never steal from us and we should never selfishly squander.

Lord we thank you for the greatest gift you could ever give us: forgiveness through your perfect Son's death on the cross on our behalf.

God, we thank you for keeping us righteousness, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's a righteousness we could never earn or attain on our own.

Father, You know us, You hear us, and You see our doubts and tears. Remind us through difficult times that You are God, You are on the throne, and You are eternally good and faithful.

And thank You, Lord, not only for our eternal salvation, but for the salvation You afford every day of our lives as You save us from our week and foolish human thoughts and deeds, forgive our limited faith during the trying times, and teach us to lean upon your strength, grace and peace.

Are you thankful no matter what? Perhaps you have lost your job recently, as the economy has continued to struggle. Or you may have lost your health, or a loved one. Or perhaps your entire corn crop has drowned with all the rain. Such circumstances can be tremendously difficult. But even so, we all have much to be thankful for. Look with me at the story of a man who had every right to be bitter—but wasn't.

The next footsteps in the corridor, he knew, might be those of the guards taking him away to his execution. His only bed was the hard, cold stone floor of the dank, cramped prison cell. Not an hour passed when he was free from the constant irritation of the chains and the pain of the iron manacles cutting into his wrists and legs. Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated—if ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving!

The man was the Apostle Paul—a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20).

Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation. Thanksgiving—the giving of thanks—to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others.

Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness. Case in point; do we thank those responsible for our freedom, Our freedom is only free because of the brave military personnel who sacrificed their time and their lives for all the freedoms we tend to take for granted.

In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society. Without exception, every leper yearned for one thing: To be healed. One day 10 lepers approached Jesus outside a village, loudly pleading with Him to heal them. In an instant He restored them all to perfect health—but only one came back and thanked Him. All the rest left without a word of thanks, their minds preoccupied only with themselves, gripped with a spirit of ingratitude.

Today, too, ingratitude and thanklessness are far too common. Children forget to thank their parents for all that they do. Common courtesy is scorned. We take for granted the ways that others help us. Above all, we fail to thank God for His blessings. Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible's indictments against rebellious humanity is that "although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him" (Romans 1:21). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, "Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving" (Psalm 147:7). Paul wrote, "Be thankful" (Colossians 3:15). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian.

Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us, and we should be thankful for each blessing.

We seem never to be satisfied with what we have—rich or poor, healthy or sick. But what a difference it makes when we realize that everything we have has been given to us by God! King David prayed, "Wealth and honor come from you ... We give you thanks, and praise your glorious name" (1 Chronicles 29:12-14).

Are you constantly preoccupied with what you do not have? Or have you learned to thank God for what you do have?

Your servant in Christ
Rose Shilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Pastor Reiff—home recuperating from surgery
Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law
George Wright—fell broke hip and spiral break in upper femur—Bonnie's dad
Mildred Imhoff—fell and broke her femur—Ken's mother
Joyce LeVoy—home recovering
Don Hanson—health issues
Dorothy Wright—fluid on lungs and congestive heart failure—Bonnie Blake's mom
John Hamann—recuperating from hip surgery
Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
Scott Campbell—waiting for stem cell transplant—relation to the Streckert's
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

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	July 2	Attendance 86
Offering:	Regular	\$2480.00
	Building	\$25.00
	Sunday School	\$1.00
	Sign	\$60.00
	Loose	\$20.00
	Total	\$2586.00



The Bulletin Board

- Please join us on Sunday, July 9 as Mark Chavez from NALC will be leading us in worship
- Council will meet Sunday, July 9 immediately following worship
- **Thank you** to everyone who made 4th of July cards for our Veterans in King. We sent away 70 cards. AWESOME!!!!
- VBS will be held July 24-28 from 5:30-8:00 pm. Children age 3 through children entering 6th grade are welcome



Women of Hope Lutheran projects for July and August will be "Fill A Backpack!" and "School Kits" for LWR. These items are given locally to our schoolchildren, and school kits given to children overseas through Lutheran World Relief. It is much appreciated. Below is a list of the items needed: 8 ct. washable markers, black, blue and red pens, large pink erasers, index cards, (3x5) sharpie pens, glue sticks, folders, #2 pencils, highlighters, crayons 16 or 24 ct, baby wipes, Ziploc bags (sandwich and gallon), colored

pencils, rulers (with centimeter) pencil cases, pencil sharpeners, hand sanitizer (.8-12 oz), blunt scissors, medium-size Kleenex, wide-lined notebooks, and backpacks. All items need t be in by Sunday August 20. Items may be put into containers near coffee hour cupboard. Shopping lists available on coffee bar. Contact Audrey Kamenick (715-352-2714 or email her at kamenick@frontier.com or Gayle Werner (715-352-2971) or email jwpabst@frontier.com. Thank you



Thank you for the cards and prayers. On March 22 I had a major heart attack. I am recovering slowly. I do not think we will see you this year. When I get a little stronger I have to go finish my cancer treatments. This sounds like dooms day but it isn't. We both feel good. God has Blessed us. May God Bless you at Hope Lutheran. Thank you
Don and Karin Hanson

I would like to thank everyone for all your prayers and money you sent me. It is truly appreciated.
Joyce LeVoy

My sincere gratitude to everyone for your prayers, thoughts, cards and well wishes during my recent illness. I will be back!
Pastor Mark Reiff