

# Visions of Hope

July 23, 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 23**

*July 30*

**Ushers**

**Andy Yoder**  
**Keith Bauman**  
*Gary Ludwig*  
*Gordon Metcalf*

**Greeters**

**Daryl & Beth Mueller**  
*Brian Remus*

**Readers**

**Beth Mueller**  
*Gary Ludwig*

**Acolyte**

**Korbyn Bauman**  
*Haylee Schreiber*



Thank you to everyone for my birthday celebration and potluck luncheon this past Sunday morning. It was awesome! It also contained three firsts in my life. Number one: I have never had Happy Birthday sung to me ever before by an entire congregation until Sunday, July 23, 2017. Number two: I have never had a congregation host a birthday luncheon for me until Sunday, July 23, 2017. And number three: I have never ever served a church that has celebrated my birthday with a birthday cake before, that is, until Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Needless to say, I am deeply grateful to all of you for your honoring me in this way. I am also deeply grateful for all of the love and support you have shown me and given me since my arrival here slightly more than four month ago.

It is a tribute to the spirit of this congregation that it shows such love and warmth to people. But this is no anomaly; rather, it seems to be part and parcel of the very fabric of the Hope Lutheran Church faith community. To your credit your love and support has been shown not only to me but shared with so many others as well. I have, in my short time here, witnessed this gracious attitude exhibited over and over again. Truly, this is a powerful sign of the vitality of the Spirit living among you.

But now for the question that was on everyone's mind. That everyone asked and wanted answered. Well I am younger than both of my two older brothers Jim (who many of you know) and Paul. But I am older than brother Tom who is obviously younger. So how old am I?

Jack Benny, a well-known comedian who had a Sunday night television program when I was a youngster, never missed a beat. He was always 39. For years and for years he was always 39. It was a running gag with him. Whenever he had a birthday he was always 39. I have always tried to live in the spirit and joy of Jack Benny when it comes to my birthdays.

The truth is that this Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, it will be the 31<sup>st</sup> annual celebration of my 39<sup>th</sup> birthday. Now most people from my generation, give or take a decade or two, will be able to figure out my age in a nanosecond. But for the millenials, give a decade either way, it will take a little longer to figure out. You'll need to take out your smart phone and look for a mathematics app or goggle it for the answer.

Fortunately, my generation learned how to add and subtract, multiply and divide. I know that's all old hat now. Modern educational models refuse to teach those old fashioned and outmoded skills like simple math and cursive writing. No, today you are taught to use techy things that do all the thinking (the hard part) for you. So whip out the computer or your smart phone and ask it for the answer...or better yet ask grand pa or grand ma. It'll be a lot faster.

Again, thank you for a Birthday celebration like no other!

Pax Christi,  
Mark Reiff +

Then the town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region (Mt.8:34).

I saw a movie once called "The Robe." In the movie a young lady was unable to walk. The main character in the film, who was a roman leader, could not understand how the woman could do anything but despise Jesus. He knew that Jesus had been near the woman but did not heal her of her affliction. But the woman was not embittered in her heart for she had received much more from Jesus than the healing of her legs could have brought her. She had learned how to walk on spiritual legs though her physical legs remained useless--and in that she found that Christ could take her much farther than her legs ever possibly could have.

It is the miracle we are expecting might just be the very miracle that is never done. On the other hand, it is the miracle we are not expecting that just may be the miracle that is done. It seems that we often have things a little backwards as to how we see them and how God sees them. We determine, like the man in "The Robe," that if God is who we believe Him to be, then He must do this or that. Or if God is who we

believe Him to be, then He must not do this or that. Yet it is God's will that God must follow, not our will. God can't always fulfill our expectations of Him, unless that is His plan for us.

The trick may be in our being like that young crippled woman. Although she could no longer walk in the flesh, she learned to walk in the Spirit. Her expectations could have very easily been that Jesus would just heal her so that she could physically walk again. But as she was able to release her expectations of Him, He was able to accomplish much more than she could have ever imagined. A miracle of a different sort, so-to-speak.

It is sad when the response to Jesus would be to become upset or perhaps frightened when He doesn't follow the plans we make. The townspeople that came out to meet Him did not find quite what they had expected and so "pleaded with him to leave their region." We lose more than we know through our expectations of God. We want Him to work within our guidelines for Him, and if He doesn't, we turn away in disbelief or confusion. We might even hope that He would kind-a, sort-a leave--if that were possible. We tend to settle for a faith walk in the physical (being spiritually crippled), and miss what might be found through the working of God's beautiful unexpected miracle.

But we are spiritually crippled. We were not created that way, but sin comes in and sweeps our feet out from under us. And we lose our ability to walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit again takes hard work and time--just like physical therapy. We have to learn how to walk all over again and it is not easy. We will fall down from time to time (a lot right at first). We will feel weak and tired, and sometimes we won't want to get back up. But we know we must, if we are ever to walk again.

The miraculous wonders of God run deep and are rooted in His deep love for us. This is where we can find people who have not been spared the fierceness of the storm, but who have peace in the midst of it. We often find those who haven't been physically healed of a terminal disease, yet spiritually they are full of life. And we see men and women who have no earthly reason to be happy, but every heavenly reason to be joyful.

The secret to happiness is our willingness to accept God's plans for us. If our needs are met there is no need to be envious of what someone else has. Our joy is found in being pleased with what we already have. Life is a gift, and we fail miserably in our thankfulness and prayers of thanks to our heavenly Father. My theory is if we fail to be thankful for what God has already given us He might take it away thinking we don't want His gifts.

It seems like we are never 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 ... Everything comes from you" (1 Chronicles 29:12-14, NIV).

I don't have a brand new house, but I have a home and a roof over my head. Many people are homeless. I don't have a brand spanking new car, but I have transportation. Some people have to walk or ride a bike to get to wherever they're going. I don't have filet mignon every night, but I don't go hungry.

You get where I'm going with this. The Lord provides and it would be in our best interest to be thankful and not turn up our noses at His generous gifts. Do we have a life on easy street? Ya, right! No, life is not a cakewalk, but it can really be a fun ride with Jesus riding shotgun!!

Your servant in Christ  
Rosie Schilling



Thank you for collecting aluminum cans for FCA. Your contribution of \$165 from the cans that were collected helps supplement the ministry. Keep praying for FCA as we add staff which helps grow out outreach. Have a great summer! In HIS Glory

*Jeff Tarras, FCA Area Director*

# Hope's Happenings

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Edgar Fine Arts Association presents  
"Concerts in the Park"

Sunday:	July 23	Attendance 89
Offering:	Regular	\$1260.00
	Building	\$50.00
	Sign	\$220.00
	Mission	\$30.00
	Loose	\$14.00
	Total	\$1574.00

- July 27, Keith Allynn, from Branson, MO presenting his Country Comedy, "Not Really Willy."
- August 3, KT Country, August 10, "Shoes" (Edgar's Own Steve Schumacker)

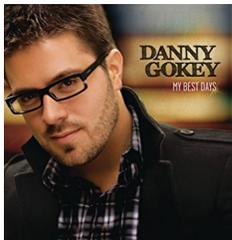
Bring your own lawn chairs. A free will donation will be taken. Rain location is the Edgar High Auditorium.

### PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

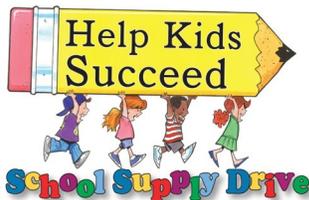
Ken Bauman—shoulder surgery  
 Tom Streckert—shoulder surgery—home recovering  
 Duane Kamenick—knee replacement—home recovering  
 Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's  
 John Hamann—Atrium  
 Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law  
 George Wright—fell broke hip 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  
 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 on the 400 Block with Danny Gokey' on July 30



What a great event for everyone to checkout! This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial and is free. Concert time is 5:00 pm. and is being held on the 400 block in downtown Wausau. We can do something with the Youth Group if others are able to help out and drive the kids. I will be helping with a Kicking Bear event right up until the concert. Please let me know if you are interested and if you can help out. Thanks Cedric Lechleitner



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.

**Sales on School Supplies!  
Need Your Help Fill Backpacks and School Kits!**

Here 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