

Visions of Hope

June 11, 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

June 18

June 25

Ushers

Brian Remus
Lowell Borchardt
Jay Borchardt
Chad Erickson

Greeters

Scott Bauman
Gary & Dianne Bauman

Readers

Jerry Anderson
Rose Schilling

Acolyte

Haylee Schreiber
Madison Borchardt



Thank you to the many people who responded to my proposal for a weekday morning Bible Study. It is gratifying to know that so many people are interested in growing their faith through study and reflection on our sacred scriptures.

Our first gathering will be at the church on Wednesday, June 21 at 10 o'clock in the morning. I ask of all who are planning to be attendance three things:

1. Bring your Bible. We will have a variety of translations and that is a good thing. It will help us to understand the nuances in our scriptures.
2. Please read Genesis Chapters 1, 2 and 3 as a background to our first study. Genesis is foundational to our understanding of all of scripture. This why it is "the beginning."
3. Bring a notebook and a pen to the study. Write down any and all questions that you might have. It is through the questions that we ask that we find our greatest growth.

I look forward to our first gathering and I know that it will be a Spirit filled experience that will help us all grow more deeply in our Christian faith.

Pax Christi
Mark Reiff+

I stood in line at the dairy breakfast and started talking to the gentleman in front of me. You know me, I have never met a stranger. Anyway, we started talking about the downfall of society and how the world is turning away from God. His comment was this "History has a way of repeating it's self. And God has His ways of making adjustments." His comments made it clear that being tolerant doesn't mean we have to believe everything that's thrown at us from modern society.

We hear so much about being tolerant, of homosexuality, radical Islam extremists, alternate lifestyles; etc. So my question is this does being tolerant mean we approve of homosexuality, radical Islam extremists and alternate lifestyles? Did Jesus ask us to condone sin when He gave us that greatest commandment "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you". (Ephesians 4:32). Not at all, as it is said, we can love the sinner even as we hate the sin.

I'd like to share with you some thoughts about Jesus and what He taught about judging others. Many people have a really inaccurate idea about what Jesus taught on the subject. They think He taught us not to judge others, period. That is not so. They suppose that Jesus sweetly tolerated anything and everything with regards to the differing religious and moral beliefs and practices of His day. He did not. He never tolerated sin, not in any form.

First, Jesus loved everybody. He came to save anyone in the world who desired to be saved. But His love for others, as great as it was, never interfered with Him telling them the truth. He taught on very controversial matters, and brought forth the truth even when it is very unpopular, even dangerous, to do so. And He warned us not to fall for false teaching. *Ephesians 4:14-15* Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Some preachers today think that being "tolerant" so as not to offend anyone is being like Jesus was. It isn't. Tough love tells the truth, which sometimes hurts for the moment, but also enlightens and, with the right reception, leads to life. Tough loves means we can love the sinner but not to condone the sin.

Jesus did not believe, tolerate nor condone everything taught by the various religious leaders of the day. Jesus taught that doctrine does matter. While others may be teaching, "We are all going to the same place, just by different roads" Jesus taught "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:14).

Jesus does not want you or me to think that we should accept and believe everything we hear as being "alternative truth". He has said that truth is absolute and knowable (John 8:31, 32). If a teaching or

philosophy is contrary to the Scriptures, then it must not be tolerated but rejected. It is untrue, a false way. Truth is absolute, and does not change. Of course, we treat all with respect and dignity as souls who bear the image of our Creator. We recognize the God given right of each person to make his or her own decisions with regard to what their relationship with God is going to entail.

Truth cannot be forced on anyone, and we shouldn't even try. It must be received within the human heart. But at the end of the day, there is still only one true faith, and we do our God, our fellow human beings, and ourselves a great disservice if we carelessly say otherwise (*Ephesians 4:4-6*). "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."

Here's a thought; if we would spread the word that Jesus loves all of us and forgives all sin for those who repent, would there be less people out in the world that need "alternate lifestyles"? Could our evangelism be a great way to help those lost souls find happiness in Christ Jesus instead of all the silly things people do or buy just trying to be happy?

We all want to be happy. We want our life to make some sense. Many of us live our entire life, seeking happiness by buying some new popular "toy" that comes out on the market. "If I have the latest iPad, I know I will be satisfied", but that kind of happiness is transient. Wealth and possessions cannot guarantee happiness. At least not the eternal soul filling happiness that comes from the knowledge that Jesus loves us. And when we love Jesus in return, our lives are expediently better and happier. Now, please don't get me wrong, Believing in Christ Jesus is not a blank check to live a sinful life thinking there will be no consequences. As the bible tells us in *Romans 6:23* "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". And let me tell you; believing and loving God is not going to make us instantly wealthy, skinnier, or better looking. We will just find it easier to be happy with whatever God provides for us and to find our joy in Christ Jesus. We can't really say "Don't worry, be happy, but we can say "by happy, Jesus loves you".

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

- 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—Atrium, Marshfield for rehab
- Don Hanson—health issues
- Dorothy Wright—fluid on lungs and congestive heart failure—Bonnie Blake's mom
- Patty Rueter—cancer—Beth Leffel's niece
- 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

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| Sunday: | June 11 | Attendance 78 |
| Offering: | Regular | \$1315.00 |
| | Building | \$155.00 |
| | Sunday School | 1.00 |
| | Missions | \$90.00 |
| | Sign | \$310.00 |
| | Jake Brinkman | \$40.00 |
| | El Salvador | \$60.00 |
| | Total | \$1971.00 |

Friday, June 23



Peace Lutheran Church will be having a brat fry at ProVision in Stratford from 9:00-5:00. They will be serving brats, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, mushroom swiss burgers, and soda

The Bulletin Board

- Starting June 21, 10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Mark at church
- Chip Ingram Small Group Study will continue on Fridays only at 10:00 am



June Mission Project is EL SALVADOR - CHRISTMAS IN JUNE

Because the Children Need to Know Jesus...the alternative is gangs. Please give these precious boys and girls of El Salvador hope and a smile. Small Christmas gifts (under \$10) slightly used or new and no batteries please! Trucks, hot wheels, dolls, coloring books, books in Spanish, deflated balls.

Also taking donations for:

women/men/children's shoes, winter hats & mittens, women/girls' long skirts, scarves & belts
Personal hygiene items such as toothpaste & toothbrushes, shampoo, bar soap, body wash, deodorant, feminine pads (no tampons).

Instant coffee packets & sugar packets have also been requested. All these items will be driven to Missouri in September and then shipped to El Salvador in time for Christmas.

Dollar Tree and garage sales are great places to pick up toys and items. A tote will be put in the narthex to place items in and shopping lists are on the counter. If you have any questions, contact Connie Lechleitner at 715-573-3996 or gclechleitner@gmail.com



A **BIG Thank You** for everyone that brought items for the Baby Care Kits. I will be putting them together over the summer and will let everyone know if we are really short of anything and if there is sewing to be done to finish them. Thank you again very much.
Rosie Bauman



Do you enjoy making homemade cards? If so, we would like to invite you to help make 4th of July cards for our Veterans in King, WI. Please put them in Barb's office by June 28 or in the mailbox marked 'secretary'. Thank you