

Visions of Hope

June 18, 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 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 25

July 2

Ushers

Jay Borchardt

Chad Erickson

Larry Peterson

Ron Kunkel

Greeters

Gary & Dianne Bauman

Gwen Bauman

Readers

Rose Schilling

Ron Kunkel

Acolyte

Madison Borchardt

Jaicee Kunkel



Near the beginning of each Sunday's worship the Prayer of Day is offered up to God. On Sundays of the Service of the Word we pray this prayer together as a congregation. On Communion Sundays, however, the Prayer of the Day is properly offered up to God and said only by the Pastor on behalf of the people.

Originally called a "Collect" because it was a prayer collected from the people, this prayer announces one of the prominent themes running through that particular Sunday's worship. This theme, announced by the collect, is then amplified by the subsequent readings and Psalm appointed for the day.

This coming Sunday's collect is particularly poignant. Here is the prayer:

"O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

This prayer dovetails perfectly with the readings and Psalm appointed for this coming Sunday. It speaks powerfully to our own time.

Our world and our culture seem to whirling out of control as storms of political poison and terrorism enclose upon us. But the Psalmist and Jeremiah, Matthew and Paul were well aware of these terrors too. Nevertheless, they placed their trust and hope in YHWH God, the Lord of History, and in his Son Jesus Christ. They knew, as we should, that what Franklin Roosevelt once said, "the only thing we need to fear is fear itself."

The prayer focuses us on what is the essential grace of God in the midst of our stormy lives. It tells us that He will deliver us from our fear and, most importantly, preserve us from unbelief. When we have faith and trust in God, and rely on Him, the storms of life don't magically disappear but our fear does because we know the end of the story and every story ends in God.

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff+

The Bible is a hard to understand book at times, yet this is the book we use for the basis of our love and obedience for God. From beginning to end, what is revealed about God Himself, His creation, His dealings with mankind, and His plans for the future makes sinful human beings squirm. What we sometimes forget is that all of God's word has a purpose and meaning.

For the unredeemed, the lost and the disbelievers, separation from God drives them into hiding, like it did Adam and Eve in the Garden. Of course, we know that we can never truly hide from the all-knowing Creator. Adam and Eve could not. Cain could not. And the billion-plus humans on the earth at the time of the global Flood could not. But for the redeemed, the believer and the faithful, the Bible is a book of hope. It gives us assurance. It soothes us with God's comfort. It enlightens us with God's plans and purposes for now and into eternity. From the very first verse, God has revealed Himself in such a way as to cause us to lift our hearts in wonder and praise and thanksgiving.

Genesis matters because it is God's inspired revelation. The move today to push Genesis out of the realm of history in order to accommodate the opinion of evolution's proponents strips the first book of the Bible, of its sacred place in God's Scripture. If Genesis is to be held in highest regard along with the other 65 books of Scripture, then we must be on guard against those who would selectively replace the doctrine of biblical creation with popular naturalistic notions such as evolution. The accuracy of Genesis as a historical account is guaranteed by the One who divinely inspired the writing of the book. As Todd Brinkman once said, "If we are descendants of apes, then why are there still apes"?

Either all of Genesis is part of Scripture or it's not. **Genesis matters because it is accurate historical narrative.** The careful Bible student understands that God's inspired Word was written and blessed by God, we cannot overlook the beauty of the written word, such as poetry in the Psalms, prophecy in Daniel and Revelation, and historical narrative in many books of the Bible. The Gospels and the book of Acts are historical books, detailing the words and work of Jesus and His disciples. Real people are mentioned. Real cities are described. Real events are recorded for us to read, if you compare historical books and the bible you will find many side by side happenings. Much of the Old Testament is a record of history, and that is easily seen in the first five books of the Bible.

However, the events in the first eleven chapters of Genesis—particularly creation, the Fall, and the Flood—have made certain Christian teachers so uncomfortable that they now are seeking to deny the undeniable. But this attack on Genesis is not new.

Many conservative theologians held to the Gap Theory, because it conveniently placed the “accepted” scientific theories of billions of years of evolutionary and geological development in between verses 1 and 2 of the first chapter of Genesis. It seemed an acceptable blend of science and theology. It allowed us to declare that God created plants, animals, and people in six literal days without our having to deal with the scientific evidence in much detail, but of course 6 days in God’s time is much different than six days in human time. In hindsight, though, the Gap Theory, along with other hybrid theories, was still just another compromise that denigrated the character of Scripture, and in turn defame the character of the Creator.

Enough biblical language research has been conducted on the account in Genesis to conclude, without any doubt, that God’s narrative of six “days” of God’s time for creation is a record of actual history, not some metaphorical “framework” open to any interpretation. We are not to know exactly how many hours God’s “day” actually consists of. **Genesis matters because it is vital to knowing God.** You cannot really know God until you rightly understand Genesis. That’s a powerful claim, but one worth considering.

If God designed the Bible to consist of 66 books, and ensured that His revelation was complete and unified and without error in every word within those 66 books, then we must be careful not to dismiss any statement or any book that God divinely inspired for us to read and study. God did not reveal His Word in a haphazard way; there is marvelous, perfect unity from beginning to end. Nor did God wait around to see what ancient peoples wrote before He inspired the writers of the Bible. The lordship, power, and omniscience of the triune God are plainly presented from the very first pages of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1 is clearly one of the greatest statements in all of Scripture, for if we don’t fully believe here, we cannot, or will not, appreciate God in the rest of the Bible. Accepting God as Creator demands our acceptance of Him as Judge, and that is exactly why many refuse to acknowledge that God exists, for doing so obligates them to deal with their sin before a righteous Judge. Of course, we all can learn and know enough about God to receive His gift of salvation. We find the simple truth of salvation, for instance, in a gospel presentation from the book of John or Romans. Many millions have been saved with just such portions of Scripture.

However, it’s silly to even suggest we remove the book of Genesis—or at least the first eleven chapters—from importance in our study of the Bible is to demote this portion of Scripture from the level of divine inspiration. Some scholars seek to make light of God’s ability to communicate clearly on important matters that deal with the very identity and attributes of a holy, purposeful, and compassionate Father. If Genesis doesn’t matter—if God didn’t want us to know Him through the book of Genesis—then He would have left it out of the Bible entirely.

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

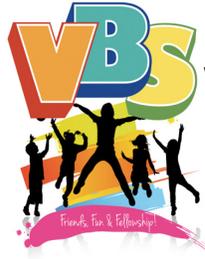
George Wright—fell broke hip and spiral break in upper femur—Bonnie’s dad
Mildred Imhoff—fell and broke her femur—Ken’s mother
Joyce LeVoy—Atrium, Marshfield for rehab
Don Hanson—health issues
Dorothy Wright—fluid on lungs and congestive heart failure—Bonnie Blake’s mom
John Hamann—recuperating from 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

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:

for the family of Patty Rueter—cancer—Beth Leffel’s niece—who passed away on June 14

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	June 18	Attendance 127
Offering:	Regular	\$1745.00
	Building	\$5.00
	Sunday School	2.00
	Missions	\$70.00
	Sign	\$390.00
	Jake	\$20.00
	Loose	\$73.00
	El Salvador	\$95.00
		\$2400.00



Vacation Bible School

will be held the week of July 24-28
from 5:30-8:00pm.

There will be a light supper
served from 5:00-5:30pm.

Children age 3 through
children entering 6th grade

The Bulletin Board

- On Wednesdays a Bible Study with Pastor Mark will be held 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

*Celebrating
70 years
of marriage*

Please join us on Sunday, June 25
Immediately following worship service
for a reception in honor of
Vernon & Melva Nahrings
70th Wedding Anniversary
(which is that day)