

Visions of Hope

June 25, 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 2

July 9

Ushers

Larry Peterson

Ron Kunkel

Rick Bradley

Ken Schilling

Greeters

Gwen Bauman

Debbie Bauman

Readers

Ron Kunkel

Rachel Ludwig

Acolyte

Jaicee Kunkel

Anna Peterson



The national celebration of our nation's birth is right around the corner. This Sunday we will recognize and honor July 4th in our worship with song, prayer and a special presentation. We will do this because, as St. Paul the Apostle exhorts us, we are to be good citizens of the country in which we live. As Christians, we pay our taxes and serve our nation in a variety of ways and callings. This is right and good.

But we should also remember the response of Jesus to those who wished to trap him with this question, "Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Jesus' response was stunning and remarkably shrewd.

Jesus said, after he asked for a Roman coin, "Whose head is this? Whose name is this?" His adversaries responded "Caesar's." Then Jesus confounded them with these words, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and give to God what belongs to God." Stunned by this response they left him and went away.

Christians should never forget this encounter and its dialog because it points us to our first, authentic, and true duty. Quite often we focus on the first part of Jesus's reply (give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar) and skim over the second half of his response (and to God what belongs to God). When we do this miss the most important point Jesus is trying to make.

Certainly, Christians are called to be good citizens even in the realm of a despot like Caesar. But Jesus is making a far more important point, namely that our real and authentic citizenship is in the Kingdom of God. This kingdom is neither a republic nor a democracy, and Jesus is it's King!

The Christian scriptures make it clear from beginning to end that all earthly Caesar's, Presidents, Prime Ministers, rulers, or whatever we choose to call them are but pale imitations of the real thing, the real ruler... God in Jesus Christ himself.

Mere money, the coin of the realm, always belongs to Caesar but the most important treasure we possess is the image of God imprinted upon us from creation and at our birth. This is the real commanding treasure to which every Christian owes the highest allegiance.

By the way, this is what makes the Christian faith so counter-cultural and so dangerous to be would despots and those who would impose tyranny even in a "democracy." Christians cannot be intimidated by the elected or unelected rulers of this world because we understand that God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the only true and real ruler of this world and of all that exists.

As we celebrate the July 4th Holiday with a wave of patriotic fervor and thanksgiving let us also never forget the words of Jesus and the knowledge it gives us that God's Heaven is our true Kingdom and our native land.

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff+

The forth Commandment "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy"—means, literally, to "set apart", or as Pastor Reiff says, to make the Sabbath day different from all other days of the week. Although we go to church on Sunday mornings, the day never seems quite as holy as it used to. As often as not, we wind up at the shopping mall on Sunday, or at a sports event or even a car show that's held on a Sunday morning. And sometimes they actually schedule drag racing on a Sunday morning, the gall!!

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy"—of course, Christians aren't bound by Old Testament Sabbath directives. Twice in his epistles, the apostle Paul made it clear that Sabbath observance, like other external signs of piety, is insufficient for salvation. As he wrote to the Colossians, "Therefore do not let anyone judge you . . . with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ" (Colossians 2:16-17). And Jesus, when rebuked by the Pharisees for plucking grain from a field on the Sabbath, criticized those who made a fetish of Sabbath observance, insisting, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

But Jesus never said to forget the Sabbath completely. Keeping the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments, after all! And through the ages Christians have seen the wisdom of devoting one full day to rest and praise. There's an old Puritan saying, "Good Sabbaths make good Christians."

Still, honoring the Sabbath was easier in Puritan New England, where almost everyone took the Sabbath seriously. Life was easier when we old timers were children. Shops weren't open on Sundays, businesses closed their doors, and everyone headed to church. Sabbaths are much more difficult in contemporary America. In fact, in a society that values busyness and productivity, observing the Sabbath is downright counter-cultural. We love

our children, our grandchildren and they are interested in sports and want to participate. And it is important that we take an interest in their activities, it's a way of showing love and support. However, as Pastor Reiff pointed out, what kind of God do we honor when we choose extra-curricular activities instead of church? Keeping the Sabbath holy, just taking a day to be thankful for what the Lord has provided for us. It is a proven fact that we humans need to unwind, slow down and get recharged.

That's not to say contemporary society doesn't encourage us to relax. To the contrary, most secular women's magazines and television talk shows (not to mention Calgon ads) instruct us to indulge ourselves. While there's nothing wrong with the occasional bubble bath, Calgon days aren't quite the same thing as Sabbath. The key to the Sabbath isn't merely rest. Rather, it's that in our rest we turn our attention to God, who rested on the Sabbath day, He clearly expressed His feelings regarding taking a day of rest, not only in the creation story but also in the Ten Commandments.

Have you ever slept for several hours, woke up, but remained unrefreshed? Perhaps you remember Washington Irving's story "Rip Van Winkle." Rip is a henpecked husband who wanders to the mountains to escape, meets a strange crew, falls asleep, and snoozes for twenty years. He wakes up to find the world completely changed, his wife dead, and his neighbors envious that he had out slept his nagging wife's natural life.

What's striking about Irving's story is that Van Winkle's sleep wasn't restful. It was sleep without refreshment. This was a kind of resting that did no real good. And sometimes, we know what that's like because our hearts and minds are too full and anxious to rest well. We sometimes wake up or come back from vacations unrefreshed despite having rested.

The grace of the fourth commandment is that God promises to give us real rest and real refreshment when we find our rest in Him. As we remember the Sabbath day, as we keep it holy to the Lord, we find that we begin to enter into the rest that God offers and gain a foretaste of the heavenly rest to come, the rest of the new heavens and new earth.

In [Exodus 20:8-10](#), it is clear that God gives Sabbath rest as a command. However, we often miss that as we "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," God intends for us to use that day for Him: "The seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God." What does this mean? It means that one day in seven—not a day of our choosing, but a day of God's own choosing and a day unlike other days—is to be set apart for the Lord's service, to attend church and get recharged by the Holy Spirit through God's word.

And this command is rooted in both creation and redemption. In Exodus 20, creation serves as the ground: "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth ... and rested on the seventh day" (v. 11). The creation week serves as a pattern for our creative weeks: just as God worked six and rested one, so should we.

But in Deuteronomy 5, this command finds its basis in redemption: "You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" (v. 15). Because God redeemed His people out of captivity with the blood of firstborn lambs, their lives and their time belonged to Him. He gave it back to them in redemption and required the Sabbath day as a witness, a "first fruits" of the week, and a testimony to His redemptive work.

In [Luke 4:16-21](#), Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day "as was his custom." He took the scroll and read from Isaiah 61, declaring, "Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The link between Sabbath and Messiah was plain: the promised Sabbath of rest and rejoicing, pictured in creation and redemption, has come in Jesus. He brings good news, the Lord's favor, liberty, sight, and freedom.

Jesus loved to heal on the Sabbath. That seems clear in [Luke 13:10-17](#). A woman bound by a "disabling spirit for eighteen years" is healed and she glorifies God. The Pharisees are furious with Jesus. His response: "Ought not this woman be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" Isn't it fitting and right? Creation and redemption come together on the Sabbath day to point to Christ's gracious gift of real renewal, rest, and refreshment.

Jesus does these things because He is Lord of the Sabbath day ([Mark 2:23-28](#)). He is the One about whom the Sabbath testifies, and as our Redeemer, He has started time anew through the resurrection. Indeed, on the Sunday of His resurrection, time began again; the first day of the new creation started. The Sabbath rest secures its meaning on Resurrection Sunday, setting the day for Christian worship ([1 Cor. 16:2](#); [Rev. 1:10](#)). We remember this day to the Lord's service in worship and mercy, in response to God's good command and Christ's gracious gift.

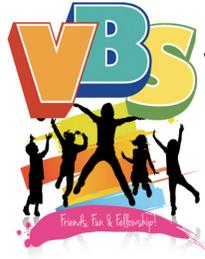
We who trust in Jesus not only find rest for our souls Sunday by Sunday, but we also have the promise of entering into the final Sabbath rest ([Heb. 4:9-10](#)). "Remember the Sabbath", God knows we cannot withstand the break-neck speed of daily life without resting our body and soul. Instead of car shows, sports events, shopping or any other secular God, we need to "rest in and receive" Jesus. In Him, we find rest for our souls ([Matt. 11:28-30](#)).

That's why the Sabbath day brings real rest and refreshment. We aren't in a frenzy trying to earn God's favor. Rather, the Lord of the Sabbath Himself has raised us and will raise us from the dead ([Eph. 2:4-6](#)). The basic fact is that God would not have written the fourth Commandment if He didn't mean for us to follow His directive of "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy". We always should remember that God has a reason for everything He had done, or anything that will happen to us in the future.

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling

Hope's Happenings

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| Sunday: | June 25 | Attendance 76 |
| Offering: | Regular | \$1570.00 |
| | Building | \$40.00 |
| | Missions | \$100.00 |
| | Sign | \$250.00 |
| | Driveway | \$10.00 |
| | Loose | \$30.00 |
| | Total | \$2000.00 |



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 are welcome.

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—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



The Bulletin Board

- Council will meet Sunday, July 9 immediately following worship
- 10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor
- **Thank you** to everyone who made 4th of July cards for our Veterans in King. We sent away 70 cards. AWESOME!!!!



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