

Visions of Hope

March 12, 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 School
8:45-9:30 am

Bible Study
8:45-9:15 am

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Pastor:

David Lathrop
715-574-1419 (cell)
715-352-2555 (church)

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

March 19

March 26

Ushers

Andy Yoder

Keith Bauman

Gary Bauman

Scott Bauman

Greeters

Daryl & Beth Mueller

Elaine Mielke

Acolyte

Madison Borchardt

Anna Peterson

Readers

Chad Bender

Michelle Bauman

Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).

"Fear not," God says to us. And yet we fear. "Be not dismayed." And yet we worry and become anxious over many things, like Pastor Dave leaving Hope for greater things. God continually tells us "I am with you," yet we continue to become panic stricken by the cares of this life, what's happening in church and not realizing just how close He really is. Our eyes are so often focused on our problems that surround us we cannot see the God who remains with us. That is the God that sends His Holy Spirit to guide us along the way. God is near.

So why do we act like He has forgotten about Hope Church? That is not so, God has a reason for all things that happen in this world and especially at Hope Church. If we go into panic mode then we give Satan more and more attention, and we give him more and more power. We eventually give him more power in our lives than God, as we let our panic and fears control what we think and what we must do going forward.

Perhaps the reason God seems so far off is because we have become complacent and inattentive. Some people had questions about last week's devotion. I was not taking cheap shots at Pastor Dave. Some of the time I write about my fears and inadequacies, I sometimes feel as though I have let down the people at Hope because I have not done enough. Pastor Dave did not know all the people of Hope Church when he arrived here and I wonder if I did enough to bring to his attention the needs of Hope. This sentence "Even the pulpit, in some cases, has taken the less involved role with the members", did not mean Pastor Dave but all the leadership of Hope Church and especially me. My goal as a council member is to be sensitive to the needs of the entire congregation.

Maybe we have gotten our eyes off of Him by putting all the wonderful things we want out of life above our devotion to our Heavenly Father. If we move away from the Light of God to chase after the world, we will only be filled with darkness, and cannot see a wonderful future ahead of us. I must have the light from God to see and plan ahead. *"If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (Mt.6:25).*

God is near. But if we are blinded by problems and not thinking of solutions or even considering what the future hold we become selfish and lose focus. We lose that closeness to God and isn't the love of God and Hope Church at the front of all our blessing? And if we can't see Him, in the midst of all the changes we are going through, how can we bring ourselves to trust Him? And if we can't bring ourselves to trust in Him, how can we learn to depend on Him when we are surrounded by troubles, or changes? How can we learn to have peace if the future is so uncertain?

The changes in our church can and will force most of us to reevaluate or vision for Hope Church and our role in the community. God has something to say to us about that. *He says, "Do you feel weak? I will strengthen you. Do you need assistance? I'll be there--I will help you. Are you weary and feel like you cannot take another step? I will hold you up."* These are not simply words but they are the promises from God. Would God lie to you? Of course not. Do you think He is talking to everyone but Hope Church? Of course He is talking to Hope Church--He is talking to all of us. We simply have to pray and to believe what God said He will do, He will do just that, He will fulfill all those promises. Like Pastor Dave said in the sermon, we must have faith like Abraham and we must follow the path in front of us even though we may not quite know where we are going. He is faithful to His word even when we are sometimes lacking faith.

He tells us to pray without ceasing. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

What is holding you back? Are your eyes glued on the changes that are happening or perhaps your fear is overwhelming your faith? *"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8). "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalms 37:4). ". . .for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). "Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).*

We need wait upon the Lord; He alone will grant us the power of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom to make wise decisions. He has already put good and faithful Pastors in place to help us figure out what we need at this very moment, and how to plan for our future. This will also be of great benefit to us as we focus on where we want to be as a church and what type of Pastor will be the best fit for us.

The right answers will be there for us as long as we focus on what God’s will is for Hope Church. Our individual wants and needs should take a last place in our efforts to make the future of Hope Church bright and purposeful. Yes, we all hate change, and let’s face it; an uncertain future makes us worry. But if we bond together as a congregation we can overcome the doubts and fears Satan is trying to weigh upon us.

We all have a stake in our future and our vision for Hope Church, this means it will take the entire congregation from the youngest to the oldest and all in between to keep the faith going forward.

So let all of us pray unceasingly for the hope, future and vision of Hope Church. And pray for God’s grace and peace as we start a new venture for Hope Church.

Your very humble servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Shelly Sonnetag—cancer—friend of Jay Borchardt and Ken Bauman
 Steven Brinkman—back surgery—Todd’s brother
 Sara Koss—leukemia—niece of the Kamenick’s
 Jim Brant—failing health—friend of Leroy Syring
 Patty Rueter—cancer—Beth Leffel’s niece
 John Hamann—home recuperating from hip surgery
 Jim Decker—stem cell transplant—friend of the Streckert’s
 Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
 Emery Rahm—cancer—friend of the Viegut’s
 Scott Campbell—stage two leukemia—relation to the Streckert’s
 Don Hansen—Bladder cancer
 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
 Dennis Bohman—Colby Nursing Home



I big thank you to all for your prayers, cards, for food brought, offered rides and to Pastor Dave for all his visits while dealing with my broken ankle. God bless you all.
Elaine Mielke

Thank you to Audrey Borchardt and Debbie Bauman for painting the narthex.

The Edgar Find Arts Association presents the side splitting comedy "Ole and Lena Win a Cruise" Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 7:00p.m. at the Edgar Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5.00 for students and can be purchased at Berg Sales, Edgar, or at the door the day of the show.

Hope's Happenings

Wednesday: March 8 Attendance ???
 Offering: Regular \$297.00
 Total \$297.00

Sunday: March 12 Attendance 100
 Offering: Regular \$2650.00
 Building \$5.00
 Sunday School \$15.25
 Mission \$60.00
 Loose \$5.00
 Sign \$100.00
 Other \$50.00
 Total \$2885.25

The Bulletin Board

- Lenten Worship Services will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm
 - Choir will practice immediately following Service
- Council will meet Sunday, March 19 immediately following worship.
- There will be a Thank You / Farewell Potluck dinner for Pastor Dave on April 2 following worship



Our Mission project for March will be **Personal Care Kits**. Each kit includes:

- One light weight bath size towel—20"x40" to 27"x52" - dark color recommended (Lightweight towels are recommended as often they are washed in a river or water hole and need to air dry. Often all family members use one towel.)
- Two bath size bars (4-5 oz) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One **adult** size toothbrush in original packaging
- One **sturdy** comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clipper—remove packaging

You may bring in items for a kit and we will assemble it or if completing a kit, wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. Place items or completed kits in the tote near the coffee hour area. Shopping lists are on coffee counter. All items should be new and in good condition. Any questions talk to Carol Anderson (715-659-2463)

These kits will be sent when natural disasters strike or political conflict flares and families often have to flee very suddenly with no chance to gather anything. Many are in refugee camps, scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. These simple items show them someone cares and is concerned for them in their plight. Last year Personal Care Kits were sent to Angola, Burkina Faso, Dem Rep, Conga, Georgia, Mali, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Tanzania and Ukraine. Total kits sent was 144,970



2 NEW SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

The first is 4 sessions long and is from Max Lucado. He will show us how PRAYING is having a conversation with God. This small group will meet at church on Mondays at 1:00pm and again at 7:00pm at church. Feel free to come to either time that suits you. Cost of this study guide will be \$6. This group will start on March 20.

The second is 12 sessions long and is from Chip Ingram. This one is much deeper and covers such topics as Biblical Right and Wrong; Sex; Homosexuality, Abortion, the Environment and Politics in the church. This small group will meet on Tuesday at 7:00pm and again on Fridays at 10:00am at church. And again feel free to attend either time. Cost of this study guide will be \$7. This group will start on March 21.

If you are interested in participating in either one or both, please let Rosie Bauman (715-573-0524 or rustyroosedairy@gmail.com) know as soon as possible. Rosie had ordered a couple extra books of each if needed.



Youth Group will be meeting this Sunday, March 19th after church in the kitchen. Lunch will be provided. We'll stay at church until 11:30 and then head to Edgar Lanes until around 1:00. If anyone needs a ride home, please let Scott, Ron or Cedric know. If some can't stay the whole time, grab them when you need to. Please have each student bring \$5 to help cover the cost of bowling.