

Visions of Hope

March 19, 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

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 26

April 2

Ushers

Gary Bauman
Scott Bauman
Gary Ludwig
Leroy Syring

Greeters

Elaine Mielke
Leroy Syring & Beth Leffel

Acolyte

Anna Peterson
Riley Bauman

Readers

Michelle Bauman
Rachel Ludwig

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Hoppers,

I hope you are doing well during this Lenten season. We are preparing to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with repentance, fasting, praying and giving. Easter is now less than a month away.

Please note there will be no more Sunday Morning Bible Study. We finished up the book of Esther last Sunday and, with my time here coming to an end in under a month, it seemed best to conclude this Bible study for now. It could be that a member of Hope or a future pastor could eventually restart it.

Please keep Hope in your prayers during this time of transition. Pray for unity and love among us. Pray that we will all grow in faith, hope and love. Pray that we will be careful how we talk and speak in a way that presents others in the best possible light. Pray for wisdom and discernment among leaders of Hope.

Pray for the future pastor of Hope. I thank all of you who are praying for my family and me. Again, remember that God has this congregation in his hands and he is faithful.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dave

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

If we exercise trust and acknowledge the Lord in every area of our lives, His promise is that He will guide us. As the old saying goes, "we plan, God laughs". That was the point in Sunday's sermon. God might take you to some unwanted places, but He will also guide you through those scary times. Abraham didn't know where God was sending him, but he packed up to go anyway. Read Exodus 17:1-7.

To know God's guidance, we must put aside our own will and seek the will of the Lord who has called us for His purpose, He created us because He loves us. So after putting all that effort into our creation, God decides to never abandon us, time and time again He has shown mercy to all our foolish deeds. The basic principle in determining the will of God in any situation is to empty ourselves of our own will and to commit ourselves to seeking and obeying His will. Oh, but we have to test Him, just to make sure He really wants you to have blind faith and follow where He leads even if we don't know where we are going.

If we claim to want to know God's will, but we're not willing to do it unless it agrees with our will, we're kidding ourselves. In this case, all we really want is God's approval of our plans, after all don't we know best what the best is for us? Only God knows the future and He will sometimes take us in another direction but He knows the hardships that will happen if we follow our will and not His. We'll never know God's direction that way, because God reveals His will only to those who are committed to trust and obey Him.

So often we don't experience God's guidance because we get so caught up doing our own thing that we fail to stop and ask God to reveal His will to us. We can't hear Him if we have ear plugs in. Or we get into our established routine, and it takes a catastrophe for God to get our attention – so that He can reveal to us what He wants to do in our lives. The truth is if you want God's guidance, stop and ask Him for it, expect Him to give it, and wait and listen to what He will say. *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle."* (Psalm 32:8-9) Alright, I get it, don't be a stubborn mule Rose.

We might ask ourselves what happens if God doesn't say anything, does this mean we need to listen more carefully? The answer is that when we seek and expect God's guidance, we better be ready to hear and accept what our Holy Father is saying. If we get to a door and it doesn't open, maybe God is asking us to wait because He has some more work to do on us first. And the reality is, God says NO, to our plans and wants us to wait for His direction. Maybe He is turning us in another direction, He carries the map after all. We must not gaze so longingly on the door that is closed that we miss the one that is open. This is an old, and sometimes over used saying, but the truth is that God will open the right door for us in His time. Our duty is to trust and obey, and quit looking around the corner trying to plan our way instead of waiting for God to take the lead.

How many times have we made decisions that we wish we hadn't made. Most of these experiences are not pleasant, the Lord does have important lessons to teach us if we submit to His will for us. But if we think, "I'm going to take matters into my own hands," we'll only bring more pain and disappointments into our life. The devil steps in, he creates doubt, and we can start a downhill journey which will take us away from the power and protection of our Lord.

To find God's will we must walk in constant communion with the Lord, taking everything to Him in prayer. "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3). We need to realize that our steps are ordered by the Lord. When we walk with Him and are committed to His purpose, He will work in our life orchestrating everything for His honor and glory.

If we trust in Him, the process becomes a beautiful blending of God's faithfulness and mercy and of our obedient trust in Him. Our heavenly Father wants the best for us. He has a perfect plan for our lives. The key to living out His plan and being in tune with His will, is not only believing in God, but obeying Him as well. We must have faith and obey because, "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).

Remember, where God guides, He provides, our job is not to test, but to have blind faith and learn the lesson God is trying to get through our thick heads. Well, at least my thick head, yours may not be as hard.

All things happen in God's time and the success of that journey God takes us on depends on the faith we show, and our willingness to give up testing and trying to out-smart God. He guides and provides we must accept and obey.

May the peace that passes all understanding be in your hearts this coming week.

Your 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



Thank you for your donation to Gideon International. Your donation will provide for the purchase and placement of Scriptures throughout the world. It will provide approximately 40 Bibles here and across the globe. This includes all costs of getting a Scripture into the hands of someone who needs it.
Ken Miller



First of all, Hope Church, Thank you for inviting and hosting the veterans from VFW Post 6352 two weeks ago. Next, Wien Wildcats, I thought you did a wonderful job. It was a great meal with extras like place mats, and center pieces (of which I won one, and it is still alive!). Most of all I want to thank you for being polite, courteous and attentive as we each related some of our military experiences. Thanks again.
Duane Pupp

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	March 19	Attendance 115
Offering:	Regular	\$1780.00
	Building	\$175.00
	Sunday School	\$6.00
	Mission	\$110.00
	Loose	\$10.00
	Sign	\$110.00
	Other	\$10.00
	Total	\$2201.00



The Bulletin Board

- Lenten Worship Services will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm
 - Choir will practice immediately following Service
- 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.)
- 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)

Collection for LWR Personal Care Kits continues through March. We are most in need of light weight bath towels and soap to complete some kits.



Highway clean up will be Sunday April 30 starting at 1:00 pm

Wear boots for those darn wet spots and remember to wear gloves. Other supplies will be provided



2 NEW SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Due to the books not coming in in time our first 4 sessions from Max Lucado will start **Monday, March 27** at 1:00 and 7:00 pm. There still is time to sign up for either this Bible Study or the Chip Imgram Bible Study that is being held Tuesdays at 7:00 pm or Fridays at 10:00 am. If you are interested please let contact Rosie Bauman (715-573-0524 or rustyroosedairy@gmail.com)



If you know how to knit or crochet and would like to make godly use of your talent, please consider joining the prayer shawl ministry. Contact Rosie Bauman at 715-573-0524 for more information. Thank you