

# Visions of Hope

March 26, 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**

**April 2**

April 9

**Ushers**

Gary Ludwig

Leroy Syring

Larry Peterson

Chad Bender

**Greeters**

Leroy Syring & Beth Leffel

John Hamann

**Acolyte**

Riley Bauman

Korbyn Bauman

**Readers**

Rachel Ludwig

Jerry Anderson

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."*

2 Timothy 1:7

Fear influences many of our decisions. Fear can be amplified in a bad way — we can be “the worst-case scenario” champions. Fear can even prevent us from moving forward in obedience to what God is calling us to do. We end up fearing everything, especially change. I am not an expert on concurring fear or embracing change; but I thank God that He is!

So, what would any wise believer do? We should pray. We should pray against fear. Pray that God would take away our fear. That fear would leave us alone. We can pray that fear would vanish and we won't let fear control our lives. Does fear rule over God's plan for us? The truth is, until Christ's return, fear will always exist on this earth. We live in a scary world where bad things happen. Just think of all the shootings and terrorist acts in the last five years. One look at the news headlines makes it clear that there are really big scary things out there.

John 10:10 tells us that the enemy *"comes only to steal and kill and destroy"*. One of the primary ways he does this is through fear. The enemy's intent is to keep our eyes riveted on our fears and stop us from trusting God. Stop us from making wise decisions. Stop us from believing things can change. Stop us from pursuing the seemingly impossible dreams in our hearts.

Praying against fear isn't enough, because fear still holds far too much influence over us. But God has given us armor against fear, as our key verse declares, we can embrace the difference between courage and letting fear control us. We want to be brave and strong on the inside so fear could no longer shake us. So our prayers can change. Drastically. Instead of just praying *against* fear, we can use God's Word and pray for specific things. God-inspired things. Like courage and confidence and amazing peace.

The phrase “full armor of God” comes from *Ephesians 6:10-20*: *“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

*Ephesians 6:12* clearly indicates that the conflict with Satan is spiritual, and therefore no tangible weapons can be effectively employed against him and his minions (not the movie kind). We are not given a list of specific tactics Satan will use. However, the passage is quite clear that when we follow all the instructions faithfully, we will be able to stand, and we will have victory regardless of Satan's strategy.

The first element of our armor is truth (verse 14). This is easy to understand, since Satan is said to be the “father of lies” (*John 8:44*). Deception is high on the list of things God considers to be an abomination. A “lying tongue” is one of the things He describes as “detestable to Him” (*Proverbs 6:16-17*). We are therefore exhorted to put on truth for our own sanctification and deliverance, as well as for the benefit of those to whom we witness.

Also in verse 14, we are told to put on the breastplate of righteousness. A breastplate shielded a warrior's vital organs from blows that would otherwise be fatal. This righteousness is not works of righteousness done by men. Rather, this is the righteousness of Christ, imputed by God and received by faith, which guards our hearts against the accusations and charges of Satan and secures our innermost being from his attacks.

Verse 15 speaks of the preparation of the feet for spiritual conflict. In warfare, sometimes an enemy places dangerous obstacles in the path of advancing soldiers. The idea of the preparation of the gospel of peace as footwear suggests what we need to advance into Satan's territory, aware that there will be traps, with the message of grace so essential to winning souls to Christ. Satan has many obstacles placed in the path to halt the propagation of the gospel.

The shield of faith spoken of in verse 16 makes Satan's sowing of doubt about the faithfulness of God and His Word ineffective. Our faith—can remain strong like a golden shield, precious, solid, and substantial. The perfect weapon against the Satan's seeds of doubt and the fear.

The helmet of salvation in verse 17 is protection for the head, keeping viable a critical part of the body. We could say that our way of thinking needs preservation. The head is the seat of the mind, which, when it has laid hold of the sure gospel hope of eternal life, will not receive false doctrine or give way to Satan's temptations. The unsaved person has no hope of warding off the blows of false doctrine because he is without the helmet of salvation and his mind is incapable of discerning between spiritual truth and spiritual deception.

Verse 17 interprets itself as to the meaning of the sword of the Spirit—it is the Word of God. While all the other pieces of spiritual armor are defensive in nature, the sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in the armor of God. It speaks of the holiness and power of the Word of God. A greater spiritual weapon is not conceivable. In Jesus' temptations in the desert, the Word of God was always His overpowering response to Satan. What a blessing that the same Word is available to us!

In verse 18, we are told to pray in the Spirit (that is, with the mind of Christ, with His heart and His priorities) in addition to wearing the full armor of God. We cannot neglect prayer, as it is the means by which we draw spiritual strength from God. Without prayer, without reliance upon God, our efforts at spiritual warfare are empty and futile. The full armor of God—truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer—are the tools God has given us, through which we can be spiritually victorious, overcoming Satan's attacks and temptations.

Though we might not always be *fearless*, by praying specifically for qualities found in God's Word, we can *fear less*. If you're battling fear on any level or in any area of your life, let God's word be your armor against Satan. Instead of praying that fear will be far from us, we can ask God to give us strong, bold and courageous hearts (Joshua 1:9) when fear comes near. Instead of asking God to take away all fear, we can ask for His grace to run toward the big, scary things with great courage, well maybe not run to them, but with His courage we will be able to handle them (1 Samuel 17:48).

Instead of praying that fear will leave us alone, we can pray that when we are afraid, we will trust and have confidence in God (Psalm 56:3). Instead of asking God to make all fear in our lives vanish, we can pray that His peace which surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and supersede all fear (read Philippians 4:6-7).

Praying this way changes us, we won't make decisions based on fear anymore. We recognize "worst-case scenarios" very seldom happen and we can nip them in the bud. We can move forward in obedience to the things God has called us to do.

God doesn't promise to always take away all our fears. Yet He gives us the power, love and self-discipline necessary to embrace His life-changing truth. When we pray with His living and active Word something amazing happens — God strengthens our hearts. He helps us trust Him, He equips us with His amazing peace and enables us to move forward in courage. And we will *fear less*.

Your sister in Christ  
Rosie Schilling

Portions of this devotion were paraphrased from a small group session I attended last summer.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Please remember the following people in your prayers

- Shelly Sonnetag—cancer—friend of Jay Borchartd and Ken Bauman
- 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-Borchartd
- 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! Thank you! Thank you! We are so grateful for your financial support to FCA. With your help we are adding more school huddles and able to offer a scholarship at the Edgar High School! Again, Thank You! For HIS Glory,  
Jeff Tarras, FCA Area Director

# Hope's Happenings

Wednesday:	March 15	Attendance ???
Offering:	Regular	\$417.00
	Total	\$417.00

Wednesday:	March 22	Attendance 34
Offering:	Regular	\$242.00
	Total	\$242.00

Sunday:	March 26	Attendance 93
Offering:	Regular	\$1145.00
	Building	\$40.00
	Sunday School	\$5.00
	Mission	\$65.00
	Loose	\$3.00
	Sign	\$180.00
	Nigerian Well	\$1000.00
	Total	\$2438.00

## The Bulletin Board

- Lenten Worship Services will be held on Wednesday nights March 29 and April 5 at 7:00 pm
  - Choir will practice immediately following Service
  - April 13—Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm
  - April 14—Good Friday service at 7:00 pm
- **ALL Sunday School Choir** practice will be held April 2 & 9 from 8:30-8:45. The Sunday School children will be marching and singing Ho-Ho-Hosanna with palm branches on Sunday, April 9.
- **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" -
- 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)

Our collection of items for Personal Care Kits will be ending soon. Please have items to church by March 31.



The adult choir will hold practices on the following dates:

- ⇒ Wednesday, March 29 after Lenten service
- ⇒ Sunday, April 2 at 8:45 am
- ⇒ Wednesday, April 5 after Lenten service
- ⇒ Saturday, April 8 at 9:00am



- Any member of the Youth Group that can help prepare Palm Sunday Brunch, please plan on helping in the kitchen on Palm Sunday morning around 9:00 am. See Scott, Cedric or Ron with any questions.

The Youth Group has an opportunity to do a service project. We will be decorating for the Wausau Children's Festival at the East Gate Hall at Marathon Park on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 to 7:00. Please communicate with Ron, Scott or Cedric if you will be attending or not and if a ride is needed, as there are different options that we can do. Depending on the number of kids attending, we may also go to the Wausau on Water Center for laser tag.