

Visions of Hope

March 5, 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 12

March 19

Ushers

Russ Bauman
Ron Kunkel
Andy Yoder
Keith Bauman

Greeters

Debbie Bauman
Daryl & Beth Mueller

Acolyte

Haylee Schreiber
Madison Borhardt

Readers

Jen Kunkel
Chad Bender

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Heb.10:24).

It's easier to tell someone what to do rather than to train them to do the job well, to enforce our ideas than to encourage anyone to share their good ideas, to harshly punish than to discipline with love. Much of what we say and do relates to someone we encounter in the real world, we often interact in the most convenient, most uninvolved fashion, heaven forbid that we let anyone get close to us. This could be due to carelessness, laziness or perhaps due to too tight of a time schedule or even just lack of empathy. Whatever the case, the fast paced lives we live today seem to have all of us investing more time in our daily activities than in other people, we spend more time texting than we do talking face to face.

At home we are surrounded by the ones we love most. Yet, we can involve ourselves in so many activities outside of the home that we sometimes can go almost a full day without even talking to or seeing one or more of our family members, except of course for texting. And often when we do manage to be around each other, we wind up in front of the TV or each doing "his own thing" which requires very little interaction with anyone else. We want to see our family grow and flourish, but our tactics are often to demand and expect, rather than to encourage and teach. How would God have us invest time in our families? How would God want us to treat our family and loved ones? Would he want us to hug, share and spend real time together?

Hope church is a family as well. Hope has many members who need encouragement, love and nurturing. This requires time and attention. But if the only contact between members occurs on Sunday, there is very little quality time that can be given to any other member. And if the only interaction takes place during services and planned activities, it's hard for anyone to really get close enough to someone else to encourage them. Even the pulpit, in some cases, has taken the less involved role with the members. It has become the platform from which the members are often told what they should be doing, or what they are doing wrong. Yet, in some cases there seems to be little said or done to instruct the members just how they are to do what they should, or how to avoid the wrong. Very little is said about how to share our faith and uplift others on their faith walk.

For some congregations, what is needed more is less preaching and more teaching, and one on one instruction, and love, and nurture. If you are told that, "You need to be witnessing," it is the responsibility of your leaders to tell you how to do it, and to show you if need be (and that in itself must also be done according to the Spirit and not human standards). If you are instructed, "You need to be giving," it would be beneficial that someone should first demonstrate proper giving on all levels--including time and attention (this too as led by the Spirit). Practical application of God's word is just the encouragement we need to be a witness for Christ Jesus.

Each week, there are many Christians who hear what they "need" to be doing and haven't a clue where to start. They go out, and they try, and some of us fail. We want to do the right thing, but just what exactly is the right thing? We are discouraged and feel ashamed in our inability to accomplish our religious duty. Then we are back in church the next week to start the process all over again. We can't seem to find the right words to encourage others because we are so confused. Yes, I know we should all read our bibles and pray for guidance from our Lord and Savior. But what we sometimes need is someone to step up and lend a helping hand so we know how to fulfill God's will for us and others.

Those who are given the responsibility to lead realize that is not to be taken lightly. They should also consider that a well-rehearsed speech and theory may fall short of fulfilling their spiritual duty. If the message leaves the members realizing their need but not knowing what to do about it, then they leave as empty as they came. Only now we are burdened and confused where we may not have been before we come to church.

The responsibility that God has placed upon us all is to encourage and nurture--to enlighten and lift up. This action will not leave a member empty and disheartened, but filled with the Holy Spirit and we will be prepared with a sense of "I can do it!" How far will we go to encourage another? Is it worth our time? Of course. From a kind word to a one-on-one Bible study, there are many ways to encourage. Ask God to show you ways to teach and encourage others in Christ. Then make a list of what He tells you. If you hear that nagging little voice saying, "Call _____ he/she needs you. Listen. God is talking to us through the Holy Spirit.

In 1 Corinthians 13 the apostle Paul outlines what perfect love looks like. *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

His standard sounds wonderful, but putting that love into practice can be absolutely daunting. Thankfully, we have Jesus as our example. As He interacted with people with varying needs and issues, He showed us what perfect love looks like in action. As we walk with Him, keeping ourselves in His love and steeping our mind in His Word, we'll reflect more and more of His likeness. We'll still make mistakes, but God is able to redeem them and cause good to come out of every situation, for His love "always protects" and it "never fails". That's what it is all about really; sharing the fact the Jesus Christ absolutely loves us without end. There is no greater sacrifice; that one man should lay down is life so we may have eternal life with Him.

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
Elaine Mielke—broken ankle
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 so much for your continued support and participation in the Mission to Care for area's homeless. Without all o Christianity working together, our poor would remain forgotten. We are so happy to have you as partners in mission. If I can ever be of assistance, I am happy to help. Together in Christ.
Grant Withrow, Catholic Charities

Thank you all so very much for your beautiful and generous donation to "Sweet Dreams". Your items will provide comfort to children in trauma all over our state. Bless you all! Thank you and" Sweet Dreams"
Gina Matteisen

Thank you for your recent gift to the Wausau Warming Center. We greatly appreciate your support of the Warming Center and its important work. Your donation will help Catholic Charities to continue providing shelter and other necessary services for homeless individuals in our community. God bless you !
Roberto Partarrieu, Executive Director



Hope's Happenings

Wednesday: March 1 Attendance 67
 Offering: Regular \$4500.00
 Total \$450.00

Sunday: March 5 Attendance 136
 Offering: Regular \$3190.00
 Building \$165.00
 Sunday School \$8.00
 Mission \$200.00
 Loose \$25.00
 Sign \$170.00
 Jonathan Swenson \$50.00
 Driveway \$10.00
 Total \$3818.00

The Bulletin Board

- Lenten Worship Services will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm
- **REMINDER:** Turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night



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)

This is an **URGENT** need for Personal Care Kits. Currently, there are actually more requests from around the world than we have kits to fill them. **PLEASE HELP!** Often these kits go to people who have lost everything, maybe in the wake of an earthquake or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken. To receive a simple kit must help them feel that are not forgotten. What a nice way to share God's grace and love by this simple comfort.

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. 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.

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. She needs to know what day and/or time works for the most people.



The adult choir
 will practice every
Wednesday
 after **Lenten services**
 until the week of Easter.
 Please join us.

Christian Women
 will meet
Tuesday, March 14
 6:00-7:30 pm
 at Belvedere Supper Club

