

Visions of Hope

May 21, 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

May 28

June 4

Ushers

Keith Bauman

Chad Bender

Gordon Metcalf

Gary Ludwig

Greeters

Jodene Leffel

Gordon & Betty Metcalf

Readers

Chad Bender

Elaine Mueller

Acolyte

Korbyn Bauman

Jaicee Kunkel



Lest We Forget:

This Thursday, May, 25, is the day on which the universal Church observes and celebrates one of the most important events of the Church's year. There are four major Feast days in the annual life of the Church. These four days of celebration are The Nativity of Jesus (Christmas), The Feast of the Resurrection (Easter), Ascension Day, and Pentecost. This Thursday the Church observes the day Jesus was bodily taken up in to Heaven and we call it by its name: Ascension Day.

Regrettably, many in the modern Church have all but forgotten or just simply ignore this Festival Day – the third out of these four supremely important days. Yes, Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday (40 days after Easter) and, perhaps, because it always falls on a weekday rather than on a Sunday and because modern folk are so busy being busy, we simply forget about this critically important event in the life of the Church.

We would never forget Christmas or Easter or Pentecost but Ascension...you are probably wondering why I am even writing about it. But the simple truth is that to the original Christians this day was in some ways even more important than Easter.

Easter marked the resurrection of Jesus but in the mythology of the ancient Middle East there were numerous resurrection stories connected with an array of deities. Yet, in all the stories of these resurrected "godettes" none of them were ever described as having ascended into the heavens. The Ascension starkly and gloriously marked Jesus apart from all those others who laid claim to divinity. In all of human history the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven is unique.

Our Christian claim that Jesus Ascended into Heaven underscores two foundational doctrines of the Church.

1. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." Jesus is God incarnate and He and the Father are of one being and one substance. As Jesus said to Phillip, "Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know me? ...believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me." This statement is so stunning that the disciples could not, at first, fully understand it nor comprehend it until the Resurrection was totally and completely affirmed in the mystery of the Ascension.
2. As we sing in the wonderful hymn "Beautiful Savior", Jesus is "King of Creation." Nothing more powerfully proclaims the Kingdom and the Kingship of Jesus like the Ascension. In the first, and oldest, of our ecumenical creeds we confess; "he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end." Is it any wonder that one of the great Ascension Day Hymn is "Crown Him with Many crowns, the King upon his throne." Our great creed also states, "through him (i.e. Jesus) all things were made." Jesus as King is alpha and omega; the beginning point and the end point of all things. Jesus is King of creation and of all that is... and we are his people.

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Ascension Day is a day of supreme importance to the Christian and to the Christian Faith. Although we might not be in Church to celebrate the day we can still make an attempt to remember it in the midst of our lives and perhaps set aside a moment to and reflect upon Acts: 1: 1-11. It is Luke's description of Christ Jesus' Ascension into Heaven nearly 2000 years ago and it is the proclamation that this Jesus is now our King who lives and reigns over all.

Pax Christi, Mark Reiff+

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark.10:41-45).

The power of sacrificial service, meeting the needs of others and selfless giving is a power that moves the heart, and baffles the mind. We don't expect that someone would do anything without expecting something in return, or certainly high praise. And when we experience such giving, we might become suspicious or skeptical, wondering what strings are attached to the gift, and what are the true intentions of the giver. The true intentions of the giver can be cleverly hidden. The desire to give to others and offer our service can disguise the inner need for attention and self-glory.

It would seem that our nation, society and even our churches are full of people who are more accustomed to serving self, than serving others; it seems that we are always looking out for #1. True and sacrificial giving are so foreign to us that when we see the genuine article, it astonishes and amazes us. I once knew of a situation where a church wanted to hire someone to cook Wednesday night supper. They couldn't understand it when a lady in the church stepped forward and offered to do it for free--as a ministry. They insisted on paying her, yet she insisted more greatly because she wanted it to be her service, not her job.

What does it mean to minister? The dictionary says that ministry is "the act of service." When we consider serving one another in Christ, do we generally attach strings, or paychecks? We might consider that true ministry is a gift, and "paid ministry" as a contradiction of terms. Those who truly minister are focused on meeting the needs of another--aren't they? They aren't expecting anything in return--are they? As a "minister" the person does a service requiring no compensation, his or her "ministry" is a gift--a love offering, if you will. The response to the gift is "to God goes all the glory." That is to say that as the "ministry" gives, it is also given unto us. The service we do for others returns ten-fold because the true reward is not of this earthly life. Not that we desire to be served, but that the "reward" we receive from the God we serve is a product of his "ministry", given to us within His love.

It's sad to say what has become of the understanding of the word "ministry" today. There are "paid" ministers who would not "minister" without the pay. There are many who are called to serve, but will not serve or meet the needs of the church. No one can guarantee they will be able to meet the needs of others. There are churches and fellowships who will not lend a van to another church, freely offer the use of their recreation center to a local Big Brothers group, or perform simple wedding ceremonies without first defining the terms of payment for "services" rendered. What happened to "love one another"? Or be kind to one another?

With all the various examples of "ministry" and "service," perhaps it would be good of Webster to redefine the words--it would seem that society certainly has. We all need to be thankful that the foundation of Hope Church is giving to others. Many of you might not know that 10% of all offerings goes directly to missions. We are a church of giving people, but we are by no means finished. There will always be those in need and my prayer (and yours) is that we will always be willing to give and serve, without any glory given to us but all the glory given to our Lord and God.

We are living out our 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.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Your Servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling

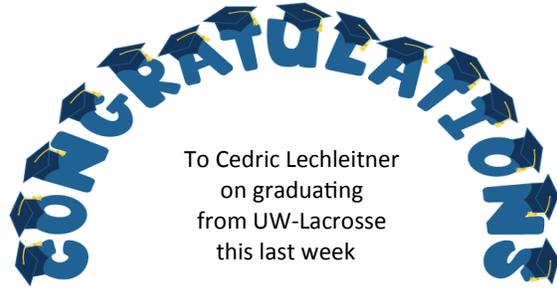


PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

George Wright—fell broke hip and spiral break in upper femur—Bonnie's dad
Mildred Imhoff—fell and broke her femur—Ken's mother
Elaine Mueller—health issues
Joyce LeVoy—Atrium, Marshfield for rehab
Larry Syring (Bimbo) - heart surgery—Leroy's brother
Don Hanson—heart surgery
Dorothy Wright—fluid on lungs and congestive heart failure—Bonnie Blake's mom
Ron Bjorklund—Health issues—friend of the Peterson's
Patty Rueter—cancer—Beth Leffel's niece
John Hamann—recovering 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

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	May 24	Attendance	123
Offering:	Regular		\$2550.00
	Building		\$30.00
	Sunday School		9.00
	Missions		\$30.00
	Loose		\$19.00
	Sign		\$335.00
	Jake Brinkman		\$280.00
	Total		\$3253.00



To Cedric Lechleitner
on graduating
from UW-Lacrosse
this last week

The Bulletin Board

- Mission Money: CFF- Summer Missions, Dylan's Den, Tammy Kirsch Family, Sam Pospyhalla Family, Baby's Basket of Love, WI Family Council, Diabetes Fund
- The office will be CLOSED on Monday due to Memorial Day. The office will be open on Tuesday. Have a safe holiday weekend



Back in the old days (I love saying that), we had an A, B and C list for serving funerals. Now we only have one list, the A list and the people of Hope Church are on the "A" list. That is to say, your kindness, generosity and willingness to work are above and beyond the call of duty. The two Rosies would like to say thank you to all that made food, served food and washed dishes. All small things that add up to love and kindness beyond measure. We say, "thank you Lord for all the loving and kind people of Hope Church".



Our May Mission project is Baby Care Kits

Baby Care Kits are distributed as part of emergency relief efforts but they are also given to encourage expectant women to seek prenatal care. Help welcome the littlest ones into a caring international community and swaddle them with love!

Each kit contains 2 t-shirts, 2 gown or sleepers, 2 receiving blankets, 4 cloth diapers (flat fold), 1 jacket or hooded sweatshirt, 2 pair of socks, 1 hand towel, 2 bars of gentle soap, 2 diaper pins. Onesies can be used and made in to t-shirts, adult XL t-shirts can be made in to diapers. All items should be new or gently used and sizes 6 to 24 months.

Rummage sales are great places to pick up baby items as they are often outgrown before they are worn out. A tote will be put in the narthex to place items in and shopping lists are on the counter. If you have any questions, contact Rosie Bauman at 715-573-0524 or rustyroseydairy@gmail.com

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Friday, May 26**
Peace Lutheran Church will be having a brat fry at ProVision in Stratford from 9:00-5:00. They will be serving hamburgers, cheeseburgers, mushroom swiss burgers and brat!
- **Saturday, June 3**
St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA will be hosting Breakfast in the Park from 7:00-11:30 am at Oak Street Park, Edgar. They will be serving: pancakes, eggs with ham, sausage, cheese, applesauce, bars, milk, orange juice and coffee. This is an all you can eat so come hungry. Prices are: Adults \$7.00; 6-12 years \$3.00, under 6 free.