

Visions of Hope

May 28, 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

June 4

June 11

Ushers

Gordon Metcalf

Gary Ludwig

Daryl Mueller

Leroy Syring

Greeters

Gordon & Betty Metcalf

Keith & Cassi Bauman

Readers

Elaine Mueller

Michelle Bauman

Acolyte

Jaicee Kunkel

Anna Fehlhaber



Although the liturgical color for the Feast of Pentecost is red this Sunday begins a season of green that lasts until a new Church year begins on Advent Sunday, December 3. Pentecost Season (all six months of it) is period in the life of the church that reflects its color. It is the greening of the Church's life.

Springtime is in full view all around us. Everything that was brown and dead from winter cold and snow has sprung back to life and, with an abundance of rain, we are surrounded by an equal abundance of green in all its radiant splendor.

The Church year, at least in the northern hemisphere, parallels the natural year. Pentecost, like the fields and forests around us in the growing season, is time for the Church to be sprouting and greening, growing and blooming. Then, as with the natural year, there is a celebration of the autumnal harvest and a gathering in of the fruits of the field. Is it any wonder that the Church's year arrives at its concluding days with the harvest of the saints on November 1, All Saints Day.

With this coming Pentecost Sunday, and the outpouring of the Spirit, the Church enters a season of greening. It enters its season of growth. We have concluded the half of the church year (Advent to Easter) that focused our attention on the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Now we shift our attention to our Lord's Divine teachings.

During this second half of the church year we are called to grow in Jesus' Word, grow in obedience to him, grow in faith, grow in witness, grow in hope, love and charity, and grow in discipleship. This is the time of the Church's coming to a renewed spiritual life in the blooming of the Word with in us and among us.

Yes, the color for Pentecost Sunday is a brilliant red to passionately set us afire for Christ. But like a bolt of lightning and a booming clap of thunder this Sunday shakes us up, wakes us up, and calls us to a radical new life in the Season of the Spirit. It is the greening of the Church!

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff+

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love (John 15:4-10).

As a grandmother, I am concerned for the safety of my grandchildren. And so like many other families, we have our established rules that have been made for the purpose of keeping the peace, keep them safe, and for the sake of my sanity, we have this one rule; when the children go out to play, that they must stay "within yelling distance." The underlying theory has been that if they can't hear us, then they are too far away--too far for us to reach them--too far to hear what they may need and too far for us to call out to them.

What we want for our children and grandchildren is simply for their safety and security. We may not always have all the answers, but we know that with God's help, we can help our children feel that sense of wellbeing that is so important to them. Keeping our loved ones safe and secure is not always easy to figure out, but there is one thing that is very certain and that is that God has our children's best interest at heart. Just as God has every one of his children's best interest at heart, even His adult children.

It is because of the love that God has for us that He has established rules for us to follow. The ten commandments, the beatitudes, and so much more has been provided for us to have a clear understanding of what is necessary for us to do to stay within the boundaries God has set for us and for all of us to have a sense of security that He is always at our side. Perhaps the eleventh commandment could be, "You shall stay within yelling distance." But why would such a rule be necessary? The truth is, as His children, it's necessary for us to be in such a place that we can continuously hear the voice of our Father. Being too far away makes it that much harder to hear and obey His gentle voice.

Such a commandment doesn't exist, but we can see in scripture the principle of, "...stay within yelling distance." Lay your burden on the shoulders of God, for He is the corner stone of our daily life. We also see as we read our bible, a principle that says, get as close as you can to God, "Draw near to God," and "Remain" with Him even as branches remain with the vine they are a part of. James tells us, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (4:8). In John 15, Jesus explains the principle of remaining in Him, even as a branch must remain in the vine to continue to draw life through the vine.

Why is it necessary to "stay within yelling distance?" So that we can hear the voice of our Father. We must fight daily to deny selfish wants; focus our eyes on Christ through times of Bible reading, meditation on Him, and prayer; and we must turn over to Him the cares and concerns of our lives. We can discipline ourselves to remain in Him--and in the boundaries that He has set up for our security and wellbeing. When we do this, we will remain in a place where we can hear His voice, know His will, and know what it means to have a rich and abundant life in Christ. The problems begin when we think we know what's best for us even if it means going against God's will. We are not all seeing and all-knowing like God is. The smart thing to do is stay close to the One that does. A "sure thing" so-to-speak.

Regardless of where you are, Christ is there. When you are atop the mountain praising God and walking in the warmth of His love, He is there. When you are walking through the valley of the shadows, He is there. You may be saying, "Yes, I know that, but..." one thing or another has stolen your joy or your peace. And yet, the joy and peace you need is not yours to secure. but instead resides in Christ. Do we fully understand what it means to say that Christ is there, whether good times or bad? The hard truth may be that you will come down from mountaintop experiences, but the wonderful truth of God is that, no matter where you are, you can remain in Christ. No matter how dark the valley seems, the light of Christ can be with you. You can draw near to the warmth of His light, draw near to Him, and draw from His perfect peace, and endless joy. Seek Him out and draw near to Him. Learn from Him what it means to remain in Him. Spend adequate time with Him each day, and we will have all that we need, and we will be much happier with what we already have, because we know security, peace and joy can be gone in an instant.

Your sister 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
- Patty Rueter—cancer—Beth Leffel's niece
- John Hamann—recuperating from hip surgery
- Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
- Scott Campbell—waiting for stem cell transplant—relation to the Streckert's
- Paulette Kroll—Myeloid 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



Thank You

Thank you so much for your generous donation towards my trip to Costa Rica. I very much appreciate the support you have given me over the years in ministry. I hope to see you when I visit home in July, you are all so awesome! God Bless! *Jake Brinkman*

Thank you for supporting my Nicaragua trip. I am so excited to see what God has in store for my team and I. I will be heading to Georgia for a three day training camp on June 1 and then my team and I will be off to Ometepe Island, Nicaragua. I will be posting a link to my blog on Facebook after training camp. Feel free to check in and see what I am up to. Thanks again for your prayers and support. God Bless! *Katie Heiden*

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	May 28	Attendance 96
Offering:	Regular	\$1550.00
	Building	\$10.00
	Sunday School	1.00
	Missions	\$40.00
	Loose	\$40.00
	Sign	\$160.00
	Jake Brinkman	\$140.00
	Youth Group	\$250.00
	Total	\$2191.00



The Bulletin Board

- Council will meet Sunday, June 11 immediately following worship
- Worship and Music committee will meet Wednesday, June 21, 6:30 pm at church
- Chip Ingram Small Group Study will continue on Fridays only at 10:00 am



June Mission Project is EL SALVADOR - CHRISTMAS IN JUNE

Because the Children Need to Know Jesus...the alternative is gangs. Please give these precious boys and girls of El Salvador hope and a smile. Small Christmas gifts (under \$10) slightly used or new and no batteries please! Trucks, hot wheels, dolls, coloring books, books in Spanish, deflated balls.

Also taking donations for:

women/men/children's shoes, winter hats & mittens, women/girls' long skirts, scarves & belts

Personal hygiene items such as toothpaste & toothbrushes, shampoo, bar soap, body wash, deodorant, feminine pads (no tampons).

Instant coffee packets & sugar packets have also been requested. All these items will be driven to Missouri in September and then shipped to El Salvador in time for Christmas.

Dollar Tree and garage sales are great places to pick up toys and items. 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 Connie Lechleitner at 715-573-3996 or gclechleitner@gmail.com



Vacation Bible School

will be held the week of July 24-28
from 5:30-8:00pm.

There will be a light supper
served from 5:00-5:30pm.

Children age 3 through
children entering 6th grade
are welcome.