

Visions of Hope

November 19, 2017



4356 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:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Sunday School
8:45-9:30 am

Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Pastor:

Mark Reiff
920-634-1246 (cell)
715-352-2555 (church)

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

November 26

December 3

Ushers

Ken Schilling
Ron Kunkel
Brian Remus
Lowell Borchart

Greeters

Leroy Syring & Beth Leffel
Brian Remus

Readers

Ron Kunkel
Jerry Anderson

Acolyte

Riley Bauman
Haylee Schreiber



Dom Gregory Dix, the great Anglican scholar, wrote these words which I commend to you. "When I nourish myself, I am always eating a being which I have killed or which I have at least prevented from living. I eat an animal which has been killed for me, my life being preferred to its life. I eat something which would have engendered life or sustained the life of another living being: the egg which contained a life in germ, milk (and its derivatives) which were meant to ensure the growth of a young animal, vegetables and fruit, the grain of wheat which was seed. Thus to ensure my life and survival I must take or threaten the life of another being. I must induce death. I nourish myself with a life sacrificed for me.

In every act of nourishment there is therefore presence of life and death, a struggle for life against the danger of death, theft or gift of a life sacrificed in order to permit another to have life and to have it abundantly. The application of this to the eucharist (Holy Communion) is evident: In receiving the consecrated bread and wine I nourish myself with the life of the wheat and the grapes sacrificed for me but also with the body of Christ given for me and with his blood shed for me...

Every morsel of bread is the product and the result of an entire history. First, in the season of planting the grains of wheat are thrown into the bosom of the earth, which is a fertile mother, and after an apparent death and time of gestation or germination, we, marveling, see a blade grow. Thus the symbolism of bread implies in the first place the image of death and resurrection in the bosom of the earth. Subsequently the grain, carefully harvested, is crushed, ground, almost annihilated; countless grains are pulverized and mingled to make flour, which, thanks to human work and the action of fire, finally becomes bread.

Bread is much more than an element of nourishment: it is a symbol of work and a symbol of life and, when shared, it is charged with familial and social values.

Like bread, wine is the product of a long and careful preparation. Before tasting wine we must plant the vine, prune it, harvest the grapes, put them under the press, much as we ground the grain, let the juice ferment, and finally age the wine.

Wine gives vigor and vitality. Because of its red color, and because it springs forth from a cluster of grapes, it is often associated with blood, and this association was adopted by Christ in the eucharist. Wine is regarded as the beverage of life and immortality... Wine is furthermore an efficacious symbol of sharing and communion."

Bread and wine are complimentary. The two respond to two essential urges of the human animal, the bread to our hunger, and the wine to our thirst. The bread is the fruit of the earth, a fertile mother, while the wine appears more as a fruit of the sun, without which nothing grows. Bread is material food which insures existence, while wine is a spiritual beverage which incites to action and to transcending the daily limits of existence. The bread is assimilated and transformed in our body, while the wine has the power to cause us to become other.

As we come to Thanksgiving Day we come to Eucharist...because the Greek word Eucharist (Holy Communion) itself means Thanksgiving. And, so we give thanks on this special day for all that has been given, all that has been taken, and all that has been sacrificed that we might have life.

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff+

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom.12:17-21).

Some time ago I went to work at a new job. Within a short time I found myself working with another woman who seemed to make it her business to antagonize me. From day one, I hated to get up for work. But of course, we have to work to provide for our families. For a number of weeks, the woman taunted me, said bad things behind my back and made up stories about me. I think she was trying to anger me and I think she even wanted to pick a fight. But my response was not what that bully had in mind. I made up my mind, to never engage in her little game, and that made her even more angry. She had not expected that from me. Instead of getting mad or lashing back, I would simply smile in response to her remarks. Another one of the office girls asked me why I was so passive. Well, the fact is that women scared me. So, I just told my co-workers that I prayed for "Julie" every day, I prayed that she could be happy and I prayed that she could love herself, because I knew

Jesus loved her in spite of her actions. But, inside I got a stomach ache every time she walked into the room.

This went on for some time until the bully finally came to me and asked me, "Why don't you ever get mad? I have tried to get to you and you just smile as though it does not bother you. Why is that?" I explained that I prayed for her each day and her words and her lies were not that important to me, I said "I have a lot of friends, so if you don't like me it's not the end of the world and her actions were something I didn't want to get mad about, because for one thing, she didn't really matter to me. From that time on, that woman never tried to antagonize me again. About two years later she did apologize to me. She said that she was going through a very bad marriage and was mad at the whole world. She seemed to think the new girl made a fine target for her anger. So, we need to be kind, because we just don't know what battles others are going through.

Time after time in scripture, we are encouraged not to return evil for evil, but instead, to show kindness--even to them who do evil to us. "Turn the other cheek" and "love them that persecute you" those can be easy to say but very hard to do. These are the words and rules by which the child of God is called to live. Because when we do "love our neighbor", we are the reflections of our Heavenly Father, demonstrating and unconditional love regardless of the treatment we get from others. This is what our Lord has already done for us.

In Matthew 5, Jesus tells us:

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect (v.38-48).

There I an old saying "love your enemies, it messes with their heads". That's not quite what the Lord is telling us here. There are some central truths we should all be aware of: first, it is the love of God in Christ that has given us the opportunity to experience God's grace and have salvation; and second, it is that same love that must be reflected in our lives if we are going to be the lights to this world that God called us to be. Jesus loved and died for the whole world, and that even included the man who drove the nail through his hand. He wants us to learn to love the same. For within a soft answer, a gentle smile or a reaching out to one who has persecuted us, God may find within our hearts--within that moment--the very love He can use to draw another lost soul into everlasting life.

John 15:4 *"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."*

To reflect upon Pastor Mark's sermon, we need to have Christ in us every day, and to stay bonded to Him we must also be in Him. Regardless of where you are, Christ is there. It's our job to open the door for Him. 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 but that which 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 you will have all that you need.

Your sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling

Thank You!

I want to thank you for your generous gift you sent me. I lost my barn and shop from the hurricane. Trying to save the house to replace them and for storage. House was condemned as to live in. Keep praying for help from FEMA for a trailer. Been approved but you know the government works slowly. Anyways, the money you sent is in a 'special account' for a small house. The blessings have been overwhelming, Kansas and Oklahoma have helped. Please pray for me

Robert Newlin, Wharton TX

I would like to personally thank you for the donation for my trip abroad. It is greatly appreciated. Also thank you for the gift card and to the card ministry for the thoughtful card. It will be put to good use! Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers as I enter the final days of this semester. Happy holidays everyone!

Chelsea Bauman

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	November 19	Attendance 85
Offering:	Regular	\$1585.00
	Building	\$5.00
	Mission	\$15.00
	Sunday School	\$8.00
	Loose	\$17.00
	Well	\$100.00
	Thanksgiving	\$25.00
	Sign	\$120.00
	Total	\$1875.00



Church Ladies—we are looking for help in donating items for fellowship time. We prefer cookies, mini muffins, mini donuts, coffee cakes, donut holes. Please NO cakes or bars. There will also be a donation jar available. Thank you Dianne and Gayle

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers



- Marge Manecke—back in Marshfield Hospital
- Corinne Kane—friend of Cassi Bauman
- Linda Krahn—breast cancer—sister in law to the Kamenick's
- Mildred Imhoff—chemo treatment—Ken's mother
- Bob Nowak—home recovering from surgery
- Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's
- John Hamann—home recovering from surgery
- Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law
- Don Hanson—health issues
- Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
- 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

Youth Christmas Play

Our Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17th during the worship service.

- We will be practicing the Christmas Program songs on Sunday mornings at 8:30 before Sunday School every Sunday starting on November 26th. **ALL** children participating in the Christmas program should attend
- We will be doing some limited practice during Sunday School each week.
- We will also have 2 full run-through practices on Sunday, December 10th following the worship service and at 6:30pm on Saturday, December 16th. Please let Jen or Michelle know if you have any questions.



If you would like to help out our adopt-a-family this year, there will be ornaments available to pick off the tree by Sunday, November 26. If you'd prefer to provide a monetary donation to be used for gift certificates or have any questions, please see Dani Schreiner.