

# Visions of Hope

November 27, 2016



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**

**December 4**

*December 11*

**Ushers**

**Andy Yoder**

**Leroy Syring**

*Daryl Mueller*

*Jay Borchardt*

**Greeters**

**Leroy Syring & Beth Leffel**

*Duane & Audrey Kamenick*

**Acolyte**

**Madison Borchardt**

*Anna Peterson*

**Readers**

**Rachel Ludwig**

*Beth Mueller*

## The History of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.



By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: the prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. A traditional prayer service using the Advent wreath proceeds as follows: On the First Sunday of Advent, the father of the family blesses the wreath, praying: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen." He then continues for each of the days of the first week of advent, O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen, The youngest child then lights one purple candle.

During the second week of Advent, the father prays: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who live and reigns forever. Amen." The oldest child then lights the purple candle from the first week plus one more purple candle.

During the third week of Advent, the father prays: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.” The mother then lights the two previously lit purple candles plus the rose candle.

Finally, the father prays during the fourth week of Advent, O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.” The father then lights all of the candles of the wreath.

Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.



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

John Hamann—upcoming hip surgery (see note below)  
Roger Gennett—cancer—Rose Schilling’s foster dad  
Lori Brehmer—breast cancer—Arden & Norma Viegut’s daughter  
Jim Decker—chemo—waiting for 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  
Bonnie Blake—home recovering  
Luke Zarins—neck surgery—Ken Schilling’s nephew  
Ione Lathrop—home recuperating—Pastor Dave’s mother  
Kim Heller—breast cancer—cousin of Jodi Krause  
Gloria Everhard—breast cancer (sister to Kim Heller)—cousin of Jodi Krause  
Don Hansen—Bladder cancer—undergoing chemo treatments  
Paulette Kroll—Myleloid Leukemia—receiving chemo treatments in Milwaukee  
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

**PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:**

for John Hamann who will be having hip surgery—again—on December 5. Please pray that this time it works and that he will be pain free.

**THANK YOU!**

...all so much for the lovely Thanksgiving card, gift card, and Advent devotion book. It is very much appreciated! God bless. *Kia Lechleitner*

# Hope's Happenings

Wednesday: November 23 Attendance 78

Offering:	Regular	\$445.00
	Loose	\$104.00
	Total	\$549.00

Sunday: November 27 Attendance 109

Offering:	Regular	\$1635.00
	Building	\$155.00
	Sunday School	\$11.00
	Loose	\$53.00
	Other	\$25.00
	El Salvador trip	\$200.00
	Total	\$2079.00

## The Bulletin Board

- During Advent we will be collecting nonperishable food items, paper products, etc. for our local pantries. There is a box in the entryway to put your items in. Let's see if we can get it full.
- We have 4 people from Hope who will be going on the El Salvador Mission trip. Anyone who would like to contribute to the cost for these people to go, put donation in offering envelope under Mission and write on the envelope for El Salvador Trip
- **December 4** Congregational tree trimming will take place during Worship  
There will be a reception following the Worship in honor of our new members
- **December 5** 6:30 pm Worship and Music Committee meeting
- **December 6** 1:00 pm Bible Study
- **December 13** 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Women meet
- **December 24** 5:00 pm Christmas Cantata
- **December 25** 9:30 am Christmas Day service



Our church has adopted a local family again this year in hopes of giving them a wonderful Christmas. If you would like to help out, please pick an ornament off the tree. Please have your wrapped presents back to church by Sunday, December 11. We will accept monetary donations as well. If you have any questions, please talk to Dani Schreiner. Thank you!



Now that the Thanksgiving eating is behind us, we get to think more about Christmas baking and that means **COOKIES!** Time to get out those recipes and help out with the only fundraiser that the Women's Group has. Our annual cookie walk will be held after church services on Sunday, Dec. 11. Everyone is welcome to bring a BIG batch or two of cookies or candy. Please bring them to the kitchen before services that morning. Then, after services, we will be selling them for \$5 per pound. All are welcome to participate either by buying, baking or both. THANK YOU

Just a friendly reminder...

We will be having our Christmas Program during the worship service on Sunday, December 18. We will be doing some minimal practice during Sunday School in the upcoming weeks, but will also have (2) full program-run-through practices on Sundays December 4 & December 11 following the church service. We know this is a busy time of year, but please try to attend if possible. Thank you.