

Visions of Hope

November 5, 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:

hope4centralwi@yahoo.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 12

November 19

Ushers

Ander Yoder

Gary Bauman

Larry Peterson

Rick Bradley

Greeters

Daryl & Beth Mueller

Rick & Sandy Bradley

Readers

Rachel Ludwig

Natalie, Madison, Anna P

Acolyte

Anna Fehlhaber

Anna Peterson

We need never doubt God's love for us. "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*).

Once again we face another tragic event. This time it's a terrorist in a truck mowing down people at a biking marathon and then some mentally deranged person shoots people in a church. Babies, unborn children and others. We start saying to ourselves "Why God, why".

You probably know that gold becomes more valuable the more it's passed through the fire. That's why 24 carat gold is more valuable than 14 carat gold. Twenty-four carat gold is more pure than 14 carat because it's been put to the heat more. Fire is a great purifier because it burns away everything that is not gold, and so in the same way, God may be allowing us to pass through a fiery trial in order that we'll see how strong or weak our faith in Him is. It's not that He needs to know how strong or weak our faith is, but so we'll know. Trials can often strengthen our need for God and make us suddenly, prayer warriors.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5), I am sure that's what God wants, so don't take trials the wrong way. It's not that He needs to know more about our faith because He is omniscient (knows all), but it's possible that He wants to reveal how strong or weak our faith is. The reality is, coming through a trial can strengthen our faith in Him, and it can deepen our dependence on Him...both of which are great. God allows the fire "so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (*1st Pet 1:7*). It's not meant to harm you but help you and strengthen your trust in Him, because when you come out of the fiery furnace, you'll see how God is purifying you and growing you. When did the ancient gold refiners know when the gold was finally purified? When they saw their own reflection, so when God has purified us, it is intended to reflect more of what Christ is like.

That small town in Texas is so much like our small community. The Pastor's wife said, "We are not a group of parishioners or just a congregation. We are a family, we eat together, laugh together, worship together and pray together". That's us. We can say, "That can't happen here". But, I would place a bet, that's what the people in Sutherland Springs said too.

I am so thankful we have the Word of God, so that we can know the will of God, and I'm also thankful for the Holy Spirit speaks to us and illuminates Scripture, but often God may use the voice of other believers to speak to you and to me. Now is the time to seek wisdom from our Lord and God. That's what the primary role of the prophet was in the Old Testament. They spoke for God and spoke the Words of God. It was, "Thus says the Lord," and not "Thus says Jeremiah," your friends and family are speaking the Word of God or a word from God, and they are speaking the wisdom of God as revealed in Scripture. Even though we don't know the victims of that shooting, we do know they were in a church family where they were loved and cherished. Our job now is not to ask why, but to get on our knees and pray for all those effected, and to thank God for protecting us for another day. "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!" *Romans 11:33*

God wants us to continually step out of our comfort zone and trust him with the unknowns. We have to leave room for God to guide us. If we ignore God's advice, we do so to our own harm. If someone says "It's God's will", that's a load of horse apples. We tend to forget how strong the will of Satan is, it's truer if we say "it's Satan's will. God's Word comforts us during time of trouble. But the biggest problem is we tend to think we can handle life without God's helping hand. We often block out God and His comforts in the effort to rationalize the craziness of the world around us.

I must admit that I am a little (or a lot?) thick headed because God really has to get my attention by using some very extreme circumstances, however, even this is done in love. What parent wouldn't discipline their child for playing too close to the street? God may take us through some hard times or the fires of tribulation, or He might try to use the tragedies that Satan sends our way in order to get our attention and bring us back to His word and His consolation. I'm pretty sure that the bad things that happen in this cruel world are NOT God's will. But whenever we talk and act in a negative manner, Satan wins. Whenever we question God's plan for our life or demand answers about life tragedies, we open the door a little to let Satan in, and widen the gap between God and us. Whatever means God uses, the clearest voice of God is in the outer Word, the Bible, illuminated by the inner Word, the Holy Spirit, and these always point to the Living Word, Jesus Christ. God already tells us a lot through the written Word of God.

Our problem is not the tragedies in our life. Our problem is our response to the tragedies in our life. People are not the problem, and they're not the answer to the problem, either. The answer is God. When we expect answers from the devil or forget how powerful the devil is, we're setting ourselves up for disappointment.

How we respond to the trials of life, gives proof of our faith in God and the salvation in Jesus Christ. Kneel and pray. Hold and hug your family and thank God for all things.

“The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one” (2 Thessalonians 3:3). Even “if we are faithless, he will remain faithful” (2 Timothy 2:13). He is not going to change his mind about wanting us, calling us, and being merciful to us. “Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23).

Praying with you for peace in this life;
Your humble servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Marge Manecke—recovering from surgery
Corinne Kane—friend of Casie 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



- **Colby Lions Club** is sponsoring a pancake breakfast on November 12, 8:00 am-12:30 pm at the Colby Lions Pavilion in Colby. They will be serving potato and buttermilk pancakes along with sausage. Prices are: Adults-\$7.00; Children under 12-\$3.00; preschool-free.
- **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**, Edgar PCCW is having their annual Christmas Bazaar Fish and Shrimp Fry on Friday, November 17, 4:00-7:30 pm. There will be a raffle drawing at 7:00. Need not be present to win. Cookbooks are also available for \$15.00 each.
- **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**, Edgar is having their Holiday Extravaganza Vendor/Craft Sale on Saturday, November 18, 9:00 am-3:30 pm. Chicken soup and pulled pork luncheon available from 11:00-1:00.

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	November 5	Attendance 104
Offering:	Regular	\$1755.00
	Sign	\$235.00
	Building	\$125.00
	Loose	\$39.00
	Sunday School	\$10.75
	Spaghetti Dinner	\$25.00
	Total	\$2189.75

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Hope Lutheran and Peace Lutheran
have teamed up
for a special Thanksgiving Eve Service on
Wednesday, November 22,
7:00 pm at Hope.
Pastor Mark and Pastor Dave will officiate

The Bulletin Board

- **Youth Group** will meet Wednesdays at 5:15 pm
- **Adult Choir** will practice for Christmas music immediately following Sunday worship services
- **Sunday, November 12** we will be having a special 'Remembrance Sunday' service for our Veterans
- **Women of Hope** will be meeting immediately following worship service on Sunday, November 12. If anyone has any ideas for mission projects please contact Audrey Kamenick 715-352-2714 or email kamenick@frontier.com or contact Carol Anderson 715-659-2463. Other items of business will be discussed as well.



Please note:

Music and Worship committee meeting
has been changed to
Tuesday, November 14 at 2:00 pm
NOT Monday, November 13

Christian Women
will meet

Tuesday, November 14

6:00-7:30 pm

Belvedere Supper Club



Don't Forget!

Operation Christmas Child ends Sunday, November 12. ALL gift boxes should be brought to church so we can deliver them next week.

Thank you

All Saint's Sunday Remembrance

