

# Visions of Hope

October 1, 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

Sunday School  
8:45-9:30 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**

**October 8**

*October 15*

**Ushers**

**Daryl Mueller**  
**Lowell Borchart**  
*Jay Borchart*  
*Leroy Syring*

**Greeters**

**Gary & Dianne Bauman**  
*Scott Bauman*

**Readers**

**Beth Mueller**  
*Michelle Bauman*

**Acolyte**

**Madison Borchart**  
*Riley Bauman*



One of the wonders of our contemporary world is the internet with all of its attendant uses both at home and at work while on our computers or, at large, on our smartphones. These high-tech marvels have given us instant access to so much. We have a universe of information at our finger tips. It has probably helped to save many lives during desperate situations.

However, all of this immediate access has certainly had its ugly and, yes, evil downside. Facebook and twitter are clearly two of the greatest offenders in this age of instantaneous information and response. They are offenders because, in our irreligious age, people no longer seem to have filters either on their mouths or on their minds.

The most awful, ugly, morally, and legally questionable things are stated daily online by people in reaction to this, that, or the other. Insults are hurled back and forth, repugnant things are said, and everyone has to get in the last come-uppance and the last word. Civil discourse and rational thought have been cast aside.

We live now, with instant response, in a degraded and debased time. Perhaps, as Americans with our first amendment rights, we have always had ugly, hateful, and vengeful speech but the tech age and the internet have kicked it all up into high gear.

Many years ago, at the invitation of a good friend in England, I was invited to attend the Synod of the Church of England which annually meets in London. "The Synod" is the English parallel to our national church conventions or church assemblies. It is their deliberative and legislative body.

I remember sitting in the visitor's gallery of the hall where the Synod met. After the first day's deliberations were over and I joined my friend Peter and his wife for dinner, he asked what I thought of their church debates that day. I said that their discussions were completely different from anything I had ever seen in the United States. Our church gatherings did not feature debates that seemed so mild mannered, so polite and so very proper. I was amazed by that.

In America, I pointed out, our church debates could be raucous and, at times, even offensive. Delegates could be angry, upset, and show it in their demeanor and words. I asked why their British debate was so mild mannered, low key, and so very nuanced.

Peter's response stunned me. "Mark," he responded, "we live on a small island and have to live with our words and our neighbors the next day."

Peter Larkin, a priest in the Church of England, spoke some powerful words to me that day. They were, and are, wise words. They are words we could all take to heart especially since the internet age, Facebook and twitter, have made our world so very small and so self-absorbed.

Again, years ago, I heard a scientific ethicist state, with regard to nuclear technology and weaponry, that these developments had "outstripped our moral capacity to understand them and use them wisely. I wonder if this ethical and moral caution is not also true of our use of the internet. Has all of this, and the social media it has birthed, outstripped our moral capacity to use it with wisdom and grace?

We are surrounded with an awesome gift in this technology. It is able to produce and promote amazing good. But it has an evil and ugly downside. In the wrong hands, it can become an agent of incredible evil. Even on the simplest level it promotes profound evil as people refuse to filter either their brains, their emotions, or their words. When there are no restraints on what we say and how we say it, and when we have not fully formed our own conscience around a moral center, we rip the fabric of a civil society to shreds.

If there is anything left of civility and decency in America today it is the remnant of the founding Christian culture that is rapidly being pushed aside by the elitist secularists (the power brokers of the Academy, Washington, Wall Street, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley) of our time.

As Christians, we can do better. By the grace of God, we must do better. We can approach the internet age with great care and awe knowing that, although it we can be an instrument of incredible good, it is fraught with danger as well. We can easily be sucked in and seduced by its channeled and powerful evil. We can become its captives losing our own souls. Tread carefully with the words you write and read and hear! Do not make of it a curse but make it a blessing.

Pax Christi,  
Mark Reiff+

*1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.*

We called Brian, just to make sure he and his family were ok. A scary hour this morning before we could call him (two hours earlier there). I found this on the internet and thought you might benefit from this also.

Whenever we turn on the news or scroll through our social media feeds, we're constantly reminded of all the awful things going on in the world. Some are quick to blame God. Most recently, a shooter in Las Vegas reportedly killed at least 60 people, and injured upwards of 500. According to the news reports, police say 64-year-old Stephen Paddock fired "hundreds" of shots into a crowd gathered to watch a Jason Aldean concert on Sunday night, shooting from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel on the Las Vegas strip. The shooting started around 10 p.m. on Sunday. While it can feel important to stay current on the news, it's also important to practice self-care when what we're seeing is overwhelming us or affecting our mental health.

Researchers have long been worried about the effects of flashy news and graphic, real violence on our psyches, and the coverage of tragedy is often linked with a sense of "vulnerability" about the world in general. It can be tempting to just shut it all out, but staying current is important and most large-scale tragedies are impossible to avoid. Finding ways to cope with the stress, anxiety, and depression that these news story bring on, however, is not out of your reach. Of course, we are sad, and we feel guilty for being happy, we weren't the ones in the path of the shooter.

"The first thing I would recommend is to acknowledge that a tragic event happened, and that it's okay to have feelings about it," says Stephanie Dowd, PsyD, a clinical psychologist in the Anxiety and Mood Disorders Center of the Child Mind Institute. "Express your feelings and thoughts about this event with people you love and trust."

Pray. Praying for the victims and their families helps us to cope and put the burden on God's shoulders, it is a proven coping mechanism. As in all tragic events, we need to get closer to God, and seek his strength. You might need to spend extra time in prayer. Just saying the Lord's Prayer can have a calming effect.

How the news affects your existing conditions can vary, from worsening melancholy to feeling pointedly apathetic, and those feelings are not a reflection of how much you care or don't care about the people affected or the news. If you have friends or family who might be better off not seeing those news casts, let them know it's ok to look for a different source or turning away from a story all together.

Dr. Dowd recommends that anyone who realizes they have considerable anxiety in the days following an event like the Las Vegas shootings, if it's affecting activity like going to work or sleeping, those at "risk" people should seek help from a counselor or licensed psychologist if needed.

A change in where you get your news can definitely help. Dr. Dowd recommends limiting images, taking away the visuals as much as you can, and also avoiding social media like Twitter, where she says people are going to be expressing more alarmist worry about the events. And don't watch CNN, that's mostly fake news. Understand that some things you just can't watch. It does not make you a bad or irresponsible person to abstain from particular stories. For some people, certain things are harder to hear about or view than others. Acknowledging that a problem like this is horrific, is not turning your back on it.

"You're doing nothing wrong by taking care of yourself in any way," says Dr. Dowd. "It can be very healthy to recognize when something is too much for you, to draw a line and say, enough is enough, and I need to read or do something else." Dr. Dowd notes that women and teenage girls are at a higher risk for stress and anxiety. If you've had a similar experience to something in the news and feel like it is dangerous or you have painful reactions, just turn it off and walk away. You never have to explain why something is harder for you to hear about or watch. Stick to your plans. It can be hard to go about your day when tragedy strikes, and that's understandable — it's often shocking and sad, and running errands can feel bizarrely disrespectful. We shouldn't feel bad about having an otherwise normal day. "It's really important to increase your own coping skills, by doing something relaxing or calming during this time." Take a walk, count your blessings, and thank God for those blessings.

Dr. Dowd also notes that seeking out ways to feel better, which at times can feel selfish, shouldn't make you feel guilty and will calm your anxiety. In moments like this, she recommends that we "intentionally notice how good it feels to do something enjoyable," adding that taking care of yourself by doing activities that distract you from the news, or doing something kind for others can also be really helpful. (Hey!! Eating ice cream helps me cope, try it!)

Remember that it's not about you. Human suffering is a tragedy, and learning details or seeing pictures of it can leave us devastated. In our own context, where things seem relatively better, we're often asked to justify and explain our feelings towards anything, and the easiest way to do that is often to find a way that it relates to or affects us personally. But when tragedy happens hundreds of miles away and the only reason you're sad is because it's sad, it's okay to leave it at that. Rather than force something unknowable to you into the knowable, take the time to feel the way you're feeling, use whatever method of positivity you perform — prayer, meditation, sending well wishes — to do your part in adding something good to an otherwise terrible situation.

"It's really important to recognize that you yourself are safe, and to let your children know they are safe, and that the bad thing has not happened to you. "When you separate yourself from the victims it doesn't mean that you don't care. Reassuring yourself

# Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	October 1	Attendance 95
Offering:	Regular	\$3740.00
	Sign	\$425.00
	Building	\$120.00
	Loose	\$41.00
	Sunday School	\$12.00
	Missions	\$35.00
	Flood Victims	\$40.00
	Total	\$4413.00

## Sunday, October 22, The Promise Quartet

will be sharing their ministry through gospel music. Their theme and wish is to "grow where planted". Invite your friends and relatives to this inspirational worship service at Hope Lutheran. Coffee and refreshments will be served after service

that you're safe is taking care of yourself and your family." It's always possible to care about yourself and others at the same time. Remember that everyone around you is feeling their own version of anxiety, sadness and grief. Everyone handles tragedy in their own way, and the loudest person in the room is very rarely the most helpful.

Don't try to find reason in violence. People who perform violent acts understand those acts, because to orchestrate a terrorist act or start a war, you have to have found the logic behind it. But this doesn't mean it's going to make sense to you and me, and trying to understand violence through the eyes of someone for whom it's an actual option is a lost cause.

"Sometimes, especially when people are feeling very anxious or confused about an attack like this, it's easy to ask 'why?'" says Dr. Dowd, "and it's important to note that you won't get an answer. A lot of these attacks don't make sense. The terrorist world view doesn't align to our own world. Stop asking the question why, and tolerate the unknown." Know that God is in control and he will always be faithful.

Exploring the conditions that led to acts of violence is important in stopping more of them. But trying to rationalize violence often leads to rash assumptions. For example, thinking that certain people are "just more violent than you and I would ever be" can have harmful effects in the way we treat others and move forward from a tragedy. Understand that death and destruction, no matter where they come from, are senseless, and instead focus on the things that are within your comprehension and control. Remember God loves you and be joyful for that. Those with violent tendencies might have lost their way and couldn't get back to God.

Your reactions to violence, the way that you treat those around you who may be scared or anxious, your prayers for the people who injured, and praying for peace, grace and to all those affected — these are the things you can understand in the days and weeks following a tragedy. Get to know your place in the world, and find out what you can do to help, turn to God instead of blaming God for the violence and trauma.

*Psalm 138:1-8 written by David. "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased. All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord".*

Your servant in Christ  
Rosie Schilling



Thank you to all that donated Bingo prizes to our local nursing homes. Over 360 items were delivered to homes in Marshfield ( 2), Wausau (2), Abbotsford (1), and Colby (1). Through your kindness you helped brighten their day. Thank you

*Jodene Leffel and Audrey Kamenick*

Thank you so much for the money. It was very unexpected and I honestly can not thank ya'll enough. It has been put toward all my medical bills. Thank you, thank you

*Allison Steinhorst*

Thank you for your donations of school supplies. We are able to offer these supplies to families in need. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. *Stratford Elementary School*

Thank you for the recent donation to FCA for scholarship funding. God has blessed us with growth and expansion. Praying for you and your ministry. Thank you

*Jeff Tarras, FCA Area Director*

# Hope's Happenings



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

Bob Nowak—home recovering from surgery  
Krista Boe—uterine cancer—friend of the Bauman's  
Marianna Gennett—multiple health issues—Rose Schilling's foster mother  
Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's  
John Hamann—Home recovering  
Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law  
George Wright—fell broke hip and spiral break in upper femur—Bonnie's dad  
Mildred Imhoff—fell and broke her femur—Ken's mother  
Don Hanson—health issues  
Dorothy Wright—fluid on lungs and congestive heart failure—Bonnie Blake's mom  
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

## The Bulletin Board

- **Tuesday Bible Study** will be held at **10:00** am NOT 10:30 am as printed on the calendar
- **Youth Group** will meet Wednesdays at 5:15 pm
- **All Saint's Sunday** will be held November 5. We will be lightening a candle in remembrance of your loved one. If you would like to submit a name please do so by October 22 to Barb (hopelcsec@gmail.com or 715-352-2555) or drop off in her office or mailbox.
- **Children's Choir** will practice October 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 8:30-8:45 and will plan to sing in church on Sunday, October 29.
- **LADIES:** When you offer to serve for our coffee fellowship, you may bring anytime, mark it 'coffee hour' and put in refrigerator freezer. According to last Sunday, we need about 10 dozen items just as an idea. We accept home baked or store baked. It is ALL GOOD!!!!
- **Trunk or Treat** will be held Sunday, October 29 immediately following worship



Sunday, October 1 we welcomed Pastor John Ani from Nigeria. Peace, Hope and Grace Lutheran Churches help support them by donating to Water Well for Safe Drinking Water. At the time, between the 3 churches, we had enough money for 4 wells. Pastor Ani thanked us for our support and discussed further Clean Water projects. This is an ongoing mission project at Hope.

**Christian Women**  
will meet  
**Tuesday, October 10**  
12:30-2:00 pm  
at Belvedere Supper Club