

Visions of Hope

October 22, 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

Pastor:

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

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

October 29

November 5

Ushers

Gary Ludwig

Ron Kunkel

Russ Bauman

Keith Bauman

Greeters

Gwen Bauman

Russ Bauman

Readers

Gary Ludwig

Elaine Mueller

Acolyte

Jaicee Kunkel

Haylee Schreiber



All around my neighborhood in Wausau, and, indeed, throughout the entire city, all of the augers of Halloween are on full display. Ghosts, goblins, witches, tombstones, spiderwebs with big plastic spiders are everywhere. Wausau, of course, isn't unique in the proliferation of black and orange décor.

Halloween has boomed into a whole industry in and of itself with adults even getting in on the act trying to outdo one another in the craziness of the night. It was never like this even a few years ago. Oh yes, there was Halloween but it was for kids. Carved pumpkins were the main decorative item. But in recent years it has become a fiendish, over-the-top display. And all of it obscures the real point and meaning of the Day.

Look at the word "Halloween" it points to the real meaning. It is a conflation of two words Hallow or Holy with evening and we get the word "Halloween" that is to say Halloweve, Halloween. The evening before all hallows or all saints. Halloween isn't really about ghosts and goblins and other scary things. Rather day and the night before it is about the Communion of Saints and those who dwell with God in Heaven and on earth.

It is such an important day that it is celebrated as one of the major festival days of the Church year. It is such an important day that Martin Luther, in 1517, saw the evening of All Hallows as an opportunity to offer a corrective to a corrupt church in the posting of his 95 Thesis of the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany.

Luther knew that most people would have All Hallows Day as a holiday, a holy day, and that they would not be working. Wittenburg's residents, like people in cities, town, and villages all over the Europe, would be in Church at Mass in the morning and then enjoy the feasts of the day that would be celebrated all over town. It was a perfect opportunity for him to make his ideas and objections known to a much wider audience.

Little did Luther know, however, that his words published on Halloween would alter the course of the Western World and alter the course of human history. A Reformation occurred, lives were changed, wars were fought, people died, a truth was told.

Descendants of the Reformation were often persecuted and had to flee their homelands for safer havens. In their new homes and in strange lands they could worship as they chose and not as some ruler dictated.

Indeed, a new land discovered far across the sea, became that safe haven for religious freedom. The Pilgrims settled in a place oddly named Massachusetts and in Connecticut, Lutherans settled in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York, Baptists settled in Rhode Island, Catholics settled in Maryland and on it went in the thirteen colonies of new world. To these immigrants Halloween didn't mean ghosts and goblins, trick or treating, outrageous costumes and fright night. For these brave souls it meant religious freedom and liberty in the struggles of a new land.

It was out of these pioneering people, and their struggles that this land, the United States was born. When we forget the real meaning of this day and its Christian context we will lose our future. It is as the philosopher Santana once wrote "those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it." In the current anti-God and anti-Christian attitudes of so many in our government, our schools and our hipper than thou culture is the ugly religious oppression of the past going to be our children's future? Only if we forget! Only if we don't stand up! Only if we don't speak out! Only if we don't reclaim what we have already been given!

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff+

Music plays a huge role in both the New and Old Testaments. The Bible's first reference to music is found in Genesis 4:21: "His [Jabal's] brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute." Of course, the real beginning is described in the book of Job, ". . . when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7).

Throughout Scripture, music has been explicitly and subtly demonstrated to be a gift or blessing from God Almighty. It is through this gift that we can render praise and thanksgiving to Him, as well as give expression to our emotions—from the most profound sorrow to the most exhilarating joy. Music has proven to be a powerful, mood-altering agent intended to be used with responsibility and care. It can stir the emotions, charging the hearer with a vitality and strength which, in some cases, were previously lacking. We listened to the Promise Quartet on CD's Sunday on our way to visit Jason, Ken mentioned to me that the words of their songs have a very powerful meaning and impact on our thinking.

Truly, music has the capacity to mirror or duplicate our emotions. Perhaps the most productive kind of mood altering is recorded in [1 Samuel 16:18-23](#). King Saul had a severe emotional problem. Saul's servants say, "*Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you*" ([1 Samuel 16:15](#)). The account suggests that Saul was a moody man (perhaps what we would call "bi-polar" today) who frequently cycled into depression, especially when negatively influenced.

Saul's servants suggest a remedy in [1 Samuel 16:16](#): ". . . seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well." The results occur in verse 23. "*And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.*"

We can't conclude from this account that David was singing some knee-slapping rendition of "She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain" or "When the Saints Go Marchin' In." That type of music would have been inappropriate; David's son, Solomon, was inspired to write, "*Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, and like vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart*" ([Proverbs 25:20](#)). Solomon does not contradict his father at all but merely qualifies the kinds of songs used.

A major reason for the powerful, mood-altering properties of music consists of the massive network of auditory nerves in the human ear. The auditory nerves—the nerves of the ear—are more widely distributed and have more extensive connections than those of any other nerves of the body. There is scarcely a function of the human body which may not be affected by musical tones.

Even so, in order for a song or melody to be effective, it must match the mood of the individual. Saul's mood was sad or distressed. David played melodious, melancholy songs on the harp. When the mood was matched, Saul's negative spirit was neutralized. David could then direct Saul's moods to more cheerful strains. I know this from personal experience. When I find myself in an unhappy mood, knee-slapping, hoedown music is initially painful to endure. On the other hand, when I listen to my instrumental cd's with nature sounds, that music soothes the soul.

The true majesty of the Psalms stems from the variety of moods, ranging from deep despair (Psalm 69) to the heights of exhilaration and praise (Psalm 150). Realizing the importance of music in directing people's emotions, [King David](#), a man after God's heart who composed many of the Psalms, commissioned a special troupe of musicians. It is significant and instructive to note that those in the music service were relieved from other duties: "*These are the singers, heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites, who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night*" ([1 Chronicles 9:33](#)).

We should not read into this scripture that David was creating a kind of snobbish, elite sub-culture. We can see, though, the importance God places on the musical activities. Unfortunately, in the church's scattered state today, musical activities receive either a low priority or they are non-existent. In contrast to the lack of emphasis that a good share of the people place on music, the Levites certainly spared no expense and effort:

. . . and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets. . . . (11 Chronicles 5:12) . . . indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud. . . . (verse 13)

Notice what happened as a result of this superb musical offering: ". . . so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God" (verse 14). The music actually created the atmosphere for God's Spirit to fill the Temple.

We read about a similar incident involving a request by Elisha: "*But now [he said] bring me a musician.*" And it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him" ([11 Kings 3:15](#)). In both cases, music set or surcharged the atmosphere, enhancing the efficacy of God's Spirit.

[In Revelation 5:8-11](#) music is rendered to God in much the same way as incense or prayers:

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to

God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth."

(cont. on next page)

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	October 22	Attendance 124
Offering:	Regular	\$1870.00
	Sign	\$285.00
	Building	\$95.00
	Loose	\$85.00
	Sunday School	\$7.00
	El Salvador	\$50.00
	Mission	\$40.00
	Total	\$2432.00



On Sunday, October 29th during the quarterly meeting there will be a secret ballot congregational vote on whether we will call Pastor Reiff to be our full time Pastor.

All confirmed members will be allowed to vote. Absentee votes are available prior to the vote on this day. Please place your absentee vote with Barb in the office.

(con.t from page 2)

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. Notice the number of this assembly in verse 11: "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." One thousand times one thousand is a mere million.

And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. And they sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures and their elders. . . . (Revelation 14:2-3)

God's Word has shown us the following things about music:

1. Music is a gift and blessing from God.
2. Music is a powerful, mood-altering agent.
3. Music is used to praise God and to create an atmosphere to receive God's Spirit.
4. Music involves sacrifice.

For those at Hope church, who put a great deal of time and effort into our music ministry, we as a congregation, thank you.

Your sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Jeff Hoffman—quadruple bypass—Cru missionary—friend of the Streckert's
 Marge Manecke—health issues
 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
 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

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:

For the family of Annette Krahn—Audrey Kamenick's mom. Her funeral will be held Saturday, October 28 at St. Stephens, Edgar. Visitation 9-11, funeral at 11

Hope's Happenings

The Bulletin Board

- **Youth Group** will meet Wednesdays at 5:15 pm
- **Adult Choir** will practice for Christmas music immediately following Sunday worship services
- **October 28** Hope will be having their All You Can Eat Italian Dinner, 4:30-7:30 pm.
 - We are in need of paper bags for carry outs. Thank you
 - **Thank you** to all those who signed up to bring things for our spaghetti dinner. If anyone missed their chance to sign up, we are taking contributions to cover the cost of the chicken. See Rosie S or Rosie B
- **Quarterly meeting** will be held Sunday, October 29 immediately following worship service
- **Trunk or Treat** will be held Sunday, October 29 following worship
- **November 1**, 7:30 pm Call/Council Meeting
- **All Saints Sunday**, November 5



*Daylight-Saving
Time Ends*

November 5, 2:00 am. Set your clocks BACK one hour



It's time to start gathering items for shoeboxes! We will be collecting gift-filled shoeboxes now through November 12th. Here's how: Grab a donation pamphlet and box from the back of church, or use your own box. Mark the label in the pamphlet based on gender and age of the intended recipient and attach to the top of the box. Complete the form in the pamphlet and insert in the box along with \$9 to cover shipping fees. Drop off the box to the right of the mailboxes in back of church on or before Sunday, November 12th.

Changes this year: It now costs \$9 for shipping and ministry expenses. No toothpaste or candy. Due to custom regulations these items are no longer able to be shipped.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Zion Lutheran Church**, Stratford is having their Annual Germanfest Dinner, October 29, 11:00-1:00. Prices: Adults -\$10.00; Children 5-12 \$5.00; Under 5 -free. Tickets available at Church Office and Davel's. Ticket sales are limited. Carry outs available
- **Edgar Holiday Parade** will be held Sunday, November 5, 1:00 pm featuring Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. Donations for the Circle of Joy will be accepted along the parade route. Also, we are in need of costume people to be in the parade and volunteers to help. If interested, call Karen 715-352-2577. Thank you
- **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.