

Visions of Hope

October 23, 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

October 30

November 6

Ushers

Ron Kunkel

Chad Bender

Russ Bauman

Scott Bauman

Greeters

Keith & Cassi Bauman

Scott Bauman

Acolyte

Riley Bauman

Readers

Jen Kunkel

Michelle Bauman

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Hopers,

I would like to provide some further clarification to what my wife spoke about at the quarterly meeting. When the minutes were being read and the results of last summer's survey were being reviewed, Lydia took exception to the language of renewing the pastor's contract. She stated that I do not have a contract but rather a call. And Lydia is right, there is no contract between myself and Hope and there never has been one. According to the Hope Constitution, "The pastor shall be called to serve this church for an indefinite period." A contract only applies to an interim pastor or a pastor who is not certified by LCMC. So, yes, the language of the survey was contrary to our church's constitution and was therefore corrected during our quarterly meeting.

We will be celebrating Reformation Sunday this week. Next year will actually mark the 500th year anniversary of the Reformation. So, we should try to make a big deal about that. This Sunday we will be remembering the Reformation with a special skit "Martin Luther Comes to Hope Lutheran."

Following worship, a representative of the Mill Church will be doing a presentation about their upcoming mission trip to El Salvador. They have invited us to join them on this mission trip.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Dave

Jeremiah 10:23 he said, "Lord, we know that people do not control their own destiny. It is not in their power to determine what will happen to them."

Because we believe we have finite wisdom and ability, we limit our understanding of the facts. We are weak and sinful human beings. We simply can't direct our steps to follow the right path, unless we get the help we need from God. What seems right to us or what we choose to believe is right, results in the way of destruction and death. Our thoughts are not God's, so our sinful ways will always fall short of God's perfect and all-wise plan.

Suffering and sorrow are a part of life. Knowing this doesn't make it any easier to cope when we find ourselves in the midst of the deepest, darkest trials of faith. The bible reminds us, however, that when all we have left is Jesus, we still have everything we need. If you are suffering to the point of despair, let these words of encouragement help you hang on to your faith. God never promised that being a Christian would automatically give us a free ride free from the trials of life.

Don't you wish Christianity could make us exempt from suffering? That would be great, but as most of us have learned, following our faith doesn't give us a free ride. We catch as much trouble as unbelievers—often more. The difference, of course, is that we can turn to Jesus when things go wrong. Unbelievers might argue that we're only turning to our imagination, but we know better. If we can't hang onto our faith in Jesus Christ, what is left?

Our Christian faith consists of many elements: worshipping God in church, praying, reading the Bible and meditating on it, being involved in ministries, supporting missionaries, helping the sick and poor, and bringing others to the faith. We do these acts not to work our way into heaven, but out of love and gratitude to God. But at some time in our life, suffering will hit us so hard that we won't be able to do any of those things, and that dark time will probably visit us more than once, unfortunately.

We all want things we don't get, and realistically they are not attainable (like a million dollars without having to work for it). Instant relief from suffering and pain would be great, but God wants us to learn from our hardships and rely upon Him to see us through the tough times. The trials and tribulations of life are almost too numerous to mention. Maybe it's a better job or promotion, and you don't make the cut. Or it might be a goal you poured your time and energy into, and it doesn't come to pass. We spend a great amount of time working on a relationship only to see it crumble into the ground.

All of us have prayed for the recovery of loved ones who were ill, but they died anyway. The bigger the disappointment, the more your world is shaken. We might get angry or bitter or feel like a failure. We all react in different ways. Our frustration can seem like a valid excuse to stop going to church, stop believing in a kind and loving God. We may withdraw our support from your church and even stop praying, thinking we're getting back at God. Whether it's from discouragement or just complacency, we're at a turning point in our life when the bad stuff hits.

It takes real spiritual maturity to stay faithful when things go wrong, but severing our relationship with God punishes us, not him. It's self-destructive behavior that can put us on the path to a miserable life. The parable of

the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) teaches us that God always wants us to come back to him. Sometimes our Christian activities are taken from us.

As we age, many of us will be able to do less and less. Christian activities that were once a big part of our life will no longer be possible. Instead of helping, we'll need to be helped. We'll find our faculties failing us, much to our distress. You may not be able to help out at various fund raising events or programs at church. But, you are able to read the Bible and you can always pray. Praying with others and for others can make a huge impact. For some, just knowing someone is praying for them can be the pivot to turning their life around.

Whether your problem is discouragement, pain, illness or aging, sometimes all we have left is Jesus. When we're angry and bitter, we can still cling to Jesus in the midst of our tears. You can grab onto him and refuse to let go until he brings you through it. You'll find, to your surprise, that he holds on to you even tighter than you hold on to him.

Jesus understands sorrow. He knows about being hurt. He remembers the terrible moment on the cross when He asked his Father *"My God, My God why have you forsaken Me"*. God was forced to abandon Jesus, because he was filthy from taking on our sins. Jesus had to fulfill the prophecy because that was His purpose. Jesus died for us; He took all our filthy sins with Him in death. He suffered and died for us and He won't let us go. As we age and start down the path from this life to the next, Jesus will take our hand to guide us. He appreciates all that we have done for him through the years, but what he has always wanted most is our love. We can't do enough good deeds to earn our way to heaven, but we can do good deeds to show him our love, and even if we don't do any good deeds, the love itself still remains.

In those times when your joy or abilities are stripped away and you realize that all you have left is Jesus, you'll discover, as all Christians have, that Jesus is all you need. That song "Lean on Me" should be Jesus' theme song. We know we can always lean on Him; we just have to take time out to be very quiet and listen for His voice guiding us to do His will.

Read, pray, listen, give thanks, grow, rejoice and praise Him, for He is our joy and salvation.

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers



Charles Hamann—stroke
Carol Anderson—heart ablation procedure done
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
Rosie Borchardt—lung cancer
Bonnie Blake—home recovering
Luke Zarins—neck surgery—Ken Schilling's nephew
Ione Lathrop—home recuperating—Pastor Dave's mother
John Hamann—home rehabbing from broken hip
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 the Annette Schultz family—Tom Kirsch's sister—who passed away last week

Hope's Happenings

BELONG tour

We have 44 tickets purchased for the Belong Tour next year, which takes place October 20-21st. The cost will be \$45/ticket, which doesn't include the bus or hotel. Tickets need to be paid for by the end of December. Please let Kelly Erickson know if interested: 715-581-3589



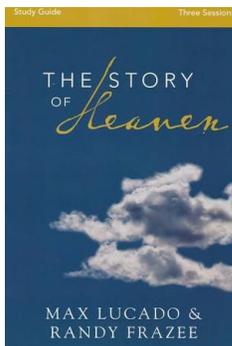
October—November Mission Project: Operation Christmas Child

It's time to start gathering items for shoeboxes! For the past several years, Hope has participated in Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse program that allows children all over the world to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and receive what may be their very first Christmas present. We will be collecting gift-filled shoeboxes now through November 13th. 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

Complete the form in the pamphlet and insert in the box along with \$7 to cover shipping fees. Drop off the box to the right of the mailboxes in back of church on or before Sunday, November 13th.



Looking for someone to help haul our boxes of LWR Kits to Faith Lutheran Church in Marshfield on Saturday morning, October 29. They need to be in Marshfield between 8:30 am and 9:30 am. Please let Rosie B know if you can help with this.



We will be starting a new series of small groups on Wednesday, November 2 with sessions at church at 10:30 am, 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The subject will be The Story of Heaven. This is only 3 sessions long and includes a short video from Max Lucado and Randy Frazee and then about 45 minutes of discussion. If you have never been a part of a bible study or small group and would like to "try it", this would be the perfect opportunity. All 3 times will be identical so come when the time fits you. We will meet on November 2, November 9, and November 16. Books will be ordered next week and the cost will be about \$5.00 (If this is a problem, I will photocopy sheets for you) so please let Rosie Bauman (715-573-0524 or rustyrosedairy@gmail.com) know as soon as possible. See you there.