

Visions of Hope

October 8, 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 15

October 22

Ushers

Jay Borchardt
Leroy Syring
Larry Peterson
Chad Erickson

Greeters

Scott Bauman
Elaine Mielke

Readers

Michelle Bauman
Rose Schilling

Acolyte

Riley Bauman
Anna Peterson



For all that comes our way throughout our daily journeys, with all of its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows, its twists and turns, all of its passions and plagues, and its many temptations to sin, I offer these wise and beautiful words.

Jesus' work of redemption on the cross would never be complete if it included only those who were living, or even those who would live in future centuries.

What of those – like Samson – who had lived before? They must hear the good news too. They must have their chance to embrace belief. So, says Peter, during those three days, Christ's living Spirit went and preached "to them that are dead..." I Peter 4:6

They too, must know that Jesus has offered a way out...the opening of our wills and hearts and minds to His cleansing, the giving of our lives to His safekeeping, the acceptance for ourselves of what He did for us on the cross.

Even in this, our wills are free to accept or reject. But let us soberly consider the price we shall pay if we reject Christ's love.

He is the only One who can deal with our sins, the only One who can open our inner eye to perceive the tricks of the devil within us, the only One who can supply us with the strength to resist temptation, the only Friend who will never deceive us. Others promise us sins excused, discounted, denied explained away. But only at the foot of the cross do we ever experience the beautiful divine contradiction of sins forgiven.

Here is the greatest miracle of all! That God loves men even in their hate...that His heart yearns for us even in our indifference...that His pardon and His grace are waiting for us even though we may feel no need of either...that God, for Christ's sake, is willing to forgive sinners such as you and me.

From the pen of Robert Marshall (1902-1949)

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff+

2 Corinthians 6:7 We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense.

Evangelism is not a matter of converting someone to a different belief, it is a matter of welcoming those who are isolated and in need of a community, a church family. At Hope church we have so much to offer those who don't have a church, or are not being spiritually fed at the church they are attending. We need to explore how effective evangelism is based on communicating directly and honestly what our religious community means to us. We'll generate practical ideas that can be put to immediate use at Hope church. Evangelism is about reaching out. However, before we can reach out we have to reach in and reach down. Before we can be an inviting church that attracts and keeps visitors, we have to know who we are, what we stand for, what we have to offer. It arises from the deepest place of our sense of what is sacred, what the word of God means to us and what it means to live as a Christian.

It is not just enough to get visitors in the door, we must reach out and welcome them into our church family. The only problem with that is we tend to be close knit, because we have been through so much together. On the other hand, that is what makes Hope so attractive to others. We reach out and care for all our congregation and our community. What Hope church does for local mission projects has been noticed and commented on. But now is not the times to rest on our laurels. Words of praise should not stop us from striving to do even better with our mission giving. What growing churches do have is a sense of their mission and an enthusiasm that is palpable and contagious.

Evangelism is the natural result of a deep belief that we believe in God's written word and we have something important and precious to offer. Evangelism is founded on the beliefs that people have a need for religious community, for deep relationships, for spiritual exploration, for social involvement. None of this has anything to do with Hope being noticed as a mission giving church. In a faith like ours, evangelism cannot be founded on past achievements, we still need to shine out as the light that God wants us to be. God has provided the truth and the way through His holy word and we can use that as our guide to reach out to others looking for a shining light in times of darkness.

However, in a profound sense, evangelism has everything to do with salvation. Our Hope church community is a place that can save us and others from the crushing banality of consumerism, loose relationships, human superficiality, alienation of those seeking us and their sense of isolation. Our communities are a place where we can connect with our true selves, with each other, with our communities, with our sense of the sacred truth.

Evangelism is, then, a Christian way of reaching out based on an eagerness to share something precious, to share our good news. Evangelism goes to the core of a church's culture and identity, and to the core of our true belief that God is real and His word is our only corner stone we rely upon. A church with energy and enthusiasm can become evangelistic by inviting others to our church services, by working together to support our community missions, and by doing a better job greeting visitors and adding programs. All of these can help.

The beginning of a transition to a culture of evangelism, a culture of reaching out and sharing, is a way for our members to touch again the source of their connection to their faith. When each of us can answer why we are Christians and why being a member of our church and what we love about our congregation, then we are on the way to being evangelists. We can't help it. Good news wants and needs to be shared. And we can't share our good news until we know what it is.

We also need to live our daily lives as the shining light in the darkness of everyday life and tragedies. The truth is if we dwell on the bad things in life we fail to see the good. The Lord's news of salvation, grace and mercy is too wonderful to keep to ourselves, we need to shout it from the mountain top, so-to-speak. Doing the right thing is not easy, if it was, we would never have anything bad happen ever. If the whole world would follow the Ten Commandments, we wouldn't need to be reminded daily, that we all sin and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3: 22-24 and this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus....

As Christians we are not perfect, but we are forgiven. Thank God our church is full of back sliders and sinners, just like me. We can all strive to do God's will but the reality is we won't be totally successful in our lifetime. But, this works to our advantage as Evangelist, we are living proof you don't need to be perfect to believe, but we need to believe with blind faith in God. And we need to share the fact that no one can out-sin God's forgiveness, grace and mercy. We need to acknowledge that we all "fall short", we need to repent and to seek forgiveness and to forgive others.

Talking to others about the good news of God's love and forgiveness might be out of our comfort zone. But on the other hand Jesus did not stay in His "comfort zone" (heaven), instead He was born human and completely Holy. If we reach out with just a smidgeon of what Jesus did on earth, we will be well on our way to follow the path God has set out for us. Our sacrifice cannot even come close to what Jesus sacrificed for us. Is God asking us to die in order to save all sinners or is He just asking us to share His love with our neighbors, friends, family and yes, with strangers?

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, that He considered me faithful and appointed me to service.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Yours in Christian fellowship
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
Annette Krahn—failing health—Audrey Kamenick's mom
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 Christa Boe family who passed away last weekend

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	October 8	Attendance 97
Offering:	Regular	\$2340.00
	Sign	\$355.00
	Building	\$50.00
	Loose	\$10.00
	Sunday School	\$10.00
	Missions	\$30.00
	Bingo Prizes	\$50.00
	Total	\$2845.00



Starting Sunday, October 15,
adult choir will practice
for Christmas music
immediately after church service

The Bulletin Board

- **Youth Group** will meet Wednesdays at 5:15 pm
- **All Saint's Sunday** will be held November 5. We will be lighting 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 15, 22 and 29 from 8:30-8:45 and will plan to sing in church on Sunday, October 29.
- **Quarterly meeting** will be held Sunday, October 29 immediately following worship service. We are looking for volunteers to fill council positions. Needed positions are: Treasurer, Deacon (2), Trustee, Financial Committee (4), Parish Ed, and Cemetery. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex on counter. Please sign-up today. Thank you



Looking for a volunteer or two with a truck that will be able to take all of our LWR boxes to Faith Lutheran in Marshfield on October 28. Items have to be there between 8:30 and 9:30 am. Thank you.



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 12th. Here's how: Grab a donation pamphlet and box from the back of church, or use your own box. Mark 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.



Hope Lutheran Church
is having an
All You Can Eat Italian Dinner
on **Saturday, October 28**
4:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Sign-up sheets available on
table in narthex

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