

# Visions of Hope

October 9, 2016



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 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 16**  
October 23

**Ushers**

**Lowell Borchardt**  
**Brian Remus**  
Ken Schilling  
Larry Peterson

**Greeters**

**Jodene Jeffel**  
Elaine Mielke

**Readers**

Rose Schilling

FROM THE  
PASTOR 

Dear Hopers,

Do you ever wonder what Hope could do to have more of an impact on our lives and our community?

Well, we have a great opportunity this Saturday to find out more about how we can grow in serving God together and have a greater vision for the future of our congregation. Come to Hope this Saturday for a Congregational Workshop, meet the LCMC Service Coordinator Mark Vander Tuig, hang out with some of your fellow Hopers, learn, and be inspired. Lunch is included. It runs from 9am-2:30pm.

The following day, on Sunday, we will have our special mortgage burning service with Pastor Mark Vander Tuig preaching. I am looking forward to this. It is hard to believe we paid off our mortgage so quickly. You have all been extremely generous givers and I thank you for this. Don't forget, we also have a potluck meal following worship with chicken provided.

In learning more about our ministry together and in celebrating a major milestone in the life of this congregation, let's do it all to the glory of God!

God's Blessings,  
Pastor Dave

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Romans 10:14: *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"*

Soldiers serve; athletes train; and farmers work the fields, nurse's comfort and heal the sick, and Pastors take care of our spiritual welfare. Those who serve others are required to do their due diligence and need time for ample preparation. The same due diligence and preparation is needed in our training to serve as Christians. The world is filled with souls thirsty for the Spirit and hungry for God's Word, hungry for anything to hang onto when their life seems to be falling apart. We should have pity on those lost and troubled souls. We must have compassion for these souls because they don't know God and don't really know what they thirst and hunger for. *"How can they believe," Paul writes, "in the one whom they have not heard?"* It seems easy for us to forget where our strength comes from. We are reluctant to talk about God with others to help them through the storms of life. Every day life distracts us with its various times of crisis. It probably hasn't clicked in our minds that our willingness to share God's love is tightly connected to our readiness to serve Him. And our relationship with God is much easier to share when we have that firm foundation and trust in the Lord.

We should always be prepared, but sometimes we slip away from God and His word; at this point we lose our strength in God. We become weak from lack of prayer and diligent study of His Word. We might not have anything to share in a moment of need, and we might not have anything to offer because we have not prepared as we should have. We have no Holy Spirit within us to feed their hunger and quench their thirst. How very sad so many things seem more vitally important to us than a prayer; due diligence in the Word; and a great determination to be prepared to serve.

We need God to open our eyes to the lost and alone, and grant us wisdom to work His will within us so we can be prepared in case God needs us to reach out to others. We can't share God's grace and mercy with others if we have become too lazy to keep up our relationship with God. We all know how much pressure there is in our society not to fit in or be tolerant and sharing the fact that Jesus died to save us from sin is something many do not want to hear....until, the bottom drops out of their life and they start searching for a lifeline.

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:19-25)*

It may seem amazing to us that we are even able to walk in the Spirit at all, given the burdens that we seem to continuously carry upon our shoulders. We respond to crisis with personal wisdom and to the storms of life with our weak and sinful human reasoning, only to turn it over to God after we have hit rock bottom and have nowhere else to turn. It is so very difficult for us to unlearn the way we have responded to difficulties before, and learn how to respond anew under the guidance of the Lord. I might have said this before, we all have issues with giving up control of our lives to our Lord and Savior.

So how do we walk? Are we the picture of one who slouches in chairs and walks sort of hunched as though we are too weak to hold up our own heads? Our spiritual demeanor weighs upon us like an anchor tied around our necks, and tugs at our facial muscles to produce a sad and weary frown.

On the other hand, we should be walking with a load that is light and a burden that is barely noticeable. Rather than being burdened by the worries and cares of making a living, we find joy in serving God through a life that we are already living. The weights that once drew down upon our facial muscles have been lifted by God, leaving behind a tranquil smile as a signature of God's artistry--His handiwork in the mending of our soul.

It is a proven fact that tranquility can be achieved just by being thankful for what we already have and to share that secret of tranquility with others. Turning to God in all things lightens our load considerably. If we ever stopped for a moment and looked at all the evil in this world, and let that evil overwhelm us, we may never get out of the pit of despair.

So, how can we experience joy in our Christian life? Joy is something we all long for but that often seems difficult to grab hold of. Experiencing joy should be a part of every Christian's life. Joy is a **fruit of the Holy Spirit**, produced only by God's grace and mercy for us. The first thing is to realize that joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness is circumstantial and fleeting. Joy is a heart full of the grace of God. The root word for *joy* in the Greek is *chara*, which is closely related with the Greek *charis* for "grace." Joy is both a gift of God as well as a response to the gifts of God. Joy comes when we are aware of God's grace and His favor.

With this in mind, it becomes evident that one way to experience joy is to focus on God. Rather than dwelling on our difficulties or those things robbing our contentment, we can dwell on God. This is not to say we should deny our discontent or stuff negative emotions. We can always pour out our hearts to God. We can tell Him bluntly all the things that drag us down. We offer up those things to Him, remember who He is and we realize He is the only one to lift us out of the pit of despair.

I think most of us walk the middle ground--burdened one day--full of joy the next. *But we then must be careful that we are not "double minded" and "unstable in all [our] ways" (James 1:5-10).* We must continually draw near to God to ensure that our faith is established through Christ and we should not treat our relationship with God as a last resort.

Where we walk and how we endure are eternally dependent upon a simple matter of faith in God. We don't have to be weighted down by burdens. *Jesus said " Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mt.11:29-30).* Our full assurance rests in the work of Christ, today, tomorrow and always. It is not something you must work for, or earn. It is simply by the grace of God that we are allowed to come to Him regardless of where we have been--to lay all our burdens at His feet--and to renew His joy in us once more. Our duty is to share that joy with those in need, we need to share the love of Jesus and spread the good news of salvation.

Praying for joy for all of us;  
Your servant in Christ  
Rosie Schilling

# Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	October 9	Attendance	112
Offering:	Regular		\$2465.00
	Building		\$405.00
	Mission		\$110.00
	Sunday School		\$9.00
	Loose		\$1.00
	Jake		\$25.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3015.00</b>



## Come help us celebrate!

On Sunday, October 16  
there will be a  
Mortgage Burning Celebration!  
Potluck dinner following service.  
Chicken and dinner rolls provided.  
See you there!

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

Lisa 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  
 Jorey Podevels—Fell out of tree—serious condition—Arden Viegut's great nephew  
 Emery Rahm—cancer—friend of the Viegut's  
 Scott Campbell—stage two leukemia—relation to the Streckert's  
 Rosie Borchardt—lung cancer  
 Bonnie Blake—back in Marshfield Hospital  
 Luke Zarins—neck surgery—Ken Schilling's nephew  
 Lone 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  
 Annette Schultz—breast cancer—Tom Kirsch's sister  
 Jennifer Bohman—prayers of healing  
 Dennis Bohman—Colby Nursing Home



## The Bulletin Board

- **Mission money:** Annette Schultz and Bonnie Blake both for medical expenses
- **October 14—16** Mark VanderTuig LCMC Service Coordinator
- **October 23** Quarterly Meeting
  - We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:  
Secretary—3 years; Trustee—3 years; Parish Ed—3 years;  
Cemetery Board—3 years; Finance Committee—need 4 people—2 years
- **October 29** 4:30-7:30 pm Hope Spaghetti Dinner
  - There is a sign up sheet on the table by the sofa. Please sign up as soon as possible for needed items. Thank you
- **October 30** Reformation Sunday—special skit  
Trunk or Treat
- **November 6** All Saint's Sunday
- **November 23** 7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at Hope

## Hope's Happenings



### 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 the intended recipient and attach to the top of the box.

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.



We now have a Memorial Book. Guidelines established for entries in the book are:

- Any donation either monetary or physical of \$200.00 or more given "In Memory Of" someone will be placed in the book. Council asks if you have given such a donation in the past or know of such a donation in the past history of Hope Church, please inform a council member or Barb Giese. We ask this information be turned in no later than October 24. Donations will then be entered in the book by date received.



Thank you so much for the school supplies and backpacks. Our students in need greatly appreciated them. You have no idea how nice it is to have these supplies on hand ready to go out when families are struggling. We are impressed every year that you reach out to us all the way from Edgar!

*Joann Roehl, Spencer School Counselor*



Sitting dates for pictures are January 26-29 (January special—20% discount on your order) Watch for more information as date gets closer