

Visions of Hope

September 10, 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

September 17

September 24

Ushers

Gary Bauman
Andy Yoder
*Russ Bauman
Keith Bauman*

Greeters

Pam Ludwig
Gordon & Betty Metcalf

Readers

Rachel Ludwig
Rose Schilling

Acolyte

Anna Fehlhaber
Haylee Schreiber



I am truly looking forward to Wednesday, September 27 because it is "Kick Off" night for all of our youth events at Hope Lutheran Church throughout the 2017-2018 school year. Over the next nine months every Wednesday will be jam packed with programs of spiritual awareness and exciting team building activities.

Each Wednesday will begin with dinner for all the youth beginning at 5:15 pm. Just a few minutes before 6 o'clock dinner our dinnertime will conclude with a brief devotion and prayer. We will then split up into three separate groups for a spiritual study time.

At this time, the 7th and 8th graders will gather with Dianne Bauman for their Catechism Class. 9th graders will meet with Pastor Reiff to review their Catechism and prepare for confirmation on Sunday, November 19. Cedric Lechleitner will lead the 10th, 11th and 12th grades in a dynamic Bible Study. This second component of our youth evenings will be about 45 minutes in length and come to an end at roughly 6:45.

The final part of our Wednesday youth gathering will feature a fun activity for all ages grades 7 through 12. With his background in recreation management, Cedric will have many exciting and fun events planned for every weekly gathering. Most evenings activities should come to an end between 8 and 8:15 when we will all depart for the quiet of night in our homes.

Every Wednesday at Hope Lutheran Church will be an awesome night of food, fun, and growth in Jesus Christ our Lord and Master. I encourage all of our youth to participate fully and, yes, bring your friends too. Our doors are open to the community and your friends, our guests, are always welcome!

Ya'all come on down!

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff+

Matthew 6:14-15 ¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

On Sunday mornings we gather together in Christian fellowship, I get a feeling of joy and peace just by talking to my fellow Christians at Hope. But, then Pastor starts his sermon and I realize that Pastor has written that sermon just for me. I can tell you I squirmed in my seat on Sunday morning. I knew God was talking directly to me!

There is no doubt that many of us are carrying some deep wounds that we've carried for months, maybe even years. When you think about that person who hurt you, it's still as fresh as if it happened this morning. This is especially true when the person that hurt you should have been the one to love you the most. The pain is still there, and you're still filled with resentment. The memory may never fade, but we can let go of the hurt by turning to the grace and mercy of our most loving and forgiving Lord.

You say, "Why in the world should I forgive that person who hurt me so much? You have no idea how much they hurt me. Why should I offer grace to that person?"

We should forgive others for three reasons:

1. We need to be gracious to others and forgive those who've hurt you because God has been gracious to us.

Trust me when I tell you that I have firsthand knowledge that is almost impossible to forgive someone who has hurt you so much you can't even function on some days. Your whole life is skewed from that moment on. I for one have had flashback nightmares for years. That hurt makes you doubt God, God's love and God's forgiveness. But the thing is if we don't forgive, that leaves us as an unforgiven sinner. Woah!! Wait, that can't be right, I didn't do anything wrong. That person hurt me, I didn't abuse him!!! We are not in the wrong are we?? Well....I guess I am not entirely free of sin and wrong doing, but I am not as bad as them, am I?

We will have to forgive anyone else at least as much as Jesus Christ has already forgiven us. We should consider that we haven't always gotten what we deserved, either. God has been gracious with us. Now we need to be gracious with others. Don't be discouraged this might take years, but forgiving others is definitely worth the effort. We are not being asked to die for the ones who hurt us, as Christ died for us, we are only asked to show as much mercy as God has granted us.

2. We need to forgive others because the alternative is bitterness.

Scientists tell us that resentment is the unhealthiest emotion there is. It always hurts you more than anybody else! Resentment will not change the past, and it won't solve the problem. Our trouble is we tend to cling to the past hurts. Our task as Christians is to let go of the past, we need to let Jesus Christ carry that burden for us. Grudges and resentment doesn't even make us feel better. In fact, it makes us feel worse, and as time goes by those resentments and hurts can fester.

The Bible says in Hebrews 12:15, *"Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others"*.

3. We need to show grace to and forgive others because God expects us to do it.

Matthew 6:15 says, *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"*. Jesus says we cannot receive what we are unwilling to give. If you say, "I could never forgive that person," then my hope is we never sin again and we will live a perfect life!! If you just don't feel like doing it, do it anyway, because it's the right thing to do.

The reason why some of us have a hard time forgiving is because we don't feel forgiven ourselves. Would you pray this prayer of liberation and freedom in your heart?

"Dear gracious and forgiving God, you know how much we have been hurt by others. You know that our resentment has made us act in ways that have been unreasonable and unhelpful and unhealthy. We need Your power to release and forgive those who've hurt us so we can stop letting them control us, those who have hurt us are keeping us from the happiness and forgiveness we seek. Would you please replace our hurt with the peace of Jesus Christ? Dear Lord, we realize that we have hurt a lot of other people with our bad habits, our bad decisions, our idiosyncrasies and hang-ups. Would you please forgive us for the way we've hurt others? Help us to make a list of those that we have harmed and in the right way at the right time, to humbly seek to make amends. Jesus Christ, we do want to refocus our life on you. We want to face the future courageously with love and peace in our hearts. Would you replace our resentment with your love, and our bitterness with your grace? Thank you for your graciousness and mercy toward us. Thank you for forgiving us for the things that we have done wrong and Lord help us all to repent. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Your sister in Christ;
Rosie Schilling



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

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:

for the family of Anita Bauman—who passed away early Saturday morning
for the family of Scott Campbell—who passed away on Saturday

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	September 10	Attendance 100
Offering:	Regular	\$3610.00
	Building	\$20.00
	Sign	\$1620.00
	Well	\$900.00
	Loose	\$27.00
	Sunday School	\$2.00
	Missions	\$60.00
	Gas cards	\$10.00
	Hurricane relief	\$200.00
	Prayer Garden	\$90.00
	Total	\$6539.00



..... meeting rescheduled for
Monday, September 18
at 6:00

The Bulletin Board

- **Wednesday, September 27**—"kick-off" for ALL youth. Invite your friends!
 - 5:15 pm dinner followed by devotion and prayer. Then we will split up into 3 groups for spiritual study time



Our Mission Project for September is collecting items that can be used for bingo prizes in nursing homes. The following is a list: 50 piece puzzles, small snacks in bags, window clings, small knick-knacks (Dollar Tee has a nice selection), small pictures in frames (suggestions: scenery, animals, flowers, farm-related, hunting, sports), door wreath, bracelets and necklaces, small baskets to hold personal items in, large print word searches, sudoku, small stuffed toys, small bouquets of silk flowers in vase, hair combs and brushes, small hand lotion, lap robes, lip balm, small packages of kleenex, NO GREETING CARDS. Money donations will be accepted and will be used to get what is needed. All items are due September 29. Shopping lists available on coffee counter. Contact Jodene Leffel (715-352-2213) if you have any questions.

Thank You!

....thank you to Pastor for visiting Mom while she was in the nursing home, at home and in the hospital while she was in Madison. It was his first service and he never hesitated to go. Also thank you to the women for providing the meal at her funeral and for all the prayers during her health. The families would like to thank everybody for their prayers during this difficult time.

Jim and Gayle Grohall and Family and Allen and Wendy Hamann and Family

....thank you kindly and deeply for the generous donation of filled backpacks. WOW! What a gift to our students in need. Thank you for taking your time and resources to make a difference in the lives of others.

Joy Redmann—Athens Elementary

....thank you so much for how you have been consistently supporting me over the years! It means a lot! I know its cliché to say I would not be able to do what I do with Cru without supporters like you, but I really wouldn't. So, thank you for supporting me.

In Christ, David Lund



....thank you to all my church family for being here for me and all the cards and gifts for my 90th birthday. It is much appreciated. Love ya all, *Betty*

Hope's Happenings

Military, College and Technical School Members of Hope

Here is a complete list of our members that are currently going to school or are in the military. Anything you can do to support them would be greatly appreciated. Maybe that is just a "thinking of you" letter, a gift card, gas card or some items that are listed below that they have mentioned in the past. I'm sure any of them would also welcome anything else that isn't on their list below as well. If you don't want to mail these items yourself, we will have a box under the "Kids Corner" board in the narthex of church for you to put these things in if you so choose. We will divide that up and ship as we can from there or get it to them somehow. Questions, please see Ron Kunkel.

- **Mason & Andrea (Krause) Reinhardt**
340 West Wilson Street, Madison, WI 53703
Almond Joy, Turkey Jerky, Beef Jerky, Ghardettos, Small packs of Kleenex,
Anderson Pretzels with Peanut Butter.
- **Katelyn Krause**
1000 Edgewood College Drive, Madison, WI 53711
Take 5 Candy Bars, Cheddar Cheese Pretzels, White Cheddar Cheeitz, Veggie
Straws, Veggie Chips, Easy Mac, Honey BBQ Fritos.
- **Chelsea Bauman**
505 12th Street South, Apt# 306, St. Cloud, MN 56301
Pretzels, Multigrain Cheerios, Fruit Snacks and Gum.
- **Kia Lechleitner**
3120 7th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
Pistachios, Beef Jerky
- **Xavier Lechleitner**
1214 31st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311
Health Food, Cashews, Unsalted Peanuts and Walnuts.
- **Tyler Kirsch**
1610 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726
Peanuts and Healthy Food.
- **Taylor Kirsch**
206 Antrim Hall, 1015 3rd Street East, Menomonie, WI 54751
Ramen Noodles, Mac N Cheese, Candy and Laundry Soap Pods.
- **Jordan Bauman**
2726 Lynn Terrace Apt 2, Madison, WI 53705
- **Erika Peterson**
728 Scott Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901
- **Rachel Ludwig**
F4817 Maplenut Road, Athens, WI 54411