

Visions of Hope

September 11, 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

September 18
September 25

Ushers

John Hamann
Gary Bauman
Gary Ludwig
Lowell Borchardt

Greeters

John Hamann
Pam Ludwig

Readers

Rachel Ludwig

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Hopers,

As you may have already heard, we will be celebrating the church building mortgage having been paid off on October 16. Following worship, we will have a potluck lunch. Joining us on that day is Pastor Mark VanderTuig, the LCMC Service Coordinator.

Pastor VanderTuig will also be conducting a special Congregational Workshop on October 15. This workshop is to inspire and encourage us to move beyond merely being church members to being faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. The times for this event will be announced next week.

It is great for a congregation to have their debts paid in full, but there is no comparison to having the debt we owed to God paid in full through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. That is something we can celebrate for the rest of our life and on into eternity.

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

Colossians 3:12+14 So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

This is just part of the biography of Corrie Ten Boom.

During the Second World War, the Ten Boom home became a refuge, a hiding place, for fugitives and those hunted by the Nazis. By protecting these people, Casper and his daughters, Corrie and Betsie, risked their lives. This non-violent resistance against the Nazi-oppressors was the Ten Booms' way of living out their Christian faith. This faith led them to hide Jews, students who refused to cooperate with the Nazis, and members of the Dutch underground resistance movement. During 1943 and into 1944, there were usually 6-7 people illegally living in their home: 4 Jews and 2 or 3 members of the Dutch underground. Additional refugees would stay with the Ten Booms for a few hours or a few days until another "safe house" could be located for them. Corrie became a ringleader within the network of the Haarlem underground. Corrie and "the Beje group" would search for courageous Dutch families who would take in refugees, and much of Corrie's time was spent caring for these people once they were in hiding. Through these activities, the Ten Boom family and their many friends saved the lives of an estimated 800 Jews, and protected many Dutch underground workers.

On February 28, 1944, this family was betrayed and the Gestapo (the Nazi secret police) raided their home. The Gestapo set a trap and waited throughout the day, seizing everyone who came to the house. By evening about 30 people had been taken into custody! Casper, Corrie and Betsie were all arrested. Corrie's brother Willem, sister Nollie, and nephew Peter were at the house that day, and were also taken to prison. Only Corrie and her nephew Christen came home.

When Corrie came home from the death camp. She realized her life was a gift from God, and she needed to share what she and Betsie had learned in Ravensbruck: "There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still" and "God will give us the love to be able to forgive our enemies." Corrie was a woman who was faithful to God. She died on her 91st birthday, April 15, 1983. It is interesting that Corrie's passing occurred on her birthday. In the Jewish tradition, it is only very blessed people who are allowed the special privilege of dying on their birthday!

This is an excerpt from one of her books.

People were filing out of the basement room where I had just spoken, moving along the rows of wooden chairs to the door at the rear. It was 1947 and I had come from Holland to defeated Germany with the message that God forgives. It was the truth they needed most to hear in that bitter, bombed-out land and I gave them my favorite mental picture. Maybe because the sea is never far from a Hollander's mind, I liked to think that that's where forgiven sins were thrown, into that sea. "When we confess our sins," I said, "God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever."

The solemn faces stared back at me, not quite daring to believe. There were never questions after a talk in Germany in 1947. People stood up in silence, in silence collected their wraps, in silence left the room.

And that's when I saw him, working his way forward against the others. One moment I saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a visored cap with its skull and crossbones. It came back with a rush: the huge room with its harsh overhead lights, the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the center of the floor, the shame of walking naked past this man. I could see my sister's frail form ahead of me, ribs sharp beneath the parchment skin. Betsie, how thin you were!

Betsie and I had been arrested for concealing Jews in our home during the Nazi occupation of Holland; this man had been a guard at Ravensbrück concentration camp where we were sent. Now he was in front of me, hand thrust out: "A fine message, Fräulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!"

And I, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled in my pocketbook rather than take that hand. He would not remember me, of course—how could he remember one prisoner among those thousands of women?

But I remembered him and the leather crop swinging from his belt. It was the first time since my release that I had been face to face with one of my captors and my blood seemed to freeze. "You mentioned Ravensbrück in your talk," he was saying. "I was a guard in there." No, he did not remember me.

"But since that time," he went on, "I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fräulein"—again the hand came out—"will you forgive me?"

And I stood there—I whose sins had every day to be forgiven—and could not. Betsie had died in that place—could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking? It could not have been many seconds that he stood there, hand held out, but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do.

For I had to do it—I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us. "If you do not forgive men their trespasses," Jesus says, "neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

I knew it not only as a commandment of God, but as a daily experience. Since the end of the war I had had a home in Holland for victims of Nazi brutality.

Those who were able to forgive their former enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. Those who nursed their bitterness remained invalids. It was as simple and as horrible as that. And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart. But forgiveness is not an emotion—I knew that too. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.

"Jesus, help me!" I prayed silently. "I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling."

And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.

"I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "With all my heart!"

For a long moment we grasped each other's hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God's love so intensely as I did then. And having thus learned to forgive in this hardest of situations, I never again had difficulty in forgiving: I wish I could say it! I wish I could say that merciful and charitable thoughts just naturally flowed from me from then on. But they didn't.

And so she discovered another secret of forgiveness: that we can trust God not only above our emotions, but also above our thoughts. "Forgive us our trespasses," Jesus taught us to pray, "As we forgive those who trespass against us." In the ashes of those letters I was seeing yet another facet of His mercy. What more He would teach me about forgiveness in the days ahead I didn't know, but tonight's was good news enough. When we bring our sins to Jesus, He not only forgives them, He makes them as if they had never been.

I am like many other Christians, I know I need to forgive, but I nurture the hurt in my heart and keep it alive. Why is it so hard to forgive? We like to hold onto those hurtful things because it keeps the hurt alive and thus proving we can "forgive", but not forget. It's like our vindication that we survived and didn't let the abuser win. But isn't that what we are doing when we don't forgive? Aren't those whom have hurt us still holding the upper hand after all this time? Here they are sucking the joy right out of our life and worst yet; we let them do it, even if they have been dead for almost 40 years!!!!

No one deserves forgiveness, I don't deserve it, and you don't deserve it. Even the most repentant person does not deserve to be forgiven. Remember, by its very definition, grace is a gift we don't deserve...it's an unmerited gift from God. We don't deserve it and we can't earn it. So when we forgive we are divinely imitating God, our Father. Forgiving those who have hurt or abused us is perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of healing, but without it, we will never truly be free. Forgive; forget, as our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven you.

Your servant in Christ
Rose Schilling

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	September 11	Attendance	112
Offering:	Regular		\$2185.00
	Building		\$445.00
	Mission		\$430.00
	Sunday School		\$12.50
	Loose		\$25.00
	Total		\$3097.50



The Bulletin Board

- **September 14** 6:00 pm Confirmation Class
- **September 18** 7:30 am Council meets
8:30-8:45 am Children's Choir
8:45-9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Promise Quartet
- **September 19** All October calendar activities are due
- **September 26** Gideon Ministry will be at Hope
- **October 15 & 16** Mark VanderTuig LCMC Service Coordinator
- **October 16** Mortgage Burning Celebration
- **October 23** Quarterly Meeting
- **October 29** Hope Spaghetti Dinner
- **October 30** Reformation Sunday—special skit
- **November 6** All Saint's Sunday
- **February 26, 2017** 1st Communion

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers



Scott Campbell—stage two leukemia—relation to the Streckert's
 Rosie Borchardt—lung cancer
 Bonnie Blake—home recuperating from surgery
 Luke Zarins—neck surgery—Ken Schilling's nephew
 Ione Lathrop—rehabbing in Rennes Nursing & Rehab Ctr—Pastor Dave's mother
 John Hamann—home rehabbing from broken hip
 Jerry Harmon—recovering at home—brother-in-law of Rose Schilling
 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 in Florida
 Paulette Kroll—Myleloid Leukemia—receiving chemo treatments in Milwaukee
 Bill Brayton—DeEtta Peterson's brother
 Jim Decker—chemo for lymphoma—friend of the Streckert's
 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

Hope's Happenings



September Mission Project is for the Hope Life Center in Wausau. Hope Life Center understands that the choices women make will affect the rest of their lives. They provide physical, emotional and spiritual support in a confidential, judgment-free environment. Services that they provide are: Pregnancy Testing, Limited OB Ultrasound, Options Counseling, Abortion Recovery Support, Pregnancy & Early Parenting Education and Sexual Health Information. Hope Life Center is compassionate, confidential and free. I will have a bassinet placed in the entry by the coffee counter along with copies of the Wish List. Any items donated can be placed in the bassinet. If you have any questions regarding this mission project feel free to contact Debbie Bauman at 715-897-3508 or email db_369@msn.com. Thank you in advance for your compassionate and generous hearts!

Wish List: Infant carrier style car seats with handle (new in box), Cozy covers for infant car seats, Pack-n-plays (new in box), Socks and Slippers for teenage girl, Full size body wash and deodorant, Toothbrushes, toothpaste and lip balm, Student Folders, Gift bags for teens (empty, non baby prints), Bottled water (for ultrasound patients), Gift cards to Target or Wal-Mart, Copy paper, Postage stamps, Post-it notes, Paper plates and plastic ware , Paper towel , Toilet paper, Toilet bowl cleaner



"On the kids bulletin board in the narthex, there are sheets that include addresses of most of our college/military young adults. Please take one and use this to send them letters or care packages as you like. Some needed/wanted items are listed for some, otherwise snack items, gift cards, books, and miscellaneous grocery items are good to send. Questions, please ask Ron Kunkel."



Looking for donations of aluminum cans to go to Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). The money goes toward \$100 scholarships for sending middle school and high school to FCA camp in Decorah, Iowa in June. If people are interested they can contact Jodi Krause at jodikrause@frontier.com



...Thank you very much for the generous donation of backpacks. We have already given several out to students. Your generosity and grace are truly welcomed and appreciated. I wish I could enclose the smiles they give when they receive their new supplies. Thank you!
Joy Redmann, Athens Elementary

...Thank you very much for the donations that you gave us when the tornado paid us a visit. We are very fortunate that it was not worse and nobody was hurt. How it missed all those houses was truly an act of God. We are truly blessed to have family and friends who care. Thank you again so very much.
Russ, Barb, Wayne, Samantha and Justin Giese

...Thank you so much for the school materials for St. Anthony School. Our students do appreciate you helping those in need, Thank you and God bless you.
Students of St. Anthony School, Athens