

Visions of Hope

September 17, 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 24

October 1

Ushers

Russ Bauman
Keith Bauman
Brian Remus
Gordon Metcalf

Greeters

Gordon & Betty Metcalf
Keith & Cassi Bauman

Readers

Rose Schilling
Jen Kunkle

Acolyte

Haylee Schreiber
Korbyn Bauman



Our little community of Hope has had, in last five months, more than its fair share of grief. I have been told (though I don't know if it is true) that I have officiated at more funerals in my short time with you than the church has experienced in the previous five years.

Three deaths, in this short span of time, have been difficult for all of us. But it has been especially painfully and acutely difficult for the immediate families of those who have died. These are the people who are saddled with the greatest grief and sense of loss. These are the people who need our condolences and our compassion.

It is interesting that those two words (condolence and compassion) emphasize a participation by others in the grief of those most deeply affected. Condolences comes from two Latin root words "con" meaning "with" and "dolence" comes from the Latin root word "dolor" meaning "tears." So, in other words, those of us who offer our *condolences* to those who are grieving are actively sharing in their tears as we shed our tears with them in their grief. This is a blessed gift to those in need.

Compassion also has two words linked together. "Com" is basically another form of "con" and means "with" as well. And, of course, we understand the deep power and emotion of passion. So then, again, we are with the grieving in their passion as we are *compassionate*. Our passion for them unites us with them in the passion of their loss. The grieving are not alone. Their sorrow is shared.

It is important that we offer both our *condolences* and our *compassion* to the stricken, bereft, and grieving. Moreover, we have shown our compassion and our condolence in the loving generosity of our hospitality to all those who come to this church during a time of loss.

Yet, we take it a step further...we offer our *companionship* as well. And, yes, the word companion has a special meaning too. "Com", again, meaning "with" and pan meaning "bread." In their grief, we break bread with them. This is a blessed and vital part of healing the broken hearted - a shared meal. Breaking bread together is one of the central acts of life. It is a nourishing and life-giving event that revives the body and soul. It is almost sacramental!

It amazes how quickly our worship space can be transformed into a dining hall that hosts so many people in the "breaking of bread." It is also amazing how many people step up, literally to the plate, to prepare lunch for anyone who wishes to come and break bread together. In all of this, as a congregation and a community of faith, we vividly display God's amazing grace, in our condolences, our compassion, and our companionship. This is the power of what it means to be the body of Christ broken for the world.

Deo Gratia,
Mark Reiff+

Isaiah 40:31 *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

Day after day we are faced with choices, and with some of our choices a single decision to make--should I wait upon the Lord, or should I take off on my own? It seems that so much of what we do is done out of reaction, reason, or previous experience. We are all pretty smart people and we know that in all things we should acknowledge God. We know that before any important decisions are made that we should pray. And if we are able to do that much, we often fall short in our efforts to wait for clear direction. Waiting upon the Lord means we will have to let things be according to His way and His timing. Sometimes the answer comes not through activity, but in being still at the feet of Jesus, and patiently waiting upon Him. Oh the blessings we receive, when first we practice to believe. That's the ticket, faith, believing without seeing.

Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

I've heard it said that an F-4 fighter plane that it is proof that a brick, given enough thrust, could fly. Well; that might be a bit of an exaggeration. I'm thinking it has nothing at all to do with the object as much as the power that lifts it, as is certain to be the case with many things. Yet rather than saying, "Look how the air keeps that plane up," we say, "See how well that plane can fly." And rather than saying, "See how the hot air keeps that balloon from falling," we might say, "Look at how gracefully the balloon drifts through the sky." But we must concede that nothing that we see in the air can remain there without that unseen thing that holds it up. That's how it is with God's love and forgiveness, He is the one who lifts is up and supports us.

There was a woman who described a method of releasing burdens. She suggests that a person could take a few helium balloons to a field or some sort of open area. Once at the field the person would then kneel and pray

and ask God to show him what it was that was a burden in his life. The next step would be to take a marker and begin writing everything that was burdensome on the balloon. As you might guess, the next step was to physically release the balloons, while inwardly praying for God to help him to release the burdens written on the balloons. Then he would watch the balloons climb into the air, and see that as his burdens being given into God's capable hands.

If you think of it, it is amazing how much faith we place in that which is unseen. That is the very definition of faith, believing without seeing. Consider how many times you have seen an airplane pass directly over your head. Were you afraid that it would fall from the sky suddenly and crush you like a bug? Get real, certainly not. What about a hot air balloon or a space shuttle or satellites? Each one was put into the air by the efforts of people, yet how often do we fear that any shall come down on top of us without warning? It is truly amazing because we don't see what holds each up, yet we don't doubt that for the most part, those things will stay up until brought down safely.

There are burdens so heavy to bear that we might often feel like they are great big heavy things that have fallen on us and are likely to crush us completely. As we bend under the burden of them, we might believe that there is no way that they could ever be lifted off. We would sooner believe that a brick could fly into orbit before we can believe that anyone could lift our burdens from our shoulders.

What we forget is that it is not the object itself that has the power to lift it up, it's the unseen power that lifts it. At first, we may try to lift up ourselves only to realize that we haven't the strength to do it, as Pastor Dave said it is impossible. Instead, we must release control over to someone that can lift it--someone that can hold it up and keep it from falling on our heads. And because it's God who lifts, we can consider it like so many helium filled balloons. We can watch them move upward and without a thought that they will ever come back down to us, so also we can consider that our burdens shall be lifted and without a fear that they will come falling down upon us. For though the burdens may be heavy, it is the Hand of God that lifts them up--all we have to do is release them.

"Open the eyes of our hearts Lord, we want to see you". The words from a very beautiful song. Lord we ask that you continue to lift us up and shoulder our burdens. Lord help us to grow in your love and to always open our hearts and minds to your holy word. Thank you for your Son, and our savior. Amen

Your servant 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



We would like to thank Pastor Reiff for his many visits, prayers and words of comfort this past month since Anita's stroke and then after her passing. Also, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to our Hope Family during this trying time as well, the many cards, prayers, visits to Anita in the hospital and your words of compassion after her death deeply touched our hearts. A big thank you as well to the women of the church and all those who helped serve the meal at her funeral. Hope Church and her church family were very important to her and all of your thoughtfulness during this very difficult time will forever be remembered.

The Wendell Bauman Family

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	September 17	Attendance 116
Offering:	Regular	\$1280.00
	Sign	\$485.00
	Hurricane Relief	\$50.00
	Loose	\$42.00
	Sunday School	\$11.00
	Missions	\$50.00
	Total	\$1918.00



To VERNON NAHRING!



Please join us on Sunday, September 24
 (his actual birth date) to wish Vernon
 a happy 99th birthday.
 There will be cake and fellowship
 following the worship service.

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
- **Starting Sunday, October 1**, there will be fellowship every Sunday. Dianne Bauman and Gayle Werner will be hostesses
- **Wednesday Bible Study has been changed to Tuesdays at 10:30 am**
- Our Mission Project for September is just about over. All items are due by September 29. Money donations will be accepted and will be used to get what is needed. Contact Jodene Leffel if you have any questions

Sunday, October 22, as 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



Thank You



for your kindness

THANK YOU so much for the wonderful response we have had for the requests for food for the funerals we have had recently at Hope. Our members are so generous. At this time we are going to start a list of everyone at Hope that is willing to bring either a salad or bars when we need them. That way we will make sure that everyone gets a chance to contribute and not just the first to let me know. If we have enough, we can actually have 2 groups. There is a sheet of paper on the coffee counter to write your name and contact info. Thanks again for all your participation.

Thank you so much for your generous donation of filled backpacks for our students! This donation will help many students start the year on a positive note.

Jill Schug, Spencer Elementary Principal



- **October 28, Hope Spaghetti Dinner**
Serving 4:30-7:30 pm
- **October 29, Trunk or Treat**
- **November 5, All Saints Sunday**