

Visions of Hope

September 24, 2017



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 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

October 1

October 8

Ushers

Brian Remus
Gordon Metcalf
Daryl Mueller
Lowell Borchardt

Greeters

Keith & Cassi Bauman
Gary & Dianne Bauman

Readers

Jen Kunkel
Beth Mueller

Acolyte

Korbyn Bauman
Madison Borchardt

The stories of God's faithful people are so important, and necessary for us to share with our children. The account of Gideon's life is recorded in [Judges 6:11-8:32](#). The backdrop for Gideon's biography begins with the Israelites being ravaged by the Midianites as a consequence of their disobedience to God ([Judges 6:1](#)). For seven years they faced invasions from the Midianites, Amalekites, and Eastern foreigners who ruined their crops and destroyed their cattle. Although they had been unfaithful to God by worshipping the gods of the Amorites, they cried out to God (once again) for His help without realizing why this was happening to them ([Judges 6:6](#)). And so God sends them a prophet to remind them of how the one true God had provided for them in the past and yet how quickly they had forsaken Him ([Judges 6:8-10](#)).

God hears their cries and graciously intervenes (once again) by sending an angel to Gideon to call him into service. We see history repeating itself over and over again to this day. Gideon, whose name means "cutter" or "cutter of trees," belonged to an undistinguished family of the Abiezrites, but from the angel's greeting we can assume that Gideon had already proved to be a mighty, yet reluctant, warrior ([Judges 6:12](#)). Though Gideon was a willing servant of God, he needed assurance that it was, in fact, God calling him to this divine service (vs.17). In accomplishing the mission set before him by God, Gideon proves himself to be faithful, and God sees him as a mighty warrior, a strong leader of men ([Judges 7:17](#)), and a diplomat ([Judges 8:1-3](#)). As such, he is included in a fitting testimonial for the great men of faith in [Hebrews 11:32-34](#). Gideon was the fifth judge and renowned as the greatest of Israel.

The highlights of Gideon's life include his victorious battle against Israel's enemies. However, we can't overlook his amazing faith, by which he carried out God's mission and which was first put to the test and confirmed when he destroyed the Baal idols his father and the community had been worshipping ([Judges 6:25-27](#)). Gideon's battle triumph is preceded by God's anointing ([Judges 6:34](#)). It was no small feat that Gideon managed to enlist his tribesmen, the Abiezerites, to go into battle with him. These were the men whose idols he had destroyed ([Judges 6:32](#)). Before entering battle, Gideon's troops number 32,000, but in obedience to God he reduces them by 22,000, because told him to let anyone who was afraid to run away ([Judges 7:2-3](#)). Again in obedience to God he decreases the remaining 10,000 by a further 9,700 by following God's orders to take only the men whom drank from their hand and not lapping like a dog, leaving him with just 300 men. God helped Gideon to win against an enemy that is described as "thick as locusts" with "camels as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore" ([Judges 7:12](#)). God told Gideon "I will be with you, your faith will make you triumphant". With the battle finally won, the people suggest that Gideon rule over them as their king, but he declines their accolades and tells them the Lord will rule over them ([Judges 8:22-23](#)).

Gideon had proved his faithfulness to God, and his obedience had required him to take a stand against his own father and tribe. And, although he feared his own people ([Judges 6:24](#)), from the three requests he made for the Lord's confirmation of His will, it is evident he feared God much more. In battle he took on far greater odds than were realistic to mere mortals. When the Israelites wanted to honor him as their king for triumphing over their enemies and restoring Israel's pride, Gideon, recognizing God as the real victor in the battle, declines their request and affords the rightful sovereignty to God. This was a great test of Gideon's faithfulness, when he could so easily have succumbed to pride by accepting the people's honor.

From Gideon's example we can learn that no matter how great the odds against us may be, our faithful God is dominant, and He will always see us through whatever battles we face in life, as long as we remain faithful to His calling and obedient to His commands. "Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)). We can also see how God uses ordinary people to accomplish His plans, although with Gideon, the key factor was his willingness to obey God. The thing is, we have our ears and hearts closed to God's voice and we somehow think we can manage without God.

Sometimes, the most difficult people to witness our faith to are our families. And we can see after Gideon destroys the false gods his family had been worshipping that he receives an anointing from the Lord. It was because of this anointing that he was able to accomplish the mission that God had set before

him. And it is with God's anointing on our lives that we can truly claim "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). Gideon had gone from being a warrior in hiding, threshing wheat at the foot of a hill out of sight of the enemy, to vanquishing the same enemy in battle. However, he was careful to ensure that it was God's will he was obeying. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2). This is where we falter as well, we want to follow any fad that is new and exciting. When all we need is to get back to basics. Read, pray, and inwardly digest God's Holy word.

We are however, not like Gideon, much to God's dismay. Gideon, who had proved his faithfulness to God and received God's answers to his requested signs as an encouragement, we must not expect God to show favor to those of us who request signs from God because of their doubts or weak faith. There may be times when everyone around us does lack the faith to go on, and it is up to us, like Gideon, to take the lead by our example and encourage the weak among us (Judges 7:17; Romans 15:1). Lead by example and you too can fulfill the will of God.

Your most humble 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



I want to thank everyone for the beautiful prayer shawl and of course the prayers that go along with it. Thank you
John Hamann

To all the women of Hope Lutheran for the 9 backpacks. They will be used for our students that do not have the means to purchase there own. Thank you again for thinking of our young ones.
Abbotsford Elementary

Thank you so very much for the 10 backpacks and school supplies that were donated to Edgar Elementary School. We had many grateful families and students when they picked up their new backpacks.
Lisa Witt

A \$130 has been given to the new church sign as a memorial for our sister, Joyce LeVoy. We thank each and everyone of you for your sympathy, cards and caring during our great loss. It will always be remembered.
Elaine Mueller and Jean Hoppenworth

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	September 24	Attendance 90
Offering:	Regular	\$1465.00
	Sign	\$350.00
	Loose	\$125.00
	Sunday School	\$9.00
	Missions	\$80.00
	Total	\$2029.00

Christian Women
will meet
Tuesday, **October 10**

12:30-2:00 pm
at Belvedere Supper Club



The Bulletin Board

- **Mission Money**—gift cards for college students, Texas hurricane, Intersivity, Ronald McDonald House.
- **October Elections**—looking for Treasurer, 2 Deacons, 1 Trustee, 1 Parish Ed and 9 Finance Committee. There is a sign-up sheet in back of church if you are interested in filling a position.
- **REMINDER**—Please do NOT let the kids carry more than 3 or 4 hymnals at once after church. The books are being dropped and torn and getting harder and harder to repair.
- **Church Ladies**—we are looking for help in donating items for fellowship time. We prefer cookies, mini muffins, mini donuts, coffee cakes, donut holes. Please NO cakes or bars. There will also be a donation jar available. Thank you Dianne and Gayle



.....will begin on Sunday October 8. We will practice October 8, 15, 22, & 29 from 8:30-8:45, and will plan to sing in church on Sunday October 29th. All children are welcome. We need participation from everyone in order to make this program successful. This is a great opportunity for your children to serve God and their congregation. Please contact Lynn Czech or DeEtta Peterson with questions.



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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **October 7, 7:00 pm**
The Edgar Arts Association presents "A Tribute to John Denver" at the Edgar High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased in advance at Berg Sales, Edgar or at the door the night of the show.
- **October 8, 8:00 am—12:30 pm**
St. John ELCA Pancake Brunch. All you can eat, potato and buttermilk pancakes, sausage, cheese, applesauce, bars, coffee and milk. Prices: \$7.00 adults; 6-12 \$4.00; 5 and under free. Basket raffle tickets: \$1 each, \$6 for 7, \$10 for 15 or \$20 for 35. Available in advance.
- **October 18, 4:00-6:30 pm**
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edgar is having a Baked Potato Bar with toppings, dessert and beverages. Prices: \$7.00 adults; \$4.00 children under 12. Carry outs available