

Visions of Hope

September 25, 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

October 2

October 9

Ushers

Andy Yoder

Jay Borchardt

Daryl Mueller

Gordon Metcalf

Greeters

Tom & Tammy Kirsch

Gordon & Betty Metcalf

Readers

Elaine Mueller

Beth Mueller

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

Driving down the highway on a hot summer's day in Wisconsin's farm country, we often see a group of cattle all huddled beneath a single shade tree. Then further down the road, we see a similar group of cattle cooling in a small farm pond. And you can't blame them. Like anyone else they desire to find the more soothing and comfortable places in life. It's only natural that like the cattle we, also seek to find ways to get to a more comforting place. But the natural urges might sometimes be misleading, because sometimes we gain more by staying put.

Our striving to find a place of contentment is a very strong motivator. The trouble is not so much that we desire to find comfort, the problem is we can become so focused on the so called, "better places" or "better things" that we can't see how good our life is right now. I am living proof of that. I was so bummed out about turning 65 I lost my focus on all the good things in my life. Someone I know just turned 65 also, and she is in very bad health and in pain each and every day. So sometimes it's what you don't have that counts. And speaking of counting, I am making a conscious decision to count my blessing each morning, starting with; thank you God for giving me one more day.

What are we missing when we are looking for "greener pastures"? Certainly we are going to miss out on many things: the silver lining, the joy that transcends understanding, God's purposes and will, the lessons to be learned and the hope that remains throughout every circumstance. Let's focus on the good right now because if we wait for the good times, our lives might be over before we get there. We can become so fixated on our idea of what is good and best, that we entirely miss out on the good and best that God brings to us daily and all the bounty He has already given us. Things aren't quite the way we would like them, so we choose not to see the good. We choose instead to give in to frustration and self-induced misery. And worst of all, we somehow convince ourselves that even if God has something better for us--somewhere down the road—we can get to our place of contentment all on our own.

Unfortunately, most of us preach to ourselves a gospel of "someday when" and never realize the possibilities of the right now, here in the present time. How many times have we said, "Someday when I . . ." have this or that, "then I can. . ." do this or that, the silly desire to "keep up with the Jones". We sometimes have the desire to have the latest and greatest first, so others can scramble to "keep up with you". We are sure we are going to be the king of the hill, but it's a someday that seldom comes. No matter how often we reach our "someday", another "someday" lays on the horizon fools us into believing that what we have now is not good enough and another "someday" immediately grips our attention. We keep reaching for the stars but overlook the moon we already hold in our hands. We become paralyzed in the present now, because we're certain we can't be happy with what we already have, that happiness can't be achieved until we get this or that--until "someday".

The Bible tells us that "This is the day of our salvation." We don't have to live for a distant someday, believing that when the someday is reached, then we can finally be happy and thereby bring glory to God--and thereby gain a sense of purpose and fulfillment. We may think, "If only I had more money, I could" do this or that for God, and we fail to see that we already have everything today that we need. We know that our God desires us be faithful with a little wealth or a lot of wealth. Wealth or our lack of wealth means nothing to God.

Regardless of how we have gotten to where we are today, this is where we are. I know that sounds kind of goofy but today is a gift we better not squander. It's a place where we are to surrender to God, He can use what we have and who we are--regardless of how little it may appear to us to be--and He can work His purposes in it. For it has never been a question of what we have, or what we can do--it has always been a matter of Who we know. And it's the Who that we know that really matters, He can work wonders through us all, regardless of our apparent inadequacies. Let's not sell our God short in the great He can do, even when it seems He has little to work with. As the saying goes He "can make something from nothing".

1 John 3:1, *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."*

As God's children, we are loved and we are blessed. If we have trouble believing that, then perhaps there is something in our lives preventing our acceptance of that fact. The trouble often lies with our understanding of God's love and blessings. A loving parent does what can be done to ensure the child has what they need to grow up strong. We know that the parents can't do so by giving the child everything they wish for; we know that the parents must provide nurture and discipline along with basic needs, and encouragement. Some of us like to believe that if God loves us, then He will prevent bad things from

happening, He is going to make us rich or make sure we get a new car every year. After all if He really loves us He would find a way to communicate His love to us in a way that appeals to our physical senses. Perhaps we want an audible word, a written note, or simply to have Him appear to us. But as God is God, and speaks to us according to His way, we simply must continue to trust that He loves us dearly. He does what He does with our best interest at heart. Our circumstances may change; our hearts, our minds, our moods, and even our attitudes toward God may change, but God does not change--and neither does He change in His never-ending love and concern for each of us.

Change is a given, but God has not changed in over three thousand years and is not going to change ever. We however must change as our life circumstances change. But here's the thing, God's wish for us to love and serve him isn't going to change either. Whether we have little or if we have much, each is a gift from God, and what we do with that gift will guide us to the secret of being happy in the "here and now". Is having the latest and greatest a guarantee to happiness and contentment? Not so much. Is believing in God, loving Him and serving Him the road to eternal life? The bible tells us yes, and His word doesn't change either.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

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—recuperating at Rennes Nursing & Rehab Ctr—Rhineland
Luke Zarins—neck surgery—Ken Schilling's nephew
Ione 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
Jim Decker—doing well after tumor surgeries—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

Sunday:	September 25	Attendance	119
Offering:	Regular		\$1250.00
	Building		\$165.00
	Mission		\$30.00
	Sunday School		\$11.00
	Loose		\$30.00
	Total		\$1486.00



Children's Choir
will be held
**Sunday October 2 and
October 9**

8:30-8:45 am

The children are planning on
singing for the congregation
on October 9

The Bulletin Board

- **October 4** 1:00 am Bible Study
- **October 9** 7:30 am Council meets
- **October 11** 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Women meet
- **October 14—16** Mark VanderTuig LCMC Service Coordinator
- **October 16** Mortgage Burning Celebration
- **October 23** Quarterly Meeting
- **October 29** 4:30-7:30 pm Hope Spaghetti Dinner
- **October 30** Reformation Sunday—special skit
Trunk or Treat
- **November 6** All Saint's Sunday
- **November 23** Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at Hope
- **February 26, 2017** 1st Communion



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

Hope's Happenings



We will start collecting aluminum cans every 1st Sunday of the Month for Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). The money will go toward \$100 scholarships for sending middle school and high school students to FCA camp in Decorah, Iowa in June. Please bring cans and place them on the North side of building. Any questions please contact Jodi Krause at jodikrause@frontier.com or 715-321-2285. Thank you.



A Congregational Workshop with Mark VanderTuig will be held on Saturday, October 15, 9:00-2:30, lunch provided

A “congregational workshop” is designed and offered to help as many of our members of local churches to make the paradigm shift from membership to discipleship. This is a process and may take a **generation** to complete. So this workshop is only a beginning

This is not an easy transition but will be necessary for us to become effective again in reaching people who do not know Jesus. Therefore the invitation to offer this in your church requires a vote of the church council and the support of both the chair of the council and the pastor of the congregation.

In this workshop I will present some Biblical concepts that will hopefully challenge, inspire and encourage our people to remember who we are as the Body of Christ and to whom we belong: Jesus.

This workshop is **not** designed as a church assessment that offers an in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness of the congregation or of its staff and pastor. It is **not** a conflict resolution process that would seek to discover dysfunction, hurt and misunderstandings and then work toward health and reconciliation.



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.



We will be doing a pictorial directory in January. Sitting dates for pictures are January 26-29 (January special—20% discount on your order) Watch for more information as date gets closer