

Visions of Hope

September 4, 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 11
September 18

Ushers

Rick Bradley
Keith Bauman
John Hamann
Gary Bauman

Greeters

Rick & Sandy Bradley
John Hamann

Readers

Michelle Bauman

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom.8:18).

I worked with a man that did not believe in God. In the course of the time we worked with each other, my beliefs in God were evident to him as I talked with him and with others in the workplace (probably not politically correct). Usually we were surrounded by so many other people we couldn't talk freely, but finally the day came when we were out of earshot of anyone else, and he chose that opportunity to be frank with me about his feelings concerning God. I remember how he looked at me, and in a somewhat angry voice began to share with me his distrust of God--and his contempt for Him. It seems that the man had a girlfriend that got cancer and therefore he reasoned that if God were a God of love, then He wouldn't let things like that happen to good people. I couldn't help but wonder what had happened to his friend with cancer, and I discovered that she recovered, but they were no longer together. I found it interesting or should I say, very human, that he was so ready and able to blame God for letting her get sick, but gave God no credit for her being healed.

It's basic response for us weak and sinful human beings, as fallen human sinners; we want to blame others for bad and somehow give ourselves the credit for what we see as good. Sociologists would in fact tell us that there are studies that support such findings. If we should lose a job, we might be inclined to blame someone else, or perhaps even blame God. And if we would get a promotion, suddenly it is because of our own efforts or our own merit that we got the promotion or raise. Now, this is certainly not something all of us do in all situations at all times. However, it is a very human response of a fallen sinner. And it is a very human choice to blame God when our finger of blame begins to find a resting place. Heaven forbid we would place any blame on ourselves.

But let's not sound too clinical or cynical, for sometimes our reasons are due to some tragic event that happened in our lives. At times like this we want to place blame on someone else in order to boost our own egos and sense of self control. We use this defense mechanism as a way to express hurt and anger. Then there are times when we feel hurt or alone or cheated in our lives. Perhaps we are diagnosed with a terminal disease, or we have been out of work for several months, or we are in an abusive relationship, or we have lost someone dear to us, or so on. It is in times like those that we really try to keep the faith instead of blaming anyone. But the reality is that as we struggle to make sense out of everything, we need to shift the blame away from our own fragile human egos. It is especially those times when life seems unfair that we find that God is the easiest target--and we become the victim of circumstances that "God did not raise a finger" to protect us, why didn't God stop the bad things--or so we think.

It's a hard task to convince some people that God is not responsible for what has happened. But we should keep in mind that the reason the world is in turmoil is not because God has withdrawn His grace and mercy from us. For He created the world to function a particular way, and giving all of us free will we don't follow the dictates of our Father. And if God's plan for the world would be followed--then all would be well. Yet, beginning with Adam, mankind has continuously chosen to walk a path outside of God's plan, and in so doing we have stirred up a world of consequences that effects everyone who lives here. It is our sin that has disrupted our perfect world. Sometimes that sin is the sin of our ancestors or the sin of others around us. And we should keep in mind that even bad people have free will and will work that out for bad and not for good. And let's be honest, sometimes it is our own personal sin.

Even with all of that, most people on this earth want to maintain control of their lives until their lives become out of control, and then we want God to take control and then blame Him when He doesn't step in the way we want Him to. When in fact, what we want is not for God to be in control, but we want to control Him instead. That's right; we want to tell God whom to favor with His grace and mercy and inevitably we think we are the only ones deserving His divine intervention.

These are the times that we realize that situations are beyond our control, so we want Him to step in to do exactly as we want Him to, which still leaves us in control--but then we are trying to control even God.

But there is a way that life can be easier--though it won't be free from the effects of sin that those of us with free will have turned this world upside down. The way life can be easier is to give God control always, not just when things are bad and not so long as He controls things according to our desires, but always and in every matter--from the smallest detail to the largest ordeal. Finding His plan for our lives and following it will not make our lives free of pain or troubled times, but it will make it much easier to deal with.

We know that life presents us with a series of choices. It's up to us to make a choice as to whom, what, where and why, we do what is right or to go against God's will. Given a choice to do as Jesus would, or to do for self, most of us would agree that we would rather do as Jesus did. But faced with a particular choice, and driven by our selfish desires, making the right choice can be a struggle to say the very least.

We have a family situation and I am struggling not to blame God for the situation. Paul, as strong in his faith as he was, struggled also. He despised the worldly flesh of himself and could not wait to be freed from it. *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Rom. 7:24)*. We struggle, yet we are redeemed. We are corrupt, yet we are freed from corruption with faith. We are cast down, but we will be lifted up. Our flesh nature will not always tear at us. A day will come when we will be transformed to the likeness of Christ in every way. As for now—we struggle to be transformed to His likeness daily. We will sometimes fall, but we must get back up, and find in Christ the determination to press on.

Some things to consider, do we thank God for all that He has already given us? And when we are blessed with good fortune do we share with others? Do we in any way cheat or deceive to create that good fortune and sweep that sin under the rug in hopes God won't find out? How is that working out for you? Do we assume that God doesn't notice our sinful deeds because no one called you on it? If our poor choices get us into deep trouble why do we blame God?

The truth is there are many things we will never control. And many questions for which we will not find answers. "We are saved by grace through faith" and that faith will be our stronghold if we are willing to let go of our worries and let "Jesus take the wheel". (As in the song by Carrie Underwood).

And I would like to point out; we need the fellowship of our Christian brothers and sisters to help keep our faith strong. We sometimes forget that we need to read, pray and grow in our faith each and every day.

Your sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling



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



...to Erica and Larry Peterson, Dave and Debbie Bauman for mowing and upkeep of the grounds over the summer

...to Audrey Borchardt for planting flowers and taking care of our flower beds and anyone else who helped in anyway to keep our church yard looking great. Thank you all very much.

Dear church family, I can't begin to express my gratitude to my church family and the outpouring of love and prayers I have seen in the past two weeks. Thank you for your generous gift. With quitting my job there are definitely concerns that I know God is taking and will take care of. I love serving Him in this church of believers. God bless all of you.
Bonnie

...so much for the donation of backpacks and school supplies! ALL backpacks have gone to the child in need already in fact, the day after you delivered the backpacks they were all distributed. The families were so appreciative. Thank you!
Lisa Witt

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	September 4	Attendance 85
Offering:	Regular	\$3665.00
	Building	\$335.00
	Mission	\$30.00
	Sunday School	\$1.00
	Loose	\$20.00
	Total	\$4051.00



Children's Choir
will start
Sunday September 18
Practice will be from
8:30-8:45 am
All children are welcome
to participate.

The Bulletin Board

- * **September 11** Grandparents Day / 911
8:45-9:15 am Bible Study starts
8:45-9:30 am Sunday School starts
(thank you Card Ministry for providing handouts for the Children's Sermon
and for our Grandparents)
- * **September 12** 6:30 pm Worship and Music committee meeting
- * **September 14** 6:00 pm Confirmation Classes start
- * **September 18** 7:30 am Council meets
9:30 am Promise Quartet
- * **September 26** Gideon Ministry will be at Hope
- * **October 15 & 16** Mark VanderTuig LCMC Service Coordinator
- * **February 26, 2017**—1st Communion

HOPE LIFE CENTER

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. The following is the Wish List of items that they need. 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



Christian Women
will meet
Tuesday, **September 13**
12:30-2:00 pm
at Belvedere Supper Club

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Barb's Office Hours are:

Monday and Tuesday—8:00-11:00 am
Wednesday—7:30-10:30 am
Thursday and Friday—8:00-11:00 am
Stop in or call anytime