

Visions of Hope

July 10, 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

July 17
July 24

Ushers

Gary Bauman
Gary Ludwig
Andy Yoder
Lowell Borchardt

Greeters

Debbie Bauman
Gary & Dianne Bauman

Readers

Rachel Ludwig
Elaine Mueller

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cling to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing [diligently] in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits (Rom.12:9-16).

We struggle for uniqueness, and we strive for individuality. Our hope is that we find ourselves, our purpose and our place in this world and our place in God's plan for us. A place in this world that was made specifically for us. A place that no one else can fill. We seek a place wherein we feel that we are the perfect fit and that we are somehow special as an individual. And this is not just a fact of growth as a person, it has become a right of ascension in a society where we have adopted the attitude of looking out for number one.

And it is not enough that we find who we are as a person, a family member or even a Christian; we strive so that others will also see our importance and all that there is that makes us a special and unique individual. We know God views us as special and unique however we can be our worst critique. While many would say that there is nothing wrong with such behavior, we should not overlook the fact that as we strive for independence and individuality, our focus becomes more and more self-centered and so much less focused on God's plan. So much so that it becomes harder and harder to truly see things from another's point of view, or perhaps even suffer with them when they suffer or be joyful when they are joyful. Our focus is way too much on our want and needs and less on what our Lord wants for us.

It seems to be the trend to find creative ways to build one's self-esteem. And while it is necessary for us not to see ourselves as less than we are, it is also dangerous to over inflate our personal viewpoints of ourselves to an extreme and idealistic distorted level. Yes self-esteem is important, we should know we are important because God created us that way. What's more is that we shouldn't think we need to find ways to boost ourselves and our self-worth. It seems to be a natural tendency to promote one's self or to even distort the truth in favor of a better reflection of who we are. Like the old saying; "stepping on someone else in order to get a leg up in the world" is not the right way to go. We seem to naturally gravitate toward whatever is good for the self while neglecting our effect on the whole of society, or even on those closest to us. And especially letting our tendency to be self-absorbed to affect our relationship with God.

We are not an island. Yet we live our lives acting as if what we do or say carries very little weight. But if we stop being so narrow-minded, looking solely to our own existence as though we are the center of the universe, we might discover that we are just a small part of a much greater whole. We are responsible for far more than just ourselves, for everything we say or do ripples outwardly into the lives of those around us. Nowhere does God say to us that He wants us to do as we please or that we should go out and build a life and lifestyle that is centered around ourselves. Instead, we are frequently instructed that we should *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than you. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others"* (Phil.2:3-4).

We are all together. And what we do affects others. There is no escaping that and there is no shirking of the responsibility we have to care for each other, love one another and forgive one another. We need to see that every decision we make weighs in the balance of all things and in all lives. Our first need is to stop living as though we were put on this earth to live as an individual. While we are an individual, we hold a place in God's greater plan. And it's necessary for us to function properly within our place for the good of all people. Ask God to help us to see the greater whole, and to show us ways to serve others and to move away from serving self. In this day-in-age many are trying to say "only me life matters", the real truth is all lives matter, God created us and loves us all the same. No one is greater than anyone else and God will judge us on how well we treat others. All lives matter, we are precious in His sight.

Another way to show our individualism if to get out and vote as a Christian. As election time approaches, many of us will consider it our civic duty to vote for our next president. Please consider that not voting is showing our selfishness by withholding our very important vote for conservative Christian values. We will listen to the candidates as they speak on the issues; we will consider our options; and, we will determine how we should vote. However, as we weigh out all things carefully and do our best to do our due diligence, what are our guiding principles? And is there any personal or party bias that might heavily influence our choice?

While we are indeed, citizens of this nation in which we live; the Bible clearly teaches us that, as followers of Christ, we are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God; and above all, our first allegiance is to Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, how we vote--like everything else we do--is something that should be done in submission to our Lord Jesus. The principles of Christ should be the bedrock upon which are decision process is built; and prayer is key to our gaining insight into God's will.

As Christians, when we go into the voting booth, we do not go alone...we go with God. And we do not represent ourselves, but we are representatives of Christ's Kingdom. Therefore, we must vote accordingly. We must vote not according to our own interests; but, according to what is best, and right, and good as God Himself sees it. And so, we must pray for God's guidance in the process.

Nowhere in Scripture are we told that we are given permission by our Lord to separate God from our civic duty. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Through Scripture, we are instructed to do all things for God's glory; to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; and to emulate Jesus in all we do. As a follower of Jesus, I cannot set aside the 'hat' I wear as a Christian; in order to don the 'hat' as an American. We cannot set aside Jesus while voting for a president. We must instead be ever mindful of the will and direction of God in all things and make our choices accordingly. For, in truth, this is our greatest civic duty.

The fact is we need to look toward God and pray fervently, then God will show us the way.

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

- John Hamann—Rehabbing at Three Oaks Nursing Home, Marshfield
- Jerry Harmon—aneurysm in stomach that burst—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'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

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:

For the family of Pete Cornaggia who past away on June 27 and was laid to rest on July 6. His wife reports that he was brave and strong until the end, needing hospice care for only 2 days. The prayers on his behalf were much appreciated.

Update on Jerry Harmon

Jerry is doing much better. Doctors are amazed, one even said Jerry's family could count his recovery as miraculous. According to the doctors, the survival rate for anyone having an aneurysm burst is slim to none. All of those who prayed for him, your prayers went a long way to speed up his recovery and I thank you so much. This is why we are big believers in the power of pray. Thank you again for your prayers of healing.

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	July 10	Attendance	87
Offering:	Regular		\$2505.00
	Building		\$335.00
	Mission		\$35.00
	Lawn		\$20.00
	Sunday School		\$1.00
	Total		\$2896.00

REMINDER

Surveys are due by
Sunday, July 17

- Council will meet Sunday, April 17, 8:00 am
- Quarterly meeting will be held Sunday, July 24 immediately following worship
- Pastor will be on vacation from July 18-25. Rose Schilling will be leading the worship on Sunday, July 24. Her sermon title is: *"Ask not what your God can do for you, ask what you can do for your God"*.



During the months of July and August, we will be collecting school supplies, and backpacks to be given to our Local school children. Also, we will be collecting school supplies to fill kits sent to needy children through Lutheran World Relief. The list includes both projects: Please put supplies in container next to coffee counter. Any questions contact: Audrey Kamenick (715-352-2714) or Gayle Werner ((715-352-2971)

#2 pencils, pens (blue and black), notebooks (wide or college) large erasers, folders, baby wipes, kleenex, theme paper (college and wide), book covers (medium and large), sharpie, blunt scissors, crayons (16 or 24), paper plates, sandwich bags (Quart and Gallon) ,rulers with centimeter and inches), post notes, colored pencils, washable markers, 8oz.white glue, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, highlighters, pencil case or pencil box, dry erase markers, erase boards, hand sanitizers, and backpacks.* ALL ITEMS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 21. Thank you. "An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge" Proverbs 18:154

2015 School Kits went to: Angola, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Ukraine, Yemen



2016 Vacation Bible School

will be held July 25-29

from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

There will be a light supper served from 5-5:30



....so much for your most generous gifts of "Wish List" items to Ronald McDonald House. It is with your support we are able to provide a home away from home for families facing medical crisis. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.
Cindy, Evening Manager at Ronald McDonald House

....for your part in helping Camp Forest Springs spread the good news and the gospel of Jesus Christ with your generous cash donation. What a buzz of excitement there is around camp these days. There is always new adventures through our youth camps, family camps and adventure trips. Thank you again so much!

Pat Petkau, Executive Director