

# Visions of Hope

July 17, 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 24  
July 31

**Ushers**

Andy Yoder  
Lowell Borchardt  
Jay Borchardt  
Ken Schilling

**Greeters**

Gary & Dianne Bauman  
Daryl & Beth Mueller

**Readers**

Elaine Mueller  
Beth Mueller

*Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed (Psalms 6:2).*

Some you might have heard of the story of the man named Achilles as depicted in Greek Mythology. He was a man who apparently had no detectable weaknesses. He was portrayed as a warrior of warriors, undefeated in battle, until the day his weakness was discovered. A valiant archer discovered the weakness of Achilles and shot an arrow into the tendon above and on the backside of his ankle--severing his "Achilles' tendon" and dropping him to the ground--dead. You may or may not have your own "Achilles' tendon;" a sin weakness that could destroy you in an enormous and devastating way. We all have a sin weakness; withholding forgiveness, dishonestly, envy, gloating, just to name a few. It may be something that seems to always get the best of you, or it may be something that sneaks up on you once in the while in the heat of a moment. But whatever your weakness is, it's not nearly as important as what you do with that weakness. As with many things in our walk with God, how we respond to our circumstances is far more important than the circumstances alone.

There are many methods we employ to deal with our personal area of sin weaknesses. Some ways are good and others are not so good. We could probably start making a list right now of many ways that we deal with our weaknesses; and our list would probably be heavily weighted toward the bad methods used. For it is often more difficult to come up with the good, or see the good in people--which in itself can be another form of human weakness. Somehow we will find how easy it is to quickly pinpoint the weaknesses of others; while somehow overlooking our own, gee, imagine that! For the very weakness and fragility of the human ego often demands casting ourselves in the better light; while casting someone else in a bad light. That's a demanding human weakness which we often yield to and really should avoid.

So what are some of the wrong ways we deal with our sin weaknesses? One way is to simply ignore them and pretend they don't exist. We all know that our sin weaknesses are like a cancer that eats our bones, and just like a cancer, our weaknesses will not go away if they are avoided, ignored or denied. Our ignoring our weaknesses may stem from fear to face it, or a denial that is a result of pride, because after all everyone else is a worse sinner than we are. In either case, it will require the acknowledgment of our sin weakness, confessing it to God, and quickly getting His help to overcome the fear or pride. We need to discover whatever else could lead us to cover up the weakness, rather than dealing with it. It's like having an infected sore that you cover with a bandage and hide beneath your clothing without ever treating it or cleaning it. It will continue to fester and to be a problem, and it will never simply just "go away".

Indulging the devil is one of the easiest, and the worst ways to respond to our sins. We pamper our sins and hold them carefully, afraid our weaknesses will cause us pain if we give in to it. We guard it, but not in a manner that is intended to deal with. Instead, we find ourselves looking on it in a self-pity kind of way--telling ourselves we can live with the weakness of sin--and be certain it will eventually go away. This is the response of the perpetual victim, rendered helpless as a result of embracing sin and never able to envision victory over the sin in this life time. And then there are those of us who think we can defeat sin without God's help.

Let's consider how a warrior would deal with his weakness. He will do his best to conceal the weakness from the enemy. He will hide it behind his armor and he will take special care to ward off attacks that threaten to expose his weakness; and he will go out of his way to avoid encounters that will open him up for him to fall as a result of that weakness. His God will stand ready to defend him as though it were His own life He was protecting. This is why God should be made aware of our weaknesses, He understand our needs. God is our Protector who watches over us and helps us to overcome what we can't see and even much of what we can see. God is our Defender who blinds the enemy and disables the devil's efforts. And God is our Commander who can prepare our way so long as we follow and are loyal to our Lord's commands.

We are to be the warriors in the army of the Lord. We have our sin weaknesses, yes; but we don't have to let them rule us. We can't ignore, avoid or deny sins for they will not simply go away. We can't indulge and baby our sin weaknesses either, because they will persist and overtake our efforts to stay reconciled to God. But we must confess our sin weaknesses to the Lord and find in Him the strength to overcome. We must advise our close brothers and sisters of our downfalls so they can lift us up in prayer--for the good of the whole army of the Lord. We must listen and not judge when someone reaches out to us for strength to overcome the weakness of sin.

Sin is the wall that separate us from God and is very difficult to tear down and even harder to ignore. We should simply walk away from sin, but we also want to run toward the devil too, because he beckons us and entices us to sin. Working to destroy our relationship to God. The relationship we have with God is balanced somewhere between fulfillment and risk. And we hang our heads in certain frustration for what a sin is doing to us. Thinking we can never be forgiven or redeemed.

Our hope should be that we have no conflict with God or the people in our lives. We desire the smooth and settled waters of a stable and mature relationship. But we also fear the times of turmoil, when things aren't quite so pleasant. The times when we let sin overrule our common sense. It is in those times that we often find our truest friend, God. He will not turn away from us, or turn us away when we are not our best. We all fall down from time to time, but there is One who will not simply pass by on the other side of the road--there is One who will stay with you until you are able to stand strong again. It is the friend that sticks close to you through thick and thin. Your savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.

What about the ones who are struggling with sin, we should remain beside the ones who fall and can't get back up. That's when we learn what it means to endure hard times and pray for patience to make it through those hard times. For ourselves as well as those going through the tough times, it's a lesson learning experience, and one we should not endure alone, nor let our fellow Christians endure alone. We should be there for one another, there are those who are ready to be there for us--to help us, as we have helped someone else. And what better example to follow than that of Christ Jesus.

Let's also consider how hard the struggle really is. You have a friend who is near and dear to you, or perhaps it's a family member. Conflict arises and so does the first impulse to run to your safe place. The tension grows thicker and so do the walls when we hold a grudge and withhold forgiveness. Part of you wants to remain angry, while another part desires to reconcile your differences. Many times the anger wins out--at least for a time. We hold grudges and harbor ill feelings, all the while we desire to have things back to the way they once were. We want to go back to the times when you got along and loved each other.

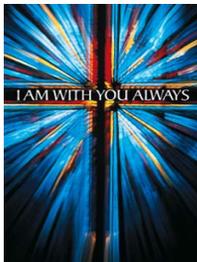
The song says, "Precious and few are the moments we two can share." Our time here is short, and our quality, alone time with loved ones is even shorter. And though we recognize and realize that our time together is something we should try to make the best possible, we continue being angry and remain withdrawn, and for what? More often than not, it's to prove some kind of a point that we know one day we will look back on and think, "How petty." Or it's our desire to always be "in the right" and then we wait almost too long to reconcile before we realize: "all that pressure and resentment was pretty silly".

Jesus came to reconcile. He came to reconcile us to God and to each other. He has given us what is called a ministry of reconciliation, and what we may not realize is that we can't effectively minister, teach or lead others to be reconciled with God, if we refuse to be reconciled with each other first. If we would stop to take a moment to look through our issues that stand as walls, we will discover that they are not worth allowing them to prevent us from effectively sharing the love of God with others. And we should never let sin keep us away from a relationship with God, for in times of sin is when we really need to lean upon the Lord. It's time to tear down the walls--if not for ourselves--certainly for a lost and dying world that needs to see what it means to be forgiven.

*Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times? Jesus said unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven (Mt. 18:21-22)*

Your servant in Christ

Rose 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

# Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	July 17	Attendance	84
Offering:	Regular	\$1985.00	
	Building	\$920.00	
	Lawn	\$10.00	
	Sunday School	\$1.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2916.00</b>	

First Ever Fenwood 5K Fun / Run/ Walk  
**Saturday, August 6**  
 Registration starts at 8:00 am  
 Event at 9:00 am at  
 The corner of Leroy Street and Hwy M  
 Registration fee—cash donation or non perishable  
 food item for local pantries. For early registration  
 call Susan Robers—715-352-3251 or Peggy  
 Weiland—715-581-2835. Hope to see you there!

- 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"*.
- Mission Money: Scripture Signs, LCMC, Baby's Basket of Love, Gideons and Navigators



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

## meeting

There will be a meeting for all VBS teachers/helpers before the church service on Sunday, July 24th at 9:15am . VBS will be held July 25-29 from 5:30-8:00 pm with a light supper served from 5:00-5:30 pm

## Concerts in the Park

**The following Concerts will be available  
 in the Oak Street Park, Edgar  
 Thursdays at 7:00 pm**

July 28th, David Anthony Berg  
 August 4th, Rick Haanstad  
 August 11th PM Mix (polkas, waltzes)  
 and August 18th - Steve Schumacker

Free will donations accepted  
 Concessions will be available