

Visions of Hope

August 21, 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

August 28
September 4

Ushers

Russ Bauman
Scott Bauman
Chad Erickson
Leroy Syring

Greeters

Russ Bauman
Brian Remus

Readers

Gary Ludwig
Ron Kunkel

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Hopers,

We have often included the lectionary Gospel reading as part of our worship service even when it was not being used as the sermon text (although, it has often been utilized for the children's sermon). Part of the reason for this has been due to my preaching a series based on Proverbs used a number of short verses from throughout the book. Reading all these verses is not too practical for our scripture readers so the Gospel reading was assigned to them. Reading the Gospel has also continued while we have been in a sermon series covering the section of Psalms known as the Psalms of Ascent.

I am sorry if any confusion may have resulted from reading the Gospel and then preaching on a different Biblical text, however, there is no theological or practical reason for only preaching on the Gospel reading. While many Lutheran pastors do limit their preaching almost entirely to the lectionary Gospel reading, this severely restricts what topics and styles of Biblical literature will be heard by the congregation.

I will never abandon preaching from the Gospels, but I prefer to cover other books of the Bible as well in order to provide you a more balanced diet from the Word of God. Therefore, in September we will begin a series on 1st Thessalonians. During the season of Advent, however, we will return to the lectionary readings.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Dave

John 7:24, NIV: *"Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."*

Jesus' ministry was not the typical ministry of His day. His ways and teachings continuously clashed with those of the mainstream religious leaders. His methods and message were, to say the least, a little unorthodox. He resisted the pressures of Pharisees, followers, and family, and maintained His focus on the Father. Pleasing God was more important to Him than pleasing men. There is a seminarian quip, which asks, "What are the seven last words of a dying church?" The answer: "We've never done it that way before." Another telltale sign of a dying church is when we say "We have always done it this way". When seeking God's will for our church, we may often grind against the grains of tradition, doctrine, preference and bias. And yet, just as Jesus did, we must maintain focus on the Father throughout. The easiest thing to do is to go with the flow and accept the usual ways. Yet, our goal must remain to find God's will, regardless of how "out of the norm" it may seem. Jesus Christ wants us to stand up for what is righteous and pleasing to God, He is not looking for us to follow the crowd. We must all take a stand to protect the word of God and to deter all outside influences that are trying to change the bible to suit any deviate lifestyle out there. Now; we must notice, we are to stand up for God, not stand in judgement of anyone.

Hebrews 11:1-40 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God

Once we have taken our stand, the next thing we must do is begin to walk. Very few of us while learning to walk stop with merely standing up. Standing up for God is just the first part of the process. In Christ we first stand because we have believed, and in that belief we have trusted the will of God. And in the moment we first come to our feet, we realize that it is because the Hand of our loving Lord has lifted us to our feet.

But for some reason, many of us have become content to stand and do nothing more, we tell people we are strong behind the word of God. We become excited within the moment we make a stand and we are satisfied with that moment. Many of us grow contented to remain standing there because we like it there, or because we are afraid to take a real step in any direction. Mouthing the words to defend the bible is a good start, but there is more that God expects from us. We cannot merely stand up, we must also vigorously fight against abortion, gay marriage, living together without being married and those out there that would belittle the sanctity of marriage. And here again, we are not to stand in judgement of anyone, we start by fighting against the sin and not the sinner.

But Jesus did not call us to stand only, but also to walk-the-walk and not just talk-the-talk. That's because He wants to give us a life more abundant. He is the God who will take us places, should we decide to listen to Him and take that first step once we have stood up for Jesus. To quote a recent sermon "God will not be tricked into

admitting into His Kingdom those who ended up ignoring or denying His teachings so they can fit into a worldly and sinful way of life". Being locked out of heaven is a final event, no do-overs for any of us that have been creating "wobble room" for ourselves by trying to be tolerant of sin and rejecting the teachings of Jesus.

The salvation Jesus brings us is born from unconditional love. However, for us to truly benefit from what He has to offer us, we must also learn to follow Jesus without hesitation and quit trying to fit in with the "in crowd". What that means is that we not only trust, but we also obey. Jesus brought healing to souls and bodies of people who needed Him. But He often said something afterwards to them--a kind of verbal instruction or commandment. He told the woman caught in adultery, "Go and sin no more." He told many whom He had healed not to tell anybody but to go and do this or that.

Each case was specific to the individuals involved, and each command well intended. Yet so many times, the commandment of Christ was broken almost immediately. The people had taken a stand to trust Jesus in some fashion, yet they did not take the first step of obedience after standing with Christ. Each call of Christ upon each life is one of trust. We must come to a point where we take a stand. That is a stand against wrong or against sin or against abortion, gay marriage or any outside influence that is trying to destroy the Christian family. This is a stand taken for Christ, and for personal holiness, and for a personal forsaking of self and the pleasures of this age. For as we have purpose in our stand that goes beyond what we shall receive--it is then that our stand becomes an affirmation of faith. And it is then that we do more than just trust Christ for our salvation, we obey Him by taking those first steps--learning to walk in the Spirit, and no longer after the desires of this life.

Now is the time to rid ourselves of false confidence and to listen once again to the words of the Lord in making the necessary changes to our life. We need to continue to strive for the truth of God's holy word. We should not feel compelled to be tolerant of sins against God and His commandments. The gospel is warning those who are unwilling work at living their lives seeking the truth and teachings of Christ.

Several places in scripture, the Spirit of Truth is offered to us, a Truth that will set us free. Jesus also said: "I am the way, the truth and the life." We live in a time of false promises. People are finding that the promises made in the mass media that offered us much are delivering very little. Many today are eager to search deeper to find the truth. They are spending a lot of time and energy seeking for lesser gifts when God wants us to have it all and live our lives with hope and meaning and fulfillment.

It takes a lot courage to be a truth-seeker and truth-teller in our world today. The question often asked in churches, "Do we as a faith community accommodate our faith and beliefs to fit our comfort level and our culture? Are we more worried about being politically correct, rather than people who speak the truth with courage and hope?"

Dear Jesus, our life, our truth and our hope, fill us with your courage to be truth-seekers and boldly speak and live Your truth. Help us to begin today with courage, conviction and hope. Amen

To God be all the glory;
Rosie Schilling

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Bonnie Blake—exploratory surgery—Madison Hospital
Luke Zarins—neck surgery—Ken Schilling's nephew
Ione Lathrop—Aspirus Hospital—receiving therapy for stroke—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'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:	August 21	Attendance 98
Offering:	Regular	\$1550.00
	Building	\$385.00
	Mission	\$150.00
	Sunday School	\$1.00
	Loose	\$47.00
	Total	\$2133.00

- ◆ Mission Money: David Lund; Jake Brinkman; Levi Hoppenworth; Corey Dahlke (leukemia-frequent trips to Madison for treatment); local members with recent storm damage
- ◆ Due to survey results we will reduce the amount of treats children will be given after the children's sermon
- ◆ Please keep Barb Giese updated on any phone, address or email changes. We have had a recent incident where Pastor called an old number. There is a directory by the mailboxes to make changes. Thank you
- ◆ If anyone is interested in a home visit from Pastor, please contact the church office at 715-352-2555
- ◆ LCMC Wisconsin District annual Meeting will be Saturday September 17 in Waupaca. Please let Brian, Pastor or a council member know if you are interested in attending as our representative
- ◆ October 16 we will be having a Mortgage Burning Celebration! There will be a potluck dinner following service. Chicken will be provided
- ◆ Quarterly meeting will be October 23 immediately following service. We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions: Secretary—3 years; Trustee—3 years; Parish Ed—3 years; Cemetery Board—3 years; Finance Committee—need 4 people—2 years
- ◆ Hope Spaghetti Dinner will be held Saturday, October 29
- ◆ Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 pm Hope will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service. There will be NO Thanksgiving Day Service



Rosie Bauman will be starting two small group studies very soon. Wednesday night at 7:30 pm will be **"Living Victoriously in Difficult Times"**. This is a 40 minute Bible Study with no homework so we should finish by 8:00 pm. This group will meet at church. Wednesday morning at 10:30 am we will be looking at Max Lucado's **"Fearless; Imagine Living Your Life Without Fear"**. It is yet to be determined where this will meet. Starting dates will be posted in the bulletin and newsletter. If you are at all interested in joining us, please let Rosie know this week.

If you are interested in going to Camp Forest Springs for the Ladies Day on September 15, there are pamphlets in the back of church. Payment of \$20 is due by September 1. The Women's group will be paying \$10 toward anyone who is interested in attending this event. Please let Rosie Bauman know soon.

THANK YOU!

....to everyone who brought school supplies for area schools and LWR. A special thank you to everyone who helped pack them on Tuesday night. An official count will be put in next week's newsletter.