

# Visions of Hope

August 7, 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 14  
August 21

#### Ushers

Gordon Metcalf  
Daryl Mueller  
Larry Peterson  
Chad Bender

#### Greeters

Leroy Syring & Beth Leffel  
Gwen Bauman

#### Readers

Rose Schilling  
Chad Bender

Proverbs 28:13 Not Prospering Sin Confessed Confession of sin Avoiding Sin Prosperity Secrets To Success Forgiveness Of Sins Forgiveness, Divine Repentance Renunciation Confession Forsaking Sin Finding Repentance, Nature Of Acknowledge, Sin Sanctification, Means And Results Secret Sins Concealment, Of Sin Sin, Accepting Forgiveness Of Anger  
*He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.*

Jesus' interpretation of the law is a devastating blow against the lie that image is everything and if no one sees sin it never really happened. Our Lord taught repeatedly that sin bottled up on the inside, concealed from everyone else's view, carries the very same guilt as sin that manifests itself in the worst forms of ungodly behavior. *Those who hate others are as guilty as those who act out their hatred; and those who indulge in private lusts are as culpable as wanton adulterers (Matthew 5:21-30).* So Christians are not to think of secret sins as somehow less serious and more respectable than the sins everyone sees.

Scripture tells us *"God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).* No sin—not even a whispered curse or a fleeting evil thought—is hidden from the view of God. In fact, if we realized that God himself is the *only* audience for such secret sins, we might be less inclined to write them off so lightly. **Because God sees the heart, sin can't be concealed.** *The Bible declares that God will one day judge the secrets of every heart (Romans 2:16). He "will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14).*

Not only that, secret sins will not remain secret. *"The Lord [will] bring to light the things hidden in the darkness" (1 Corinthians 4:5).* Jesus said, *"There is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.* According to God, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops" (Luke 12:2-3). Those who think they can evade shame by sinning in secret will discover one day that open disclosure of their secrets before the very throne of God is the worst shame of all. If I would eat a chocolate bar in secret, does that mean the calories have been taken out?

It's silly to think we can lesson our sin by keeping it secret. It is doubly goofy to tell ourselves that we are better than others because we sin in private rather than in public. And it's the very height of folly to convince ourselves that we can get away with sin by covering it up. *"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper" (Proverbs 28:13).* All sin is an assault against our holy God, whether it is done in public or in secret. And God, who beholds even the innermost secrets of the heart, sees our sin clearly, no matter how well we think we have covered it. The thing is hiding sins from the public doesn't mean the sin didn't happen. And why would we think that God would never find out?

When Jesus said hatred carries the same kind of guilt as murder, and lust is the very essence of adultery, He was not suggesting that there is no difference in *degree* between sin that takes place in the mind and sin that is acted out. Scripture does not teach that all sins are of equal enormity. That some sins are worse than others is both patently obvious and thoroughly biblical. Scripture plainly teaches this, for example, *when it tells us the sin of Judas was greater than the sin of Pilate (John 19:11).*

In past newsletters I have said that sin is sin and God does not have different degrees of sin. After researching for this newsletter I found out some new things about the difference between stealing a dollar compared to stealing from the needy, or using the Lord's name in vain compared to murder. But the thing is, "the wages of sin is death" that doesn't change. If we don't repent the ending is still the same. However, God's grace is available for all sinners. And we are indeed "saved by grace through faith". When we sin, both seen and unseen further action is required from us.

In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus was pointing out that anger arises from the same moral defect as murder; and the one who lusts suffers from the same character flaw as the adulterer. Furthermore, those who engage in thought-sins are guilty of violating the same moral precepts as those who commit acts of murder and adultery. In other words, secret sins of the heart are *morally* monumental and the worst kind of evil deeds—even if they are sins of a lesser degree. The lustful person has no right to feel morally superior to a wanton fornicator. The fact that he indulges in lust is proof he is capable of immoral acts as well. The fact that he hates his brother shows that he has murder lurking in his heart.

Christ was teaching us to view our own secret sins with the same moral revulsion we feel for wanton acts of public sin.

If we continually break the speed limit, is it really breaking the law if we never get caught? Yes, I am still guilty of speeding whether I get caught or not. If you order the extra large fries and a coke, the calories are still the same and the food is just as unhealthy as if you ate it in front of everyone. The idea that we can “get away” with sinning if no one sees us or we don’t get caught can put your relationship with God in jeopardy and we like to think we don’t need to repent those hidden sins either.

Those who sin secretly actually intensify their guilt, because they add the sin of hypocrisy to their offenses. Hypocrisy is a grave sin in its own right. It also produces an especially debilitating kind of guilt, because by definition hypocrisy entails the concealing of sin. And the only remedy for any kind of sin involves *uncovering* our guilt through sincere confession.

Hypocrisy permeates the soul with a predisposition against genuine repentance. That is why Jesus referred to hypocrisy as “*the leaven of the Pharisees*” ([Luke 12:1](#)).

Hypocrisy also works directly against the conscience. Hypocrisy inevitably makes way for the most vile, soul-coloring, character-damaging secret sins. No matter who suggests to you that appearances are everything, don't buy that lie. You can appear to be free from sinning, as far as the public knows, but eventually that deception will ruin your relationship with God. Do you want to know who you really are? Take a hard look at your private life—especially your innermost thoughts. Gaze into the mirror of God's Word, and allow it to disclose and correct the real thoughts and motives of your heart

[Isaiah 29:15](#)

[Woe To The Wicked Veils Secret Sins Darkness Of Evil](#)

[Not Seeing People Concealment, Of Sin Unseen Darkness](#)

*Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"*

Have a blessed week  
Your servant in Christ  
Rosie Schilling



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Please remember the following people in your prayers

Ione Lathrop—hospitalized—possible Stroke—Pastor Dave’s mother  
John Hamann—home rehabbing from broken hip  
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:	August 7	Attendance 81
Offering:	Regular	\$2630.00
	Building	\$620.00
	Loose	\$1.00
	Mission	\$130.00
	Sunday School	\$1.00
	Total	\$3382.00



- September 14, 6:00 pm Confirmation Classes start
- Concerts available at the Oak Street Park, Edgar, Thursdays at 7:00 pm
  - August 11—Mix (polkas, waltzes)
  - August 18—Steve Schmacker
 Free will donations accepted. Concessions will be available
- August 21, 8:00 am Council meets



Summer sure has flown by and the start of Sunday School is quickly approaching. Our first day for the year will be September 11. If your child has not attended Sunday School before (age three or new to Hope Sunday school program) please contact Michelle Bauman or Jen Kunkel to sign up.

We are also looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday School. What a great way to start your Sunday by helping Hope's youth to grow in their faith! No experience is needed!! Please contact Michelle or Jen if interested.

We are 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). Needed supplies are:

#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. "An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge" Proverbs 18:154

**ALL school items are needed to fulfill our mission projects, please consider contributing and putting items in tubs near coffee counter. Thank you**

We will be packing ALL kits on Tuesday, August 23, 6:30 pm

## WOMEN OF HOPE

Our next Women's Event will be on Tuesday, August 23. Everyone is welcome and beginning at 6:30 pm, we will be packing backpacks for local schools and School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. These items will help children locally as well as around the world to have a better learning experience thanks to the generosity of everyone at Hope Church. We have lots to pack so the more help we have, the faster it will go. Also, if there is anything that you would like discussed before the officers or members of the Women's Group, please bring it to the attention of one of the officers - Rosie Bauman, Audrey Kamenick, Jen Kunkel, Rose Schilling, Sondra Streckert or Gayle Werner so we can handle it that night as well. Thank you in advance for your help.