

Visions of Hope

April 15, 2018



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

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Sunday School
8:45-9:30 am

Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

715-352-2555 (church)

Emergency numbers:

Rev. Dave Uden—715-340-8642
Brian—715-650-0598
Rose S—715-551-1266

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

April 22

April 29

Ushers

Gary Ludwig

Gary Bauman

Keith Bauman

Scott Bauman

Greeters

Gary & Dianne Bauman

Keith & Cassi Bauman

Readers

Gary Ludwig

Michelle Bauman

Acolyte

Haylee Schreiber

Riley Bauman

For many of us, Christmas and Easter are followed by a strange sadness—the “letdown”—after all the anticipation and celebrating. We can't help it. We are humans living in an imperfect and ever-changing world. We have baggage, and expectations, and sin that reminds us every single day—especially at Christmas and Easter—that even this world's most wonderful experiences will never live up to the wonderful World for which we were made.

The Good News of Jesus is - our redemption didn't just buy our forgiveness for all the shortcomings that are bound into our nature here on earth. Thirty-plus years after that Bethlehem baby was laid in a manger of prickly hay, He purchased with His very life a Home for us where the celebration is perfect—where the music and the feast and the relationships and the atmosphere and the unsurpassed beauty are everything we have ever longed for. At last, we will no longer be trying to recreate something too eternal for our senses to contain. We will living be in the midst of it all!

Many pastors, music leaders, and production personnel are breathing a deep sigh of relief after Easter weekend. After all the planning, strategizing, prayer, preparation, and practice, the Easter weekend service(s) finally happened. Everything (for the most part) came together and people were well served. The music was moving, the preaching powerful, and the effect exhilarating. And throughout the world, thousands of people were baptized and saved for the glory of God.

But you may be starting to wonder what you're going to do in the time period after Easter just as we did after Christmas. Maybe you're even asking yourself, “How do I keep the coming Sundays from being a major letdown?” The anxiety is already setting in.

No doubt your church was like most in that you saw an increased number of unbelieving guests, visitors, and family members who think that Easter and Christmas are the only appropriate times to fulfill their religious obligation. This could mean we might not put as much effort or thought into it. We received daily reminders during holy week that Easter was coming. The coming Sundays will probably sneak up on us like it does every week. But we might not prepare as much nor look forward to it so eagerly.

After the hyper-preparation leading up to Easter maybe you're really looking forward to the opportunity to get back to normal. We might be less focused on planning the service as a whole, and consequently, less focused on how everything fits together. All those factors and more contribute to the nagging sensation that this coming Sunday may not be your best effort. That is, until you start to consider all the things that will be the same:

- This coming Sunday Jesus will be just as alive as he was this past Sunday! In fact, one of the reasons we gather every Sunday is because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. In that sense *every* Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection.
- Nothing we do on any Sunday – Easter, Christmas, or otherwise – will make Jesus look better than he really is. All we can hope to do is point to it more faithfully and clearly. And we can seek to do that every week.
- God through his Spirit will still be with his people as we gather. What is most eternally impacting on any given Sunday is not the size of our production but the details of what Jesus actually accomplished for those who trust in him. He lived the life of obedience we never could.
- He took the wrath of God in our place on the cross. God vindicated His atoning work by raising Him from the dead. He now lives in us by his Spirit and is changing us to walk in His ways and if that's not encouraging enough, here are some things that will actually be *better* in the coming Sundays.
- We'll be back to the “normal” routine of life which will only highlight that the power of the gospel isn't dependent on big productions. God meets us and changes us in the messiness and sin of our daily lives.

- We'll be reminded that the earth-shattering, life-transforming good news of Jesus Christ is worth declaring and living for every week. And not just for Easter and Christmas.

So, we don't have to wait until the next big holiday to expect God to do amazing things in our Sunday service. All the elements we really need – the Word of God, the gospel, and the Holy Spirit –are available to us 52 Sundays of every year.

“Perfection” is a myth here on earth. We will never have a perfect Christmas or Easter if we expect a big epiphany, a perfect family, a perfect experience. Our greenery will dry out and make a mess; our poinsettias and Easter lilies will die. Those mouth-watering treats will all be consumed; the big Easter dinner will be cleaned up and we will likely gain a few pounds. Don't let any of those small disappointments rob you of the joy that was born for you at Christmas or the joy of knowing your sins are forgiven because Jesus laid down His life for you. Rather, let God point out to you that the joys of Christmas and Easter should be cherished every Sunday.

For now, it is worth every ounce of energy we have to bring honor to these holy stories with our very best offerings. As we attempt to communicate the greatest story ever told, it takes all five of our human senses to begin to grasp even a piece of it. Yet even then, we need the touch of our Savior.

Hold sacred the joy of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ but also give thanks to that same savior that gave up His life for you.

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

LuAnn Mohr—restoring kidney function—Barb Mohr-Borchardt's mom
 Tammy Blake—cancer—Bonnie's stepdaughter
 Don Hanson—heart attack—doing ok
 John Hamann—hip surgery
 Dorothy—rehab in Rhinelander—Bonnie's mom
 Brian—cancer—friend of Leroy and Beth Syring
 Brian Asplund—cancer
 Bob Kudingo—stem cell replacement—Rose Schilling's foster brother
 Dennis Woik—cancer—friend of Chad Bender
 Marge Manecke—health issues
 Corinne Kane—friend of Cassi Bauman
 Linda Krahn—breast cancer—sister in law to the Kamenick's
 Mildred Imhoff—chemo treatment—Ken's mother
 Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's
 Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law
 Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
 Bill Brayton—DeEtta Peterson's brother
 Dylan & Logan Weichelt—sons of Bryan & Stacey
 Sawyer Mueller—microcephaly—Daryl & Beth's son
 Jennifer Bohman—prayers of healing



Hope's Happenings

The Bulletin Board

- In case of an emergency you can contact
 - Pastor Dave Uden—715-340-8642; Pres. Brian Remus—716-650-0598; V.P. Rose Schilling—715-551-1266
- **Wednesday, April 18**
 - 3:00 pm Worship and Music Committee meets
 - 5:15 pm Confirmation / Youth Group
- **Sunday, April 22**
 - Council and Call Committee meets after worship
- **Sunday, April 29**, after worship service
 - Quarterly meeting
 - Highway clean-up



COUNCIL AND CALL COMMITTEE

Due to the 'lovely' weather we had over the past weekend, the Council/Call Committee meeting has been rescheduled for **Sunday, April 22** immediately following worship service.

The call committee member list is as follows: DeEtta Peterson (Chair), Keith Bauman, Audrey Borchardt, Bonnie Blake, Kelly Erickson, Daryl Mueller, Beth Syring.



Girl's Night Out event, Tuesday, May 15

Jessica Faith Hagen is a writer and speaker, passionate about teaching and encouraging women in the truth of God's Word. She has written two devotional journals, *Wonderful: a devotional journal for the Christmas season*, and *Come: a journaling journey through the life of Jesus*. Jessica lives in rural Wisconsin, where she enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and ministering at her local church. You can read her encouraging writing on her blog, www.theoverflowing.com



Mission project for April is to reach out to domestic violence shelters for women in Marshfield and Wausau. The items that are needed are: dishwasher soap, laundry detergent, Kleenex, toilet tissue, paper towels, new bath towels, hand and washcloths, Clorox wipes, bathroom cleaners, air fresheners, acetaminophen 500 mg, cold and flu medicine, tampons, deodorant, hair brushes, alarm clocks, nail clippers, and files. These items will be donated to Shirley's House of Hope and the Wausau Women's Community.

Our prayers and donations have changed women's lives. Any questions please contact Audrey Kamenick—kamenick@frontier.com



Colby Lions Club is sponsoring a smelt fry at the Colby Lions Pavilion, Wednesday, April 25, 3:30-7:30 pm. Prices will be determined at a later date. A drive thru is available for carry-outs.