

Visions of Hope

May 13, 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

Emergency numbers:

Rev. Scott Miller
715-214-5567
pastorhopechurch@gmail.com
715-352-2555 (church)

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

May 20

May 27

Ushers

**Rick Bradley
Lowell Borchardt**

Leroy Syring
Ken Schilling

Greeters

**Elaine Mielke
Scott Bauman**

Readers

**Elaine Mueller
Rose Schilling**

Acolyte

**Haylee Schreiber
Anna Peterson**

Just as the Father is in Jesus, so is Jesus in us, and we have unity with one another because of the uniqueness of that relationship (1 John 1:3).

Christian fellowship occurs when two or more Christians are in one another's company. The dictionary defines fellowship as "friendly association with others; companionship." Many of us have a feeling of loss when we can't attend church. Because Christian fellowship involves friendly association with other Christians. It means you choose Christians to be your companions. Christian fellowship begins through a process of adoption. With Christ choosing us as worthy of His death. Most assuredly we don't deserve a place in the family of God. Are you a believer of God today?

If you are, you have been adopted by God. You may have heard it said that we are all God's children, but the truth is, we don't become God's children until we are adopted, through faith in Christ.

He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (Ephesians 1:5)

We are all God's children by virtue of being His creation, He has adopted us. Ask any parents of adopted children and they'll tell you the process is long, hard and painful! Why would God choose to save us even when we reject His offer to be a part of His family? Because God longs to have us as His child, He sacrificed Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, on the cross in order to purchase our salvation.

After God adopts us as His children, Christian fellowship grows naturally. Because it's natural for us to want to be around people like our fellow Christians at Hope church. We all desire the companionship of people who think like you do, with those who believe as we do. As a Christian, depending on where you live on this planet, your beliefs may now be in stark contrast to the society around you. That desire for fellowship with "like-thinkers" is God-given.

If you ignore Christ or think that by hanging around with "Christians" your friends will think you're not "cool," you deny yourself the companionship of your new family members, without Christian fellowship we stunt our Christian growth - and worse, we open ourselves to risk. God uses friendship as an instrument of sanctification. It is important that all Christians carefully choose their friends. In the past I used to have trouble choosing friends and I'll tell you from experience friends can either bring you up in life or bring you down.

Sometimes you have to know when friendship with another person is leading you away from the Lord. In this case, you must choose between Christ and that friend. The answer should always be Christ. A friend might change their mind about being your friend, "but Christ will always be with you, even to the close of the age".

We need to ask God for wisdom when choosing friends in our life. Remember bad company ruins good morals, so choose your friends wisely. One phenomena common to all believers is the recognition that without Christ, our spiritual understanding is dark. Some even say, "It's as if I stumbled in the darkness, and then God threw on the light switch."

Unbelievers are still living in spiritual darkness. While God desires that we live among them and share what we have learned with them, we are called to be deliberate in our choice of close companions, and for a very good reason! Paul tells us why: *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.*

For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? And what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)

If you seek out fellowship with other believers, you will find yourself surrounded by new friends who'll think you're very "cool" - because God thinks so, too! And through Christian friendship, you'll discover that the light only gets brighter. Just imagine, God created all the wonders of the world, then He created you also, because He thought the world needed one of you too. Now, that is really "cool"!!

Christian fellowship is critical! Being in the company of people who think like you do is very important to your growth and survival as a Christian. If you attend church regularly, you are likely to find Christian companionship. Hope church offers a Bible study experience that you can become a part of. Pastor Scott is starting a Bible study called "Developing the Language of Faith", we will cover the 12 essential narratives needed to understand and communicate faith. Hopefully many of us can make this weekly Bible study, this is an important part of our spiritual growth.

Christian fellowship, it's here at Hope church for the taking. We welcome all with open arms. Not because we believe we are perfect, or that everyone else is a sinner. No, it's because Church is exactly the right place to go for all of us sinners, to gain strength in Christian fellowship with other believers.

Church is the place to find reassurance in God's word: *John 3: 16, For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Your Sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

John Hamann—back in hospital
Jim Imhoff—health issues—Ken's Dad
LuAnn Mohr—moved to rehab in Wausau—Barb Mohr-Borchardt's mom
Tammy Blake—cancer—Bonnie's stepdaughter
Don Hanson—heart attack—doing ok
Dorothy—rehab in Rhinelander—Bonnie's mom
Brian—cancer—friend of Leroy and Beth Syring
Brian Asplund—cancer
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—health issues—Ken's mother
Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's
Shyra Martyn—brain 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



....for your gift of money to Lakota people served by St. Francis Mission (Kaitlyn Belanger's mission trip). Only your generosity makes our work possible. I hope you feel great joy as you consider the wonderful things you are doing. All these things are more we do because of your generosity. We are very encouraged that you share our love and concern for the Lakota. You are in my prayers. God bless you. *Father James Kubicki*



....for your generous gift of Personal Care items and 22 fleece blankets. They are beautiful! Your partnership is ending domestic violence in the lives of women and children. Emily says, "I'm free after 34 years". Thank you

Julie Cravillion, Shirley's House of Hope

....so much for the wonderful newborn baby burp cloths you made for the Birthing Center. They are all labeled and in use for our families staying here. Thanks again.

Aspirus Medford Birthing Center Staff

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	May 13	Attendance	105
Offering:	Regular		\$1325.00
	Building		\$5.00
	Sunday School		\$10.00
	Loose		\$12.00
	Missions		\$5.00
	New Worship Center		\$700.00
	Sign		\$50.00
	El Salvador		\$120.00
	Shyra Martyn		\$20.00
	Well		\$200.00
	Total		\$2447.00

You are invited to
 "The Building Of Hope"
 Capital campaign Celebration!
 Wednesday, May 23
 6:00 pm—thank you and vision
 6:30 pm—mortgage burning and refreshments
 Shirley's House of Hope
 1316 North Hume Ave. Bldg E
 Rsvp—Julie@shirleyshoho.org

The Bulletin Board

- In case of an emergency you can contact
 - Pastor Scott Miller—715-214-5567
- **Wednesday, May 16**
 - 5:15-7:30 pm Confirmation / Youth Group
- **Sunday, May 20**
 - **LAST DAY** of Sunday School
 - Graduation recognition
- **Wednesday, May 23**
 - **LAST DAY** of Confirmation
- 6:30 pm Long Range Planning Committee meets

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!



Peace Lutheran Church
 will be having a
 Hamburger / Brat fry
 Friday, May 18
 8:00 am-4:00 pm
 at ProVision, Stratford



**Join Us, Thursday, May 31,
 4:30-8:30 pm for**
 All you can eat Pizza / Family Fun Night
 to help raise money for Shrya Martyn at
Stoney Acres Farm
7002 Rangeline Rd, Athens, WI
 Prices: Adults-\$10; 6-12-\$5; 5 and under-free.
 Bouncy House, gift basket raffle, homemade fire
 roasted pizza and more. Hope to see you there!

Our mission project for May is Baby Care Kits



The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the basics a family needs to care for their little one with less worry and allows the new baby to be more healthy, clean and comfortable. Please contribute as you can to "these, the least of mine" as Jesus instructed us. Each kit contains 2 t-shirts, 2 gown or sleepers, 2 receiving blankets, 4 cloth diapers (flat fold), 1 jacket or hooded sweatshirt, 2 pair of socks, 1 hand towel, 2 bars of gentle soap, 2 diaper pins. (we are especially short of soap—Ivory is preferred, gowns and sleepers). Onesies can be used and made in to t-shirts, adult XL t-shirts can be made in to diapers. All items should be new or gently used and sizes 6 to 24 months. If you have any questions, please contact Rosie Bauman at 715-573-0524 or rustyrosedairy@gmail.com