

Visions of Hope

May 20, 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 27

June 3

Ushers

Leroy Syring

Ken Schilling

Russ Bauman

Keith Bauman

Greeters

Gwen Bauman

Russ Bauman

Readers

Rose Schilling

Ron Kunkel

Acolyte

Anna Peterson

Ashley Erickson

It's heartbreaking, a mass shooting at a school, it's happened again. Another shooting. Another search for answers. And yet again, another round of pointing fingers and placing blame while trying to figure out how to keep our children safe in their schools. And the truth is, this isn't just a school problem. We all know it. Whether walking through an airport, attending a concert, or sitting in church, this type of violence has become all too common. Evil people get hold of military-grade guns. Those guns hammer out bullets that tear flesh, break bones, perforate lungs and arteries.

As a nation we need to discuss this in a calm and prayerful way. The solution is going to require something that hasn't happened yet. Each side – no matter where you stand on gun rights or funding for mental health or the importance of prayer – is going to have to consider what part of the equation they're missing. Each is going to have to approach the possibility that maybe, just maybe, the other guy holds at least part of the solution, also.

A very large part of the solution is the mindset of the individual doing the shooting. Evil is present in these actions. These mass shootings don't happen by accident because someone's playing with the trigger. An individual made a decision to carry it out, pretty much every time after an extended season of planning. They wanted death at a high rate. And they want the notoriety. Maybe if the media would not sensationalize these horrible incidents, the unstable person out there would think twice about doing something so drastic.

America has always had guns. Yes, even teenagers had them. When I attended high school in the late 80s and early 90s it was common knowledge some guys kept their hunting rifles in their trucks in the parking lot. No one feared for their lives because of it. Since then, however, something changed. Some blame violence in video games, the breakdown of the family, a shift in how we view authority, or yes, a move away from God, but a different mindset has taken hold. Life appears to have become cheapened. Expendable, even. We drift away from God and what He has created, so life itself is not treasured as it should be.

Part of that means people like me – those who support the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms – are also going to have to take a deeper look. I've heard all the arguments against gun control. I've given all the arguments against gun control. But, I'm no longer willing to stiff-arm the other side of the debate. Semi-automatic weapons keep appearing as a common denominator in the majority of these tragedies. I'm not saying I agree with a total ban, but let's at least approach tighter – much tighter – gun control laws regarding them. This ongoing epidemic of mass shootings and school violence is absolutely a gospel issue. Caring for children appears continually through Scripture (Ps. 127:3; Pro. 22:6; Mark 10:15). Psalm 139 makes it crystal clear how important our lives are to God.

Despite the scoffing prayer that brings these days, we Christians still say the solution starts with prayer. It starts with a gospel that has us confront our sins and realize we need a savior. Let's approach other steps to a solution, because unfortunately not everyone is going to accept the gospel.

Our present world is an evil world (Galatians 1:4). In fact, the god of this present world is not God; it's Satan the devil! (2 Corinthians 4:4). Satan actually "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). Why can unarmed, peaceful people attending a service be murdered en masse by a maniac? Because this is *Satan's* world.

Few people realize the true significance of Adam and Eve's decision in the Garden of Eden. It was not a decision between two fruit trees—it was a decision between two ways of life. The tree of life represented living God's way as led by His Holy Spirit. By obeying God's commands, Adam could have partaken of the tree of life and received God's Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). This would have given Adam the power to think like God—to have a godly relationship with his Creator and with his fellow man.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented Satan's way of selfishness. In taking from this symbolic tree, Adam and his offspring would "free" themselves from obeying God—and willingly subject themselves to the deceitful spirit influence of the god of this world—Satan the devil (Ephesians 2:2). Adam and Eve chose the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God cut them off from the tree of life, and every generation of human beings since has been cut off from God and His Spirit.

Ever since the Garden of Eden, we have chosen our own knowledge, our own educational systems, our own religions, our own governments, our own civilizations. And 6,000 years later, this is what we are left with: a world full of knowledge—some of it good, much of it agonizingly and fatally evil.

We can't explain what happened in our schools with the traditional religious teachings. But if you believe what the Bible says, you know exactly why such abominable horror has happened and will happen. And you have *hope*. Because you know that this is a lesson in aversion therapy that teaches us to turn to God. Because we will be resurrected into a world where people did not choose the "freedom" of living the way of the knowledge of good and evil under Satan the devil but have remained faithful despite all the evil and temptations.

The thing is if we don't teach our children about God and we fail to impress our young people how much God holds life sacred, we will not change the mind set of our children. The truth is, we can't really pick a time to have faith in God when we need Him, then push Him out of our life when He is not convenient at the moment we embrace the evil of the world.

Yes, God does hold us to a higher standard when we confess our faith and commitment to Him. God's grace is there for the taking. Do we backslide? Well, of course we do. That is human nature. But, as soon as we feel ourselves sliding down the slippery slope it's time to change direction. This is the point we revive our faith and reaffirm our commitment to Christ.

Do not let anything hold you back from God and His forgiveness and grace. Don't let the pleasures of sin deceive you. In time, sin will bring you pain. Also, do not let doubt or guilt hold you back, for He promises you: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9*)

Your sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

- Jodi Krause—health issues
- 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

Thank You!

so very much for the generous donation, which will be a huge help to me in putting together baby's baskets for the women at Project WARM here in Volusia County in Florida. Last year I was able to assist over 60 new moms—many who had little or nothing for the new baby. I am extremely grateful to be able to help these women and babies and your donation will help me do even more. I can't thank you enough for your generosity. Thank you *Julie Giese*

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	May 20	Attendance
Offering:	Regular	\$1395.00
	Building	\$80.00
	Sunday School	\$14.00
	Loose	\$68.00
	New Worship Center	\$125.00
	Bonnie Blake	\$25.00
	El Salvador	\$300.00
	Shyra Martyn	\$20.00
	Well	\$200.00
	Total	\$2227.00

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!

The Bulletin Board

- In case of an emergency you can contact
 - Pastor Scott Miller—715-214-5567
- **Wednesday, May 23**
 - **LAST DAY** of Confirmation
 - 6:30 pm Long Range Planning Committee meets
- **Wednesday, May 30**
 - 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Bible Study

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



We have set up
A new building fund,
it is called "New Worship Fund".
If you would like to
donate to this fund
please mark on your envelope
'New Worship Fund'.
This is different
from the building fund
so please specify.

Edgar Fireman's Celebration

June 15-17

Events:

- Thursday, June 14, 7:00 pm Community Ecumenical Church Service
at Oak Street Park
- Friday, June 15, 5:00 pm Rides open,
Live Band—Minor Distraction, 9:00 pm-1:00 am
- Saturday, June 16, 7:00-11:00 am St. John ELCA Dairy Breakfast
in the Park
- Sunday June 17, 1:00 pm Parade
Live Band—The Jerry Schmitt Band, 2:00-8:00 pm