

Visions of Hope

May 27, 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 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

June 3

June 10

Ushers

Russ Bauman
Keith Bauman
Daryl Mueller
Gordon Metcalf

Greeters

Russ Bauman
Daryl & Beth Mueller

Readers

Ron Kunkel
Beth Mueller

Acolyte

Ashley Erickson
Natalie Krause

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

The beautiful words of Matthew 6:33 have been memorized and sang about, and have often brought comfort to those who take these words of Jesus to heart. But how sad is it for Christians who do not take them to heart. But why don't they? Hasn't God promised He will "never leave us, nor forsake us?" So, how can we read such words and still worry about our needs. Perhaps it is hard to believe that "all these things will be added," because we do not "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." If we felt that we truly seek Him first, then we would trust He would provide. Do we seek Him first? Do we seek Him more than money, things, comforts, entertainment, personal dreams, desires, ambitions, relationships, etc.? We, like Martha, are "worried and troubled about many things" (Luke 10:41). But peace is there for us when we take these words to heart, seeking God first, and trusting that He will be true to His Word concerning "all these things."

The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry but He thwarts the craving of the wicked (Proverbs 10:3)

The Lord doesn't condone laziness, nor does He condone the use of scripture to make excuses for being a "work alcoholic". Some might explain that they don't need to worry about working because the Lord will provide for their needs. This is true. And we have all heard the old saying "God helps those who help themselves", this is not a bible verse however. We don't have to, nor should we, worry about working so that our needs will be met (Mt.6:25-34). However, it is also true that we are not to use such reasoning to excuse personal laziness. But this is only one side of the coin and hardly a side anyone would want to debate. For we will find it equally true that scripture is misused if it is used to excuse anyone's excessive work efforts. If we examine the reasons why we work today--and more-so, the reasons why both mother and father "have" to work--we are sure to find a multitude of good sounding reasons, and those often scripturally backed.

"A man's gotta eat." It is a well-known fact that we must eat to live, and lesser known that many of us live to eat. Nevertheless, we mark this first cliché as "Reason #1." And there is a solid verse of scripture that seems to firmly back it up. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 says "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." There is certainly no error in the verse, but there is often error within the application of the verse. For there are more who will use this scripture to provide support to their need to work and work many hours, or put work ahead of their family, God or church. And then there are those who use it in reference to someone in the body of Christ who doesn't work. And as we have grown accustomed to Reason #1, we find that we no longer bat an eye at having to work on Sundays. That which at one time was unthinkable for a Christian, has now become the acceptable.

"A man who does not provide for his family is worse than an unbeliever." This is a powerful statement that could become cliché if not for the fact that it is straight from scripture. 1 Timothy 5:8 tells us, "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Yet even as with Reason #1, this one (Reason #2) is more often quoted to support someone's reasons why they must work, than to why they should. Reason's we must work often include: to pay the bills, and to provide for our needs. However, these are often the reasons that only graze the surface of our true motivations.

The reasons we are "work alcoholics" seems very valid until we get beneath the surface layer of rationale and logical explanation. What we often find motivates us to work is not a desire to fulfill our obligations to God and family, instead it is fear. For example, when we consider getting laid off from work or being a casualty of a company down-sizing, do we see ourselves disheartened because we can't do that which God has directed. Of course not. We know that God honors our efforts to do His will. He is not going to chastise us for not supporting our families if there are no jobs currently available. Suddenly being out of work does not make us feel disobedient to God, it makes us feel frightened. Frightened of the trouble we will find ourselves in when we can't pay our bills, rent or mortgage. Frightened of the possibilities that we might not be covered by a company medical plan and suddenly have an illness in the family. Or frightened because the job market is at an all-time low.

If we honestly look inside our hearts, we might find that what makes us work two or three jobs, or jobs that exceed 40 or 50 hours a week is not a desire to honor God, but a desire to feel comfortable and financially secure. And to find that security through the work of our own hands while quoting scripture to back it up. We often wonder how much we really rely upon and trust in our Heavenly Father, when we work so hard to do for ourselves.

Just think, at the end of it all we can look back and say to ourselves, "I carved out a life for myself with these two hands." And we can pat ourselves on the back with those two hands, while trying to remember what joy we gained by the fruits of our labor. We struggle to recall all the wonderful family times and time to just enjoy what Mother Nature has to offer. We do not have to struggle to make ends meet. We need simply to obey God and trust that He is good for His word, "The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry."

There is an old saying: no one will say, "Boy I sure wish I had more time to work". More often we will say, "I wish I had spent more time with my family". Children grow up too fast, our loved ones can stray away if we don't take time to nurture our relationships. That is especially true about our relationship with God. If we are working so much we lose sight of God's grace and peace we will certainly leave our Lord with a heavy heart.

Yes, God wants us to provide for our families and give to the church, but most of all He would prefer we are happy with what He provides for us every day and to be truly thankful for what we already have. We need to pray for each other that we can find true happiness and security within God's will for us.

Your sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Bonnie Blake—home recovering
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
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

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT:

For the family of Denis Woik who passed away from cancer—friend of
Chad Bender

Hope's Happenings

Sunday: May 27 Attendance 76

Offering:	Regular	\$1350.00
	Building	\$10.00
	Sunday School	\$1.00
	Loose	\$61.00
	Mission	\$10.00
	New Worship Center	\$135.00
	Sign	\$10.00
	El Salvador	\$30.00
	Shyra Martyn	\$125.00
	Well	\$200.00
	Total	\$1932.00

Our May mission project for Baby Care Kits is winding down. Please bring needed items to church as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who donated baby items for LWR.

The Bulletin Board

- In case of an emergency you can contact
 - Pastor Scott Miller—715-214-5567
- **Wednesdays**
 - 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Bible Study
- Pastor Scott will be on vacation June 12-26



We will be collecting soap in June for Lutheran World Relief. Imagine not even having soap to keep your hands clean or to wash up with when fleeing violence, or in a refugee camp or country with extreme poverty. If you find you have a little extra soap on hand or when shopping next time, please consider bringing some soap to church. New bars of any brand soap **in their original wrapping**. All bar sizes are accepted, however bath-size bars are highly preferred. Any questions ask Carol Anderson.

Our second mission project for June is to collect food for the local food pantries. Summertime can be difficult for struggling families. Your donations are greatly appreciated. The bin will be available the month of June.



Come Share the Adventure!

Camp Forest Springs invite you to join them for a fabulous trip to Niagara Falls, September 24-29. This six day trip includes: Deluxe motor coach, five nights accommodations, ten meals all admissions, services, tips and taxes. We will leave Monday from Plover, WI to Kalamazoo MI for a planned night at Holiday Inn. Tuesday—Thursday we will be met with a tour guide for the next 3 days as we tour Niagara Falls. Cost is \$985/person-double occupancy and \$1257/person -single occupancy. Deposit of \$100 (non-refundable) full payment due August 15

We will see:

- Niagara Falls at the I-MAX Theatre,
- Butterfly Conservatory, where we walk among more than 2,000 free-flying butterflies
- Dinner in the revolving dining room of the Skylon Tower
- Journey Behind the Falls where we go deep below and behind the heart of Niagara Falls
- Spanish Aerocar which takes us over the rapids
- Hornblower/Maid of the Mist boat ride to the base of the falls
- Dinner at the Elements Restraunt
- Welland Canal and Locks
- Dinner Theatre "O Canada Eh"

Friday we travel back to the US and to Kalamazoo

Saturday enjoy breakfast and travel back to Wisconsin