

# Visions of Hope

May 6, 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

715-352-2555 (church)

**Secretary:**

hopelcsec@gmail.com

**Duties List**

**May 13**

May 20

**Ushers**

**Chad Erickson**

**Brian Remus**

*Rick Bradley*

*Lowell Borchardt*

**Greeters**

**Scott Bauman**

*Elaine Mielke*

**Readers**

**Rachel Ludwig**

*Elaine Mueller*

**Acolyte**

**Madison Borchardt**

*Haylee Schreiber*

There is an old saying "If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you"?

*Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked. - 1 John 2:6*

Now that is a thought-provoking and soul-searching question! Although Christians in America are not routinely jailed for practicing their faith, there is increasing scrutiny on the belief system and its perceived "intolerance." We get to the point that many Christians are fearful of offending others or worry about how they may be perceived if they are vocal about their faith. Yet Jesus Himself was not afraid to offend others. A reading of the gospels shows many instances when Jesus made people angry and hostile. Yet He always showed love, even toward those who rejected Him. Jesus was tried, convicted and killed for His teachings and beliefs. If you were to stand trial for being a Christian, what would your trial be like?

*If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, his religion is vain. - James 1:26*

This question is especially interesting since I am reading about the American Judicial system. The first sentence in the book says, "it's not really about guilt or innocence, it's about what you can prove". Sometimes the guilty person gets set free and sometimes the innocent person goes to jail. It goes on to say everybody lies, the prosecutor, the defense attorney, the defendant, the jury and the judge!! That statement alone can scare you! They like to say innocent until proven guilty. Now there's a thought.

A judge and jury would need to examine the physical evidence that may or may not convict you as being a Christian. The prosecuting attorney would hire an investigator and he will spend a lot of time examining your daily activities and habits. Are you present in church every Sunday? Do you own a Bible and read it often? Do you talk about your faith with friends, family and peers? Do you bless your food before eating, even in public? Do you tithe or donate to charity? How do you spend your free time? If someone were to follow you around everywhere for a few weeks, would that person believe that you are truly a Christian? Would there be any proof?

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. - Acts 1:8*

In a court of law, the attorneys will call witnesses to the stand to testify against you or on your behalf. Consider the people you interact with every day-- your family, friends, co-workers and those who you talk to on a regular basis. How do they perceive your actions? Do you think of others first or yourself? Are you kind and thoughtful or selfish and angry? Will your witnesses state that you are most certainly a Christian in thought, word and action or are they uncertain? Hummm, there are some days, when that would be doubtful for me.

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 5:16*

A powerful testimony can sway a judge and jury either toward your cause or against it. Will any of your witnesses be able to give a moving account of your actions as a Christian? Will they easily be able to recall multiple episodes of how you acted like Christ, or will they draw a blank and be unable to come up with anything? Will your family give different testimony than your friends, co-workers or strangers you encounter? Is your proof of faith different in public than it is in private? Is your behavior consistent or do you treat some people better or worse than others?

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." - Mark 16:15*

The jury could view you as a "dangerous" Christian if you convert others to your faith. Have you invited anyone to attend your church with you and followed through? Do you pray for others? Do they ask you to pray for them? Do people who know you come to you with questions or advice about faith? Do you talk about your faith openly and with conviction? Do your actions match your words? Would anyone call you a hypocrite, or do they speak well of you? Well, now that has happened to many of us, people might catch us in an un-Christian like action and tell us we are hypocrites because we go to church. Well, the last time I checked, church is exactly the right place to go for us sinners.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16*

Let's pretend it's the moment that the jury declares that you are innocent or guilty of being a Christian. If you are innocent and set free because of lack of evidence do you feel relief that you escaped persecution or regret that you are not truly living a Christian life? If you are declared guilty of being a Christian and sentenced to death, are you willing to die for your faith? Or is Jesus the only one who is willing to die for His faith in order to save us? Are you truly convinced that you will have eternal life in heaven?

*And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." - Luke 9:23*

And just a reminder for all of us, time just might be running out. We may not have enough time for the investigator to gather the evidence. Act now and make the commitment to walk with Christ, so there will be no doubt that you are indeed a Christian and a believer.

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

# Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	May 6	Attendance	102
Offering:	Regular		\$3870.00
	Building		\$60.00
	Sunday School		\$7.00
	Loose		\$108.00
	Missions		\$10.00
	New Worship Center		\$1240.00
	Sign		\$50.00
	El Salvador		\$100.00
	Shyra Martyn		\$510.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5955.00</b>



*Please Join Us*

**ALL ages welcome**

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

**6:00 pm—Dessert and refreshments**

**7:00 pm Speaker**

**at Hope Lutheran Church, LCMC**

**F4356 State Hwy 97, Edgar**

## The Bulletin Board

- In case of an emergency you can contact
  - Pastor Scott Miller—715-214-5567
- **Wednesday, May 9**
  - 5:15-7:30 pm Confirmation / Youth Group
- **Tuesday, May 15**
  - 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Women meet
  - 6:00 pm Girls Night Out
- **Sunday, May 20**
  - **LAST DAY** of Sunday School
  - Graduation recognition
- **Wednesday, May 23**
  - **LAST DAY** of Confirmation



**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