

Visions of Hope

August 26, 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

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

September 2

September 9

Ushers

Brian Remus

Andy Yoder

Chad Erickson

Lowell Borhardt

Greeters

Elaine Mielke

Gwen Bauman

Readers

Michelle Bauman

Rachel Ludwig

Acolyte

Lily Yoder

Haylee Schreiber



The problem with Jesus

Over the course of his life, Jesus shared his perspectives on what it means to be a follower. Jesus did so in a style that is exquisitely his own. Engaging people from all walks of life, the integrity with which he approaches His work and those intent on wrestling with it was, as always, apparent. He would not let His audience off the hook. He would not allow them to be content with the easy, well-trod paths up the mountain. His cajoling impatience is His invitation to us to raise our own rallying cry, even if we don't quite know what to rally around yet. He is content to shake the bejeezus out of our preconceptions and then get out of the way so that we might find our own path.

Jesus showed us the problem: religion (specifically the religion of the pharisees.) It is now our problem to address; the problem of Christianity, its history, its failures, and its future is now in our hands. The same problems confront us. Some might consider Jesus' work unfinished; after all, He hasn't given us all the answers (Just as he never gave his own disciples or those who questioned him an answer – he told a story)! He hasn't given us the prescription for a new church that will be relevant in today's world. He hasn't told us what to do with all that's left of the Christianity He has so meticulously birthed. He didn't explain how we might put it all back together again, perhaps more honestly this time. How lovely that would have been. But we are those in whose hands Jesus has placed the broken bits and pieces of a Christianity struggling to say something meaningful to generations that will never cross its portals. The responsibility is ours to determine if Christianity or the church that confesses it can withstand resurrection or if it should be buried with a dignity and respect it may or may not deserve.

I was taught to wrestle with the many and varied concepts of God that had been articulated down through the ages. Spending my time honing a belief in any one biblical perspective was difficult enough, let alone understanding the over thirty thousand varied belief systems that exist or have existed in our world. This, however, I do understand: The scriptural stories of Jesus are just that: stories, but they are powerful stories of the struggles of people who encountered the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Our challenge is to encounter anew the depth and breadth of Jesus' stories in our time and place.

It is imperative that we answer truthfully, and sincerely, the important questions of Jesus' time and ours. Why do we bother to be good, is it out of some reward we are hoping to receive, or is it who we are? What is the afterlife? Will we ever get a chance to be reconciled to those we loved and failed? Must we love beyond the boundaries drawn by the church? Why does evil exist? If God isn't listening to us pray, or worse, is listening but not inclined to do anything to help us in our despair, what is the meaning or value of prayer? Is no one listening to us at all?

The challenge is ours. With an uncompromising commitment to both scripture and the Christianity that has evolved from it Jesus does what He has always done: He handed us the truths we must face and leaves us to that task. May we have the courage and fortitude to do so.

Pastor Scott



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Bob Pelatzke—upcoming surgery on Sept. 11—JoAnn's husband
Dorothy—valve replacement—Bonnie's mom
Paulette Kroll—cancer returned—cousin of Audrey Kamenick
Bill Wiederhoeft—health
John Hamann—home recovering
Bonnie Blake—Prayers of healing *see note below
Leroy Syring—home recovering
Arden Viegut—heart problems
Jim Imhoff—health issues—Ken's Dad
LuAnn Mohr—home recovering—Barb Mohr-Borchardt's mom
Don Hanson—heart attack—doing ok
Brian Asplund—cancer—friend of Leroy and Beth Syring
Marge Manecke—health issues
Corinne Kane—friend of Cassi Bauman
Mildred Imhoff—health issues—Ken's mother
Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's
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 the gift of money for our daughter, Anna. We have many expenses for her that are not covered by insurance. Thank you for thinking of us. *The Zarins Family*

...for the incredible donation of backpacks and supplies for our school. What perfect timing too! They arrived just in time for our registration day. Thank you for the work you do and the compassion your share! *Joy Redmann, Athens Elementary*



The Edgar Fine Arts Association presents "Ole and Lena, Ole Runs for Office." Saturday, September 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgar School Auditorium. Tickets are \$10.00.

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	August 26	Attendance	88
Offering:	Regular		\$1955.00
	Loose		\$70.00
	Building		\$25.00
	New Worship Center		\$140.00
	El Salvador		\$20.00
	Total		\$2210.00



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.

The Bulletin Board

- **Wednesday, August 29**
 - 2:00 pm Bible Study
- **Sunday, September 9**
 - **Outdoor worship with JJ Schmitt**
 - 8:45 am Sunday School starts
- **Tuesday, September 11**
 - 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Women meet
- **Wednesday, September 12**
 - 2:00 pm Bible Study
 - 5:15 pm Youth Group/Confirmation begins
- **Thursday, September 13**
 - Ladies day at Forest Springs



Youth from 7-10 grade are welcome to join Hope's Youth Group / Confirmation classes. We will be following the same format as last year. Meeting every Wednesday night, starting September 12, 5:15-8:00 pm. There will be activities, a meal, more activities/games and a lesson each week. Attached is registration form to be completed to help things go smoothly. The youth are our future. The youth are our NOW. Any questions, please contact Cedric.



Our first day of class will be on September 9th. We are looking forward to another great year! If your child will be attending this year, please fill out the registration form and return to Michelle Bauman by September 2nd. Please contact Michelle 715-370-5100 or Jen 715-359-3735 with any questions.



Thank you to all donated school supplies, and helped pack. We donated 112 school kits for Lutheran World Relief, and 71 back packs to our local schools. With your kindness a child can begin their school year with supplies needed. Audrey Kamenick, Gayle Werner