

# Visions of Hope

August 5, 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**

**August 12**

August 19

**Ushers**

Russ Bauman

Ron Kunkel

Larry Peterson

Ron Kunkel

**Greeters**

Keith & Cassi Bauman

Debbie Bauman

**Readers**

Jerry Anderson

Ron Kunkel

**Acolyte**

Ashley Erickson

Natalie Krause

For some of us Christians, a relationship with Jesus consists of praying to Him and going to church on Sunday. Yep, I did my part! We allowed Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins, but the relationship with Him stops there. "Thanks for dying for my sins Jesus, but I can take it from here". But for others, Jesus is the only example to follow, and they try their best to live as He did. But since Jesus is in heaven and we are here, we don't really expect to have much of a relationship with Him and the sad truth is we don't. Such relationships with Jesus can, at best, be described as "distant." And long-distance relationships don't work out so well.

Our Bible speaks about an intimate and dynamic relationship with Jesus. But that takes some effort on our part to get that relationship going and to keep it strong. He is, after all, a *person*, not someone who once lived on the earth and now is far away, but a person who is alive and can be very near. He was tempted in all points just as we are, but overcame sin and death. (Hebrews 4:15; Romans 6:8) Because of His faithfulness, He has all the power and grace to help you to overcome sin in your life. This also means that your relationship with Him can be full of life – not something lifeless and stagnant – because He Himself is alive! (Revelation 1:18)

The fact is that we decide what relationship we want to have with Jesus. We must first choose to believe that an intimate relationship with Jesus is possible. But, before we can enter into such a relationship with Christ, we must believe without seeing or touching. Blind faith, did you ever wonder what that means? Blind faith is not belief without evidence. Faith is merely the extension of belief. In other words, if your belief is so strong that it affects your actions and attitudes, it has become faith. If you have complete confidence in something or someone, you have faith. Faith is synonymous with the word, trust. Because Jesus is "faithful" then He is someone you can have faith in. Blind faith is having completely confidence in someone or something without any reason to do so. Does anybody have complete "blind faith"?

A relationship with Jesus is not one-sided. Jesus makes this clear when He says, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." John 14:23. Just think that Jesus and the Father want to come and make Their home with you! Is that the relationship that you have with Him? This type of close relationship is what we hope and pray for.

And again, He says that "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." John 14:21. Have you ever thought that Jesus wants to reveal Himself to you? That promise is given to those who love Him and keep His commandments, so it is clear that such a revelation of Jesus is to occur throughout your life as a Christian, and not only at the beginning of your Christian life. Our relationship with Jesus is to be nourished.

If we choose to fulfill these conditions (obey Jesus' Word in our life), Jesus will become a beloved friend, someone you can have fellowship with on a daily basis. He will not be far away from us, but rather lives and speaks in our hearts and minds through the Holy Spirit. (Didn't He say: "*The kingdom of heaven is within you?*") There will be an ongoing dialogue with Him whom you love, follow and have faith in. He is not only your friend, but one who understands what it's like to be tempted, and can therefore help you in the time of need. He is a source of wisdom and encouragement, and therefore a source of strength in the time of temptation.

He is your Savior, not only from the penalty of sin but also from its power in your life on a daily basis. As it is written: "...a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1. That's how we will experience Jesus! He is able to have compassion on the weak, because He has experienced human weakness Himself. (Hebrews 4:15) Your relationship with Jesus exists in your heart, mind, and spirit. When He is the center of our affection, then He also sits on the throne of our hearts. We begin to measure our thoughts and actions against the ruler He has put before us as a guide. With such an attitude, our hearts begin to understand what the mind of Jesus is, which is the mind of the Spirit: life and peace! We start to learn that some thoughts bring us life and peace, while others bring only unrest and emptiness. And with Jesus as our guide, we learn to discern between good and evil in the daily situations of life, we can easily choose between what is pleasing and, what is not pleasing in His sight. Jesus becomes our instructor and guide to a deeper life in the Spirit.

The relationship that you have with Jesus is also in your human spirit, where you learn to turn to Him in times of stress, struggle, and temptation, and away from the idea that we can go it alone. As we develop

our relationship with our Savior we meet the Spirit of Jesus, and we will sense that we are powerfully strengthened because of our closeness with Him.

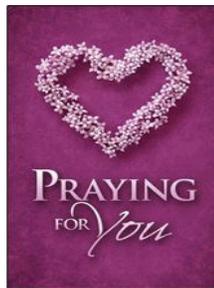
As we draw closer to Jesus, the Bible words you have read and heard and spoken so many times before will suddenly become alive for us. Dry verses that had little meaning before will become full of power to live the life that Jesus lived. We will sense that a spirit of revelation speaks in our inner self. Not particularly in our physical body while we are here on the earth. Our inner self is our everlasting spirit and soul. (Romans 7:22; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 3:16; Matthew 10:28). And the more we understand the Word of God in our own life, we will see the world through the eyes of Christ, as a result. Faith will be born in our hearts at a deeper level as we read and understand the Word. And as our faith grows, so does the power of the Spirit in our life, so that we can follow in Jesus' footsteps even more.

Relationships with people are dynamic, in that they often change with time and can grow deeper. That's the way with our relationship with Jesus, it becomes a bond that can't be broken. Just as God's mercies are new every morning, your relationship with Jesus can also be new and alive every morning! The relationship becomes deeper as your love for Him increases, and the idea we can "go it alone" decreases. Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20. He says "anyone." Doesn't that include you?

Maybe you became a Christian long ago, but have never really experienced an intimate relationship with Jesus. Do you sense Him knocking at the door of your heart today? Invite Him in to your heart, not just as a sacrifice for your sins, but as a dear and beloved Friend, as Lord and Master, as the One whom you desire to rule and reign in your heart and life.

Blessed are you if you believe Jesus' words; open the door of your heart and invite Him in as Lord and Master! If we do this, if we obey His Word in our life, we will experience what it is to have Jesus alive and dwelling in our hearts. We will experience an intimate relationship with the King of kings, and Lord of lords! Grace means that all our sins are forgiven when we confess it. But it also means that we receive power to obey the truth that Jesus came with.

Your servant in Christ,  
Rose Schilling



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Please remember the following people in your prayers

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  
Shyra Martyn—House of Dove  
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

# Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	August 5	Attendance	67
Offering:	Regular		\$1330.00
	Loose		\$10.00
	Building		\$135.00
	Sunday School		\$1.00
	Navigators		\$100.00
	New Worship Center		\$570.00
	Well		\$100.00
	El Salvador		\$25.00
	Total		\$2271.00



**Hope brat fry**  
**August 17**  
**9:00 am—3:00 pm**  
**ProVision, Stratford**

There is a work schedule and donation list on table. Donations are to be brought to church by August 11

## The Bulletin Board

- **Wednesday, August 8**
  - 2:00 pm Bible Study
- **Monday-Friday, August 13-17**
  - 5:30-8:00 pm Vacation Bible School
- **Wednesday, August 15**
  - NO Bible Study
- **Friday, August 17**
  - 9:00 am-3:00 pm—Brat fry
- **Tuesday, August 21**
  - 6:00 pm Pack school kits and backpacks



Women of Hope Lutheran projects for July and August will be "Fill A Backpack!" and "School Kits" for LWR. These items are given locally to our schoolchildren, and school kits given to children overseas through Lutheran World Relief. It is much appreciated. Here is a list of the items needed: 8 ct. washable markers, black, blue and red pens, large pink erasers, index cards, sharpie pens, glue sticks, folders, #2 pencils, highlighters, crayons 16 or 24 ct, baby wipes, Ziploc bags (sandwich and gallon), colored pencils, rulers (with centimeter) pencil cases, pencil sharpeners, hand sanitizer (.8-12 oz), blunt scissors, medium-size Kleenex, wide-lined notebooks, and backpacks. All items need to be in by Sunday August 19. Items may be put into containers near coffee hour cupboard. Shopping lists available on coffee bar. Contact Audrey Kamenick (715-352-2714 or email her at [kamenick@frontier.com](mailto:kamenick@frontier.com) or Gayle Werner (715-352-2971) or email [jwpabst@frontier.com](mailto:jwpabst@frontier.com). Thank you

School kits reach children in Iraq who range in age from elementary to high school, expressed what a tremendous difference the Kits made in their lives. Many of their families are unable to buy school supplies because they have only recently returned to their homes after years of ISIS conflict. As a result, students couldn't complete their homework or skipped school entirely. These students now have the basic, necessary supplies for continuing their education. Your support continues to make a difference in lives of children living in poverty around the world.



LADIES DAY is Thursday, September 13 at Forest Springs. Speaker this year is Jill Briscoe and the cost is \$26 per person which includes lunch. Let's see if we can get at least 2 vans full to go this year. Brochure and registration details are by the bulletin board. Questions, contact Rosie Bauman ([rustyrosedairy@gmail.com](mailto:rustyrosedairy@gmail.com) or 715-573-0524). There is also information about a longer Women's retreat and Marriage Retreat weekends.

I know many of you are wondering about our first Community Meal. Thank you so very much to all of our wonderful volunteers that set everything up and served. We did not have as great a turnout as hoped but we will build on that. Our next meal will be August 26th. Please get the word out to anyone who may be interested in an evening of good food and fellowship, and this includes our own church members as well..