

Visions of Hope

July 29, 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 5

August 12

Ushers

Daryl Mueller

Jay Borchart

Russ Bauman

Ron Kunkel

Greeters

Tammy Kirsch

Keith & Cassi Bauman

Readers

Beth Mueller

Jerry Anderson

Acolyte

Kylie Mueller

Ashley Erickson



The Missional Church

(This is an article I wrote for a professional journal. I have reworked it a little, but the purpose of this is simple: To start a conversation about what it means to be the church today. Read it over and let's have a conversation – you may have to reread it a few times.)

What does it mean to be “missional?” It is a word that is used a lot today with very little understanding of what it actually means. There is a big difference between a church that does mission (the vast majority) and being a truly missional church.

Those in the missional movement recognize both God and the church are intrinsically and principally “missionary” in nature. God is a missionary God who sends a missionary church. In fact, a survey of the term “sending” in its various forms in Scripture reveals the missionary nature of the Triune God, as well as the very essence of the church. The redemptive activity of God, his relationship to the world, and his dealing with humanity is described in Scripture by the word “sending.” The word “sending” is the “sum and substance of God's creativity and activity” (Georg F. Vicedom, *The Mission of God*, 9).

Scripture is replete with sending language that speaks to the missionary nature of a Triune God. God the Father sends the Son, and God the Father and the Son sends the Spirit, and God the Father and the Son and the Spirit sends the church. In the Gospel of John alone, nearly forty times we read about Jesus being sent – either from the evangelist or from Jesus' own lips. In the final climatic sending passage in John's Gospel, Jesus sees himself not only as one sent but also as one who is sending: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21).

It is important to make clear that the church is a vital part of the missional conversation. However, the church must not be seen simply as an entity that sends missionaries; as admirable as sending and supporting missionary activity might be. Instead, we must recognize that the purpose of the church is derived from the very nature of a sending, missionary God, which in turn compels it to be sent as a missionary people, both individually and collectively,

Those with a missional perspective no longer see the church service as the primary connecting point for those outside the church. While there is nothing wrong with attracting people to participate in worship of the church, the missional church is more concerned about sending the people in the church out among the people of the world, rather than getting the people of the world in among the people of the church. It is the shift to “go and be” as opposed to “come and see.”

The attractional model (COME AND SEE), which has dominated the church in the West for the past several decades, seeks to reach out to the culture and draw people into the church. However, this approach only works when there are no significant cultural barriers to overcome when making the required move from outside to inside the church. “And as Western culture has become increasingly post-Christian, the attractional model has lost its effectiveness. The West looks more like a cross-cultural missionary context in which attractional church models are self-defeating. Furthermore, the process of extracting people from the culture and assimilating them into the church diminishes their ability to speak to those outside.” (Alan Hirsch, *Defining Missional*, Christianity Today)

On the other hand, missional churches see their primary function as one of actively moving into a community to embody and *enflesh* the word, deed, and life of Jesus into every nook and cranny. Alan Hirsch speaks of the “missional-incarnational impulse,” where the word “missional” expresses the sending nature of the church, while “incarnational” represents the “embedding” of the gospel into a local context. In other words, “missional” speaks to our direction – we are sent; while being “incarnational” is more about *how* we go, and *what* we do as we go. Eugene Peterson's “incarnational” rendering of John 1:14 in the Message paraphrase illustrates this well when it states, “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.”

As the sent, missionary people of God, the missional church understands its fundamental purpose as being rooted in God's mission to restore and heal creation and to call people into a reconciled relationship with Himself. It is God's mission that calls the church into existence. In other words, we can no longer see the church as the starting point when thinking about mission. Instead, the church must be seen as the result of God's mission. In the words of South African missiologist David Bosch: "It is not the church which undertakes mission; it is the *missio Dei* which constitutes the church." Or stated in a slightly different manner; "it is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world" (Christopher Wright 2006, 62).

Pastor Scott



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—heart attack—two stints put in— doing better
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



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the adoption grant. The cost of adoption is certainly overwhelming, and your gift is so appreciated! We have been matched with a baby boy due to be born in late August in Dallas, Texas. We are so excited to grow our family and so thankful to the birth mother who chose us to parent this child. God's Blessings to you—

Melissa and Jesse

(this is from Pastor Scott's Adoption Foundation)



Donate Blood—St. John "High Steeple" is sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday August 11, 9:00 am—1:00 pm. To donate blood, you must be in good health, weigh at least 110#, have a photo ID with your birth date, be at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent), no upper age limit. Snacks and refreshments provided. You Can Make A Difference!

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	July 29	Attendance	73
Offering:	Regular		\$2630.00
	Loose		\$32.00
	Building		\$10.00
	Mission		\$10.00
	New Worship Center		\$175.00
	Well		\$100.00
	Total		\$2957.00



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

The Bulletin Board

- **Wednesday, August 1**
 - 2:00 pm Bible Study
- **Friday, August 3**
 - 9:00 am—3:00 pm—Brat Fry
- **Wednesday, August 8**
 - 2:00 pm Bible Study
- **Monday-Friday, August 13-17**
 - 5:30-8:00 pm Vacation Bible School
- **Friday, August 17**
 - 9:00 am-3:00 pm—Brat fry



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, (3x5) 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 or Gayle Werner (715-352-2971) or email jwpabst@frontier.com. Thank you

Total kits are in for 2017. Grand total was 214,490! The school kits sent from the Minnesota Warehouse (where the ones we make are stored) were sent out to these countries, Angola, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nicaragua, and Niger.



Vacation Bible School will be held the week of August 13-17 from 5:30-8:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the back counter in church to register. Please sign up by August 5th. The program is open to all children ages 3yrs - 6th grade (in the Fall). Please see Jen or contact her at 715.359.3735 or jen.kunkel@yahoo.com with any questions.