

Visions of Hope

September 9, 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
8:45-9:25 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 16

September 23

Ushers

Rick Bradley
Leroy Syring
Jay Borchardt
Ken Schilling

Greeters

Daryl & Beth Mueller
Russ Bauman

Readers

Elaine Mueller
Rose Schilling

Acolyte

Kylie Mueller
Reagan Borchardt



What Can I Say?

Our experience of the world shapes us. It influences our views, our beliefs, and our attitudes. My experience of the institutional church has shaped me in ways, some of which I am aware, that brings me to where I am today. I have shared a little of my encounter with the church at my first call in Houston, Texas. My second call wasn't much better. I entered a church decimated by a pastor who engaged in unconscionable behavior and misconduct. The third call, in Brookings, South Dakota, I found a congregation torn apart by conflict between the senior pastor and the council. It left the congregation confused and divided. The interim, whose primary job is to start the healing process, only made matters worse.

The fourth, and last call in ELCA, I followed a man who you know all too well. A man who stood before you and lied in an attempt to save face as the bishop and bully you into staying in the ELCA. His misconduct was, in the final analysis, the "straw that broke the camel's back."

Those who are close to me, who know the whole story of my journey in this thing we call the church, can't believe I actually hung in there that long. What they don't know about me is that I am the "optimist from Hell!" (My wife's label for me) I tend to believe in people and places way past the point where most sane people would have simply "thrown in the towel."

I have heard too many stories to believe that my experience of the church is out to the ordinary. I have a friend, who was a fellow classmate in seminary, who after her experience in her first parish became an avowed atheist. Another story I've heard too many times. People's faith destroyed by the actions of clergy or leadership in a church.

I also know that there are good places that live out the calling to be Disciples of Christ in our world. I've never been lucky enough to experience that, but perhaps my luck is changing?

There is a proverb that says, "Pain is inevitable, but suffering is not." I shared with your last week that the leadership of the church has a lot to answer for when it comes to the current condition of the institutional church. What I refuse to do is suffer for their folly. I still believe that the core message of Christianity remains, despite the concerted effort of far too many clergy to bring shame to the precious name of Christ, the last, best hope for the world. Scripture tells us that many of Jesus' followers fell by the wayside as He worked his way to Jerusalem. Some were unwilling to pay the price to be called His followers. Others became disillusioned by the overwhelming need that filled their world. But some kept their eye on the goal. Life will break all of us. It will inevitably lead to death. But then the resurrection!

Scripture reminds us, over and over again, that when it is the darkest, only then can we see the truly see the light. I thank you for restoring my faith in the church. Thank you for a congregation of dedicated people who are willing to hold forth the message of resurrection in the midst of death and struggle. What can I say? How about "Thanks."

Pastor Scott



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Bob Pelatzke—recovering from surgery (see note below)
Dorothy—valve replacement—Bonnie’s mom
Paulette Kroll—cancer—cousin of Audrey Kamenick
Bill Wiederhoeft—cancer
John Hamann—home recovering
Bonnie Blake—Prayers of healing
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

Bob's surgery went very well. The surgeons were pleased with the outcome and he may go home as soon as Wednesday afternoon. Joanne would like to thank everyone for their prayers. Continue to pray for his complete recovery. Thank you



....very much for the generous amount of school supplies donated. Families were very happy to be prepared for this school year.
Melanie Lorentz, Spencer Schools School Counselor



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

YOUTH GROUP

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. The youth are our future. The youth are our NOW. Any questions, please contact Cedric.

Sunday:	September 9	Attendance	113
Offering:	Regular		\$1840.00
	Loose		\$39.00
	Prayer Garden		\$50.00
	New Worship Center		\$340.00
	El Salvador		\$350.00
	Sunday School		\$5.00
	Landscape		\$50.00
	Mission		\$100.00
	Total		\$2774.00

The Bulletin Board

- **Thursday, September 13**
 - Ladies day at Forest Springs
- **Sunday, September 16**
 - 8:45-9:25 am Sunday School
 - 9:30 Communion Worship
- **Wednesday, September 19**
 - 2:00 pm Bible Study
 - 5:15 pm Youth Group/Confirmation begins
- **Sunday, September 23**
 - 1:00 pm Blanket tying for The Hannah Center

Time Change

We will be hosting our monthly Community Meal on Sunday, September 30, 5:00-7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. We would like to send out a special invite to all of our veterans in the area. Please come and enjoy an hour or two of fellowship with neighbors and friends. We will also be adding a family-friendly movie that will begin at 7:00 pm

There are NEW posters available with the new time and food pantry that is available. Please take them and replace with the old one. Thank you

OUR SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT is for the Hannah Center in Marshfield. They started out with the purpose of providing options for pregnant women that could no longer remain in their home environment and have expanded to include help for any woman in crisis, pregnant or not. The list of wants is quite extensive so please pick up a sheet on the coffee hour counter. Some of the requested items are quite large and/or costly so if you wish to put cash in an envelope and mark it Hannah Center, that would be acceptable too. If you have any questions, see Beth Mueller



We will be tying fleece blankets for Hannah House on Sunday, September 23rd at 1:00pm at church. Please come and join us as we try to make this impact on the Women and Children that are served there.



Please join us as we celebrate **Vernon Nahrung's 100th birthday** on Sunday, September 23 (his actually birthdate is September 24). We will be serving cake immediately following worship,

Also, Sunday, September 30, there will be an Open House at the Fenwood Village Hall, 12:00-4:00 pm. Everyone is invited to both celebrations.