

Visions of Hope

October 21, 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

October 28
November 4

Ushers

Andy Yoder
Lowell Borchardt
Chad Erickson
Brian Remus

Greeters

LeRoy Syring & Beth Leffel
Debbie Bauman

Readers

Ron Kunkel
Jen Kunkel

Acolyte

Lily Yoder
Valerie Czech

So, we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart (Nehemiah 4:6).

We have all heard about the "walls of sin"--the walls we construct as a result of our turning away from God. We build a barrier between us and God, trying to keep our sinful ways away from the God's eye. Most of us would agree that "walls of sin" is an accurate picture of what takes place as a result of our sin and unwillingness to follow God's commands. There is a sense of a greater separation from God and of a broken relationship with Him. We become awkward trying to pray or talk to God. We feel like that of trying to talk through a wall, not wanting to admit we are the ones who built that wall in the first place.

We become frustrated because we feel that we're talking but no one is listening. We're having a hard time hearing what is being said on the other side of the wall because we have put up that barrier on purpose. And then we expect God to do all the work in breaking down that wall between our sins and God himself. This "wall of sin" is a wall that we must tear down. Only then can we experience the unhindered fellowship with God. We can re-establish a relationship with God but we need to tear down that barrier that keeps us isolated from God's love, forgiveness, grace and mercy, first.

It's like going into a building that has two sets of doors at the entrance. A good example might be an aviary at a zoo. The first door takes you into a short corridor that leads to the second door, and the second door takes you into the actual aviary where the birds are freely flying about. The purpose of the two sets of doors is to give people a way to get in without letting any of the birds out.

We must work continuously to tear down one wall which is the door that stands between us and God so that we can freely enter into a close relationship with Him. But that's not all there is to it. There is another door that must be shut behind us. It's not so something won't get out, it's to keep something from getting in to us--that being sin and the bad influence of the devil. Our desire is to freely come to God, but also to take measures to keep sin from getting in and thereby making it difficult for us to connect to God. Like in the corridor of the aviary, only one door is opened at a time, and we can determine which door will be opened. If sin is in our corridor, we cannot freely open the door to God. We first must deal with the sin and then we can once again be free to love and serve the Lord.

We built that wall of one sin at a time, and each brick is representing a wrong doing and a broken commitment to the will of the Lord. That of course, is the wall that must come down. The second wall is the wall of testimony. It is the wall that is built one brick at a time, as well. But each brick in this wall is an encounter or experience that is a result of our fellowship and relationship with God. One brick might be a time when money was tight and you were not sure if you could pay the rent, yet God demonstrated His provision for you as the money came through some unexpected means. Another brick might be an event that took place, where a number of apparent loose ends came together so neatly and so timely that we knew without a doubt that God's hand was in it. Perhaps another brick is in His strength that He provided for you in a time of weakness, and another is His comfort in a time when we thought we had lost all hope.

As we walk with God and fellowship with Him, we will acquire the bricks of testimony, that of His grace and mercy toward us. The more we are with Him and the more we experience Him, the greater the number of bricks we will accumulate. As we place brick upon brick, we build a strong and enduring wall. The higher the wall becomes, the more difficult it is for sin, or fear, or worry about the devil trying to penetrate the wall. It's the wall of our testimony. That wall is the one we have built with Him together through the course of our fellowship with Him. Each one of us has our section of the wall to build. Each one of us working within the power and love of God can do it. Yet our individual walls of testimony do not stand alone, they are linked together with the walls of testimony from our fellow Christians, who share in this wall building process. Our "faith" walls are all part of a greater wall--and that wall is called the "Faithfulness of our Lord".

Regardless of where you are, Christ is there. When you are on top the wall praising God and walking in the warmth of His love, He is there. When you are walking through the valley of the shadows, where sin is running rampant and the devil pulling us away from God's love, He is there. You may be saying, "Yes, I know that, but..." one thing or another has stolen your joy or your peace. And yet, when we tear down the wall of sin, the joy and peace you need resides in Christ. Do we fully understand what it means to say that Christ is there, whether good times or bad?

The hard truth is that we may find it difficult to come down from our "wall sitting" experience. We are afraid to move from the "sin" wall because we will fall like Humpty Dumpty, never to be put together and be right with God again. But the wonderful truth of God is that, no matter where you are, you can remain in Christ. No matter how dark the valley seems, the light of Christ can be with you. You can draw near to the warmth of His

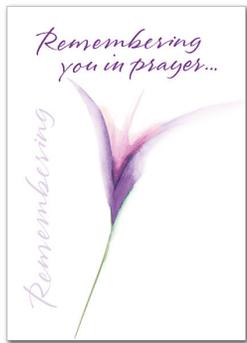
light, draw near to Him, and draw from His perfect peace, and endless joy.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Indeed, the Lord's hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear. But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen.

Don't miss what Isaiah says. The problem is not that God cannot save or hear. Instead, our sin has built a barrier in our relationship with God. Seek Him out and draw near to Him. Learn from Him what it means to remain in Him. Spend adequate time with Him each day, and you will have all that you need.

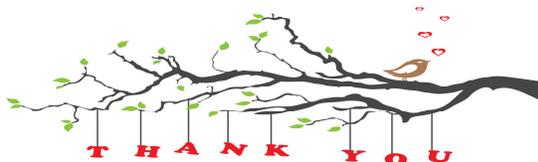
Spread the word of God's love, forgiveness, peace and grace. So instead of being in the pit of despair, we are enjoying the view on the mountaintop with our Lord and Savior.

Your servant in Christ,
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Lila Viegut—serious blood disease—cousin of Arden
Bob Pelatzke—recovering from surgery
Paulette Kroll—cancer—cousin of Audrey Kamenick
Bill Wiederhoeft—cancer
John Hamann—home recovering
Bonnie Blake—Prayers of healing
Leroy Syring—home recovering
Jim Imhoff—health issues—Ken's Dad
LuAnn Mohr—home recovering—Barb Mohr-Borchardt's mom
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



... to all our Hope family, for donating food items, for shopping for groceries, serving food or if you helped with dishes, or helped with the cooking. Thank you. And a big thank you for anyone who donated the money needed to get all the supplies we needed. And a special thank you to Thrivent for giving us a debit card to buy some of the meat. The meal was a great success \$1688.00. Half will go to the Women of Hope to cover the cost of mailing care packages. The other half to building projects. It was a beautiful sight to see all our Hope family from youngest to oldest helping out to make our mission project successful. We need to count our blessings, our children of Hope are truly amazing. Thank you so much for making my job so very easy.

...I cannot thank you enough for the gift of money to help after my daughters accident. It is so much appreciated! God Bless you all! *Marie & Bailey Umbs*

...for your recent donation to The Hannah Center. Your donation of Baby and household items is deeply appreciated. Thanks to your generosity and support, we will meet our mission to assist women in life crisis through compassion and guidance in a nurture environment. *The Hannah Center*

...to everyone who helped make my 100th birthday so special. I enjoyed the cake we shared together at church and everyone wishing me Happy Birthday. Thanks to all who came to the hall for the celebration, the birthday card wishes and gifts I received. God Bless, *Vernon Nahring*

...to everyone who remembered us when we went on the Honor Flight. It was an experience that we never forget. *Rick Bradley & LeRoy Syring*

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	October 21	Attendance	118
Offering:	Regular		\$1715.00
	Building		\$110.00
	FCA		\$100.00
	Loose		\$35.00
	Youth Group		\$20.00
	New Worship Center		\$165.00
	Sunday School		\$7.14
	Italian Dinner		\$25.00
	Total		\$2177.14



...will be held immediately following worship service on Sunday, October 28. If you are planning on participating in Trunk or Treat, there are around 35 participants.

The Bulletin Board

- **Voting Results:** President—Brian Remus; Vice-President—Mike Czech; Deacon—Russ Bauman; Parish Ed—Rose Schilling; Audit Committee—Laurie Werner; Cemetery Board—Lowell Borchardt; Finance Committee—Sondra Streckert, Terry Bauman, Jamie Halvorsen, Ron Kunkel
- **Sunday, October 28**
 - Confirmation
 - Trunk or Treat
 - 5:00-7:00 pm—FREE Community Meal
- **Wednesday, October 31**
 - 2:00 pm Bible Study
 - NO Confirmation
 - 6:00-7:30 pm Haunted Rooms
- **Sunday, November 4**
 - All Saint's Sunday—if you like a candle lit for a loved one, please let Barb know (hopelcsec@gmail.com or 715-352-2555) by October 28
 - **ALTAR GUILD**—please note! Starting November we will be having individual cups on the 1st Sunday of each money. Intinction on the 3rd and 5th Sunday. Any questions, see Dianne



It's Shoebox Time! Beginning now through Sunday, November 11th, we will be collecting packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Here's how it works: 1. Pick up an empty shoebox from the narthex (or use your own); 2. Pick up a shoebox brochure; 3. Pack the box with toys, stuffed animals, hygiene items, school supplies, etc. and affix a label to the box indicating the gender and age of the intended recipient; 3. Insert \$9 in the shoebox to cover

shipping costs; 4. Return the packed box to the narthex. For more information about this Samaritan's Purse program, please visit www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/ or see Jen Kunkel.

Happy Halloween

NO Confirmation/Youth group on Wednesday, October 31. We will be transforming our Sunday School rooms into haunted rooms. This will be for our SS children- youth group. Parents feel free to accompany your child/ren. It will be from 6:00-7:30 pm. Lunch will be served as you finish the tour! We would like your help with money donations towards the lunch. Please contact Kelly Erickson if you can help us out! Thank you in advance. *Haunted Rooms Committee*

What's Happening

Community Events

- Sunday, October 28
 - Germanfest at Zion Lutheran, Stratford
11:00 am—1:00 pm
 - Pancake Breakfast, Colby Lions Club
8:00 am—12:00 pm
- Saturday, November 3
 - Blood Drive at Bethlehem, Milan
9:00 am—1:00 pm
- Sunday, November 4
 - Pancake Breakfast, St. John Baptist, Edgar
8:00 am—10:30 am