

Visions of Hope

November 25, 2018



224556 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
8:30-9:25 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

December 2

December 9

Ushers

Larry Peterson
Daryl Mueller
Gary Ludwig
Russ Bauman

Greeters

Tammy Kirsch
Elaine Mielke

Readers

Beth Mueller
Gary Ludwig

Acolyte

Nathan Remus
Autumn Schreiner

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

While traveling back from visiting Bonnie in Rhinelander, DeEtta and I got lost. We were really solving the world's problems and forgot to watch for our turn off, we had to pull out the road maps and try to find our way back to a highway that we should have gone south on. In our attempt to keep from having to stop, the person next to the driver would become the navigator (that was me) and give instructions to the driver (that was DeEtta). Then we would find our way without a hitch? If only it were that easy. For somewhere during the giving of the instructions and the interpretation of the instructions, there was often something lost in translation, which kept us lost as well. We finally made it to the correct highway, after going out of our way for about an hour!

You may have already heard it said that God has a roadmap for your life. But in this case, it is somewhat different than the story about us talking too much and getting lost. For one thing, we start out our journey through life completely lost--we only think we know where we are going. Secondly, once we find our way to Christ, He still holds the map. Simply said, He doesn't say to us, "All right, you're saved now. Here's your map, your compass, and so go forth. Go and find your way and I'll be waiting for you at the end of the road." Instead, He gives us everything we need to move through this life on our way to the next, and yet He is the one who always holds the map. He is the Navigator. And trust me He is a much better navigator than I am.

But even as driving instructions can be confusing, so we also can misinterpret His instructions to us; and there are many things that can hinder our following His instructions fully. Not listening to Him or only listening partially, prediction, presumption and predetermination are a few of the things that will quickly get us off track. Thinking that we know better than Christ does can get us into trouble in a big hurry!

When we don't listen, there is no way we can know what road God wants us to take, since He is the one with the map. We will only try one new road after another like trying on new shoes until we presumably find the right pair. By the grace of God, we might get lucky and get on the right road, yet it's always a more direct approach to simply follow the instructions of the Navigator.

Listening partially is something most of us are guilty of. We take God's first instructions and then begin to fill in the blanks as to the next steps. We jump the gun and even though we start out on the right road, we will soon find ourselves without a clue and wondering how in the world we got where we did. We really have a bad tendency to think we know what's best.

Predicting God's direction is a lot like listening partially and then just doing what we want anyway, despite the clear directions God gives us to reach our heavenly home. We take a little knowledge of God's will and make a total mess of where we should be going and how to get there. We take a little that we know and mix it with common sense and experience and come up with a road we believe must be God's choice for us. Then we shut our ears to any further instructions. In presuming to know God's course, we make many false interpretations of His course for us, and we come to many forks in the road being bound by confusion and wondering how we went astray. Then we say "how in the heck did I get so far from God's life plan for us.

God's directions for us may take many roads or even lead us to a choice of roads. Sometimes, we will see clearly the reason for our being on a certain road--and sometimes not. In any case, we must not allow our interpretations of God's direction to lead us to the wrong road. For our interpretations without basic knowledge and guidance are seldom accurate, we don't see the whole picture (or map) as God does. It's enough for us that we know who really holds the map, and that we keep listening to Him, and that we make every choice a matter of obedience to Him and His guidance.

At this time of year, we tend to focus on everything but the coming of Christ. Good thing Jesus is not following our road map or He would really be lost. If He looks at us from His heavenly home what does He see? Bright lights, real and artificial trees, tributes to Santa Claus and many other worldly trappings that don't really have much to do with the anticipation of the coming of the Lord.

On your Christmas road map, did you find room for Jesus? Is He your final destination on that road map? Is He at least a place of interest on our map of life? So, what do you think? Should we read and study the book of Luke this year? Should we delve into the life of Christ and find out why He is the Navigator? Why not find a children's version of the book of Luke and share with our children as an after-supper devotion? Make a map that is easy to follow for our children as well as for ourselves, that sounds like something we could do.

Maybe we can't change the secular world this season, but we can study the road map of life that God has plotted for us. Read, pray, give thanks and remember that all the big plans and stress related to those plans won't mean anything if we don't make time to anticipate the coming of Christ and God's greatest gift of all, His Son and our Savior.

Your lost sister in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Heather Stoeklin—health issues—Rosie Bauman's niece
Dean Schmidt—health—friend of LeRoy and Beth
Diane Shanks—cancer—friend of LeRoy and Beth
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 (see note below)
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
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 generous gift card. Thank you for thinking of me and praying for me. I really appreciate it! Things are going well for me at school, time sure is flying by!

Xavier Lechleitner

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Milan will be serving a Soup Supper on Saturday, December 8 from 4:00—7:30 pm. Serving Homemade Soups: Chicken Dumpling, Chili, Sauerkraut Chili and Cheesy Broccoli, Cauliflower, with crackers, cheese, rye bread, cookies and bars. There will also be a Live Nativity every 20 minutes from 4:00-7:00 pm. There will also be a craft and bake sale. Carry outs are available.

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	November 25	Attendance	103
Offering:	Regular		\$1515.00
	Building		\$10.00
	Loose		\$52.00
	New Worship Center		\$200.00
	Sunday School		\$24.00
	El Salvador		\$100.00
	FCA		\$100.00
	Total		\$2001.00



We will be decorating our Church Christmas tree on Sunday, December 2 during the last hymn.

The Bulletin Board

- **Thursday, November 29**
 - 6:30-9:00 pm Youth Group going roller skating at Melody Gardens, Marshfield
We will meet at church at 6:00 pm. See you all then!
- **Saturday, December 1**
 - **9:30 am Adult Choir Practice starts**
- **Sunday, December 2**
 - **8:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program practice starts**
- **Wednesday, December 5**
 - 5:15 pm Confirmation / Youth Group
 - 6:30 pm Adult Choir practice



Please join us as we start choir practice for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Practices will be starting Saturday, December 1, 9:30 am and will continue every Saturday through December 22. We will also be practicing on Wednesday nights starting at 6:30 pm. All are welcome. Any questions, please see DeEtta

This year our Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 23rd. If your child will not be participating this year please let Jen or Michelle know ASAP. Also, please mark your calendars to plan for these rehearsal times:



- December 2nd, 9th and 16th we will be starting Sunday school at 8:30 to practice songs and meet again after the church service for approximately 30 minutes to practice speaking parts.
- December 22nd: 9:00 a.m. (Final rehearsal)
- December 23rd: Please arrive at church by 9:00 a.m.
- December 30th: No Sunday School

Also, please note that beginning January 6th, the start time for Sunday school will be changing to 8:30. This will continue for the rest of the year to allow classes more time to complete their lessons each week.

Thank you to everyone who took an ornament of the tree for our Adopt a Family program for the Salvation Army. Please do not wrap the gifts and have them back to church by **December 2**. We are also working with Marshfield Clinic and providing items for their pediatric Angel Wish Tree which will help take holiday stress away for many so they can spend precious time with their families. Any questions, contact Dani Schreiner.



It is time to get out those cookie and candy recipes that you have been saving up all year. Our annual COOKIE WALK will be on Dec. 16th, right after church service. You are encouraged to bring a large batch or two of your favorite delights to church that morning. After services, they will be available to EVERYONE for \$5 per pound. Everyone can purchase cookies or candy even if you do not bring any.

This is the Women's major fundraiser for the year and a great opportunity to get some of those cookies that you do not make yourself or but a few for someone you know that would appreciate them but doesn't bake.