



Full to the Brim { *Even in the desert*

From Here in the Sand

You've been here before.

I squeeze that truth like an orange in my hands,
willing some form of comfort to run out,
roll down my wrists,
calm these aching nerves.

You've been here before—
in the wilderness, in the desert,
in the place where nothing is what it seems
and everything is sharp.

You've been here before
so surely you know how hard it is
to hold tight to what is real
in the middle of a storm.

But because you've been here before,
I will stand tall.

I will sing songs of the river,
from here in the sand.

I will sing songs of the river,
into the wind.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

As you reflect on these words, I invite you to consider what images draw your attention? Read Deuteronomy 26:1-11 & Luke 4:1-13, what connections can you make? What is your "song of the river" as you stand in the desert today?

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



2021 Pastor's Report

Rev. Annie Ladnier

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

I was not trained in seminary to navigate a congregation through multiple years of a global pandemic. None of you were trained for living through this season either, and yet, God has richly blessed us in walking through it together every step of the way!

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we lived into our mission: we looked beyond ourselves, waked together in faith, treasured all people, and shared the love, hope and acceptance that is in Christ with our community and world! That same Spirit helped us to reimagine ministry, sustained us in our creativity, and leads us into a new future now.

2021 marked a year the dawn of "hybrid ministry." God guided us into increasing our technologies to better serve our digital faith community and to develop, adapt, and readapt policies and protocols to provide in-person faith community as safely and faithfully as possible. Yes, 2021 marked a year of "going with the flow," and the Spirit swept us through those winds every step of the way, and even helped BLOCK the winds in inspiring your generosity to provide windscreens to extend our time worshipping safely outdoors!

We built on the changes of 2020 to foster connections with our Sterling Ponds neighbors! We hosted the Luminary Walk, Food Truck Sunday, Hymns & Hops, National Night Out, and Trunk or Treat, taking advantage of when we could gather outdoors!

Just look at EVERYTHING God did in and through HOPE this year!



2021 Pastor's Report



Digital Ministry

163 Subscribers
3,568 Views
Camera for WOTS
Ave. Worship Views: 105
Resumed in-person Worship
mid-May
Ave. In Person: 43
50%+ Give Online



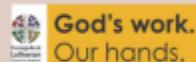
New Ministries

Luminary Walk
ZOOM Midweek Lent
Food Truck Sunday
Commissioned WOTS Pavilion
Green Team &
Season of Creation
ELCA Youth Gathering



Neighborhood Connections

75+ Food Truck Sunday
200+ National Night Out
180 Trunk or Treaters!
3 Faith Adventures To Go
rounds delivered!
1 Hymns & Hops



Growing Generosity

\$16,816 given to support 13
organizations
\$12,750 Increased Offering
3 Habitat for Humanity days
23 Renewable Energy
Blocks purchased
Multiple Refugee Crises
responded to!



Celebrations!

3 Baptisms
7 Youth Confirmed
12 New Members
Successfully navigated Pastor's Parental leave!

Hope Journeys Forward

HOPE is called by God to look beyond ourselves.
We walk together in faith,
treasuring all people and sharing with them
the love, hope, and acceptance that is in Christ

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



Wednesdays in Lent: Filling Wiley's Wardrobe from Full Tables!

Join us each Wednesday evening from the comfort of your own dinner table (or couch, or wherever you are!) for an interactive, relational, and contemplative [Zoom worship experience!](#) Phil Klacan will lead us in music, our children and families will lead us in stories lifting up our mission theme, and we'll take intentional time to connect with one another.

We WANT you to see this as a time for being "filled to the brim" - in whatever space is comfortable for you, gathered with your family in your home and gathered with your larger faith family! We hope that by worshiping via [Zoom](#), you don't have to worry about the rush and hustle of getting one more place on a busy evening! This is our 3rd year of worshiping this way during Lent because the time together in small groups is truly wonderful. **Join us at 6PM** to be filled with peace, filled with praise, and filled with God's love and grace!

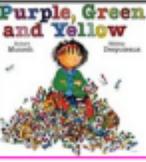
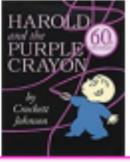
40 Days of Lent

**Wiley's
Wardrobe**

**River Falls
High School**

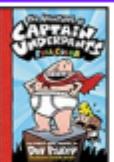
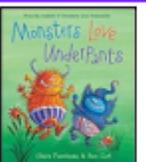
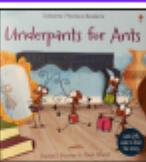
Week 1
March
2 – 12



Hats | Gloves/Mittens | Mechanical Pencils | Pens | Colored Pencils | Fine Line Markers | Notebooks | Folders

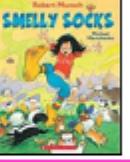
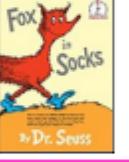
Week 2
March 14 – 19

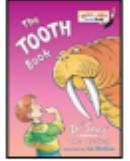
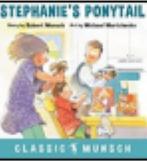
Briefs/Boxers – Guys XS – XXL
Bikini Cut/Briefs – Gals XS – XXL

Ankle or Low Cut Socks for Guys and Gals

Week 3
March 21 – 26

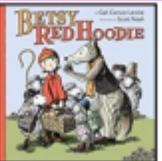
Week 4
March 28 – April 2

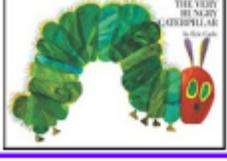
Toothbrushes | Toothpaste | Ponytail Holders
Shampoo | Conditioner | Body Wash
Deodorant | Feminine Hygiene Products

T-Shirts | Long-Sleeved T-Shirts | Hoodies
Sweatshirts | Pants/Jeans | Joggers

Week 5
April 4 – 9

Week 6
April 11 – 16




Granola/Protein Bars | Applesauce | Beef Jerky
Instant Oatmeal | Mac 'n Cheese Cups |
Ramen Noodles/Microwavable Soup Cups
Juice Boxes | Water | Peanut Butter & Crackers

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



40 Days of Giving to Wiley's Wardrobe at River Falls High School

HOPE's 40 days of giving will focus locally on Wiley's Wardrobe at the high school. Students in need of school supplies, undergarments, personal care items, clothing, and snacks can find them at Wiley's Wardrobe. During this Lenten season, our giving is paired with children's book titles to inspire you to donate what you can throughout the 40 days. All items will be taken to the high school after Easter.

March 2 (Ash Wednesday) to March 12: 50 Below Zero by Robert Munsch; The Hat and The Mitten by Jan Brett—new or gently used winter hats, gloves, mittens | Purple Green and Yellow (markers) by Robert Munsch; Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson—school supplies: mechanical pencils, pens, colored pencils, fine line markers, notebooks, folders NOTE: Because winter hats and gloves may be hard to find right now, needed school supplies are also included here.

March 14–19: Aliens/Dinosaurs/Monsters Love Underpants all by Claire Freedman; Underpants for Ants by Russell Punter, and the ever popular Captain Underpants series by Dave Pilkey—new briefs or boxers for guys size XS-XXL; new bikini cut or briefs for gals size XSXXL

March 21–26: Fox in Socks by Dr. Seuss; Smelly Socks by Robert Munsch—ankle or low cut socks for gals and guys

March 28–April 2: The Tooth Book by Dr. Seuss; Stephanie's Ponytail by Robert Munsch— toothbrushes and toothpaste, ponytail holders, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, deodorant, feminine hygiene products

April 4–9: Button Up! Wrinkled Rhymes by Alice Schertle; Betsy Red Hoodie by Gail Carson Levine—new or gently used clothing for guys and gals size XS-XXL: T-shirts, long-sleeve T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, pants, jeans, joggers

April 11–16: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle; The Super Hungry Dinosaur by Martin Waddell—non-perishable snacks: granola/protein bars, applesauce, mac & cheese/Ramen noodles and other soup microwavable cups, beef jerky, peanut butter crackers, instant oatmeal, juice boxes

Think Big by Nancy Carlson is a story about someone small who wishes he were big, but let us Think Big in terms of giving generously to Wiley's Wardrobe, if not of the items mentioned above, then in a cash donation made out to HOPE Lutheran with Wiley's Wardrobe in the memo line. Thank you everyone.

April 17 Easter

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ARRIVING IN BUDAPEST. PHOTO CREDIT: REV. ZACH COURTER, ELCA

Many of you have asked how you can support our siblings in Ukraine and other parts of Eastern Europe. The most direct way is through Lutheran Disaster Response: “Eastern Europe Crisis Response.”

Your gifts designated for “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. Make sure to check that you are giving on behalf of a congregation so we can track how much support HOPE gives!

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



Tools to Help Fill You to the Brim

For your listening pleasure during daily devotions, on walks, drives, or whenever:

1. Spotify Playlist for Full to the Brim: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FfRMbGJRTmrpzklUcJQ8R?si=157a93dc66f44850>
2. Full to the Brim Daily Devotional- printed copies are available at the back table at HOPE, pick up any time! A Digital Copy will be available on our website.
3. A Reflective Assessment Tool to help you set some Lenten intentions (attached to this email, available for pick-up at HOPE, to be available on the website).

thrivent[®]

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars[®] by March 31

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars[®] have until **March 31, 2022**, to direct them.

Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to Hope Lutheran Church or the organization you choose. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Did you know that you can volunteer to help with parts of worship **AT ANY TIME!!!**

Use [THIS GOOGLE DOC LINK](#) to sign-up to assist with our in-person worship!

Greeters, readers, communion set-up & servers, acolytes, ushers, Assisting Ministers & coffee fellowship hosts are all needed!

We pray you seriously consider serving your faith family in this way!

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Luther Point Bible Camp, located in Grantsburg, WI has opened their registration! WONDERFUL camp experiences for children, youth, and entire families are available this summer! Day camp options for our youngest friends, half-week overnights, full-week overnights, and some awesome FAMILY/Grandparent Camps too! Jr. High and High School camps also exist and for our 10-12 grade youth, the opportunity to be a camp B.U.D.D.I.E for 2 weeks is also an option! I highly encourage families to check this out!

CALLING ALL AT-HOME READERS, GREETERS, & PEACE SHARERS!

As we continue to celebrate our new reality of a hybrid faith community we are hoping to engage more of our at-home family! **We are looking for those willing to record the Sunday readings, good morning/welcome greetings, and messages of sharing the peace!** These recordings will be shared in our livestream service! Video recordings are preferred, but audio recordings will also be accepted! Participants can record themselves using their own device or set-up a time to be recorded at HOPE. This is a GREAT way for families with children to participate as well! We'd love to see more of our at-home faith family!

You can [SIGN UP HERE](#) if you are interested! You will be contacted with further instructions!

Afghan Refugee at Camp McCoy

HOPE Mission Ministry is inviting members to support Afghan refugees from Camp McCoy with a special financial donation on the third Sundays of February, March, and April. Because of the lack of public transportation and our geographical location, it will not be possible for River Falls agencies to resettle any Afghan neighbors in River Falls. However through the agencies of Lutheran Refugee Immigration Services (LIRS) and Lutheran Social Services, our gifts will go directly to support refugees being resettled in Eau Claire with personal needs including dental care.

Thank you for your hospitality and generosity.



EARTH FEST 2022



PART OF EARTH MONTH:
A SERIES OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT APRIL

**SUNDAY
APRIL 24
2-5 PM**

"THE EARTH IS WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON." - WENDELL BERRY

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENT TO CELEBRATE OUR PAST/CURRENT/FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS AND INSPIRE ONGOING CLIMATE ACTION

STAY TUNED FOR FORTHCOMING SCHEDULE OF EARTH MONTH EVENTS

**GLEN PARK
RIVER FALLS, WI**

FREE EVENT - ALL ARE WELCOME!

MUSIC!

CHRIS SILVER & THE BARLEY JACKS

FOOD!

SAMPLE LOCAL & SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS

ACTIVITIES!

TREE PLANTING, KIDS ACTIVITIES, & MUCH MORE

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

EXHIBITS - DEMONSTRATIONS - ADVOCACY

**SUSTAINABILITY
PLEDGE BOOTH**

WELL WATER NITRATE TESTING

BRING A SAMPLE OF YOUR WATER

CLOTHING SWAP

BRING 1-2 GENTLY USED ITEMS TO TRADE



**FREE
LED BULBS!**

*WALK, BIKE, SKATEBOARD,
OR CARPOOL & RECEIVE A
LIGHTBULB!*



**FREE
TREES!**

*FIRST 500 IN ATTENDANCE
TAKE HOME A
SAPLING!*





**Musical Afternoon at First
Congregational United Church of Christ
110 North 3rd St, River Falls**

**Sunday, April 3
3:00 pm**



**Reception following in the
Fellowship Hall**

Masks required at attendance

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



Relay For Life of River Falls-Pierce County has returned to an in-person event scheduled Friday, April 1, 2022 (no fooling)! This community event, open for all, will be held at River Falls High School (schedule below).

We encourage family, friends and co-workers to create or join a team to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. **Fighting cancer takes a team!** Funds help those battling cancer, help with life-saving research, service programs, free rides and/or lodging to treatment, education and advocacy. Team sign up, secure donations and additional information about the event is found at www.RelayForLife.org/RiverFallsWI

If you prefer to write a check, please make checks payable to: American

COFFEE & CONVERSATION TUESDAYS @ 11AM!

Join with others from HOPE online via [Zoom](#) every week for a time of prayerful sharing and Bible study of our upcoming Sunday scripture texts! All are welcome!

Pastor Annie is back and hopes you join us every Tuesday at 11!

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Ruth Sylte (Nancy Sailer's cousin)

Kathy Granquist (Karen Brohaugh's niece)

Jerome Rodewald (Jeff Rodewald's father)

Barbara McIntosh (Joe McIntosh's mother)

Linda & Jesse Annoye Family (Relatives of Debra James)

Greg Rosenthal (Relative of Karen Brohaugh)

Gordon Hendrickson (Mary Thompson's brother)

Boyd Huppert (Rodewald family member)

Family of Darcy Livingston (Naomi & Jerry Brandt's Daughter)

Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)

Tom Roycraft (Grant Klacan's Father-in-Law)

Katie Drablos (cousin of Linda Jacobson)

Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)

Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)

Kris Miner (Friend of Faye Perkins)

Lee Hill (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)

Duane Hall (friend of the Brohaughs)

Judy Karshbaum

Gary Siebold

David Hendrickson

Jim and Ila June Pratt

Jerry Brandt

Jon Boyce

Jay and Jeri Jorgenson (friends of the Bohnerts)

Fred Schmidt and family (Relatives of the Boocks)

Rod Cina (son of Mary Solum)

This Week at HOPE March 9, 2022



March Birthdays

Name	Birth Date
Maxwell VanOverbeke	02-Mar
Carl Warren	03-Mar
Madison Ziebarth	03-Mar
Grant Klacan	03-Mar
John Peter Eaton	05-Mar
Erik Oppegard	09-Mar
Addyson Wolfe	09-Mar
Sharon Paulson	10-Mar
Mollie Malaney	15-Mar
James Pratt	15-Mar
Carly Wunrow	17-Mar
Karen Ottney-Kaste	22-Mar
Joseph Kurten	22-Mar
Margaret Anderson	23-Mar
Lee Getschel	23-Mar
David Peters	23-Mar
Andrea Boock	31-Mar
Leonard Juairé	31-Mar
Roger Tweiten	31-Mar
Ben Wunrow	31-Mar
Shelby Roquette	31-Mar



March Baptisms

Darcy Boock
Samatha Brill
Luke Flirasky
Sara Filarsky
Lexy Getschel
Richard Jackson
Debra James
Mallory James
Connie Juairé
Katherine (Klacan) Schilling
Morgan Leitch
Gwen Paulson
Kyle Rudesill
Susie Rudesill



Mark and Sarah Bondhus 15-Mar **Celebrating** 42 Years



HOPE & Pandemic/Endemic Living 3.02.22 Update

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4).

As new recommendations are issued by the CDC and local county health departments, the HOPE ministry council is in conversation about our next steps! We acknowledge we are all anxious to get “back to normal.” Please remember that however we move forward, we enter a “new normal” which offers new possibilities for ministry! We appreciate your patience, prayerfulness, and understanding as we continue to faithfully navigate this unique season. **HOPE Executive and Council Ministry teams meet in the next 2 weeks and will issue a more concrete update after March 15, but here are a few updates:**

1. **Masks are still required for worship and meetings indoors, regardless of vaccination status, until council can meet for further discussion.** This allows us to offer more protection for some of our young people who are unable to be vaccinated, and due to the fact that the virus is contagious and can be spread from person to person. **Look for an update on this policy no earlier than Sunday, March 20.**
2. **Holy Communion:** We will begin processing forward for the celebration of Holy Communion. You will be invited to pick up each element at the front where the Pastor and Assistant Minister will speak the words to you. Please only remove your mask to consume the elements. As always, the pastor can come to you as needed! For those worshipping from home, please remember the Eucharist is intended to be celebrated in Christian community, within the context of worship and at-home communion is being practiced only until we can all safely return together. Pastor is always available for homebound communion visits.
3. **Offering:** We will resume passing the offering plate for in-person worship. Online giving opportunities remain in perpetuity and you are encouraged to sign up!
4. **Distancing is still encouraged.** We encourage people to sit distanced except from those family members and friends who feel comfortable being near each other.
5. **Fellowship Time:** We have been able to have fellowship for many weeks now, but have not had people willing to serve it. We would LOVE to resume this practice. You can sign up to host this time on our [HOPE Worship Volunteer Sign-Up](#)
6. **Hand Hygiene:** In light of updates for Holy Communion and Offering, please continue to practice good hand hygiene, taking advantage of the hand sanitizers placed around the sanctuary.

Pastor Annie strongly encourages everyone who is eligible to do so, to receive a vaccine.