



What I Forgot

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree.
No fruit here, just soaking up the sun,
growing roots, turning green,
stretching out my branches until
I can hug the horizon.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree,
because she doesn't produce,
and she's not exhausted,
and she probably gets eight hours
of sleep at night.
And her branches,
unlike my shoulders,
are not heavy with work—
pulled toward the ground,
threatening to break.
And her trunk,
unlike my spine,
is not fighting to stand tall
while holding it all together.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree
because she knows
what I forgot
many years ago.

You are still worthy
even if
you don't produce.

As you reflect on this poem, what images draw your attention? Read Luke 13:1-9, what connections can you make? Where is God nudging you with grace today? Where is God inviting you to extend grace toward others?

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

This Week at HOPE March 23, 2022



UPDATE: IN-PERSON & ZOOM WEDNESDAY WORSHIP!!!

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

Weekly worship with music, relationship building, and a service project focus! This family-friendly midweek HYBRID Worship experience is for everyone! Join us IN-PERSON OR VIA [ZOOM](#) for a brief time of worship centered on building our relationships to God and one another, filling us to the brim so that we spill over in love for our neighbor! Learn how we are supporting the River Falls High School's "Wiley's Wardrobe" project each week!

Tools to Help Fill You to the Brim

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

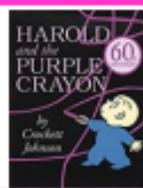
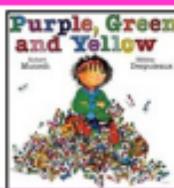
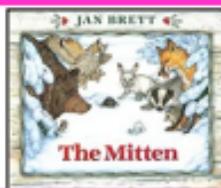
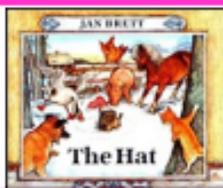
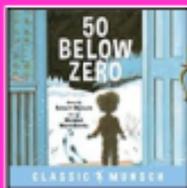
1. Spotify Playlist for Full to the Brim: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FfRMbGJRTmrpzkiUcJQ8R?si=157a93dc66f44850>
2. Full to the Brim Daily Devotional- printed copies are available at the back table at HOPE, pick up any time! A Digital Copy will be available on our website.
3. A Reflective Assessment Tool to help you set some Lenten intentions (attached to this email, available for pick-up at HOPE, to be available on the website).



40 Days of Lent

Wiley's
Wardrobe

River Falls
High School

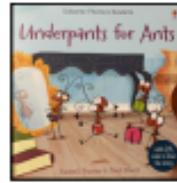
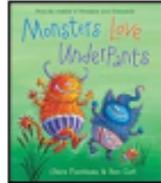
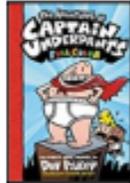


Week 1
March
2 – 12

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

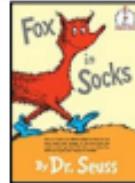
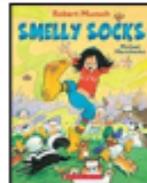
Week 2

March 14 – 19



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

Ankle or Low Cut Socks for Guys and Gals

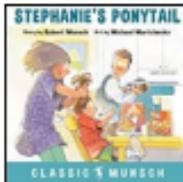
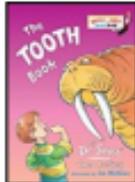


Week 3

March 21 – 26

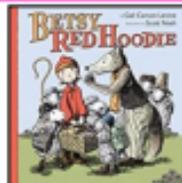
Week 4

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

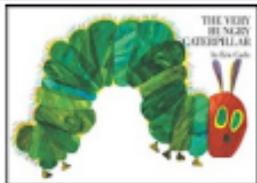


Week 5

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 23, 2022



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.

To Give through Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services: LIRS stands committed to providing the absolute best care to refugees and immigrants who arrive in the United States. To make a gift that will impact the lives of those we are serving domestically, visit lirs.org/give.

If you are looking to support local efforts in Europe, we encourage you to visit [Charity Navigator’s list of highly rated organizations](#) working in the region to assist Ukrainian refugees.

A yellow promotional banner for "Bowling for Ukraine!". In the top left corner is the HOPE LUTHERAN ELCA logo. The main text "BOWLING FOR UKRAINE!" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below this is a graphic of a bowling ball and pins. To the left of the graphic, the event details are listed: "Sunday, April 10", "1-3:00PM", "St. Croix Lanes", "River Falls, WI". To the right, it says "FREE Bowling & Shoe Rental For ALL Ages!". At the bottom, it reads "FREWILL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: EASTERN EUROPEAN CRISIS".

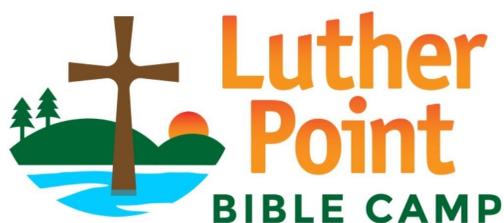
Sign-up [HERE](#) to reserve your FREE spot for Bowling for Ukraine!

This Week at HOPE March 23, 2022



HOPE's Community Garden

Interested in organic gardening? HOPE Garden has plots available (10'x50' or 10'x25'). Garden Rules are on the HOPE website main page under announcements. If interested, contact psrudesill@gmail.com by April 15th.



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!

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.

This Week at HOPE March 23, 2022



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!

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!

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 23, 2022



UPDATE TO HOPE'S COVID GUIDELINES

3.16.22 Update

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. -Psalm 118: 1,23-24

On Tuesday, March 15, the HOPE ministry council met and discussed our next most faithful steps in responding to Covid-19. Early in the pandemic, we committed to following the advice put forth by our local health department professionals, specifically that of the St. Croix County Health Department. So, today we are excited to announce an update to our Covid protocols, in alignment with the St. Croix County Health Department's update effective on March 7, 2022!

You can find the SCCHD most recent information at the following links:

[Current Covid-19 Guidance](#)

[Current Covid-19 County Level to determine current guidance](#)

HOPE will follow the county's active recommendations based on this chart:

Level	Stay up to date on vaccines	Get tested if you have symptoms	Wear a mask
Low (Green)	Strongly Recommended	Strongly Recommended	Optional
Medium (Yellow)	Strongly Recommended	Strongly Recommended	Encouraged. Those at high-risk should talk to healthcare provider.
High (Orange)	Strongly Recommended	Strongly Recommended	Strongly Recommended

We are currently in a LOW (Green) level in our county, so **HOPE is currently making masks optional inside our building.**

As we move forward, we definitely enter a "new normal." We trust God to offer new ministry possibilities as we continue faithfully navigating this unique season! As we make this next faithful step, we encourage you to keep the following in mind:

1. While masks are optional as of TODAY, our masking policy WILL LIKELY CHANGE BASED ON RISK LEVEL. Please be prepared to be flexible as needed.
2. Please be respectful of the individual/family choice to wear or not wear a mask. There is no need for additional commentary about someone's choice. Trust that every person is making the best choice for themselves. Please still be respectful of people's personal space. This is a big adjustment for some people, and a simple, "is it ok if I hug you?" or "Is it ok for me to sit by you?" goes a long way. It is ok to tell someone you are not yet comfortable with close contact.

A few other notes:

1. **Holy Communion:** We began processing forward for the celebration of Holy Communion. Pastor will once again distribute the elements to you, with some offered for you to pick up if you prefer. As always, the pastor can come to you as needed! For those worshiping 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.

2. **Offering:** We will resume passing the offering plate for in-person worship as soon as we have ushers to assist. Online giving opportunities remain in perpetuity and you are encouraged to sign up!

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](#)

1. **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.



JOIN US FOR
REBOUND

Tri-Synod High School Youth Gathering

Dates: July 25-27, 2022

Location: UW River Falls

Cost: \$275* Per Participant

All high schoolers in 9-12th grade** are invited to join us at UW River Falls where we will encounter God together in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning projects in the twin cities, and uplifting worship.

Rebound will also include a multicultural youth leadership session - a time designed specifically for youth of color or whose first language is not English - for the purpose of deepening faith, building relationships, celebrating culture, and empowering young leaders.

This event will include participants from the **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, the La Crosse Area Synod, and the Northern Great Lakes Synod.**

Guest speakers and musicians will include:

Joe Davis
David Scherer
Rachel Kurtz
My Anchor Holds
and...more to be released SOON!

We are excited to see you there!

*Event cost includes: program/materials, speakers & musicians, housing, meals, event shirt, & service learning opportunities.

** This includes youth entering 9th grade in the '22-'23 school year and those who will complete 12th grade before this summer.

REGISTRATION AND EVENT DETAILS CAN BE FOUND:

NWSWI.ORG/REBOUND





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!



FREE LED BULBS!

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



FREE TREES!

FIRST 500 IN ATTENDANCE TAKE HOME A SAPILING!



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



This Week at HOPE March 23, 2022



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)
Chuck Eaton
Linda Hidding (Nancy Sailer's cousin)
Ruth Sylte (Nancy Sailer's cousin)
Kathy Granquist (Karen Brohaugh's niece)
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)
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 23, 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