



BEING CHURCH IN THE WORLD

By Pastor Annie Ladnier

I write to you today in the aftermath of yet another school shooting.
I am not okay.
Parents are not okay.
Our children are not okay.

I was always told to preach only from my scars, not my open wounds, and so while I have more to say about lots of recent events in our world, I need time to distill what God is laying on my heart.

For now, I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the following social statements and messages put together by the faithful work of pastors, deacons, bishops, and lay leaders during the Churchwide Assembly and Churchwide Councils of the last 34 years of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's existence. The ELCA was formed in 1988. Some of our current statements come from as early as 1991.

I'm publishing links to these statements and messages at this time as we are called to be informed citizens in this world but not of this world. Our faith does call us to action and faithful presence in our world. I commend these to you and hope to host open conversations around them in the coming weeks.

To our HOPE parents and teachers/administrators, know that you are held close in my heart this day.

Parents, I am with you in these trenches and I hate it for us. Many of you have been fighting this war for much longer than I, and I know that each time something like this happens, you do not grow any more calloused to it. This is raw. It is heart-wrenching to tuck your children in after a day like yesterday, and it is nearly impossible to send them out the door on a morning like today. **Please know that I see you and I love you and your children. I am happy to meet to talk and pray with you at any time.**

Teachers and Education Staff, I do not envy you. I love you and pray for your safety and wellness. I pray for your physical safety, but also for your emotional and spiritual wellness as you wear not only the hat of educator, but that of social worker, chaplain, first responder, and bodyguard. It should not be this way. **Please know that I see you and I love you. I am happy to meet to talk and pray with you at any time.**

[ELCA Social Message on Community Violence](#)

[ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United](#)

[States: Discipleship in a Democracy](#)

[ELCA Social Statement on Abortion](#)

[Full lists of all statements and messages](#)

Peace be yours, this day and always,
Pastor Annie

This Week at HOPE May 25, 2022



WEDDING SET-UP/TEAR DOWN HELP NEEDED

We have our first HOPE wedding in the "Winds of the Spirit" this Saturday, May 28th. If you are available to help with set-up or tear-down, please let Pastor Annie or Jeff Rodewald know! Set up will be at 9AM. Tear down after 5!

Sunday, June 5th: "Spreading HOPE" Celebration

Join us on Pentecost Sunday as we celebrate God's generosity lived out through YOU! Welcoming of new members, food trucks, games, and fun following worship!

PLEASE BRING AN OLD, CLEAN SPRAY BOTTLE FOR A SERVICE PROJECT

**HOPE
FOR
CREATION
SOCIAL!**

Thursday, June 9, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Ezekiel Lutheran Church Front Lawn
202 S. 2nd St., River Falls

**Learn More About
Hope For Creation**

Free Snacks & Refreshments

Lawn Games

Contact hope4creationrf@gmail.com

You're Invited!

**HOPE for
CREATION**
Communities of faith partnering
for a sustainable future.

The poster has a light green background with darker green leaf patterns in the corners. The text is primarily in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font. The date and time are enclosed in a light grey oval. The phrase "You're Invited!" is written in a pink, cursive font. The logo at the bottom right features a stylized tree with green leaves above the text "HOPE for CREATION" and a tagline below.

This Week at HOPE May 25, 2022



COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

Sift dry ingredients (important!) **together three times**

2 c whole wheat flour

1 c white flour

1 & 1/4 tsp baking powder

1 & 1/4 tsp salt

Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (minimum of 180 degrees F)

3 Tbsp honey

3 Tbsp molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky.

Do not knead. Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk. With a knife, score the top of each loaf into four pie-shaped sections, so that the sections can be more easily broken off while serving. Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. Wrap well, date, and store in refrigerator if bringing in that same month, otherwise place in freezer.

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS

- ◆ We have been using 2 loaves of bread per Sunday. You can store unused loaves in the refrigerator.
- ◆ Please don't hesitate to ask for help. We are willing to walk through the process with you.

CALLING ALL BREAD BAKERS!

Since we have resumed using bread for Holy Communion, we are in need of people we can schedule to bake bread throughout the year!

You can sign up [HERE](#) if you'd like to bake for a future month!

This Week at HOPE May 25, 2022



Tuesday, August 2nd: National Night Out @ HOPE
Stay tuned for all the ways you can help as we host
our 3rd annual NNO for our neighborhood!

Summer Stretch

FOR BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

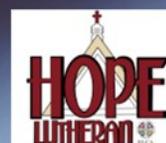
WEDNESDAYS, 6:30PM

JUNE 15-AUG 10

Outdoor yoga, meditation, & reflection

bring a yoga mat, water bottle, & yourself!

3337 KINGSBARN AVE
WINDS OF THE SPIRIT PAVLLION



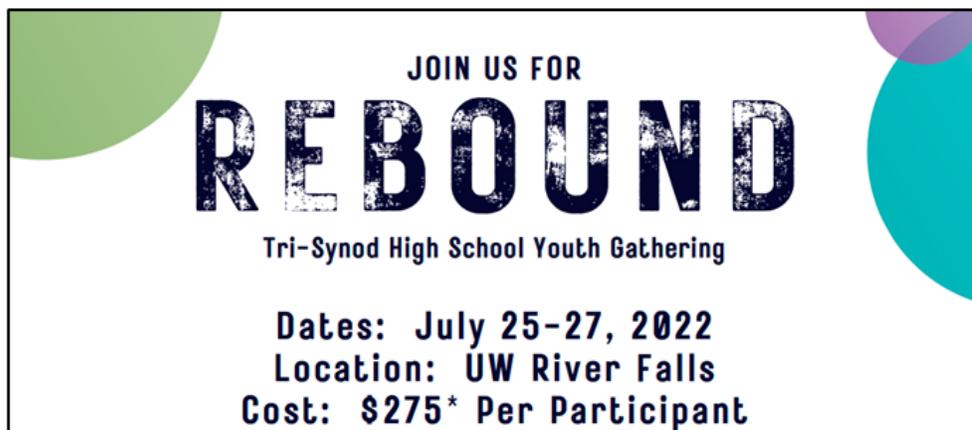
This Week at HOPE May 25, 2022



SUMMER YOUTH & FAMILY FUN!

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✝ June 15: Kayaking on the Kinni (all ages)
- ✝ July 13: Kayaking on the Kinni (all ages)
- ✝ July 25-27: REBOUND (high school event)
- ✝ July 30: HOPE Family Swim Party @ Glen Park Pool (for everyone)
- ✝ August 10: Outdoor Movie Night (for everyone)
- ✝ August 24: Kayaking on the Kinni (all ages)



All **CURRENT 8-12TH GRADE YOUTH & FRIENDS** are invited to this fantastic event in lieu of the ELCA Youth Gathering (which was canceled due to Covid complications).

A \$100 deposit and medical release form are due to Pastor Annie ASAP!

Youth who DID NOT initially sign-up for the Gathering now have the opportunity to attend this event! Youth families should check email for further details!

Individual HOPE member cost will not exceed \$175 (hopefully less)

All youth previously signed up for the ELCA Youth Gathering have already made their deposit, but must verify that you plan to still attend!

This Week at HOPE May 25, 2022



Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on February 24, millions of people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania 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.

Your gifts will support people impacted by this crisis. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.

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 May 25, 2022



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Wendy Hastings Family (Susie Rudesill's cousin)
David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)
Fay Perkins
Jerome Rodewald (Jeff Rodewald's father)
Thomas & Dawn Wirth (Tessa Van Overbeke's parents)
Sherry Lubich (Jeff Rodewald's aunt)
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)
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)
Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)
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 May 25, 2022



June Birthdays



Name	Birthday
Leila Jiskra	01-Jun
Cara Getschel	2-Jun
Carol Knudsen	5-Jun
Zane Heinselmann	6-Jun
Russ Jiskra	6-Jun
Peter Nelson	7-Jun
Naomi Brandt	9-Jun
Kathy Scott	9-Jun
Elizabeth Rodewald	14-Jun
Eric Rodewald	14-Jun
Louie Bernard	15-Jun
Mark Ziebarth	15-Jun
Carol Poff	17-Jun
Milo Oppegard	22-Jun
Denise Burkett	26-Jun
Douglas Rudesill	26-Jun
Jack Stang	27-Jun
Daniel Malaney	29-Jun
Hannah Forward	29-Jun
Edward Paulson	29-Jun



June Baptisms

Shane Bondhus
Erik Eaton
Sean James
Kathryn Scott
Gary Siebold
Luke Stang
Leila Jiskra



	Celebrating	
	Date	Years
Larry & Lynda Meyers	06/05	40
Douglas & Susie Rudesill	06/07	42
Joe and Connie Kurten	06/11	51
Mark & Lisa Ziebarth	06/12	35
Bill & Kay Montgomery	06/17	61
Joseph McIntosh & Faye Perkins	06/18	35

This Week at HOPE May 25, 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.