







Your high school youth have had a FANTASTIC time gathering with over 200 other youth from the Northwest Synod of WI, Lacrosse Area Synod, and Great Lakes Synod! We've learned a lot about what it means to carry faith as we "REBOUND" in our world after the last 2.5 years of pandemic and prevalent social justice issues. We've learned how to love like Jesus. We've engaged in service work together. We've sung beautiful new songs in worship and heard inspirational messages. It has been wonderful to have this time together and we are excited for what comes next! Make sure to reach out to your youth who attended and ask them about their experience!

Sean James Amelia Forward Hannah Forward Morgan Torntore Max VanOverbeke

A BIG thank you to Elise Forward for being our 2nd adult leader and walking with our kids this week!

I had a fantastic time with these young people and am honored to be their pastor. The kids are alright;)

Thank you for your generous support through the purchase of fresh farm eggs.

If you would like to give additional financial support to cover the final payments of this wonderful experience, you can donate directly to:

HOPE Lutheran Church, memo line: YOUTH SUMMER TRIP.

Go and be the poetry of Jesus etched on our lives,

Pastor Annie Ladnier







NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at HOPE Tuesday, August 2nd 5:30 – 8:30

EVERYONE is invited to help make our 3rd annual NNO event a success! Spend an evening getting to know our Sterling Ponds neighbors.

Free Admission with one or more donations per family to TurningPoint, Our Neighbors Place, or the River Falls Food Pantry.

Items Needed: Body lotion, men's and women's deodorant,I reusable kids water bottles, fidget toys, crayons/markers/colored pencils, lawn games for children, crackers, juice boxes, cereal, juice, baby wipes, cat litter, ramen noodles, snack packs, any other nonperishable items for the Food Pantry.

Activities: chARM painting, Balloon Twister, Bounce House, Food, Games, Basket Raffle





It's that time of year again! We are once again partnering with local congregations and businesses to sponsor this important annual event in our community! Below is a list of items the program is in special need of, though all school supplies are welcome. Items will be collected through Wednesday, August 10th here at HOPE.

In addition to your donations, please prayerfully consider donating your time to this wonderful event! Volunteers are needed to help set-up and to accompany students with their shopping and shoe selection! K-12 volunteers are welcome but can only help with set-up and tear down, as this is a sensitive event for their peers! All adults are welcome! You can sign-up to volunteer Sundays at worship OR by emailing Olive in the church office M-W 8:30-3pm (hopelutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com).

Stacia Johnson is serving as HOPE's liaison and you can direct all questions her way:staciarjohnson@gmail.com

Items Most Needed:

Backpacks

3 Subject Notebooks

Scissors (pointed for teen/adult)

3 Ring Binders (both 1" and 3")

Sharpies (black fine and ultra fine point)

Soft pencil cases

Crayons

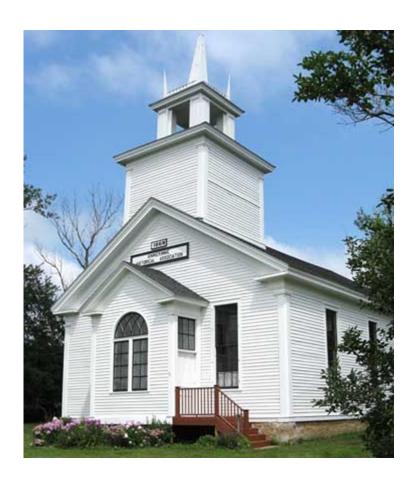
Earbuds

Volunteers are needed

Monday, August 15th 10-11AM (set up help) Monday, August 15th 4-7PM (accompany students)* Tuesday, August 16th 9:45AM- 12PM (accompany students)

^{*}If this is your first time, please arrive at 3:30PM





Kinnickinnic Church Ice Cream Social

The Annual Ice Cream Social at the historic Kinnickinnic Church will be held this year on Sunday, August 7, from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the church-yard.

The church is located on County J, less than a mile off of Hwy. 65, near River Falls.

Ice cream, homemade pie and root beer floats will be available, along with other beverages. Live music will entertain you as you socialize with neighbors and new friends.

Proceeds support the 150+ year old church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Check our Facebook page at Kinnickinnic Historical Association for more information.





Among Friends is a community based social respite program serving adults with memory loss who reside in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. We are currently providing programing on Tuesdays at the First Congregational Church located at 110 N Third Street in River Falls. Our program allows caregivers an oppor-

tunity to have a few hours for appointments, reconnecting with friends, time to complete projects at home, or whatever their needs may be. Respite for primary caregivers is the purpose of this program, understanding the challenges 24/7 caregiving demands. We hope to expand our program to two days per week as numbers allow. We welcome new referrals and are always looking for new volunteers to help support our program.

June was an eventful month filled with our weekly music, chair yoga and delicious lunch meals. In addition, we welcomed a few additional guests who provided us with unique and entertaining visitors. We had a special visitor, Skippy, a Nigerian Dwarf week old billy goat. Some sweet girls shared their delicious cookies and visited with everyone and next week we will enjoy visitors from the ECLA youth group who will sing and play games with us. Pearson Florist and other local gardeners will be providing flowers to arrange. Kite building is also on the agenda! We would love to hear from anyone who is willing to share their special talents, experiences, or stories. Our participants enjoy variety, and we are always open to guests willing to share their time.

Guests are invited to join us for coffee from 9:30-10:00 am on the last Tuesday of each month. July 26 will be our next open coffee time. Our program focusses on social interactions to facilitate and support conversation and functional communication skills. For additional information about Among Friends, contact us at 715-293-2651. To learn more about Among Friends, our website is: amongfriendsrf.com or visit our Facebook page. We welcome new volunteers and are happy to receive new referrals.









All HOPE family and friends age 3 and up are invited to be part of First Congregational Church's VBS ministry this year! Pastor Annie is working with Pastor Stacy so all of our children and any interested middle/high school youth and adult helpers can be part of the fun! Please see the attached information to register.

VBS for 2022 is called "God's World: That's Awesome!" The week's focus will be on experiences and ideas that are worth our awe and wonder. Dates are August 1 – 4, 2022, 9:00 – 11:30 am. Activities include: learning about space, expressing ideas through art, exploring music, working with wood, listening to Bible texts, and spending time with friends. Please register your child and spread the word. All are welcome!

Please contact Pastor Annie (<u>hopelutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com</u>) here at HOPE, or reach out to Pastor Stacy directly if you are interested in volunteering!







NEXT TOPIC AND DISCUSSION: SUNDAY, JULY 31 "GOVERNMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT"

Here are some additional resources for discussion:

A Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States:

Discipleship in a Democracy

Study Guide

<u>Development of Social Statement on Government & Civic Engagement Timeline</u> Info about Task Force Members for this new statement





HOPE IS HOSTING A 3RD AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE ON

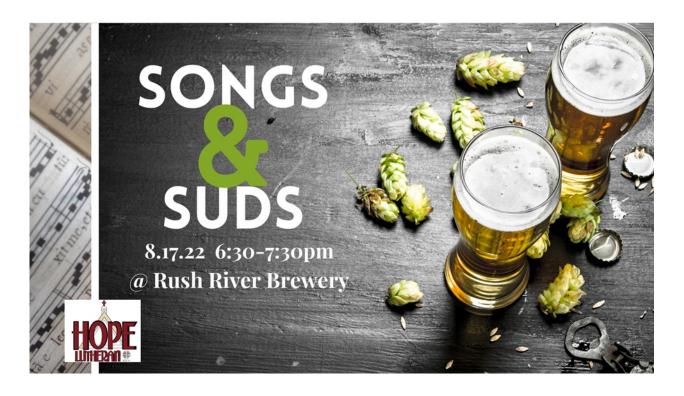
MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2022
SET UP 12 NOON
BLOOD DRIVE 1-6 PM
TAKE DOWN 6-7 PM

SIGN UP SHEET (at church or call Kathy)

12-7 pm:	Kathy Scott, 651-442-5189	
		(name/phone)
Check peo	ople in and help with snacks:	
1-3 pm:		_ (name/phone)
		(name/phone)
3-6:		(name/phone)
		(name/phone)

To sign up to give blood go to: https://www.redcrossblood.org





Can You Donate...?

The worship ministry team is asking for the following donations to assist in creating hospitality in our Winds of the Spirit pavilion

- New or gently used blankets for outdoor use to be placed in baskets for people to use if they get chilly!
- New or gently used yoga mats for our guests to use during Summer Stretch for Body, Mind, & Spirit if they forget one!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

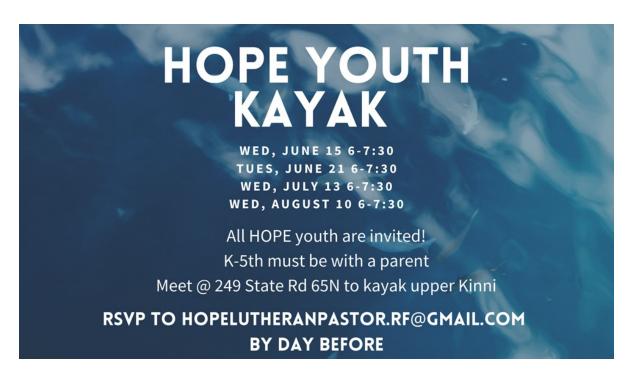
Did you know that you can volunteer to help with parts of worship **AT ANY TIME!!!**

Use THIS GOOGLE DOC LINK to sign-up to assist with our inperson 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!











It's time to place your order for the delicious



Washington State Peaches!



Single layer box \$23.00 or Two or more single layer boxes for \$21.00 each box

The peaches should be arriving late August at First Congregational Church

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI We will call when pick up begins.

3 WAYS TO ORDER:

- 1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org
- Sign up on website (under Connect): www.firstchurchrf.org
- 3. Call: 715-425-2052 order Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message

ORDER DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1

When placing an order, please provide your name, phone number and the number of boxes you would like to order.

Thank you for your support!



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Carol Grant (Olive Olson's friend)

Milo Oppegard

Kevin Rodewald & family (Jeff Rodewald's brother)

David Stageberg (Carolyn Jackson's brother-in-law)

Bill Warner and family

Carin Perkins (Faye Perkins sister)

David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)

Jerome Rodewald (Jeff Rodewald's father)

Thomas & Dawn Wirth (Tessa Van Overbeke's parents)

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)

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)





July Birthdays

Name	Date	
Janet Gerber	7-Jul	
Bill Warner	7-Jul	
Ross VanOverbeke	7-Jul	
Lucas Ladnier	11-Jul	July Baptisms
Danielle Tokheim	15-Jul	Will Bohnert
Betty Lou Oppegard	16-Jul	Alyssa Boock
William Berndt	18-Jul	Andrea Boock
Luke Stang	18-Jul	Denise Burkett
Jon Filarsky	21-Jul	Cole Frisch Peter Nelson
Piper Rodewald	22-Jul	Milo Oppegard
Erin Nelson	23-Jul	Carol Poff
Payton Torntore	24-Jul	Elizabeth Rodewald
Joseph McIntosh	25-Jul	Eric Rodewald
Steve Leitch	28-Jul	Hunter Rodewald
Taylor Heinselman	30-Jul	Douglas Rudesill
Nancy Peters	30-Jul	Ross VanOverbeke Spencer Ziebarth



Macey Cogressary	Celebrating		
July Anniversaries	Date	Years	
Jerry & Darcy Boock	03-Jul	46	
Phillip & Paula Klacan	20-Jul	37	
John & Karen Hamilton	26-Jul	31	
Robb & Kathy Scott	25-Jul	30	
Mitch & Erin Nelson	13-Jul	15	



SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

The HOPE Executive Ministry and Worship Ministry teams want to apologize for incomplete communication regarding our summer worship plan! Please note the following in regards to our summer worship services:

We plan to worship outside in the Winds of the Spirit pavilion from June 5-September 4, 2022.

- ♦ You do NOT need to bring your own chair, though you are welcome to if you prefer!
- Windscreens will be utilized as we are able and as the weather necessitates them. We do have a broken motor and we are waiting on the part. Supply chain issues continue to be a reason for our patience.
- ♦ All services will still be livestreamed except for in the event of an emergency.
- ♦ A blanket basket will be available as added hospitality, of course feel free to bring your own!
- ♦ This is worship in a relaxed pace for the summer- please feel free to dress comfortably (as always) and for the weather.
- ♦ In the event of severe weather, service will move inside (severe storms, excessive heat, frigid temps).
- Why are we doing this?
 - To celebrate God's beautiful creation and allow people the chance to be outside while the weather is nice! Oftentimes people skip worship when the weather is nice because they don't want to be "stuck inside." Our property lends itself as a tool to encounter God in nature!
 - To honor the stewardship of gifts made in order to make the WOTS pavilion possible, especially your generosity in providing funds for the windscreens!
 - To be a visibly gathered community for our neighbors as they drive by, walk our paths, or have their apartment windows open!
 - We have made the plan to move out for a set period of time due to the work it requires to move the AV equipment outdoors. We simply do not have the people-power to move in and out weekly nor do we have double sets of all the necessary equipment!
- We hope you look forward to worshiping in our beautiful space and we look forward to the ways the Spirit connects with us this summer! If you have further questions or comments, please feel free to contact Pastor Annie or any member of the HOPE Ministry Council!



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 Covd 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 Coivd-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	Strongly	Strongly	Optional
(Green)	Recommended	Recommended	
Medium	Strongly	Strongly	Encouraged. Those at high-risk should talk to healthcare provider.
(Yellow)	Recommended	Recommended	
High	Strongly	Strongly	Strongly
(Orange)	Recommended	Recommended	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.