

This Week at HOPE October 26, 2022



“Ecclesia Semper Reformanda, Semper Reformanda”:

CREATION CARE

Another Take-Away from the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Psalm 24:1 reminds us, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." This fall we have been exploring what it means to be a church that is always reformed and always reforming. I've been using the lens of the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly actions to guide us in this exploration. We've discussed the ELCA's vote to approve a memorial directing the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the principles of the denomination's organizational structure and the statements of purpose for its churches, synods and the churchwide organization. This could entail a full reconstitution process. Last week I shared about the Land Back Memorial which encourages all ELCA members and entities to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous peoples, to include returning land to the appropriate Native American nations when selling or transferring property and to explore making land acknowledgements a part of their public gatherings. This week we'll discuss the memorial to address Greenhouse Gas Reduction and how it fits in a wider dimension of the ELCA's process to address creation care.

The encouragement to address greenhouse gas reduction was strong. Sixteen synods across the Church brought forward memorials addressing this concern. The final assembly memorial serves to do the following:

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to engage in creation care and advocacy based on the principles of sufficiency, sustainability, participation, and solidarity; To reaffirm the commitment of this church to advocacy and action **in support of 50% reduction from 2005 levels in United States economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050; To direct the ELCA Churchwide organization to set the goal of reducing its net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;** To urge the churchwide organization to continue its network ministry through the Creation Care Network to inform and guide this church in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; To encourage congregants, rostered ministers, and bishops to commit themselves to education about the urgency of the climate emergency, the global opportunities of a just transition and to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching; To affirm the Mission Investments Fund's "Green Building" initiative and resources, and to encourage continued commitment to supporting ministries in caring for creation and addressing climate change; and to request the churchwide organization provide a report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly assessing the progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all three expressions and sharing lessons learned to help meet reduction goals.

This memorial is the most recent example of the Church's long-standing work in caring for creation. The ELCA Social Statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* was developed in 1993. Our synod, the Northwest Synod of WI, developed a resolution on Care for Creation in 2021 and expanded that work in 2022 with a resolution for each congregation to form a Green Team whose ongoing purpose is to promote awareness while challenging the congregation to implement effective practices that protect and promote the health of creation while being supported with resources from the Synod. HOPE has had an active Green Team for 2 years now and has helped transform our congregation's relationship to creation already!

This week the ELCA has brought forward a **public comment period** on a newly developed Social Message on Climate Care! After hearing requests from across the church for guidance, the ELCA Church Council in November 2021 authorized development of a social message on climate care. Social messages are ELCA social teaching documents on specific social topics; these documents shape ELCA policy and help members discern how to respond to an issue. This social message serves to address questions like, what is a faithful Lutheran response to Earth's changing climate and worsening natural disasters? How do we think about this crisis as people of faith, and what are we called to do?

We are all invited into this important work! Please [read the social message draft](#) and [use this survey](#) to share your input by **Friday, Dec. 2**. Questions or longer responses can be emailed to draftsocialmessage@elca.org. The public feedback will be studied and used to create an updated version to be reviewed by the Conference of Bishops and presented to the Church Council for consideration this coming spring. This public comment period is your chance to contribute directly as our church considers how to address this crucial topic affecting God's good creation. By contributing to the work of this most recent social message you are doing the work of being the church that is always reformed, and always reforming! Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Pastor Annie Ladnier

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The poster features a dark orange background with a subtle spiderweb pattern and several black spider icons. At the top center is a glowing jack-o'-lantern. Below it, the title "Trunk or Treat" is written in a large, bold, black font, flanked by two horizontal white lines. The event details are arranged in three columns: the date "26 OCTOBER 2022", the location "ALL ARE WELCOME!! HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 3337 KINGSBARN AVE, RIVER FALLS, WI", and the time "WED 5:30-7 PM NIGHT". In the bottom right corner is the Hope Lutheran Church logo, which includes a stylized church building and the text "HOPE LUTHERAN" with a small emblem.

Trunk or Treat

26
OCTOBER
2022

ALL ARE WELCOME!!
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3337 KINGSBARN AVE, RIVER FALLS, WI

WED
5:30-7 PM
NIGHT

HOPE
LUTHERAN

All hosts and helpers should be set up by 5!

Remember: only host trunks are able to park in the parking lot



**SAVE THE DATE FOR ALL SAINTS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6!**

The first Sunday of November is All Saints Sunday, a day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of the feast to come!

During our worship together we will give special recognition to the names of all people we have lost since last All Saints Sunday. Names of ANYONE are welcome! This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend who has suffered a loss this year. Can we include their beloved's name and share in their grief and hope this year? **If you would like your beloved to be included in that list of names, please send it to Olive in the church office (hopelutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com) by Monday, October 31st.**

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First Sunday of the Month Special Collections

The River Falls School District has 112 children signed up for the Backpack Program this year. This program falls under the auspices of Our Neighbors' Place and is primarily funded by The Black Tie Affair held every April and donations. It does not receive any help from the River Falls Food Pantry.

Therefore, the Mission Ministry through HOPE would like to start collecting donations for the Backpack Program on the first Sunday of each month alternating with the Food Pantry.

The Magic Box works in the same manner as for the Food Pantry, whereas each dollar magically will have \$5 of purchasing power. The next opportunity will be November 6, when your generous donations will support the Backpack Program.

First Sunday of the Month Special Collections Schedule

2022

November 6	Backpack Program (BP Program)
December 4	Food Pantry (FP)

2023

January 1	Backpack Program
February 5	Food Pantry
March 5	Backpack Program
April 2	Food Pantry
May 7	Backpack Program
June 4	Food Pantry
July 2	Backpack Program
August 6	Food Pantry
September 3	Backpack Program
October 1	Food Pantry
Nov 5	Backpack Program
December 3	Food Pantry

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Mark your calendars for a Noisy Offering on November 6th!

Our high school youth are adopting a Turning Point family for Christmas this year. Please bring your change for a noisy offering to help them shop for this family on November 6th!



October 30, Reformation Sunday,

HOPE will receive new members.

If you or your family would like to become a HOPE member, please notify Pastor Annie. We would be blessed to have you join us as HOPE journeys forward.

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PEDIATRIC and ADULT COVID-19 Moderna Bivalent Booster Clinic

Individuals age 6+ are now eligible for the new COVID-19 bivalent booster. It must be at least 2 months after completing primary series OR last monovalent booster.

**River Falls Public Library - Lower Level
Saturday 11/5 @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Appointments Encouraged



Call: 715-273-6755

Visit:

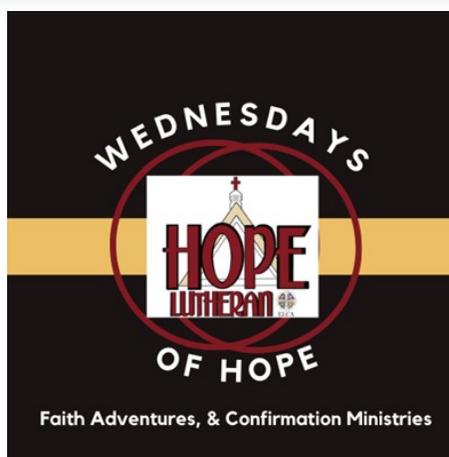
<https://piercecovid19vaccine.as.me>

**Vaccine: Moderna
Bivalent Booster**

Must be 6+, must have completed primary series, and it must be at least 2 months since your last dose (primary or booster)



October 2022



WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE: JOIN US!

Join us tonight for "Wednesdays of Hope," our midweek faith formation opportunity! All K-10th+ grade youth (members AND friends) are invited to participate in either Faith Adventures (K-5) or Confirmation (6-10+). **Additional parents and adults are needed to assist with teaching, projects, and outings!**

We are using a session format for this year. Families are able to register for 1, 2, or all 3 sessions!

ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO REGISTER!

YOU CAN REGISTER [ONLINE HERE](#), through our website

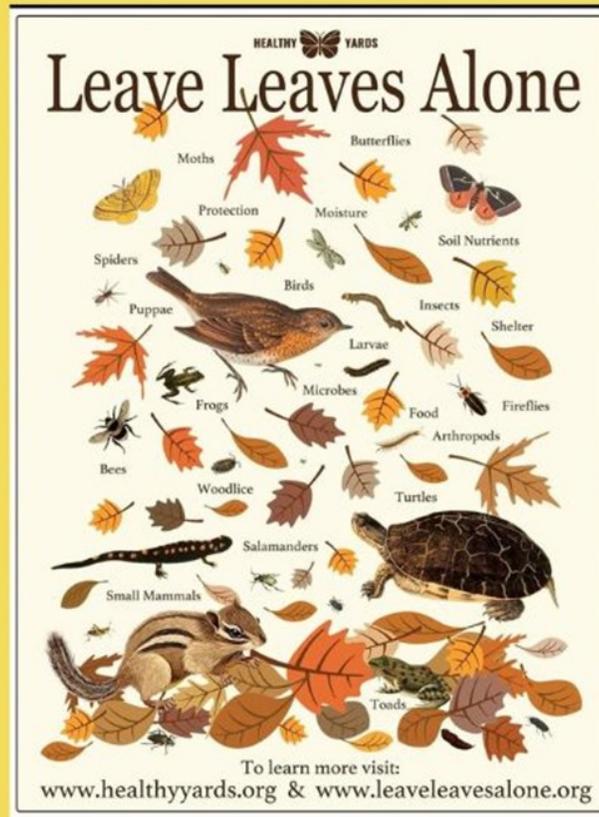
Important Dates

- ✝ Session 1: September 21- November 16
- ✝ Session 2: January 18- February 22
- ✝ Session 3: April 19-May 10

In addition to our main sessions we will have additional service learning, art, milestone, and fun event nights throughout the year! All are welcome!



Instead of blowing, bagging, & dumping...



Rake your leaves into piles or layers several inches thick and find a place where you can leave them undisturbed for the winter, such as underneath trees, in a corner of your yard, or in your garden.

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**Mark your calendars today for HOPE's
Carols and Candles Service, December 11th at 4:00 PM**

Carols and Candles We're excited to announce the return of a live, in-person version of Carols and Candles this year. In case you've not attended or participated before, Carols and Candles is HOPE Lutheran's Christmas lessons -and-carols program. This contemplative and quiet service has a long tradition at HOPE, and all are welcome to participate. If you'd like to sing in the Carols and Candles choir, consider yourself invited. The choir will rehearse four times in the three weeks prior to the program (see the graphic) and the choir is open to all singers from middle-school on up. Don't be concerned if you're not a reader of music. We'd love to hear you in this choir. And even if you don't want to sing in the choir, please mark your calendars so that you can attend Carols and Candles this year. Make time to reflect, be at peace, and enjoy our sanctuary at the time of winter sunset.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call or text Phil Klacan at 651.260.4790



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VOTING and CARE for CREATION

A message from River Falls Hope for Creation
Communities of faith partnering for a sustainable future

Election Day is quickly approaching: Tuesday, November 8th
Our vote matters. We have a chance and responsibility to cast votes for candidates who are working toward increased care for creation.

As you prepare to vote, please ponder these statements from the ELCA
(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America):

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society. Even as we join the political, economic, and scientific discussion, we know care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter. (A Social Statement on: Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice: Prologue)

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to personal life styles that contribute to the health of the environment. Many organizations provide materials to guide us in examining possibilities and making changes appropriate to our circumstances.

We challenge ourselves, particularly the economically secure, to tithe environmentally. Tithers would reduce their burden on the earth's bounty by producing ten percent less in waste, consuming ten percent less in non-renewable resources, and contribution the savings to earthcare efforts. Environmental tithing also entails giving time to learn about environmental problems and to work with others toward solutions. (A Social Statement on: Caring for creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice: V. Commitments of this church, A. As individual Christians)

For further information please contact either Bill or Kay Montgomery, HOPE Lutheran Church representatives to Hope4Creation-River Falls.

Thanks for committing to vote.

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A NEW GIVING OPPORTUNITY: THE HOPE MUSICIAN'S FUND

Do you LOVE the musical offerings here at HOPE?

Are you grateful for the gift of our fantastic Sunday pianists?

Would you love to see additional musical ensembles and guests join us?

Has music in worship been an important dimension of your spiritual life?

If you've answered YES to any of these questions, you may want to live into God's call toward generosity by giving a gift to our NEW "HOPE Musician's Fund." HOPE has shifted into a new season of paying our Sunday musicians a fair wage for their work, rather than expecting this on a volunteer basis. This expense emerged as a need mid-budget year, and so this fund will help meet this financial need and hopefully provide seed money to fund these positions in the 2023 budget year. In addition, our hope is for this fund to be used in the future to bring in special musical guests and ensembles in the months and years ahead!

Please prayerfully consider giving a seed gift to this important ministry as you are able!

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Sunday, November 27, 6:30 PM
Meet at Veteran's Park
All are welcome!



HOPE FOR CREATION INVITES YOU TO:

Entering Advent

A CANDLELIGHT RIVER WALK



We will gather by our beautiful
Kinnickinnic River to walk,
reflect and greet Advent

Please bring a flashlight
Check www.hope4creationrf.org
in the event of bad weather

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Please lift up the following people in prayer

Dawne and Doug Green (Friends of Olive Olson)
The Family of Carol Poff
Miriam Monroe (Bill Montgomery's sister)
Gary Blowers (Friend of Linda Jacobson)
Noah Sailer (Nancy Sailer's son)
Darel Getschel (Keith Getschel's father)
Katie Kay (family friend of Olive Olson)
Naomi Brandt and family
The Family of Beverly Lowe
Tom & Judy Jensen (Friends of Nancy Sailer)
Meg Heaton Family (Friends of Nancy Sailer)
Milo Oppegard
Kevin Rodewald & family (Jeff Rodewald's brother)
David Stageberg (Carolyn Jackson's brother-in-law)
Carin Perkins (Faye Perkins sister)
David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)
Thomas & Dawn Wirth (Tessa Van Overbeke's parents)
Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)
Chuck Eaton
Linda Hidding (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)
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)
Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi 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)

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November Birthdays

Dianne H-Robinson	1-Nov
Linda Yde	1-Nov
Greta Wunrow	3-Nov
Linda Jacobson	7-Nov
Grace Hansen	8-Nov
Charles Bricton	16-Nov
Mallory James	16-Nov
Mikey Langlois	16-Nov
Karen Rodewald	21-Nov
Phillip Klacan	22-Nov
Deb Tokheim	29-Nov



November Baptisms

McKenna Brill
Karen Brohaugh
Russ Jiskra
Kermit Paulson
Jane Terkelsen
Lucy VanOverbeke
Dan Rodewald
Linda Yde



November Anniversaries	Date	Years to Celebrate
Karen & Bernie Brohaugh	30-Nov	37
Nick & Stacia Johnson	08-Nov	14
Annie & Lucas Ladnier	07-Nov	7

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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 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.

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