



Dear Neighbors in Christ,

It is my hope that your summer days have included time spent with friends and family and that you are staying cool. These are good days to hit the beach for a swim, paddle the river, or lounge pool-side. And it is my experience that kiddie pools work just fine. In the summer we have permission to slow down a bit.

But even with the gentler pace of summer it is still important that we remember our call as people of faith and attend to our neighbors near and far.

In Sunday's message based on Mark's gospel we reflected on Jesus' sending of the disciples into the world, two-by-two. Imagining that I could choose a traveling partner my choice was Mr. Rogers. The inspiration came from having recently seen "Won't You Be My Neighbor." Jed and I continue to reference parts of the movie that are relevant for us today. And so, following my mantra that "repetition is good," I will share some of Mr. Rogers' principles and views on life.

Mr. Rogers taught us that it doesn't matter what we have, but what matters is how we use what we have. How we use our voice, our resources, our energy for good – that is what matters.

He constantly encouraged the children, and in the same way you and I were encouraged, to realize we are important; we are valuable members of our neighborhoods and beyond. He said, "If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person." It is for us to decide what that "that" will be.

He believed everyone should help others. "We live in a world in which we **need** to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.'"

Mr. Rogers knew true love meant acceptance. "Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like **struggle**. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now."

He knew what winning looked like. And I think knowing Mr. Rogers as we do we realize that winning isn't about wealth, strength, fb followers, or numbers, but winning is about loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and then loving your neighbor as yourself.

And he reminded us that even in the darkest time, there will always be light. His mother had told him to remember that in the times of tragedy and misfortune to look for the helpers and seeing the helpers you'll know that there's hope, and light.

Jesus is the light of the world, the light that shines in the darkness, the light that lives in our hearts and calls us to be, like Mr. Rogers, neighbors to the world.

Summer blessings, Pastor Sandy



HOPE Financial Report - Thru June 2018

Through your continued generosity and support HOPE's financial situation is strong. General Offering is on budget and expenses are slightly underbudget. In addition, HOPE has graciously given almost \$10,000 to support various missions and the ELCA/NW Synod. A Way of Life (HOME for HOPE) mortgage income is slightly behind budget but can easily "catch-up" with a few additional contributions.

If you would like detailed financial reports please contact the church office.

General

Offering Income = \$75,511 (Budget = \$74,712)

General Expenses = \$74,011 (Budget = \$76,068)

Mission Support

ELCA Benevolence = \$7,551

RF Food Shelf = \$757

Our Neighbors Place = \$300

Grace Place = \$310

ERC Refugee Project (Asylum Family) = \$655

ELCA Literacy = \$389

Mortgage

A Way of Life/Home for HOPE Income = \$27,783 (Budget = \$31,998)

Mortgage expense = \$39,600 (Budget = \$39,600)

Principal Paid = \$28,470

Interest Paid = \$11,130

Mortgage Balance = \$726,246



**Sunday Worship Volunteers
Sunday, July 15th**

Please lift up the following people in prayer

Barbara (Host to crew 36 of the Mission trip)
 Jerry Kendall (Cara Getschel's father)
 Santos Family - Asylum family
 Hannah Forward
 Evie Weber (aunt of Gwen Paulson)
 Ed Paulson
 Lynda Olson (family member of Bill & Kay Montgomery)
 Gloria & Art Johnson and Family
 Wendy Slattery (friend of Linda Jacobson)
 Cheri Boock (relative of Boock family)
 Dawn Baier (sister of Holly Stein)
 Jon Boyce
 Lane Branson (relative of Boock Family)
 Mike and Rae Farley (friend of Marcella Field and Paula Klacan)
 Dan Forrest (cousin of Robb Scott)
 Nancy Hawkinson (relative of Paula Klacan, friend of Darcy Boock)
 Ardis Johnson (friend of Betty Lou Oppegard)
 Bekka Johnson (niece of Betty Lou Oppegard)
 Jay and Jeri Jorgenson (friends of the Bohnerts)
 Craig & Jane Olson and family
 Brian Roquette
 Marilyn Schmidt (Darcy Boock's sister-in-law)
 Valerie Wietzke (sister of Karen Ottney-Kaste)

Please contact the office if you would like to have the name of a loved one added to the prayer list.

After 30 days names will be removed unless you request that they remain.

- ⇒ Presiding Pastor Sandra Johnson
- ⇒ Assisting Minister Carl Warren
- ⇒ Communion Prep Nancy Peters
- ⇒ Bread Maker Lisa Ziebarth
- ⇒ Communion Server Dale & Angela Bohnert
- ⇒ Ushers Leonard Juairé
- ⇒ Greeters Connie Juairé
- ⇒ Reader & Prayers Dale Bohnert
- ⇒ Pianist Betty Lou Oppegard
- ⇒ Fellowship Connie Juairé
- ⇒ Special Music Carl Warren

Looking Ahead at HOPE	
Monday July 9 th	12:30 - Communication Ministry Meeting 6:30 – HOPE vs St. Bridget's – Hoffman Field #1 7:00 – Worship Ministry Meeting
Wednesday July 11 th	9:00 – Strings of HOPE 6:30 – Worship Without Walls
Thursday July 12 th	9:00 – VBS Planning Meeting
Friday July 13 th	All day – Pastor's Sabbath
Sunday July 15 th	9:30 – Sunday Worship



July 23rd & 24th – Don't forget to sign up to have your picture taken for our 2018 Directory. This is a great opportunity to have a family portrait taken! Go to HOPE's site at <http://www.hopelutheranrf.com> and click on the link in "Special Announcements" to set up your appointment for your family's portrait. Pets are welcome!



Worship Without Walls
5:00-7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 11th



This week Worship Without Walls will meet at First Church, 110 N 3rd, River Falls, for an evening of *Bluegrass, Blues and BBQ!* Featuring Chris & Ari Silver with Collin Cosgrove and Heath Loy. Bring a lawn chair. Food is available for purchase. In case of rain, the event will be held indoors.



Meal Train

As Ed Paulson continues his rehab and recovery from surgery, we have an opportunity to help out. If you are interested in providing a meal use the Meal Train link below.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/710yrn>



HOPE's Summer Softball Schedule

Date	Time and Teams	Field
July 9 th	6:30 – St. Bridget's vs HOPE Lutheran	Hoffman #1
July 16 th	6:30 – HOPE Lutheran vs Christ Center	Hoffman#1
July 23 rd	6:30 – HOPE Lutheran vs Servant of the Shepherd	Hoffman #1
July 30 th	7:45 – UCC River Falls vs HOPE Lutheran	Hoffman#1
August 6 th	6:30 – HOPE Lutheran vs First Covenant	Hoffman #1



HOPE's Email Prayer Chain

HOPE's prayer chain is open to any and all who want to participate. If you have a prayer request, a concern, or a celebration please email me at sarahbondhus@gmail.com.

I will forward your prayer to the email pray-er participants.

This Week At HOPE - July 9, 2018



GOD'S GOOD CREATION at HOPE

VBS August 13 - 16

We look forward to gathering together Monday, August 13 - Thursday the 16th for a time of discovering new things about God's good creation and ourselves.

With creation as a theme we will have live animals on site.

We will also be receiving a daily offering which will be directed to God's Global Barnyard.

Participants of **God's Good Creation** will help determine what animals will be purchased for a family in need.

Children who have completed **K- 5th grade** are invited to join us for this time of faith formation.

We will meet at HOPE in the morning from 9:00 - 11:15.

Hymns & Hops



With
HOPE



Rush River Brewery

990 Antler Court Rivers Falls

7PM Thursday, July 12

7PM Wednesday, August 8

Outdoor sing-a-long, bring a lawn chair



BISHOP LAURIE SKOW-ANDERSON'S INSTALLATION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018 2:00 P.M.

BETHEL HIGHLANDS 504 FRONTAGE RD. HUDSON, WI 54016

Reception on site to follow

All are welcome! If you wish to attend please RSVP to Liz Bartsch at 715-859-6810 or lbartsch@nswi.org



Women of the ELCA
St. Croix Valley Conference
2018 Summer Retreat

“Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!” Psalm 150:6

Leanne Waterworth, is a published author and speaker. Her book, "Just Breathe, Choosing Joy, One Breath at a Time", is the inspiring story of her family's journey through disease and tragedy. Through their faith in God and support of a strong, loving community, you'll be moved to hear how they overcome and continue to be thankful, choosing joy, even in the midst of the most difficult circumstances. She also is an advocate for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Leanne likes to fish, travel, and garden. Her passion is to help others see God in the real stuff of life. She also blogs about her faith and surviving motherhood at leannewaterworth.com Join with women from around our conference for a refreshing morning of inspiration, learning, fellowship, and fun.



**Thursday, July 19, 2018
Bethany Lutheran Church
415 Bridge Avenue, Star Prairie
Registration from 8:15—8:45am
Cost \$5 at the door**



July Birthdays



Name	Date
Nathan Rahn	2-Jul
Sarah Bailey	4-Jul
Janet Gerber	7-Jul
Bill Warner	7-Jul
Danielle Tokheim	15-Jul
Betty Lou Oppegard	16-Jul
William Berndt	18-Jul
Luke Stang	18-Jul
Jeff Rotsaert	21-Jul
Jon Filarsky	21-Jul
Joseph McIntosh	25-Jul
Robert Perkins-McIntosh	26-Jul
Steve Leitch	28-Jul
Jed Reiten	28-Jul
Taylor Heinselman	30-Jul
Aaron Robinson	31-Jul

July Baptisms

- Henry Bailey
- Will Bohnert
- Alyssa Boock
- Andrea Boock
- Cole Frisch
- Kendra Lesmeister
- Milo Oppegard
- Carol Poff
- Elizabeth Rodewald
- Eric Rodewald
- Hunter Rodewald
- Maxwell Rotsaert
- Douglas Rudesill
- Julia Rydberg
- Julie Schmidt
- Spencer Ziebarth



HOPE HELPS SPONSOR AUGUST FREE SCHOOL SUPPLY EVENT

It's time again to make plans for helping 300 to 400 students prepare to start school with the proper school supplies and new tennis shoes. The event is held on August 6th and August 7th at the First Congregational church.

HOPE members have two opportunities to participate: Purchase items in need as listed on the poster at HOPE and leave them in the container at entry area of HOPE or at First Congregational church by 10 a.m. on Monday, August 6th; Sign up to help with the organization of supplies and the distribution to students. We need to have 3 members help on Monday morning, 3 to help with distribution Monday afternoon and 3 for Tuesday morning.

Your support is needed to make this annual event a success again. This is a community effort that assists families in financial need. If you have questions, contact Dick Jackson (member of HOPE's Mission Ministry, a sponsor) at 651-269-3791 or rljacksn@comcast.net.

Sign-up sheets will be on the table at HOPE. This is a fun activity working with other River Falls citizens and helping students individually to find their needed supplies and shoes for the next school year.

If you would like to know more about what's happening at HOPE please contact the office. Olive will be happy to send you Ministry Reports, Council Minutes and Financial Reports.