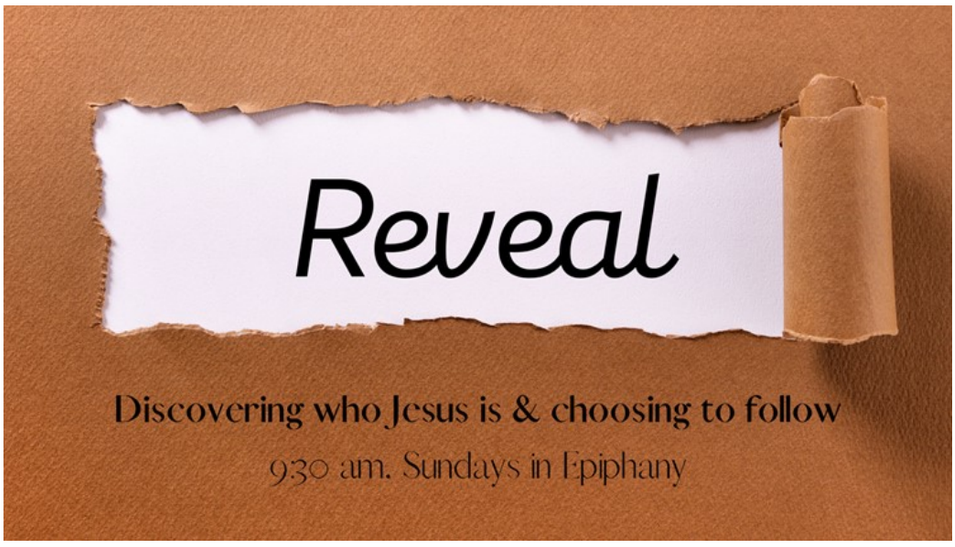
This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021



On this Inauguration Day in our country, we are reminded that one of the ways we confess God can be revealed in our world is through our governmental structures. Romans 13 reminds us of this:
Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Please join me in this prayer for our country, its leaders, and all of its people today:

Holy Trinity, one God, show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Crist, our sovereign and our Savior. Amen.
(taken from ELW "Additional Prayer: Civic Life, Government, Nations, p.77).

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

Jan. 24, 2021 HOPE Annual Meeting Zoom Instructions:

Everything You Need to Know

This year our Annual Meeting will happen virtually through the Zoom platform (room open at 10:30, meeting begins at 10:45).

There are 4 method options: Dial-In, Zoom Video Call, Dial-In from church parking lot with paper ballot or in-person at church with paper ballot (THIS IS LIMITED ONLY TO PEOPLE WHO CANNOT NAVIGATE VIDEO/CALLING OPTIONS AND WANT TO VOTE. Limited to 7 people). Video is most popular, but the dial-in feature is available for those who prefer to not download a new app or figure out this technology.

1. METHOD 1: A DIAL-IN OPTION- you do not have to use the video call feature. Features will be limited on the dial-in option, but it will work from either a landline or cellphone and if using this method, you DO NOT need to download the app. You will call the dial in number, and then enter the meeting ID and password (followed by #).

    a. Dial-in number: +1 312 626 6799

    b. Meeting ID: 810 0975 8208

    Passcode: 730253

    c. For those calling into Zoom (without a computer/smartphone)

        i. We request you to mute your line on your end (tap microphone icon)

        ii. Break in with questions as you see appropriate.

        iii. If the Moderator needs to mute you, we won't know when to unmute you.

        iv. You will NOT have the ability to vote on the Zoom poll anonymously. To have your votes remain as anonymous as possible, you can text your vote to Keith Getchel (VP) at **651-338-9634**

        v. If you are unsure of how to text while calling, or calling from a landline and want to be able to vote anonymously you will need to utilize the parking lot/in-person option and fill out a paper ballot. If you are not concerned about anonymity, **we can record your voice vote.**

2. METHOD 2: VIDEO ZOOM CALL

a. If you have not already done so, you will need to download Zoom onto your computer, tablet, or smartphone. https://zoom.us/download. We recommend you test this prior to Sunday.

b. You will click on this link and follow prompts to make sure to connect your video and audio options. Do not simply dismiss these pop-up screens!

c. Join Zoom Meeting

    https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81009758208?pwd=V1hQZTJIajRpQTVralo4MXhHVnVhUT09

    Meeting ID: 810 0975 8208

    Passcode: 730253

d. You *should not* have to enter the meeting ID or Passcode, the link should take you directly into the meeting, but if you need these numbers, here they are.

e. Once you are in the meeting, you want to tap on your picture square and select "RENAME" to make sure that your full name is listed (not your device's name/child's name, etc." Look for the 'Rename' option on your Zoom session. If you have multiple voting members using the same device, put both names. Example: Keith and Cara Getschel (*if your wi-fi will accommodate it, you may find it easier for each member to be on their own device).*

    i) Smartphone/tablet users may have to touch their name to reveal options.

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

a. If using more than 1 device/household make sure members are spaced apart so we do not get feedback. It can also be helpful to use the sound in only one device and mute the volume on the 2nd device.

f) Please use video. This visually confirms the members present. If video will not work for you, you will be manually called upon to state your name for the record.

i. The option to turn video on/off is typically in the bottom left of your screen and looks like a video camera.

g) Please keep your microphone on mute, unless you've been given the "the floor" to speak. We need to limit background noise.

i. This option is also in the bottom left of your screen and looks like a microphone.

ii. Moderators will be putting people on mute, if necessary.

h) To "have the floor" you have 2 options:

i. Look for the option to electronically 'raise your hand' by clicking on the participants section and then clicking on your name. A "raise hand" option is available. Moderators will be looking for this and will eventually give you the floor to speak.

ii. If you cannot find this option, simply put your question in the chat feature. Make sure you denote you want the question to go to everyone. Moderators will keep their eyes on the chat also.

i) Zoom participants on a laptop can use the "View Options" to zoom in/out of shared documents to make the documents easier to read or fit your screen better.

j) Smartphone/tablet users may need to swipe left/right to see all features. Look for "…" or "more" options.

k) We will utilize the Zoom polling feature for our voting process. A screen will simply pop up on your end and you will answer the question. Your vote is anonymous. Results will then be shared with you.

l) Jeff Rodewald will be sharing his screen at various points so we can all look at the same documents, but we recommend you have your annual report in front of you as well.

m) For voting members who are sharing a Zoom session: Polling questions will be asked multiple times. The 1st time it's asked, one voting member replies. The 2nd time it's asked, the next voting member replies. Etc.

3. METHOD 3: Dial In from the HOPE parking lot. Follow dial-in instructions listed above. A paper ballot will be brought to you for voting.
4. METHOD 4: Limited, masked, socially distanced, in-person attendance at HOPE. Reserved to 7 people. Paper ballots will be issued.
5. The Zoom call will be recorded for official records.
6. Whether via video or phone, please state your name prior to speaking to aid Alyssa's minute-taking.
7. Alyssa Boock (Secretary) will take attendance and record minutes. We appreciate your patience as we take attendance in this new format.
8. Keith Getshel (VP) and Pastor Annie will serve as Zoom moderators.
9. **Meeting will open at 10:30 and begin at 10:45 on Sunday, January 24, 2021.**

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

HOPE Lutheran 2021 Vice President Election

This year at the Annual Meeting (January 24, 10:30 Zoom opens, 10:45 meeting) HOPE members will need to vote for our Vice President. We have 2 candidates that are interested in this position. Please review this information and be ready to attend and vote on January 24.

Our Vice President candidates were asked these 2 questions

Name 1-3 things that excite you about what God is doing in our congregation right now.
Name 1-3 hopes you have for our congregation in the year ahead.

Here are their responses:

From Nancy Sailer
Hope Lutheran is being awakened by Pastor Annie's leadership through scripture and program. We are being reminded of God's call to be hopeful, to be open, to wonder and through those things to spread those beliefs in our world. HOPE Lutheran's mission has already served the Lord in so many ways living our New Testament calling.

In 2021 I believe as we wake each day, we can spread those messages to others. It will be evident in our presence and will provide the passion to work harder to reduce inequities, oppression, poverty, and other ills in this world. We will be awake for the journey we are called to take. This is what excites me. We are called to do so much. I believe we are up to that call.

From Ryan Brill
3 things that excite me about what God is doing in our congregation would be:

1. Allowing us the ability to re-think what "church" is and expand our ministry online and in different ways.
2. Having the book study this summer and starting the conversation on how race plays a factor in our ministry.
3. Attending FIN to collaborate with regional congregations to see how we can bring our ministries to meet our congregent's needs.

3 hopes I have for our congregation in the year ahead would be:

1. Expand and fine-tune what our online presence will be even when the pandemic is over. This could be done with the worship committee or communications committee, or if a new committee would be needed to take on A/V systems, social media, and the like.
2. Re-examine and focus our outreach and ministries. Hope was started and based as a ministry based church. I would like to see us define what our part is in the community and region.
3. Continue having the conversations started in FIN to discuss how Hope's ministries can change post-pandemic to meet the needs of people through different platforms and/or in different ways.

Please mark your calendars for
HOPE's Annual Meeting
January 24th at 10:30
Via Zoom

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

ENTERING IN CIVIC DISCUSSION FAITHFULLY

Holding Space Together

Last week, we witnessed unprecedented, heartbreaking, and remarkable times for our country. Perhaps, you were not all together shocked by these events because of the kindling of divisiveness, hateful rhetoric, demonization of one another, and the imposed, though necessary, isolation we have collectively experienced in recent months and years. My heart grieves, and I know yours does too.

People of God, we cannot stick our heads in the sand at this moment. We cannot, in good faith, twist the separation of church and state into a belief that Christians do not have a role in the politics of our world. As scripture, our baptism, and confessional documents convey, we most certainly do.

I believe that part of the important work of the faithful is to engage in these challenging but necessary conversations together. If we cannot engage in them faithfully, respectfully, and lovingly together as siblings in Christ here at HOPE, then we certainly will not be able to do so out in the world. And, I think we can all agree, the world needs people better equipped to have this conversation faithfully, respectfully, and lovingly.

In June of 2020, the ELCA published a social message on this very topic. I commend it to your reading. While all 24 pages of it are helpful, if you have limited time, centering on pages 14-18 will be particularly beneficial. You can access that document and download it for your own study here:

ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy

I also recommend reading Romans 12:9-13:10 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2 to help center our thinking around this topic. And **I invite you to hold space together on this for a series of 4 Sundays in February at 10:45AM via Zoom**. Stay tuned for more information on details about this upcoming opportunity. Join me in this prayer:

Rise up and come to our help, merciful God, for we are in need. We are weighed down with fear, we feel as fragile as the dust from which we came. All that we have known and trusted seems crumbling away. Although this moment has come upon our nation, we trust you have not forgotten your people. So, Holy One, help us to trust in your power above all else. Help us to trust in and cling to your love, your justice, your mercy. Show us your face in this time of trial, remind us of your faithfulness, deliver us from evil, and save us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(prayer adapted from All Creation Sings, prayer for Civic Distress).

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

Our Neighbors' Place

OUR NEIGHBOR'S PLACE ONLINE CASINO NIGHT!

Our Neighbors' Place has moved their annual Casino Night fundraiser to an online format this year.

Starting Mon, Jan 25th, visit our **website** to view the silent auction items. There is a great variety including food, recreation, entertainment, and the always popular director's purse of local gift cards! Truly something for everyone! Bidding will be open from February 1st-6th (closing at 6pm on Feb 6th) with a sneak peak beginning on January 25th.

In addition, 50/50 raffle tickets are now available to purchase, with the drawing being held on February 6th at noon. Purchase at the Day Center (122 West Johnson Street in River Falls - open 10am - 4pm Mon - Fri) or from any ONP Board Member (Thomas Pedersen, Paul Shepherd, Brian Manion, Laura Frost, Jackie Cobian, Kurt Helmrick, Janet Wilson, Liz Swank, Julie Larson, Jane Kelley, or Tanya Franta) or Executive Director Shelly Smith. Ticket prices: $5 for 1 ticket, $20 for 5 tickets.

Proceeds from the silent auction and raffle will support Our Neighbors' Place programming, which includes the Day Center, Clothing Closet, Transitional Housing, and Backpack Program.

Contact Email: programcoordinator@ourneighborsplace.org

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in helping to make our Sunday LIVESTREAM worship possible, we'd love to incorporate your gifts! Pastor Annie is still looking for readers/prayer leaders for the next 4 weeks and we are always open to others willing to learn the A/V technology! Check out THIS GOOGLE DOC to sign-up to help!

HOPE's piano is in need of a new home. Faye Perkins adopted the piano last fall, however now Faye and Joe are in the process of selling their home and we need to find a new home for HOPE's piano. If you are interested in having this beautiful piece of furniture in your home please notify Faye via email at faye.j.perkins@uwrf.edu or you can contact Olive at the church office at hopelutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com or 715-425-9750.

LEAVING A LEGACY WORKSHOP!

The Northwest Synod of WI is hosting a wonderful opportunity to learn how to plan now to make future gifts from your estate that support the work of Jesus. The session is led by Cindy Halverson, Regional Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation. There are 2 date options:

1. Thursday, February 11 6-7:30PM
2. Saturday, February 13 9-10:30AM

For more information and to register go HERE and see the attached flyer!

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

FEBRUARY CONFIRMATION SEEDS OF FAITH ZOOM CLASS:
JESUS & THE GOSPELS!
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10, 6:30-7:15PM

All youth currently engaged in our Seeds of Faith Confirmation ministry are invited to attend this 45 minute Zoom Class on Wednesday, Feb.10 at 6:30PM. This class will help meet 1 of 5 required experiences for “Strength & Growth: Reading the Bible” (see page 17 in your notebook).We’ll spend some time learning and some time just checking in with one another!

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371755500?pwd=Y1M2MkZIL0VkbVFQMW9lRkdxeDhaQT09
Meeting ID: 873 7175 5500

FAITH ADVENTURE ZOOM ACTIVITY!
SUNDAY, JAN. 31 10:45AM

All pre-k through 5th grade children (& families) are invited to a day of winter Faith Adventure fun Sunday, Jan. 31 @ 10:45! Camryn Shea and Pastor Annie will lead a short devo and craft activity as well as a chance to just see each other's smiling faces!!! Be on the look-out the week prior for a FA Bag delivery of supplies you’ll need!
Topic: FAITH ADVENTURES ZOOM ACTIVITY DAY
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84914784354?pwd=U0YzZEFXZnZTWjB2L0k1azh0L2p2UT09
Meeting ID: 849 1478 4354
Passcode: 181741

Coffee & Faithful Conversation

Join Pastor Annie and others every Tuesday morning at 11AM for “Coffee & Faithful Conversation.” This time has proved to be incredibly fruitful as many of us remain socially distanced from others. We spend time each week checking in on one another and engaging a series of faith-based questions/topics as we grow in faith together!

So brew your own cup and join us via Zoom meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/424556345?pwd=TlIRQTlKY1dDdkkvK3RHdnl6a0Jjdz09

Meeting ID: 884 1915 5061

Passcode:593674

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

Please lift up the following people in prayer
Kathy Anderson (Karen Brohaugh's sister-in law)
Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery's)
Kris Miner (Friend of Faye Perkins)
Roger Hammer (Friend of Bill Montgomery)
James Glaubitz
Candy Simpson (Cameron Shea's aunt)
Julie Brill (Ryan's mother)
Barb Grubba (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)
Lee Hill (Friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)
Tim Brill (Ryan's Father)
Duane Hall (friend of the Brohaughs)
Judy Karshbaum
Becky Anderson (Jan Malaney's sister)
Susan Traynor (Friend of Kathy Scott)
Carol Moenke
Gary Siebold
Oak Reile (Nancy Sailer's Cousin)
David Hendrickson
Kelly Brenna Luckey (friend of Lisa Ziebarth)
Jim and Ila June Pratt
Bud Ziebarth (Mark's father)
Jerry Brandt
Lisa Sigfrids (relative of the Boocks)
Jon Boyce
Jay and Jeri Jorgenson (friends of the Bohnerts)
Marilyn & Fred Schmidt (Darcy Boock's sister-in-law)
Steve & Beth Pugh (friends of Karen & Jeff Rodewald)
Rod Cina (son of Mary Solum)

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

Gorden Hedahl	2-Jan
Kenna Frisch	6-Jan
Katherine (Klacan) Schilling	11-Jan
Camryn Shea	11-Jan
Kaye Anderson	12-Jan
Mary Thompson	13-Jan
Jan Malaney	15-Jan
Connie Juaire	16-Jan
Samantha Brill	18-Jan
Owen Bailey	18-Jan
Sydney Wolfe	19-Jan
Sarah Parks	20-Jan
Lexy Getschel	21-Jan
Mason Shea	21-Jan
Makayla Ziebarth	23-Jan
Andrew Parks	24-Jan
Amanda Ziebarth	28-Jan
Jeremy Wolfe	31-Jan

Gregg Heinselman
Mark Bondhus
Wendy Tokheim
Lisa Ryland
Karen Rodewald
Greta Wunrow

This Week at HOPE January 20, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

Holy Communion in the Time of Pandemic

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes…
For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body
eats and drinks judgment on himself…
So then, my brothers when you come together to eat, wait for one another"
1 Corinthians 11:26, 29,33

As we make the difficult, but faithful choice to worship from home in care of our neighbor at this time, we acknowledge that this time is mostly unprecedented. There is no scripture that specifically guides us on how to celebrate the Eucharist during a pandemic! So we lean on a few things to faithfully guide us: what scripture *does* say, how Christian history, our theology, and those who have navigated similar situations in the past can inform us, and where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

For the last few months I have spent time in prayerful consideration and study about how best to move forward with our celebration of Eucharist in the midst of a pandemic. I have listened to the guidance of our synodical and national leadership and wrestled with my own theology of the sacraments. As Lutherans, we confess that it is necessary to be gathered together as the body of Christ to celebrate this Holy Meal. In my ordination vows as a minister of word and sacrament, I promised to nourish God's people with the word and sacraments and to hold the celebration of our sacraments "in good order." In the Lutheran church we have two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. These are always celebrated in the context of our Christian community, except for in the case of an extraordinary circumstance, such as a hospitalization or other crisis. **It is within *this* framework of understanding that I feel we can faithfully move to the celebration of in-home communion while we gather for worship until further notice. This means there will no longer be drive-thru communion during cold months.**

This is absolutely an extraordinary circumstance, and as we enter our ninth month of pandemic living, we are called to make some extraordinary adaptations. As we do so, we trust that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is faithfully present with us across time and space to unite us from our many tables into one body with Him. We trust that God welcomes and affirms any attempt of ours to gather in Christ's name to worship and glorify our creator and redeemer. We trust that God IS present, through the work of the Holy Spirit, in our online spaces. Christ *does* join us as we livestream on YouTube or share in holy conversation via Zoom, or learn together via webinars. That is just as equally holy space, as our physical sanctuary. And we also acknowledge this is an extraordinary way to celebrate the Eucharist in an extraordinary time, **so in faithful hope, we commit to our return to one table together when it is safe to do so, marking that we are *not* normally called to celebrate communion, apart.**

PASTOR ANNIE INVITES YOU TO:

1. Make preparations for the celebration of Holy Communion from your at-home worship space. *This means, not waiting until Sunday morning, but engaging in a spiritual practice of giving this thought ahead of time*. If you need to purchase something, please do.
2. Please have *actual* bread or crackers ready.
3. Please have *actual* wine or fruit juice ready.
4. Please remember this is a holy meal, so we eat of the bread and drink of the cup in reverence, remembering the night in which he was betrayed…
5. At the appropriate time in the livestreamed worship, lift up the elements with Pastor Annie during the celebration of the Lord's Supper. If gathered with others, serve one another the bread and wine. If gathered solo, know that your Christian community celebrates this meal with you in Spirit.
6. If you still prefer an in-home communion visit from your pastor, I am happy to do so (distanced and masked). Do not hesitate to make this request!

Now, come to the banquet, for all is now ready!