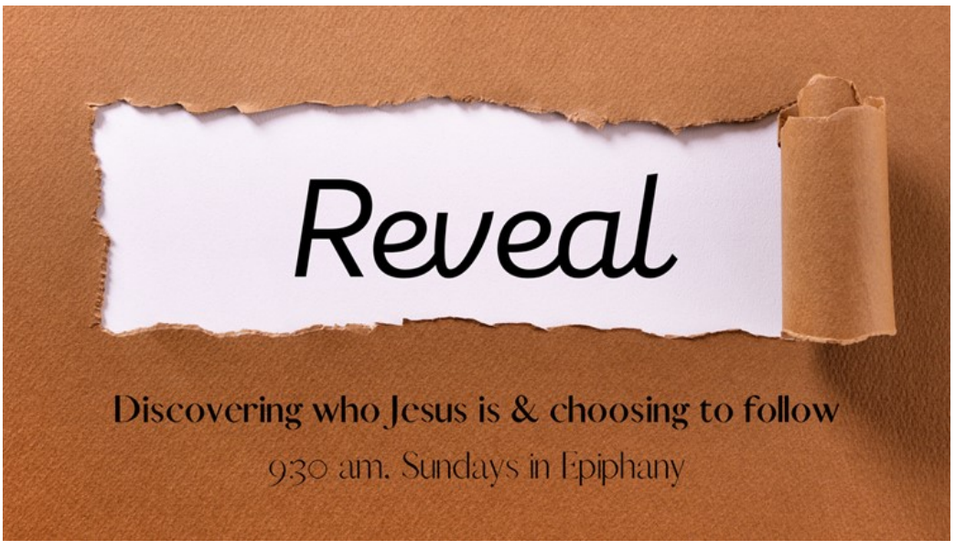
This Week at HOPE January 27, 2021



CENTERING ON GOD'S WORD

As we continue to discover how God is revealed through Jesus Christ this Epiphany, we acknowledge that one such way is through being steeped in Holy Scripture. In preparing to join in worship again this Sunday, take a moment to read over Sunday's scripture texts (you can find the full text in your attached At Home Bulletin):

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

As you read through these texts:

1. What do you notice?
2. What do you wonder about?
3. What does it call you or us to?

Lord, speak to us, for your servants are listening. Amen.

This Week at HOPE January 27, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

Where should I get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

Local Health Care Provider

Many providers in the area have vaccine. Please contact your healthcare provider first.

Organization and location	Websites	Phone Numbers
Allina Health River Falls	https://www.allinahealth.org/	715-307-6600
Hudson Physicians Hudson	https://hudsonphysicians.com/	715-531-6800
Mayo Clinic Red Wing	MN Vaccine Scheduling Website: https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/index.jsp	651-267-5000
Stillwater Medical Group Stillwater	MN Vaccine Scheduling Website: https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/index.jsp	651-439-1234
Vibrant Health River Falls	https://www.vibranthealthclinics.com/	715-425-6701
Western Wisconsin Health Baldwin	https://www.wwhealth.org/	715-684-1111
Westfield Hospital & Clinic New Richmond	https://www.westfieldshospital.com/	715-243-3400

Pierce County Public Health

Clinics are targeted for people over the age of 65 who are unable to get a vaccine through their regular doctor.

Make an Appointment

Online: https://piercecountycovid19vaccine.as.me/
or Call: 715-307-9567 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM

PIERCE COUNTY Public Health

This Week at HOPE January 27, 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.

Food Pantry Sunday– February 7th

We welcome your gifts of non perishable food items, and of cash or checks that will be multiplied by 5 in purchasing power for the Food Pantry.

This Week at HOPE January 27, 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 27, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

Bakken-Young
Funeral & Cremation Services

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services sponsors a virtual six-week grief support group for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. We ask that you participate in all 6 sessions, if possible.

Bakken-Young Grief Support Group meets
Mondays, 6:00-7:00pm
Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 2021

This group will meet via Zoom meetings.

Anyone is welcome to participate in the group and the sessions are free.

Group Facilitator:
Julia Rajtar, M.A.P.S., BCC, Grief Support Specialist
Bakken-Young Grief Support Coordinator

To register please rsvp by Jan. 24, with your name, phone number and email at: julia.rajtar@bakken-young.com
For more information, call or text Julia at 715-781-4003.

Visit "Grief Support" at www.bakken-young.com
for additional groups and other grief support resources
or join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bakkenyoung

This Week at HOPE January 27, 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 have sold their house and will be moving on March 15th. 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 27, 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 27, 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)
Barb Grubba (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)
Lee Hill (Friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)
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 27, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN
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February Birthdays

Name	Birth Date
Bill Montgomery	04-Feb
Gwen Paulson	05-Feb
Susie Rudesill	05-Feb
Lisa Ziebarth	07-Feb
Michelle Hansen	10-Feb
Kyle Rudesill	10-Feb
Teresa Ginn	11-Feb
Connie Kurten	11-Feb
Dan Wunrow	15-Feb
Mischa Carlson	15-Feb
Ryan Leitch	19-Feb
Diane Clark	20-Feb
Paul Perkins-McIntosh	21-Feb
Nikida Sandberg	22-Feb
Ryan Brill	23-Feb
Charles Eaton	24-Feb
Richard Jackson	25-Feb
Rosemary Nelson	25-Feb
Michael Hansen	26-Feb
Eric Rydland	27-Feb
Meghan Malaney	27-Feb
Darcy Boock	28-Feb
Craig Olson	28-Feb
Jody Rahn	28-Feb

February Baptisms

Cecelia Bernard
Grete Rebein

This Week at HOPE January 27, 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!