This Week at HOPE December 1, 2021

HOPE LUTHERAN

Hope Journeys Forward

Nancy's Story

In this season of giving, we, at HOPE, are thinking about what gifts we will share with those we love and care for as well as the gifts of HOPE Lutheran. I want to start with the beginning of our church. It was formed by members who had a vision—a vision of a church led by Jesus' example. It would be a church that would be inclusive. That dream is demonstrated by the mission statement we read each Sunday when our service begins. This welcoming church would spread HOPE.

Two weeks ago Steve Leitch shared his Spreading Hope story. He talked about how members welcomed his son and his son's husband at a baptism service here. As Jesus would have embraced them, so, too, did members leaving a lasting impact on a man who isn't always welcomed.

Being a member here at HOPE has given me spiritual nurturing along with a community who believe in our call as Christians. Believers can be hopeful. Because, like everyone; each of us has doubts, uncertainty, challenges, questions, and times when we can't get beyond ourselves.

Paul reminds the Romans that God fills us with joy and peace. All WE have to do is trust in Him. In return we will have an abundance of hope given by the Holy Spirit.

I witness how hope is spread within our HOPE community when someone writes a note to a shut-in, delivers an education kit to a young family during a pandemic, sets up the electronics required so we can gather for worship or have a meeting via ZOOM or YouTube, sits around a campfire enjoying each other, organizes a luminaria hike, helps clean the church, or provides a devotional booklet for lent. None of these is an insignificant act. These are hopeful acts.

The biggest blessing is when hope is spread. It might be when we collect food for the food pantry or prepare a meal for Grace place It's when we say a prayer for someone. It's when children find their voice in church and we welcome that. When the pandemic raged, Pastor Annie learned how to Zoom and found new ways to reach our members. In this way we are shepherded—given hope.

We are blessed!

This week you received a letter from our Stewardship Team and a digital Covenant Cared. As you think about what you'll do in 2022, contemplate how HOPE has grown in ways to connect and nurture us in faith, how you have been given hope. Remember how HOPE has and needs to reach beyond these walls to support those in River Falls or Malawi or in hurricane-stricken areas of our country. Live generously.

My vision is a HOPE that continues to grow, to expand our mission, and to welcome all people. The Holy Spirit has moved in us. We are called to share joy, love, care and HOPE!

Please respond on or before December 12 so our leadership team has a clear picture of how to build a budget that supports new and existing ministries. Envision ways to grow, to spread Hope in our world. Make your covenant a tangible sign that we can do more. Because by knowing what our annual gifts will be we can be thoughtful. Thank you for living generously and answering God's call.

Nancy Sailer

HOPE LUTHERAN
Hope Journeys Forward

3337 Kingsbarn Ave. River Falls, WI 54022 Phone 715-425-9750

November 23, 2021

Dear HOPE family:

Paul wrote to those he was ministering to in Rome: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:13) Jesus calls for us into a relationship with Him, and our world that is filled with hope. Giving becomes a cheerful, enthusiastic, and grateful expression of our relationship with Jesus that shares our hope with others!

The ministries of HOPE Lutheran are active and diverse, and include:

- education for children and adults,
- support of non-profit organizations locally and beyond, that aid people in need,
- caring for our building, land and the Winds of the Spirit space,
- preparing and sharing meaningful worship.

We are partners in our community and neighborhood, and we spread hope within and beyond our doors. It is your support that makes this possible.

How has hope been shared with you? What are some ways in which you have spread hope? What do you envision for HOPE's ministries in the upcoming year? Your gifts help change those visions into tangible projects of hope by HOPE. Therefore, we ask that you thoughtfully consider a pledge during this 2021 Stewardship season of "Spreading Hope." Simply click on this link https://forms.gle/qADVhSnih8QT6w1W8 to fill out your Covenant card.

Live a generous life through giving and engagement! We invite you to continue to spread hope when and where you feel called.

In faith and with hope,

Pastor Annie

Keith Getschel

Steve Leitch

Lynda Meyers

Nancy Sailer

HOPE'S Advent Adventures: Round 2-2021

This Advent season HOPE's Mission team is inviting you to join us in Advent Adventures: Round 2. We are once again taking part in ELCA's Good Gifts opportunities to help in different ways in 88 countries including the USA.

Week 1 – Nov 28–Dec 4—Refugee Emphasis
Please give what you can during this first week of Advent. Whenever you read the word *refugee*, think "Child of God" when you prayerfully choose to help the 13,000 Afghan people now housed at Fort McCoy. Worldwide a $20 gift will feed 10 at a soup kitchen; $50 will feed a refugee family for one week. Please designate where you would like your gift to go.

Week 2 – Dec 5–11—Clinic Visit for a Child—$10

All monies collected during the week will be used to purchase clinic visits for children. In addition, take an ornament from the tree to go along with the clinic visit by purchasing a vaccination for a child ($30).

Week 3 – Dec 12–18—Blankets—$10

All monies collected during the week will be used to purchase blankets for survivors of emergency or natural disasters.

Week 4 – Dec 19–25—Care for Kids—$10

All monies collected during the week will be used to buy a backpack full of food for a child. In addition, take an ornament from the tree to provide school supplies for a child ($10) or school fees and a uniform for a girl ($40).

Week 5 – Dec 26–Jan 2—Bibles—$12

All monies collected during the last week of Christmas will be used to buy Bibles for growing Lutheran churches. Share the Word of God and support God's people.
You do not need to buy a whole item from the above list. You can give whatever monetary gift you would like and we will purchase as many of said item as we can. Partial monies left each week will go to the next. Please do not go out and purchase these items, but provide your money to HOPE earmarked for "Advent refugees", "Advent blanket", Advent backpack of food", "Advent pig", etc.
The children are also collecting money in their Advent Piggy Banks to purchase animals for God's Global Barnyard. You can help them by selecting an animal ornament from the tree and donating the amount needed for said purchase. Chicks are $10, roosters $15, honey bees $20, piglets $30, goats $50. Take these cute ornaments home and hang them on your tree.

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Hope is scheduled to provide a meal to Grace Place on December 28, the last Tuesday in December. We make five meals a year for the people there, roughly one every other month. In the past I have used a sign-up sheet for volunteers to make dishes for the meals. The last two years have made this arrangement difficult and I would like to try something different.

If you are interested in making a dish or driving the meal to New Richmond this month, let me know by phone or email. In any case if you would be interested in doing so in future months, also let me know and I will send you the Grace Place schedule for next year (as soon as I have it) and a reminder before the meals. I do plan to keep using the sign-up sheets as well.

Grace Place is a homeless shelter for families and single individuals in New Richmond, run by the Salvation Army. The average number of people there is about 40 but especially in the winter it can go higher.

Margaret Anderson (715-425-2792, mgande@comcast.net)

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Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is having a difficult time finding someone to accept nomination for the Secretary or Vice President position on Church Council. If you have an interest to serve in one of these positions or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Ryan Brill at (920)627-3941 or at brillry@gmail.com.

Season of Advent - Pick Up Your Devotionals

Advent begins November 28. In preparation for the birth of Christ, prepare your minds by reading weekly devotions, and daily verses or prayers from the Advent calendars. Choose one devotional *Advent Study* booklet per family and one or two (please choose two different ones) Advent calendars from the table inside the sanctuary. Then check your name off the list provided, so we know which families have received them. If you wish, stop by the little tree near the door and select a Good Gifts ornament to take home and hang on your tree. Rather than sending the money in on your own, submit it to HOPE designating it for the item on your ornament. These Good Gifts support ELCA ministries worldwide. If you would like the materials delivered to your home please notify Olive via email at hopelutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com or call her at 715-425-9750.

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NO-BAKE BAKE SALE

Sponsored by Congregation Life

In support of the Backpack Program we are having a NO-BAKE BAKE SALE

Please submit one recipe for an item that you would normally donate to the bake sale. In return you will receive a document with all the recipes that have been submitted in time for your holiday baking.
Your recipe should be submitted to Olive by December 8th

You can make a donation of monies to Olive (if donating by check please put on the memo line Bake Sale) at the HOPE office by December 20th. in return for your donation she will send you a document of all recipes

Direct any questions to Olive at hopelutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com or 715-425-9750.

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GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
RIVER FALLS FOOD PANTRY!

Every $1 donation equals $5 of food purchase power!
IT'S MAGIC!

GRUMPY OLD MEN FOOD DRIVE

Rick Bowen and Craig Miles are continuing the "Grumpy Old Men" legacy and will be holding the food drive in person on Tuesday, November 30th from 9 am to 6 pm at Veteran's Park. There is also a promotion online for monetary donations on November 29th and 30th.

DONATIONS NEEDED (current special needs underlined)

Meal kits that include all the ingredients
Pancake or muffin mix that only requires water
Canned soups, pasta, and meat
Baking supplies (flour, sugar, oil, shortening, baking soda/powder, vanilla extract)
Seasonings of all kinds (garlic, pepper, salt, chili powder)
Rice and beans
Cereal
Feminine hygiene products
Baby diapers and wipes
Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue)

Salad Dressing

Pet Food

Donations Can be Dropped Off at Side Door of Food Pantry When Open (not open Nov. 25th and 26th)

Monday:	10 am -12 pm & 6- 7:30 pm
Wednesday:	1-5 pm
Thursday:	6-7:30 pm
Friday:	10-12 noon
Saturday	10 am – 12 pm

To donate cash online via HOPE: http://www.hopelutheranrf.com/giveonline/ and select River Falls Food Pantry or mail/drop off a check with "Food Pantry" in the memo line to Hope.

RFC Food Pantry Contacts: phone: 715-425-6880, **email:** info@rfcfp.org, webpage: www.rfcfp.org, **physical location:** 705 st. croix st., river falls, wi 54022, **mailing address:** po box 341, river falls, wi 54022

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Dear HOPE,

As we get into the swing of indoor worship, please remember that our Ministry Council is requiring that ALL worshipers wear masks before, during, and after the service. The only exception is for the worship leaders or those making announcements - while they are up front. You may also drop your mask for taking communion from your seats. Remember to thank your friends if they happen to need to remind you. I appreciate your attention to this detail as we try our best to protect our whole faith community.

Sincerely,
Keith Getschel
HOPE President

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FREE COFFEE CONCERTS

The UWRF Music Department hosts coffee concerts throughout the year. All concerts are held at noon in the William Abbott Concert Hall located in the Fine Arts Building., are FREE and open to the public.

November 19

Dan Chouinard, accordion (Prairie Home Companion) & Bill Chouinard, organ

December 3

Mark Billy, MN Opera Vocalist with Dennis Evstuhin, piano

December 10

St. Croix Trio: Natalia Moiseeva, violin, Tanya Remenikova, cello &
Ivan Konev, piano

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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFO FOR WEDNESDAYS @ HOPE THIS WEEK!

We have had an AWESOME beginning to our year together in Faith Adventures and Confirmation! We have been blessed by beautiful weather so far, allowing us to safely meet outdoors. It's looking like this Wednesday will be cooler and rainy, so we will likely need to move our activities indoors.

OUR CURRENT POLICY REQUIRES MASKS WHEN INDOORS AT HOPE. So, please make sure your child brings their mask and wears it over their nose and mouth during our time together. We plan for our FA kids to be in the main sanctuary area and our smaller confirmation group will meet in Eidskog with windows open for ventilation during the overlapping time with FA. We really appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping our youngest saints safe at this time. **In the event the rain stops, we will try to be outside, so please dress for the weather.**

On Wednesday evenings our K-10th grade youth meet for worship, learning, service projects, and activities!

Our weekly schedule is:

6:00-6:30 Opening Worship and Theme Intro

6:30-7:00 Faith Adventures (pre-K-5th Grade children)

6:30-7:30 Confirmation Ministry (6th-9th grade,

Farm Fresh Eggs!

Help support our youth going to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July, 2022.

Eggs are raised at Jeff & Karen Rodewald's with a suggested donation of $3/dozen.

They are located just inside the church with a donation jug sitting next to them. 100% of your donation will go to help defray expenses in sending our youth to this amazing event!

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Please lift up the following people in prayer

Barb & Ray McIntosh (Joe McIntosh's parents)
Gordon Hendrickson (Mary Thompson's brother)
Boyd Huppert (Rodewald family member)
Keith Brill (Ryan's grandfather)
Family of Darcy Livingston (Naomi & Jerry Brand's Daughter)
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)
Jean Loudon and Family
Mary Thompson and Family
Tom Roycraft (Grant Klacan's Father-in-Law)
Katie Drablos (cousin of Linda Jacobson)
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)
Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)
Kris Miner (Friend of Faye Perkins)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)
Duane Hall (friend of the Brohaughs)
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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December Baptisms

Phillip Klacan
Kristin Eaton
Kari Heinselman
Pastor Annie Ladnier
Robert Perkins-McIntosh
Sawyer Filarsky
Lindsay Getschel

December Birthdays

Kaija Warner	1-Dec
Zoe Tokheim	2-Dec
Alexis Rehbein	3-Dec
Dale Bohnert	5-Dec
Mark Bondhus	5-Dec
Wendy Tokheim	11-Dec
Kathleen Berndt	13-Dec
Luke Filarsky	15-Dec
Sara Filarsky	15-Dec
Tyson Tokheim	15-Dec
Karen Hamilton	17-Dec
Grete Rehbein	17-Dec
Gary Siebold	26-Dec
Alyssa Boock	27-Dec
Elizabeth Hansen	27-Dec
Cameron Leitch	27-Dec
Ella Wolfe	29-Dec
Hazel Ladnier	30-Dec

December Anniversaries	Date	Years to Celebrate
Edward & Gwen Paulson	26-Dec	56
Gregg & Kari Heinselman	27-Dec	35
Ross & Tessa VanOverbeke	31-Dec	16

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HOPE Indoor Worship During Covid

1. Masks will be required, regardless of Covid vaccination status.
2. Over the last year plus we were served very well by having a matrix that our wonderful 'Covid subcommittee' put together. Similarly, we are going to follow a matrix by St. Croix County for our mask wearing recommendation.
    - Follow: https://infogram.com/st-croix-county-covid-19-dashboard-1h9j6qggxzn754g?live
    - See the "Current Level of Community Transmission" rate near the bottom of that page.
    - Follow the "fully vaccinated" line.
    - As of last week, we are still in the "High" category.
3. Anyone who is not vaccinated, though eligible, we kindly ask to worship from home for now. Our services will continue to be broadcast via YouTube. We believe this is the safest path for children and other high risk groups.
    - We will never ask about vaccination status.
4. If you are having any Covid style symptoms we kindly ask you to worship from home that week.
5. No registration will be needed to attend service.
6. We ask that you follow spacing guidelines within the church. 6ft between family units.
7. Singing will be allowed, while still masked.
    - Worship leaders can choose for themselves whether to be masked or not.
    - Congregation will be 12-15ft back from worship leaders.
    - We may do less singing.
8. Service attendees will pick up communion elements when they arrive at service. Communion will be taken from your seats.
9. The Property Ministry will be setting up an air quality check inside the church.
10. We will address Christmas services as we get closer to Christmas.
11. This process will continually be assessed by Council. If you have comments, please contact anyone on the Executive Committee: Keith Getschel, Ryan Brill, Alyssa Boock, and/or Ryan Leitch.