



Lessons from a Winter Rose

I am dumbfounded
by the sheer persistence
of a winter rose
that blooms
on the coldest of days—
when the rest of the world
has turned dim and gray,
when the rest of the world is sleeping.

The audacity
to stand so tall,
to decorate the world with color,
to be the only one
brave enough
to bloom.
I wonder what that's like.

Maybe it's similar
to pouring perfume
on the feet of Jesus—
shocking and beautiful
at the same time.

On winter morning walks
I pass a bed of roses.
I dare not pick one.
Instead I say thank you.
Thank you for the beauty.
Thank you for the reminder.
Thank you for the bloom.
And I walk home and pray—
God, if you can,
make me that brave.

As you reflect on this poem, what images draw your attention?
Read John 12:1-8.

What connections can you make?

When have you experienced beauty in the face of death or tragedy?

What sources of beauty sustain you now? Lift them up in prayer.

This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



Tools to Help “Fill You to the Brim”

1. For your listening pleasure during daily devotions, on walks, drives, or whenever: Spotify Playlist for Full to the Brim: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FfRMbGJRTmrpzklUcJQ8R?si=157a93dc66f44850>
2. Full to the Brim Daily Devotional- printed copies are available at the back table at HOPE, pick up any time! A Digital Copy is available on our [website](#) (but you will have to pay attention to formatting).
3. A Reflective Assessment Tool to help you set some Lenten intentions (available for pick-up at HOPE, available on the [website](#)).



OUR FINAL LENTEN MIDWEEK IN-PERSON & ZOOM WORSHIP!!!

This Wednesday, April 6th!

Wednesdays in Lent: Filling Wiley’s Wardrobe from Full Tables!

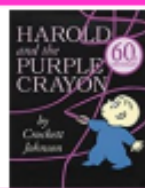
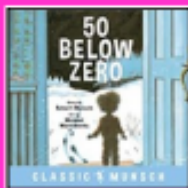
Weekly worship with music, relationship building, and a service project focus! This family-friendly midweek HYBRID Worship experience is for everyone! Join us IN-PERSON OR VIA [ZOOM](#) for a brief time of worship centered on building our relationships to God and one another, filling us to the brim so that we spill over in love for our neighbor! Learn how we are supporting the River Falls High School's "Wiley's Wardrobe" project each week!



40 Days of Lent

Wiley's
Wardrobe

River Falls
High School



Week 1

March
2 – 12

Hats | Gloves/Mittens | Mechanical Pencils | Pens | Colored Pencils | Fine Line Markers | Notebooks | Folders

Week 2

March 14 – 19



Briefs/Boxers – Guys XS – XXL
Bikini Cut/Briefs – Gals XS – XXL

Ankle or Low Cut Socks for Guys and Gals

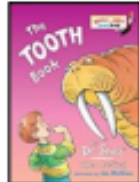


Week 3

March 21 – 26

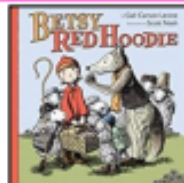
Week 4

March 28 – April 2



Toothbrushes | Toothpaste | Ponytail Holders
Shampoo | Conditioner | Body Wash
Deodorant | Feminine Hygiene Products

T-Shirts | Long-Sleeved T-Shirts | Hoodies
Sweatshirts | Pants/Jeans | Joggers



Week 5

April 4 – 9

Week 6

April 11 – 16



Granola/Protein Bars | Applesauce | Beef Jerky
Instant Oatmeal | Mac 'n Cheese Cups |
Ramen Noodles/Microwavable Soup Cups
Juice Boxes | Water | Peanut Butter & Crackers



HOPE's Easter Garden

HOPE is planning to display an Easter Garden around the altar on Easter morning. If you would like to donate plants or flowers to the Garden, please drop yours off on the church kitchen island anytime from Palm Sunday (April 10) to Easter Saturday (April 16) at 9:00 am. We will be building our Garden at 9:00 am Saturday morning. Olive will check all plants and flowers that may need watering while she's in the office (through Wednesday). There will also be a sign-in sheet on the kitchen island. You can donate your Garden gift to be in celebration and/or in memory of loved ones.

JOIN US THIS EASTER SEASON

Palm Sunday Service: April 10, 9:30AM

Maundy Thursday Service: April 14, 6:30PM

Good Friday Service: April 15, 6:30PM

Easter Day Services: April 17

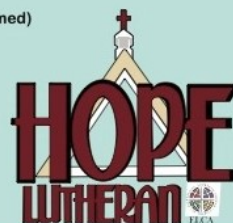
sunrise outdoor service 7AM (not streamed)

indoor 9:30AM

*masks are optional for in person worship

virtual services available via our Youtube Channel
visit our website for more information

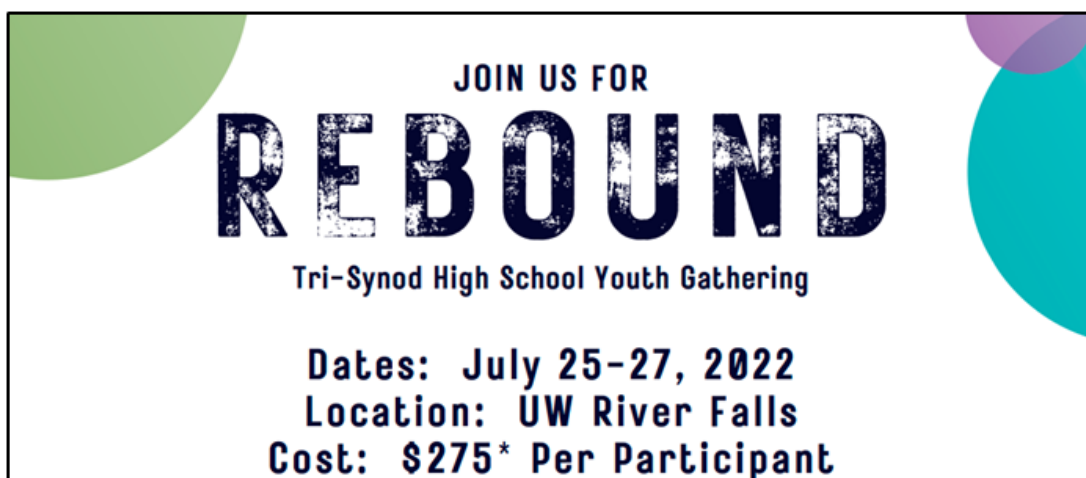
www.hopelutheranrf.com



This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



April 20th	Cross Gen Night on Mission Partners in Malawi!	OPEN TO WHOLE CONGREGATION
April 27th	All About Holy Communion Lesson 1	Learning geared for both age groups
May 4	All About Holy Communion Lesson 2 (with bread baking!)	Learning geared for both age groups
May 11	MOVIE NIGHT: All ages viewing of <i>Encanto</i>	Wear your jammies, bring blankets/stuffies!
May 18	End of Year Celebration!	Art & mission projects, pizza, Sundae bar, & more fun!



All **CURRENT 8-12TH GRADE YOUTH & FRIENDS** are invited to this fantastic event in lieu of the ELCA Youth Gathering (which was canceled due to Covid complications). A \$100 deposit and medical release form are due to Pastor Annie by **Sunday, MAY 22!** Youth who DID NOT initially sign-up for the Gathering now have the opportunity to attend this event! Youth families should check email for further details!
Individual HOPE member cost will not exceed \$175 (hopefully less)
All youth previously signed up for the ELCA Youth Gathering have already made their deposit, but must verify that you plan to still attend!

A red origami crane is shown in flight, positioned on the left side of the page. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of light circles in shades of white and light green.

God of grace
and peace,
we pray for the people
of Ukraine and Eastern Europe.
Help and heal the wounded,
receive the dying into your embrace,
and comfort those who mourn.
Amen.

Worship Resources for the Eastern Europe Crisis

The Lutheran Disaster Response logo is a circular emblem composed of several colorful triangles (red, blue, green, yellow) arranged in a cross-like pattern. Below the emblem, the words "Lutheran Disaster Response" are written in a small, black, sans-serif font.

This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on February 24, millions of people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

Your gifts will support people impacted by this crisis. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.

HOPE LUTHERAN

BOWLING FOR UKRAINE!

**Sunday, April 10
1-3:00PM
St. Croix Lanes
River Falls, WI**

**FREE Bowling &
Shoe Rental
For ALL Ages!**

**FREWILL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT
LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: EASTERN EUROPEAN CRISIS**

The poster features a yellow background with a central illustration of a bowling ball and pins. The text is in various colors and fonts, including blue and black. The HOPE Lutheran logo is in the top left corner.

Sign-up [HERE](#) to reserve your FREE spot for Bowling for Ukraine!

This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



HOPE's Community Garden

Interested in organic gardening? HOPE Garden has plots available (10'x50' or 10'x25'). Garden Rules are on the HOPE website main page under announcements. If interested, contact psrudesill@gmail.com by April 15th.



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Luther Point Bible Camp, located in Grantsburg, WI has opened their registration! WONDERFUL camp experiences for children, youth, and entire families are available this summer! Day camp options for our youngest friends, half-week overnights, full-week overnights, and some awesome FAMILY/Grandparent Camps too! Jr. High and High School camps also exist and for our 10-12 grade youth, the opportunity to be a camp B.U.D.D.I.E for 2 weeks is also an option! I highly encourage families to check this out!

Afghan Refugee at Camp McCoy

HOPE Mission Ministry is inviting members to support Afghan refugees from Camp McCoy with a special financial donation on the third Sundays of February, March and April.. Because of the lack of public transportation and our geographical location, it will not be possible for River Falls agencies to resettle any Afghan neighbors in River Falls. However through the agencies of Lutheran Refugee Immigration Services (LIRS) and Lutheran Social Services, our gifts will go directly to support refugees being resettled in Eau Claire with personal needs including dental care.

Thank you for your hospitality and generosity.



EARTH FEST 2022

PART OF EARTH MONTH:
A SERIES OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT APRIL

SUNDAY
APRIL 24
2-5 PM

"THE EARTH IS WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON." - WENDELL BERRY

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENT TO CELEBRATE OUR PAST/CURRENT/FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS AND INSPIRE ONGOING CLIMATE ACTION

STAY TUNED FOR FORTHCOMING SCHEDULE OF EARTH MONTH EVENTS

**GLEN PARK
RIVER FALLS, WI**

FREE EVENT - ALL ARE WELCOME!

MUSIC!

CHRIS SILVER & THE BARLEY JACKS

FOOD!

SAMPLE LOCAL & SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS

ACTIVITIES!

TREE PLANTING, KIDS ACTIVITIES, & MUCH MORE

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

EXHIBITS - DEMONSTRATIONS - ADVOCACY

SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE BOOTH

WELL WATER NITRATE TESTING

BRING A SAMPLE OF YOUR WATER

CLOTHING SWAP

BRING 1-2 GENTLY USED ITEMS TO TRADE



FREE LED BULBS!

*WALK, BIKE, SKATEBOARD,
OR CARPOOL & RECEIVE A
LIGHTBULB!*



FREE TREES!

*FIRST 500 IN ATTENDANCE
TAKE HOME A
SAPLING!*



Volunteer Opportunity! Earth Fest, a family-friendly sustainability event planned for Sunday, April 24, 2-5pm is in need of volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up and other tasks.

If you are interested please use this Sign Up Genius link <https://tinyurl.com/EarthFestRF2022> to let organizers know.

For more information contact hope4creationRF@gmail.com

This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



CALLING ALL AT-HOME READERS, GREETERS, & PEACE SHARERS!

As we continue to celebrate our new reality of a hybrid faith community we are hoping to engage more of our at-home family! **We are looking for those willing to record the Sunday readings, good morning/welcome greetings, and messages of sharing the peace!** These recordings will be shared in our livestream service! Video recordings are preferred, but audio recordings will also be accepted! Participants can record themselves using their own device or set-up a time to be recorded at HOPE. This is a GREAT way for families with children to participate as well! We'd love to see more of our at-home faith family!

You can [SIGN UP HERE](#) if you are interested! You will be contacted with further instructions!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Did you know that you can volunteer to help with parts of worship **AT ANY TIME!!!**

Use [THIS GOOGLE DOC LINK](#) to sign-up to assist with our in-person worship!

Greeters, readers, communion set-up & servers, acolytes, ushers, Assisting Ministers & coffee fellowship hosts are all needed!

We pray you seriously consider serving your faith family in this way!

COFFEE & CONVERSATION TUESDAYS @ 11AM!

Join with others from HOPE online via [Zoom](#) every week for a time of prayerful sharing and Bible study of our upcoming Sunday scripture texts! All are welcome!

Pastor Annie is back and hopes you join us every Tuesday at 11!

This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Leonard Sylte (Nancy Sailer's uncle)
Thomas & Dawn Wirth (Tessa Van Overbeke's parents)
Sherry Lubich (Jeff Rodewald's aunt)
Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)
Chuck Eaton
Linda Hidding (Nancy Sailer's cousin)
Ruth Sylte (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)
Gordon Hendrickson (Mary Thompson's brother)
Boyd Huppert (Rodewald family member)
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)
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)

This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



April Birthdays

Name	Birthday
Will Bohnert	2-Apr
John Hamilton	2-Apr
Sawyer Filarsky	4-Apr
Michael Stang	5-Apr
Jean Loudon	11-Apr
Traci Wolfe	11-Apr
Cathy Wunrow	11-Apr
Faye Perkins	14-Apr
Erik Eaton	25-Apr
Rougan Roquette	26-Apr
Jerry Brandt	27-Apr
Lori Leitch	29-Apr

April Baptisms



Margaret Anderson
Louis Bernard
Charles Eaton
Hazel Ladnier
Erik Oppegard
Sharon Paulson
Paul Perkins-Mcintosh
Jack Stang
Maxwell VanOverbeke
Erik Warner
John Warner
Kaija Warner
Ben Wunrow
Amanda Ziebarth



		Celebrating
Brian & Crystal Roquette	02-Apr	20 Years
Gary & Vicki Siebold	21-Apr	21 Years
Eric & Lisa Rydland	30-Apr	17 Years

This Week at HOPE April 6, 2022



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 worshiping 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 good hand hygiene, taking advantage of the hand sanitizers placed around the sanctuary.

Pastor Annie strongly encourages everyone who is eligible to do so, to receive a vaccine.