



Blessed are the Ones...

I hope you enjoyed our January series on Sabbath rest. Over the course of three weeks we learned that Sabbath is part of God's created order, Sabbath is a gift given to us to help us avoid burnout in doing God's work, and Sabbath is an act of God's justice in the world. As we wrapped up this series last Sunday, I encouraged you to set an intention for how you will live into the Sabbath command moving forward. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to take a few moments to set such an intention. My intention is to be a Sabbath permission-giver, especially for this faith community. You are entitled to Sabbath simply because you were made in love by God. We honor God when we grant space for Sabbath for ourselves and one another. We are better able to hear God and discern where God is leading us next, when we are not too tired to do so. This year, I wonder how God might be calling us to do more by doing less—to go deeper, to focus on our relationship to God and one another, to simply be blessed by God?

This Sunday we hear the opening words to the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5. You know them as "The Beatitudes." Within these verses, Jesus names who is blessed and what they shall receive. Certainly we are part of God's blessed and beloved. What does God hope we receive? In exploring the sermon on the mount anew, I've been using the *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*. *It has helped me go a bit deeper in my reflections and understanding. I can think of no better mentor than our indigenous siblings, to remind us of the wholeness that awaits when we better understand our connection to our Creator, the earth, and one another. There seems to be a Sabbath way about it. I share that translation with you here so you, too, may be blessed by a new, deeper, Sabbath-oriented perspective:*

Matthew 5:1-12, "Blessings of the Good Road"

When Creator Sets Free (Jesus) saw this great crowd, he went back up into the mountainside and sat down to teach the people. His followers came to him there, so he *took a deep breath, opened his mouth, and began to share his wisdom with them and teach them how to see Creator's good road.*

"Creator's blessing rests on the poor, the ones with broken spirits. The good road from above is theirs to walk. Creator's blessing rests on the ones who walk a trail of tears, for he will wipe the tears from their eyes and comfort them.

Creator's blessing rests on the ones who walk softly and in a humble manner. The earth, land, and sky will welcome them and always be their home.

Creator's blessing rests on the ones who hunger and thirst for wrongs to be made right again. They will eat and drink until they are full.

Creator's blessing rests on the ones who are merciful and kind to others. Their kindness will find its way back to them-full circle.

Creator's blessing rests on the pure of heart. They are the ones who will see the Great Spirit.

Creator's blessing rests on the ones who make peace. It will be said of them, 'they are the children of the Great Spirit.'

Creator's blessing rests on the ones who are hunted down and mistreated for doing what is right, for they are walking the good road from above.

Others will lie about you, speak against you, and look down on you with scorn and contempt, all because you walk the road with me. This is a sign that Creator's blessing is resting on you. So let your hearts be glad and jump for joy, for you will be honored in the spirit-world above. You are like the prophets of old, who were treated in the same way by your ancestors."

This Week at HOPE January 31, 2023



A Note from HOPE Mission Ministry

Dear HOPE family,

The HOPE Mission Ministry is seeking your help for our 2023 Lenten project. This year's theme is "Neighbors." We are looking to expand our vision and understanding of who our neighbors are. In order to get to know our "neighbors" we feel it's important to ask, seek, and *listen*.

Who is my neighbor?

How can we be better neighbors?

How do we build up our neighbors?

Instead of collecting items as we've done in the past, we plan to bring in speakers to help us learn more about our neighbors as we engage in the mission of listening and learning.

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN!

You can help guide our conversations/discussions as we enter the Lenten season by helping us with your feedback:

1. Who is a neighbor you are interested in learning more about?
2. Who is a neighbor you feel is misunderstood
3. Who is a neighbor you feel is underrepresented or not represented at all in our community?
4. Who are we called to be a better neighbor to?
5. Who are our neighbors?

[SIMPLY CLICK ON THIS LINK HERE](#) to respond to the above questions!

Thank you for your time!



WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE IS BACK!

WINTER SESSION: Jan. 18-Feb. 15

If you have not already registered for SESSION 2, please fill out the [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#).

Friends are always welcome!

This Week at HOPE January 31, 2023



Milo and Betty Lou send their many thanks for all your prayers and we'll wishes! The pillow Betty Lou is holding was signed by the surgeon and surgical staff at the hospital.




























God is good!


Meal Support for Milo & Betty Lou



The driveway at the Oppedegards has been cleared out and the ice has been deglazed so folks that wish to make donations of food can personally deliver it themselves.



They are very appreciative of everyone's kindness!



Soup Supper @ 6:00PM
SIGN UP FOR SOUP SUPPER HERE






























*Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,*

*I am very excited to invite you to participate in this transformative trip to the Holy Land with me in January of 2024. Below is the link with registration information. It is an amazing experience to see with our own eyes, the lands of the Old Testament stories and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We will visit Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Nazareth, Capernaum, Cana, take a boat ride on the sea of Galilee, walk on the Road to Damascus and the way of the cross in Jerusalem. We will visit with Palestinian Lutheran Christians, visit a Lutheran school, a Lutheran church and the Bishop of the Holy Land and Jordan, Bishop Azar. This is a profound way to grow in faith and biblical understanding. I hope you will join us!*

*Here is the link with all the information.*
[Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Holy Land Trip with Bishop L... \(eliastours.com\)](https://www.eliastours.com)

**Let me know if you have any questions!**
Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson
Lskow-anderson@nswsi.org



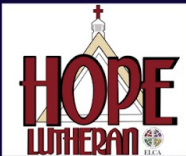
This Week at HOPE January 31, 2023



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 18TH
6-7:30PM**

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3337 KINGSBARN AVE**

**ALL ARE INVITED!
ENJOY COCOA & COOKIES**



This Week at HOPE January 31, 2023



A NEW GIVING OPPORTUNITY: THE HOPE MUSICIAN'S FUND

Do you LOVE the musical offerings here at HOPE?

Are you grateful for the gift of our fantastic Sunday pianists?

Would you love to see additional musical ensembles and guests join us?

Has music in worship been an important dimension of your spiritual life?

If you've answered YES to any of these questions, you may want to live into God's call toward generosity by giving a gift to our NEW "HOPE Musician's Fund."

HOPE now pays our Sunday musicians a fair wage for their work, rather than expecting this on a volunteer basis. This expense emerged as a need mid-budget year, and so this fund will help meet this financial need and hopefully provide seed money to fund these positions in the 2023 budget year. In addition, our hope is for this fund to be used in the future to bring in special musical guests and ensembles in the months and years ahead!

Please prayerfully consider giving a special Christmas Seed Gift to this important ministry
as you are able!

This Week at HOPE January 31, 2023



February Birthdays

Name	Birth Date
Mason Filarsky	02-Feb
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
Ryan Leitch	19-Feb
Diane Clark	20-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
Darcy Boock	28-Feb



February Baptisms

Cecelia Bernard
Kevin James
Grete Rehbein
Jill Fritz

This Week at HOPE January 31, 2023



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Betty Lou Oppegard
Anna Peterson (Friend of Olive Olson)
Mike & Lorraine Davis
The Trudy Loney family
Darwin & Margaret Bredahl (Karen Hamilton's sister & brother in law)
Olive Olson & family
Bruce Young (Relative of Karen Brohaugh)
Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)
Dawne Green (Friend of Olive Olson)
Miriam Monroe (Bill Montgomery's sister)
Gary Blowers (Friend of Linda Jacobson)
Noah Sailer (Nancy Sailer's son)
Naomi Brandt and family
The family of Jim Pratt
Tom & Judy Jensen (Friends of Nancy Sailer)
Meg Heaton Family (Friends of Nancy Sailer)
Milo Oppegard
Brian Fix & Katie (Nancy Sailer's cousin)
Kevin Rodewald & family (Jeff Rodewald's brother)
Carin Perkins (Faye Perkins sister)
David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)
Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)
Linda Hidding (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)
Boyd Huppert (Rodewald family member)
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)
Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)
Judy Karshbaum
Gary Siebold
David Hendrickson
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 January 31, 2023



First Sunday of the Month Special Collections

The River Falls School District has 112 children signed up for the Backpack Program this year. This program falls under the auspices of Our Neighbors' Place and is primarily funded by The Black Tie Affair held every April and donations. It does not receive any help from the River Falls Food Pantry.

Therefore, the Mission Ministry through HOPE would like to start collecting donations for the Backpack Program on the first Sunday of each month alternating with the Food Pantry.

The Magic Box works in the same manner as for the Food Pantry, whereas each dollar magically will have \$5 of purchasing power. The next opportunity will be November 6, when your generous donations will support the Backpack Program.

First Sunday of the Month Special Collections Schedule

2023

January 1	Backpack Program
February 5	Food Pantry
March 5	Backpack Program
April 2	Food Pantry
May 7	Backpack Program
June 4	Food Pantry
July 2	Backpack Program
August 6	Food Pantry
September 3	Backpack Program
October 1	Food Pantry
Nov 5	Backpack Program
December 3	Food Pantry