

This Week at HOPE February 15, 2023



At some point in every Christian's life, they discover a question. You know the kind. Not *How are you?* or *What kind of toothpaste should I buy?*

But *What really happens when we die?*

Or *Why does this terrible stuff happen to people who do their best to follow God?*

Or *How could God forgive me after what I've done?*

Or *How do I know what God wants me to do next?*

You know. *That* kind of question.

In my experience, people often feel isolated when they discover that type of question, as if they are the only ones asking it. For whatever reason, questions like this often feel like obstacles to our faith. They may feel forbidden, out-of-bounds. In the Bible, we read about characters like Job and Nicodemus asking questions that sound like ours, only to hear what sounds like a very touchy response from God.

But what if faith requires us to ask questions? What if questions are an essential part of our personal faith? What if we need questions to survive and grow as a community of faith?

You want to go there, don't you? You want to believe that dialogue with God, relationship with God, requires questions. Well, guess what? You're in good company!

When we read scripture carefully, we discover questions everywhere. Hundreds of questions.

Questions are created in the Garden of Eden. In the Gospel of John, the first thing Jesus says to someone after his resurrection is a question.

Like people, these questions come in every type. Some are pesky. Some prefer to hide in the shadows and never be noticed. Some shout loudly, repeatedly, and beg for attention. Some walk with us to the grave. Similarly, like people, once you start engaging questions, you quickly discover how hard they are to understand. Questions are hard to pigeonhole. They defy stereotyping. And no matter how hard we like to think they can stand alone, they almost always require some kind of relationship.

Everyone has a question, even if they keep it in their back pocket or tightly trapped behind their teeth. Biblical people have plenty of questions, too. So what can we do with that?

This Lenten season, we are engaging in "Ask: A Lenten Series," where we will find something for every person who's ever had a question about their faith. Together we will discover that questions are far from obstacles to our faith. Questions are the fuel that provide spark, energy, and momentum for our relationship with God and with each other. *What do you want to ask?*

This Week at HOPE February 15, 2023



ELCA

Black History Month began on February 1st! To celebrate, the African Descent Ministries of the ELCA is celebrating Black History Month with season two of *Talks at the Desk*, a video series that explores diverse expressions of the church. This four-part series amplifies and celebrates Black voices across our church.

A new video will premiere each Wednesday in February at 7:30 pm Central time. Join to hear youth, young adults, rostered leaders, elders and friends of our communities share their own sacred stories.

When: 7:30 p.m. Central time,
Wednesdays in February

Where: Premiering on YouTube

The “Talks at the Desk” series continues to center the experiences of Black Lutherans. Episodes this season will explore community-driven environmental justice work in Milwaukee, the storytelling of elders from the Conference of International Black Lutherans, and historic learnings from the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For more information and accompanying discussion guides, visit [ELCA.org/ADM](https://elca.org/ADM).

[WATCH HERE](#)

This Week at HOPE February 15, 2023



February 22, 2023
6:00PM: Soup Supper
7:00 PM Worship with Ashes

SOUP'S ON!

There's no better place for conversation and curiosity than around the dinner table! There's something about breaking bread together that creates space safe for asking questions and growing closer. So this Lent we are reviving an old tradition of "The Lenten Soup Supper."

We had a great response to our Ash Wednesday supper and we have extended the invitation to help serve and nourish one another each week of Lent!

[SIGN UP FOR SOUP SUPPERS HERE](#)

Wednesdays in Lent

Soup Supper 6PM

Evening Prayer Worship 6:30PM*

****With the exception of Ash Wed worship at 7PM***

This Week at HOPE February 15, 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!

This Week at HOPE February 15, 2023



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 18TH
5:30-7:00PM**

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3337 KINGSBARN AVE**

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

**Collecting Donations
for
RF Food Pantry!!**



Lighting Hope
WINTER LUMINARY WALK



**FAMILY BOWLING
EVENT**

**Sunday, March 26th
1:00-3:00PM**

@ St. Croix Lanes, River Falls



This Week at HOPE February 15, 2023



YOUTH NEWS



HOPE SLEDDING PARTY

CELEBRATE SNOW

1:00-3:00PM

26 FEBRUARY, 2023

At the home of:

Ross & Tessa VanOverbeke

W9390 812th Ave

River Falls, WI

S'mores,
Cocoa & FUN!
BYOSled!

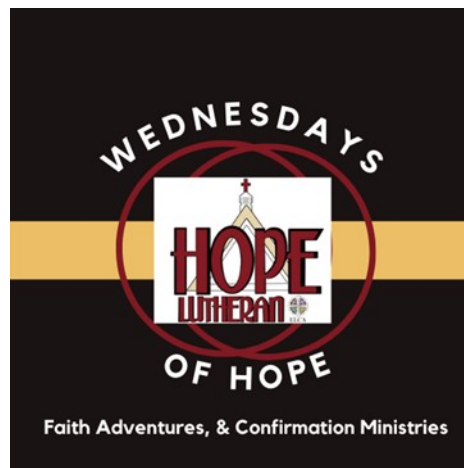


SUMMER 2023
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN



To register, go to: lutherpoint.org/summer-camp

This Week at HOPE February 15, 2023



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!

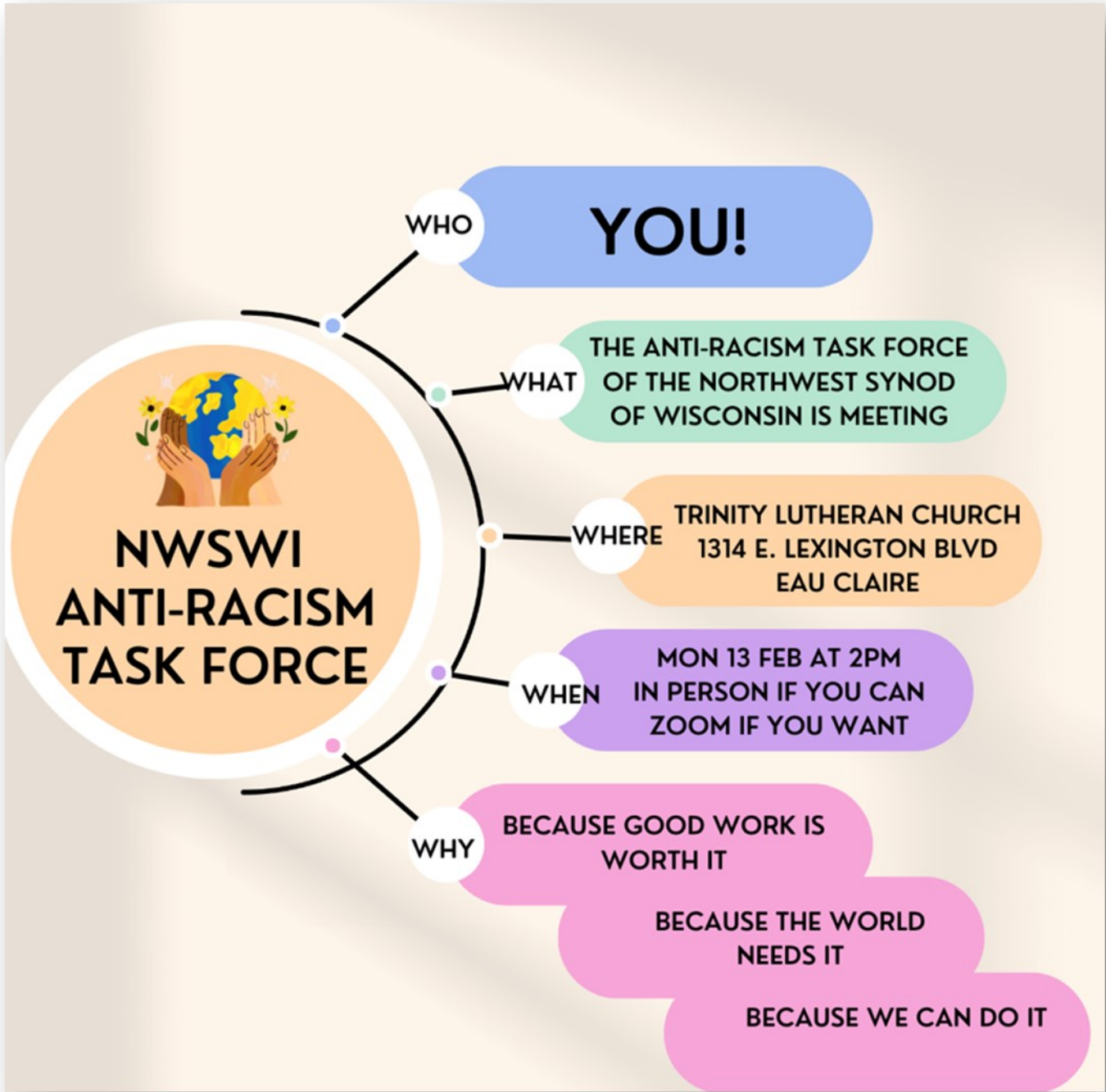


**Inspiring Guest Speakers + Strengthen Faith
Service Learning + Meeting New People
Challenging Conversation
Great Music + Worship**

DETAILS

Open to youth who have completed 8th-12 grade at the time of the event
\$300 per participant; (\$50 due at the time of registration)
More Information found here: <https://nswi.org/journey>

\$50 DEPOSIT AND [REQUIRED PAPERWORK](#) DUE BY APRIL 1, 2023.



This Week at HOPE February 15, 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 February 15, 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

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Please lift up the following people in prayer

Mary Babler (Friend the Dan Malaney)
Beth Lindgren (Sister-in-law Dan Malaney)
Betty Lou Oppegard
Anna Peterson's Family (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)
Naomi Brandt and family
The family of Jim Pratt
Milo Oppegard
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)



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