

This Week at HOPE April 12, 2023



Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson April 2023

Matthew 28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it... the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said... go quickly and tell his disciples."

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Join me and that great cloud of witnesses this Easter in the acclamation:
Christ is Risen,
He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!



The gospel reading for this Easter is from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the only gospel writer that records an **earthquake** on Easter morning. The women arrive at the tomb and are greeted by an earthquake, an angel rolling back the stone, and the news that their Lord and Savior wasn't there, JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD. What? The women were filled with shock and fear. The aftershocks of this earthquake are still felt. The news that death doesn't win and is defeated by the power of God in Christ Jesus continues to shock and amaze us.

What if we imagined Easter not as a lovely spring ritual filled with pastel-colored eggs and candy but as the violent earthquake that it is? Few living in the Midwest have experienced an earthquake. A pastor born in California remembers her mother putting rubber bands on the kitchen cupboard handles so the china dishes wouldn't fall out when there was an earthquake. When has a death of a loved one shaken the foundation of your world? When have you realized how fragile life can be? Christ's resurrection from the dead, his victory over sin, death, and the devil shakes up everything. It is the good news that can even shake us loose from our grief.

What if we experienced Easter as a violent earthquake more like a fresh egg dropped to the floor than one hard-boiled and beautifully decorated? What if the Easter Earthquake shakes us awake, shakes everything out of the cupboards and closets so we are forced to do spring cleaning and decide what to put back and what to throw out? What if we get rid of stuff that doesn't work and give more space to what's important? What is really important? What is God's will for you? What are our Easter priorities?

What if this year the Easter Earthquake cracks open and rolls away the stone from our hearts, shakes loose old ideas, breaks down rock-hard prejudices, and opens us up to new ways to love our neighbor and to share this amazing good news that Jesus lives? What new life might rise up from the rubble? What new relationships might develop? Like a chick struggles to break free of the egg's shell, new beginnings are rarely easy, but they are worth it.

The good news is that Christ's resurrection from the dead and his victory over death is good news even to those who have experienced a literal shifting of tectonic plates beneath the earth. On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria leaving over 50,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded, displaced, or homeless. More than 10,000 aftershocks have been felt since February 6 leading to more deaths, fear, and trauma. The aftershocks will continue for a long time.

This Easter, in response to the earthquake that opened the tomb and to the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead, I encourage you to give a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response to help the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Here is a link to help you do that. https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964

Suddenly there was a great earthquake...

In Christ,

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

This Week at HOPE April 12, 2023



Green with

HOPE



From your Green Team

EARTH FEST!

Earth Fest - Saturday, April 22, 12-4 pm Glen Park (UWRF University Center Rain location) - HOPE will be represented at Earth Fest by the Green Team and other HOPE folks. We will be giving away paper bag kite kits (1 per family) to encourage exploration of earth friendly, outdoor family activities as part of a sustainable lifestyle. Kites can be assembled and flown at Earth Fest, and again at our June 25 "Celebrate HOPE" event. Questions? See any member of the Green Team - Dan or Jan Malaney, Sue Schuettpehl, Lynda Meyers, Bill Montgomery, or Pastor Annie.

Special Green & Noisy Offering - Sunday, April 23

Join us in celebrating Earth Day, and showing our appreciation and support for Hope for Creation and their commitment to Earth Care, with a special Green and Noisy offering. Share some of your green bills and/or noisy change to help H4C offset the cost of the community wide Earth Fest celebration. If you're not present in person and would like to contribute, you may send your gift to Olive labeled "Green offering".

* Have an interest in promoting sustainable actions to care and protect our Earth? We'd welcome you on our Green Team! See any GT member (listed above) to find out about our next meeting.

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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 or if you have questions, contact psrudesill@gmail.com by April 26th. Gardens open May 1st.

**Volunteers
needed!**

The Property Committee will be putting up Sheetrock in the storage area of Winds of the Spirit on Saturday, April 29 starting at 9:00am.

Looking for volunteers!!

Email Doug at Rudesill@comcast.net

This Week at HOPE April 12, 2023



Communion Bread Bakers Needed!

Do you like to bake?

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer your gifts without having to be “up front?”

Then become a communion bread baker!

3 months in 2023 still need bakers: August, September, & December

SHARE YOUR GIFTS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

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!
Or sign-up on the entryway table in person.

Greeters, readers, communion set-up & servers, acolytes, ushers,

PASTOR ANNIE OUT OF OFFICE

Pastor Annie will be on vacation April 10-17th. We welcome Pastor Steve Meyer on Sunday, April 16th to lead us in song and worship! For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Rev. Kim Suhr of Trinity Lutheran in Hammond: 715-821-6398.

NEW Art Display @ HOPE!

Paul Omen, “[Drawn to the Word](#)” artist

April 1- May 13, 2023

12 original watercolors

(original prints can be purchased)

Stay tuned for details about how YOU could win one!



Our Neighbors' Place

Update from Our Neighbors' Place:

- 1) We are featured as a Target Circle giving partner this quarter (April, May, June). Many people don't know this but when you shop with Target Circle, you earn votes to vote for nonprofits. So you can vote for us - and whatever percentage of the votes we get, we earn that percentage of the pool of money Target has to donate to community resources in the area.
- 2) We are doing a Clothing Swap for Earth Fest (in partnership with Wiley's Wardrobe). Bring 1-2 gently used adult clothing items to swap. 12-4pm on Sat, April 22 at Glen Park Pavilion.
- 3) We are hosting a BOGO Thrift Store Tour in River Falls. 4 participating stores are: The Closet (at Our Neighbors' Place); Second Chances; Treasures of the Heart; Second Star. Coupons are available at all 4 stores and the BOGO is good on clothing/apparel items. Sale goes through April 30th.
- 4) GiveBIG St Croix is a day of online giving (Tue, April 25th). Go to www.givebigscv.org - and search for Our Neighbors' Place. The Give Big website features local nonprofits and offers the public a way to support us as we continue our work in the St Croix Valley. There are prize dollars available for us to win - so every donation counts. Early giving is encouraged as well if people can't visit the site on April 25.
- 5) Thu, May 11th will be Our Neighbors' Day at 122 West Johnson Street from 10am-7pm. Featuring an open house, tours, a freewill donation yard sale, and a free meal from 4-6pm). We'll send a flier if the church can help us spread the word.

I think that's it :) Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for helping us spread the word!

Shelly

This Week at HOPE April 12, 2023



"Black Tie Affair"

Our Neighbor's Place asks you to skip this imaginary "Black Tie Affair"
Stay home & donate what you would spend on tickets, fancy clothes, and dinner
to the **Our Neighbors' Place Backpack Program!**

Your contribution can start feeding hungry children in River Falls immediately!
Please help us feed hungry children.

The backpack program meets the needs of children who may go hungry on weekends during the school year. Weekly backpacks contain 7-9 pounds of non-perishable food and vouchers for milk, meat, produce, bread and eggs.

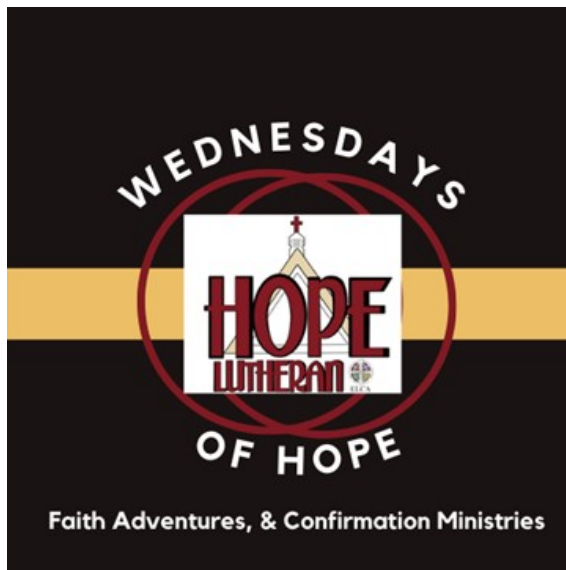
Typically, we distribute to an average of 80 students per week - however for the **2022-23 school year, we have seen enrollment jump to 120 students per week.**

The program is 100% operated by volunteers - it takes about 30 volunteers a month for the program to run smoothly. In partnership with the River Falls Lions Club, we offer a summer backpack program when school is not in session.

Please join us as we work to provide for our most vulnerable neighbors - our youth!

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE DIRECTLY](#)

This Week at HOPE April 12, 2023



WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE

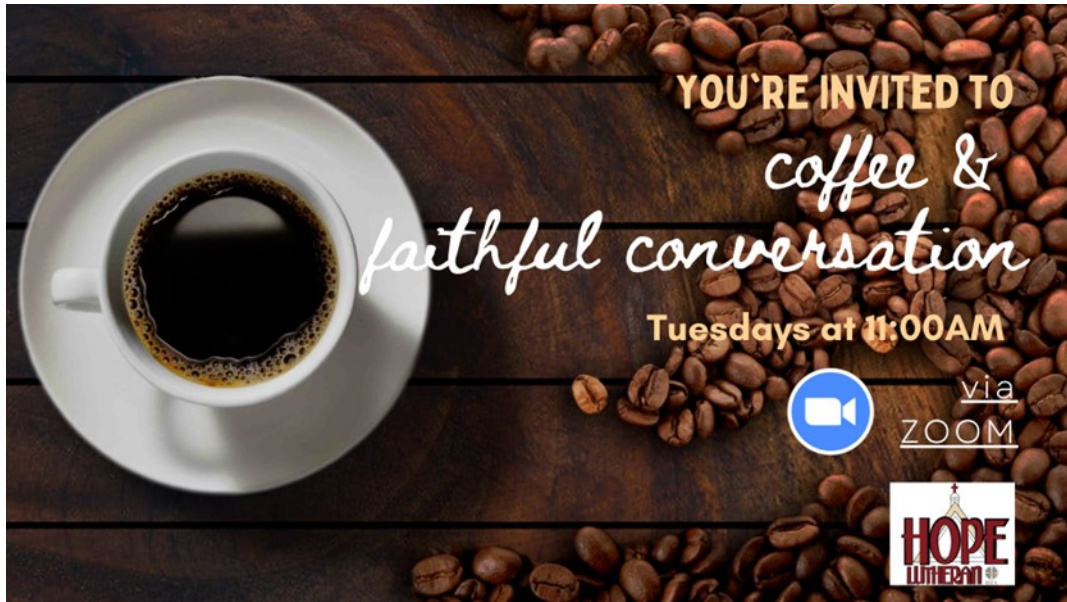
SPRING SESSION: April 19- May 10, 2023

If you have not already registered for SESSION 3, please fill out the [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#).

Friends are always welcome!



This Week at HOPE April 12, 2023



**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://nwswi.org/journey>

**\$50 DEPOSIT AND REQUIRED PAPERWORK
DUE BY APRIL 1, 2023.**



EARTH FEST 2023

- CELEBRATING COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL WELLNESS -

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
GLEN PARK, RIVER FALLS, WI

"WHEN WE HEAL THE EARTH, WE HEAL OURSELVES."
- DAVID ORR

12-4 PM

FREE EVENT! ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR
PAST/CURRENT/FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY
EFFORTS & INSPIRE ONGOING CLIMATE ACTION



MORE INFO & EARTH MONTH EVENTS:
• HOPE4CREATIONRF.ORG
• FACEBOOK.COM/EARTHFESTRF



**PLAN
AHEAD!**

**WELL
WATER
TESTING**
BRING A SAMPLE
FROM HOME

**CLOTHING
SWAP**
BRING 1-2 GENTLY
USED ITEMS (ADULT
SIZES) TO TRADE

**BATTERY
RECYCLING
&
PRESCRIPTION
DISPOSAL**

**PARKING/
SHUTTLE
INFO**

Limited parking at Glen Park.
Free shuttle transportation from
several RF locations in collaboration
with the River Falls Bluegrass Festival.
Please consider biking/walking/carpooling!

MUSIC!

CHRIS SILVER*

CEDAR VALLEY BRASS - KICK-A-FOOT STRING BAND
UWRF WORLD MUSIC & PEP BAND - RFHS INSTRUMENTAL
OFFICIAL BLUEGRASS FEST VENUE



ACTIVITIES!

TREE PLANTING - ELECTRIC VEHICLES - KIDS ACTIVITIES
WELLNESS ACTIVITIES & MUCH MORE!

**SUSTAINABILITY &
WELLNESS FAIR!**

70+ EXHIBITS - ADVOCACY - PLEDGE BOOTH

FOOD!

FREE SAMPLES OF LOCAL & SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS

GIVEAWAYS!

FREE LED LIGHT BULBS! ^

FREE TREES! ^

ENTER TO WIN SUSTAINABLE/WEILLNESS PRIZES!

^ while supplies last



EVENT HOSTED BY:



Earth Fest

April 22, 2023 | 12-4PM



Earth fest is a free community celebration of the past, present, and future sustainability efforts in River Falls and the surrounding area. This family-friendly event includes live music, fun, family activities, food sampling, a sustainability and wellness fair, free giveaways, and more.

Interested in sponsoring Earth Fest 2023? Email
sustainability@uwrf.edu



This Week at HOPE April 12, 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!

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April Baptisms



- Margaret Anderson
- Louis Bernard
- Charles Eaton
- Hazel Ladnier
- Sharon Paulson
- Jack Stang
- Maxwell VanOverbeke
- Ben Wunrow
- Amanda Ziebarth



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
Lori Leitch	29-Apr



		Celebrating
Brian & Crystal Roquette	02-Apr	21 Years
Gary & Vicki Siebold	21-Apr	22 Years
Eric & Lisa Rydland	30-Apr	18 Years

This Week at HOPE April 12, 2023



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Nancy Sailer
Jerry Gibson (Diane Clark and Karen Rodewald's father)
George & Mary Klacan (Phil's Parents)
Ella Conover (Niece of Phil & Paula Klacan)
Laura McDonald (Sister of Jean Loudon)
Mary Babler (Friend the Dan Malaney)
Beth Lindgren (Sister-in-law Dan Malaney)
Betty Lou Oppegard
Anna Peterson's Family (Friend of Olive Olson)
Darwin & Margaret Bredahl (Karen Hamilton's sister & brother in law)
Olive Olson & family
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
Milo Oppegard
Carin Perkins (Faye Perkins sister)
David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)
Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)
Linda Hidding (Nancy Sailer's cousin)
Linda & Jesse Annoye Family (Relatives of Debra James)
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)
Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi 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)



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