

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



POP UP ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION THIS SUNDAY!

Earlier in the week I came across an article in *The Atlantic* that a friend shared on social media. It is titled, “The Misunderstood Reason Millions of Americans Stopped Going to Church” and is an opinion piece by Jake Meador, the editor in chief of *Mere Orthodoxy*. His is not the first of such articles in recent years. Many scholars, theologians, and mildly popular christian writers have come from nearly every angle to address the conundrum of fewer people in the pews.

I have heard this concern from ministry colleagues, across generations, each with their own hypothesis as to what has gone “awry.” I have also frequently heard it from many of you, as well as those in previous calls. Often our suggested solutions tend to err on the side of “doing church better.”

“If we only invited more people...”

“If we had more contemporary music...”

“If we didn’t say the Creed...”

“If we changed the worship time...”

“If the pastor didn’t/did/would/would not preach about...”

When these are not the proposed solutions, we often fall back on criticism and judgment:

“These young parents just need to make a better effort, like I did”

“No one will step up to help out”

“What’s wrong with people that they don’t think church is important?”

“Well, if we had new leadership”

“If we just did it well, like we *used* to...”

And yet, none of these questions, judgements, or frameworks seem to be giving us a plan for moving forward. Do we even know the goal? Do we know why that is our goal?

I invite you to a POP UP Roundtable Discussion following worship THIS Sunday, August 6. Stick around with some coffee and treats as we discuss the article and offer our ponderings!

[MSN.com Link to Article](#)

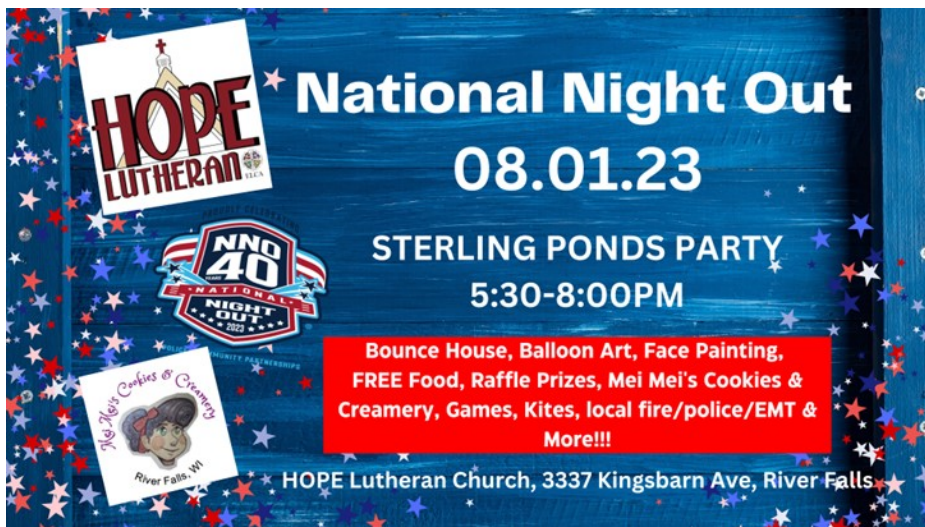
[Direct Atlantic Link](#)

Have other articles, books, or other pop culture pieces you’d like us to discuss in future pop ups? Send them to me at [hopelutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com](mailto:hoperlutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com)

In Christ’s holy mystery,

Pastor Annie Ladnier

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS YEAR'S EVENT SUCH A HIT!

On Tuesday night we hosted our neighbors and community for our 4th (nearly) Annual National Night Out celebration! You could feel the energy as neighbors walked in and cars lined the streets around the church! An estimated 250 people joined us for this community celebration centered on building neighborhood relationships, especially with those who serve our community via the police, fire, and ambulance services.

We had a FANTASTIC turn-out of local police, fire, and EMTs! A State Trooper even joined in the fun. As the night wound down, our *Winds of the Spirit* pavilion was lined on both sides with local police from local, county, and state levels. This fabulous bunch also stayed and did the brunt of the teardown of our tables and chairs!

This event has grown over the years and it takes each and every one of you to make it such a success. Thank you to each of our ministry teams for tending to your specific duties. Thank you to those who could set-up and clean-up, to those who helped spread the word, to those who gathered items for our raffle baskets, to those who cooked hot dogs and made lemonade, to the many people who made special phone calls, to neighbors who lent their bounce house and yard games, to everyone who brought items for our donations to Our Neighbors Place, Turning Point, the Food Pantry, and Tools for School. This was truly a faith-community-wide event! Special thanks to the Mission Ministry Team for organizing all of us to pull it off!

As I walked around (sweating) greeting neighbors, tossing balls with neighborhood children, shaking hands with our local agencies, enjoying a yummy meal, and sharing plenty of laughter I saw *the body of Christ at work*.

All of you played a part in being the embodied welcome of Jesus. All were welcomed to come and feast, to come and play, to come and bring the gifts they had to share. Did we all sing Christian hymns? No. Did we publicly pray all together? No. But did police and neighbors have a safe space to rebuild trusted relationships? Did our vendors witness a community of people who love Jesus working together for the benefit of something outside themselves? Did children get a taste of free grace in a bounce house or balloon animal or face paint? Did our neighbors experience the love of Jesus?

I am certain they did.

Thank you for being Christ in our world, beloved.

Pastor Annie Ladnier

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Upcoming Celebration of Life

In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we share the following upcoming Celebration of Life for siblings of HOPE Lutheran:

Bernie Brohaugh: A Visitation will be held on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 10AM at *The Winds of the Spirit* pavilion at HOPE Lutheran Church (3337 Kingsbarn Ave) in River Falls with a Celebration of Life service beginning at 11AM. A reception will follow the service.



SONGS & SUDS

Monday, August 14th

6-7:30pm

@ Rush River Brewery

led by HOPE Lutheran's Strings of HOPE



This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



It's that time of year again! We are once again partnering with local congregations and businesses to sponsor this important annual community event!

All school supply donations are welcomed, but items listed below are of particular need for this year's collection:

Backpacks

- ⇒ Notebooks—both college and wide ruled
- ⇒ Pencil boxes
- ⇒ Glue sticks
- ⇒ Colored pencils
- ⇒ Markers-both wide and thin
- ⇒ Washable markers-both wide and thin
- ⇒ Pens
- ⇒ Pencils (Ticonderoga)
- ⇒ Mechanical pencils
- ⇒ Crayons
- ⇒ Earbuds
- ⇒ Folders
- ⇒ Highlighters
- ⇒ 3-ring Binders and filler paper

The HOPE collection runs through **Monday, August 14th** (bin located inside sanctuary during the week/on table in WOTS on Sunday mornings).

In addition to your donations, please prayerfully consider donating your time to this wonderful event! Volunteers are needed to help set-up and to accompany students with their shopping and shoe selection! **K-12 volunteers are welcome but can only help with set-up and tear down, as this is a sensitive event for their peers!** All adults are welcome! You can sign-up to volunteer Sundays at worship OR by emailing Stacia Johnso, HOPE's liaison: staciarjohnson@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed:

Monday, August 21st 10-11AM (set up help)

Monday, August 21st 4-7PM (accompany students)*

Tuesday, August 22nd 9:45AM- 12PM (accompany students)

**If this is your first time, please arrive at 3:30PM*

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



Women of the ELCA

Synod Women's Organization of the
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Summer Retreat *St. Croix Valley Conference*

Saturday, August 26, 2023
Redeemer Lutheran Church

1097 Scott Rd., Burkhardt, WI



\$15 Admission Fee
(includes program and lunch)

8:30am—9:00am
Registration and Coffee

9:00am—11:30am
Event
Lunch to Follow

Meet our speaker, Deb Wyss (*pen name Ann Wyse*), who served as a missionary in Tibet for seven years. She will share her living experiences and faith journey. "Chasing Faith Among Yaks and Nomads" is the memoir of her experiences.

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



God's Work/Our Hands Sunday--Potluck

September 10 is our kick-off Sunday for remaining goals in the year. Membership and Congregational Life is asking you to contribute to a potluck that Sunday to be served outside in the Winds of the Spirit building.

If you bring hot food we can put it in the oven or plug in any crockpots outside inside WOTS. Beverages will be provided.

We look forward to the nourishment that enables us to complete projects designed by the Mission Ministry or Green Team.

We look forward to the fellowship on September 10.

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



The historic Kinnickinnic Church will hold its Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 6, from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the churchyard. The church is less than a mile off Hwy. 65 on Cnty. Rd. J, near River Falls.

Ice cream, homemade pies, bars, cakes, and root beer floats, plus several beverages will be available. Live music will entertain while you socialize under the tents.

Proceeds support the 150+. year old church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Check the Facebook page at Kinnickinnic

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



YOUTH NEWS



Wednesdays of Wonder

3rd Wednesdays This Summer!

July 19

6-8PM

**Outdoor Scavenger Hunt
with PRIZES!**

August 16

**End of Summer Campfire Celebration
Dinner included!**



**Cross Generational nights for interactive creativity,
fun, food, & fellowship!
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**FREE
ADMISSION!**

A POOL PARTY WITH HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

08.05.23 | 6:15-7:30 PM | GLEN PARK POOL | ALL ARE WELCOME!

Treats provided!

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



Holy Yoga

FOR BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00PM

JUNE 07-AUG 30

Outdoor yoga, meditation, & reflection

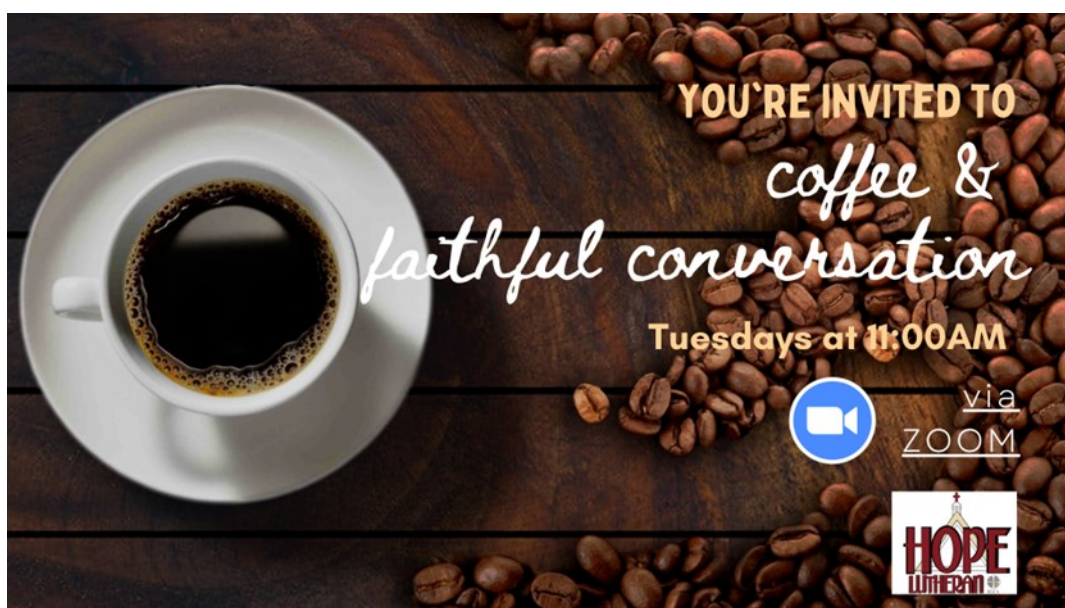
bring a yoga mat, water bottle, & yourself!

Cost: FREE WILL offering


3337 KINGSBARN AVE
WINDS OF THE SPIRIT PAVILLION


WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 45-60 minute session of beginning to intermediate yoga
- Use of Christian Scripture for grounding
- Reflective meditation/prayer exercises
- Feeling renewed!
- Joyfully gathering with others!
- Enjoying the beautiful landscape!



YOU'RE INVITED TO
coffee & faithful conversation
Tuesdays at 11:00AM

 via
ZOOM



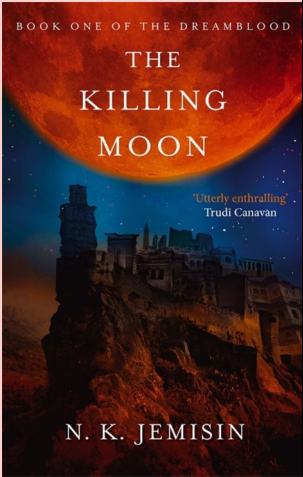
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All are invited to participate in the leading of worship!
Ushers, Communion Prep & Assistants, Readers, Prayer Leaders,
Fellowship Hosts, Special Music, Altar Flowers, & Worship Assistants
all add to the beauty of our worship together!
We can help you if this is your first time!
[YOU CAN SIGN UP HERE FOR ANY UPCOMING SUNDAY!](#)

Upcoming Synod Summer Book Discussions

You are invited to join lay people, pastors, and deacons from across our Synod for thought-provoking conversation on these two books:

<div data-bbox="215 505 516 981"></div>	<div data-bbox="540 478 963 747"><h3>The Killing Moon</h3><p>By N.K. Jemison</p></div> <div data-bbox="540 854 943 1540"><p>August 30, 2023</p><p>7:00 p.m.</p><p>Lead by Pastor Sara Villarreal Bishop</p><p>Click HERE for Zoom link</p><p>Meeting ID: 847 5561 7233</p><p>Password: 486034</p></div>	<div data-bbox="987 478 1352 1257"><p>The story follows Ehiru, one of the most experienced Gatherers, as things go awry during one of his commissions. Despite his wish to serve a time of penance for his failure, Ehiru is ordered to gather a woman judged corrupt. It soon becomes clear that things are not what they seem: there's a conspiracy lurking at the heart of the Hetawa, shaking the very foundations of Ehiru's faith; more worrisome, though, is that someone is gathering souls in Gujaareh in both the waking and dreaming realm, but their departures look anything but peaceful. Accompanied by his apprentice, Nijiri, Ehiru must team up with the woman he was sent to kill in order to investigate.</p></div>
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Women's Cancer Support Group

River Falls

Join us

- Third Tuesday of every month
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- St. Bridget Catholic Church
211 East Division Street, River Falls

Gather with other women to share
encouragement and wisdom about
cancer and recovery.

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



Please lift up the following people in prayer

The Karshbaum Family
Dennis & Sandy Schultz (Friends of Bill & Kay Montgomery)
Karen Brohaugh and Family
Nancy Miller (Friend of Paula & Phil Klacan)
Family of Marc DuPaul (Nephew of Naomi Brandt)
Linda Shurden (Friend of Nancy Sailer)
Charli and Sam King (Friends of Faye Perkins)
David Anderson (Brother of Karen Brohaugh)
Family of Romeo Thompson
Joyce Kendall (Mother of Cara Getschel)
Richard Burns (Grandfather of Luke & Jack Stang)
Judy Branson (Relative of the Boocks)
Hannah Forward
Amanda Olson (Olive Olson's daughter)
Jerry Gibson (Diane Clark and Karen Rodewald's father)
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)
Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)
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)
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi Brandt)
Judy Karshbaum
Gary Siebold
David Hendrickson
Jon Boyce
Jay and Jeri Jorgenson (friends of the Bohnerts)

This Week at HOPE August 2, 2023



August Birthdays



Name	Date
Mitch Nelson	1-Aug
Verna Tweiten	1-Aug
Samuel Leisz	5-Aug
Morgan Leitch	9-Aug
Amelia Forward	10-Aug
Natalie Leisz	13-Aug
Brynn Leitch	13-Aug
Steve Kaste	18-Aug
Lauren Ziebarth	24-Aug
Angela Bohnert	25-Aug
Paula Klacan	25-Aug
Keith Getschel	26-Aug
Lisa Rydland	29-Aug



August Baptisms

- Joseph McIntosh
- Kay Montgomery
- Betty Lou Oppegard
- Camryn Glaubitz
- Tanner Heinselman
- Cameron Leitch
- Alexis Rehbein
- Avery Tokheim

August Anniversaries



Name	Date	Celebrating Years
Richard & Carolyn Jackson	2-Aug	62
Kermit & Sharon Paulson	26-Aug	62
David & Nancy Peters	26-Aug	62
Milo & Betty Lou Oppegard	10-Aug	55
Jeff & Karen Rodewald	31-Aug	38
Grete & Chad Rehbein	15-Aug	14
Russ & Keri Jiskra	24-Aug	4
Jeremy & Traci Wolfe	12-Aug	

This Week at HOPE August 2, 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