



## "FROM BLOSSOMS," BY LI-YOUNG LEE

I stumbled upon this poem while doing my daily devotions and that it was pretty beautiful for this time of year, from joy to joy to joy... -Pastor Annie



From blossoms comes  
this brown paper bag of peaches  
we bought from the boy  
at the bend in the road where we turned toward  
signs painted Peaches.

From laden boughs, from hands,  
from sweet fellowship in the bins,  
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent  
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,  
comes the familiar dust of summer, dust we eat.

O, to take what we love inside,  
to carry within us an orchard, to eat  
not only the skin, but the shade,  
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold  
the fruit in our hands, adore it, then bite into  
the round jubilation of peach.

There are days we live  
as if death were nowhere  
in the background; from joy  
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,  
from blossom to blossom to  
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom.

+ Li-Young Lee

# This Week at HOPE August 23, 2023



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is fast approaching on September 10. On that Sunday HOPE members will prepare Blessing Bags—ziplock bags filled with useful items for those in need. We will then distribute these bags to Grace Place, Our Neighbors' Place, and keep some at church for members to take with them to distribute. We hope to pack 100 Blessing Bags with your help. The following items are needed:

- Warm socks men's and women's
- Gloves
- Tylenol packets
- Small deodorant men and women
- Small packages of tissues
- Band aids
- Disposable razors men and women
- Women's feminine products (pads)
- Finger nail clippers
- Combs
- Sewing kits
- Soap
- Small lotion
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste trial size
- Hair binders
- Granola bars soft
- Crackers with cheese
- Crackers with peanut butter
- Tuna packets
- Trail mix pouches
- Mints
- Raisins
- Other snack items are welcome

There is a signup doc on Google docs and there will also be a sign up sheet at church. You can always send an email to Darcy Boock at [gdboock@gmail.com](mailto:gdboock@gmail.com), if you are unable to access the Google doc or sign up at church. The link to the Google document is below

 Blessings Bags -God's Work Our Hands

**This Week at HOPE August 23, 2023**



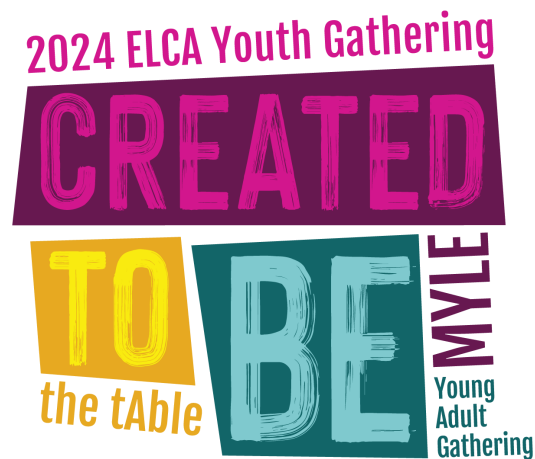
**Wednesdays of HOPE Resumes SEPTEMBER 20!!  
REGISTER NOW!**

All K-10th+\* grade youth are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6-7PM for fellowship, family friendly worship & service, learning, and growing in relationship to Jesus and one another! Our evenings begin with a brief all family style worship, where children & adults help with leadership and a true sense of community is fostered. Youth are then divided into elementary (Faith Adventures) and middle/high (Confirmation) classes for deeper engagement with the evening's themes. We are once again offering 3 sessions for the 2023-2024 year! Families are welcome to sign-up for whatever sessions work best for them, one, two, or all three! (You can also register for additional sessions at a later time).

The 2023-2024 Wednesdays of HOPE Registration is LIVE now!  
**Please register for the fall session by September 10, 2023!**

**Teachers and additional onsite helpers are needed to make each night of Wednesdays of HOPE a safe, engaging, and welcoming time for all!** Please consider sharing your time and gifts to help! Sign-up to offer adult help at the September 20th WOH Kick-Off child/adult Orientation meeting, or contact Pastor Annie!

**This Week at HOPE August 23, 2023**



## **2024 ELCA NEW ORLEANS YOUTH GATHERING INFO MEETING!**

All youth entering 8-12th grade in this fall are eligible to attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering set for July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, LA!! We are excited to be part of this opportunity and hope you are too! Join Pastor Annie for an informational meeting in person or via [Zoom](#) on

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AT 6:30PM.**

To learn more go to: <https://www.elca.church/gathering>.

# This Week at HOPE August 23, 2023



Please note that we are updating the security code to HOPE's main entrance. A new code has been established and distributed to council members who will help distribute it to ministry team volunteers and other active HOPE participants. **Both the old and new codes will work until October 1, 2023. Effective 10.01.23 only the new code will work.** Phone numbers will be posted on the door so anyone needing access can reach someone to help.

Why are we doing this?

- ⇒ We have not changed the code in 7 years and it's a wise plan to change it more frequently for security reasons.
- ⇒ The old code has been very widely distributed to those that do not need it and we want to maintain a welcoming and safe environment.
- ⇒ The use of the old code has resulted in wear and tear that makes seeing the numbers increasingly difficult. Property Team is looking at replacement as well.

We hope that by making these updates all HOPE members and guests can feel safe and welcome!

**This Week at HOPE August 23, 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 23, 2023**



**Journey House Campus Ministry**

- A campus ministry serving the University of Wisconsin River Falls and CVTC -

## **Good Food & Good Conversations At Journey House -**

Journey House needs people to help provide nutritious hot meals for – 20 people each Monday evening this program year.

Meals should include some sort of protein and a couple vegetable sides, along with whatever condiments are needed for the meal.

Desserts are optional.

For more information and to sign up for one of the suppers, please use this [Google Form](#).

For more information or advice on what to bring, please contact Emma or Ella, the Peer Leaders,

at [journeyhousecampusministry@gmail.com](mailto:journeyhousecampusministry@gmail.com)

or text/call them at 715.425.2391



## This Week at HOPE August 23, 2023



# Holy Yoga

FOR BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00PM

JUNE 07-AUG 30

*Outdoor yoga, meditation, & reflection*

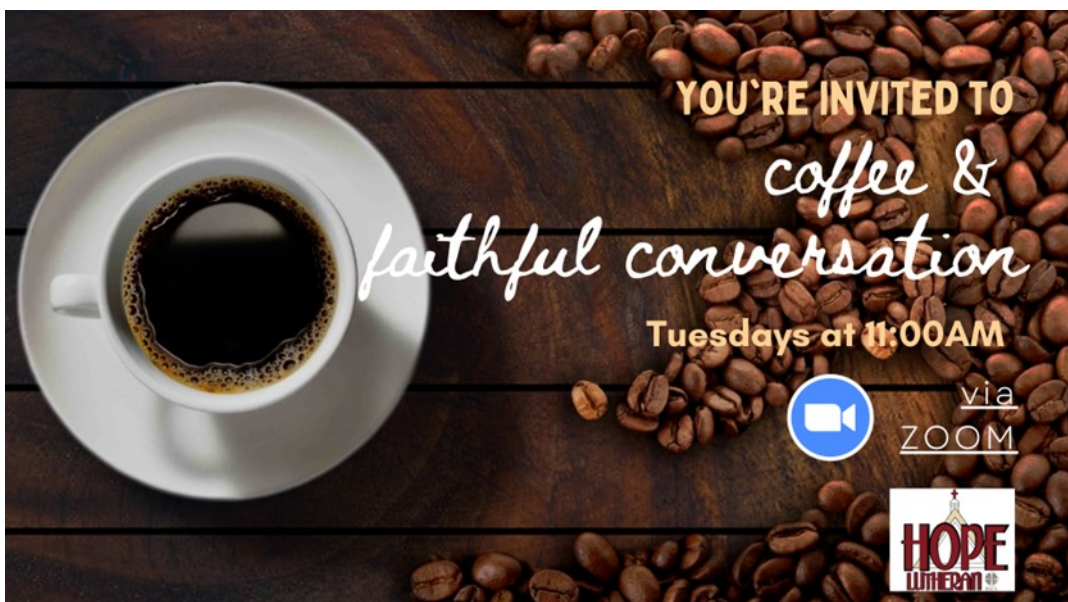
bring a yoga mat, water bottle, & yourself!

Cost: FREE WILL offering


3337 KINGSBARN AVE  
WINDS OF THE SPIRIT PAVLLION


### 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





**This Week at HOPE August 23, 2023**



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!**

## **Bakken-Young Suicide Loss Grief Support Webinar**

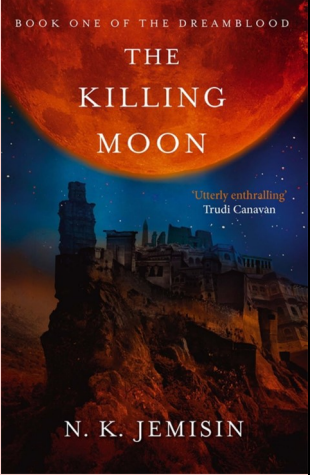
To those who serve others whose loved one died by suicide, Bakken-Young is sponsoring a webinar on Thursday, Oct 12, 6:30-8 pm. This virtual event is titled: Living with the Shadow of a Suicide Death, and our speaker is Ciara Warden-Kinsella, LISW.

For more information or to register, please go to this link: <https://bakken-young.com/event/grief-webinar/>.

# This Week at HOPE August 23, 2023

## 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:



### The Killing Moon

August 30, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Lead by Pastor Sara Villarreal Bishop

Click [HERE](#) for Zoom link

Meeting ID: 847 5561 7233

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.



## *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 23, 2023



## Please lift up the following people in prayer

Barb Carmichael (Friend of Nancy Sailer)  
The Karshbaum Family  
Linda Jacobson  
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)  
Gary Siebold  
David Hendrickson  
Jon Boyce  
Jay and Jeri Jorgenson (friends of the Bohnerts)

This Week at HOPE August 23, 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	





**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