

This Week at HOPE September 6, 2023



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

This Sunday kicks off the beginning of our 2023 celebration of the Season of Creation! Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. HOPE celebrates in line with our God's Work, Our Hands Kick-off celebration, for a total of 4 weeks. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. For 10 years now, ELCA congregations have engaged in service activities near this Sunday to offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For the third year in a row we celebrate this as we kick off our Season of Creation celebration, embracing that we are called to care for creation as part of our acts of service, every day calling, and in every corner of our life.

As we do so, we join other followers of Christ from around the globe, in a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. In this season we take time out to explore the depth of our interconnectedness with the rest of God's beautiful creation. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow." Prophet Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

The symbol for 2023 is a mighty river. Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate. The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair! We have two opportunities to explore the Season of Creation: Sunday mornings here at HOPE and Sunday evenings at 5PM at a variety of ecumenical locations, hosted at HOPE this Sunday, September 10!

May God bless our time focused on this dimension of our discipleship and lead us to care for God's holy creation.

Pastor Annie Ladnier

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What is a Cottage Meeting?

- A term often used when communities of faith desire to spend intentional time together reconnecting and dreaming for the future!
- A chance for a Pastor and small group (8-12 people) to spend time together in a more intimate environment
- An opportunity to grow in relationship with one another and God
- An opportunity to hear about our shared values, hopes and dreams as we plan for HOPE's future!

When will these be?

- Meetings will begin as early as September 13 and wrap up by November 12
- An extensive option of sessions will be available for you to sign-up when it is convenient for you/your family!
- Weekday, weeknight, and Sunday afternoon options will be available

Who are these for?

- EVERYONE who calls HOPE their faith community home!
- Adults, Families, Children, & Youth are all welcome!

What is the format and location?

- Sessions ranging from 1-2 hours depending on conversation, will not exceed 2 hours
- A casual time with snacks or treats provided (not a full meal)
- A variety of HOPE homes, HOPE spaces, or community locations (breweries, restaurants, coffee shops) depending on your host!
- Conversation will build from 3-4 facilitated guiding questions!
- We are looking for host homes!
-

When can I sign-up?

Both in-person and online sign-ups will go live on **Sunday, September 3!** Get ready!



Noisy



Offering Alert!

It's time to start rounding up those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters! **Sunday, September 10**, as we begin to celebrate the Season of Creation, we will have a GREEN AND NOISY offering to fund our commitment to choosing cleaner, sustainable electricity sources by purchasing Renewable Energy Blocks (REB) from the River Falls Municipal Utility. Last year your gifts enabled us to purchase 31 REB per month for 2023. That's enough renewable energy to supply 100% of HOPE's electricity needs, as well as that of 8 other typical households in our neighborhood!

A note from the Green Team

Green with HOPE



Thinking about what to make for Sunday's potluck? Consider using fresh, locally grown produce, or other locally raised or produced food products in your dish. You're supporting local growers and reducing your carbon footprint! Rejoice in this Season of Creation and abundance!



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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:

- Gallon Ziplock bags
- 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
- Poncho

There is a signup doc on Google docs and there will also be a sign up sheet at

 Blessings Bags -God's Work Our Hands

Please have all items to the church by Thursday, September 7. Place items in the bins on the pews in either the Eidskog Room or next to the credenza or nearby and they will be found. Thank you. Packing of the Blessing Bags will take place in the sanctuary after the church service on September 10. All ages are welcome. Would love to have the kiddos participate too.

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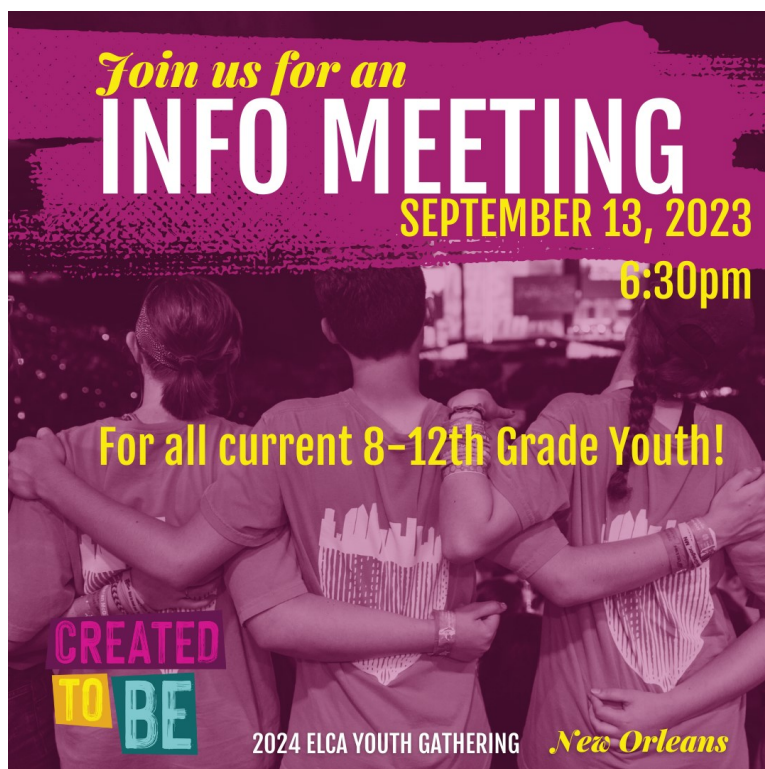
**Wednesdays of HOPE Resumes SEPTEMBER 20!!
REGISTER NOW!**

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!

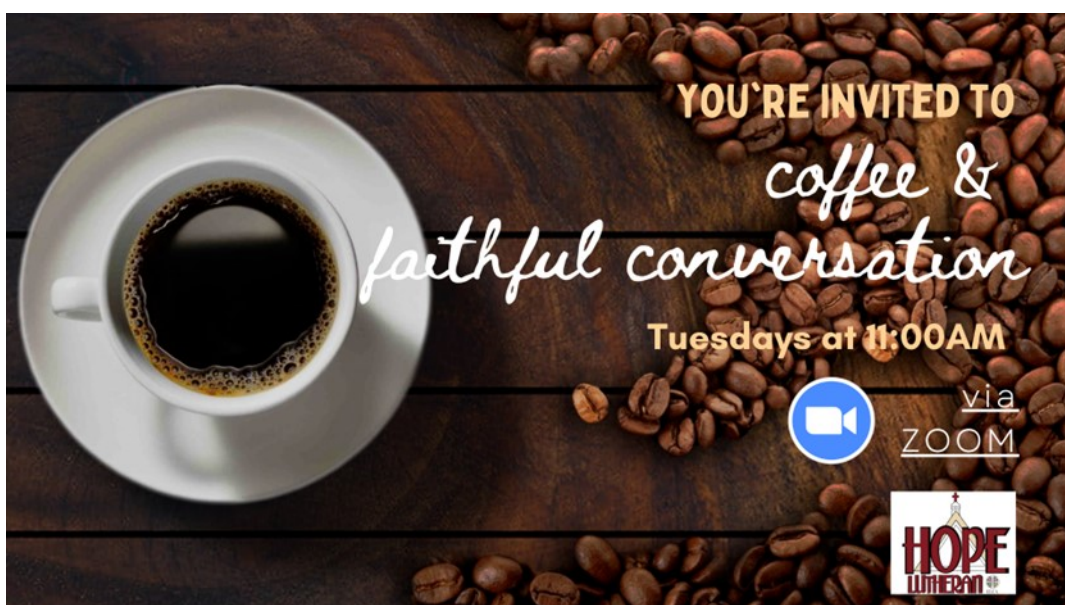
Teachers and additional onsite helpers are needed to make each night of Wednesdays of HOPE a safe, engaging, and welcoming time for all! Please consider sharing your time and gifts to help! Sign-up to offer adult help at the September 20th WOH Kick-Off child/adult Orientation meeting, or contact Pastor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

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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 September 6, 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 September 6, 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)
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)

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September Birthdays

Sarah Bondhus	3-Sep
Zachary Heinselman	6-Sep
Mariah Sandberg	8-Sep
Keri Jiskra	8-Sep
Garrett Larson	8-Sep
Dale Wegleitner	8-Sep
Jane Terkelsen	10-Sep
Jeff Rodewald	12-Sep
Isaac Hansen	20-Sep
Dan Rodewald	27-Sep
McKenna Brill	30-Sep
Vicki Siebold	30-Sep

September Baptisms

Brynn Leitch
Nancy Sailer
Vicki Siebold
Dale Wegleitner



September Anniversaries

Celebrating Years

Keith & Cara Getschel	16-Sep	34
Tyson & Wendy Tokheim	23-Sep	23
James & Debra James	27-Sep	21

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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