

This Week at HOPE September 13, 2023



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Let Justice and Peace Flow Season of Creation 2023

Our celebration of the Season of Creation continues through October 1st!

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

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!

Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. -Isaiah 43:19

We join our ecumenical partners in the celebration of the Season of Creation. For these few weeks, numerous denominations are giving thought to the laments and hopes we have for God’s good creation. We join them in lifting our prayers for healing, forgiveness, and in hope for the future.

As we mark this season I am sharing additional helpful readings from outside our tradition to pair with the scriptures we hear each Sunday. I hope you enjoy this one:

A Reading from the Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree.

Honi asked him, “How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?”

“Seventy years,” replied the man.

Honi then asked, “Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?”

The man answered, “I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children.”

A Prayer: Gracious God, sculptor of the land, we in our brokenness have damaged your Earth. Restore our relationship with the land, as Christ heals all of Creation. Make us mindful of those who come after us, that the earth would flourish and thrive for them as well. In the name of Christ the Redeemer, Amen.

-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?

RIGHT HERE!!! OR on paper sign-ups on Sunday mornings!

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CELEBRATING
10
YEARS



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10
2023

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GREAT NEWS!

The Green Team is pleased to be able to offer a convenient way for the HOPE community and neighbors to recycle soft plastic (plastic film).

Have you noticed how much plastic you are still having to throw away and send to a landfill, even if you diligently recycle all the plastic materials that are acceptable? These primarily are the ubiquitous plastic films - soft, stretchy plastic - that encase our vegetables, paper towels, toilet paper, and that we use to bag our produce and snacks, and that our Amazon packages arrive in, etc. These do not go away in the landfill, and are finding their way as microplastics - microscopic bits of plastic - into the oceans, lakes, rivers, and food chains that we, and almost all other living organisms depend upon to survive. You can read more about microplastics here:

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html#:~:text=Most%20plastics%20in%20the%20ocean,through%20water ways%20into%20the%20ocean.>

Beginning **Sunday, Sept. 17**, we will have a drop off box in the church that accepts many types of plastic film. If it's stretchy and soft, and not brittle or "crinkly" it's probably recyclable through our program. Several examples of acceptable plastics are listed right on the receptacle box, as well as below, and we will be making additional announcements regarding what can and cannot be recycled. When our box is full, the plastics will be delivered to a location where they will be sent to Trex Products to be made into composite decking material, outdoor furniture, fencing etc.

This is an excellent opportunity, during this Season of Creation, to make a simple change in how we handle a waste product that could have a significant negative impact on all creation. Start saving your plastic film now (stuff it into a big, stretchy, plastic bag that you can also recycle), and commit to making a choice to care for our shared planet by recycling your plastic film! **RECYCLING AVAILABLE STARTING SEPT. 17, 2023**



Green with
HOPE



Special Offering for Renewable Energy Blocks Still Open!

If you were unable to contribute last Sunday to the special offering that allows HOPE to buy Renewable Energy Blocks for our electricity needs, as well as for others in our community, you may easily still do so by mailing or dropping off your gift to Olive in the main office. We had a wonderful response in giving last Sunday, and are well on our way to being able to purchase our goal of about 35 REB per month in 2024, but could still use a bit more help in getting there.

Thank you from the Green Team!

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Save the date for An Evening at Hope, Saturday, Oct 14 6pm - 9pm

We are excited to announce the return of Hope's social event of the fall, now called An Evening at Hope! Music, food and fun will be the order of the evening, at our beautiful Winds of the Spirit pavilion, Saturday, October 14th, 6pm to 9pm.

As before, great music and great food will be the draw for Hope members and community friends alike. Valuable items will be available for auction, with auction proceeds going to a local charity.

Hope members are needed to volunteer to make this evening a success. Please contact the church office to choose where you can help!

Please consider donating an auction item, this year with a higher minimum value of \$50, (to simplify the evening's checkout process). Auction items will need to be submitted by Wednesday Oct. 11.

Tickets can be purchased online at Hopelutheranrf.com

This Week at HOPE September 13, 2023



All are invited to join Pastor Annie for this weekly small group conversation and Bible study!

This is a great chance to grow in relationship with God and one another.

We meet via Zoom so all can join from wherever you are!

This Week at HOPE September 13, 2023



**Wednesdays of HOPE STARTS NEXT WEEK:
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).

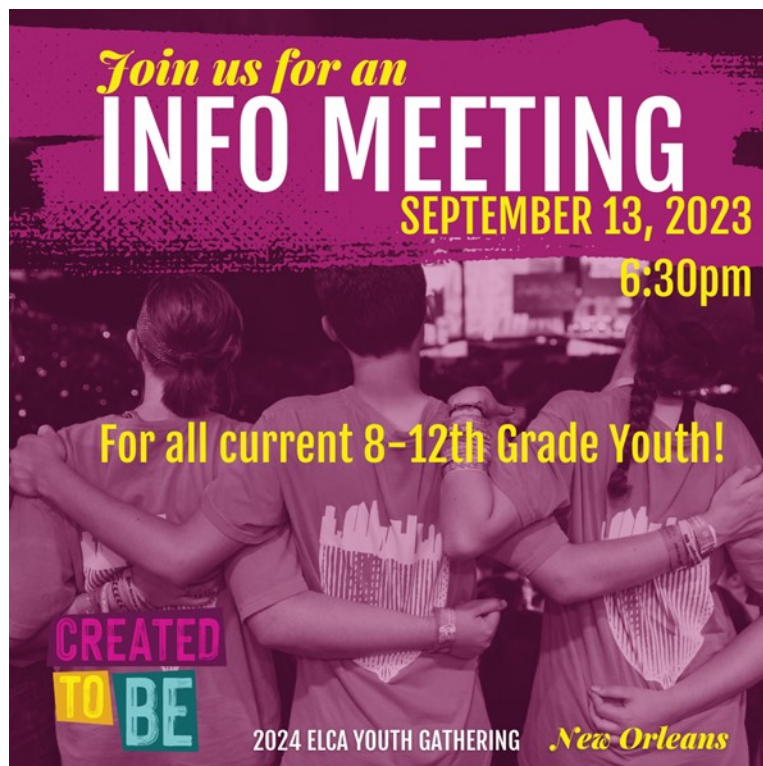
The [2023-2024 Wednesdays of HOPE Registration](#) is LIVE now!
PLEASE REGISTER IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO

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 September 13, 2023



Eggs will be back this fall for purchase.
The donations will go to Youth Ministry events.
Thanks for supporting our youth here at HOPE!!



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

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



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Message of Gratitude

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to thank you for all the ways you support the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and our work together in sharing the good news in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your offerings. Through your generosity you have helped Deacon Lidixe Montoya develop and nurture relationships with our Latin American neighbors. Neighbor2Neighbor ministry has held multiple health fairs across our synod providing information on health and human services. Your support also made it possible for Deacon Lidixe to work with an intern to help provide information about diabetes screenings and treatment.

Your support has also made it possible for the Northwest Synod to help hurricane victims in our companion synod of Malawi. You have helped pastors in our synod pay down educational debt, and helped provide other educational opportunities for rostered leaders supporting their various ministries.

Your generous support is essential as we continue to walk together in ministry. God continues to call us to discern the needs of our neighbors here in Wisconsin and around the world. Your financial support makes loving our neighbors as ourselves tangible in God's world. Thank you for all that you do and will continue to do in Jesus' name.

Your sister in Christ,

Rev. Diane House

Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

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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!

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 13, 2023



Friends of Malawi YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A MALAWI SUMMIT

Have you visited Malawi in the past or, perhaps, are interested in a future trip? Does your congregation have a parish partnership or other initiative that connects with our friends in ministry there? All those who are interested in our synod's companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi are invited to join us for this event as we share insights about our most recent visit, explore how this partnership has evolved over the last 25 years, and discuss objectives as we accompany our siblings in the future. Bring your stories, experiences, hopes, and questions as we consider our relationship with the
Warm Heart of Africa!



**Due to the nature of this conversation, joining in person is preferred, however, we can offer a Zoom option! -please RSVP using the QR code or link below with your name/preferences so that we can prepare appropriately.*

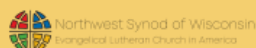
We look forward to seeing you there!



nswi.org/calendar

September 14

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Central Lutheran Church
Chippewa Falls, WI



Are you wondering where the Holy Spirit might be directing the church in the future? Come and see! Join us for the

FRESH EXPRESSIONS WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1:
October 21, 2023
10:00 - 12:30 - Eau Claire Library

Workshop 2:
January 13, 2024
10:00 - 12:30 - Eau Claire Library

Workshop 3 - Celebration!
April 20, 2024
12:30 - Luncheon
The Brewing Project - Eau Claire, WI

"Fresh Expressions is a movement of the Holy Spirit cultivating new forms of church alongside existing congregations to reach a changing world."

Deep Roots, Wild Branches, pg. 53



Register at: <https://nswi.org/home/calendar>



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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)



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