

This Week at HOPE September 27, 2023

Pastoral Reflections from A Season of Creation

By Pastor Annie Ladnier

Earlier this week I attended the 2023 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Fall Ministry Retreat with keynote speaker, Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations. He graciously shared a presentation on Indigenous Theology with the pastors and deacons of our synod.

One tremendous gift, of many, our Indigenous siblings have to offer the wider Christian community is their sense of connectedness to creation. Their sense of time, place, and especially ceremony is not just connected to, but dependent on the land from which they came. Everything is honored and seen as purposeful. They humbly acknowledge that humans are dependent on Mother Earth, though not one single non-human relative of ours is dependent on us, and so every other piece of creation is honored. There is a symbiosis and a beauty that was deeply understood by Indigenous peoples that has been lost by most of us because of colonization and its aftermath.

As I sat down for my own personal devotions and came across this prayer I couldn't help but see and hear the Holy Spirit's nudge about this symbiosis:

"Praise from All Creatures" by Ted Loder in *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*

Praise be to you, O Lord,
who spins shining stars across the wondrous heavens
and stretches out the seas,
who lifts the dawn into place
and sets boundaries for night,
who awes the earth with storms
and gentles it with green,
who gives everything a season
and breathes life and love into the dust of me.
Praise be to you.

Praise in all things for all things:
the soft slant of sunlight;
the sweat of battle,
a song in the wilderness,
the evening breeze,
the deep breath,
the tended wound,
mercy, quietness, a friend;
for the miracles of the daily,
the mysteries of the eternal.
Praise be to you.

Praise from all creatures,
laughers, and list-makers,
wonders and worries,
poets and plodders and prophets,
the wrinkled, the newborn,
the whale, and the worm,
from all and from me.
Praise, praise be to you for amazing grace.

This Week at HOPE September 27, 2023



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24

As our celebration of the Season of Creation winds to an end this coming Sunday, October 1st, we are grateful to God for reminding us of our interconnectedness to *all* of God's beautiful creation! Of course this is worth celebrating, acknowledging, and honoring year-round. HOPE's Green Team has given us some wonderful ways to mindfully continue this celebration:

1. Renewable Energy Blocks:

The special offering for HOPE's renewable energy blocks is open through October 1! This enables us to be 100% renewable here at HOPE, and contributes to the offset of additional homes in our community! We have a goal of offsetting 12 additional homes this year (about 35 REBs per month in 2024)! So far this year we have raised \$295. Help us meet our goal! Donations may be mailed or dropped off to Olive in the church office. ***Also consider updating your own River Falls Municipal Utilities bill to offset carbon emissions in your own home for only \$2 per block! [Get more info HERE](#)***

2. Plastic Film Recycling

We are excited to offer plastic film recycling right here at HOPE! This is a partnership with the UWRF and [Trex](#) to help turn our pounds of plastic film waste into beautiful and environmentally responsible outdoor products. The bin is located directly inside the front entryway. So start saving the following items:

- a. Grocery/produce bags
- b. Bread bags
- c. Bubble wrap
- d. Stretch wrap
- e. Ice bags
- f. Plastic shipping envelopes
- g. Ziploc and other food storage bags
- h. Cereal bags
- i. Case overwrap
- j. Salt bags/wood pellet bags
- k. Newspaper sleeves

3. Battery Recycling

We also now have a dedicated battery recycling bucket here at HOPE! This process allows for the materials to be remade into new batteries. All alkaline batteries are acceptable. Other batteries need to be covered in clear tape to eliminate the threat of combustion: lithium primary (including button cell), lithium ion, sealed lead-acid, any battery greater than 9V, any battery you're unsure about. The "Battery Solutions" bucket is located near the entry.

Thank you to our Green Team for leading us in our continued care of God's creation!



An EVENING at
Hope

featuring musical guests
The Barley Jacks Duo

Join us for a fresh air fundraiser
October 14th, 2023
6:00-9:00PM

Enjoy Small Bites & Beverages
Raffle, Auction Items, and More!
\$25/person (includes 1 drink token)
Visit www.hopelutheranrf.com for tickets,
available at church and at door!

HOPE LUTHERAN
3337 Kingsbarn, Ave. River Falls, WI

Brian Wicklund and Mike Cramer sing original
vocals & play jaw-dropping instrumentals.
Skip through the realms of bluegrass, celtic, Appalachian
and jazz in one great evening of music and fun!

Winds of the Spirit - Hope Lutheran
www.hopelutheranrf.com Phone: 715-425-9750

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 27, 2023



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?

VARIOUS times/locations through early November! The next option is set for Wednesday, October 11 @10AM at the home of Connie & Leonard Juaire!

Multiple sessions are available for you to sign-up when it is convenient for you/your family!

Weekday, weeknight, and Sunday afternoon options are available-some spots still need hosts!

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!



MINISTRY TEAM SUPPORT NEEDED!

We have been blessed to hear from each of our HOPE Ministry Teams over the last few months. I hope you have enjoyed hearing more about how God is at work through each of our teams, putting faces with names, and hopefully wondering where your own gifts might align with what God is up to in this place!

Due to some personal moves we have found that 2 of our teams are in particular need of your leadership/gifts at this time:

1. Education Ministry Team

- a. This team plans, prays for, and leads faith formation opportunities for all ages, but with a significant emphasis on our K-12th grade youth.
- b. At this time we need a chair for this team, as well as some new members
- c. Prayerfully consider if you are being called to help our young people come to know and love Jesus and the world God made.

2. Worship Ministry Team

- a. This team plans, coordinates volunteers, and leads our communal worship gatherings with emphasis on our weekly Sunday services, but also for midweek Advent, Lent, and Holy Week worship.
- b. At this time we need a new chair as our old chair, Michael Stang, has taken a new job and is in the process of moving. We thank Michael for his years of leadership on this team.

Prayerfully consider if you are being called to shape the worship life of our congregation.

Contact Pastor Annie or Nancy Sailer, council President if you are interested!

This Week at HOPE September 27, 2023



MAKING MUSIC
IN THE VALLEY

Collaboration Concert with Music Saint Croix
and the St Croix Jazz Orchestra

Trinity Lutheran Church
Stillwater, MN

September 30, 2023

MAKING MUSIC IN THE
VALLEY

Saturday, September 30, 2023 - 7:30pm

Come and join us for our Collaboration Concert with
Music Saint Croix and the St Croix Jazz Orchestra. This is
our gift to you - the concert is free!

Trunk or Treat

29
OCTOBER
2023

ALL ARE WELCOME!!
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY
5:30-7 PM
NIGHT

3337 KINGSBARN AVE, RIVER FALLS, WI

Spread the word to neighbors & friends!
NOTE: It's on a SUNDAY evening this year!
TRUNK HOSTS NEEDED! SIGN UP HERE!

This Week at HOPE September 27, 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!

ADULT HELPERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE

Have you ever wondered what our children and youth get up to on Wednesday nights here at HOPE?

Did you know that you are welcome to join the fun anytime?

This year we are extending a special invitation for all adults to serve as snack hosts and teachers!

Teachers and Snack Hosts 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 at the links above or contact Pastor Annie!

This Week at HOPE September 27, 2023



**FALL SESSION IS LIVE NOW-NOVEMBER 15!
ALL ARE WELCOME**

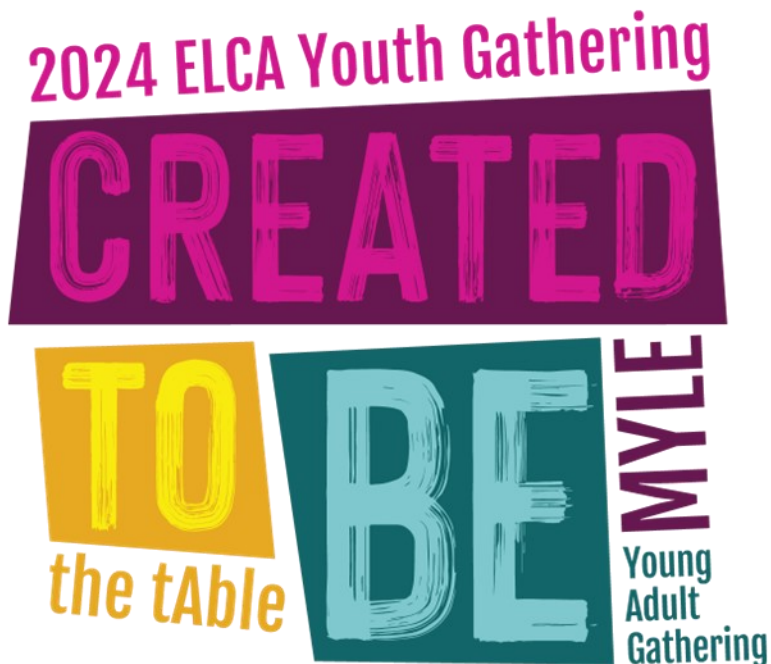
All K-10th+* grade youth are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6-7PM for fellowship, family friendly worship & service, learning, and growing in relationship to Jesus and one another! Our evenings begin with a brief all family style worship, where children & adults help with leadership and 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 Snack Hosts 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 at the links above or contact Pastor Annie!

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**REGISTRATION FORMS AND NON-REFUNDABLE
\$75 DEPOSIT**

DUE BY OCTOBER 1ST!

**All current 8-12th grade youth & friends are invited to
The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in
NEW ORLEANS, LA!
July 16-20, 2024!**

[FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE](#)



Battery recycling now available at HOPE

PREPARE

**These types of batteries must have their
terminals covered by clear tape:**

Lithium primary (including button cells),
Lithium ion, Sealed lead-acid, any battery
greater than 9 volts. If you're not sure -
tape the terminals.

LOOK!

for the "Battery Solutions" recycling
bucket near the entry.



Deposit your batteries in the bucket!

Thank you!



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!

This Week at HOPE September 27, 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/>.



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>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This Week at HOPE September 27, 2023



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Mary Louise Olson & Family (Friends Jeff & Karen Rodewald)
Ken Jones (Father of Martie Guthrie)
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

This Week at HOPE September 27, 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