

# This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023



But while the son was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him....And they began to celebrate.  
+ Luke 15:20, 24

Dear HOPE,

One of Jesus' most famous parables is usually called, "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." But this is actually a parable designed to teach us about the merciful, generous nature of God. And to the extent that "prodigal" means extravagant or over-the-top, that word is better applied to the father in the story.

The son comes home hoping for a modest meal in exchange for an apology. Before he can say a word, however, his father is lavishing him with love and making preparations for a party. For the prodigal parent, only a splendid celebration will do.

Jesus says that God – the Prodigal Parent – puts grace into action this way: welcoming us home even when we don't "deserve" it; forgiving us completely before we can even ask; and treating just the sight of us as cause for extravagant joy.

At our best, this sort of celebratory welcome is what HOPE is all about. Welcoming visitors and regulars alike into the beautiful choreography of worship and celebration. We strive to be a community of joy – prodigal, extravagant, and free – for anyone who longs for a meal, an embrace, and the reassurance that they are not alone.

This welcome is about repairing the world through love, one celebration at a time. That's "Grace in Action." You can hear it in the language we use: we celebrate Communion, celebrate Baptism, celebrate Easter, celebrate Christmas, celebrate Kickoff Sunday, celebrate weddings, celebrations of Life, etc.

At the end of this letter, you'll find a brief testimony from Keith Getschel about what this prodigal celebration feels like here at HOPE. We hope you'll read his thoughts on joy in our life and work together. And speaking of celebration: we're looking forward to celebrating Commitment Sunday with you on Sunday October 29. That will be a party you won't want to miss!

Linked here is the [\*\*2024 HOPE Commitment Card\*\*](#). We will include it each week and whenever you see it, try praying the prayer printed within it. Spend time considering how you want to respond to God's Grace in Action. Then fill it out and submit it by Commitment Sunday, October 29th OR fill out a paper Commitment Card and bring it along on that day when we will joyfully put our God-given grace into action together!

Grace and joy,  
HOPE's Stewardship Team

# This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023



Dear HOPE,

This week's message focuses on the celebration of the Prodigal Son (or anyone for that matter) returning to the Father. Can the Grace shown by that Action be any bigger? In the main stewardship message this week, we listed many of the celebrations we do on a regular basis primarily with a focus on us, the members of HOPE. But what about the others in our community that our Father also wants to celebrate with as they take one step closer to him.

This is where I believe you, as the community of HOPE, should feel extremely proud of our history. You have shown our Grace in Action in many ways as we celebrate people coming into our midst. As you stop and ponder each event listed below, think about the open arms that HOPE has extended to this community. Our open arms symbolize our Father being so excited to see ALL people. And thus, we celebrate the extraordinary people in our midst.

- Trunk or Treat
- National Night Out
- An Evening At HOPE/Jazz and More
- Songs & Suds/Hymns & Hops

Notice that each event is quite different. That the target audience varies. That the people impacted is large. But the constant is drawing people into HOPE's midst by things that are exciting to them. So, "Thank You" for those ideas which spurred action, and for the diligent people who lead them.

With such an amazing history, where do you think Grace In Action will take YOU and your family in the future. Just when you might think there's nothing left to do.... someone comes up with another great idea that influences and expands God's connection to HOPE's congregation and the community around us. So may the Grace of our Father inspire you to take the Actions that are appropriate for you, now and every day.

Keep your sights toward Commitment Sunday on October 29.

Thank you!  
Keith Getschel

WHAT CHARACTER  
IN THE PARABLE OF  
"THE PRODIGAL SON"  
DO YOU IDENTIFY  
WITH MOST?

THE WANDERING SON,  
THE WELCOMING FATHER,  
THE DUTIFUL BROTHER,  
OR SOMEONE ELSE?

WHY?



**This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023**



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](http://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](http://www.hopelutheranrf.com) Phone: 715-425-9750

**NOW INSIDE HOPE'S SANCTUARY!**

# This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023



## What is a Cottage Meeting?

- ♦ An opportunity for communities of faith 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 options are set for THIS THURSDAY NIGHT October 12 @7PM at Vicki Siebold's home and Sunday, October 15th after worship at Karen & Jeff Rodewald's home! [See the link for ALL your options and to sign-up!](#)
- ♦ Multiple meetings are available 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!

## When can I sign-up?

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

**This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023**



Spread the word to neighbors & friends!  
NOTE: It's on a SUNDAY evening this year!  
**BE A TRUNK HOST! [SIGN UP HERE!](#)**

**HOPE will hand out goodie bags at  
Trunk or Treat, Sunday October 29th.  
Wrapped treats are welcome!  
Please leave at the church by October 22nd.**

**Thank You!**

**This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023**



**FALL SESSION 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!



This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023



Teachers and Snack Hosts **ARE NEEDED**  
for Wednesdays of HOPE to be a safe, engaging, and welcoming  
time for all!

Please consider sharing your time and gifts to help!  
Sign-up at the links above/contact Pastor Annie for more information!



**This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023**

The background of the poster is a dark navy blue. It is decorated with several golden musical notes and treble clefs, some of which are part of flowing musical staves. Scattered throughout the design are white, stylized snowflakes of various sizes.

*CAROLS &  
CANDLES*

*ANNOUNCING:  
THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE*

**MONDAYS @ 6:30PM  
NOV. 13  
NOV. 20  
NOV. 27**

**DRESS REHEARSAL  
SAT., DEC. 9 9:30AM**

**CAROLS & CANDLES SERVICE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 4:00PM**

**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR CHOIR!**

**This Week at HOPE October 11, 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!



### **The Daytime Book Club Is Back!**

The daytime book group will meet Thursday Oct. 26 at 1:00 at Hope. Bring your books, ideas and a friend. Looking forward to seeing you all. It has been too long!

# This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023



Now that we have concluded our 2023 celebration of the Season of Creation, the HOPE Green Team is setting forth a new goal! **The team is seeking your assistance and participation in a mindful initiative to greatly reduce the use of plastic at HOPE.**

Plastic waste is ubiquitous, long lasting, and potentially quite harmful to many facets of the environment. As stewards having the privilege of caring for this special place where we gather to worship the Creator and to be nurtured by God's Spirit and the beauty of our surroundings, we strive to protect and restore, rather than neglect and harm. We all have the opportunity to be caring stewards when we choose to be responsible consumers of resources and producers of waste by reducing our use of plastic where possible.

Thinking of the words from Ezekiel and Pastor Annie's recent sermon, we hope all can embrace this initiative as an opportunity to "Turn and Live". As we turn away from the convenience and availability of plastic, and seek less harmful options, we are not only sustaining life for ourselves, we protect the necessary elements of life for our world neighbors. We take a small step of faith toward cleaner water, more breathable air, and uncontaminated food for all.

As we engage in our ministry together, we encourage you to be mindful of the use of plastic supplies and packaging. For example, during God's Work, Our Hands Kick-Off Sunday, our Congregational Life team used compostable products rather than plastic and opted to wash silverware rather than use plastic utensils. For our upcoming Trunk or Treat, our Education and Congregational Life teams are refraining from plastic goodie bags, opting for paper instead, and being careful not to purchase more one time use plastic trinkets as goodies. If your ministry team has a question about an upcoming event, please don't hesitate to consult with us and we can assist you in navigating more environmentally friendly possibilities!

And don't forget about our new Trex plastic film recycling bin, right here at HOPE!

In God's Love,

The HOPE Green Team



SCAN FOR TICKETS



TICKETS \$25 & UP (18+)  
\$10 (AGES 8-17)  
KIDS 7 OR UNDER FREE



Our Neighbors' Place  
715-426-9000

EVENT AT ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH, 211 E DIVISION ST, RIVER FALLS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE, AT THE DOOR, OR AT THE ONP DAY CENTER

OCT. 26, 2023 5-7 PM



# EMPTY BOWLS

Benefitting Our Neighbors' Place RF Backpack Program and Day Center

DELICIOUS SOUPS DONATED BY:



BREAD DONATED BY RISE BAKING / DESSERTS DONATED BY GAGA'S KITCHEN





## **Velkommen**

### **Our Savior's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutefisk Supper Thursday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

MENU: Lutefisk with Butter and Cream Sauce  
Meatballs and Gravy  
Riced Potatoes, Coleslaw, Rolls  
Grot, Norwegian Delicacies, Coffee, Milk  
Serving 2:00 – 6:30PM

Cost: \$20 adult ~ \$12 youth ~ \$7 child ~ 5 & under free

.....  
**Limited tickets – Order early – Deadline October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Take-Out option: Call Gina Place at 1-715-441-9086**

**Dine-In time reservations required:**

**Online Link: [www.oursaviorschurch.info](http://www.oursaviorschurch.info)**

**Church Office Phone: 715-273-4570**

**Email: [office.osbeldenville@gmail.com](mailto:office.osbeldenville@gmail.com)**

.....  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
N6450 530<sup>th</sup> St  
Beldenville, WI 54003

This Week at HOPE October 11, 2023



Bethay Lutheran Church invites you to a Biblical Faith Journey..

“STORIES FROM THE PAST,  
*Lessons for Today, Hope for the Future*

“Incredible, poignant, piercing  
through time right to the heart  
of where we are living today.”  
*-Aglow International*

“Gripping and engaging”  
*-Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bowle*

Friday, Oct. 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
“Too Old, Too Busy, Too Sinful”  
Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 at 2:00 PM  
Family Friendly Program  
“Queen Esther, Lot’s Wife, The Lost Coin”

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
35 West Messenger  
Rice Lake, WI 54868  
Open to all: Men, Women, School Age Children  
Free Will Offering  
Contact Church at 715-234-9028 or  
Mike Diercks  
715-736-1981

*performed by Anita Gutschick*  
**WOMEN of the BIBLE**  
[www.womenofthebible.com](http://www.womenofthebible.com)



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

**CHILI  
SUPPER**

**& PIE FOR DESSERT!**

Thursday, October 19, 2023  
at 5:00 - 7:00 PM

1097 SCOTT ROAD  
BURKHARDT, WI 54016

FREE WILL OFFERING



## 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.

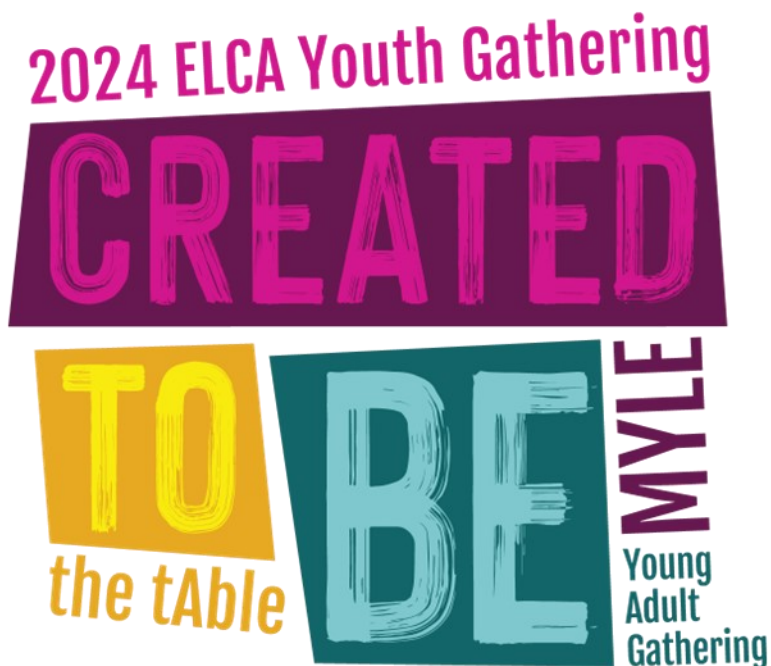
### 2. Worship Ministry Team

- 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 October 11, 2023**



**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](#)**

**HOPE will be remembering our college students while they prepare for finals. Please submit your students addresses by November 19th. You can send them via email to**

**[hopelutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com](mailto:hopolutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com)**





## 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!**

Green with  
HOPE



**This Week at HOPE October 11, 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 October 11, 2023



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 October 11, 2023



## Please lift up the following people in prayer

Beth Lindgren Family (Dan Malaney)  
Betty Lou Oppegard and Family  
Michael Jacobson (Brother of Linda Jacobson)  
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)  
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)  
Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)  
Naomi Brandt and family  
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 October 11, 2023



October Birthdays	Date
Carolyn Jackson	2-Oct
Nancy Sailer	3-Oct
Debra James	5-Oct
Lucy VanOverbeke	5-Oct
Kevin James	10-Oct
Morgan Torntore	15-Oct
Kermit Paulson	16-Oct
Karen Brohaugh	16-Oct
Arol Thompson	20-Oct
Pastor Annie	20-Oct
Nathan Clark	22-Oct
Carrie Knudsen Hendrickson	29-Oct
Eden Ladnier	29-Oct
Nick Johnson	30-Oct

## October Baptisms

Keith Getschel  
Sarah Bondhus  
Nancy Peters  
Carolyn Jackson  
Paula Klacan  
Erin Nelson  
Madison Ziebarth  
Danielle Tokheim  
Lillian Brill  
Deb Tokheim  
Camryn Glaubitz



October Anniversaries	Date	Years to Celebrate
Dale & Jan Wegleitner	6-Oct	50
Roger & Verna Tweiten	21-Oct	62
Ryan & Samatha Brill	24-Oct	14

# This Week at HOPE October 11, 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