

This Week at HOPE October 18, 2023



'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

- Luke 10:36-37

Dear HOPE Family,

Over the last 3 weeks, we've been exploring what "Grace in Action" looks like, for God and for us. We've considered God's generosity in building the home of creation, and our call to be world-builders and homemakers, too. We've thought about God's prodigal, never ending welcome, and about our own hospitality and celebration.

This week, as we approach Commitment Sunday on October 29th, we'd like to ask you to reflect on the grace that appears when we least expect it. That's what Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan is all about, since Jews and Samaritans didn't get along in those days: imagining someone from the "other side" – of the aisle, of the debate, of the conflict – whose actions beautifully reflect the grace of God. And then to go and do likewise.

When the image of God shines brightest through our lives, we find ourselves building bridges, showing and receiving mercy, and learning from supposed "enemies." As our mission statement says, "HOPE is called by God to look beyond ourselves. We walk together in faith, treasuring all people and sharing with them the love, hope and acceptance that is in Christ." Through the following programs and outreach, we've been a part of God's merciful work of justice and reconciliation:

- ✝ Lutheran World Relief
- ✝ Purchase of Green Energy Blocks to be 100% sustainable
- ✝ The Green Team
- ✝ Bowling for Ukraine
- ✝ Blessing Bags for Our Neighbors Place, Grace Place, and to personally hand out
- ✝ River Falls Food Pantry
- ✝ The Backpack Program
- ✝ Habitat for Humanity

HOPE has a long history of putting "Grace in Action," and with your help, we can do even more. On the next page, you'll find a brief testimony from Martie Guthrie about what this kind of mercy and justice feels like. We hope you'll read her thoughts on God's unexpected, inspiring grace.

Finally, be sure to join us on Sunday, October 29th for Commitment Sunday, when we'll celebrate and reflect on all the ways God's "Grace in Action" has shaped our community – as well as all the ways we seek to be more gracious in our lives and work together. Don't forget to **FILL OUT YOUR ONLINE COMMITMENT CARD** or print and bring in your hard copy on or before that day, ready to be filled out with grace upon grace!

See you Sunday,
The HOPE Stewardship Committee

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A Stewardship Story by Martie Guthrie:

I'd like to share with you an experience that Marc and I recently had while moving to River Falls from Nebraska. We decided to move ourselves with U-Haul vans. And we had to make two trips in order to bring everything needed.

Our first trip was in late November of last year. The first large snowfall was occurring where the area received 5 1/2 inches. It was a harrowing trip, as from Nebraska through Iowa we encountered freezing rain. Then it began to snow on top of the ice that had fallen. We had windshield wiper problems that delayed us by a bit. When we reached our daughter's house in Maplewood, everything was blanketed in a soft layer of snow.

The next day we headed to the house with the van. Since we weren't too familiar with the driveway leading to our property, and there were no markers, we had to guess at where it entered and curved. While trying to navigate one curve, Marc went off the road and into the ditch with a house-full of furniture! Marc asked the realtor who she would contact to pull us out of the ditch.

We reached out to Jerry's Towing who had the truck pulled out of the ditch in no time. Then to our surprise, they continued to plow our entire driveway to the county road without being asked. WOW! What a surprise to know that our next challenging problem was taken care of by them as well.

At a time when we were literally in a different "world", and didn't have any contacts to reach out to, our angels came and took care of the problem and then some. As I'm sure you know, moving is a stressful time, with so many things needed to coordinate. To have someone come and rescue us was like a big hug at a time when we needed it. We felt that our first encounter with people from River Falls was welcoming, with compassion, grace and generosity toward us.

Then we started the mission of finding a new home church for us. Over a number of weeks, we visited several churches on Sundays, from various denominations. When we visited HOPE we were a tiny bit intimidated, walking into a rather small worship space where being a visitor was very apparent. However we were won over by your welcoming hospitality.

We could see you were involved in so many projects that reached beyond yourselves, into the surrounding community, neighborhood and world. You were being moved by a love that pays no attention to racial, religious, or socioeconomic categories. We saw in action that you were doing what God has called us to do, "To reach out to others, love one another, contribute to the needs of others, live peaceably with all". You are holy, for you are God's temple and God dwells in you.

Blessings to Each of You!

Martie Guthrie



Read Luke 10:25-37 and then reflect:



WHICH CHARACTER IN
THE PARABLE OF THE
GOOD SAMARITAN HAVE
YOU BEEN MOST OFTEN:

THE HURT PERSON

THE ROBBERS

THE ONES WHO PASS BY

THE SAMARITAN

THE INNKEEPER

SOMEONE ELSE?



Our Faithful Response to Israel-Hamas War

Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very low; save me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. -Psalm 142:6
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble- Psalm 46:1

There is no way that we can understand the full complexities of the current conflict we are witnessing. There are years, centuries, millenia of religious, political, and economic histories at play that we as American Christians can only begin to comprehend.

But I do know that our God abhors violence. I know that God weeps at the death and loss of any part of God's good creation. I know Jesus commands Peter to put his sword back in its sheath and in Peter's first letter he tells us not to repay evil for evil. I know that Jesus tells us that he has sheep in other folds. I know that God desires that all would come to know God's love and mercy. I know we worship a Savior who stands on the side of the oppressed and who, in his parables and stories, painted a just picture of God's Kingdom.

I know that we can pray for God's peace to reign.

I know that we can do our part to tend to those who are wounded physically, spiritually, and mentally in the wakes of war.

I know that we can seek to better understand our global neighbors.

So here is a prayer:

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Here is a way to help:

[Lutheran Disaster Response](#)

And here are some resources to guide you in your learning:

Books:

Blood Brothers by Elias Chacour (Pastor Annie has a copy you can borrow)

I am A Palestinian Christian: God and Politics in the Holy Land: A Personal Testimony by Mitri Rehab

News Pieces/Interviews:

[What Israelis are Thinking and Feeling since the Hamas Attack](#)

[Fresh Air for Oct. 11, 2023: The deadly foundations of the war between Israel and Hamas](#)

Link to [ELCA resources including Bishop's statements, partner statements and more](#)

May God guide our world into the way of peace,
Pastor Annie Ladnier

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An Evening at HOPE



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A FEW MEETINGS REMAIN! DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS FUN



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 18, 2023



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 5!

The first Sunday of November is All Saints Sunday, a day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of the feast to come!

During our worship together we will give special recognition to the names of all those whom we have lost since last All Saints Sunday. Names of ANYONE are welcome!

This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend who has suffered a loss this year. Can we include their beloved's name and share in their grief and hope this year?

If you would like your beloved to be included in that list of names, please send it to Olive in the church office ([hopelutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com](mailto:hopenlutheranoffice.rf@gmail.com)) by **Tuesday, October 31st.**

This Week at HOPE October 18, 2023



CELEBRATES
New Members

**Sunday November 5, 2023
9:30 Worship
Reception following**

Contact Pastor Annie if interested:
hoveluthernanpastor.rf@gmail.com

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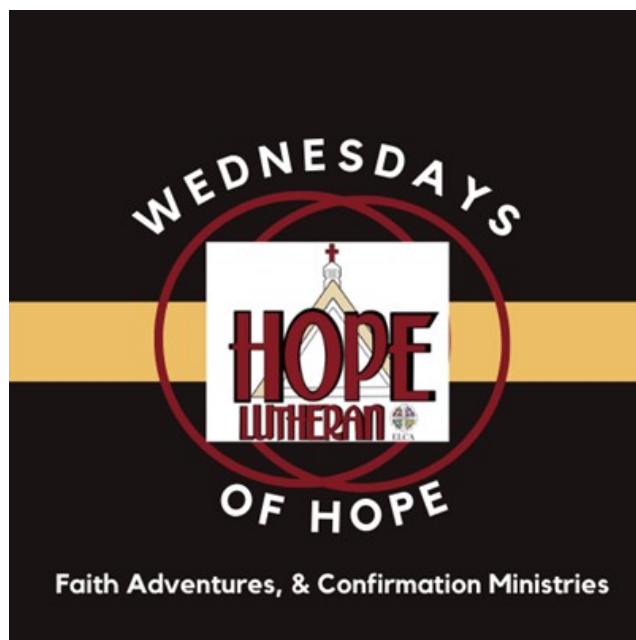


Spread the word to neighbors & friends!
NOTE: It's on a SUNDAY evening this year!
BE A TRUNK HOST! [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

**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 18, 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 18, 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 18, 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 18, 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 18, 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 75th Annual Lutefisk Supper Thursday, Oct 26th, 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

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Limited tickets – Order early – Deadline October 16th, 2023

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

Dine-In time reservations required:

Online Link: www.oursaviorschurch.info

Church Office Phone: 715-273-4570

Email: office.osbeldenville@gmail.com

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church
N6450 530th St
Beldenville, WI 54003



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.

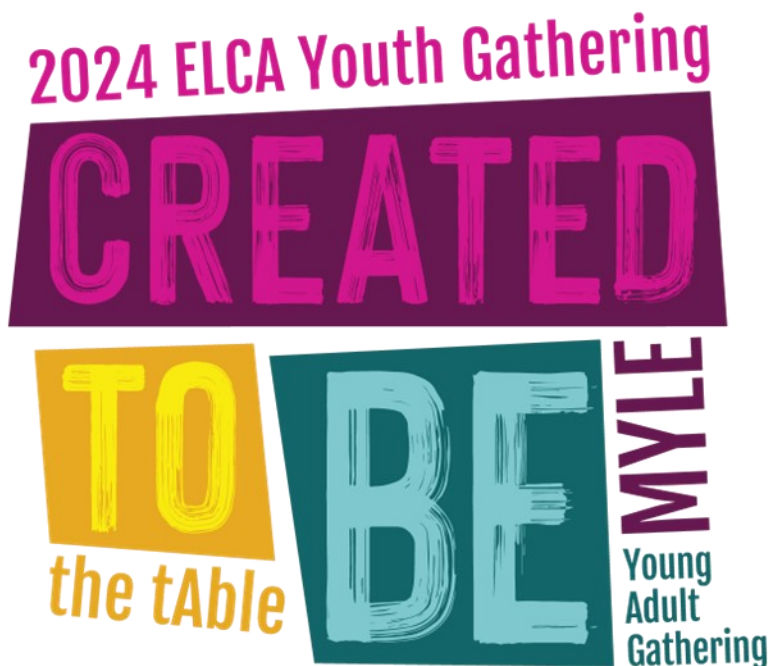
2. Worship Ministry Team

- 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 18, 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:hoperlutheranoffice.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 18, 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!](#)

This Week at HOPE October 18, 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 18, 2023



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Lorraine Brask Family (Mother of Karen Kaste)
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 18, 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 18, 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