

In this first week of Advent we spend time acknowledging our weariness. Here is a poem to assist you:

The First Sunday of Advent | How does a weary world rejoice?
We acknowledge our weariness

Wade In

Over time
wind and water
will sand down the edges of a stone.
For humans,
our wind and water
is the grief of the world.

Stay here long enough
and pieces of you
will be pressed upon
by life's never-ending stream.
It's enough to make you weary.
It's enough to make you question.
It's enough to make you quiet.
And yet, the stream continues.

So do not be afraid to stand in that water.

Wade in. Soak the hem of your jeans.

Drip wet footprints through every room in your house.

Let the water stains tell your story.

And when your body grows weary of swimming,
name the stream.

Acknowledge your weariness.

For eventually,
you will pick flowers from
the opposite bank.

And over and over again, we'll tell this story.

And over and over again,
a weary world will rejoice.

Poetry by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Hope's 2023 Advent Mission Project works in conjunction with our Advent theme, "How Does A Weary World Rejoice?" Beginning, Sunday, November 26th we have 3 ways to explore this theme through mission and service:

- We Rejoice in Thanksgiving: All are invited to write and address thank-you Christmas cards to a person, group, business or organization of your choice. We will provide blank cards for people to fill out and send themselves or we will send them!
- → We will be helping those who are weary and experiencing homelessness "Lay Down Their Sweet Heads" by collecting new pillows and pillowcases for Grace Place. Everyone who leaves there is sent with their new pillow.
- We will offer A Thrill of Hope by collecting particular items to assemble Personal Care Kits in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. You/your family can assemble an entire kit OR bring needed items for HOPE's Mission Ministry to assemble at the end of December.
 - ⇒ To put together an entire kit <u>CLICK HERE</u>
 - ⇒ To donate particular items, check out the <u>NEEDED ITEMS LIST FOR HOPE</u> and sign up!
 - ⇒ Items needed:
 - light-weight bath-size towel (between 20x40 and 52x27), dark color recommended
 - bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz.,any brand, in original wrapping
 - adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
 - ⋄ sturdy comb, remove packaging
 - metal nail clippers (attached file optional),remove packaging

Thanks,

HOPE Mission Ministry Team



A WEARY WORLD REJOICES!!

Hope's Advent Project in conjunction with the above theme will be rejoicing in Thanksgiving starting Sunday November 26 with writing and addressing thank-you cards to a person, group, business or organization of your choice. We will provide blank cards for people to fill out and send themselves or we will send them.

November 26 and all Sundays in December we will be caring for a "weary" world by collecting new pillows and pillowcases for Grace Place. Everyone who leaves there is sent with their new pillow.

We will also be collecting particular items to assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. You can assemble your own kit or bring items required for the Mission Team to assemble at the end of December.

Items needed:

light-weight bath-size towel (between 20x40 and 52x27), dark color recommended

bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*

sturdy comb, remove packaging metal nail clippers (attached file optional),remove packaging

If you are interested in assembling your own kit(s), go to LWR.org/kits for instructions for Personal Care Kits

Thanks, Mission Team

Angela Bohnert will set up a Google doc for LWR items.

Thanks, Jan





Sunday, Dec. 3 * 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5 * 7:30 p.m.

William Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts





Lefse Day

You don't have to be Norwegian to spend a morning at HOPE making lefse. Please join us on **Saturday**, **December 16th 9:30**. Bring your own lefse dough, one quart ziploc type bags, griddle, turning stick etc. The tasty lefse will be sold during fellowship time on December 17th



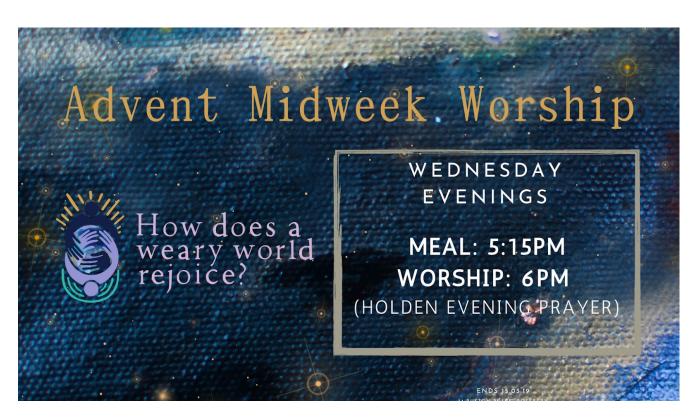
Christmas Bake Sale

Baked goods and holiday treats are needed for HOPE's Bake Sale on **Sunday, December 17th.** Proceeds from your lefse, cookies, bars, breads, pies, cakes, snacks, candy etc. will be donated to the River Falls Backpack Program. Remember to bring your checkbook or cash so you can go home with some delicious homemade goodies.

Please price your baked goodies before the sale!









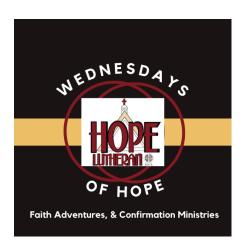


The **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin** is starting the Reconciling in Christ process. We need volunteers for the team that will guide the synod through the process to publicly guide, practice, and teach particularly for LGBTQIA+, racial identity, and neurodiversity. If you think this is important enough to spend some time on Zoom each month, and maybe one in-person meeting or two, please send your expression of interest to synodadvocate@nwswi.org. We only need eight more people, and if you represent one of these identified groups, we need you! Thank you!









ADVENT OFFERINGS & WINTER SESSION INFO! ALL ARE WELCOME

"Regular" WOH takes a pause during the Advent season. Students and families are strongly encouraged to attend our Midweek Advent meals & worship:

5:15-Meal 6:00- Worship (Holden Evening Prayer)

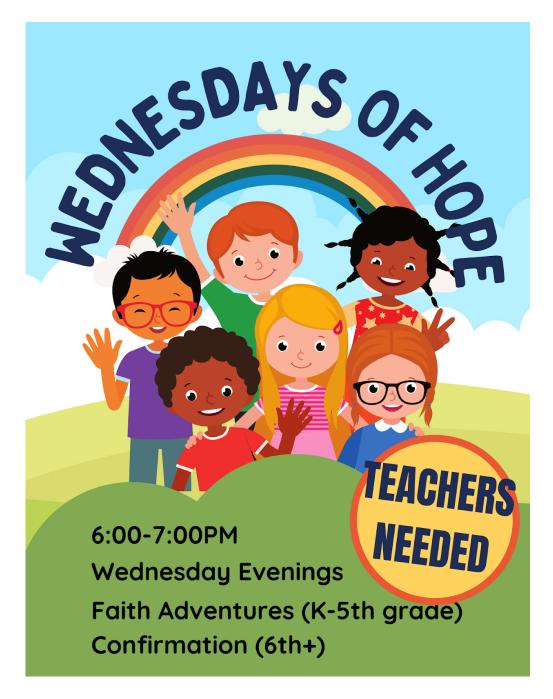
On January 10th, our Winter Session will begin. All K-10th+* grade youth are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6-7PM for fellowship, family friendly worship & service, learning, and growing in relationship to Jesus and one another! Our evenings begin with a brief family style worship, where 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.

If you have not already done so, you can register for the Winter session here:

2023-2024 Wednesdays of HOPE Registration

<u>Teachers</u> and <u>Snack Hosts</u> 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!





Teachers and Snack Hosts

ARE NEEDED for the Winter and Spring Sessions!

Help make 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 for more information!











Diane Clark has created some beautiful pine arrangements for Christmas. They are available to you for a \$30 donation to HOPE with exception of one large arrangement, that one is available for a \$60 donation. Above are two of the 5 small arrangements, stop into HOPE and see the rest of the these beautiful creations by Diane.





All are needed 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!

YOU CAN SIGN UP HERE FOR ANY UPCOMING SUNDAY!

SPECIAL 2024 HELPERS NEEDED!

There are two worship volunteer roles that work on a monthly schedule.

Volunteers for these roles are encouraged to sign-up for an entire month at a time:

COMMUNION BREAD BAKER SIGN-UP





If you have not already done so, please follow this link to the **2024 HOPE Commitment Card**

Naming your commitment will help guide our Ministry Teams and Ministry Council in setting our collective ministry goals for 2024! I am excited to pair our learning from our Fall Cottage Meetings and our Grace In Action Stewardship focus in discovering, naming, and planning for what God is up to at HOPE this coming year and beyond!

You are blessed to be a blessing of Grace in Action for our world!

Pastor Annie Ladnier





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!





December Birthdays

Zoe Tokheim	2-Dec
Dale Bohnert	5-Dec
Mark Bondhus	5-Dec
Wendy Tokheim	11-Dec
James James	11-Dec
Susan Schuettpelz	11-Dec
Luke Filarsky	15-Dec
Sara Filarsky	15-Dec
Tyson Tokheim	15-Dec
Karen Hamilton	17-Dec
Jason Neuhaus	20-Dec
Bruce Schuettpelz	22-Dec
Gary Siebold	26-Dec
Alyssa Boock	27-Dec
Elizabeth Hansen	27-Dec
Noelle James	27-Dec
Cameron Leitch	27-Dec
Ella Wolfe	29-Dec
Hazel Ladnier	30-Dec

December Baptisms

Phillip Klacan
Sawyer Filarsky
Lindsay Getschel
Kari Heinselman
Pastor Annie Ladnier
Eden Ladnier
Heathley Neuhaus
Robert Perkins-McIntosh

Piper Rodewald



		Years to
December Anniversaries	Date	Celebrate
Edward & Gwen Paulson	26-Dec	58
Gregg & Kari Heinselman	27-Dec	37
Ross & Tessa VanOverbeke	31-Dec	18





Please lift up the following people in prayer

Mary Jean Yde (Linda Yde's mother-in-law)

John Weller (Karen Brohaugh's cousin)

Greg Rosenthal (Family member of Karen Brohaugh)

Ken Jones Family (Martie Guthrie 's father)

Dave and Deb Haugen (Family of Ellen Roose)

Phyllis and Tom Haugen (Family of Ellen Roose)

John and Lisa Davis (Friends of Dale & Jan Wegleitner)

Fatma Aljarrah (Friend of Faye Perkins)

Lorraine Brask Family (Mother of Karen Kaste)

Beth Lindgren Family (Dan Malaney)

Betty Lou Oppegard and Family

Michael Jacobson (Brother of Linda Jacobson)

Barb Carmichael (Friend of Nancy Sailer)

Dennis & Sandy Schultz (Friends of Bill & Kay Montgomery)

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)

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)



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