

This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024

Wandering Heart Wonderings...

Last Wednesday began our 2024 Lenten journey. While each week in our “Wandering Heart” series will carry a theme particular to part of Peter’s discipleship story, we opened our Lenten discipline with the overarching theme of “Tune My Heart.” The next six weeks of our liturgical year serve as an opportunity to re-tune our hearts to the very heart of God as we journey to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection!

In our Ash Wednesday worship you heard and received an official “invitation to Lent,” and together we heard these words:

“As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent- Self-examination and repentance,

Prayer and fasting,

Sacrificial giving and works of love-

strengthened by the gifts of Word and Sacrament.” (“Ash Wednesday” in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 252).

This list can also be considered “spiritual practices.” Spiritual Practices are foundational to the Christian Church and have served as a way to root God’s people, as well as tune Jesus’ disciples to God’s will for our lives. We as Lutherans are big on grace, we thrive on it, and that is wonderful! AND Lent is a holy reminder of the depth and breadth of that grace. It provides an opportunity for us to examine how we are living into that grace and how we are extending that grace in our daily lives.

1. As you receive this holy invitation to Lent, we’ve made sure to provide opportunities for you to engage in these spiritual practices:
2. Practice self-examination and repentance through the daily devotional and in attending midweek Lenten worship, “Prayer around the Cross” as well as Sunday morning worship. Here we will practice confessing our sins in community and receiving pardon together- because our faith is relational and cannot be lived out alone.
3. Practice prayer and fasting through worship, the daily devotional-especially the provided poetry and art-, and through the practice of giving up something that gets in the way of your relationship with God. Maybe now is the time to give something up so you have time to engage in these practices (seriously, Jesus probably doesn’t care about your relationship to chocolate but he does care about your lack of personal boundaries, your failure to say no when your family needs you too, your self-doubt that gets in the way of living as God created you to be...)

Practice sacrificial giving and works of love- ok so maybe your chocolate (or coffee *cough cough Pastor Annie*) obsession does limit the funds you have to give for works of love. In which case maybe by fasting you are able to give more generously in ways God is calling you to! This year we are partnering with the [Northwest Synod of WI’s Bishop’s Initiative, “Water Is Life”](#) to help raise a collective \$40,000 to build 2 solar powered, deep drilled wells in our companion synod of Malawi! You have an opportunity to give every Wednesday or at the Bowling for Water event on March 10. In addition you are invited to support the 2024 [St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity](#) Gala, Women’s Build, and other upcoming projects all in support of building a new home for a local veteran!

I encourage you to use these spiritual practices as a way to dive deeper into your Lenten journey, finding yourself in Peter’s story and hearing echoes of your faith walk in the lyrics of our theme hymn, “Come Thou Fount.” **May your wandering heart be blessed, beloved.**



I have never tuned a piano, but I understand it takes hours. Small notes plucked repeatedly, like rain on a tin roof. Some things cannot be rushed. Some things require a steady hand, a listening ear, the intimacy of familiarity. Tuning an instrument and falling in love are both like that. Maybe that is why we pray to God, "Tune my heart," because we are desperate to be pulled into alignment. We are desperate to add our voice to the song, to get lost in a dance, to be in harmony with the melody of the universe. I've never tuned a piano before, but still I pray: *Pull me into alignment. Show me the notes to sing.*



Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me"

I put my headphones in.
I walk quickly.
I look toward the ground.
I create one million barriers
of independence,
but *still* God seeks after me.
God leans a rainbow over the sky.
God sends sun after the rain.
God blankets the earth with wildflowers.
God allows music to carry
and laughter to rise,
all so that I might notice.
And when I do notice,
the unfurling that begins in my soul
is slow and holy and burning.
I am not alone.
God has been chasing after me
all this time.

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

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About this Series:

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

In becoming familiar with Peter's story, many themes resonated with the hymn, "Come Thou Fount." It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we will be guided by a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

Through this series, we affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Additional Resources to Expand Your Wandering Heart Journey:

1. Devote: Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's [Wandering Heart Lenten devotional](#), which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: **In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.**
2. Listen: Wandering Faith: Figuring out Faith with Peter [SPOTIFY PLAYLIST](#)
3. Read:
 - a. Read *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*, by Diana Butler Bass. (Harper Collins, 2021).
 - b. *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What To Do About It*, by Brian D. McLaren. (New York: St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2021).
4. Watch: *American Symphony*, a Netflix Documentary. Directed and produced by Matthew Heineman, starring Jon Batiste. Netflix. Released November 29, 2023. netflix.com/title/81728930/ *There are several ways this film resonates with this series, as Batiste shows us a steadfast, heart-forward faith in the midst of a wandering journey.*

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The graphic for "Wandering Heart" features the title in a large, white, serif font. The word "Wandering" is on the top line and "Heart" is on the bottom line. The text is surrounded by various red icons connected by a dotted line, including a key, a mountain, a book, a person, a heart, a sun, a cross, and a fish. Below the title, the text "Figuring out faith with Peter" and "Lent 2024" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background is a textured, abstract blend of blue, purple, and pink colors.

Wandering Heart
Figuring out faith
with Peter
Lent 2024

Wednesdays in Lent
5:45 Meal
6:30 Prayer around the Cross

Sundays in Lent
9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship Hour

Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 14

LENTEN EVENING MEAL HOST SIGN-UP

**Ministry Teams or Individuals are invited to host
one of our Lenten midweek meals! (click on the link above)**

ONLY 1 WEEK REMAINS: MARCH 20!



BISHOP'S INITIATIVE

WATER IS LIFE

WELL PROJECT

With the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

Malawi's population is 18.6 million. More than 50% of the population is under 18 years old.

65% of rural areas have access to clean water services.

1 in 3 people don't have clean water to drink.

Thousands of children die each year due to water-borne illnesses. This worsens after natural disasters.

73% of health care centers don't have access to sanitation facilities.

Access to clean water increases safety and education for women and girls.

Deep-drilled wells can provide clean water for thousands of people in a single area.

Solar well designs can withstand more effects of climate change & extreme weather disasters.

GOAL:

\$40,000 raised by Synod Assembly - June 7-8, 2024

PROJECT:

Assist ELCM in building two new solar powered deep drilled wells.

Gifts for this initiative can be given via check, online, or on the synod app.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
"Bishop's Initiative - Water is Life"
944 24 1/4 Street Suite 2
Chetek, WI 54728

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America


This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



SPECIAL WEDNESDAY EVENING SPEAKER

Feb. 28 during our dinner at 5:45


Representatives from River Falls Mutual Aid will share about their mission to relieve issues for those experiencing homelessness and to address housing inequality in our community. This is a grassroots organization who will provide us the opportunity to continue to listen to our community and learn about the real needs and gifts of our neighbors.



**BOWLING FOR
WATER!**
@ St. Croix Lanes
Sunday, March 10th
1:00-3:30PM

FREE bowling with FREEWILL DONATION
to Water Is Life Well Project!
[Register on FB](#) or [@hopelutheranrf.com](https://hopelutheranrf.com)

BISHOP'S INITIATIVE
WATER IS LIFE
WELL PROJECT
With the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



As a reminder Pastor Annie will never text or email you requests for financial assistance for herself or others in need via cash, gift cards, or other methods. This is a notorious scam that happens for pastors that frequently makes the rounds. If you receive such a request please let Pastor Annie know. To protect yourselves make sure to double check any phone numbers or email addresses connected to such requests.

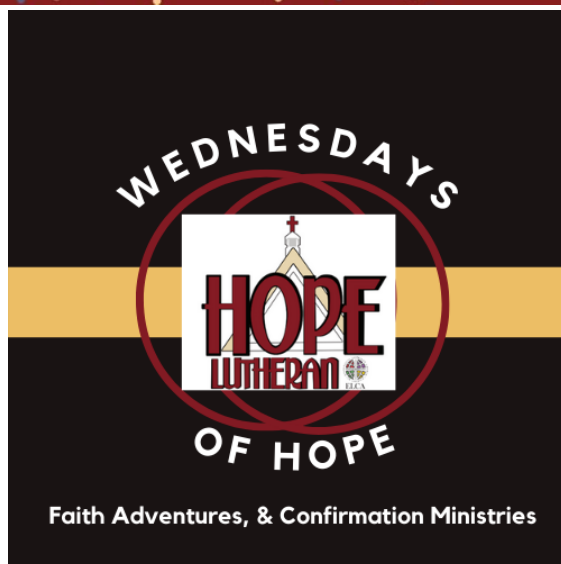
Pastor Annie will never send you anything that looks like this:



This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



YOUTH NEWS



**ALL WOH YOUTH & FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND OUR
MIDWEEK LENTEN MEALS & WORSHIP**

5:45- Meal

6:30- Worship

Spring Session begins April 10th!

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](#)

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 February 21, 2024



All are invited & needed to participate in the leading of worship!
Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Want to help but not sure what the job entails?
Learn more in our [Worship Volunteer Guide](#)

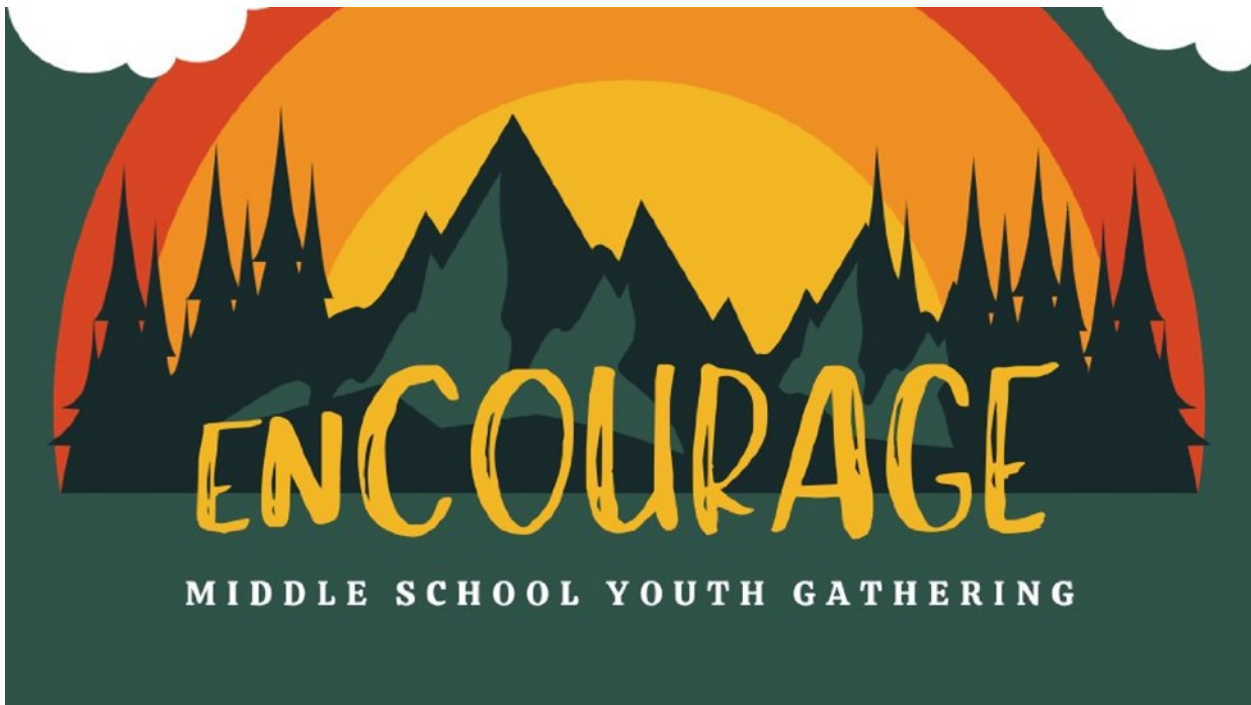
2024 ALTAR GUILD/COMMUNION SET-UP HELP STILL NEEDED!

We are still in need of people willing to prepare the Altar for Sunday morning worship each week. This opportunity allows you the opportunity for a monthly rotation. Please sign up here:

[COMMUNION SET-UP/ALTAR GUILD HELPERS](#)

For a description of how to fulfill this role check out the
[Worship Volunteer Guide](#)

This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



**April 13, 2024 8AM-5PM
\$50 by MARCH 31**

All 5th through 8th graders throughout the NW Synod of WI are invited to join us for an incredible day of music, awesome guest speakers, workshops, group activities, and service projects as we explore what it looks like to trust in God, to have courage, to encourage one another, and be reminded that Jesus is with us always! Registration fee includes an event t-shirt, breakfast treats & lunch. We hope to see you there!!

HOPE youth and friends who would like to attend need to let Pastor Annie know and turn in your \$50 payment NO LATER THAN March 31, 2024. **Please know that cost barriers will never exclude anyone from participating! Speak with Pastor Annie about scholarships.**

This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



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!



We have eggs again!

\$3.00 a dozen donation.

You can find them in refrigerator.

The donations will go to Youth Ministry events.

Thanks for supporting our youth here at HOPE!!

This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



Trinity's outreach ministry, We Do Feet was founded with a mission to provide basic household items to anyone in need, especially those desiring to make a fresh start in life. Since the 1990's, We Do Feet has made a large impact in the St. Croix Valley, now serving hundreds of households annually.

Donations needed:

Beds, dressers, sheets, mattresses & box springs (must be in good, clean shape)
Household items-dishes, silverware, pots & pans, bowls & small appliances

Contact:

715-781-0622

Address:

614 Badlands Rd. Hudson

Volunteers needed:

Weekly shifts are Tuesday evenings from 5-7pm
and Saturday mornings from 9am – noon.



This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



Bakken-Young
Funeral & Cremation Services

Death of a Parent: Am I an adult orphan?

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Via Zoom Webinar

Bakken-Young Funeral and Cremation Services invites you to a free grief webinar for those who are coping with grief after the death of their parent(s).



Presenter, Kenneth Doka will discuss:

- Describe the manifestations and process of grief noting the ways that the death of a parent can be disenfranchised
- Discuss the ways that a parent's death can influence the adult child's development and family dynamics
- Describe self-help strategies in assisting adult children cope with parental loss

Join **Kenneth Doka, PhD, MDiv, FT**, Professor Emeritus at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle and Senior Vice-President for Grief Programs for the Hospice Foundation of America. He is the author of numerous books and publications and the contributing author of *Dying & Death: Life & Living*. He has keynoted conferences throughout North America and other countries.

Register at: bakken-young.com/event/grief-webinar

Questions? Contact Julia Rajtar, Grief Support Coordinator
(715) 781-4003 or julia@bakken-young.com

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services

River Falls (715) 425-8788 | info@bakken-young.com | New Richmond (715) 243-5252

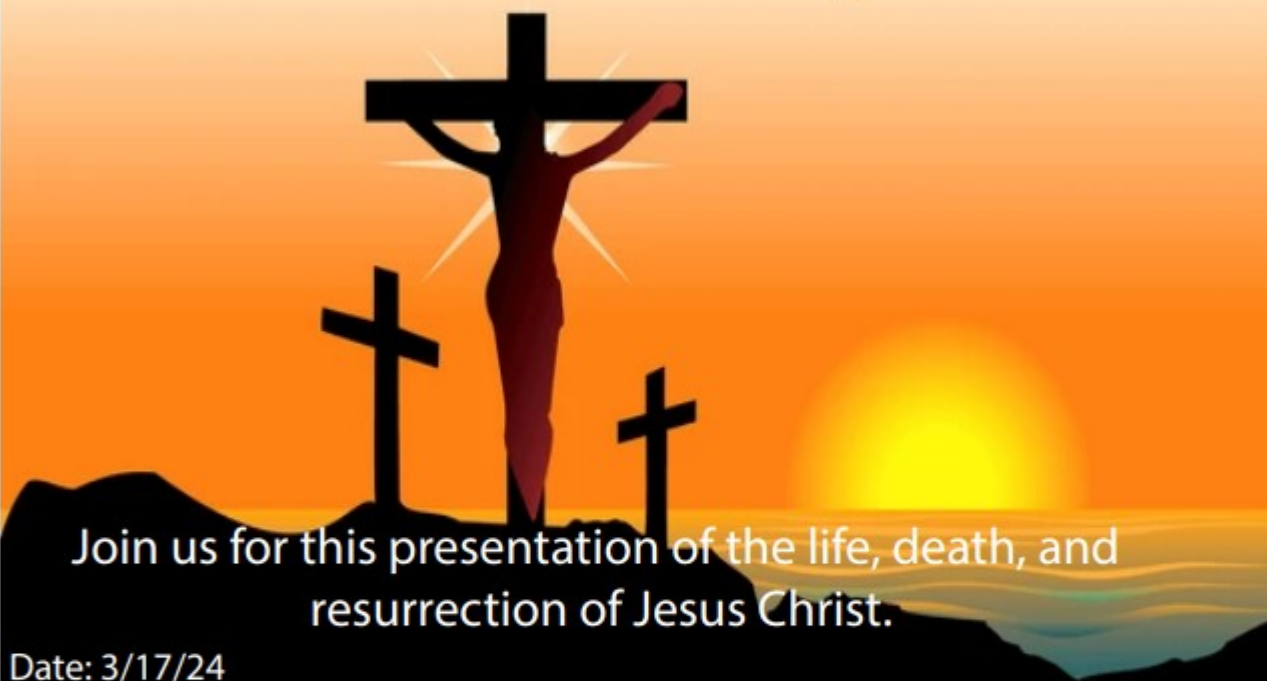
Visit our grief support page for more information on events and resources at: bakken-young.com



< Silent X Messengers



Presents: Celebrating A Savior



Join us for this presentation of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Date: 3/17/24

Time: 5pm Soup & 6pm Play

Location: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church:
151 S Washington Ave, New Richmond WI 54017

Please contact Patty Gallaty with questions at 715-554-4928



Free Will Offering
for
Grace Place
Homeless Shelter

This Week at HOPE February 21, 2024



February Baptisms

Cecelia Bernard
Kevin James
Grete Rehbein
Jill Fritz



February Birthdays

Name	Birth Date
Mason Filarsky	02-Feb
Bill Montgomery	04-Feb
Gwen Paulson	05-Feb
Susie Rudesill	05-Feb
Lisa Ziebarth	07-Feb
Michelle Hansen	10-Feb
Marc Guthrie	10-Feb
Teresa Ginn	11-Feb
Connie Kurten	11-Feb
Martie Guthrie	13-Feb
Dan Wunrow	15-Feb
Ryan Leitch	19-Feb
Diane Clark	20-Feb
Nikida Sandberg	22-Feb
Ryan Brill	23-Feb
Richard Jackson	25-Feb
Rosemary Nelson	25-Feb
Michael Hansen	26-Feb
Darcy Boock	28-Feb

This Week at HOPE February 14, 2024



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Brooke Grant (Niece of Margaret Anderson)
Mike Roy (Friend of Karen Rodewald)
Family of George Klacan
Family of Mary Babler
Lori Snyder (Friend of Nancy and David Peters)
Kermit and Sharon Paulson
Ed and Gwen Paulson
Randy Dopkins (Olive Olson family friend)
David Anderson (Karen Brohaugh's brother)
Faye Perkins and family
Eden Annoye (Relative of Debra James)
John Weller (Karen Brohaugh's cousin)
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)
Ella Conover (Niece of Phil & Paula Klacan)
Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)
Naomi Brandt and family
David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)
Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi Brandt)
Gary Siebold