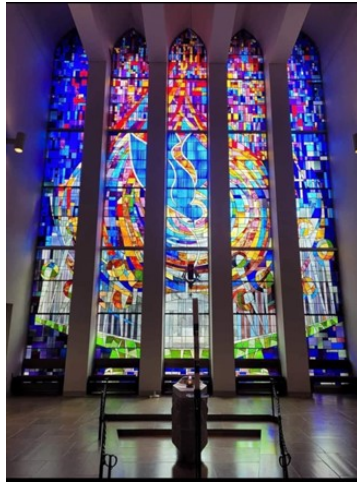


# This Week at HOPE March 6, 2024

## Wandering Heart Wonderings...

From Pastor Annie Ladnier



This is a picture of the stained glass window in Christ Chapel on the campus of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, where I graduated in 2015. The seminary is nestled on the top of a hill that just so happens to be the highest point in Columbia, SC. A lantern on a hill, so to speak (Matthew 5:14-16). I spent time in this stunning chapel nearly every day for the three years of my classroom instruction of seminary. I sang, prayed, cried, and laughed in this chapel. I communed at this altar and celebrated the baptisms of many of my classmates' children. I preached my first real sermon in this chapel. Lucas and I were married in this chapel.

For me, this chapel was undoubtedly, holy ground.

Alumni found out last Friday that our beloved seminary will be closing the doors of this chapel, along with those of the library, classrooms, business offices, dormitories, and apartments. The seminary, which merged with Lenoir Rhyne University in 2012, will move the entirety of its operations to Hickory, North Carolina next year. The changes in academia, the institutional church, and so much more, lead to this necessary, though heartbreaking decision. We had hoped that the merger would be enough to preserve the seminary on the place it has stood for nearly 200 years. But God is up to a new thing.

I didn't know I could have such strong feelings for a place that I haven't even been to in 8.5 years. I'm not known for being an overly emotional person., but this has stirred up a deep sadness for me. In my learning about indigenous theology I've learned that for indigenous people, so much of their very identity is deeply rooted in and among their land. Their rituals can only take place on their land, because without it, it is not the same ritual. As I heard the news about LTSS, I understood this thinking anew. So much of who I am today, as a woman, a pastor, a wife, a mother, a friend, my whole identity was so profoundly shaped by my time in this place. And we know that no place does all that if not for the people and experiences of that place.

Certainly my pastoral formation was so much more than my time in this chapel or any of LTSS's buildings, but for 3-4 beautiful years I was so richly blessed by the other saints that God whisked into my orbit and the experiences we had together during our small time on that precious hill. And like Peter, I was able to confess with my whole being just who Jesus is, while I grew in this place. It was a place and time of such closeness to God. Even if it was just a place.

Last Sunday our opening hymn was "Built on the Rock" and as we sang together, I found myself getting weepy. The Holy Spirit has a knack for giving us the words and the community we need to sing them with at just the right time. There, from the front pew of our simple but beautiful sanctuary I found myself in an altogether new place, with people I didn't even know

existed the day I graduated seminary, people who have their own stories of their mountaintop places, their moments of clarity, and holy ground. People who God has whisked together in just such a time as this for the ministry we are called to do together, and as I heard you sing the promises of this hymn with me, I felt so reassured. For my heart was wandering all over the place, but you, people of HOPE, helped me find my center once again as we sang these words:

*Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.*

*Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.*

*Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:  
"I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen."*

Thank you.

**May your wandering heart be blessed, beloved.**



## 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/](https://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.*



**This Week at HOPE March 6, 2024**



**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!**



**This Week at HOPE March 6, 2024**



# **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://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranrf)**





“WATER IS LIFE” BISHOP’S INITIATIVE

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 10th!

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 March 6 2024

You're Invited!

HOPE Community  
Book Read & Discussion

"My hope is that this book will be a springboard to dialogue about history, the present reality of Indigenous peoples' experience, and the meaning and future of the United States itself."  
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

First discussion April 14 following worship

Books available for free in the HOPE office

Discussions related to the history of the United States from the Indigenous experience as a step toward Truth & Healing.  
What does this mean for us as people of HOPE?

## Please Join Us! HOPE Community Book Read & Discussion

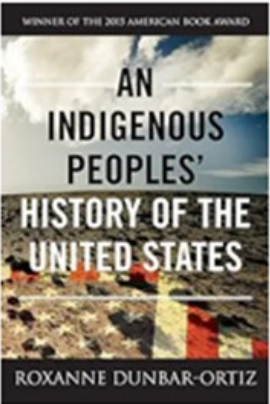
In 1452 Pope Nicholas V issued a decree that laid the foundation for the Doctrine of Discovery. His decree gave King Alfonso V of Portugal authority to enslave non-Christian peoples, thereby promoting his country's slave trade in West Africa. Successive papal decrees solidified and expanded the doctrine by granting Catholic nations of Europe the authority to declare dominion over the then-unknown non-Christian lands they encountered in the Age of Discovery. The decrees also encouraged enslaving native peoples ("Papal Bull Dum Diversas 18 June, 1452," doctrineofdiscovery.org).

In 2016, 19 ELCA synod assemblies passed a memorial that would charge the triennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly to consider repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. With a vote of 912 to 28, the representative assembly adopted the memorial, making the ELCA the second major denomination in the United States to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

On April 29, 2023, the following resolution was approved by the NW Synod of Wisconsin Assembly: "Be it resolved that each congregation take the small step to include a land acknowledgement in their bulletin and newsletter, and speak the words or a variation of these words: 'we gather today on the ancestral land of the (appropriate tribe or nation) and honor their elders past, present, and emerging' before every public gathering, including but not limited to, worship".

How are these three events connected, and what do they mean for us as people of HOPE Lutheran Church? Let us explore together to find out! Please join us for a HOPE community book read and discussion of "An Indigenous People's History of the United States" by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. **We have 18 copies of the book available for free for pick up on a first come-first serve basis beginning March 3. If you would like a copy, please contact or visit Olive in the administrative office, Mondays - Wednesdays 9:00 - 3:00. Then please plan on joining the discussions beginning Sunday, April 14 following worship.** More details to come. Book info below is from Amazon.com.

The first history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples



Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Now, for the first time, acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire.

"Origin narratives form the vital core of a people's unifying identity and of the values that guide them. In the United States, the founding and development of the Anglo-American settler-state involves a narrative about Puritan settlers who had a covenant with God to take the land. That part of the origin story is supported and reinforced by the Columbus myth and the 'Doctrine of Discovery.'" - Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz



## HOPE's Easter Garden

HOPE is planning to display an Easter Garden around the altar on Easter morning. If you would like to donate plants or flowers to the Garden, please drop yours off on the church kitchen island anytime from Palm Sunday (March 24th) to Easter Saturday (March 30th) at 9:00 am. We will be building our Garden at 9:00 am Saturday morning. Olive will check all plants and flowers that may need watering while she's in the office (through Wednesday). There will also be a sign-in sheet on the kitchen island.

**This Week at HOPE March 6, 2024**



## **The St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Week**

[YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR A BUILD DAY HERE](#)

Workdays are from 9-3:30, with half shifts available

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old,

Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

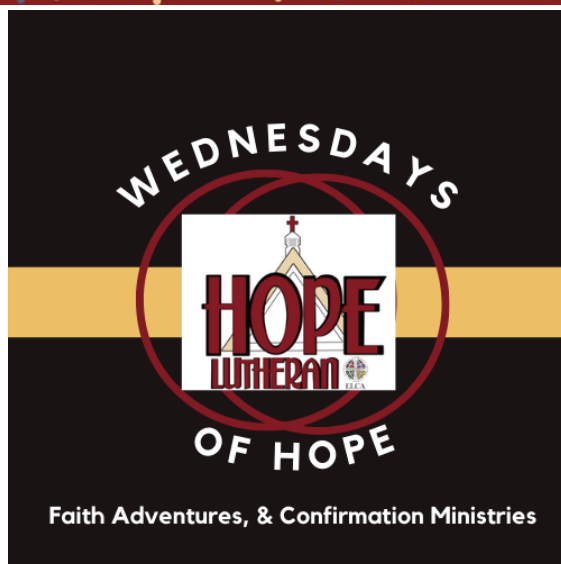
This year's build is a bit different – rather than a new, ground-up build, we will be rehabbing a town home in Somerset! We're very excited to be expanding the scope of our projects in this way, as a shorter construction period will allow us to take on more builds and serve more families! Spring schedules can be busy, so talk with your HOPE friends about a day/time that works best for you and sign-up! Women and men are welcome on these project days.



**This Week at HOPE March 6, 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 March 6, 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 March 6, 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](#)

## **SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP HOST STILL NEEDED!**

We have been blessed with a pretty steady return of our Sunday fellowship time, but we do have an opening this coming Sunday!

You can [SIGN UP HERE](#) or contact Pastor Annie if you are able!

**This Week at HOPE March 6, 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 March 6, 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.





## 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](https://bakken-young.com/event/grief-webinar)

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

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services

River Falls (715) 425-8788 | [info@bakken-young.com](mailto: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](https://bakken-young.com)



This Week at HOPE March 6, 2024



March Birthdays

Name	Birth Date
Maxwell VanOverbeke	02-Mar
Carl Warren	03-Mar
Madison Ziebarth	03-Mar
Grant Klacan	03-Mar
Jan Wegleitner	03-Mar
Addyson Wolfe	09-Mar
Sharon Paulson	10-Mar
Carly Wunrow	17-Mar
Karen Ottney-Kaste	22-Mar
Joseph Kurten	22-Mar
Margaret Anderson	23-Mar
David Peters	23-Mar
Andrea Boock	31-Mar
Leonard Juaire	31-Mar
Roger Tweiten	31-Mar
Ben Wunrow	31-Mar



March Baptisms

- Darcy Boock
- Samatha Brill
- Luke Flirasky
- Sara Filarsky
- Lexy Getschel
- Hannah Hoglo
- Richard Jackson
- Debra James
- Mallory James
- Keri Jiskra
- Connie Juaire
- Katherine (Klacan) Schilling
- Morgan Leitch
- Gwen Paulson
- Kyle Rudesill
- Susie Rudesill



Celebrating

Mark and Sarah Bondhus 15-Mar 44 Years

## **This Week at HOPE March 6, 2024**



### **Please lift up the following people in prayer**

Breccan Olson and family

Patricia Miller (Sister of Carl Warren)

Rhiannon Bondhus (Niece of Bondhus family)

Sharon & Kermit Paulson

Family of Diane Rohl

Barbara McIntosh (Mother of Joe McIntosh)

Brooke Grant (niece of Margaret Anderson)

Family of Mike Roy (Friend of Karen Rodewald)

Lori Snyder (Friend of Nancy & David Peters)

Family of Mary Babler

David Anderson (Karen Brohaugh's brother)

Ed and Gwen Paulson

Randy Dopkins (Family friend of Olive Olson)

Eden Annoye (Relative of Debra James)

MaryJean Yde (Linda Yde's mother-in-law)

John Weller (Cousin of Karen Brohaugh)

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)

Beth Lindgren Family (Dan Malaney)

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)

Linda Shurden (Friend of Nancy Sailer)

Joyce Kendall (Mother of Cara Getschel)

Hannah Forward

Amanda Olson (daughter of Olive Olson)

Ella Conover (Phil & Paula's Klacan's Niece)

Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)

David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)

Teajai Schmidt (Relative of Boock family)

Lee Hill (friend of Naomi)

Gary Siebold

David Hendrickson