



Mission & Values

MISSION

**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.**

HOPE VALUES

**All people without exception
Serving Generously
Spiritual Nourishment
Our Connection with Creation**

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026

WEEKLY WORD: We Are Still & Always A People of Hope By Pastor Annie Ladnier

The new year has begun and we're making our way halfway through January already. Did you even have time to make a resolution—or if you did—have you kept it so far? Or how is reflecting on your Star Word going? (we received Star Words in worship on January 4, but if you missed it you can still pick one out in the gray basket on entrance table or you can use this [ONLINE STAR WORD TOOL](#)). My word for 2026 is, “awake.” Despite starting the year out sick (like so many of you!) I have felt God’s call daily to not only stay awake to what God is showing us, but to engage my due diligence in helping our faith community awaken to the needs we see around us and the way God is calling our faithful attention to them.

Our God wants us to “stay awake” when the darkness of this world closes in. The prophet Isaiah beckons God’s people “awake” countless times. Both Matthew and Mark recount Jesus’ plea for the disciples to stay awake with him in his hour of torment in Gethsemane- a task they cannot muster. To the church in Ephesus Paul writes from prison:

“Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, **“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”** Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:10-17).

Indeed when the world turned incredibly dark, God sent prophets and our Savior to awaken us to the light of God’s justice and love.

God does no differently today. We are formed to be people of the light. Matthew 5 follows up the beatitudes with the call that we are salt and light to the world. And we are of no use if we lose our saltiness and if we hide our lights under bushel baskets out of fear of disturbing some kind of false peace or false law. No, beloved, we are God’s people and above everything God commands us to be a people who point to the saving grace of God first and foremost through following the command to love one another. That is our main job- we cannot fall asleep on the job!

In the 13th chapter of his letter to the Romans, Paul reminds the Church in Rome of this one, ultimate command. He writes, “love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how **it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep**. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” People of HOPE, *the day is near and in these early weeks of 2026 we cannot forget our Advent and Christmas proclamation of “insisting on hope.” For the night calls for reminders of the morning and the darkness begs for someone to light a match to see. We are God’s people, and we are called for such a time as this (Esther 4:14).*

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026

“A Blessing for When You Need a Little Hope” by Kate Bowler:

O God these are darkening days, with no hope in sight.
O God help us in our fear and exhaustion.
Anchor us in hope!

Blessed are we with eyes open to see reality:
The sickness and loneliness,
The injustices of racial oppression,
The unimpeded greed and misuse of power,
Violence, intimidation,
And use of dominance for it's own sake,
The mockery of truth, and disdain for weakness,
And worse—the seeming powerlessness of anyone trying to stop it.

blessed are we who despair for our democracy,
and ask: what can we do to protect it?
blessed are we who ask: where are you God?
and where are Your people
the smart, sane, and sensible ones who fight for good?

blessed are we who cry out: God, why do the bad guys win?
When will good prevail?
O God we trust You, for we know You and love You.
for You o Lord are the One who seeks out the helpless
to lift them on Your shoulders and carry them home
no matter how broken they are, or what wrong they have done.

God, show us your heart, how you seek out the broken.
Lift us on your shoulders, and carry us home-
no matter how strong we think we are.

God, seek us out, and find us, we your tired people,
and lead us out to where hope lies,
where your kingdom will come
and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Fill us with your courage. Calm us with your love. Fortify us with your hope.

You are our anchor dropped into the future.
We feel you pulling us toward it
Once again.

Open your hands as you release your prayers. Then take hold of hope. As protest.

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



We still have the following roles open in the next 2 weeks!
Please consider signing up:

January 18th:

Ushers
Altar Flowers
Coffee Fellowship Host

January 25th Needs: ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

Ushers
Reader/Prayer Leader
Altar Flowers

****Everyone is invited to bring entries for Best Soup & Best Bar****

IF YOU CAN SERVE PLEASE [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

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

**ANNUAL
MEETING
& MEAL**



**Enter to Win:
Best Soup
or
Best Bar**

DATE
JANUARY 25, 2026

TIME
10:45 AM

Come celebrate another year
of God's amazing ministry and
lift up our dreams for 2026!

IF YOU ARE OUT OF TOWN, PLEASE JOIN US VIA
[THIS ZOOM LINK](#)

**TO VOTE FROM HOME:
USE THE 2026 HOPE Annual Meeting Voting Links/QR Codes
for each voting category, found below:**

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026

2026 BUDGET APPROVAL

Voting link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8Hu4sxNrQn9r78UQHtkGo_MsRP8Nc-b72bRkZdb0fyMzD9g/viewform



ALL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

(Use this link if voting unanimously for all positions)

Voting link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQs1N7xh4X1y5z2YpGROFAnXjjCqxN_iwllFZWawO4zkQNbA/viewform



This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026

EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Voting link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4sEq9GrwDi3plrvKVjIIZTYNtBejuHKUUA8N7MgqyMbB6GA/viewform>



SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Voting link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJ-fPgHEHfv9--yervMBRiq4IHnP9KKJBjs7UwsJzF8ieuOq/viewform>



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Voting Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLa-tzksT2Z9819lrEjT0XnrUQvcCxiYC9gXvcE--DZGX3ig/viewform>



COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Voting Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCEjvyd9oVGTw1omV4rERHowdWzmGy6cmWQ8c_qHPNI1FgdQ/viewform





**ALASKA COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

December 23, 2025

Hope Lutheran Church
3337 Kingsbarn Avenue
River Falls, WI 54022-1444

Dear Friend,

Alaska Community Foundation is inspired each day by the generosity of donors like you who contribute to making our state more caring, responsive, and rich in spirit. Your gift supports and empowers the Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund to achieve its mission and make a difference for the causes that matter to you.

As a supporter, you join other Alaskans actively making a difference in our state. Together with your help, the Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund can better respond to the needs and opportunities significant to your community.

There are many ways to give back. Thank you for choosing the Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund at the Alaska Community Foundation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Miller
VP Communications & Development

Many thanks for your generous support of this critical effort. Your kindness is much appreciated. Happy New Year, Elizabeth

Donation(s) Details:	
Donor: Hope Lutheran Church	Gift date: 12/18/2025
Fund/program: Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund	Gift amount: \$1,814.00
Donation ID: 401323	

Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 92-0155067). We accept the contribution for the charitable purpose(s) of the fund listed above. As required by law, we are informing you that the Alaska Community Foundation has exclusive legal control over your contribution and warrants that no goods or services were provided in exchange with this gift.

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



GRACE PLACE

January 9, 2025

Hope Lutheran Church
3337 Kingsbarn Ave
River Falls, WI 54022

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The Salvation Army and the families that benefit from the services provided at Grace Place, we wish to thank you for your generous donation. We want you to know that your gift will make a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate in your community.

In accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations, we certify that the Salvation Army is registered with the State of Wisconsin and Minnesota and with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation. An internal audit is available upon request for your review. We attest that you received no goods or services in return for your contribution. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

It is through the generosity and efforts of friends like you, especially during this financially difficult time, that we are able to provide a safe-haven and a fresh start for the residents of Grace Place. Your support is a blessing to this ministry! Again, we thank you.

In Christ,

Jennifer Salaba
Shelter Director

Thank you for your donation of \$500.00 (CK#2488 – dated 12/23/2025)

505 W. 8th Street New Richmond, WI 54017
Phone 715-246-1222 Fax 715-246-7470
www.sagraceplace.org
Follow us on Facebook: Grace Place Salvation Army



Cat's Claws-et

On behalf of the Mission Ministry, we wish to thank those of you who donated items—clothing, personal hygiene, snacks—during Advent for students in need at Meyer Middle School. The Cat's Claws-et at the school is a place students can visit without judgement to obtain items needed but not available to them elsewhere.

blueseas
PHILANTHROPYUSA

february 28, 2026



A winterrific family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness... because it's cold out there.



walk | fundraise
donate | volunteer
team up with friends
cnoy.com

Registration is free:
www.cnoy.com/hudson

February 28, 2026
Walk starts at 5 pm



Event Tickets \$75

Purchase online at www.ourneighborsplace.org
or at the ONP Day Center M 1-4 or T-F 10-4 (cash or check)

122 W Johnson St * 715-426-9000



Scan for Tickets

Our Neighbors' Place

February 7, 2026

Casino Night

Kilkarney Hills Golf Course

6:00-9:00 PM

Drink Ticket

50/50 Raffle

Table Games

Live Music by Half Shebang



Our Neighbors' Place

Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts

**Buy 50/50 Raffle Tickets:
\$5/ticket or \$20/5 tickets**

from a board member or at the Day Center 122 W Johnson St
715-426-9000

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

Silent Auction

Thank You,
Corporate
Sponsors!



This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



**MEAL HOSTS NEEDED FOR
Wednesdays of HOPE**

Please consider hosting a meal for our Wednesday evening faith formation ministry, "Wednesdays of HOPE"

WOH Resumes January 14!

Winter Session runs through Feb. 11th (BINGO Night)

Simple, kid-friendly meals are needed to feed 15-20 people

Reimbursement is available, just save receipts!

This is a great way to get to know our youth and a chance to partner with other HOPE members to co-host! Fun for everyone!

[SIGN UP HERE TO HOST](#)

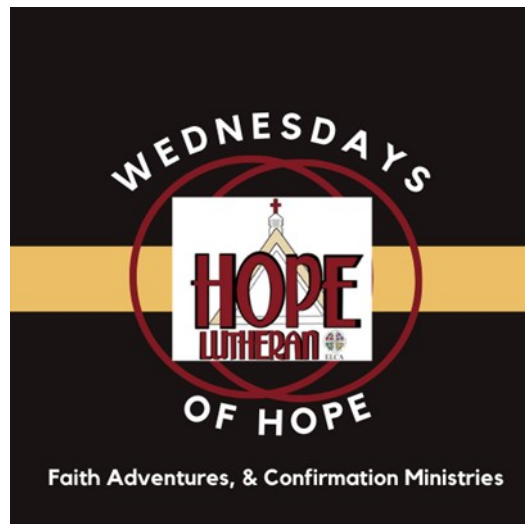


Faith Adventures Instructor Sign-Up

We welcome anyone interested in helping lead our K-5th grade students Wednesday evening lessons. All materials are provided easily through our online curriculum through Sparkhouse.

Please **[SIGN UP HERE](#)** to teach a winter or spring lesson.

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



**WINTER SESSION KICK OFF POSTPONED
TO JANUARY 14!**

Winter Session January 14-February 11, 2026

All K-5th grade children are invited for "Faith Adventures!"
This winter we dig into some of our favorite Old Testament stories like:
"The Battle of Jericho," "David & Goliath," and "Jonah & the Big Fish"!

All 6th- 10th+ youth are invited for our Confirmation Ministry!
Join us this winter for a deep dive into Lutheran History & Theology, The
Creed, and The Lord's Prayer

**THE WHOLE CONGREGATION IS INVITED FOR OUR ANNUAL
BINGO NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 2026**

5:45: Meal & Fellowship
6:15-7:15: Games & Learning
WE WELCOME NEW TEACHERS AND MEAL HOSTS!!!!

**Spring Session 3:
April 8-May 13**

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](#)

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



**DON'T FORGET!
MISSION TEAM HAS YOUR KWIK TRIP
GIFT CARDS & CAR WASH CARDS!**

HOPE's Mission Ministry reminds you that Kwik Trip Gas cards and Car Wash cards are available to you as part of our fundraising for Our Neighbor's Place!

Gas Cards: \$25/\$50 amounts

Car Wash Cards: \$36 for 5 Ultimate Washes

*Portion goes directly to ONP!

Cards available every Sunday and Mon-Wed, 8:30-3:00 in the church office.

Checks payable to "Our Neighbor's Place," cash also accepted.

Office Admin, Olive Olson, Pastor Annie, or any member of our Mission Team can assist you in getting a card.

Thank you for your continued support of Our Neighbors' Place!

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



RIVER FALLS
TINY HOME
SUMMIT

THURSDAY, JAN. 29TH
6:00PM
Luther Memorial Church

Every night in River Falls, people experience homelessness.
You are invited to join seven River Falls churches,
in cooperation with Our Neighbor's Place,
to learn about a project to build Tiny Homes to help
reduce homelessness in our community

✓ **Learn**
Hear the history, research,
and hope for our community

✓ **Consider**
Are you called to help
address this crisis
with us?

✓ **Support**
Volunteer opportunities
abound!
Use your gifts!

WE
HOPE
YOU COME!

Luther Point

BIBLE CAMP

Winter Camp

February 6 – 8, 2026
6th – 12th Grade
\$95/camper

Theme

Building Community
How very good and pleasant
it is when kindred live
together in unity!
-Psalm 133:1



This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Rev. Ron Johnson (Friend of Karen Rodewald)
Sue Tarr (Friend of Faye Perkins)
The Family of David Boock
Mary Klacan
Charlie Sowa and Family
Jean Lemire Anderson (Sister-in-law of Karen Brohaugh)
David Anderson (Brother of Karen Brohaugh)
Kirsten Reile (Nancy Sailer's cousin)
Chantel Ashton (Friend of Olive Olson)
Lois Rosenthal (Mother of Jeff Rosenthal)
Leslie Randall (Sister of Vicki Siebold)
The Family of Jill Siebold (Daughter of Gary Siebold)
Ed Paulson and family
Gwen Paulson and her son Chad Sequin (Friend of Bill & Kay Montgomery)
Amanda Olson (Olive Olson's daughter)
Jim Deming (friend of Marc & Martie Guthrie)
Cathy Hjersjo (Friend of Darcy Boock)
Sylvia Secrist (Friend of Paula & Phil Klacan)
Carol Prince (Friend of Betty Lou Oppegard)
Brent Larson (Friend of Bill & Kay Montgomery)
Darel and LaVonne Getschel (Keith Getchel's parents)
Bob Schuder (Father of Sarah Bondhus)
Mavis Wegleitner (Family of Dale *Wegleitner*)
Family of Rosina Hendrikson (Family of Mary Thompson)
Marcus Stack (Friend of Steve & Karen Kaste)
Jacob Dan and family (Friends of Jeff Rodewald)
Patricia Miller (Sister of Carl Warren)
Rhiannon Bondhus (Niece of Bondhus family)
Eden Annoye (Relative of Debra James)
Fatma Aljarrah (Friend of Faye Perkins)
Michael Jacobson (Brother of Linda Jacobson)
Barb Carmichael (Friend of Nancy Sailer)
Dennis & Sandy Schultz (Friends of Bill & Kay Montgomery)
Hannah Forward
Daryl Kleeman (Brother of Darcy Boock)
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi)
Gary Siebold
David Hendrickson

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



Mark Bondhus
Wendy Tokheim
Lisa Ryland
Karen Rodewald
Susan Schuettpelz
Bruce Schuettpelz
Greta Wunrow
Jason Neuhaus



Hallie Neuhaus	1-Jan
Jill Fritz	3-Jan
Hannah Hoglo	3-Jan
Teegan Johnson	6-Jan
Genevieve Range	9-Jan
Katherine (Klacan) Schilling	11-Jan
Camryn Shea	11-Jan
Mary Thompson	13-Jan
Jan Malaney	15-Jan
Connie Juairé	16-Jan
Samantha Brill	18-Jan
Sydney Wolfe	19-Jan
Mason Shea	21-Jan
Sean James	22-Jan
Makayla Ziebarth	23-Jan
Amanda Ziebarth	28-Jan
Jeremy Wolfe	31-Jan

This Week at HOPE January 14, 2026



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](#)



Did you know HOPE is on Facebook in TWO places??

[Public HOPE Facebook Page](#)

For public information, events, and Gospel sharing

[Private HOPE Facebook Group](#)

For private events, picture sharing, sharing joys & prayer concerns, and living out our faith together

Make sure to like, follow, and join both to stay up to date!