



# 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 February 25, 2026

## Weekly Word by Pastor Annie Ladnier



This week our Lenten reflections guide us to contemplate the ways that the Good News of Jesus Christ is so good that it catches us by surprise! The essence of Jesus' ministry was truly meant to be good—as in, beneficial, joyful, and delightful. This week we hear the stories of the first miracle of Jesus turning water into wine at the Wedding of Cana and the Parable of the Mustard Seed. These stories show us that the Kingdom of God is intended to spur joy and delight. It is a wildly unexpected and abundant gift to us, and to all creation. The Kingdom of God is wild and expansive enough for all to find rest in it- including those we may least believe deserve a space aside us. And yet- this Good News comes in with healing news for ALL.

That news can sometimes make us uncomfortable. But as we sink into Jesus' teachings throughout the season and as we grow in our discipleship year after year, we may not always be comfortable, but we can trust that these teachings are good, rooted in love, and worthy of celebration.

We reflect on this dimension of the Good News right as the 2026 Winter Olympics have ended. Many of us found ourselves especially celebrating the gold medal wins of our women's and men's Olympic Hockey teams. Or maybe we were captivated by the sheer joy shown by Alysa Liu when she knew she had secured the Women's Figure Skating gold medal and as she celebrated with the Japanese women on either side of her on that podium. Watching Mikaela Shiffrin win her 3rd gold medal in the Alpine Slalom was incredible too! What joy and celebration! Each of these performances were worthy of celebration! We are used to these sorts of things being worthy of celebration. And they come to us as a sheer gift- to watch the extraordinary talent of others is a delight!

God takes that same delight in abundantly sharing love with us and watching us share that love with one another! Every time that happens is another victory in the Kingdom of Heaven. Every time we see beyond our differences and work together for the collective good- as we fill food pantries for the hungry or bake a dessert to share at Grace Place- as we provide safe places for people to stay who are afraid- or a ride to the doctor when someone needs it, or a shared table with the widow-whatever it is, these are acts of simple yet abundant, unexpected and surprising love and mercy in a world so often bent on seeing bad news. But the Good News is all around- it is overflowing and it is sure to catch you by surprise!

**This Week at HOPE February 25, 2026**

# Midweek Worship

## This Lent

Grounding Ourselves in the  
Good News

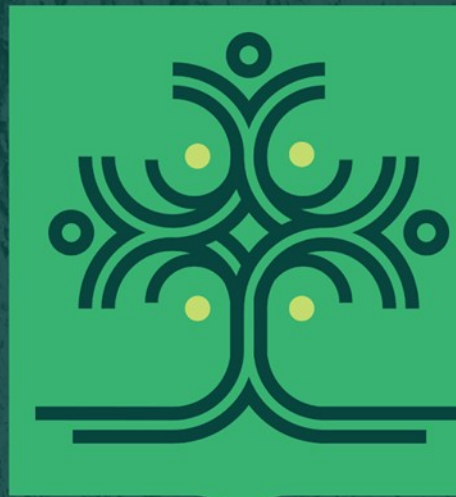
through

Art

Centering Prayer

Communal Song

& Holy Conversation



5:45 Meal

6:30 Worship

### **PLEASE JOIN US TONIGHT IN PERSON**

(Midweek services are not livestreamed)

**ASH WEDNESDAY, MAUNDY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY  
WILL BE LIVESTREAMED**

Tonight's Artwork: "We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep"  
by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell



Inspired by Matthew 13:31-32. *Acrylic, mustard seed on paper*



Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. This series was created after asking, “what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus’ life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?”

If we’re being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus’ teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it’s not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus’ ministry as “radical” which comes from the Latin word “radicalis,” meaning “root” or “ground.” Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God’s unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

My hope is for this series to provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good!

### **Enhance your Lenten experience with these resources:**

- Devotion: In addition to the hard copies available at church, our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year’s Lenten devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: [online.flippingbook.com/view/546389771/](https://online.flippingbook.com/view/546389771/) (*In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.*)
- Read *The Moral Teachings of Jesus: Radical Instruction in the Will of God*, by David P. Gushee, (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2024).
- Listen: [“Tell Me Something Good” playlist on Spotify](#)

# This Week at HOPE February 25, 2026



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

**March 1st Needs:**

Please consider serving as  
Coffee Fellowship Host

**Wednesday, March 4 Needs**

Reader  
Assisting Minister  
Acolyte

**March 8th Needs:**

Assisting Minister  
Ushers  
Acolyte  
Reader  
Communion Assistant

**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](#)



**BOWLING WITH HOPE  
FOR FOOD!**

**@ St. Croix Lanes  
Sunday, March 1st  
1:00-3:00PM**

**FREE bowling & shoes with  
FREEWILL DONATION  
to the RIVER FALLS FOOD PANTRY**  
**Register on FB or @hopelutheranrf.com**



If you'd like to donate but cannot make the event you can give directly here:

<https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/1296914/donate>





***Journey to Easter: Feeding God's Children Together***

During the season of Lent, with the theme "Tell Me Something Good", HOPE Lutheran is partnering with other River Falls churches to provide nutritious meals for children around the world. The goal for our church is \$2000 to bring Feed My Starving Children to River Falls in September 2026. If you can help with this cause, please make checks payable to HOPE with Feed My Starving Children in the memo line; of course, cash is always welcome. Look for a box labeled Feed My Starving Children on the back table and watch the progress to reaching our goal on the donation "thermometer" to appear soon. Each gift—large or small—moves us closer to feeding more children in need. Thank you for giving with a generous heart this Lent.

# YOUTH NEWS



## LIGHTHOUSE

Middle School Youth Gathering

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

5th - 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade



\$60  
Per  
Participant



11 APRIL

9:00 AM - 4:15 PM

**BETHANY LUTH.**

Rice Lake, WI

- WORSHIP
- WORKSHOPS
- GROUP DEVOTIONS
- GUEST SPEAKER
- SERVICE PROJECT

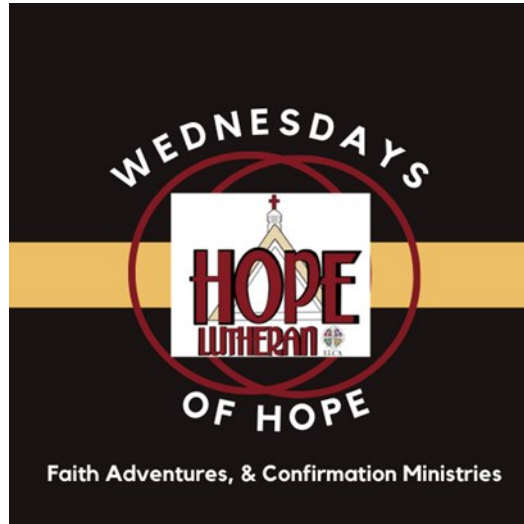


<https://nswi.org/synod-youth-board>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**This Week at HOPE February 25, 2026**

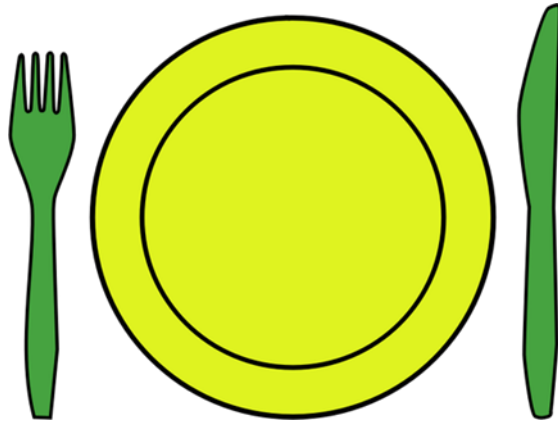


**WOH does not meet during Lent!  
You're invited to attend Lenten midweek meals & worship!**

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

**[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](#)**

# This Week at HOPE February 25, 2026



## **MEAL HOSTS NEEDED FOR Wednesdays of HOPE**

Please consider hosting a meal for, “Wednesdays of HOPE”  
WOH is our midweek faith formation night for K-high school youth!

[Winter Session runs through Feb. 11th \(BINGO Night\)](#)

[Spring Session: April 8-May 13](#)

Simple, kid-friendly meals are needed to feed 15-20 people  
Hosts help serve and clean-up the meal (parents will help too)

\$40/meal is available if needed to make hosting possible!

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 February 25, 2026



**WALKING TOGETHER**  
*Church Without Walls*

March 21, 2026  
8:00 – 4:00  
\$25 Per Participant  
Bethany Lutheran Church – Rice Lake, WI  
Keynote Speaker: Natalia Terfa



Register and Details Here:  
<https://nwswi.org/walking-together-event>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# Foundations of Hope: 30 Years of Building Together

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 • 5:30-9:30 PM  
KILKARNEY HILLS GOLF CLUB  
163 RADIO ROAD, RIVER FALLS

We're celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 5th annual gala, and raising funds to build a home for a healthcare worker! Registration is open now. Join us for cocktail hour, a silent auction, heavy appetizers, our Dessert Dash, live auction, & more!

## Thank You To Our Sponsors:

Future Foundations Sponsor



WESTERN WISCONSIN HEALTH

30th Anniversary Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

Kraus-Anderson, Krumm Exteriors, Pillar Bank, Royal Credit Union

Event Partners

Fladeboe Advancement, Kilkarney Hills, Mason Jar Marketing, OneCause

Register at [onecau.se/Celebrate30](https://onecau.se/Celebrate30) by Sunday, March 15





**Grief Support Group**

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services offers both virtual and in-person grief support groups. This six-week grief support group is for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. We ask that you participate in all 6 sessions, as possible.

**Grief Group held in person in New Richmond**

Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm

April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2026

New Richmond United Methodist Church

209 E Second Street, New Richmond, WI 54017

RSVP by Sunday, March 29, with your name, phone number, and email.

Anyone is welcome to participate in the group, and the sessions are free.

Group Facilitator:

Julia Rajtar, M.A.P.S., BCC, Grief Support Specialist  
Bakken-Young Grief Support Coordinator

To register, RSVP with your name, phone number, and email at:

[julia@bakken-young.com](mailto:julia@bakken-young.com)

For more information, call or text Julia at 715-781-4003.

Visit "Grief Support" at [www.bakken-young.com](http://www.bakken-young.com)  
for additional groups and other grief support resources  
or join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bakkenyoung](https://www.facebook.com/bakkenyoung)

**This Week at HOPE February 25, 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 February 25, 2026



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

Robb DeSmith (Family friend of the Rodewalds)  
Jerry Gibson (Father of Karen Rodewald and Diane Clark)  
Lisa Perl Farley (Friend of Faye Perkins)  
Sam Morrissette (Friend of Jeff & Karen Rodewald)  
Mark Willink (Brother of Paula Klacan)  
Family of Betty Pierce (Friends of Mary Thompson)  
Doug Rudesill  
Mary Lynn and Len Wiskerchen (Friends of Faye Perkins)  
Rev. Ron Johnson (Friend of Karen Rodewald)  
Sue Tarr (Friend of Faye Perkins)  
The Family of David Boock  
Mary Klacan  
Jean Lemire Anderson (Sister-in-law of Karen Brohaugh)  
David Anderson (Brother of Karen 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 Oppeward)  
Brent Larson (Friend of Bill & Kay Montgomery)  
Bob Schuder (Father of Sarah Bondhus)  
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)  
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 February 25, 2026



## March Baptisms

Darcy Boock  
Samatha Brill  
Richard Jackson  
Debra James  
Mallory James  
Connie Juaire  
Katherine (Klacan) Schilling  
Morgan Leitch  
Susie Rudesill  
Dean Simpson



## March Birthdays

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birth Date</i>
Carl Warren	3-Mar
Madison Ziebarth	3-Mar
Grant Klacan	3-Mar
Jan Wegleitner	3-Mar
Addyson Wolfe	9-Mar
Sharon Paulson	10-Mar
Dean Simpson	21-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



## Celebrating

Mark and Sarah Bondhus 15-Mar 46 Years

# This Week at HOPE February 25, 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!**