



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**



Holy Week 2026

 Palm Sunday, March 29 9:30AM

 Maunday Thursday, April 2 6:30PM

Good Friday, April 3 6:30PM

 Easter Sunday, April 5 , 7AM Sunrise, 9:30

Come Hear Something Good

ALL SERVICES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED!

**Enjoy an Easter Message from Presiding Bishop of the ELCA,
Rev. Yehiel Curry**

In his Easter message, Presiding Bishop Curry says that even though we consider ourselves to be an Easter church, we must remember that we are also a Lenten church, a time when we live in uncertainty, waiting and hoping for renewal.

He reminds us that in the midst of that uncertainty, comes God's promise of reassurance and hope.

Death does not have the final word.

"Yes, we are Easter people. Even when the ground below us is shaking, we will not grow weary. We know that Jesus is our foundation. Christ is risen, and that truth strengthens us. It gives us courage to live, to hope, and to proclaim joy. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

[WATCH BISHOP CURRY'S MESSAGE HERE](#)



If You Hear Nothing Else, Then Hear This:

You can make a fool of yourself.
You can bet on the wrong thing,
lose it all, unravel people's trust.
You can laugh at a funeral,
curse in a church, say the wrong thing
at the wrong time, *every time*.
You can lose yourself in a bottle,
a relationship, a false sense of security.
You can uncover prejudice
and wrestle with the shame of it all.
You can withhold an apology,
blame it on someone else,
tell yourself it's not your fault.
You can trade in love
for a bag of coins.
And even then,
even still,
even now,
Jesus will love you enough to
wash your feet.
If you hear nothing else in the gospel,
hear this.

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



To the beloved of the NWSWI,

Happy Easter to you as we celebrate the most sacred day of the year when Jesus squarely looked death in the face and overcame the grave! When I think about what that says about our God, I am continually overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude because of the sheer depth of God's love. To think about what Jesus went through in those final days, it is simply the best illustration of what God's grace looks like – a gift to us as individuals and as a family of faith – all without merit.

While on a Civil Rights pilgrimage last month, I found myself quite perplexed when listening to the central message of many civil rights leaders, including many that I met in person. While visiting Birmingham, I worshiped at the 16th St. Baptist Church, which was bombed on a Sunday morning just before worship on Sept. 15, 1963. Four young women (all teens) died in the blast as they were preparing to serve in the youth led service. As our group heard about the story in the tour the day before our worship, this central message was proclaimed – love. Later that day we spent time with another black leader in the city whose ancestors were also victims of white supremacy. She too acknowledged the central message that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught over and over in his messages – a message of love, even for your enemies.

That struck me. When victims of oppression look at their oppressors and can maintain a posture of love in hopes that the hatred they've experienced would someday be extinguished, I could only think about the depths of God's love. While most of us would at minimum defend ourselves from the oppressive actions taken against them, if not fight back and seek retribution, they instead turned to love and forgiveness. It is their faith in God that could give them the strength to practice love.

We still live in a world where hatred and prejudice exist. But the story of Easter is rooted in love. Jesus went to the cross after praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Your will be done. This is true sacrifice rooted in love for humankind. This is love revealed to broken and sinful people. This is a love for us all – no exception.

As we celebrate the day Christ rose from the dead, offering forgiveness to all humankind, let us rejoice in acts of love. Let us respond to God's gift of grace through acts of love!



A Weekly Word from Pastor Annie Ladnier: “The Invitation Still Stands”
This article is adapted from last week as it still holds true

As we enter Holy Week 2026 we do so amidst the backdrop of many unknowns. There is the unknown of war, the unknown of spring election season, the unknown of rising fuel prices, as well as all the personal unknowns. Many of us are carrying the unknown of diagnoses, the unknown of new griefs, the unknown of endings and beginnings, the unknown of what to expect next.

As we navigate all of that, I extend to you a very holy invitation. Join me in the next few Holiest of days, in the midst of all of those *unknowns*, to *come, hear, and remember something good we DO know*:

We **know** that we have a *God who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16)*.

We know that God gave us Jesus- God’s very love incarnate- enfleshed- Emmanuel- “God with us” to come to us, to love us, to heal us, and to save us from all the forces that defy God and are intent only on death.

We know that we have a Savior who knows what it is to suffer, die, and BE RAISED to new life. We know that in Him (Christ) we no longer have to live in fear of any of the unknowns, because we know and believe and trust that God does not allow death any victory. We know the end of the Holy Week story.

But we are also gifted by the fullness of that story. From Palm Sunday’s procession into Jerusalem, to that Maundy Thursday when God gives us a new commandment and shows us precisely what it looks like to love one another as Christ loves us, to Good Friday when we remember that there are times that God is with us even when all seems completely lost, and yes, to Easter morning and life’s victory over the grave.

It is a rich and deep and beautiful story, and while you may think you know it all too well, I propose that you come and hear it again. Come and experience it again. Come and remember the tremendous *goodness of our God, come and know that abundant life awaits you*.

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



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/ (*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 April 1, 2026



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

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd Needs:
Acolyte

Good Friday, April 3rd Needs:
Ushers/Greeters
1 Additional Reader

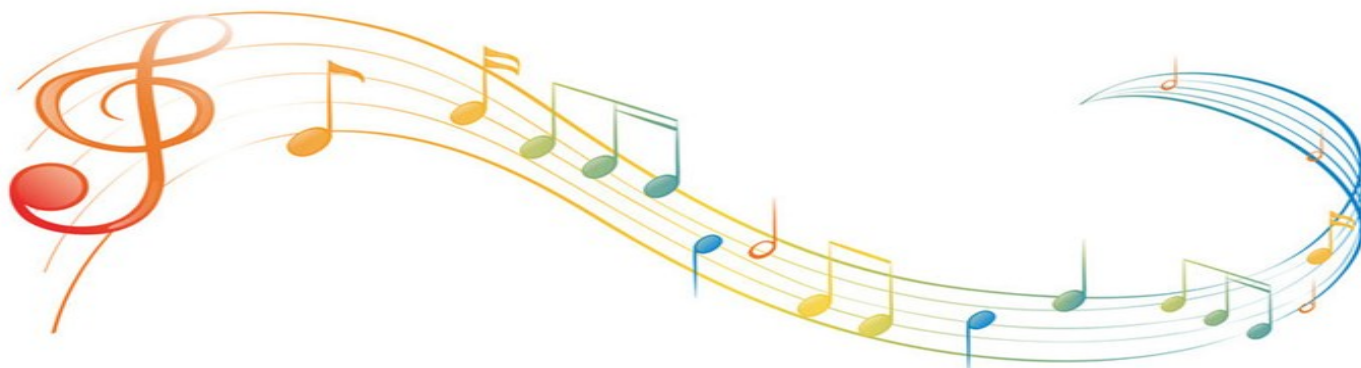
Acolyte (this role includes additional parts for Good Friday)

Easter Sunday, April 5th Needs
Acolyte

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](#)

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



MUSICAL SUNDAYS IN MAY

Leading up to HOPE'S 20th Anniversary on June 7th, the many musicians at HOPE have enthusiastically volunteered their talents to enhance our worship experience. Take a look at the lineup and plan to be at worship. Bring a friend or a neighbor!

May 3.....Steve and Diane Meyer, Camryn Shea

May 10...Steve Kaste

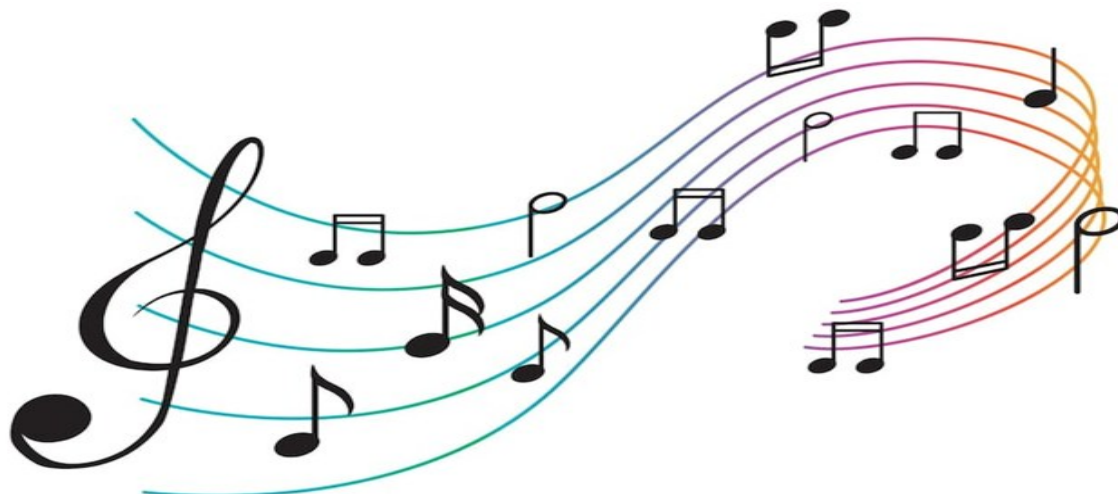
May 17...Dale Bohnert, Diane and Nathan Clark

May 24...Dean and Linda Simpson

May 31...Carl Warren and Andrea Boock, Keith and Lisa Ruehlow

June 7....John Hamilton, Diane Clark, Lynda Meyers (trio),
Phil Klacan..HOPE pick up choir.

THANK YOU to all the musicians for providing music for this special milestone
In HOPE'S history!!



This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026

2026 Easter Garden

All are invited to bring an offering of Easter flowers for our Easter Garden!

Please drop off flowers/plants to the Eidskog Room **Between 4/1 - 4/4 NO LATER THAN 9AM on 4/4.**

To include your offering as a memorial/honorarium please email the details to Olive by 3/31.



Easter Choir at HOPE

Easter Sunday, April 5, 9:30 AM

Easter Choir Rehearsals

30 minute rehearsals immediately follow mid-week 6:30pm worship services

Wednesday, March 11

Wednesday, March 25

Wednesday, March 18

Thursday, April 2

The Easter Choir welcomes all singers of all abilities, high school age and up. Attend as many rehearsals as your busy schedule allows. Join the choir this year and bring a friend! We will prepare one anthem and a choir-only verse for one or two hymns.

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



PUZZLE PARTY AT HOPE, SUNDAY APRIL 12, FROM 1-3 PM

Enjoy a "No Contest" social event by piecing together puzzles with other members of all ages, Simple to mildly challenging, you can also engage in conversation and consume snacks. There will be ample opportunity for fun and laughter

Volunteers: If you want to help set up and take down tables for the event email marythompson4@gmail.com

We would like helpers to notify us on or before April 1.

ANNOUNCING THE NEXT

ALL TEAM MEETING

6:30PM

APRIL 13TH 2026

MAIN TOPIC:
**Anniversary Planning
& Future Dreaming**

All Ministry Team members are encouraged to attend!
Interested in joining a team? Join us!

HOPE LUTHERAN ELCA

JOIN US FOR

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

NOW ON
MONDAYS



HOPE
LUTHERAN

10:00AM EVERY MONDAY
ON ZOOM

[USE THIS ZOOM LINK TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION](#)



COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS STILL NEEDED

The Worship Ministry team is still seeking a few volunteers to bake our communion bread for worship during July, August, and December of 2026. No previous experience is needed! This is a great behind-the-scenes volunteer role and a great way to engage children or grandchildren!

Sign-up, recipe, and instructions can be found [HERE](#) or contact Cara Getschel (caragetschel@gmail.com) if you can assist or have questions.

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



Journey to Easter: Feeding God's Children Together

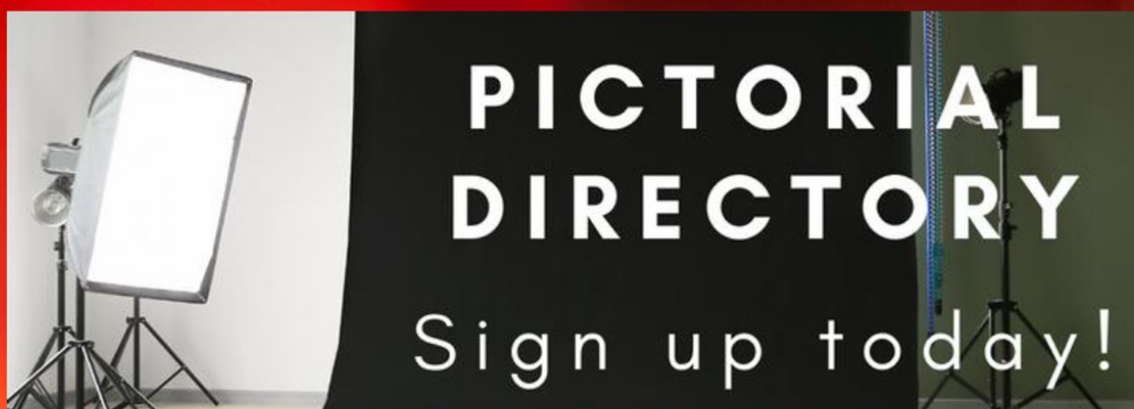
During the season of Lent, with the theme "Tell Me Something Good", HOPE Lutheran is partnering with other River Falls churches to provide nutritious meals for children around the world. The goal for our church is \$2000 to bring Feed My Starving Children to River Falls in September 2026. If you can 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



Caring Kitchen

The Mission Ministry decided to lift up another nonprofit the first Sunday of each month. In January we collected donations for the Food Pantry; in February it was the ONP Backpack Program; March 1 donations will be collected for Caring Kitchen. We will continue this rotation. Caring Kitchen began mid-November 2025 to provide free weekly meals for those in need here in River Falls, although the meals are open to anyone. Meals are served every Thursday evening 4-7 p.m. at Selah Vie. All food is provided through donations and prepared either by the owner, Darren Graves, or the nonprofit organizer Violet Davila. Please consider supporting this important community service.

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



We need YOU to make our church directory complete!

It is free! Every family gets a free 8x10. And a free directory.

**Family photos to be taken at HOPE.
Tuesday May 5th and Wednesday May 6th.
Both days 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.**

Schedule your time here: <https://schedule.ucdir.com/#/>

**CHURCH CODE: wi461
CHURCH PASSWORD: hope**

**Scan
Me**



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 - 8th
Grade



\$60
Per
Participant



11 APRIL

9:00 AM - 4:15 PM

BETHANY LUTH.

Rice Lake, WI

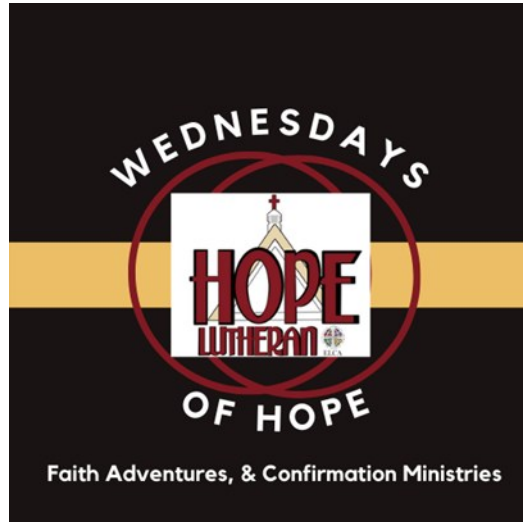
- WORSHIP
- WORKSHOPS
- GROUP DEVOTIONS
- GUEST SPEAKER
- SERVICE PROJECT

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



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



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

GET READY! Our Spring Session begins in 2 weeks!

Spring Session:

April 8-May 13

This spring we delve into New Testament stories,
our Holy Communion Milestone,
& Faith in Action Service Nights!

Don't miss the fun!

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](#)



WE ARE SEEKING GIANT CLASSIC GAMES

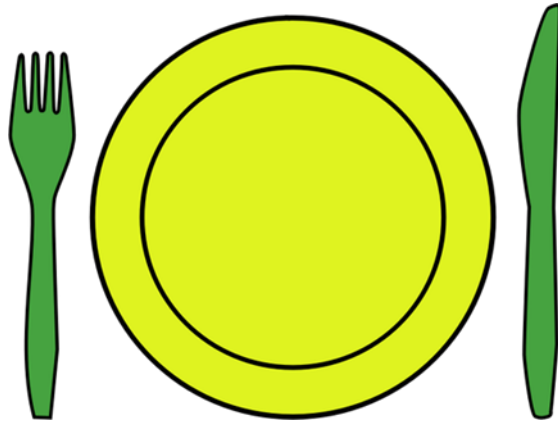
Do you have a giant Jenga, Connect 4, Yahtzee, or Checkers?
(or other large scale versions of classic games)

We would like to borrow them for a fun activity on April 12th.

Please email Pastor Annie if you do!

hopelutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com

This Week at HOPE April 1, 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 April 1, 2026

2911 PROJECT PRESENTS

the 2911 project

Laughter Returns!



CELEBRATE RESILIENCE. SUPPORT RECOVERY.

Laughter is one of the first signs of a life being reclaimed. Join The 2911 Project & Stevie Ray's Improv Company (from Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!) for a night of community, a delicious dinner, and unscripted comedy as we celebrate the joy found in recovery. All proceeds provide safe, stable housing for those building a new future.



improv company

04.22.2026

5:00 - 7:30 PM

Juniors Restaurant
River Falls, WI



SCAN QR CODE
TO PURCHASE



Tickets \$45

AN EVENING SUPPORTING SOBER LIVING

Bakken-Young
Funeral & Cremation Services

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

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

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

This Week at HOPE April 1, 2026



Please lift up the following people in prayer

Sue Ammerman (Friend of Nancy Sailer)
Jerome Rodewald (Father of Jeff Rodewald)
Steve Stocker (Friend of Karen & Jeff Rodewald)
Deanna Monson & Family (Mother of Lisa Ruehlow)
The Family of Ted Bauer (Friend of Olive Olson)
Robb DeSmith (Family friend of the Rodewalds)
Jerry Gibson (Father of Karen Rodewald and Diane Clark)
Lisa Perlt 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 Oppegard)
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)



April Birthdays

| Name | Birthday |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Will Bohnert | 2-Apr |
| John Hamilton | 2-Apr |
| Sawyer Filarsky | 4-Apr |
| Jean Loudon | 11-Apr |
| Traci Wolfe | 11-Apr |
| Cathy Wunrow | 11-Apr |
| Ann Rosenthal | 12-Apr |
| Faye Perkins | 14-Apr |
| Ed Quinn | 20-Apr |
| Lori Leitch | 29-Apr |

April Baptisms



- Margaret Anderson
- Louis Bernard
- Marc Guthrie
- Hazel Ladnier
- Ben Wunrow
- Amanda Ziebarth
- Sharon Paulson
- Jan Wegleitner



Celebrating

- Gary & Vicki Siebold 21-Apr 25 Years
- Eric & Lisa Rydland 30-Apr 21 Years

This Week at HOPE April 1, 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 April 1, 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!