

HOPE LUTHERAN ELCA

Hope Journeys Forward

*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.*

December 8, 2011

Carols and Candles: Sunday, December 11, 4:00 PM

No Christmas season would be complete without a lessons-and-carols service.

This year's Carols and Candles will be on Sunday, December 11, at the usual 4:00 PM hour.

Please save this date and invite your family and friends to this hour of inspiring music, thoughtful readings, and quiet time for reflection.

Here are some important planning items for participants:



Carols and Candles Choir: This ensemble always sounds great because at HOPE we love to sing – but this ensemble does need to rehearse, so mark these dates/times/locations:

Choir/Readers/Musicians Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, December 10, 9:30 AM – Noon
Call Time for all participants on December 11: 3:00 PM

Lefse Saturday & Bake Sale Sunday

Everyone is invited to assist with lefse making on Saturday, December 17, 9:00 am in the First Congregational Kitchen. Look for a sign-up sheet next week. **No previous experience with lefse is required**, just come and find out how it's done.

The lefse will be sold after worship on the 18th. We invite everyone to bring holiday cookies, bars, breads, candy etc., to donate to the sale. Craft items will also be accepted. **Please price all bake sale goodies and crafts before bringing them to church on the 18th.** *All bake sale proceeds are going to Hope's Travel Fund supporting our delegates to the New Orleans ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2012.*

Quart size zip lock bags are needed for lefse packaging.

*Children's Program
Sunday, December 18th
9:30 am*

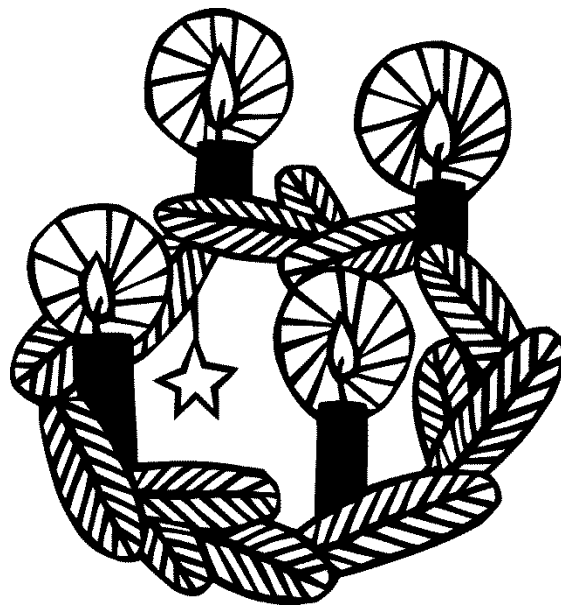
Prayers are requested for:
Kris Allen (friend of Linda Jacobson & Bill Warner), Zora Anderson (HOPE member), Gordon Brandt (Jerry's brother), Amanda Brown, Grace Coggio & family (friends of the Lesmeister family), Jody Fink, Avery Gallagher, Ruth Hilleren (Sue Warren's mother), June Hirsch, Cindy Hogan, Gloria Jacobson (Linda Jacobson's mother), Mike Jacobson (Linda Jacobson's brother), Tammy Johnson (friend of Tonja Lesmeister), Living Water Lutheran Church (Cameron, WI), Pat Lubich (Jeff Rodewald's aunt), Hannah Manche & the Manche Family (friends of Teresa Ginn), Chris Pageant (friend of Jeff Carlson), Elaine Peterson (Sharon Paulson's mother), Patrice Rasmussen (friend of Anne Anderson), Derrick Ricketts (Latidra Lesmeister's Grandfather), Ervin Schmidt (Lisa Rydland's father), the Schoen family (Jeff Rodewald's cousins) and Matthew Schultz (Pastor Carol's brother).

We pray for our sister parish, the Mwanza Mission Area in Malawi that they may grow in Spirit and grace. We also pray for our sister synod Sinodo Centro Campanha Sul in Brazil. We also pray for Robins Nest Children's Home & Melody House Home for Girls.

**Prayer requests can be sent at anytime.
Please notify HopeNotes when you would like a prayer request removed.**

Sunday, December 4th
General Fund - \$3,015.00
Building Fund - \$1,492.00
Food Shelf - \$120.00

Attendance - 88



HOPE Confirmation News

Confirmation Students Go Christmas Shopping - The Gift of Giving

On Wednesday the 7th, the confirmation class met at McDonald's for a *festive feast* and to plan their shopping strategy. The plan was to divide into three teams and walk over to Shopko to purchase gifts for a Mom, Dad and one child. One confirmation leader seized the opportunity to stretch the lesson. "I challenged my group to do the math themselves. I told them they could get whatever they wanted as long as they had the money for it. I had a lot of fun watching the kids pick everything out. I feel like they enjoyed themselves. Three students gave me the left over dinner money to add to the money that was raised on the day we made and sold apple cider. That helped us in our purchasing." One group had to be really creative, because they only had two things on their list. They did a great job coming up with some more gifts for the dad. It is obvious that the confirmation students understand the gift of giving.



Christmas decorating will be done next week. All families are invited to bring a star ornament(s) for the tree. Stars can be put in the star basket on the HOPE Table.

Leading Us in Worship		
	December 11	December 18
	Setting #4	NTF
	Carols & Candles	Children's Program
Presiding Minister	Pastor Sandra Johnson	
Assisting Minister	Carl Warren	Sammy Brill
Pianist	Phil Klacan	
Reader & Prayers	Dan Wunrow	Kathy Scott
Ushers	Jerry Brandt & Jed Reiten	Joe McIntosh & John Hamilton
Special Music	John Hamilton – Instrumental Pr. Sandy Johnson & Linda Jacobson - Vocals	
Communion Preparation	Margaret Anderson	No Communion
Communion Assistants	David & Nancy Peters	No Communion
Acolyte	Luke Stang	Carly Wunrow
Coffee	Jan Gerber	Nancy Peters
Bread Bakers	Jed Reiten	No Communion

Leading Us in Worship – Christmas Services			
	December 24 - 5:00 PM	December 24 – 10:00 PM	December 25 – 9:30 AM
	NTF	NTF	Setting #4
Presiding Minister	Pastor Sandra Johnson	Pastor Sandra Johnson	Pastor Sandra Johnson
Assisting Minister	Bill Berndt	Grant Klacan	Carl Warren
Pianist	Betty Lou Opegard	Phil Klacan	Phil Klacan
Reader & Prayers	Need a Volunteer	Kathy Scott	David Peters
Ushers	Jerry Brandt & Need a Volunteer	Lisa & Spencer Ziebarth	Need a Volunteer
Special Music	Anna Skelton – Vocals Michael Stang - Instrumental	Carrie Hendrickson	
Communion Preparation	Margaret Anderson	Margaret Anderson	Margaret Anderson
Communion Assistants	Naomi & Jerry Brandt	Need a Volunteer	John & Karen Hamilton
Acolyte	Need a Volunteer	Spencer Ziebarth	Camryn Shea
Coffee			No Coffee
Bread Bakers	Jed Reiten	Jed Reiten	Jed Reiten

Calendar

Friday, Dec. 9	6:45 pm	Bowling for HOPE, St. Croix Lanes
Saturday, Dec. 10	9:30 -12:00	Candles & Carols Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 11	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	10:30am	Coffee Hour
	3:00 pm	Call time for Candles & Carols participants
	4:00 pm	Candles & Carols
Monday, Dec. 12	12:00 pm	Daytime Book Group @ St. Croix Lanes
	6:30 pm	Worship meeting @ Office
Wednesday, Dec. 14	6:30 -7:45 pm	Confirmation at Servant of the Good Shepherd
Saturday, Dec. 17	9:00 am	Lefse Making @ First Congregational Church
		Children's Program dress rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 18	9:30 am	Children's Program
	10:15 am	Bake Sale & Craft Sale
		"Breakfast on Hope" @ Jean Loudens's
Monday, Dec. 19	7:00 pm	Council meeting @ River Falls library
Wednesday, Dec. 21	6:30-7:45pm	Confirmation: Family Christmas Gathering
Friday, Dec. 23	6:45 pm	Bowling for HOPE, St. Croix Lanes
Saturday, Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, Dec. 25	9:30 am	Worship (No Sunday School)

In this season of giving we want to express our gratitude for your pledges and gifts that move the mission and ministry of HOPE forward. Trusting that all we have has been entrusted to us, we as God's good stewards, return these gifts by sharing our time, talents and our treasures. Thank you for sharing.

Income	Current Month 11-30-2011	Year to Date	Over (under) monthly budget	Monthly	Loan Balance 11-1-11	Annual Budget	Over (under) annual budget thro 11-30-11
Offering	\$6,641.85	\$90,711.32	(\$1,965.90)	\$8,607.75		\$103,293.00	(\$3,973.93)
Building	\$3,123.00	\$40,387.62	(\$452.00)	\$3,575.00	\$215,650.00	\$42,900.00	\$1,062.62
Mission gifts	\$380.00	\$3,854.41					
Benevolence NWSynod	\$664.18	\$9,421.51					
Robin's Nest	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00					

[Click here](#) to view the **Northwest Network Newsletter**
from **NW Synod of WI**



Daytime Book Group We will meet Monday, December 12 for noon lunch at the River Falls Bowling Alley. Please bring a few Christmas cookies to share for dessert. Our book title is *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg. Come whether you've read the book or not. All are encouraged to bring a used book, wrapped in Christmas wrap. We'll do a book exchange as we've done in the past. If you'd like to do the book exchange, wrap up a book you no longer want.



Evening Book Group The Evening book club will meet next at 7:00 pm on January 30th at Bill & Kay Montgomery's home. They will discuss The Lord is My Shepherd by Rabbi Harold Kushner.



Happy Birthday to the following Hope members & friends

12/1	Kaija Warner	12/14	Ryan Hartleben
12/2	Zoe Tokheim	12/15	Ty Tokheim
12/3	Amy Kolpin	12/17	Delores Sylte
12/3	Derick Graves	12/17	Grete Rehbein
12/3	Alexis Rehbein	12/17	Karen Hamilton
12/5	Mark Bondhus	12/20	Sherry Powell
12/7	Tim Steinhoff	12/26	Jana Elsesser
12/10	Deb Goree	12/27	Rachael Engesether
12/11	Judy Karshbaum	12/27	Alyssa Boock
12/11	Nancy Christensen	12/29	Fred Lemke
12/11	Wendy Tokheim	12/30	Carter Egerstrom
12/14	Lucas Hartleben		



Happy Anniversary to the following Hope members & friends

12/19	Sarah & Ben Casper
12/11	Pr. Sandy Johnson & Jed Reiten
12/27	Kari & Gregg Heinselmann (25 th Anniversary!!)
12/31	Jean Loudon & Gorden Hedahl

***Please contact the church office if a birthday/anniversary has been missed!**

Are you thinking about becoming a leader in God's Church? Do you know someone who could be?

If you are discerning where God is calling you, or you know of someone who is in the discernment process, or who could be a leader in God's Church, please consider the following opportunity. We would like to invite you to participate in the upcoming online "Exploring Seminary" course. If you are in the process of discerning where God is calling you, this course will be very helpful.

EXPLORING SEMINARY ONLINE COURSE

Learn the fundamentals of theological education and interact with other students and our professor, Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

DATE: January 2nd thru February 10th, 2012 FEE: \$50 technology fee

[Learn More](#)

Community Announcements

Interfaith Volunteers are needed to provide transportation in and around Hudson and River Falls for short trips 2 to 3 times a week, respite for caregivers in their homes, intellectual companionship for a man in River Falls, light housekeeping for a woman in her apartment, and shoveling for a woman in Hudson. For information contact Nancy at 715-381-4360 or email nancya@co.saint-croix.wi.us

Benefit for Turningpoint to be held December 8th - *Esuba Jam*

RIVER FALLS, WI – Junior's Restaurant will be hosting Esuba Jam, a benefit for Turningpoint on December 8th from 6:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. to collect donations for the local victims of domestic abuse. Esuba Jam will feature seven bands and is being held to collect personal care items for the Turningpoint shelter. This event is free although suggested donations of \$3 or a personal care item are greatly appreciated. For more information please visit:

Esuba Jam:

Amy Leach, University of Wisconsin - River Falls
320-260-5185 or amy.leach@my.uwrf.edu or
<http://www.facebook.com/events/249018575154477/>

Turningpoint:

<http://www.turningpoint-wi.org/welcome>

MOOSE LODGE BRUNCH, Sunday Dec 11th from 9 am to 1 pm

620 N. CLARK ST. RIVER FALLS, WI (425-9152)

To Benefit: Rocky Branch

Santa will be here. We will also have pictures available to be taken.

Menu: Pancakes, French toast, 2 types of Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Ham, Sausage, Hash browns, Coffee, Juice, & Milk.

Cost \$8.00 / 5 yrs old and under Free.

BRUNCH CONTACTS: Brian Weber at (715) 425-9430 OR Jim Vorwald at (715) 248-7913.

Cashman-Hill Funeral Home & Cremation Service

We invite you and your family to join us for a presentation given by Richard Obershaw, Founder of the Grief Center in Burnsville, MN. Dick will examine the extraordinary problems associated with grief during the holidays and methods of coping during these difficult times. There is no charge for this event. We hope you will come for yourself or bring family members or a friend who has suffered a loss this past year. Our hope is that you will better understand the grief you are feeling and enjoy a lighter and more hopeful holiday season.

www.cashmanhillfuneralservice.com

Grief and the Holidays

How do I get through the holidays after losing someone I have loved?

Sunday, December 11th, 2pm

Held at St. Bridget Catholic Church

Basics for Local Kids

Basics for Local Kids is a local program created as a collection and distribution point for people to donate and help kids locally. We need your help collecting donations allowing us to help provide winter-wear to local kids in need. While we have been blessed with donations to assist over 150 local kids so far this season, we have over 42 kids living in Pierce County on a waiting list for some combination of boots, snow pants and coats. **For every \$30 we receive, we can meet the winter-wear needs for a child this winter with purchased second-hand or sale items.**

*Financial donations can be mailed to: Basics for Local Kids, PO Box 61, Ellsworth, WI 54011

*Gently used and new winter-wear items can be donated by contacting Kim Johnson at 715-273-6556 or emailing Kim at basicsforlocalkids@yahoo.com

ADRC - Aging and Disability Resource Center for St. Croix County

The ADRC is once again sponsoring a Secret Santa Program. The purpose of the program is to brighten the lives of older adults and persons with disabilities, who may be alone on the holiday, suffered loss, have limited means or no family in the area. Is there someone in HOPE's congregation who would benefit and enjoy receiving a little surprise around the holiday season? If so, please email tracyd@co.saint-croix.wi.us with the name, address and phone of the individual(s). Self referrals are also accepted.

Secret Santa gift bags will be put together the week of December 12th and be ready for delivery later that week. If you would like to contribute a monetary donation to the Secret Santa Program, that would be appreciated. Please call (715) 381-4360 for more information.

Quick Links - Please click on the following links to visit these suggested sites:

NWSWI

Synod Resource Center

ELCA

Living Lutheran

Cherish Our Children

Lay School of Ministry

Announcement Deadlines

Send announcements to secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org

Website by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays

Hope Notes by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

Bulletin by 9:00 a.m. on Fridays



**HOPE Lutheran Church
Pastor Sandy Johnson**

**P.O. Box 287
River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-9750**

**Office address:
117 E. Maple St., Suite C
(Entrance behind
Travel Leaders/Suntime Travel)**

**The HOPE office is staffed
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10:30 – 12:30 a.m.**

**Feel free to contact Pastor
Sandy to schedule an
appointment!**

HOPE's website:
hopelutheran-riverfalls.org

Pastor Sandy's email:
pastor@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org

Teresa's email:
secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org

Facebook:
hopelutheranchurchriverfallswi

Skype:
hopelutheranchurchriverfalls

