

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.*



January 13, 2012



Sign-Up Sunday! Continues..... (Bring your calendar)

The people of HOPE responded in a wonderful way on Sign-Up Sunday! It takes quite a variety of volunteers to help prepare for and then make Sunday worship services happen. Opportunities to serve and participate include:

acolytes, communion servers, ushers, assisting ministers, pianists, communion preparers, readers and prayers, coffee servers, providing flowers and

special music. And we need worship participants. When we gather we have an opportunity to worship, to praise and thank God for all God's good gifts. Thank you for your participation!



Leading Us in Worship	
January 12	
NTF	
Presiding Minister	Pastor Sandra Johnson
Assisting Minister	Linda Jacobson
Pianist	Phil Klacan
Reader & Prayers	Kaija Warner
Ushers	Jeff Rodewald & Kendra Lesmeister
Special Music	Katie Berndt
Communion Preparation	Darcy Boock
Communion Assistants	Jeff & Karen Rodewald
Acolyte	Alex Sather
Coffee	Jed Reiten
Bread Bakers	Karen Hamilton

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 10:45 a.m.**

****If you are interested in receiving weekly giving envelopes for 2012 please contact Teresa at secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org or call the church office at 715-425-9750.**



HOPE Confirmation News

Upcoming Confirmation Topics - The students will participate in a Servant Project on January 18 and on January 25th we'll visit with Pastor Frank of Servant of the Shepherd. Parents are encouraged to attend on the 25th to hear about the ministry of our host congregation.

January 1, 2012

General Fund - \$1,735.00
Building Fund - \$120.00
Youth Ministries - \$10.00

Attendance 32

January 8, 2012

General Fund - \$1,946.50
Building Fund - \$317.00
Food Shelf - \$20.00

Attendance 58

Prayers are requested for:
Kris Allen (friend of Linda Jacobson & Bill Warner), Zora Anderson (HOPE member), Gordon Brandt (Jerry's brother), Amanda Brown, Jody Fink, George Field (HOPE member), Avery Gallagher, Thomas Gresen (Amber Carlson's Uncle), Ruth Hilleren (Sue Warren's mother), June Hirsch, Cindy Hogan, Gloria Jacobson (Linda Jacobson's mother), Mike Jacobson (Linda Jacobson's brother), Lynn Jermal (friend of Linda Jacobson), 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), 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.

Calendar

- Sunday, Jan. 15 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- Monday, Jan. 16 7:00 am MLK Breakfast @ St. Bridget
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting @ RF Library
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 6:30 pm Confirmation @ Servant of the Shepherd
- Sunday, Jan. 22 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 10:45 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation**
- Monday, Jan. 23 12:00 pm Daytime Book Group @ Bowling Alley
- Wednesday, Jan. 25 6:30 pm Confirmation @ Servant of the Shepherd
- Sunday, Jan. 29 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- Monday, Jan. 30 7:00 pm Evening Book Group @ Bill & Kay Montgomery's House

The memorial service for **Roberta (Bobbie) McCrossen** is Saturday, Jan. 14, 3:00 pm at Bakken-Young. Visitation is prior to the service from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at the funeral home.

Children's Sermon: John the Baptist



Income	Current Month 12/31/2011	Year to Date	Over (under) monthly budget	Monthly	Loan Balance 12/1/2011	Annual Budget	Over (under) annual budget thro 12-31-11
Offering	\$11,317.00	\$102,028.32	\$2,709.25	\$8,607.75		\$103,293.00	(\$1,264.68)
Building	\$6,410.00	\$46,797.62	\$2,835.00	\$3,575.00	\$212,075.00	\$42,900.00	\$3,897.62
Mission gifts	\$331.00	\$4,185.41					
Benevolence							
NWSynod	\$1,531.70	\$10,753.21					
Youth Ministry	\$477.85	\$2,454.85					

Thank you for your faithfulness to HOPE this past year. M. Oppegard, Treasurer



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Christmas blessings everyone!

As we look forward to 2012, I ask that you assist with the following survey. It asks ELCA members to help prioritize the advocacy efforts of our denomination. The survey only takes ten minutes to complete. Preceding the link to the survey is a brief note from ELCA Advocacy Director, Drew Genszler.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Pederson

Dear Friends,

Your opinion matters!

Advocacy is a faith act you share with Moses, Esther, the Prophets, Luther and many Christians around the world.

Advocacy is living our Lutheran belief that good government is a gift.

Advocacy is pushing aside toxic politics to make space for others unheard.

Advocacy is talking about your volunteering, projects and ministries to your public officials.

Advocacy is your voice. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "Advocate".

I know, I know. You and I are Americans living in a country that seems to have forgotten how to make meaningful decisions.

Tired of politics-as-is in both major parties? We hear you!

Want to share what is important to you as a person of faith for 2012? We hear you!

Take ten minutes and tell us about advocacy priorities...

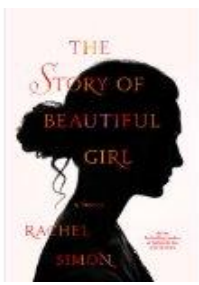
Let's stand together with hope and purpose next year.

Blessings,

Drew Genszler, ELCA Director of Advocacy

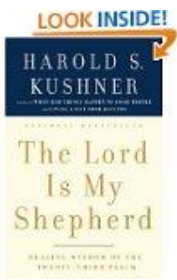
Take the survey by clicking on this link:

<http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws5.pl?FORM=nap2011>



Daytime Book Group January Daytime group meets Monday, January 23, noon at the bowling alley. We're reading Rachel Simon's The Story of Beautiful Girl about the improbable odds faced by a couple with disabilities and a lost child. All are welcome.

Amazon.com Review - It is 1968. Linnie, a young white woman with a developmental disability, and Homan, an African American deaf man, are locked away in an institution, the School for the Incurable and Feebleminded, and have been left to languish, forgotten. Deeply in love, they escape, and find refuge in the farmhouse of Martha, a retired schoolteacher and widow. But the couple is not alone-Linnie has just given birth to a baby girl. When the authorities catch up to them that same night, Homan escapes into the darkness, and Linnie is caught. But before she is forced back into the institution, she whispers two words to Martha: "Hide her." And so begins the 40-year epic journey of Linnie, Homan, Martha, and baby Julia-lives divided by seemingly insurmountable obstacles, yet drawn together by a secret pact and extraordinary love.



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.

From Publishers Weekly - Many people regard the 23rd Psalm as one of the most familiar and comforting passages in the Bible. Rabbi Kushner, bestselling author of the spiritual classic *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, looks to the psalm as a microcosmic statement about God-its 57 Hebrew words, he says, present "an entire theology" about life and loss. The psalm begins in a place of perfect peace-the psalmist lacks for nothing, and is tended perfectly by God the shepherd-but that peace is shattered by "the shadow of death." Going phrase by phrase through the psalm, Kushner tackles serious questions: what does it mean to lack for nothing? Where is God when we suffer? Some of his interpretations are quite fresh and interesting; for example, "the straight paths" in which God leads the psalmist are anything but straight, he claims, noting that the Hebrew is more accurately rendered "roundabout ways that end up in the right direction." Ultimately, that phrase's message is about trusting God when the way does not seem straightforward. The psalm is not Pollyannaish, but realistic: as Kushner points out, the psalmist has enemies, has known failure and has probably lost a loved one. He draws heavily on rabbinic Judaism, but also references popular culture (including Woody Allen films), Freud, Michelangelo and other diverse sources. Kushner writes well and engagingly, and his tone will make readers feel personally welcomed into the rabbi's study for a comforting one-on-one chat. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --*This text refers to the Hardcover edition.*

Nominate a Youth: 2012 MLK Jr. Service Award

The River Falls Community Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Planning Committee is pleased to recognize outstanding young people (age 21 or younger) who embody the spirit of Dr. King's dream – a testament that his dream is a growing reality. The Youth Emerging Legend Community Service Award was inaugurated in 2009 to honor a young person for his or her outstanding service to the River Falls Community. The winner will be recognized at the 5th Annual River Falls Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast on Monday, January 16, 2012, at St. Bridget's Fellowship Hall. The awardee will receive tickets to the breakfast and will be presented with an award honoring his or her commitment in the service of others.

Eligibility: Any person age 21 or younger who resides in the River Falls area, including students at local colleges.

Nomination Process: Candidates may be nominated by a community leader, teacher, religious leader, peer, or self-nominated. Two references are required.

Criteria: Demonstrated leadership and active service in the River Falls community.

Nomination Form: The Nomination Form can be downloaded

from: www.saintbridgets.org/MLK.cfm#85452 or emailed or mailed to you by contacting Kathy Scott, 715-426-3510 or Kathy.scott@sbwireless.net



Happy Birthday to the following Hope members & friends

1/1	Mark Anderson	1/20	Sarah Parks
1/2	Gorden Hedahl	1/21	Mason Shea
1/6	Kenna Frisch	1/21	Sue Warren
1/8	Jason Egerstrom	1/23	Makayla Ziebarth
1/11	Katherine Klacan	1/24	Andrew Parks
1/11	Camryn Shea	1/24	Sarah Egerstrom
1/12	Kaye Anderson	1/27	Cathryn Katelhut
1/13	Kyle Cosgrove	1/28	Amanda Ziebarth
1/15	Jan Malaney	1/31	Allen Nelson
1/18	Samantha Brill		
1/19	Dennis Sylte		
1/19	Stella Theisen		



Happy Anniversary to the following Hope members & friends

(No January Anniversaries)

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

Community Announcements

Event: Church Ladies' Cook-Off and Author/Humorist Janet Martin

Speaker Topic: Hot Dishes, Hot Pads & Hot Flashes

Date: February 16, 2012

Time: 6pm Cook-Off; 7pm Speaker

The River Falls Public Library is once again sponsoring a River Falls Reads program, which periodically designates a specific book for community-wide reading. This program encourages community connection through opportunities for gathering, reflection and dialogue. The current book choice for the period from February 1 - March 7, is **Grand Opening**, by Jon Hassler, in which a city family moves to a small town to run a grocery store. The book raises many value questions, some of them involving long-standing conflict between church denominations.

As part of the fun, eight area churches are participating in a Church Ladies' Cook-Off in which they will compete in two categories: Hot Dish/Entree and Jello. Tickets for attendance will be \$1 (with an additional option to make a goodwill donation at the event), and all proceeds will go to the community food pantry in the name of the winning church. Following the cook-off, speaker Janet Martin will regale the audience with stories of small town church life and the ladies in those kitchens.

Tickets and information are available at the library and at the following participating churches: First Congregational, Hope Lutheran, Abundant Life, Luther Memorial, United Methodist, The River, St. Bridget's and Ezekiel. Books are also available for borrowing and sharing, and the library invites the community to participate in all related events, and encourages book groups to use the book for their discussions during this time. Questions may be directed to Nancy Miller, library director, at 715.425.0905.

Our Neighbors Place Day Center



Caring, compassionate men and women who desire to help one’s neighbor, by listening to their needs and providing information to available resources. Our Neighbors’ Place Day Center is open Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm. Shifts are flexible; 2 and 4 hours, one shift a week, every other week, once a month-you decide. Training is provided. Stop in or call to set up an information session to see if this is the right volunteer opportunity for you. The Day Center is located at 136 North Riverwalk, River Falls, the number is 715-426-9000, please ask for Mary Jo Sutton

**Our Neighbors’ Place
Ways you can help out with ongoing needs:**



OUR NEIGHBORS’ PLACE DAY CENTER

“Connecting People With Resources”. Support for this comes from Neighbors’ Helping Neighbors’, a program in which individuals, families, youth and civic groups each give \$10.00 per month towards the rent, utilities and operating expenses. The Day Center is located at 136 North Riverwalk, River Falls, Wisconsin 54022.

Open Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm. (715) 426-9000

CAMPAIGN FOR HOPE-MORTGAGE BURNING!

Our fundraising drive enabled us to put a large down payment on a 4-plex. Our new home, providing temporary shelter for families of Pierce and St. Croix Counties, is at 215 W. Cedar Street in River Falls. We have already repaid one-third of our loan from the City of River Falls and hope to finish repaying the loan this year. To do so, we will be busy writing grants, conducting fundraisers and reaching out to the wonderful neighbors in our communities so we can **burn that mortgage!**

If you would like to help- contact Carole Mottaz at mottaz@presenter.com or 715-425-7903.

SHELTER GUEST SERVICES

Our families need more than just a roof over their heads to move towards self-sufficiency, we strive to assist them in multiple ways. Childcare, transportation, medical, dental, past or future utilities, clothing, furniture, household, and personal care items are just a few of the expenses that we may help assist with.

One huge barrier to transitioning out of a shelter is coming up with the funds for their 1st month’s rent and security deposit. When possible ONP will provide or match guest funds, thus moving them towards independence.

The Emergency Shelter is funded through grants, and donations from the churches and the Kinnickinnic Trout Trot held during River Falls Days.

KINNICKINNIC BACKPACK PROGRAM

Volunteers fill and deliver to the schools, backpacks with nutritious food that children can prepare and eat over the weekend during the school year. Funded by: Cookies for a Cause, grants, individuals, and school groups.

For more information contact: kinnibackpacks@gmail.com

The community has been amazing. We are so thankful to live among those who demonstrate generosity of their resources as well as a generosity of their spirit. Donations are tax deductible.

[Ourneighborsplace.org](http://ourneighborsplace.org) // ourneighborsplace@gmail.com // ONP is a 501c(3) EIN: 35-23831-55

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Our Neighbors’ Place, PO Box 274, River Falls, WI 54022 Thank you!



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](https://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranchurchriverfallswi)

Skype:
[hopelutheranchurchriverfalls](https://www.skype.com/people/hopelutheranchurchriverfalls)

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

NWSWI

ELCA

Cherish Our Children

Robins Nest Children's Home

Synod Resource Center

Living Lutheran

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

