

# 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 5, 2012**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## **Sign-Up Sunday!**

**January 8, 2012 following worship  
Come and See - Fabulous Incentives!  
(Bring your calendar)**

<b>Leading Us in Worship</b>	
	<b>January 8</b>
	<b>NTF</b>
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Sandra Johnson
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Karen Rodewald
<b>Pianist</b>	Phil Klacan
<b>Reader &amp; Prayers</b>	Jeff Rodewald
<b>Ushers</b>	Ed & Gwen Paulson
<b>Special Music</b>	
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	Darcy Boock
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Karen & John Hamilton
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ethan Sailer
<b>Coffee</b>	Karen Brohaugh
<b>Bread Bakers</b>	Karen Hamilton

**Burning of the Greens ~ Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00  
Jeff and Karen Rodewald's, 245 Hwy 65**

Hope's annual Burning of the Greens will be held at 4:00 pm, Sunday, at Jeff and Karen Rodewald's. This will be a fun and family friendly event. Children will have fun playing in the snow (if we have any) and watching the blazing of our Christmas trees and greens and sipping hot cocoa to keep warm. Bring your trees and greens and come even if you don't have a real tree. Please sign up by emailing either Jeff ([jeff.rodewald@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.rodewald@gmail.com)) or Karen ([karen.rodewald@gmail.com](mailto:karen.rodewald@gmail.com)). Please let them know if you'd like to bring something to share at our soup supper (soup, bread, etc.).

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

Jed and I and Casper wish you a Happy New Year!

New to our home is our pup Casper, an energetic and loving Cocker Spaniel. We adopted him from a shelter and he came home with us after church on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Any routine that we once had, such as reading the morning paper, has been impacted and now life is different and joyful!

Speaking of adoption, can you and I make the stretch and think about our adoption into God's family? We are all adopted and received by God, special needs and all. We are loved by God, no questions asked. And I, for one, am relieved and reassured by that. Now life is different and joyful!

God in Christ Jesus modeled a love that knows no boundary or barrier. May we, in this New Year, practice loving all God's children in the same way.



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



### Christmas Eve 5:00 PM

General Fund - \$967.00  
Building Fund - \$555.00

**Attendance 105**

### Christmas Eve 10:00 PM

General Fund - \$902.00  
Building Fund - \$50.00

**Attendance 49**

### Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> & other gifts received thru Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

General Fund - \$1,977.00  
Building Fund - \$2,949.00  
Youth/Bake Sale - \$89.50  
Central Asia Institute - \$50.00

**Attendance 22**

**P**rayers are requested for:  
 Kris Allen (friend of Linda Jacobson & Bill Warner), Zora Anderson (HOPE member), Gordon Brandt (Jerry's brother), Amanda Brown, Jody Fink, 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. 8	9:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	10:30 am	Coffee Hour (Bring left over Christmas treats)
	4:00 pm	Burning of the Greens @ Rodewald's
Monday, Jan. 9	4:30 pm	Congregational Life mtg. @ Dish & Spoon
	6:30 pm	Executive Committee mtg. @ office
Wednesday, Jan. 11	6:30pm	Confirmation @ Servant of the Shepherd
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
	<b>10:45 am</b>	<b>Annual Meeting of the Congregation</b>
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

**Bring your leftover Christmas treats to church  
 Jan 8th to share during coffee hour!!**

*A few more photos of the Carols & Candles and Christmas Eve Services*



**Jack Stang at Carols & Candles**



**Pastor Sandy and children on Christmas Eve**



**The Klacan Family on Christmas Eve**



**Carols & Candles**

**Phil Klacan directing the  
Carols & Candles  
Choir**





## 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...

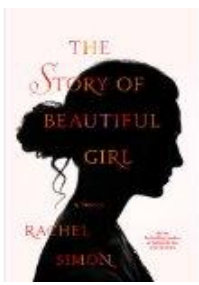
Let's stand together with hope and purpose next year.

Blessings,

Drew Genszler, ELCA Director of Advocacy

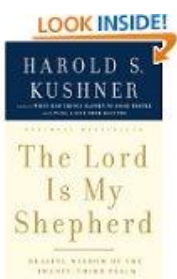
Take the survey by clicking on this link:

<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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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**Youth Poetry Contest: Encourage a Young Poet to submit a poem!**

Youth Poetry written for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Breakfast is being requested. The breakfast will be held on Monday, January 16, 7:00am-9:00am at St. Bridget's Church. The poems should be reflective of this year's theme and quote:

1. Building Peace and Unity Within the Global Community, and
2. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." *Martin Luther King Jr.*

At least two youth poems selected will be read at the event, published in the program, and the youth and up to two family members will receive tickets to the event. **Deadline is January 11, 2012.** Poetry will then be reviewed and selected by the MLK Planning Committee. Please submit poetry electronically in the form you would like to see it printed to: [donrich3833@comcast.net](mailto:donrich3833@comcast.net) and [kathy.scott@sbwireless.net](mailto:kathy.scott@sbwireless.net). For questions, contact Don Richards, 715-425-7467.



## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.saintbridgets.org/MLK.cfm#85452) or emailed or mailed to you by contacting Kathy Scott, 715-426-3510 or [Kathy.scott@sbwireless.net](mailto: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

# Seventh Annual Twelfth Night Concert

Presented by Twin Cities Bronze  
The Premiere Handbell Ensemble  
of Minneapolis-St. Paul

**Saturday, 7 January 2012**

Peace United Methodist Church  
5050 Hodgson Road  
Shoreview, Minnesota

**2:00 p.m.**

Tickets **In Advance:**

Adults \$ 10.00

Children (under 12) \$5.00

Family Pak: \$ 25.00(2 Adults + children under 12)

Tickets: **At The Door:** \$ 15.00

Order and purchase tickets at: [www.twincitiesbronze.org](http://www.twincitiesbronze.org)

Gift Basket Auction

Dessert Reception after the Concert

Featuring HOPE Member  
Alyssa Boock

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” - I John 4:9

Merry.  
Christmas

Christmas Eve, 2011

We wanted to take this special time to send you a quick note from Jamaica. The children and staff thank you for your prayers and support throughout the year and want to wish you a very “MERRY CHRISTMAS!” The children have been out of school since December 14 and have been waiting for Christmas with eager anticipation but they never dreamt they’d see something like this.

We’ve been excited as we knew we had a surprise coming for the kids! Today Santa arrived at the Robins Nest via Helicopter! Yes Helicopter! A group from Montego Bay put it all together for us and the Helicopter was supplied as well. So the Helicopter landed down at the old church, Santa came out, walked up to the Nest, passed out gifts and then departed on his airborne sleigh! The community was all there to take pictures with him. It was an amazing afternoon and it is all the kids are talking about.

Hi Troy,

The Melody House family wish to thank you and your congregation for your generous donation. The girls are excited about their new shoes and have expressed their love and appreciation.

The girls were splendidly dressed in their new attire for Church today. Thanks to you and your congregation for making them feel special.

We wish you all a Blessed and peaceful season and "Above all things that you may prosper and be in good health"

Clair Purkiss

"Aunt Clair," the director of  
Melody House in Jamaica



Today we look forward to telling them the true Christmas story and celebrating Jesus' birthday together. They don't return to school until January 9 so pray for us all as things are very busy with every one home all day. Please continue to pray for all of the children as they transition thru their time here at the Nest. Things have changed over the last year with so many kids being adopted or leaving to go back to their families. We are encouraged by the progress that has been made with all of these children, as they are unbelievable examples of coping under difficult circumstances. As we transition to the New Year, pray that each of these children will continue to seek the face of Jesus in everything they do and that they are good examples to the new kids that continue to arrive here. God Bless each of you and Merry Christmas from the Nest.

Matt, Joyel, Taylor and Jacob Wiley, Executive Directors, Robin's Nest Children's Home  
A very special "THANK YOU" from Robin's Nest:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayOwPg0yJ7U>

**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](mailto: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

ELCA

Hope Journeys Forward

**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](http://hopelutheran-riverfalls.org)

Pastor Sandy's email:  
[pastor@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org](mailto:pastor@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org)

Teresa's email:  
[secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org](mailto:secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org)

Facebook:  
[hopelutheranchurchriverfallswi](http://hopelutheranchurchriverfallswi)

Skype:  
[hopelutheranchurchriverfalls](http://hopelutheranchurchriverfalls)



# THANK YOU!

From: **JAMAICA LINK MINISTRIES**

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9 v 7-8*

2011 was a remarkable and Christ fulfilling year for Jamaica Link Ministries (JLM). New partnerships were formed and existing ones were strengthened. More lives were impacted by the generosity and faithfulness of mission teams and the graciousness and humility of the recipients.

Thank you for giving your time, skills and resources this past year and for sharing your ministry with us. It is our desire to continue facilitating mission trips, connecting teams and individuals with ministries and empower leadership among the Jamaican people.

Please keep JLM in your prayers (add us to your personal, bible study group and your church's prayer lists) as we continue to pray for you and your ministry.

We look forward to a continued partnership in 2012.



*"I could not have had a better time! Thanks so much for helping us to help others!"*

*Denise & Ben Daniels 2011*

Your dedication, prayer and contributions have helped the following ministries and programs in 2011.

- Fairview Baptist Bible College
- Robin's Nest Children's Home
- Westhaven Children's Home
- Jamaica Christian School For The Deaf
- Peace and Justice Centre (Inner-City Support Program)
- Cornwall Mountain All Age
- Primary and High School Devotions
- Partnership For Success Education Conference
- Melody House Girls Home
- Rosemount Missionary Church Back to School Initiative
- S.O.S. Children's Village
- 12 Churches and Pastors
- Savanna-La-Mar Primary Values and Attitudes

*Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.