



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 3, 2010

From Your Very Interim Pastor

I'm sorry to say, we don't yet know when my time with you will come to an end. Uncertainty and limbo are not comfortable places to be. I know I'm not liking it much! I assure you that I'm doing all I can to expedite the process. As soon as I know, I'll let you know.

We are pleased to say that Pastor Bill Montgomery, former Senior Pastor at Ezekiel, stands ready to serve you for worship in December after I leave, whenever that may be. We're grateful for his willingness to do so, and to be so flexible about it.

At the Church Council meeting on November 15th, we did some reviewing of this interim time together. The Council asked if I might share some of the things we spoke about with the congregation. I'll be including them in my sermons the remaining Sundays I'm serving among you.

See you in church!

Pastor Mark

P.S. If you haven't yet returned your pledge card/sheet, please bring it to worship this Sunday.

Call Committee Update

During the Thanksgiving season there is much to be thankful for: family, friends, freedom, shelter and most importantly our Savior. Praise and thank God for all of His wonderful blessings! The Call Committee would like to share what we are thankful for: God has kept us in conversation with two very qualified candidates for Hope and it has been a true blessing in getting to know all four candidates.

The call committee is currently finishing up reference checks on two candidates. In the beginning of December we will be working on questions to ask both of them on another Skype interview on December 13th. Please keep the call committee and the candidates in your prayers.

Please complete your pledge sheet and bring it to church on 12/5/10 or mail it to the HOPE office (P.O. Box 287 - RF, WI 54022). Extra forms are available on the HOPE table. If you would like to submit your pledge via email - you may submit it confidentially to <mailto:secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org> (If you choose this option - please include all checked info from your pledge form). Thank you for your pledge!

THE PLEDGE Express is Here!

Don't STRESS yourself - EXPRESS yourself by submitting your pledge!

Total Hope Express Contributions as of 12/2/10 - \$6,035.00

Treasurer's Report General Operating Report as of Nov. 30, 2010

	YTD
Actual Income	\$86,615.85
Actual Expenses	\$93,647.93
Balance	-\$8,032.08

Sunday, November 28, 2010

Offering: Attendance: 53

General Fund - \$992.00

Building Fund - \$282.00

Hope Express Fund - \$265.00

Jamaica Mittens - \$338.00

Jamaica Trip Deposit - \$100.00

Grace Place - \$50

Leading Us in Worship – December 2nd

Presiding Minister: Mark Hendrickson

Assisting Minister: Roger Tweiten

Pianist: Phil Klacan

Reader & Prayers: Patti Albertson

Ushers: David Hendrickson & Steve Koecher

Acolyte: John Warner

Communion Preparation: Anne Anderson

Communion Assistant: Doug & Susie Rudesill

Coffee: Mike and Nancy Peters

Prayers are requested for:

Zora Anderson (Hope member), Frances Benedict, Patty Borchardt (friend of Lisa Rydland), Amanda Brown, Jody Fink, Avery Gallagher, Jodi Hauk (Hope member), Kayla Hefner (friend of Gorden Hedahl), June Hirsch, Cindy Hogan, Stan & Gloria Jacobson (Linda Jacobson's parents), Sandy Kurth (friend of Lisa Rydland), Melissa Loven (Doc and Carol Berggren's granddaughter), Pat Lubich (Jeff Rodewald's aunt), Richard Phelps (Bill Warner's dad), Dorothy Schulz, SFC Gerardo Viera (adopted son of the Carlson family).

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. And for the children, staff, directors and their families of Robin's Nest Children's Home, the orphanage Hope's team will be serving.

Prayer requests can be sent at anytime.

Please notify HopeNotes when you would like a prayer request removed.

Hope extends our prayers to Ed Paulson and his family during this time of loss with the passing of his niece Eve Friedli.

CALENDAR

Dec. 5, Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship (<i>Food Shelf Sunday</i>) and Pledge Sunday
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Sunday School
Dec. 6, Monday	5:30 p.m.	Com-Com Meeting @ Office
Dec. 8, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Carols & Candles Rehearsal
Dec. 11, Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Lefse Baking at UCC kitchen
Dec. 12, Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School, Coffee & Lefse Bake Sale



Sunday, December 5th, is Food Shelf Sunday

We ask that each member bring one (or more!) non-perishable food items to fill our red food shelf bins that will be available at the altar or in the lobby.

Happy Birthday to the following Hope members & friends
who celebrate their birthday in December!



Kaija Warner	12/1	Lucas Hartleben	12/14
Zoe Tokheim	12/2	Ryan Hartleben	12/14
Amy Kolpin	12/3	Ty Tokheim	12/15
Derick Graves	12/3	Delores Sylte	12/17
Mark Bondhus	12/5	Grete Oppegard	12/17
Deb Goree	12/10	Karen Hamilton	12/17
Judy Karshbaum	12/11	Rachael Engesether	12/27
Nancy Christensen	12/11		
Wendy Tokheim	12/11		

OFFERING ENVELOPES – will be sent to each member beginning in January 2011. You will receive them every other month. We hope that you will enjoy the convenience of having these at your finger tips!

College Student Parents

Names and addresses of Hope's college students are needed by December 5. There is a sheet on the Hope Table for that information. If you won't be in church Sunday, please send the information to

brohaugh@att.net.



The Salvation Army will be conducting the Kettle Campaign again this year. Bell Ringers are need at Dick's Fresh Market, Econo Foods, and Shopko. Volunteers are assigned two hour shifts and at various days of the week. Ed Paulson will have sign up schedules available after church services or call Ed at 715-425-0250. Bell Ringing is a great way to bring in Christmas & gives families & individuals the opportunity to see many friends. Let us have a great turn out for this volunteer activity. God bless.



A Request from the Worship Committee
 Everyone is invited to bring a **metallic colored or clear star ornament** to beautify Hope's Christmas tree. **Please drop it in the ornament basket on the Hope Table by December 18.**

Upcoming Events

Carols and Candles Choir **SAVE THESE DATES**

All singers (from middle-school age on up) are invited to sing in the Carols and Candles Choir. Please save the dates below for rehearsals and performances. Any questions? Call Phil Klacan at 715.425.1054.

Rehearsals (all at Newman Center Chapel):

Wednesday, December 8, 7:00pm-8:15pm
 Wednesday, December 15, 7:00pm-8:15pm
 Saturday, December 18, 9:30am-11:00am

Program

Sunday, Dec. 19, 4:00pm
 (choir reports at 3:00pm)



Lefse Saturday and Bake Sale



Don't forget to sign up to help make **lefse** whether you are a novice or experienced. Join us in the Congregational Church Kitchen, 110 N 3rd St., Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 am. We're hoping for a successful **Bake Sale** on Sunday the 12th and are requesting donations of packaged and priced baked goods from all of Hope's wonderful bakers. Bring your goodies Sunday morning. Proceeds will be given to the River Falls **Our Neighbors Place** ministry.

Hope's Daytime Book Group

The group will gather for a Christmas Tea at the home of Nancy Peters, 1078 South Fork Drive, Monday, December 13, 1:00 pm. *Please bring a used gift-wrapped book to exchange.*

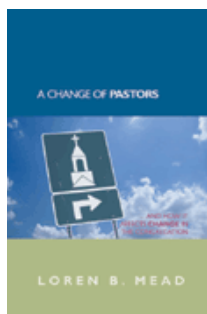


Items below this point are repeated from previous HopeNotes.

Community Announcements will continue to be listed at the end of Hope Notes.



**We have completed our Healthy Congregations Sessions.
Thanks to all who have participated!**



Do you have a copy of this book: A Change of Pastors by Loren Mead? Pastor Mark bought ten copies and made them available for loan to Hope members. When the time comes for him to leave Hope, he'll charge Hope for any copies not returned. So, if you have one, please bring it back to church the next time you come.

From the NW Synod of Wisconsin Eclipse

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN?

A Spark Storybook Bible will fill that need wonderfully. The time to order is now so we can get enough together to reach our 100 Bible goal. With that many Bibles, they cost just \$12 apiece and there is no shipping charge! Call your Synod Resource Center today to place your order for Storybook or Study Bibles. Study Bibles are for grade 3 and older. Storybooks are for ages 2 to 6. The number is: 715-833-1153 or email: staff@synodresourcecenter.org

ELCA WORLD HUNGER: THE LINGSON FAMILY STORY

How can goats change a village? Watch as gifts of livestock help the Lingson family end hunger. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support the Lingson family and families across the United States and in 60 countries worldwide. For more information, visit <http://www.elca.org/hunger>.

LSS OFFERS FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Financial distress can strike anyone, at any age, or any income level, and for a multitude of reasons. Did you know that LSS offers FREE, confidential financial counseling certified by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling? In a partnership with LSS of Minnesota, the Superior office of LSS has offered this service for over four years.

Please take a moment to review the [Financial Counseling flyer](#), which gives an overview of this service. Please print and share the flyer with anyone you feel may benefit

Give Hungry Children a Reason to Be Thankful - Ask your Representative to pass the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act -- without cutting SNAP. Take Action! The Child Nutrition Act, which provides school and summer meals for children, expired September 30. But instead of reauthorizing the Act, Congress extended its expiration date. The Senate has passed a bill reauthorizing the Act, "The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act" which strengthens child nutrition programs. However, it pays for improvements by reducing future SNAP (food stamp) funding. The House is expected to vote on the bill after Thanksgiving. If it passes the House, it will go directly to the President to sign. Millions of low-income children rely on federal child nutrition programs to help them get the food they need to learn, grow and be healthy. The reauthorization bill is needed to continue these programs, improve them, and allow more children to benefit from them. But time is short -- Congress must act before adjourning for the year. Ask your Representative today to support passing the Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill and finding a way to fund it without cutting SNAP.

Background: According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2009, 17.2 million children in our nation -- nearly a quarter of all U.S. children -- lived in homes that lacked reliable access to sufficient food. These children are at risk for cognitive, behavioral, emotional and physical problems resulting from hunger that can cause lasting damage to their development. Federal child nutrition programs ensure that children, regardless of income, can have access to the food they need. Up for review this year are the:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Afterschool Snack and Meal Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Special Milk Program

The Lunch, Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs are permanently authorized, but the others could expire if Congress does not reauthorize them. However, many children do not have access to the programs that they need because they are not offered in their communities or there are other barriers to participation. The reauthorization process is an important opportunity to improve these programs so that more Children will have the food they need.

Congress was unable to pass a reauthorization bill through both houses before the Act was due to expire on September 30. Instead, they passed a continuing resolution that postponed the expiration date. The Senate had passed its version of the reauthorization bill, "The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act (S. 3307)", in August. The bill includes provisions that would expand access to programs, enhance the nutritional quality of meals, reduce paperwork, simplify program requirements, and support oversight. However, to pay for child nutrition programs, the Senate bill would reduce future funding for SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps) - which also helps feed hungry children. The House is expected to vote on the Senate's bill after Thanksgiving, but time is very short.

Representatives need to hear from their constituents that Congress must pass the Child Nutrition Act reauthorization and fix the SNAP cut before adjourning for the year. For more information, go to:

Food Research and Action Center <http://capwiz.com/wichurches/utr/1/HYIUNPZWJY/MDLUNPZWOU/6136266636>

Community Announcements

Interfaith Volunteers

Interfaith Volunteers are urgently needed to drive once or twice a month for those needing dialysis. Open trips include Stillwater to Hammond M, W, or F at 4:30 pm and within Hudson for adult day program at 9am or 3pm M or Th, and transport once a week for a Hudson man to Wal-Mart in New Richmond. Other needs include light housekeeping for a man in his Hudson apartment, a couple in their Hudson home, a woman in her Hudson apartment, and companionship for a woman in N Hudson during the day. For information about volunteering contact Nancy at 1-800-372-2333 or email nancya@co.saint-croix.wi.us.

Download an application at www.sccwi.us/departments/adrc/intefait



Journey House Students would like to learn how to make Lesfe - we have scheduled our December 8th 6:30-8pm Create and Connect event to do so. If you

are a Lesfe maker and would be willing to teach us we would greatly appreciate it. You may contact Yvonne Wilken at ywilken@earthlink.net or 651-398-7729 if you are able to help. Thank You!

Gingerbread Contest: The River Falls Public Library hosts an annual gingerbread contest, co-sponsored by River Falls State Bank. Both architectural structures and whimsical designs are invited, and entries are divided into youth and adult categories; rules are available at the library and at State Bank. **Entries are due on Wednesday, 12/8** and stay on display through 12/22. Judging is on Thursday, 12/9. People's Choice voting goes on through 12/16.



Aging & Disability Resource Center Secret Santa Program

It's Secret Santa time again. If you want to contribute, please bring your new donated items to the Aging and Disability Resource Center by December 15th. Your thoughtfulness will brighten Christmas for older adults and persons with disabilities, who may be alone on the holiday, suffered loss, have limited means or no family in the area.

- * Calendars
- * Holiday Candy
- * Puzzle Books
- * Word Search Books
- * Stationery
- * Greeting Cards
- * Postage Stamps
- * Christmas Movies/DVDs
- * Christmas Music/CDs
- * Christmas Ornaments
- * Christmas Cards
- * Hot Chocolate
- * Tea & Flavored Coffee
- * Monetary Donations
- * Franchised Restaurant Gift Certificates

HO! HO! HO!

Thanks for your help! You'll end up on the "nice list" for sure!

Christmas Village Collectibles Exhibit: The River Falls Public Library is inviting residents to display their village collectibles (not just Christmas!) to the whole community from **December 19 through January 16** in the lower level gallery. Collectors are asked to bring their items to the library on December 15th and 16th, and to create their display themselves. The library has tables, or you may supply your own. This is a wonderful way to share your collection with more than just your own family and friends. Please call Carol @ 715.425.0905 x123 if you have questions!

Announcement Deadline Wednesday - Send bulletin information and Hope Notes to hopenotes@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org

Hope Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 287

River Falls, WI 54022

Office: 715-425-9750

Rev. Mark J. Hendrickson, Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark's email pastor@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org

Hope's website: <http://www.hopelutheran-riverfalls.org>

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

Pastor Mark's Cell: 612-940-8277

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

Facebook: hopelutheranchurchriverfallswi

