
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 9, 2010

From your **Former** Interim Pastor

Every time I think of you, I thank my God. *Philippians 1:3*

December 15th will be my last day to serve among you as your interim pastor. December 12th will be my last Sunday with you. On December 16th I'll begin as the Interim Senior Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Menomonie, WI.

I give thanks for the opportunity to serve among you!

I give thanks for the work we have done together!

I give thanks for the spirit of mission in Hope!

I give thanks for friendships formed!

Every time I think of you, I thank my God!

With the transition, comes goodbye's. When pastors leave congregations it's best for the congregation (and I believe the pastor too) to have virtually no contact with members of that congregation for quite some time—preferably a number of years; and most certainly not until a new pastor is firmly established in the congregation, and then, only with their knowledge and permission. Interim pastors follow an even stricter code of ethics here. So, sadly but necessarily, November 12th will be good bye. I'll continue to receive HopeNotes and keep track of you in that fashion. And when your new pastor arrives, I'll contact them to offer whatever assistance in their transition they might find helpful. Otherwise, I will not be available to you, except by request via the synod office.

I am so grateful for our time together!!

Pastor Mark Hendrickson

It is with deepest gratitude that we thank Pastor Mark for his interim time with Hope. This Sunday will be Pr Mark's last Sunday with Hope before he moves on to help another congregation in need. Please join us immediately following service for a farewell celebration and to thank Pr Mark personally.



Farewell

Call Committee Update

Greetings from the call committee! All of the reference calls have now been completed on two candidates and late Sunday the call committee received word from a Pastor who chose to be removed from the call process at Hope. This candidate was and still remains excited for Hope's future but they did not feel a calling to leave their current ministry and continue with Hope as we discern. We wish him the best of luck as he continues to discern his future! We now have one candidate remaining out of the four that we started with. We have another Skype interview on Monday, December 13th as we want to have the best picture of the candidate as possible. After the 13th the call committee is faced with a few choices: conduct a further interview with the current candidate, release the candidate and ask for more names from the synod, or recommend the candidate to executive council to negotiate salary, benefits, etc. Thank you for all of your support and prayers! We ask that you continue to pray during this discernment process for the candidates as well as the call committee. Both the committee and the candidate are searching for God's plan. Please pray for patience, a quiet and peaceful heart, and an open heart, willing to listen when God calls. The best part, is the comfort of knowing that God already has a plan laid out, but we must listen when he calls and be open to hearing his words.

"Tis the Season to be kind to your friends"

Do your friends on the S. Team a favor--return your pledge so they don't have to use their precious time this holiday season to call you and remind you. It'll be good for you, good for Hope and a favor to your friends.

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, December 5, 2010

Offering: **Attendance: 88**
General Fund - \$1,270.70
Building Fund - \$2,187.00
Hope Express Fund - \$620.00
Jamaica Trip Deposit - \$305.00
Food Shelf - \$45.00
Jamaica Mittens - \$40.00

Hope Express Contributions as of 12/7/10 - \$6,655.00

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!



Lefse Saturday and Bake Sale

All are invited to help make lefse this **Saturday, December 11 in the Congregational Church kitchen starting at 9:00 am**. Join in the fun even if you've never made it and we will find a job for you. The lefse will be sold Sunday morning along with all baked goods and Christmas goodies that you contribute. Breads, cookies, bars, cake, candy and all treats are most welcome. Please package your items and price them. There should be lots of great things to purchase so don't forget your \$\$ or checkbook. All proceeds will be given locally to Our Neighbors Place ministry.

Thanks for your support!
Congregational Life

Leading Us in Worship – December 12th

Presiding Minister: Mark Hendrickson	Assisting Minister: Jean Loudon
Pianist: Betty Lou Oppedard	Reader & Prayers: Laura Anderson
Ushers: Jerry Brandt &	Acolyte: Lexi Getschel
Communion Preparation:	Communion Assistant: Darcy Boock
Coffee: Ethel Johnson	

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.

CALENDAR

Dec. 11, Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Lefse Baking at UCC kitchen
Dec. 12, Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Children's Program)
	10:30 a.m.	Farewell celebration for Pastor Mark, Coffee Hour & Lefse Bake Sale
Dec. 13, Monday	1:00 p.m.	Daytime Book Group Tea @ Nancy Peter's House
	6:30 p.m.	Congregational Life Mtg. @ Dish & Spoon
Dec. 15, Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation @ the Warren's House
	7:00 p.m.	Carols & Candles Rehearsal @ church
Dec. 18, Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Carols & Candles Rehearsal @ church
Dec. 19, Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Pastor Bill Montgomery)
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour & Sunday School
	4:00 p.m.	Carols & Candles Program (choir reports to church at 3:00 p.m.)

Help Needed for Tuesday Banquet December 28th

Hope Lutheran is in charge of clean-up for the December 28th Tuesday Banquet. Four people are needed from 5 p.m. to about 6:15 p.m.

Please e-mail Dick Jackson if you can help: rljacksn@comcast.net or call: 715-426-9531.

Thanks to all the Hope members that have helped cook and serve these Tuesday banquets this year. Hundreds of people that have been served appreciate your help!!

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		



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)



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.*

Press Ctrl + click to see the following link for:

ELCA Presiding Bishop Calls on Members to Give to ELCA World Hunger:

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/News/Releases.aspx?a=4684>

Items below this point are repeated from previous HopeNotes.

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

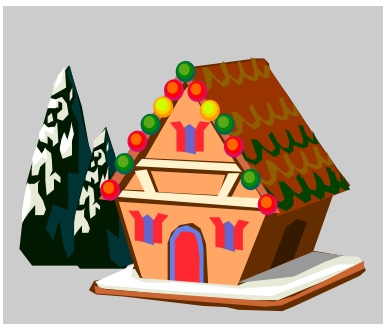
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Community Announcements

Interfaith Volunteers

Interfaith Volunteers are needed to help a woman in River Falls with light housekeeping due to her health issues and companionship for a man in his apartment.

For information contact Nancy at 715-381-4360 or email nancya@co.saint-croix.wi.us



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

