



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 6, 2011

The words "HAPPY NEW YEAR" are written in a large, bold, red, bubbly font with a black outline. Two yellow starburst graphics are placed around the text: one above the word "NEW" and one below the word "YEAR".

Call Committee Update

Happy New Year from the call committee! We hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas and New Year's with friends and family. For those who may have missed the announcement before Christmas, the call committee finished the Skype interview with the remaining candidate, but the candidate has accepted a call at another congregation. We wish this Pastor the best of luck in the future! At this time, the synod will begin the process of finding more names of candidates to forward to us. We are meeting with Pastor Amy next week and are looking forward to working with the synod to begin the process again. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to speak with anyone from the call committee. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we begin the process and keep looking to Hope Notes for further updates as we progress. Always remember that God has a plan already laid out and faith is about giving up that trust to Him and believing! Blessings on the remainder of the week and weekend!

Burning of the Greens Sunday, January 9th 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, January 9 at Jeff and Karen Rodewald's, 245 Hwy 65. This will be a free and family friendly event and children will have fun playing in the snow, exploring a snow cave, watching the blazing of our Christmas trees and greens, feeding the alpacas and sipping hot cocoa to keep warm. Bring your trees and greens and come even if you don't have a real tree. There will be a sign up at church if you'd like to bring something to share at our soup supper. **What is Burning of the Greens?** It is an event celebrated by many Christian churches to commemorate Epiphany. We celebrate the Light of Christ coming into the world on one of the darkest nights of the year. Please plan to join us and bring your friends. Sponsored by Congregational Life.

Greetings to the Saints of God at Hope Lutheran!

I am Pastor Carol Peterson, and will be with you for worship on Sundays for the next weeks. After graduating from Luther Seminary in 1995, I served the Bethlehem Eidsvold Parish near Ellsworth. I have also served as interim pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran in Menomonie and Christ Lutheran in Somerset. Before seminary, I taught kindergarten and preschool, worked at Hennepin County Medical Center and was a stay at home Mom.

I'm married to Tom Peterson and we have two grown sons, Andy and Ben. We're looking forward to Ben's wedding next summer and adding his fiancée, Britt, to our family. We have recently brought my mother, Dorothy, from Michigan to live closer to us. She is contentedly settled in at Comforts of Home Assisted Living here in River Falls and we're thankful to have found such a wonderful home for her.

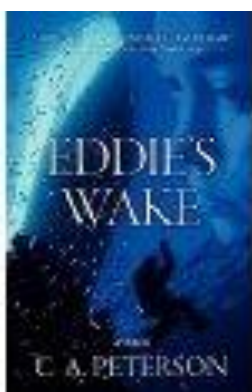
In addition to ministry and family, my other passion is writing. In 2009 I completed and published my first novel, *Eddie's Wake*. I have plans to begin another writing project very soon.

I look forward to being with you and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament over the next weeks. May God bless you all with a joyous celebration of the Savior's birth and the promise of the future in the New Year!



Daytime Book Group

The daytime group will meet on Monday, January 24 for noontime lunch and book discussion at the home of Karen Brohaugh, N8026 975th St. Note the change in meeting location for the January meeting. We will be discussing *Eddie's Wake* by Pastor Carol Peterson. This will be a unique opportunity for us because the author is going to join us for our discussion. Pr. Carol will be leading us in worship for the month of January so we are taking advantage of her while we have her at Hope. She will bring copies of the book to worship on January 2 and probably on following Sundays. The cost is \$20.00. *Eddie's Wake* is also available at the public library, book stores or online. Everyone is invited to join the group even if you don't usually attend our discussions, male as well as female. Please RSVP to Karen at brohaugh@att.net or 715-425-2971 by Friday, January 21.



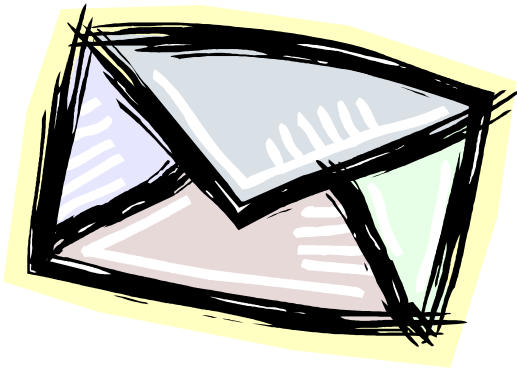
Here are a few words from Pastor Carol about her book...

I wrote Eddie's Wake in response to the sorrows and grief of loss we all experience as our life journeys intersect with one another. When his father dies, Karl asks the big questions: "Is God still with me?" "Does God really hear my prayers?" "Does God even care?" I would love to visit your book group and talk about Eddie's Wake, share in your discussion and hear about your insights. Pastor Carol

The Stewardship Team and the Executive Financial Committee are grateful for the membership pledges received for the 2011 church year. Your response will be most helpful in planning Hope's budget. **If you have not had the opportunity to return your pledge card, you can still put it in the offering basket on Sunday or mail it to Teresa at the church office.**

As Hope journeys forward in 2011, it is our wish that your new year shines with Christ's peace, love and joy!

Thank you.
Carolyn



Offering/Giving Envelopes

You should have already received the first shipment of giving envelopes. These envelopes will be mailed every other month to your home. If you participate in **Simply Giving** and will not be using your envelopes please return them to the church office. The envelopes can be reused by placing a label over the recipient's name & address. It was more cost effective to include the entire congregation when placing the order. We hope that you will enjoy the convenience of having these at your finger tips!

If you did not receive giving envelopes and would like to get them, please contact Teresa at 715-425-9750.

Sunday, January 2, 2011

Offering:	Attendance: 41
General Fund - \$1,930.01	
Building Fund - \$335.00	
Hope Express Fund - \$40.00	

Hope Express Contributions as of 1/6/11 - \$7,710.00

Leading Us in Worship – January 9th

Presiding Minister: Pastor Carol Peterson

Pianist: Betty Lou Opegard

Ushers: Jerry Brandt

Communion Preparation: Margaret Anderson

Coffee: Melissa & Kenna Kolb

Assisting Minister: Jerry Brandt

Reader & Prayers: Laura Anderson

Acolyte: Erik Warner

Communion Assistant: Darcy Boock & Carol Poff

CALENDAR

Jan. 5, Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation at Warren's Home
Jan. 9, Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship (Pastor Carol Peterson)
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour & Sunday School
	4:00 p.m.	Burning of the Greens @ Rodewald's Home
Jan. 15, Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Rehearsal for Children's Program
Jan. 16, Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship & Children's Program
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour & Sunday School

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, January 23, 2010

Prayers are requested for:

Zora Anderson (Hope member), Frances Benedict, Patty Borchardt (friend of Lisa Rydland), Amanda Brown, Jody Fink, Avery Gallagher, Katy & Ken Giske (friends of Jerry & Naomi Brandt), Jodi Hauk (Hope member), Kayla Hefner (friend of Gorden Hedahl), June Hirsch, Cindy Hogan, Mike Jacobson (Linda Jacobson's brother), 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), Patrice Rasmussen (friend of Anne Anderson), Dorothy Schulz, SFC Gerardo Viera (adopted soldier 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.

Please remember the Lesmeister family in prayer.

Tonja & Troy will be returning from Jamaica this week with Latidra!!

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



1/01	Mark Anderson	1/18	Samantha Brill
1/02	Gorden Hedahl	1/21	Mason Shea
1/06	Kenna Frisch	1/23	Makayla Ziebarth
1/11	Katherine Klacan	1/28	Amanda Ziebarth
1/11	Camryn Shea		
1/12	Kaye Anderson		

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

Community Announcements



JOIN US

4TH ANNUAL RIVER FALLS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011

DOORS OPEN 7 AM, BREAKFAST AT 7:30, PROGRAM AT
8:00

SAINT BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH
211 EAST DIVISION STREET, RIVER FALLS, WI

HOT BREAKFAST - LOCAL PROGRAM:

GOSPEL MUSIC, *YOUTH POETRY,
*YOUTH EMERGING LEGEND COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD, AND

PBS CHANNEL 2 LIVE BROADCAST FROM MPLS
CONVENTION CENTER - KEYNOTE SPEAKER, NEWARK NJ
MAYOR CORY BOOKER

TICKET INFORMATION

\$5 PER PERSON DONATION (UNDER 5 FREE)

(PROFITS TO ST CROIX VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – ECO VILLAGE PROJECT)

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:

WHOLE EARTH GROCERY, 126 S MAIN STREET, RIVER FALLS OR
DISH AND THE SPOON CAFÉ, 208 NORTH MAIN, RIVER FALLS OR
CONTACT KATHY SCOTT AT 715-426-3510, kathy.scott@sbwireless.net

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Nominations for Youth Emerging Legend Accepted through
January 10th & Youth Poetry through January 12th, 2011 - www.saintbridgets.org/MLK.cfm#85452

Fall, 2010

Dear Fellow Servants in Christ,

Our congregation is located in St. Bernard Parish (County), LA, a community which was 100% destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Our own structure received 8 feet of water, which took two weeks to recede. It was necessary to gut the entire building, down to the frame, and rebuild. We have accomplished that.

The community itself has been very slow to recover. The population is about 35-40% of pre-Katrina levels and will probably take a generation to come back. Close to half of the people that work here now live north of Lake Ponchartrain and commute. Those numbers are reflected in our membership at Gethsemane as well.

In addition to this, St. Bernard Parish is one of the coastal communities affected by the BP oil spill. That has resulted in a serious loss of income for those who make a living on the water, mainly the fishing and charter-boat industries. This, in turn, affects the businesses in the community and has dramatically increased demand at organizations that help people.

We are looking for congregations who would like to partner with us in providing ministry in this setting. Besides normal congregational functions, like worship and educational opportunities, we are involved in several helping ministries:

- a preschool program, which offers reduced fees to needy families
- support of Community Center of St. Bernard and Servants of Christ food banks
- Angel Food Ministries
- Space for 12-step groups 6 nights per week
- Help to individuals as we are able
- Occasional distribution of free furniture
- Housing for volunteer groups from around the country

The needs here are great, and we are doing whatever God provides the means for us to do.

We would love to have you partner with us. You might do so with a one-time donation or a month-to-month donation for a period of time. You might want to send volunteers for a mission/work trip.

Donations can be sent to: Gethsemane Lutheran Church
2825 Paris Rd.
Chalmette, LA 70043

Also, donations can be made to us through Thrivent for Lutherans.

We invite you to be in prayer about this and let the Lord lead you to a decision.

For the servants at Gethsemane,

Pastor Jim Shears

***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!

Our Neighbors' Place needs your help!

We have just until the end of the year to raise enough money for a building for our homeless shelter. We are currently renting 4 apartments at \$2,600 a month. We realize renting is not cost effective or a good use of precious funds but it has allowed ONP to slowly work it's way up towards the end goal of purchasing possibly a 4-plex. Our apartments are full and we have a waiting list. We are getting close, but not close enough. Please consider making a generous donation so that we can provide room at the inn for families in our community who are in desperate need.

Please send your donations to: Our Neighbors' Place P.O. Box 274, River Falls, WI 54022 Thank you!!!

The Assistance & Resource Center Inc (ARC) is in need of board members as several will be rotating off in the spring. It is a good time to step forward as you will be able to partner with a board member or be on a committee for publicity, fundraising or grant writing. Please give it prayerful thought as the Ministers and community do depend on this program. ARC distributes funds donated by the Churches, individuals, organizations and grants to persons financially stressed. **WE NEED YOU!** If interested call JoAnne 715-425-2294.

*The CH**OSCARS***

*River Falls Chamber OSCARS - Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet
Thursday February 10, 2011*

For more information visit www.rfchamber.com

The River Falls Area Hospital and Rivers Cancer Center will be offering an ongoing cancer education and support group. Meetings will be the second Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The sessions are free and open to anyone facing cancer, either personally, or as friends and family of someone facing cancer. Call 425-6155 with any questions about the program.

**First session: January 12th
Location: River Falls Area Hospital – Classrooms**

Kinnic Long Term Care & Rehabilitation

Please give us a call if you have a special talent or time that you would like to share with the folks that live here. We would appreciate hearing from you. Some opportunities are: Assisting in polishing the ladies fingernails, delivering library books, visiting, playing games, reading to someone that has impaired vision, popping popcorn and numerous other opportunities.

Announcement Deadlines

Send **Website** announcements to secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.
Send **Hope Notes** announcements to hopenotes@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays.
Send **Bulletin** announcements to secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org by 9:00 a.m. on Fridays.

**Hope Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 287
River Falls, WI 54022
Office: 715-425-9750**

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

Hope's website: <http://www.hopelutheran-riverfalls.org>
Teresa's email: secretary@hopelutheran-riverfalls.org
Facebook: hopelutheranchurchriverfallswi

