

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## Bless the Teachers

This morning I had the honor and blessing of serving as a table host for the 2024 River Falls Chamber New Teacher Breakfast. I was joined by four new teachers who will be working at Rocky Branch Elementary this school year. Each of them come with experience and they will be working with Kindergarten and Special Needs children. Above is a picture of all those who gathered (it's a fun game of "where's Pastor Annie?!?").

Join me in lifting them, and all educators, administrators, and para professionals returning to classrooms either this week or next in prayer:

God of wisdom,  
Your Son came among us as a teacher.  
Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education:  
give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought,  
and enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students  
that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life.

God of Mercy,  
We commend to you the gracious care and keeping of all of our teachers.  
Grant them safety in their classrooms, that they would be able to focus on  
the gift of teaching, rather than the threat of violence. Grant them a sense of  
your abiding presence throughout the year ahead and bring them success in  
their endeavors.

We pray your special blessing on: Kristen Bernard, Angela Bohnhert, Ryan Brill, Debra James, Stacia Johnson, Hallie Neuhaus, Ian and Morgan Porten, Carl Warren, Traci Wolfe, and all others connected to HOPE, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## Civic Life & Faith Engagement Next Steps

Thank you to all who participated in our summer series of “Civic Life and Faith” conversations. We had faithful conversation surrounding right relationships with our indigenous neighbors, including better understanding of the Doctrine of Discovery and the importance of its repudiation, and the invitation from the ELCA to review the Draft Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith.

Your opportunity to provide feedback **ends on September 30, 2024**. You can find the survey [HERE](#).

Many have expressed a curiosity about how our ELCA Lutheran identity and theology shapes our civic engagement. United Lutheran Seminary has put together an excellent set of resources for this, titled, “What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran in a Crucial Election Year?” While the first session has passed, there are still 5 sessions remaining. Please see the flier information below for registration information.



**United Lutheran Seminary**  
Kindling Faith  
Learning Never Ends

### What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?

*As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that “faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society” (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA and to learn tips for leading discussions in your own community.*

June 25:	<i>Introduction to Social Teachings</i> Dr. Roger Willer, Director of Theological Ethics for the ELCA
August 27:	<i>Corporate Social Responsibility</i> Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the ELCA
September 10:	<i>Abortion</i> Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College
September 24:	<i>Faith, Sexism and Justice</i> Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment, and Heather Dean, Program Coordinator, Theological Discernment, ELCA
October 8:	<i>Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide</i> Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Theological Ethics, Education, and Community Engagement
October 22:	<i>Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture</i> Dr. Richard Perry, emeritus faculty, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

June – October 2024, dates listed with topics, 7 – 8:30 pm

Online via zoom (and recorded for later viewing)

Cost \$20 per individual or \$80 per congregation (no limit to number in attendance). Check with synod office for possible funding.

To register, please click [here](#) or use QR code provided below:



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## **3 additional opportunities this fall to expand our understanding of civic life and faith:**

1. A conversation with Quinn Rowe, Federal Clean Energy Campaign Manager. Quinn will share about his work with Wisconsin Conservation Voters and provide helpful information about the Affordable Clean Energy Plan and its impact (date TBD, during Season of Creation)
2. Adult Forum on Christian Nationalism- we will watch a video and discuss together on Sunday, October 6, 10:45AM
3. Presentation and discussion with Rev. Cindy Crane, Director of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy in WI on Sunday, October 20th.



Coffee with the River Falls Chamber of Commerce

Friday September 6th

8:00 to 9:00 am at The Sycamore

All HOPE members are invited

HOPE is one of 2 sponsors for September

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



God's work. Our hands.

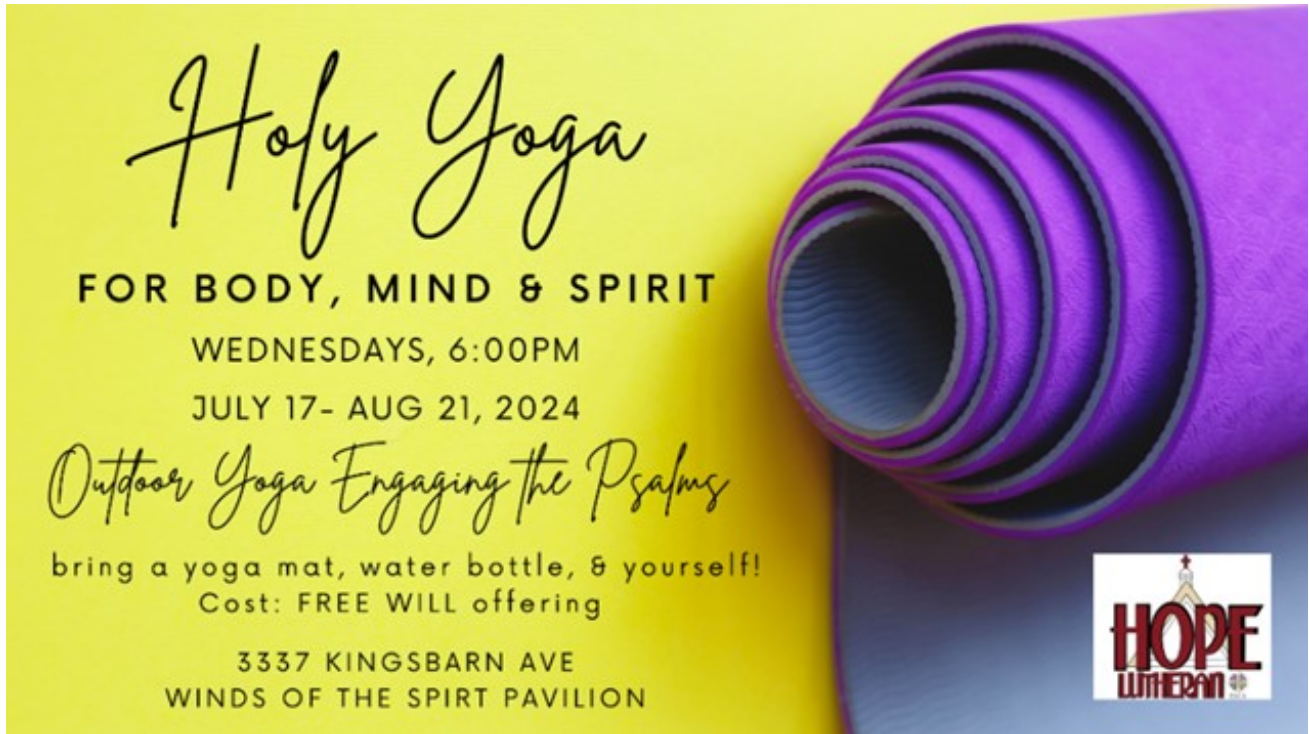


September 8, 2024

Join us on Sunday, September 8 for our annual  
God's Work, Our Hands Kick-Off Sunday!  
Project details TBA

Please bring a POTLUCK side item or dessert for our meal together that day!

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024

A poster for "Holy Yoga" with a yellow background and a purple yoga mat on the right. The text is in a mix of cursive and sans-serif fonts.


*Holy Yoga*

FOR BODY, MIND & SPIRIT  
WEDNESDAYS, 6:00PM  
JULY 17- AUG 21, 2024

*Outdoor Yoga Engaging the Psalms*

bring a yoga mat, water bottle, & yourself!  
Cost: FREE WILL offering

3337 KINGSBARN AVE  
WINDS OF THE SPIRIT PAVILION

A poster for "Back to School Blessing" with a black background and various school supplies scattered around. The text is in white, blue, and green fonts.

Back to School Blessing

September 1, 2024  
9:30 Worship

For returning students & educators of all ages!

Bring a backpack, device, or planner to be blessed!

**Join us on Sunday, September 1 for a special back to school blessing!  
Bring a backpack, laptop, planner, etc to be blessed!  
All participants will receive a special gift**

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



**American  
Red Cross**

*Thank you!*



HOPE Lutheran

Sponsor Group

**August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Date of Drive

**24**  
Total Number of Donors

**1**  
First Time Donors

**24**  
Units Collected

**72**  
Potential Number of Lives Saved

**When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.**

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

A worldwide celebration  
of prayer and action  
to protect our common home.

**SUNDAYS, SEPT. 08-29**

**September 8:** NOISY OFFERING  
To purchase RFMU Green Energy  
Blocks & God's Work, Our Hands  
Projects

**September 15:** Green Team coffee  
hour & community garden give-away!

**September 22:** Ecumenical Equinox:  
A Community-Wide Season of  
Creation Worship Service

**September 29:** TBD Guest  
Presenter on Affordable Clean  
Energy Plan



# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## **CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION** *Renew - Reuse - Repurpose*

**SEPTEMBER 27 - 28, 2024**

**2024 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin**

**Synodical Women's Organization Convention**

**AT SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
1310 Main St, Eau Claire**

**RESERVE THESE DATES on your calendar. COME! Be inspired as together we sing, pray, laugh, worship, and learn from keynote speakers and awareness session leaders!**

**We also ask you to participate:**

- **display what your congregation is doing for Caring for God's Creation – this can be a display board set on a table or simply a handout describing what you're doing**
- **if you or someone you know makes items by repurposing something, you are welcome to bring for display**
- **Since we are caring for God's creation, we ask that you bring your coffee mug, your favorite water bottle, and your favorite bag or tote for carrying your items**
- **Bring colorful used t-shirts sizes M, L, XL, XXL, and larger to be made into rugs**

### **Friday evening:**

6:00 p.m. registration, snacks and beverages for voting members

7:00 p.m. business meeting - each church unit is entitled to send a voting member for the business meeting which will include financial report, election of officers and conference board members, SWO budget, and any other business to come before the meeting.

Approximately 8:15 close with Holden Evening Prayer.

### **Saturday:**

8:00 a.m. registration, coffee and morning treats

9:00 a.m. Welcome and worship

**After worship, Dr. Jim Boulter will have a conversation with us about climate change, its effects, how we can make an impact on climate change as individuals, as a church, and at our workplace. Come with your questions for the Q&A session.**

**After lunch there will be 5 awareness sessions:** how to establish a green team in your congregation, the synod creation team will address their goals and display environmentally safe items that we can use in our daily routines; one addressing food waste, another on Composting 101 and one that provides info on the climate and empowers individuals to work together on climate policy.

**COST: \$30. See mailing for more information and registration form!**

**Phyllis Beastrom, Convention Chair 715-821-5847    beastrom@redwing.net**



# YOUTH NEWS



**RESCUE IN THE NIGHT: THE STORY OF DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN**

**CHILDREN'S MUSICAL**

**DINNER & SHOW: Aug 22, 6:30 pm**  
**REHEARSALS: Aug 19-22, 9:00 AM-Noon**  
**AGE: Completed Kindergarten - Grade 6**

**ALL ARE WELCOME! NO CHARGE! TO REGISTER VISIT: [WWW.FIRSTCHURCHRF.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHRF.ORG)**  
First Congregational United Church of Christ | 110 N 3rd St. River Falls | 715-425-2052



## Children's Musical Show Performance THIS Thursday Aug. 22nd

**6:30PM @ First Congregational Church**

Starring our very own:

Lily Brill and Cameron Leitch

The performance is open to all!

6:30: a \$6.00 family-friendly meal\*

7:00(ish) Performance

reservations needed for dinner—just call the church office (715) 425-2052



## Wednesdays of HOPE resumes September 11th!

All K-10+ children and youth are encouraged to register!

3 Sessions throughout the year (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Wednesday evenings 5:45-7:15PM (NEW TIME)

Click below for more info & to register:

**[2024-2025 WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE REGISTRATION](#)**

**This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024**



**The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering lifted up ELCA World Hunger as its partner.**

**They are still collecting donation to meet their project goal!**

**[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND TO DONATE!](#)**

**Make sure to list Hope Lutheran Church as your congregation!**

**This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024**



**RIVER FALLS COMMUNITY PACKING EVENT**

**SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2024!!**

**HOPE has 2 blocks of time reserved for packing:**

**Wednesday, 9/11 from 6-8PM (13 spots for Faith Adventures/Confirmation & adults)**

**Thursday, 9/12 from 6-8PM (10 spots for anyone 5+)**

**This is a community-wide event where people from across River Falls will come together to feed God's hungry children.**

**SIGN UP TO COME WITH HOPE HERE!!!!**



## GRIEF SUPPORT SERIES - FALL 2024

# Growing Through Loss

Addressing the experiences of loss and grief through support, education, and advocacy

Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 4<sup>th</sup> St. N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Tuesdays, September 10 – October 15 6 to 8:30 p.m. (Sign in 6:00, Speaker 6:30-7:15, Small Groups 7:30 to 8:30)

September 10

### Understanding the Basics of Loss, Grief and Bereavement

*Dr. Janice Nadeau, PhD*

Psychologist, Family Therapist & Nurse  
Clinical Specialist

September 24

### Facing Shattered Dreams/ Dreaming New Ones

*Ted Bowman, MDiv*

Grief Educator

October 8

### Grief: A Natural Disaster of The Heart

*Pastor Kris Linner*

Retired Hospice Chaplain

September 17

### Building Life Alongside Grief

*Dr. Mary G. Freitag*

Clinical Psychologist and Supervisor

October 1

### The Anatomy of Grief: What Happens to Our Mind/ Body/ Soul During Grief

*Dr. Charles Bransford, M.D.*

Retired Hospice Director

October 15

### Grief and The Holidays

*Paul Johnson*

Retired Grief Counselor

### SUPPORT GROUPS

#### LOSS OF:

- Spouse/Partner
- Child
- Parent
- Sibling or Friend
- Grandparent or Other Relative
- Pet
- Infant/A Pregnancy

#### OTHER LOSSES:

- By Suicide/Violent Death
- Disability or Health Changes
- Caregiving
- Divorce or Relationship Change
- Empty Nest
- Relocation
- Covid-Related

All are welcome here regardless of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, ancestry or national origin.

**Growing Through Loss** is an opportunity to receive grief support and learn more about grief in a group setting, free of charge. Each night includes a brief presentation by a grief educator, followed by small group time focused on particular kinds of losses. Attend a single night or the whole series. Each session is complete in itself. No need to register, we have a place for you here. If a need or barrier exists that prevents you from attending our series please reach out.

[www.scvgriefcoalition.com](http://www.scvgriefcoalition.com)

(651) 413-6698 

[scvgriefcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:scvgriefcoalition@gmail.com)

### 2025 Spring Series

on Thursdays from  
March 6 – April 10

Shepherd of The Valley Church  
Afton, MN



**St. Croix Valley  
Grief Coalition**



## Bakken Young

Funeral & Cremation Services

### Mindful Holidays: Navigating Grief with Compassion and Presence

**FREE! Join us via Zoom Webinar**  
**Thursday, October 24, 2024 | 6:30 - 8:00pm**

The holiday season can intensify your sense of loss, affecting your mind, body, and heart.

Whether you are newly bereaved or have been walking this path for some time, this webinar will offer you a deeper understanding of how to integrate mindfulness into your holiday experience, fostering resilience and self-care.



**Presenter, Heather Stang will discuss:**

- Discover coping techniques, such as breathing exercises and meditation, to help you manage the pain of loss.
- Learn practical strategies for creating new holiday traditions that honor your grief and balance the needs of you and your family.
- Develop tools for mindful and compassionate self-care, including setting limits and emotional regulation during holiday gatherings.
- Discuss how to model healthy grieving for children and teens.
- Utilize a personalized worksheet to plan your winter holiday season, ensuring continuous support and a mindful approach.

Heather Stang, MA, C-IAYT, is the author of [Living With Grief](#) (formerly [Mindfulness & Grief](#)) and the guided journal, [From Grief To Peace](#). She holds a Master's Degree in Thanatology from Hood College, and is a Certified Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapist.

**Register at: [bakken-young.com/event/fall-2024-webinar](https://bakken-young.com/event/fall-2024-webinar)**

**Questions? Contact Julia Rajtar, Grief Support Coordinator**  
**(715) 781-4003 or [julia@bakken-young.com](mailto:julia@bakken-young.com)**

**Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services**

River Falls (715) 425-8788 | [info@bakken-young.com](mailto:info@bakken-young.com) | New Richmond (715) 243-5252

Visit our grief support page for more information on events and resources at: [bakken-young.com](https://bakken-young.com)

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## Bakken-Young

Funeral & Cremation Services

### Grief Support Groups

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services sponsors a six-week grief support group for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one.

**Group held in New Richmond, 6:00-7:00pm**

Mondays, Sept 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2024

at New Richmond United Methodist Church,  
209 E Second Street, New Richmond, WI 54017

RSVP by Sept 8, with name, phone number, and email.

**Group held in River Falls, 6:00-7:00pm**

Mondays, October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

at St. Bridget Catholic Church

211 East Division Street, River Falls, WI 54022

RSVP by Oct 18, with name, phone number, and email.

### Living with a Suicide Death Support Group

Offers a place where adult suicide loss survivors (*family and/or friends whose special person has died by suicide*) can

- Feel less isolated by sharing their experiences with others who understand from their own personal experiences
- Experience a place where they can speak openly and where people will listen without judgment and truly understand
- Encounter an opportunity for loss survivors to learn from each other

**Once a month, 2nd Thursday of each month**

**6:00 pm—7:30 pm**

Please call Julia Rajtar, Bakken-Young Grief Support Coordinator, AFSP Facilitator Trained, at [715-781-4003](tel:715-781-4003), for more information.

### **Bakken-Young Grief Webinar**

**[Mindful Holidays: Navigating Grief with Compassion and Presence](#)**

Zoom Webinar

**Thursday, October 25, 2024 | 6:30pm—8:00pm CST**

Bakken Young Funeral and Cremation Services invites you to a free grief webinar for those coping with grief around the holidays.

***(I am also attaching the flyer which you are welcome to share)***

This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



All are invited & needed  
to participate in the leading of worship!  
Please prayerfully consider sharing y  
our time and talents!

**SIGN UP HERE**

Want to help but not sure what the job entails?  
Learn more in our [Worship Volunteer Guide](#)

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



All are invited to join Pastor Annie for this weekly small group conversation and Bible study!

This is a great chance to grow in relationship with God and one another.

Discussion time includes group check-in, opening meditation, and study of the week's worship texts.

We meet via Zoom so all can join from wherever you are!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88419155061?pwd=di9hUXlraeDdzM0dCK0pPMDNtbHczZz09>



## CHANGE IN EGG SALES

Going forward, if you would like to purchase eggs in support of HOPE's Youth Ministry, please contact Karen Rodewald at 715-222-2551.

You can either pick them up at HOPE or come to our farm at 249 State Rd 65 River Falls.

This will ensure the freshest eggs for you!



# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## **Please lift up the following people in prayer**

Joe McIntosh

Brad Hermann (Friend of Pastor Annie)

Jerry Sather Family (Brother of Karen Hamilton)

The Family of Woody Fangmeier (Friends of Jeff & Karen Rodewald)

Family of Kermit Paulson

Marcus Stack (Friend of Steve & Karen Kaste)

Janet Cudd (Friend of Jeff & Karen Rodewald)

Jeremy Martinson (Brother-in-Law to Elise Forward)

Family of Teajai Schmidt (relative of the Boocks)

Jacob Dan and family (Friends of Jeff Rodewald)

Karen Hamilton

Patricia Miller (Sister of Carl Warren)

Rhiannon Bondhus (Niece of Bondhus family)

Lori Snyder (Friend of Nancy & David Peters)

Ed and Gwen Paulson

Randy Dopkins (Family friend of Olive Olson)

Eden Annoye (Relative of Debra James)

John Weller (Cousin of Karen Brohaugh)

Dave and Deb Haugen (Family of Ellen Roose)

Phyllis and Tom Haugen (Family of Ellen Roose)

Fatma Aljarrah (Friend of Faye Perkins)

Beth Lindgren Family (Dan Malaney)

Michael Jacobson (Brother of Linda Jacobson)

Barb Carmichael (Friend of Nancy Sailer)

Dennis & Sandy Schultz (Friends of Bill & Kay Montgomery)

Nancy Miller (Friend of Paula & Phil Klacan)

Linda Shurden (Friend of Nancy Sailer)

Joyce Kendall (Mother of Cara Getschel)

Hannah Forward

Amanda Olson (daughter of Olive Olson)

Ella Conover (Phil & Paula's Klacan's Niece)

Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)

David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)

Lee Hill (friend of Naomi)

Gary Siebold

David Hendrickson

# This Week at HOPE August 21, 2024



## August Birthdays



<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Mitch Nelson	1-Aug
Verna Tweiten	1-Aug
Samuel Leisz	5-Aug
Morgan Leitch	9-Aug
Amelia Forward	10-Aug
Natalie Leisz	13-Aug
Brynn Leitch	13-Aug
Steve Kaste	18-Aug
Lauren Ziebarth	24-Aug
Angela Bohnert	25-Aug
Paula Klacan	25-Aug
Keith Getschel	26-Aug
Lisa Rydland	29-Aug
Nancy Peters	30-Aug



## August Baptisms

Joseph McIntosh  
Kay Montgomery  
Betty Lou Oppegard  
Camryn Glaubitz  
Tanner Heinselmann  
Cameron Leitch  
Ainsley Neuhaus  
Alexis Rehbein  
Avery Tokheim

## August Anniversaries



<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Celebrating Years</b>
Richard & Carolyn Jackson	2-Aug	63
David & Nancy Peters	26-Aug	63
Jeff & Karen Rodewald	31-Aug	39
Grete & Chad Rehbein	15-Aug	15
Russ & Keri Jiskra	24-Aug	5
Jeremy & Traci Wolfe	12-Aug	
Ian & Morgan Porten	12-Aug	2