

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



**WE ARE IN NEED OF MOST
WORSHIP VOLUNTEER JOBS THIS SUNDAY
TO SUPPORT OUR SUPPLY
PASTOR, REV. DEAN SIMPSON
PLEASE CONSIDER A ROLE AND
[SIGN UP HERE!](#)**

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024

Seek Good and Not Evil

A reflection on Amos 5:6-7,10-15 by Rev. Annie Ladnier

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins- you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Amos' words come to us from about 760 B.C.E, when Jeroboam II was the King of Israel. During this time, the people of Israel were divided into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom was known as Israel (also poetically as Ephraim, Isaac, and Jacob). The southern kingdom was known as Judah (also as Zion poetically). Amos was a prophet from Tekoa, a town in the southern kingdom of Judah. He was not a professional prophet or a member of a prophetic guild, but a farmer. God called him and sent him north to prophesy in what to him would have been the foreign country of Israel.

This was a time of general peace and prosperity for Israel, under no real threat from larger nearby empires. But, they were a wealthy society, and Amos was called by God to speak the truth that their prosperity and wealth was built on the backs of the poor. He speaks out against their greed, injustice, brutality, and oppression of the poor. He sees their injustice as a direct rejection of the Lord and the Lord's laws. He challenges the rote worship life of the Israelites and their blatant practice of injustice. **He calls out the truth that one cannot fully worship the Lord and then lead a life of injustice.** He does this, knowing people will not like to hear this message ("they hate the one who reproves in the gate, and abhor the one who speaks truth"). But he brings to the ancient people, and to us, an important reminder that the God we worship, the same God who sent Jesus Christ, is a God who certainly loves us...and loves us enough to be angry when we create injustice for one another. *God does get angry when God's people cause one another to suffer. This anger can come as judgment, but it is a judgment aimed at turning our stone-cold hearts back toward God and one another.*

As Lutherans we are quick to lean into God's grace and often far too quick to throw out the Old Testament or any sign of God's judgment, wrath, or emphasis on law, in light of it. But that is not a faithful rendering of our Lutheran theology. Yes, grace leads the way, but it leads the way away from sin and injustice, creates in us a desire to turn from our hurtful behaviors, and empowers us to serve one another in love. Grace, or Gospel) lives in a symbiotic relationship with the Law. We are Law and Gospel people. We are simultaneously saint and sinner. We celebrate the "already and not yet" of the coming of God's Kingdom. As such, we confess where we still fall short of God's good law and we lean into God's grace so that we can live and love, better.

Next Monday is Indigenous Peoples' Day, and many congregations will recognize this through litanies or prayers this coming Sunday. Over the last year we have been faithfully exploring the ELCA's official Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, a doctrine which gave conquest and colonization of indigenous peoples a religious justification. Our exploration has helped us better understand the ways that Christian Colonization has historically created devastating blows to our indigenous siblings, a beloved section of God's created people. Together we have learned more through books, research, and holy conversations. We are intentionally considering our own Land Acknowledgement as an exercise in "*hating evil and loving good and establishing justice in the gate.*" *This is an act of repentance, as not to cheapen God's good grace.*

Indeed we are a people who exuberantly celebrate the rich gift that is God's good grace given in and through Jesus Christ. Part of how we honor that grace is to continue to "seek good and not evil," by confessing, seeking forgiveness, and establishing new patterns of behavior that help us live in unity with one another. There is nothing to be ashamed about in doing so! It is the faithful work of God's people!

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



ELCA Truth & Healing Movement Opportunities!

Last November, Rev. Sara Bishop, NWSWI Synod Advocate for Right Relationship, joined us for an Indigenous People's service and learning opportunity on a synod resolution for Land Acknowledgements. Since then we have been studying and learning more from our indigenous siblings. We have read and discussed *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*, have learned more about the *Doctrine of Discovery* and the ELCA's repudiation of it, and broadened our conversation to wider civic life and faith concerns as we explore how our past informs our present. All of these efforts are in line with the ELCA's wider work, "The Truth and Healing Movement," which serves to put legs onto our official repudiation statement.

This fall there are a number of opportunities for further exploration, learning, repentance, and hope. Book studies, online presentations, classes and even a symposium are at your disposal through the [ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement website!](#)

Mark your calendars for these upcoming opportunities and learn more at the link above:

1. GOING ON NOW: Reading Circle on *Custer Died for Your Sins* by Vine Deloria Jr.* (*Standing Rock Sioux*) **HOPE ADULT FORUM ON THIS BOOK SUNDAY, NOV. 17!**
2. Thursday, October 10, 2-4PM: Online Class "Indian 101"
3. Thursday, October 24, 2-4PM: Online Class "Indigenous Thought and Theology"
4. Sunday, November 10, 7-8:30PM: Presentation "Toward Truth and Healing: How Churches Face Accountability for their Indian Boarding Schools"
5. November 18-19th: Vine Deloria Jr. Theological Symposium*- ONLINE ACCESS AVAILABLE

Civic Life & Faith Engagement Next Steps Upcoming Adult Forums:

1. Adult Forum on Christian Nationalism- held on October 6. Here are the resources we explored together:
 - a. [James Talarico Sermon](#)
 - b. [Bishop Eaton's shared statement against Christian Nationalism and Bishop Eaton's Video](#)
 - c. [ELCA Advocacy Christians Against Christian Nationalism](#)
2. Presentation and discussion with Rev. Cindy Crane, Director of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy in WI on [Sunday, October 20th.](#)
3. ELCA Truth & Healing Movement BOOK STUDY ADULT FORUM November 17 on *Custer Died for Your Sins* by Vine Deloria Jr.

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



new MEMBER
SUNDAY

UPCOMING NEW MEMBER SUNDAY!

Pastor Annie and Congregational Life & Membership Ministry are currently coordinating our next "New Member Sunday" for November. Exact date TBD by new members!

If you or someone you know is interested in officially becoming a member of HOPE, please contact Pastor Annie at [hopelutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com](mailto:hoperlutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com) and

FILL OUT OUR NEW MEMBER FORM by October 27, 2024.

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



This Sunday, October 13th is Clergy Appreciation Sunday. Please keep Pastor Annie and all clergy in your thoughts and prayers and thank them for being our shepherds and a guiding light in our lives.

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



Support our
College
Students



Journey House

You are invited to join us as the Spirit moves among Journey House in new and exciting ways. First, we invite anyone who has ever been interested in partnering with Journey House to join us for our new initiative: Journey House Friends. Journey House Friends is a group of individuals who see the promise in our mission and aim to help in any way they can through various projects. Journey House Friends is not a board, it's a community and an opportunity; a community of people who want to see Journey House thrive and an opportunity to make a difference in students' lives. To join Journey House Friends or to learn more, please join our email list here <https://journey-house-482318.churchcenter.com/people/forms/823275>.

Second, We are continuing to reach new students through the Journey House Coffee Stop. You have an opportunity to come and engage with students and help out with brewing coffee and washing dishes. The Coffee Stop provides students with space to study or relax while they enjoy some free coffee. We run the Coffee Stop Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm and 3pm to 5pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FA8A92FA4FDC43-50867547-journey>

Our new director, Pastor Ben, and I look forward to having you join us in these AWESOME opportunities and in other ways. If you have any questions or would like to connect to learn more, let us know by emailing us at journeyhousecampusministry@gmail.com.



This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



WEDNESDAYS 5:45-7:15!

Fall Session: September 18th-November 20th

Join us as we explore Old Testament stories, take a deep dive into the 10 commandments, and celebrate our Bible Milestone.

Fall session ends with our cross-gen Advent Fair on November 20th!

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

Friends are always welcome!

3 Sessions throughout the year:

Winter Session: January 8- Feb 26

Spring Session: April 30-May 21

MEALS NOW PROVIDED EVERY WEEK!

Click below for more info & to register:

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

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE

TEACHERS NEEDED

FOR K-5TH
GRADE KIDS

5:45-7:15PM

[TEACHER SIGN UP HERE](#)

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE MEAL HOSTS NEEDED! SIGN UP HERE AT THIS NEW LINK!

This year we would like to provide a SIMPLE, kid-friendly meal each Wednesday evening for our Wednesdays of HOPE ministry. This helps families participate in our ministry with one less thing to worry about on a busy weeknight, helps our youth and mentors connect over a meal, and provides an opportunity for other HOPE adults to engage with our children and youth!

Meals need to be ready at 5:45 and we expect to serve 15-20 people total. *Free Will donations will be collected to offset expenses. Donations of money for pizza nights are also being accepted.*

Please prayerfully consider if you/your ministry team would like to host a meal this year! Fall session is currently our biggest need!

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



SCAN FOR TICKETS



TICKETS \$25 & UP (18+)

\$10 (AGES 13-17)

KIDS 12 OR UNDER FREE



Our Neighbors' Place

715-426-9000

EVENT AT ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH, 211 E DIVISION ST, RIVER FALLS
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE, AT THE DOOR, OR AT THE ONP DAY CENTER

OCT. 24, 2024 4:30-7 PM



EMPTY

BOWLS

Benefitting Our Neighbors' Place RF Backpack Program and Day Center

DELICIOUS SOUPS DONATED BY:



DESSERTS DONATED BY GAGA'S KITCHEN & RISE BAKING

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024

Continuing the Work of the Assistance & Resource Center (ARC) A joint statement from Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP

With the discontinuation of the Assistance & Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) this year, Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP are developing a partnership to continue ARC's work of "providing short term financial assistance to residents of River Falls and adjacent communities to help them meet their basic needs." By adjusting service areas and leveraging the existing experience and programs of Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP, the two partner organizations will continue ARC's tradition of offering:

- Housing Assistance – Rent matching, pay arrangements, mortgage payments
- Utilities – Budgeting Sessions, payments to utility providers
- Transportation – Repairs, gas cards, taxi vouchers, registration, license fees, etc.
- Miscellaneous – Laundry, haircuts, work clothing, phone, vital records
- Food – School meal assistance, formula, other supplementation
- Referrals – Referrals & assistance for other programs

Operation HELP has been providing emergency financial assistance throughout St. Croix County, including the city of River Falls, for more than 30 years. These services include payment assistance for rent, utilities, and major car repairs. In recent years, a temporary emergency housing program (motel vouchers) has been added. Moving forward, these services will be extended to the entire River Falls School District area and adjacent communities will be added as the need and funding support is demonstrated. Applications for emergency financial services are handled entirely online (<https://operationhelpstcroix.org/client-application>) or by phone allowing clients to apply anytime from any location. Operation HELP has a full-time staff person dedicated to vetting emergency financial applications and working with clients, landlords, utilities companies, and repair shops to work out payment arrangements.

Our Neighbors' Place has spent the past 15 years providing help and hope to anyone in Pierce and St Croix county who is struggling to meet their basic needs. Services are delivered through 4 distinct programs: Day Center, Closet Thrift Store, Backpack Program, and Transitional Housing. Through the Our Neighbors' Place Day Center, guests in the River Falls and Ellsworth School Districts will have access to the Helping Hands Fund. This fund can provide emergency financial assistance related to vehicle costs, vital records, laundry, work clothing, and more - with a focus on priorities that support housing security. Additionally, all guests are eligible for gas cards, taxi vouchers, motel vouchers, food, showers, laundry, phone, and side by side assistance from our full time case manager. Guests who call or visit the Day Center for help will find a safe, nonjudgmental environment where all are welcome.

Although Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP are experienced and well-equipped operationally to respond to the discontinuation of services resulting from ARC's departure, funding for these services will be a challenge. In 2023, ARC provided approximately \$125,000 in rent and utility payments assistance to clients and approximately \$50,000 in transportation and other assistance. The continuing generosity of River Falls and Pierce County churches, businesses, clubs and organizations, and individuals will be critical to sustain these resources for local residents who are experiencing financial hardship.

Please consider a donation to continue these important services in the River Falls community!

To donate by check, mail to:

Our Neighbors' Place
122 West Johnson St River Falls, WI 54022
Please write "Helping Hands Fund" in the memo line

Operation HELP
1830 Hanley Road, Suite 100 Hudson, WI 54016

To donate by credit card:

[Donate to Our Neighbors' Place](#)

[Donate to Operation Help](#)

With gratitude,

Shelly Smith, Executive Director - Our Neighbors' Place
Tim Puffer, Executive Director - Operation Help

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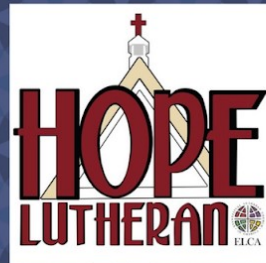
ADVENT FAIR

Wednesday, November 20th

5:30-7:30pm

An Inter-Generational evening of art,
creativity, & fellowship!

**NOW SEEKING
PROJECT HOSTS!**



Have a fun Advent/Christmas project idea and want to lead it?

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



Now Taking:

Preliminary Applications for New Richmond home build

We are accepting preliminary applications for our next home build in New Richmond from September 13 - October 11!

Applicants must:

- 1.) Meet income qualifications and have the ability to pay an affordable mortgage.
- 2.) Demonstrate a need for safe, affordable housing.
- 3.) Be willing to contribute sweat equity hours, building alongside volunteers

(Average of 250 hours; dependent on number of adults in home)



Visit scvhabitat.org/homebuyer-information for details.

WITNESS TO FAITH:

The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe

First Congregational Church is delighted to present *Witness to Faith: The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe*, featuring original works of graphic art by Japan's foremost Christian artist of the 20th century. More info will be published in coming weeks.

SAVE THE DATE for a special private HOPE viewing on Monday, November 25 at 6:30PM. First Congregational Church, 110 North Third Street, River Falls.

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



Trunk or Treat

30
OCTOBER
2024

ALL ARE WELCOME!!
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY
5:30-7 PM
NIGHT

3337 KINGSBARN AVE, RIVER FALLS, WI



CANDY/PRIZE DONATIONS & TRUNK HOSTS NEEDED!

TRUNK HOST SIGN-UP

Each year HOPE gives out a welcome back as part of the event!
We are collecting candy/prize donations to be included in our welcome bag!
Please bring all donations to HOPE by Sunday, October 20th.
A bin is located in the sanctuary.



Velkommen

Our Savior's 76th Annual Lutefisk Supper Thursday, Oct 24th, 2024

MENU: Lutefisk with Butter and Cream Sauce
Meatballs and Gravy
Riced Potatoes, Coleslaw, Rolls
Grot, Norwegian Delicacies, Coffee, Milk
Serving 2:00 – 6:30PM

Cost: \$20 adult ~ \$12 youth ~ \$7 child ~ 5 & under free

Limited tickets – Order early

Take-Out option: Call Gina at 1-715-441-9086

Deadline for take-out orders is Friday October 18TH, 2024

Dine-In time reservations required:

Online Link: www.oursaviorschurch.info

Church Office Phone: 715-273-4570

Email: office.osbeldenville@gmail.com

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
N6450 530th St
Beldenville, WI 54003

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



Bakken-Young

Funeral & Cremation Services

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services sponsors an in-person six-week grief support groups for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. We ask that you participate in all 6 sessions, as you are able.

Group in River Falls: Mondays, 6:00-7:00pm

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

at St. Bridget Catholic Church

Garden View Room

211 East Division Street, River Falls, WI, 54022

All adults are welcome to participate in the group and the sessions are free.

Group Facilitator:

Julia Rajtar, M.A.P.S., BCC

Bakken-Young Grief Support Coordinator

To register please rsvp by October 18th, with your name, phone number, and email at: julia@bakken-young.com

For more information, call or text Julia at 715-781-4003.

Visit "Grief Support" at www.bakken-young.com
for additional groups and other grief support resources
or join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bakkenyoung

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



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

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

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



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>

This Week at HOPE October 9, 2024



Please lift up the following people in prayer

The Family of Teresa Jonas (Friend of Kay & Bill Montgomery)

Connie Juaira

Scott Ullring (Friend of Jeff & Karen Rodewald)

John Cain (Family friend of Olive Olson)

Robb Scott

The Family of Joyce Kendall (Mother of Cara Getschel)

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)

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)

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 October 9, 2024



October Baptisms

Keith Getschel
Sarah Bondhus
Nancy Peters
Carolyn Jackson
Paula Klacan
Erin Nelson
Madison Ziebarth
Danielle Tokheim
Lillian Brill
Deb Tokheim
Camryn Glaubitz



October Birthdays

	Date
Carolyn Jackson	2-Oct
Nancy Sailer	3-Oct
Debra James	5-Oct
Kevin James	10-Oct
Morgan Torntore	15-Oct
Karen Brohaugh	16-Oct
Arol Thompson	20-Oct
Pastor Annie	20-Oct
Nathan Clark	22-Oct
Carrie Knudsen Hendrickson	29-Oct
Eden Ladnier	29-Oct
Nick Johnson	30-Oct



October Anniversaries

	Date	Years to Celebrate
Dale & Jan Wegleitner	6-Oct	51
Roger & Verna Tweiten	21-Oct	63
Ryan & Samatha Brill	24-Oct	15