

# This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024



## WE CAN'T GO ALONE

This week we have been invited into two untraditional Advent readings: Ruth 1 (the beginning of the story of Ruth and Naomi) and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (“a threefold cord is not quickly broken”). As we delve into any new beginning in our lives, we learn the important lesson that “we can’t go alone.” As disciples of Jesus we celebrate that we follow a God who knew this truth about us from the beginning! We were created to be in community with one another since God created Adam and Eve to be partners.

Here at HOPE we are a people richly blessed by one another. Here, may you know that you never need to go it alone because there are friends, siblings, mentors, and companions in Christ here for you. We are in this together! And as we partner together, we are reminded that there is always a threefold nature to our cords because, in all things, are united by and with Christ at the center of all we are and all we do.

Following Sunday’s worship service, our friend Linda Jacobson reminded me of this beautiful song that sprung to her mind while reflecting on this week’s theme. It speaks so poignantly to this week’s theme. Here is a video of my personal favorite rendition of, “We Are Not Alone” as performed by the Oasis Chorale, a Mennonite Choir, as they share their ministry at Sandy Ridge Mennonite.

[“We Are Not Alone” by Pepper Choplin](#)

You can also find it on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4ABY1LzYQK4X6YRojxWnAH?si=621d768b085d461b>

Beloved, you are most certainly not alone!  
Pastor Annie



The Second Sunday of Advent | WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING  
**WE CAN'T GO ALONE**

## “WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK?”

Yesterday I visited an old man in the hospital.  
I was not the only one. We talked on the elevator ride down—  
*Has he gained any weight? Will he stay in that room?*  
*Does he like the food? Has he called?*  
All the man wanted to know was, *When will you be back?*

We ask that question in a thousand different ways  
every single day,  
our hearts leaning over themselves,  
bending to get closer to love.  
We say, *Text me when you're home.*  
*Call me when you're free.*  
*One more kiss!*  
*I love you all the time.*  
*When will you be back?*  
What we really mean is—  
I can't go through life alone.  
Please don't let me go through life alone.

**This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024**



## MIDWEEK ADVENT



5:45PM

Meal Fellowship

6:15PM

Holden Evening Prayer

**Thank you to our generous Advent Meal hosts!**  
We are still in need of 1-2 additional hosts for December 18th to provide a side and dessert.  
**Please email Pastor Annie to let her know if you can help!**  
[hopelutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com](mailto:hopenlutheranpastor.rf@gmail.com)

This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

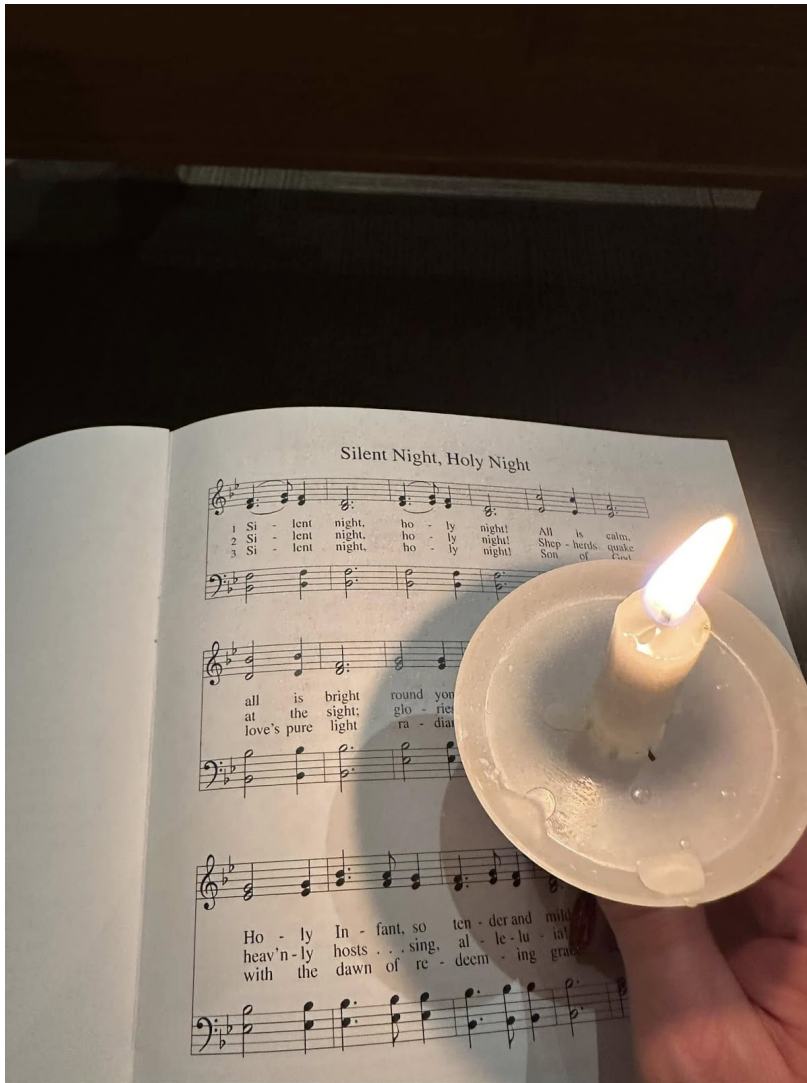
**THIS SUNDAY WE HAVE MANY OPEN WORSHIP ROLES:  
COMMUNION PREP, USHERS, ACOLYTE, COMMUNION ASSIS-  
TANT, & ALTAR FLOWERS  
IF YOU CAN SERVE PLEASE [SIGN UP HERE!](#)**

# This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024



Our 2024 "Carols and Candles" evening was wonderful!  
Thank you to all who made it such a success!







**Strings of HOPE was out and about this week!  
We shared the blessing of Christmas music with the residents of  
The Sycamore of River Falls on Tuesday, December 10th!**





This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024



Join us for  
*Christmas Eve  
Worship*  
Candlelit Christmas Eve 4:00PM  
HOPE Lutheran Church, 3337 Kingsbarn Ave. River Falls, WI

 **LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME** 

*Songs & Suds*  
*Holiday Sing-Along*  
Monday Dec. 16, 6:30 pm  
@ Rush River Brewery  
Everyone is welcome!



## This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024



### ***Lefse Day***

**You** don't have to be Norwegian to spend a morning at HOPE making lefse. Please join us on **Saturday, December 14th 10:30**. Bring your own lefse dough, one quart ziploc type bags, griddle, turning stick etc. The tasty lefse will be sold during fellowship time on **December 15th**



### ***Christmas Bake Sale***

Baked goods and holiday treats are needed for HOPE's Bake Sale on **Sunday, December 15th**. Proceeds from your lefse, cookies, bars, breads, pies, cakes, snacks, candy etc. will be donated to the River Falls Backpack Program. Remember to bring your checkbook or cash so you can go home with some delicious homemade goodies.

*Please price your baked goodies before the sale!*

**This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024**



**CHRISTMAS TREAT LEFTOVER PALOOZA  
COFFEE HOUR  
DECEMBER 29, 2024**

As part of our “Lessons and Laughter” service on Sunday, December 29th, we plan to continue the fun during coffee hour!

We know that many of us will still have plenty of Christmas treats leftover, or maybe even things we were given that we couldn’t possibly eat all on our own!

Everyone is invited to bring any small treats to coffee hour that day to share! **NO OBLIGATION!** We hope to see you there!

# This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024



## Advent Project Theme is “Words for the Beginning”

A Giving Tree with ornaments listing items for two families from Turning Point with gifts they would like for Christmas will be the main project. Gift cards to Target/Walmart need to be received at church by **December 8th** so that the older youth can go and shop for the gifts.

Gas cards are also needed. Darcy Boock has \$25 and \$50 Kwik Trip gas cards that can be purchased from her that will also benefit Our Neighbors Place.

Items that will be purchased by members of the congregation (who have taken an ornament with an item listed on it) need to be received at church no later than **December 15th**. All gifts need to be unwrapped and will be delivered to Turning Point on **December 16th**.

There will also be items on the tree that can be purchased throughout the duration of Advent to be collected for Turning Point and Our Neighbors Place

**This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024**



**WEDNESDAYS 5:45-7:15!**

**Fall Session: September 18th-November 20th**

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

**THIS DECEMBER:**

All WOH families are invited to join the wider HOPE congregation for our mid-week Advent meal & worship services:

Dec. 4, 11, & 18th

5:45: Meal

6:15: Holden Evening Worship

**Winter Session: January 8th-February 26th**

**Exploring: New Testament stories, Parts of Worship, Souper Bowl, and BINGO**

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

Friends are always welcome!

3 Sessions throughout the year:

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 December 11, 2024**

A collage of holiday-themed images including wrapped gifts, Christmas trees with lights and ornaments, and a red star graphic.

**CONFIRMATION & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**

**SHOPPING FOR TURNINGPOINT!**

Join us for as we complete shopping for gifts for our 2 adopted Turningpoint Families!  
Check your email/link below for a poll on when you can go!

**FILL OUT THE POLL!**

EDUCATION & MISSION MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

**DOODLE POLL FOR TURNINGPOINT SHOPPING**

**YOUTH ARE ACCEPTING \$25/\$50 GIFT CARDS TO WAL-MART AND TARGET TO COMPLETE SHOPPING FOR FAMILIES, DUE DEC. 8!**

A graphic for teacher sign-up featuring a graduation cap in the background and colorful text boxes.

**WEDNESDAYS** OF HOPE

**TEACHERS NEEDED**

FOR K-5TH GRADE KIDS

5:45-7:15PM

**TEACHER SIGN UP HERE**

**This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024**



**SPANISH LANGUAGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Saturday, December 22nd

2:30PM

First Covenant Church

1374 N Main St, River Falls WI 54022

A green line-art illustration of a Christmas tree with a star on top, decorated with ornaments and lights. At the base of the tree are two wrapped gifts with bows.

**CELEBRACIÓN  
NAVIDEÑA**

**TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS**

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FECHA: DOMINGO 22 DE DICIEMBRE  
HORA: 2:00 PM  
LUGAR: IGLESIA FIRST COVENANT  
DIRECCIÓN: 1374 N MAIN ST,  
RIVER FALLS WI 54022

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SERVICIO RELIGIOSO EN  
ESPAÑOL.  
SEGUIDO POR ALMUERZO.  
DISTRIBUCIÓN DE REGALOS  
PARA MENORES DE 18 AÑOS

SI DESEA ANOTARSE PARA  
LOS REGALOS DE MENORES,  
ENVÍE UN TEXTO A  
TONY MATA HAUG  
AL +1(715) 821-3096;  
INCLUYA EL NOMBRE DE LOS  
PADRES, EL NOMBRE DEL  
MENOR, EDAD Y SEXO

FECHA LÍMITE PARA ANOTARSE 11 DE DICIEMBRE



## ELCA Truth & Healing Movement NEW Opportunities!

*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.*

*As we continue to be a people striving after God's justice*

As a member congregation of the ELCA, part of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, and as a community of faith in River Falls striving to live into our mission to "look beyond ourselves," "treasure all people" and "share the love, hope, and acceptance that is in Christ" we are called to seriously engage in the work of the ELCA Truth and Healing Movement and we have been doing so over the course of the last year. Part of looking beyond ourselves and treasuring others is to step outside of our own experiences and narratives in order to hear and truly listen to the lived experiences of our siblings, especially those whom the Church has historically oppressed. That important listening work is one way that we not only share Christ's love, hope, and acceptance with our siblings, but a way that we also *receive Christ's love, hope, and acceptance in return.*

It is the holy work of reconciliation and it is a blessing to be invited into it.

This winter we are invited to continue in our work of the [ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement](#) There are 2 opportunities for you this January!

### 1. Right Relations Training (An ELCA-wide opportunity)

An experiential training designed to provide a guide to Christian and settler-descended volunteers who want to engage in movements for Indigenous Justice.

In 2025, the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery will offer monthly online training! They will rotate between "Right Relations" and "Decolonizing and Organizing for Systems Change" training modules. This coming January, the Coalition will offer online "Right Relations Training" training in 2 two-hour modules. "Right Relations Training" is an experiential training designed to provide a guide to Christian and settler-descended volunteers who want to engage in movements for Indigenous Justice.

[Register for Module 1](#)

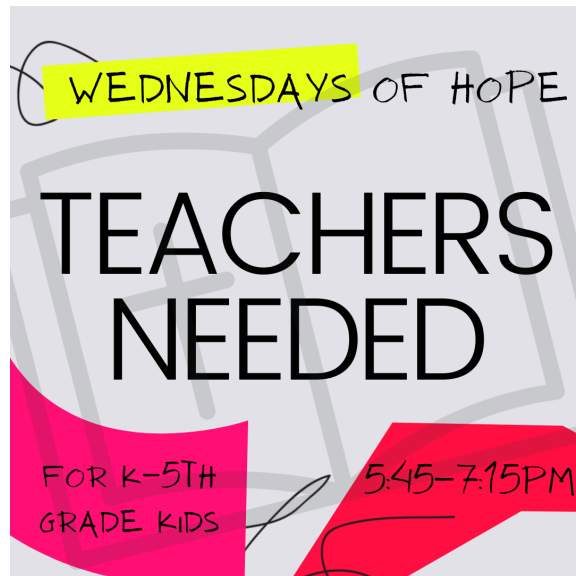
[Register for Module 2](#)

### 2. Truth and Healing Movement Reading Circle (HOPE Book Discussion)

Join Pastor Annie on Sunday, January 19, 2025 following worship for a discussion of *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* by Vine Deloria Jr. (*Standing Rock Sioux*). This book has been commended to us through the ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement's new Reading Circle. This is an opportunity for us to participate in a much wider conversation across the ELCA in its many expressions. This will be the second book written by an indigenous author that we will explore together in Christian community here at HOPE. This author brings with him a theological perspective, having graduated from one of our ELCA Seminaries, Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.



# This Week at HOPE December 11, 2024



[TEACHER SIGN UP HERE](#)



## **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 December 11, 2024



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

Dick Jackson

Family of Danny Lee (Nephew of Doug Rudesill)

Steve and Diane Meyer

Ethan Sailer (Family Friend of Faye Perkins)

Family of Rosina Hendrikson (Family of Mary Thompson)

Ellen Roose

Andy Haugen (Relative of Ellen Roose)

Derrek Lettich (Relative of Karen Brohaugh)

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

Connie Juaire

Scott Uring (Friend of Jeff & Karen Rodewald)

John Cain (Family friend of Olive Olson)

Robb Scott

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

Family of Kermit Paulson

Marcus Stack (Friend of Steve & Karen Kaste)

Family of Teajai Schmidt (relative of the Boocks)

Jacob Dan and family (Friends of Jeff Rodewald)

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)

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

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 December 11, 2024



## **December Baptisms**

Phillip Klacan  
Sawyer Filarsky  
Pastor Annie Ladnier  
Eden Ladnier  
Heathley Neuhaus  
Piper Rodewald



## **December Birthdays**

Alexis Rehbein	3-Dec
Dale Bohnert	5-Dec
Mark Bondhus	5-Dec
James James	11-Dec
Susan Schuettpelz	11-Dec
Luke Filarsky	15-Dec
Sara Filarsky	15-Dec
Karen Hamilton	17-Dec
Grete Rehbein	17-Dec
Jason Neuhaus	20-Dec
Bruce Schuettpelz	22-Dec
Gary Siebold	26-Dec
Alyssa Boock	27-Dec
Noelle James	27-Dec
Cameron Leitch	27-Dec
Ella Wolfe	29-Dec
Hazel Ladnier	30-Dec



## **December Anniversaries**

Edward & Gwen Paulson

**Date**  
26-Dec

**Years to Celebrate**  
59

**This Week at HOPE December 11, 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](#)



**Did you know HOPE is on Facebook in TWO places??**

**Public HOPE Facebook Page**

For public information, events, and Gospel sharing

**Private HOPE Facebook Group**

For private events, picture sharing, sharing joys & prayer concerns,  
and living out our faith together

**Make sure to like, follow, and join both to stay up to date!**