



# HOPE

*is  
Born*

24 December, 2013



LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org)

# Gather

Music To Prepare Us For Worship

Gathering Songs

O Come, All Ye Faithful  
The First Noel  
Away In a Manger

**Bold type means all of us read or pray together. Out loud.**  
Regular type means the pastor or leader reads. Out loud.  
*Italic type is meant to highlight helpful instructions.*

Welcome, Worship Orientation 101

*Our attempt to be sure you know what's going on to fully participate in worship. Prior to worship, please ask Pastor Laura to make any announcements, including prayer requests.*

Meet Someone New

What's the most interesting thing that has happened over this Christmas season?

*If you are visiting, you are not obligated to go and meet someone new. Really, it's the responsibility of the people who feel comfortable here to get out of their seat and come to meet you.*

## **Church Dictionary for words we're "supposed" to know**

Church means "the called out ones." What/who are we called out to do, to be?

Disciple means "learner" – not "perfect Christian" not "mindless robot."

# The Story

An Angel Visits Mary – based on Luke 1:26-38

Angels We Have Heard on High

Mary Visits Elizabeth – based on Luke 1:39-56

Special Music: The Magnificat Sara Shorter & Katie Weisenberger

Jesus is Born – Based on Luke 2:1-14

Joy to the World

The Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus – based on Luke 2:15-20

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Message

## Offering

*This is the time where we join millions of Christians around the world in worshiping God through giving of financial resources. These resources are used to further God's activity already at work in the world. If you are a first-time worshiper here today, please know that there is no expectation around your giving; simply give as the Holy Spirit leads you or let the plate pass you by. For those who worship here regularly, your joyful giving supports all we do to bear witness to God's activity here at River of Hope, in Hutchinson, and beyond. Thank you for your generosity.*

## Music During Offering



*Kids – the big watering can up front is to receive your offering. Let it clunk into the bottom of the can – it's a joyful noise!*

*AND – help bring the meal to the table and help set the table. Gather at the back of the worship space and follow the ushers up to the front.*

*As the kids help set the table, they make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther: Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.***

Meal

## Thanksgiving for Offering and Thanksgiving at the Table

It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.

**But that did not stop the birth.**

They were poor and had no place fitting for their child.

**But that did not stop the birth.**

They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.

**But that did not stop the birth.**

Today we are still sometimes cold and fearful, certainly poor in many ways.

**We often feel we have no place and are unclear about what God wants of us.**

But these things did not stop the birth of Jesus then, nor will they now.

**Lord Jesus be born in us today.**

Like Mary and Joseph, who trusted in your grace, we offer ourselves and our gifts to you. Bless our offering and hallow our every thought and our every action, that Christ may be revealed through them to the world that is yet in darkness. **Amen.**

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### Words to bless the meal

#### The Lord's Prayer

*You are invited to join hands with those around you in prayer. If you are not the hand-holding type, then simply fold your hands in front of you or hang onto this bulletin as you pray.*

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to The Meal - You are welcome to Christ's table – without exception. If you believe God's grace and mercy are found at this table through Jesus Christ, you are welcome. Children of all ages are welcome. "He welcomes sinners and eats with them," said the religious insiders in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15. When we gather at the table we always have to imagine it's getting bigger, making room for the likes of you and me, friends and strangers.

*The ushers will help you come to communion. Simply hold out your hands to receive the bread and then dip it into the cup of non-alcoholic wine. There is gluten-free wine and bread available. Just ask.*

#### Singing During the Meal

The First Noel vs. 1 & 2

O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1-4  
O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1, 3, 6  
What Child is This vs. 1 & 3  
Angels From the Realms of Glory vs. 1, 2, 4



## Blessing

Silent Night  
Sending Song - Go Tell It On The Mountain



*Kids! Come play a rhythm instrument!*

Go in peace – serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

## Music to Send You Out

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River of Hope Lutheran Church is the ELCA church in town. We are a purposefully intergenerational community who is following Jesus out of the building into the world where we live. We are learners (disciples) and practice-ers. Our worship is a safe place to practice a dangerous gospel. And, believe us, it takes practice. Your questions, critical thinking, doubts and imperfect lives are welcome here. In fact, no matter your status in society (divorced, never-been-to-church, gay, straight, old, young, cranky, liberal, conservative, questioning, recovering, allergic-to-church, smart-alecky...) you'll fit right in and then you'll be sent out to share that same love, that same welcome.

## ***Helpful Information***

**Worship Style** – We are an intergenerational community. (That's a fancy word for young and old.) We sing hymns, we sing songs. We pray ancient words and words that are new to us. We actively practice faith during worship. Sometimes it's beautiful. Sometimes it's awkward. Sometimes it's both. It always "counts" as worship. Then we try it again next week.

Communion - Everyone is welcome -- without exception. Ushers will invite you forward. Receive the bread into your open hand and then dip the bread into the non-alcoholic wine. Children are welcome to commune or receive a blessing - we'll leave that decision to parents. Just indicate to us if you'd like your child to receive communion.

Is there a nursery? Yes. It is located in the hallway just outside our worship area.

Bathrooms – They are located just outside the worship space.

Worship – Did you notice kids and teenagers, moms and dads, old and young helping to lead worship? We hope so. Participating in worship knows no age limit. Worship is one place and just one way we practice being Christians. It helps prepare us for living as Christians. Go ahead. Try it. No perfection expected – just practice.

Exit Strategy – Nervous to stand in line and talk to the pastor? Just introverted enough that you'd like to slip away? Ok. Slip out a side door. Or scoot behind the line of people out the door. No one will be offended, really. We hope you met someone today, but not at the risk of you're fleeing in fright from too much attention.



If you keep up with brands, then you should know we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We're pretty pleased about this.

### Cast of Characters –

Pastor Laura Aase, Mission Developer: 320-583-8005

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