



LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Worshiping at the Hutchinson Event Center Sundays at 10:30am and 5:30pm

# Weekly Ministry News

## Jan 12-19, 2014



God's purpose for River of Hope:

**We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

Our Guiding Principles: disciple = learn

- God is God and we are not.
- We are called to grow together as disciples: to forgive, to teach, to love.
  - Disciples are inspired by the Holy Spirit to take risks.
    - Disciples seek God's justice.
    - Disciples serve with no strings attached.
  - Disciples invite and welcome through loving acceptance.
    - We meet you where you are.

### *In Our Prayers ~*

#### **COMFORT AND PEACE FOR:**

**The family and friends of Sue,** (Laura Junker's Aunt) as they mourn her death.

**Phyllis Lindstrand** in the loss of her cousin Jerry

**GG, Pollmann/Hageman** grandma and great grandma, transitioning to Harmony River

**Annelle** - Melissa Schofield's mother-in-law

**All families in transition**

#### **HEALING FOR:**

**Luke Nelson,** blood clot complications, Nick Nelson

**Holly,** recovering from car accident injuries, Hauser

**Fred Alberts,** knee surgery, Redetzke

**Chee Chee Halvorson,** Krisi Hoffmann's mom, surgery

**Andy & Arnie Koenig,** as Andy begins chemo

**Zella Thode,** heart surgery

**Phyllis Lindstrand,** surgery

**Nyssa Johnson,** recovering from surgery

**Agnes Searle** - grandma of the Kropps

**Darryl** - eye surgery - Vilt Family

**Grandpa Tom** - hip replacement - Vilt Family

**Nic Kempfert**

**Kathleen** - cancer - Shelly Buesgen's sister

**Al Wuetrich's Father** - surgery

**Harry** - surgery - Susan Johnson's father

**Arielle** - 5yrs old, has to have a heart transplant

**Deb** - co-worker of Jennifer Hansen

**Laurel Brown** - health issues

**People who have pain**

**Heather & Glen Wald Family**- mental illness

**Harvey,** Phyllis Lindstrand's brother-in-law

**Maureen,** Ron and Susan Johnson's sister-in-law, Those living with autism

**Kelly Fuhrman,** friend of the Weisenbergers

**Amy,** friend of Lietzau's

**Sara Shorter**

**David,** Ruth's brother

**Lois,** broken hip

**Stacy Mason,** Scottings friend's baby

**Heather Eckstrom**

**Harrison Sellenrick**

**Juliana, Aaron, Asten, and Jacob** -Jami Beffert's Make-a-Wish children

**Gavin Pierson**

**Luke,** friend of the Kropps

**Shirley Crowe,** friend of Sue Hageman.

**Mason & Kevin Hansen** friends of the Kropps

**Nancy Murphy,** friend of Peggy Sudheimer

**Tanya Klish,** friend of Kat Scotting

**Lisa Argir,** friend of Kat Scotting

**Les Nelson,** friend of the Kropps

**Bob Parish,** friend of Pastor Laura

**Grandma Correne** in hospice care

#### **FAITH AND GUIDANCE FOR:**

Those suffering with depression, anxiety, mental illness  
Beer & Hymns

Those without adequate food, housing, or employment  
Cure for cancer  
A family friend seeking treatment for addiction & his family (Tillmann)  
A friend of mine battling depression (Hamlow)  
**The AA, NA, SA groups and all** who struggle with addiction and strive to live in recovery  
**Peace wherever there is war, unrest, violence**

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**THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE:**

**All the blessings God gives each of us daily** – may we remember to be thankful  
**Visitors to River of Hope** – that we may call them sister or brother.  
**The ELCA support of River of Hope** – Especially Bishop Jon Anderson, Larry Strenge , Linda Pedersen, and for all synod and churchwide staff seeking to be part of what God is doing in the world.  
**River Teams!** For your inspired and faithful participation in leading worship.

**ON-GOING PRAYERS:**

**Note about Prayer Requests:** These requests come from many sources: phone calls, emails, pew pads, personal contact. If you see a listed request that is no longer needed or needs updating, please let Pastor Laura or Shyann Topel, Office Administrator (office@riverofhopehutchinson.org) know. Prayers generally stay in the Weekly for 2 weeks. Prayers for health will remain on the list until requested to not be on the list. Please be sure you have permission from those listed in the prayers.

**WORSHIP 101**

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**You are here- you are welcome! You are loved! Regardless of how you got here** to worship today, we give God thanks for you. We have been praying for you, asking God to help us see Christ in people we might otherwise not see.



**Where everybody knows your name?** It’s just not always true. So do the thing with the nametag, even if you’re here every Sunday. Especially if you’re here every Sunday. Once we pretend we know everyone, then it’s easy to start not asking, not sticking out our hand in welcome. Don’t be that guy. Plus, all the cool kids are doing it.

**Come as you are. Seriously.** Don’t have the “right” clothes? Just finished working in the yard? Rolling into town right before worship begins? Great. Fine. Super. Really. Just come as you are. God loves you for who you are, not what you wear.

**Nursery care is available during worship service on Sunday.** A schedule of young people has been set up to watch the little ones. Parents do not need to stay with their children in the nursery.

**2 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES?** Yup. **January 26**, worship will be held at **9am, 10:30am and 5:30pm**. We’ll be in the smaller, “Cash Wise room” in the Event Center to accommodate the annual Bridal Show the Event Center hosts. We thought it a great opportunity to “try out” 2 morning worship services.

**January WORSHIP RIVER TEAMS:** Jordan and Nile – River Guides: Jenny & Brian Tillmann and Kris Dobratz

	12/24	12/29	1/5	
<b>Attendance 10:30 5:30</b>	4:30pm 180	54 20	77	
<b>Children's Offering</b>	\$46.11	\$2.11	\$14.06	
<b>General Offering</b>	\$1666.00	\$413.00	\$1092	
<b>Automatic Deposit</b>			\$3640.00	

**Life in the River This Week...**

Sunday January 12      10:30am Worship  
    5:30pm Worship

Monday January 13      7pm Vision Table Meeting – Main Street Sports Bar

Wednesday January 15      6pm River Team Planning Meeting – HEC  
    6pm Confirmation  
    7pm riverKids

Thursday January 16      2:30pm River Sisters Bible Study – Harmony River  
    ROH Serves High School Lunch's at Shalom

Sunday January 19      10:30am Worship  
    5:30pm Worship

**Outpost Notes:** River Team Planning Meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> (Shenandoah and Tigris)  
 Outpost Closed Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Day

**CONNECT**

**\*\*Join River of Hope** for a meal and conversation after each service. We are gathering at **Squeaky's** today\*\*



**On Line Church Directory is for YOU.** Need a phone number, email address, or home address? This is the place to find it. Keep your own information up to date, add a picture so people know who you are. Use it to connect!  
 Go to (<https://me.churchmembershiponline.com>) and enter your email address. A password will be sent to your email for church membership online. Once you have your password please check out the program and update your household profile. [If you're not in this directory and would like to be added, please email Shyann, the RoH Office Administrator: [office@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:office@riverofhopehutchinson.org) or call: 320-587-4414]

**Riverpalooza!**

You heard that right. River of Hope will celebrate what God's doing with us through other people in a celebration called Riverpalooza. But wait. It will happen 4 times a year! 4 times! What's it all about?

\*10:30am will be the **celebration worship**. Followed by a **potluck at noon**.

\*(5:30pm will be a **contemplative prayer** worship service.)

\*We'll **welcome** folks who want to call River of Hope **home**. They'll sign the charter during worship. We'll pray and clap.

\*We'll **tell stories** of what God's been doing with us: through outreach, worship, hospitality, high school lunches, painting houses, financial giving. Transforming lives through Jesus Christ!

\*We'll **look toward God's future** for us.

So put **Riverpalooza** on your calendar: Feb 23/May 4/September 7/December 7



**Outpost Open House: Saturday, January 11 from 2-5pm.** We want you to see the new office space. Treats and friends will be there. Our walls are pretty bare: bring ugly and beautiful or “interesting” art work to hang. Maybe the tackiest will get a prize!

**“Membership” “Discipleship”**— We like the word “participant” and “disciple” (which means learner) more than member. Call it what you like, if you feel like River of Hope is home, then we want to help you feel at home. **Welcome Home 101 Orientation** is just what you’re looking for to feel even more at home here. “Church” and “Lutheran” are the main topics for discussion and questions at this “2-fer” orientation. Offered the two weeks before our quarterly Riverpalooza (Next Dates for class: February 9 & 16), plan for a 2-week plunge into what it means to be part of River of Hope. **Sign up** by emailing Pastor Laura or the Church Office. We’ll welcome you with food and clapping at the quarterly **Riverpalooza** and in worship that same day.

**Hope Mentors:** Have you been part of River of Hope since the beginning? Or for a while? Be a mentor of hope for a new person or family joining River of Hope. Come to the Welcome Home 101 Orientation with them. Take them out for coffee or lunch. Become their friend. Love them. It’s a discipleship move. **Indicate your interest on a pew pad.**

### ***River Life (living an active life of faith)***

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**“riverKIDS”** – This is a NEW chance for kids 1st-6th grade to be a part of a choir. Practice, will be at 7pm Jan 15th and 29th at the HEC. Contact Person: Jim Nelson (320)552-9734.

**Small Groups** God is always at work in us, encouraging and building faith through questions, relationships, and community. You need not be “experienced” or an “expert” in faith. Learn and practice your faith with other disciples (learners).

***Eat, Pray, Read*** Women’s Book Club. This group is taking a break until after the holidays. Watch the weekly for future plans.

***Men’s Bible Study:*** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month, 9am @ Hardee’s. Potential for an evening group to form as well. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never opened the Bible – come to this group with an open mind and open questions and you’ll fit right in. No experience is necessary. It was the first Bible Study for most of the men last year and they all are eager to return. Questions? Dave is at [dlpeders@msn.com](mailto:dlpeders@msn.com) and 320-328-9911.

**The River Sisters Bible Study** - The group meets in the Lower level of Harmony River Living Center the third Thursday of the month at 10am. On **January 16<sup>th</sup> River Sisters will meet at 2:30pm.** Join this intergenerational group of women composed of River of Hope members who “adopt” a resident of Harmony River. Our “adoption” means we help residents by giving them wheel chair rides from their room, to the Bible study. We may help with other small things, as expressed by the resident. Together we read Scripture and share our experiences and wisdom across the generations. Contact Pastor Ane K Fitzgerald, 320-484-6009 [afitzgerald@preshomes.org](mailto:afitzgerald@preshomes.org) .

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** Know how to knit or want to learn how to knit? Want to share your projects with those in need of prayer, comfort, hope? The next meeting is Jan 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm, Laura Junkers home: 817 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW Hutchinson. Bring size 10.5 knitting needles and 4 skeins of bulky (5) yarn. Contact Renee Kotlarz’s for more information 320-234-6847.

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## ***WE GO OUT – COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES***

**High School Lunches** – River of Hope and Vineyard United Methodist will be serving at Shalom on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Can you help us prepare food, set up tables and chairs, or serve the meal? Call Diane Lietzau (320)-234-3443 or Sandy Tracy (320)-275-2732. Shifts begin at 9am and we are usually done by 1pm.

**Crow River Area Youth Orchestra** (CRAYO) is celebrating its fifteenth season of bringing orchestral music opportunities to the Crow River area. CRAYO will host an Open House on January 12<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm at Hutchinson Middle School. The event will include opportunities to meet instructors and directors, tour the facility, get sized for instruments and meet instrument vendors, and have fun with others who enjoy music. Refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in learning more about opportunities to learn to play a string instrument or play in the orchestra are encouraged to attend the Open House or contact the Orchestra Manager at [CRAYOmanager@gmail.com](mailto:CRAYOmanager@gmail.com). Skilled adult instrumentalists are also needed as mentors to orchestra participants. More information may be found on the CRAYO website at [www.crayo.org](http://www.crayo.org).

**The Hutchinson Church of God invites your congregation to view the movie “October Baby”** at our church. October Baby is a recent film that shares the story of college student, Hannah, who learns from her parents she was actually adopted, after a failed abortion attempt by her birth mother. She embarks on a journey to discover her hidden past and find hope for her unknown future. There are two dates it will be shown, and both viewings are FREE.

\*Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm (Sanctity of Human Life Sunday)

\*Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm (41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Roe vs Wade decision)

We hope many in your church can join us for this inspirational and life affirming movie. We would love to welcome you!

**Beer & Hymns!** Come along with ROH as we reach out into the community with Beer and Hymns. It is exactly what the title says. Have a drink of your choice as we sing hymns at Main Street Sports Bar the last Tuesday of every month from 7-9pm. The next date is January 28<sup>th</sup>. Come and go as you are able.

**Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends planned** - Fall for each other all over again. Re-ignite those sparks you felt on your honeymoon by learning exciting new communication skills in a comfortable and private environment away from distractions. Dave and Linda Pedersen from River of Hope are one of the presenting couples and welcome your questions. Talk to them at church or call 320-328-9911. For more information contact Peter and Phyllis McMahon at [mcmahonp@comcast.net](mailto:mcmahonp@comcast.net) or 763-561-1575. Cost is a \$45 registration, plus a free will offering. All lodging and meals are included. Feb. 14-16 (starting Valentine's Day) in Brooklyn Center and April 25-27 in Duluth. Dave and Linda present in February and April.

**Deeper Life Cornerstone Women's Conference** – February 21 and 22. Guest Speaker Dee Brestin will exhibit her passion in women's ministry at the Cornerstone Church in Litchfield. The cost is \$35.00 and includes three sessions with Dee, worship, lunch and beverages. Contact Cornerstone Church for more information: (320)-593-7971.

**Real God. Real Faith. Real Life** – Rev. Dr. David J Lose will be speaking on “Real World Faith” and you'll also hear from Bishop Jon Anderson. There are multiple workshops to choose from, pick three and you're on your way. Our own Pastor Laura will be leading one of the workshops. There will also be singing, lunch and fellowship. Saturday, Feb 22 from 8:30-3:30pm at the Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. \$15.00 per person before Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Call the church office for information on, registration and **group rates**. Group rates only available before February 10, so hurry. Get your friends together and Call NOW! River of Hope Office Admin. – (320)-587-4414.

## ***RIVER CONDITIONS***

The Christmas season has come and gone and I am so very honored to have worshiped with so many of you during the season that celebrates birth and new life in the dark of night. I am also thankful to all of those who took a chance and tried something brand new on Christmas Eve this year. Chilly and brave shepherds escorted worshipers from the parking lot inside. The lobby absolutely exploded with warmth and song and welcome and friends and visitors alike made their way to worship. Carolers sang, hot chocolate and treats were right there. Many people took it upon themselves to help those coming in the door find the coat rack and the bathrooms. Worship was full and joyful and memorable.

THANK YOU: Special thanks to **Jim Nelson** for coordinating key leaders who were active before, during and after the worship service. To **Sara Nelson** for connecting folks to be “wisemen” and deliver visitor gifts, and for teaching the kids “Away in a Manger” actions and words. To **Jenny Tillmann** for coordinating the refreshments. To **Tiffany Haag** for the coffee and hot chocolate. To **Brian Pollmann** for taking pictures and then printing them out during the worship so they could be given in the visitor gifts. To **Terry Kempfert** for engraving water drops with “Hope is Born” and for making the picture frames. To **Tanya Shorter and Carol Krage** for the beautiful attention to our worship environment and for crafts the kids made to participate in worship. Thanks to Carol for being “in charge” of Mary and Joseph. Speaking of Mary and Joseph, thanks to **Elizabeth Jaeger and Isaiah Nelson** who played that holy couple. To **Kris Hartman** for your extra help that night. To **Josiah Nelson & Renee Jaeger** for hanging out in the nursery. To **Shyann and Luke Topel** for the hay bale and to **Schofields** for getting it to the Event Center. To the brave & chilly parking lot shepherds, **Brian Jaeger, Sandy Tracy, Arnie Koenig**. And to the friendly, warmer, inside greeters, **Brian Tillmann and Verlyn Larsen**. To the carolers, who made the whole thing sound like a party: **Katie & Mike Weisenberger, Loraina Tillmann, Brian Pollmann, Erika Tillmann, Mara Pollmann, Eliza Johnson**. To **Shakira Nelson** for running the power point. To **Sara Shorter and Katie Weisenberger** for their beautiful duet. And to **Sara Nelson** for finding Mary and Joseph after they’d slipped off to the coffee shop down the lane... And to my co-shepherd story teller, “who-knew-he-was-such-a-ham” **Mike Weisenberger** who ad-libbed some awesome lines and helped to bring life to the best story ever told.

To all those who attended and worshiped that night, thank you. It takes a community to worship. To the kids who helped to tell the story by participating in an “impromptu” telling of the story – we couldn’t have told it without you. Thank you to you if you took a gift and dropped on a visitor’s doorstep. And if you smiled at a visitor, welcomed them, pointed to the bathroom or coat rack, or showed welcome and warmth in any way, thank you.

I am thankful for our community’s faithfulness in God, through Jesus Christ. But most of all, I am thankful for God’s faithfulness to us through Jesus Christ. It is why we gather. It is why we have hope.

I love you.

Pastor Laura

### ***ONE MORE THING...***

**Camera Shy?** We like to take pictures and video of our life together at River of Hope.

If you would rather not have your picture on our website, on Facebook, or in printed publications, please get a form from the office.

**Get your news in the Weekly Ministry News & on the Calendar.** Contact Shyann Topel by Wednesday each week to make your prayer requests, request things be removed in the Weekly.

[Office@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:Office@riverofhopehutchinson.org) or 320-587-4414.

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### **River of Hope Staff Contact Information**

Pastor Laura Aase, Mission Developer	Jim Nelson, Worship & Music Curator	Shyann Topel, Office Admin
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