



LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Worshiping at the Hutchinson Event Center Sundays at 10:30am

# Weekly Ministry News

Jan 26-Feb 2, 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 Kathleen** (Shelly Buesgen's Sister) as they mourn her death.  
 GG, Pollmann/Hageman grandma and great grandma, transitioning to Harmony River  
**All families in transition**

#### **HEALING FOR:**

**Carol Krage**  
**Grandpa Darryl** – Vilt Family  
**Jan Schaefer**  
**Pam Hoffman** – Kristi Hoffman  
**Amanda Davis's Father** – Broke Ribs  
**Annelle** – Melissa Schofield's mother-in-law  
**Luke Nelson** - Nick Nelson  
**Holly** - Hauser  
**Chee Chee Halvorson**, Krisi Hoffmann's mom  
**Andy & Arnie Koenig**  
**Zella Thode**  
**Phyllis Lindstrand**  
**Nyssa Johnson**  
**Agnes Searle** – grandma of the Kropps  
**Grandpa Tom** – Vilt Family  
**Nic Kempfert**  
**Al Wuetrich's Father**  
**Deb** – co-worker of Jennifer Hansen  
**Laurel Brown**  
**People who have pain**  
**Heather & Glen Wald Family**

**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  
**Sara Shorter**  
**David**, Ruth's brother  
**Lois**  
**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:**

**Suzanne** – Renee Kotlarz  
**Phoenix Drumline** in their last month of rehearsal before competitions  
 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:**

**Mahalia Knudsen** born 1/11 to Marti and Josh Knudsen

**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:**

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

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

**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.

**The last 5:30pm worship service is TODAY.** It has been a great 3.5 years of worshipping at 5:30pm. But since beginning a morning worship time in addition to the 5:30 time, the evening worship service has been in rapid decline, averaging about 25 people. I’ve talked with those who have attended this worship time regularly since October and have found a general consensus that it’s time for this worship option to end. I think it has surprised many people to find comfort and consistency in attending the morning worship time, thinking they’d switch back and forth. Our community gave this 5:30 worship an honest to goodness run these past 4 months. But now we’ll concentrate our efforts on the 10:30am worship service and see what’s next for River of Hope.

Thank you to all of you for helping 2 worship services exist at the same time. It took a concerted effort by many people to make both happen. God has been faithful to us and I’ve seen that lived out through you. Rest in Peace, 5:30pm worship service.

**2 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES?** Yup. **TODAY**, 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

**Future Worship Team Schedule** (changed due to one worship service) – February: Tigris, March: Amazon, April: Shenandoah, May: Crow, June: Jordan/Nile, July: Tigris/Shenandoah, August: Crow/Amazon

	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
<b>Attendance 10:30</b>	77	97	78	
<b>5:30</b>		22	30	
<b>Children's Offering</b>	\$14.06	\$17.93	\$21.03	
<b>General Offering</b>	\$1092	\$1610	\$732.00	
<b>Automatic Deposit</b>	\$3640.00		\$810.00	
<b>Youth Trip Reimbursement</b>			\$15.00	

**Coming in February**

*River of Hope is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.*



**Electronic Giving**  
A convenient, consistent way to help our church grow

Consider scheduling a recurring contribution today. It's very convenient. You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

<b><u>Life in the River This Week...</u></b>	
Sunday January 26	9am Worship 10:30am Worship 5:30pm Worship (This will be the last 5:30pm service)
Tuesday January 28	7-9pm Beer and Hymns
Wednesday January 29	6pm Confirmation 7pm riverKIDS

**CONNECT**

**\*\*Join River of Hope** for a meal and conversation after the 10:30am and 5:30pm service. We are gathering at **Tokyo Grill** today\*\*

## 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**.

\*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



**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]

**"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)***

**"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. We're going to fire up again by jumping on *The Orphan Train* by Kristina Baker Kline. It is the book selected to be the Hutchinson Community read this month. We will be meeting on Feb. 27th at 7pm at Jan Schaefer' home...1019 Prairie View Drive. Come join us!

**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. 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 Feb 18th at 6:30pm, Renee Kotlarz’s home: 125 Century Ave SE, Hutchinson, MN. Bring size 10.5 knitting needles and 4 skeins of bulky (5) yarn. Contact Renee Kotlarz’s for more information 320-234-6847.

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

**RoH Fun Day Saturday Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** – The River of Hope Community is going sledding at Rocket Hill. Join us from 2-4pm for some family fun and fresh air.

**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.

**RoH Fun Day February 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Come Bowling with River of Hope 5:30pm at Hutch Bowl. Price is \$3.00 per game and \$2.00 for shoes (a one time fee).

**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 (205 CSAH 34, Litchfield, MN). 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.

**Elementary Retreat Roundtrip** – 7pm March 28<sup>th</sup> – 1:30pm Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>. For kids currently in 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. \$60.00 includes lodging, snacks; breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Register online at [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org), deadline is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## ***RIVER CONDITIONS***

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It's the last Sunday for the 5:30pm worship service. It's how we began and now we end it knowing it's an important part of our story, our history. Now it's time to focus on the 10:30am worship time and to see what might be born out of that. I wonder how we could reach out to new, allergic-to-church people?

I ask you to join me in praying this question. How can we continue to reach out to new people? (We will celebrate this and wonder about this together at the River Palooza on February 23.)

In order that the church doesn't serve as my shelter, I am, once again, challenging myself to be out in public, having office hours and meeting new people at events in the community. I think it sends the wrong message to only be attentive to "church matters" when our very lives, the daily stuff, encompasses church within it. Pray for me as I continue to stretch my own extroverted nature in effort to show God's love to whoever I meet. And I will pray the same for you.

I am continually in awe of how I see God at work in each of you. Thank you. 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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