

## Worship Outline

### GATHER

Music to Prepare Us for Worship  
Welcome 101, Connection Card  
No Longer Strangers Prayer  
Meet Someone New  
Greeting  
Confession

### WORD

Psalm 45  
Participation Parables -  
*Matthew 22:1-14*  
Sermon  
Preparation for Maundy Thursday  
Apostles' Creed  
Prayer for All People  
The Lord's Prayer  
Offering

### SEND

Purpose  
Blessing to Go  
Sending Song

# River of HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Thank you, Sara Shorter, for leading the music in worship today.  
We appreciate your gifts and talents!

**March 8, 2015**

## Lent 2015

Forgiveness

Laborers in the Vineyard

➡ **All Are Welcome?**

Talents

Last Judgment

Triumphal Entry



## Discipleship Training

## Welcome 101

**Welcome. We are so glad you are in worship at River of Hope today.**

**Come as you are.** Well, you're already here. We don't care what clothes you wear or what kind of shape your spiritual life is in. God meets you and loves you where you are.

**Where everybody knows your name?** We all wear name tags each week - not just the visitors. Even when we think we know everyone at River of Hope, it's simply not true. These name tags are our awkwardly friendly way to help us stick out our hand, say, "hello, you're new to me" and practice being the friendly church everyone swears we are. If we practice this awkward move here, we've got a shot at actually doing it in our everyday lives.

**We like kids.** No kidding. We think kids are leaders in worship and lives of faith. Just look around you.

**Nursery care.** Weeping and gnashing of teeth? Nursery care is available just outside the worship area.

**Communion.** You are welcome, without exception. If you are hungry and thirsty for unbounded grace, mercy, and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, you are welcome at Christ's table.

**Connection Cards.** For visitors and regulars to communicate. We won't use your info to bother you. We promise.

**Worship Style.** We are an intentional intergenerational community. 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. We are a pro-participation, anti-excellence community.

## We Prepare For Worship

**March River Guide:**  
Sandy Tracy

**March 15th Scripture:** Matthew 22:1-14

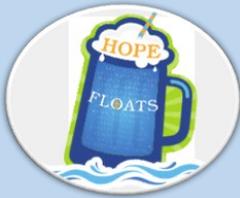
**March 15th Singers:** Mara Pollmann, Sara Nelson,  
Mike Weisenberger & Ruth Hamlow

## Today's Music:

**Gathering Songs:** "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" and  
"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

**Song During the Mural:** "Lord, Whose Love in Humble  
Service" and "Take, Oh Take Me As I Am"

**Sending Song:** "We Are Marching in the Light of God"



### River Team Schedule

**January - Amazon**  
River guide: Ruth Hamlow  
(320) 587-5045  
rhamlow@hutchtel.net

**February - Jordan**  
River guides:  
Jennifer & Brian Tillmann  
(320) 587-1007  
tillmann@hutchtel.net

**March - Nile**  
River guide: Kris Dobratz  
(320) 234-5985  
dobykro@hutchtel.net

**April - Tigris**  
River guides:  
Russ & Jeannine Borgendale  
(320) 455-0052  
r\_j\_borgendale@hotmail.com  
Nancy Jorgenson  
(320) 587-7788  
njjorgenson@me.com

**May - Shenandoah**  
River guides:  
Chris & Lisa Kraft (320) 234-7680  
Clkraft123@hotmail.com

**June - Amazon & Jordan**

**July - Nile & Tigris**

**August - Shenandoah & All**

**September - Amazon**

**October - Jordan**

**November - Nile**

**December - Tigris**

## River Conditions

Dear Hopeful People,

Sufjan Stevens is a favorite musician I listen to and he just released a song called "No Shade in the Shadow of the Cross." No, it's not a Christian song, per se. It's not praise music. I'm not sure what it's about, but the lyrics point to life that is messy. The last line of the song is the title - no shade in the shadow of the cross. Which is about right, if you let that title and song lyric sink in. We follow Jesus to the cross and even when the shadow of the cross falls over us, it is not a cool, relaxing shade we enjoy. It is the reality of faith: the cross casts a dark shadow. And there, we find life. We know darkness and hard times. And it's right there that we meet Jesus.

Without the cross, Jesus is just a devout Jew who made the government mad and fed the hungry. Without the cross, there is no Easter. You don't get to new life without dying first. You don't get to Easter without first betraying your closest friend, and then deserting him, and then, finally, watching him die.

So hear this plea: Don't skip holy week. Cuz you're skipping the cross, the hard and unpleasant stuff. Wherever you find yourself the week leading up to Easter, find a community to gather with that will mark this sacred time. It's what makes us Christian. Here is how you can gather here, in this community, to follow Jesus to the cross:

**Communion Banquet Thursday, April 2: 7pm.** At the RoH office. Bring 30 pieces of silver (any kind) and pieces for the Personal Care Kits. *Jesus and his closest friends eat together one last time.*

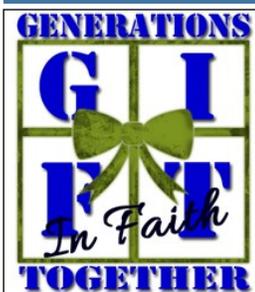
**Good Friday April 3: 7pm** at Vineyard United Methodist Church. *We'll huddle together in the aftermath of the crucifixion.*

**Holy Saturday:** Pray the 22nd Psalm or Psalm 51 today.

**Easter Sunday: 10:30am** - come and celebrate the risen Lord!

## G.I.F.T. Worship

### GENERATIONS IN FAITH TOGETHER.



River of Hope practices worship together with all generations, believing that faith and life are connected in a meaningful way when we worship together.

G.I.F.T. Worship is River of Hope's version of Sunday School for all ages. And it prepares us to go out into our lives, knowing Jesus Christ is transforming us and the world.

## Invite

### Instant Choir!

We will meet at 9:45 on the dates below for ONE PRACTICE to learn the music that will be performed that day. Come when you can and be part of the choir!

March 29 - Voices of Hope (gr 7-adult)

April 26 - riverKIDS (gr 1 through 6)

May 17 - Voices of Hope

### Beer & Hymns

March 31, 2015, come to **Main Street Sports Bar** and experience community singing like you've never experienced it. Discover that we are called into all places, even bars, and we find God there, already at work. We start at 7pm.

### Men's Bible Study

The River of Hope men's bible study meets from 9-10 a.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Hardee's meeting room in Hutchinson. Join us at any time and we will give you a Master Builders Bible for Men. Information: Dave Pedersen at 320-328-9911 or [dlpeders@msn.com](mailto:dlpeders@msn.com). We email regular reminders.

## Connect

### Attendance and Offering

March 1, 2015

Attendance: 126

Feb 1-28 Automatic Deposits:

\$10,863.24

Regular Offering: \$785.00

Children's Offering: \$16.73

*River of hope has seen its financial health strengthen and grow. How will you help it to continue to grow?*

### Give to River of Hope:

Giving your financial resources consistently means quite a lot to the health and life of River of Hope. What can you give? Each family's faithful consideration of this question is important. Help us plan for the future God is calling us in to. Automatic giving (*Simply Giving*) is a simple yet incredible way to support River of Hope when you're in worship or away for the weekend. Set it up through our website [www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org) or email River of Hope's Treasurer,

Bev Mueller, at [BevM@businesswaresolutions.com](mailto:BevM@businesswaresolutions.com) to get the ball rolling.

### Riverpalooza is March 22!!

Welcome the newest River of Hope people with worship, food and clapping. Not all at the same time.

Last names A-L: Bring a main dish

M-Z: Bring a side dish or something sweet.

### Be a Hospitality Host at ROH Office!

Greet people, maybe even make 'em a cup of coffee. Answer the phone, read a good book. Come for an hour or the whole time. Sign up for your shift at the Connect Cart.

## Disciple

### Lent Daily and Weekly Practice:

**+Prayer:** *pray through the book of Psalms throughout these 40 days.*

**+Almsgiving:** *Our community's goal is to make 100 "Personal Care Kits" to be assembled at Maundy-Thursdays worship on Thursday, April 2.*

**+Fasting:** *Pick one day a week to limit or abstain from food, technology, buying anything.*

**Thursdays \*\*Mar 12 has been cancelled (Mar 19, 26):** Meet at Dunn Bros. from 7-8pm. Come and talk about how practice is going - get support, learn from each other.

### Discipleship Groups:

*Disciple means learner. We are lifetime learners when it comes to living a life of faith. Be part of an intentional small group, a Discipleship Group, where you'll commit to monthly meetings, weekly readings, and to reflect on scripture as our story and God's story, intersecting.*

All discipleship groups are full. Don't let this stop you! Email Pastor Laura your interest and we'll get another group going! Pastor Laura's email is: [pator@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:pator@riverofhopehutchinson.org)

## Send

### JRLC Day on the Hill

Join this interfaith coalition for social justice in St. Paul on March 10. The day will include general sessions, time for planning with Senate District 18

attendees, lunch and small group appointments at the capitol with Sen, Newman, Rep. Gruenhagen and Rep. Urdahl. For info and registration, visit [www.jrlc.org](http://www.jrlc.org). Contact Sandy Tracy with questions (320.492.6279). Transportation car pools will be arranged.

### 55+ DINERS CLUB

**What:** A monthly or bimonthly opportunity for those 55 and over to get to know one another while exploring area dining.

**Who:** Anyone 55 and over - male, female, singles, couples, ROH member, non-member - **ALL are welcome.** Come when you can.

**When & Where:** Our second outing will take place on March 19, at 5:30 at Sonora's. At this gathering, we will continue to answer any questions you may have, as well as share information about the mission of this new group. There are some great ideas on how to connect with those we encounter as we dine! Future gathering locations will be determined by the host(s). You can RSVP for the March dinner by signing up at the Connect Cart or contact Carol Krage @ [ckrage@gmail.com](mailto:ckrage@gmail.com) or 320-234-8910 by Monday March 16th.

### Common Cup - March Diaper Drive

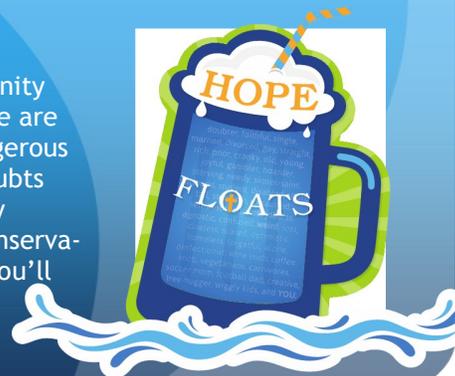
It is River of Hope's month in MARCH to donate diapers to Common Cup. They are in desperate need and the most wanted sizes are the larger ones and the pull-ups. They can be brought to the church office or dropped off directly at the Common Cup office at 105 Second Ave. For any questions, contact Andy Koenig. Don't feel like shopping for them? A cash donation is most welcome also.

### Hospice Volunteers Needed

Would you like to become a volunteer with Allina Health Hospice? Perhaps you know of a family member, a friend or a neighbor that has benefited from hospice. Our current patients and families could use your support and companionship. All volunteers are provided with free training and a flexible schedule. The next training begins on Saturday, April 11. For information, call **Pam Ainslie at 320-484-9211.**

# River of Hope Lutheran Church

We are the ELCA church in town. We are a purposely intergenerational community who is following Jesus out of the building and into the world where we live. We are learners (disciples) and practice-ers. 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, allergic-to-church, snarky) you'll be welcomed here. Then you'll be sent out, to live your life, transformed by Jesus Christ. And we believe, through the love of Jesus, you'll help to transform other lives.



## Our purpose as a church:

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

## Our Guiding Principles:

*(Disciple = learner)*

*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.*



**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.**

~ March 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>8</b> 9am Discipleship Chanda Kropp - Leader  10:30 Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7pm Discipleship Keri Thoreson - Leader	<b>11</b> 6pm Discipleship Sara Pollmann - Leader Jim Nelson - Leader Ruth Hamlow - Leader Jenny Tillmann - Leader	<b>12</b> **Psalms Study Cancelled Tonight	<b>13</b>   Pastor Laura's Day Off	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9am Discipleship Beth Gasser - Leader  10:30 Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9am Men's Bible Study @ Hardees	<b>19</b> 7pm Psalms Study @ Dunn Bros.  55+ Dining Club	<b>20</b>   Pastor Laura's Day Off	<b>21</b>

### Worship

Sundays at 10:30am  
 Hutchinson Event Center  
 1005 Hwy 15 S. Plaza 15  
 Hutchinson, MN 55350

### Office

Mon-Fri 10am-3pm  
 16 Washington Avenue W, Suite 100  
 Hutchinson, MN 55350  
 320.587.4414  
 RoH Cell 320.583.8005

### Staff

Laura Aase, Pastor & Mission Developer  
[pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org)  
 Jim Nelson, Worship & Music Curator  
[music@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:music@riverofhopehutchinson.org)  
 Sara Scott, Interim Office Administrator  
[office@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:office@riverofhopehutchinson.org)