

## Worship Outline

### GATHERING

Music to Prepare Us for Worship  
Gathering Songs  
Welcome 101, Connection Card  
No Longer Strangers Prayer  
Meet Someone New  
Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
Confession and Forgiveness  
Greeting  
Prayer of the Day

### WORD

Scripture Reading  
Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4, 10-13  
Children's Sermon  
Sermon  
Labyrinth & Star Prayers

### FEAST

Voices of Hope  
Offering  
Setting the Table  
Thanksgiving at the Table  
Blessing the Feast  
The Lord's Prayer  
Invitation to the Meal  
Communion  
Communion Songs  
Prayer after Communion

### SENDING

Purpose  
Benediction  
Sending Song  
Music to Send You Out



December 6, 2015



LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

*And they sang responsively,  
praising and giving thanks  
to the Lord. "For He is  
good, for His mercy endures  
forever toward Israel."*

*Then all the people shouted  
with a great shout, when  
they praised the Lord,  
because the foundation  
of the house of the  
Lord was laid. Ezra 3:11*



Today is the third Sunday in Advent.  
Voices of Hope sing during worship today.

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? There is a "cry room" available outside the worship area. The "Pray Ground," located in the worship space, is for those younger than kindergarten age.

**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. "Sunday School" happens within worship! 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

### December River Guides:

Russ & Jeannine Borgendale & Nancy Jorgenson

### December 20th Scripture:

Luke 1:5-13, 57-80

To find daily readings go to <http://clergystuff.com/category/daily-devotions/>

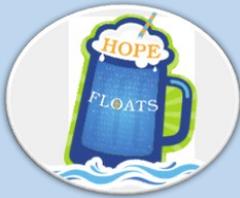
**December 20th Singers:** Brian Pollmann, Jennifer Hauser, Katie Weisenberger, Rachel Stearns

## Today's Music:

**Gathering Songs:** "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" & "Messiah"

**Communion Songs:** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" & "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

**Sending Song:** "Arise, Your Light Has Come"



### River Team Schedule

#### December - Tigris

River guides:

Russ & Jeannine Borgendale  
(320) 455-0052

[r\\_j\\_borgendale@hotmail.com](mailto:r_j_borgendale@hotmail.com)

Nancy Jorgenson

(320) 587-7788

[njjorgenson@me.com](mailto:njjorgenson@me.com)

#### 2016

#### January - Shenandoah

River guides:

Chris & Lisa Kraft

(320) 234-7680

[Clkraft123@hotmail.com](mailto:Clkraft123@hotmail.com)

#### February - Amazon

River guide: Ruth Hamlow

(320) 587-5045

[rhamlow@hutchtel.net](mailto:rhamlow@hutchtel.net)

#### March- Jordan

River guides:

Jennifer & Brian Tillmann

320-587-1007

[tillmann@hutchtel.net](mailto:tillmann@hutchtel.net)

#### April- Nile

#### May - Tigris

#### June-Shenandoah/Amazon

#### July-Jordan/Nile

#### August-Tigris

#### September-Shenandoah

#### October - Amazon

#### November - Jordan

## River Conditions

### STRIVE FOR 5 UPDATE\*\*\*STRIVE FOR 5 UPDATE\*\*\*

This fall, the Financial Stewardship table asked you to financially support River of Hope or to increase your already faithful giving. Here is what the Strive For Five ask generated:

22 families increased their giving through Simply Giving --- thank you!

3 new families joined Simply Giving - thank you!

1 brand new giver - thank you!

We've also seen our loyal check writers amounts increase -- thank you!

So, this means we've seen \$655 per month increase in giving that we can count on. This, of course, does not include unexpected, generous giving through a variety of means.

Over a 12 month period, our average shortfall is \$861 per month which is considerably better than the \$2000 gap we have been consistently experiencing since the beginning of River of Hope.

You'll begin to notice that as we communicate the financial situation in the Weekly, we'll let you know what it looks like with the grant from the ELCA and without that grant. This grant will stop at the end of next year, so it must be our goal to stand on our own financial feet in 2016.

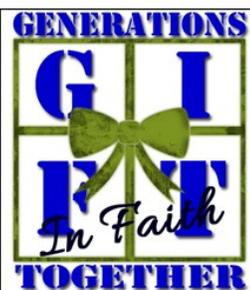
While the church doesn't function like corporate America (you don't get what you pay for - I'm your pastor no matter what you give), River of Hope doesn't exist on fairy dust and good intentions but rather depends on faithful, generous, and intentional giving by you.

How do you participate in this community called River of Hope? How will you plan to support this ministry in the future? Continue to pray about your gifts and your part in this community. I am so grateful for your generosity, for making River of Hope a priority in your family budget. I am so grateful for your love and that I am with you in this life of seeing lives transformed through Jesus Christ.

Love, Pastor Laura

## 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

**Advent Evening Prayer** The 4 weeks of the Advent season River of Hope will offer a time and place for candle-lit prayer, centered around walking the labyrinth as a way to pray. Scripture will be read, music played, a very few words preached, prayers prayed and communion shared. Led by Pastor Laura and Jim Nelson. (No river team needed.) **7pm at the downtown lobby of the River of Hope offices. December 13 & 20.**

## Connect

**riverKIDS is a choir for kids grades 1-6.** They will rehearse the first Wednesday of the month from 7-7:30pm. at the Hutchinson Event Center. Singing in worship will occur the following Sunday. Please see the schedule below:

Wed Practice	Sun Performance
<b>7:00-7:30</b>	<b>Meet at 10:10</b>
Jan 6	Jan 10
Feb 3	Feb 7
March 2	March 6
April 6	April 10
May 4	May 8

**Voices of Hope** is River of Hope's Adult Choir for people age 13 - 100. We are an "Instant" choir, in that we rehearse and perform on the same Sunday! We will meet at 9:45 AM on the following Sundays and participate in Worship during the service. All are welcome! **We will be singing again in January.**

## Disciple

**Lutheran Marriage Encounter** Weekend will be held Feb. 12-14 in Brooklyn Center. If you have questions, please call Dave & Linda Pederson at 320-328-9911. Register by calling Pete and Phyllis McMahon at 7 6 3 - 5 6 1 - 1 5 7 5 o r mcmahonp@comcast.net. Details and online registration at [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org).

**Blue Christmas** 4 pm Dec. 20 at RoH downtown office lobby. A contemplative prayer service that asks for God's peace and guidance in what can be a difficult time of the year for those grieving.

**RESCHEDULED FOR JAN. 4**  
**Come Spy With Me: Storytelling Field Trip to Shamrock's Pub.** Pastor Laura is wondering what storytelling could look like for River of Hope out in the community of Hutchinson. Join her in spying on Humble Walk (an ELCA church in St. Paul) as they do their storytelling thing at Shamrock's Pub in St. Paul. We'll leave at 5pm. Talk to her, call, text, or email if ya wanna go.

**What's the Word? Tuesdays at 5pm.** I'm looking for your feedback. I'd love to do a weekly Bible study (1 hour) about the upcoming week's scripture. I'll bring what I've been chewing on and reading about and would love to have conversation about it. It helps my brain, my heart, and my creative process in preaching a word that is alive and well. No expertise. I need your honest questions, thoughts, study, and shoulder shrugs. We'll meet at the office or in the lobby. **Would you show up? (Start date: January 2016)** Let me know if you're interested in being part of this even part of the time. Let me know: [pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org) OR 320-587-4414 or 320-583-8005.

### Financial Giving: 12/6/15

In-Worship Offering: \$1312.00  
Children's Offering: \$60.00  
Auto deposits 11/30-12/4 \$2720.00

Worship attendance: 112

Jan.-Oct. Income: \$170,346.80

Jan.-Oct. Expense: \$167,308.73

Net Income: \$3,038.07

Less 2015 ELCA Grant to date:  
( \$11,250.00)

Deficit: (\$8,211.93)  
**approx. \$821.19 per month**

**Advent Offering for Bread for the World + Common Cup** The big 'ol watering can will be designated for offerings for Bread for the World and Common Cup throughout the season of Advent (4 Sundays before Christmas). All offering received in the can will be split between the 2. Our support for our sister mission church **House of Grace** will continue. Simply use the envelope given to you and write "House of Grace" on the envelope.

**Women's Circle** Keep your eyes peeled for a gathering of women beginning in January.

**Men's Bible Study** meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 9 am at Dunn Bros. You are welcome and newcomers will get a free Master's Builders Bible for Men. Call or email Dave Pedersen at 320-328-9911 or [dlpeders@msn.com](mailto:dlpeders@msn.com)

## Send

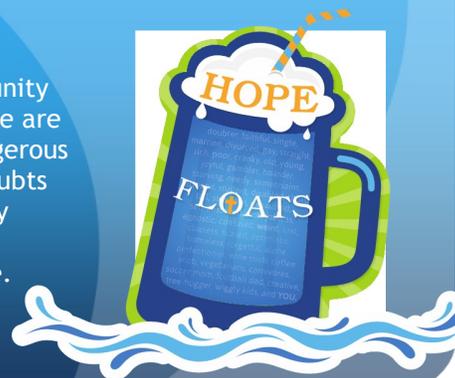
**The McLeod Emergency Food Shelf (MEFS)** is seeking individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meet the third Thursday of every other month beginning in January. Meetings begin at 9:30 am in the Meeting Room at St. Pius X Church, Glencoe. The Board of Directors is responsible for the general direction and fiscal management of MEFS. More information and an application, please call Lennie at 320-864-2088.

**Hutchinson Caregiver Support & Discussion Group** Tues. Dec. 15, 10:30 am, Peace Lutheran Church. For more info contact Sarah Doering at 320-894-0479, Sarah.Doering@lssmn.org.

**Hutchinson Area Compassionate Friends** Annual Candle Lighting Remembrance program tonight at 6:30 pm at Dobratz/Hantge Funeral Chapel. Open to anyone who has lost a child, grandchild, sibling or any child who died too soon.

# 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.**

~ December 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 10:30 Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent  Evening Prayer 7 pm RoH Lobby	7 Staff Meeting 10:00  Storytelling Field Trip 5 pm	8  Christmas Eve Planning Mtg. 6 pm, RoH Lobby	9  Vision Table 6 pm Jimmy's Pizza	10	11  Pastor Laura's Sabbath	12
13 10:30 Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent Voices of Hope We GO Out 4 pm  Evening Prayer 7 pm, RoH Lobby	14 Staff Meeting 12:00  Parish Personnel Mtg. 3 pm, RoH Office	15  Beer & Carols 6pm	16  Men's Bible Study 9 am	17	18  Pastor Laura's Sabbath	19

### Worship

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

### Office - NEW HOURS!

Mon-Fri 9am-2pm  
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  
Jim Nelson, Worship & Music Curator  
music@riverofhopehutchinson.org  
Pam Johnson, Office Administrator  
office@riverofhopehutchinson.org

Pam's (Office Administrator's) hours are: Mon-Wed-Fri 9am-2pm

Will you help cover a few hours in the office? Mondays noon - 2:00 ; Tuesdays 11:30 - 2:00 or Thurs 9:00 - 11:30 & 11:30 - 2