

Worship Outline

GATHERING

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

STORY

God Seeks Refuge with Mary
Mary Seeks Refuge With Elizabeth
Jesus Seeks Refuge With Us
The Shepherds Seek Refuge With Jesus

Sermon

FEAST

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

Blessing
Silent Night
Sending Song
Music to Send You Out

Merry Christmas!

River of HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH
We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

*And the Word
became flesh
and lived among
us, and we have
seen his glory,
the glory as of
a father's only
son, full of grace
and truth.
John 1:14*



STAR FOLLOWERS
BE PART OF THE STORY
ON CHRISTMAS EVE 2015

Festivities begin at 4pm. Worship begins at 5pm.

[Spoiler Alert] LOVE WINS

River of Hope's worship space is located in
the Hutchinson Event Center: 1005 Hwy S.



[Spoiler Alert] LOVE WINS

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.

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.



Dear Hopeful Ones,

It has been a dark fall which has spilled into a dark winter. Lots of devastating news. It is enough to make you want to curl up and go back to bed.

But following the newborn king, believing in this Jesus? Well, it knocks you out of bed. That's how grace feels sometimes - it buckles your knees so great is its impact on your life. The Christmas season is the great celebration of God thinking enough of us to take refuge in human skin, in the hard realities of the world. Jesus lives with us - within in - not above and separated. Jesus is hope in the flesh. Jesus is here and now.

Jesus takes refuge in this world that he was sent to love. This love takes refuge in each of us. Love wins, after all.

Looking for a way to act on your faith?



Give to The Compassion Collective: <http://thecompassioncollective.org>. 100% of proceeds go to help actual people involved in the refugee crisis.



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
of Minnesota

Or check out International Institute of Minnesota and their refugee resettlement program: <http://www.iimn.org/services/refugee-resettlement/>



Lutheran Social Service
for changing lives

OR Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota: <http://www.lssmn.org>

Love, Pastor Laura

Our purpose as a church:

We go out to transform lives through Jesus

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.**



Give a financial gift to River of Hope. Scan this code to make your gift.