

The Weekly River News
River of HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pentecost - May 20, 2018

Our purpose as a church (it's why we exist):
We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.



Our Guiding Principles: (how we live together + make decisions)

(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, WE ARE PART OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA). WE'RE PRETTY PLEASED ABOUT THIS.

River Conditions

Dear Hopeful People,

One of my goals during sabbatical has been to deepen my existing practice of reading scripture and praying. Neither of these daily practices are easy and sometimes I miss a day or two and then it feels even harder to begin again. Knowing I am part of a community that depends on reading scripture and praying is a huge accountability piece (and peace) for me.

One of my prayer practices has changed me deeply. I began meditating in January and have found it to be one of the most transformative things I've done. Well, God's done, really. Meditation is praying with your whole body and it ain't easy. Getting my brain to be quiet is sometimes the majority of my prayer experience. However, the longer I practice doing it, the better it gets. So I want to invite you into giving it a go through guided meditation. This might be a gentle way in for you, especially if you've never done it before or think meditation isn't for you.

The meditation is called Loving Kindness. And in it, you practice sending loving kindness to yourself and into the world. The person leading you through the meditation has you say: "May you be well. May you be happy. May you be peaceful. May you be loved." He asks you to first say it to yourself and then to someone you admire or respect, to someone you love, to someone you don't know, to someone with whom you struggle.

What this prayer has the power to do is change what you think about yourself and the world. It's dangerous, but all prayer is dangerous. Because God is actually present with us and in constant communication with us.

Will you join me in this practice? It will change you, one prayer at a time.

There is a link to the guided meditation in the latest E-news (River of Hope's email newsletter). Or you can email me or the office to have the link sent to you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - *Your prayers matter. Please include in your daily prayers.*

Bring GOD'S COMFORT and PEACE:

•for every place where there is war, we pray for God's peace •Puerto Rico

THANKSGIVING and PRAISE to Jesus Christ:

For consistent, faithful Laundry Love servants going to the laundromat month after month to meet Jesus •all staff at MSSB •all visitors worshipping at River of Hope •our journey as River of Hope •River Team Jordan as they lead us in worship in May •the miracle of seasons •for the teachers all the way from ECFE to High School who have helped raise Mara into adulthood •that my grandkids want to share their lives with me •for the loving kindness and care given to me and my family by this congregation during these hard months of chemo •for the beautiful weather •our great team at River of Hope that contributes to our great worship environment •for Pastor Laura to have a wonderful refreshing sabbatical •for students and teachers ending the school year •for Jennifer Hansen's faithful service on the Vision Table these past two years. Thank you for her gifts, contributions, and faithful leadership

Stir up FAITH and give your GUIDANCE, Holy Spirit:

•for all those who struggle with faith or the institution of church •for Bishop Jon Anderson & all synod staff •for Confirmation students & their mentors •for Eliza Johnson on her internship in Wabasha •for visitors to River of Hope & all people being stirred up by the Holy Spirit to be part of a faith community •help us to notice each miracle, stir in us the passion to care for the earth and world you created •in repairing my relationship with my sister •to find compassion and to give more than comfortable to those who are hungry and homeless •all in life transitions •to our world leaders that they may seek peace •for my mother who struggles with how she has mothered •for my husband who does not get to spend Mother's Day with his mother because she is already in heaven •of understanding and acceptance of differences in the world and right here at home •all graduating seniors as they desire for independence and also fear independence as they move onto the next stages of their lives •patience, strength and hope for a friend who is coping with shared custody of her son with his father •comfort for families grieving •strengths for individuals going through cancer treatment •healing from health issues •help shape, empower, and inspire Addie Plath, the newest member of the Vision Table, in her leadership and life of faith

God, help me humble myself to:

•not judge about what I only see on the surface •serve you •ask for help when needed •wait for you to show me your plans for me

Laundry Love Prayers:

•for a successful surgery •for my husband to regain full strength and healing in his leg and is pain free •difficult situations in my children's lives •guidance to a church home •our country and this world and that we all come together as God's children •for my back to improve •chronic pain •housing in Hutchinson •for my friend who took his life recently and his family •for health and to find a place to live soon •for my aunt who has lost many people in her life •for my kids to come home to me •for a stable job •hope for the hopeless •victims of domestic violence •families of special needs children •for my health to improve •for Clifford to get well soon •mental capability of doing things on my own •to get my own place •to drive again •for my one day of joy, health •pastors, community, my family, friends, God moments •the poor and those in need of shelter •my health •my family, Villegas, Mariscal, Edgar, Karol, Tony, Fernando and Frank's family •my sister Carmen, Nidia, Gordon & Isaac

HEALING FOR RELATIONSHIP, BODIES, MINDS, HEART AND SPIRITS:

Jan Schaefer; Nan Cray; Ragan Vilt; Sara Shorter; Sue Peters; Dave & Linda Pedersen; Pesta family; Alessandro-grandson of Allen Gislason; Dan - friend of Schofields; Ron Larson-Sara Nelson's father Amy Leister - Bo Young's sister; Kyle Merkins; Anita Weitzman; Darrell Schuetze - friend of Scott Gross-Sand; Linda Cox; Sophia Muir - Katie Weisenberger's niece; Nancy Bruhn - friend of Linda Cox; Robin Aanden - friend of Bob Klassen; Nyssa Johnson; Victims of trauma & military service members who are recovering from PTSD; Joyce - grandma of Krafts; Ben - son of Jan Hansch; Roger Stearns; brother-in-law - Rita Pettit; Sammy Mayland; Dennis - friend of Ron & Susan Johnson; Thomas & Rachel Brandt; Kirsty McKrachen - friend of Heather Goodrich; Connie - Bo Young's aunt; for aging parents & health challenges - keep the old & the young in your loving & healing arms; prayers of healing, faith & fight to those suffering from terminal illness; Karlo Schultz - Kristi Morris' dad; Dick Kosek - a friend to many at River of Hope; Ryan - son of friend - Renee Kotlarz; Jennifer Trettin - friend of Rachel Stearns; Jay Werner & JoAnn - friends of Tillmanns; Mavis Muckala - Jennifer Hansen's mom; Antonio, Nicole & Maggie - family & friends of Shorters; Holly - friend of Hausers; Ronda Matthias - friend of Remucals; Grant Scotting; newborn Luna, Nate, Mike Gabrielson, Gary & Julianne - cousin, friends, brother & sister-in-law of Ron & Susan Johnson; Laurie & Mike - friends of Lindbergs; Grandma Cookie & Carol Barrick - grandma & mom of Stacy Vilt; family & friends of Sue Peters - Flick family, Kelly Jo, Dad Richard, Carter & family, Andy and other friends; Mark, Mom & Liz - brother, mom & friend of Nan Cray; Jan Searle - friend of Kropps; Grandpa Norm & Tim - grandpa & uncle of Britt and Chad; for those battling eating disorders; friends and family of the Kempfers - CJ, Sue Gustafson, Danielle's grandpa George, Marissa, Roger, Kellen Summers, Nic, Liz; friends & family of Phyllis Lindstrand - brother in law Gary, Uncle Chuck S., daughter Nikki, son Jason, brother Philip, brother in law Ed; friends and family of Betty Brandt - husband Gene, Rob Vos, Velma Brandt, Kathleen, Grace, Matthew; Josh Benson - Shirley Olson's nephew; people who suffer with chronic pain; all who are fighting cancer

Invite

Beer & Hymns: "Last Call" for the regular season Tues. May 29, 6-8 pm, Main Street Sports Bar



55+ Diners: Tuesday, May 22nd at 5:30pm at Landy Lodge. Sign up sheet on the Connect Table. Everyone Welcome!

Sunday, June 3rd, Support the National Brain Tumor Society and show Sara Shorter some love by buying baked goods! Some of Dr. Shorter's friends are hosting this bake sale.

Connect

Financial Giving to River of Hope: 5/13/2018:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Worship attendance: | 61 |
| In-Worship Offering: | \$1075.00 |
| Laundry Love: | \$45.75 |
| Auto Deposits: | \$3297.50 |
| April average attendance: | 88 |

Check out River of Hope's 1st Quarter Report, available at the Connect Table.

Congratulations to our Seniors!

When you see these graduating seniors be sure to congratulate them: Anna Houseman, Emma Kraft, Olivia Kropp, Maddiee Mora, Mara Pollmann, Abby Riewer & Hanna Seifert.



We are looking for a Co-Leader for the McLeod County Fair Booth. Contact Brian Tillmann at 587-1007 or tillmann@hutchtel.net

Disciple

Ministerial Excellence Fund - Pr. Laura has received a grant for educational debt from the Ministerial Excellence Fund of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. River of Hope is invited to contribute to this fund that will be matched by the Lily Foundation that will go toward equipping and supporting pastors in our synod to lead flourishing and thriving congregations. Please make your checks payable to Southwestern Minnesota Synod and write MEF in the memo line.

Crow River Conference Women's Gatherings: +Synod Convention, Fri. & Sat. June 29 & 30, Bethlehem Lutheran, St. Cloud. See flier on Connect Table for both events.

Confirmation: Wed., May 23rd, 6-8pm

Table Updates [Tables do the work of furthering River of Hope's purpose. We meet around scripture first and then let that shape our work together. All table meetings are open for any River of Hope-er to attend. Would you like to serve? Just say so. There is a place for you at the table.]
Parish Personnel: Mon., June 11, 3pm

Financial Stewardship: TBD Sue Benson's home sbenson@hutchtel.net

Vision Table: TBD

River Table: Wed., May 30, 6pm El Loro

Food for Kidz Packaging Event: Individuals, families, groups are invited to come to an evening of packaging together meals for children and their families here locally and worldwide. Wed., May 23rd, 4:30-7:30 at Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Come when you can, leave when you need to! See Connect Table for more information.

Thank you, Jennifer Hansen, for her service on the Vision Table these past 2 years. Thank you for sharing your faith and life and for helping to lead River of Hope! **The Vision Table welcomes Addie Plath** as its newest member on the table. We're excited for you to help lead River of Hope!

We Go Out

Financial Offering In addition to your Simply Giving or putting money in the plate (thank you!) consider these other ways to give back during worship:

Watering can - collects quarters (or any other kind of money) for Laundry Love

Backpack - Chef Boyardee cups for Common Cup Backpack Giving To sign up or update your info, contact Sue Benson at 320-587-2907 or sbenson@hutchtel.net, or go online to riverofhopehutchinson.org & click "give". New paper forms are on the Connect Table.

Please consider using your bank account rather than a credit card when signing up. It saves us from having to pay monthly fees to use the credit card.



laundry love

Laundry Love is the perfect "We Go Out!" opportunity to put on your calendar the **3rd Tues. of every month.** The next time is Tuesday, June 19th. We're partnering with Vineyard United Methodist Church

to help people afford to do their laundry. Introvers, extrovers & quarters needed. Two people per shift, 9:00-noon; noon-3:30; 3:30-6:30. Find the SignUp Genius link in our Facebook group or contact Allen Gislason at 320-403-7004 or alleng747@hotmail.com.

In May, Laundry Love served 42 families, of which 5 families were new. \$665.00 was



spent. Thank you to all of you who serve & donate!

Jim Nelsons sing-a-long schedule:

+ Thurs., May 31, 10am Woodstone & 2:30pm Harmony River

Might you be able to assist the residents in getting to the place where we are singing, help them find the music in the songbooks or pass out rhythm instruments? Please call Jim at 320-552-9734 with any questions or just show up & help!

Staff

Laura Aase, Pastor

pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org

Jim Nelson, Worship & Music Curator

music@riverofhopehutchinson.org

Sara Wilke, Office Administrator

office@riverofhopehutchinson.org

Office Information

Hours:

M-F: 9am-Noon

16 Washington Avenue W, Suite 100

Hutchinson, MN 55350

320.587.4414 Mobile: 320.583.8005

riverofhopehutchinson.org



River Team Schedule

May - Jordan

River Guides: Rob & Jennifer Hauser

320-587-7072

robert.c.hauser@gmail.com

jennifer.g.hauser@gmail.com

June - Nile + Tigris

River Guides - Nile: Mike & Katie Weisenberger

320-234-7229

weisenberger@mchsi.com

River Guides - Tigris: Kris Hartman

320-296-5151

sippelhartman@gmail.com

Scott Gross-Sand

941-451-9413

sgrosssand@gmail.com

July - Shenandoah + Jordan

River Guides - Shenandoah: Chris & Lisa Kraft

320-234-7680 Lisa: 320-583-6784 Chris: 320-583-4434

clkraft123@hotmail.com

River Guide - Rob & Jennifer Hauser

320-587-7072

robert.c.hauser@gmail.com

jennifer.g.hauser@gmail.com

August - Amazon + ALL

River Guide: Ruth Hamlow

320-587-5045 or 320-223-5859

rhamlow@hutchtel.net

September-Nile

River Guides - Nile: Mike & Katie Weisenberger

320-234-7229

weisenberger@mchsi.com

May 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|-----|-----|
| 20 Worship 10:30 am High School Senior Recognition | 21 Staff Meeting noon | 22 55+ Diners Landy Lodge 5:30pm | 23 Confirmation 6pm | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Worship 10:30 am | 28 MEMORIAL DAY RIVER OF HOPE OFFICE CLOSED | 29 Staff Meeting 9am Beer & Hymns 6pm | 30 River Table 6pm | 31 Woodstone 10am Harmony River 2:30pm Sing-a-long | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Worship 10:30 am Sara Shorter leading worship | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Pastor Laura June Sabbatical, June 3rd-9th | | | | | | |
| 10 Worship 10:30 am Britt Nordquist preach- ing, Pastor Laura lead- ing worship | 11 Staff Meeting noon Parish Personnel 3pm | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |