

The Weekly River News  
*River of HOPE*

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
14th Sunday after Pentecost--August 26, 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.

Dear Hopeful People,

## **River Conditions**

Sabbatical time was just as I imagined it and nothing like what I imagined it would be. As I said in this space before I left, I believed this time to be God-timed, and indeed, that is what was revealed to me in spades. When what fills your time changes, so does everything else. I found myself praying for River of Hope and for specific people in new, freeing ways. I found scripture speaking to me in new ways. I rested. I read books for ministry and books for my imagination and books for my learning. Books! I took Facebook off of my phone and found that, yes indeed, I DO have time to read actual books. I took deep dives into some lectures and podcasts that had me scribbling notes in my Bible and in notebooks. I took naps. I took walks. I kayaked. I spent time with family. I ended this time with my pastoral leadership cohort on a 24 hour retreat where one of my colleagues remarked, "The Lord has blessed you with this time." Out of my prayer and scripture reading, out of the disruption of my regular schedule, out of the time to breathe in and out with my family came these realities:

- My call to ministry and to River of Hope remains steadfast not because of our great faithfulness to God but because of God's faithfulness to us.
- The world believes in the Gospel of scarcity: there is not enough time, money, food, or trust. The Gospel's reality is abundance: there is enough - you are enough.
- Forgiveness is a moving, breathing flow of life, rooted in our identity in Christ. Will we freely give others what has freely been given to us?
- So often, Christianity is lived as a transaction: "someone, somewhere, did something for you and you should be grateful." Instead, what if we lived it as "everything you've ever search for you've had the whole time!" It's the power of God's grace. We are re-planters of grace we receive. Will we pass it on?
- There are no spiritual dead ends for God.
- Upper Michigan is beautiful. Sheetrock is heavy. Music is good.

I am different upon returning home. River of Hope is different too. I am grateful for Jim Nelson and Sara Wilke for their faithful leadership while I was gone. I could not have been gone without their support and talent. Thank you also to those River of Hope-ers who faithfully preached and led worship. It's so important for the Good News to be shared by all of us. I continue to be prayerful and excited about what we will do together to share this amazing love of Jesus together.

In faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Laura

## **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 •people in California who have homes threatened by fires

### **THANKSGIVING and PRAISE to Jesus Christ:**

•For consistent, faithful Laundry Love servants going to the laundromat month after month to meet Jesus •all visitors worshipping at River of Hope •our journey as River of Hope •River Team Amazon as they lead us in worship in August •the abundant beauty of your creation •our great team at River of Hope that contributes to our great worship environment •giving a generous spirit to River of Hope •people who care and reach out to the homeless and those who are hurting

### **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 visitors to River of Hope & all people being stirred up by the Holy Spirit to be part of a faith community •for everyone who is in transition in their work life •for your spirit to give wisdom to parents •for better family communication •for Pastor Laura and her husband John as they commute back and forth from Fairmont to Hutchinson •for safe travels for those who are on vacations or traveling •all those who are feeling broken hearted •the homeless •for families struggling with generational differences and decisions •help those with mental health struggles. Help those who love them and give strength and discernment in finding their own balance •for our planet and all its people •surround Shakira with your love, guidance and comfort as she adjusts to her new life and school in Hawaii •kids and teachers heading back to school •courage and confidence to my sister as she starts a new job •prayers for those heading back to or just starting college and for parents and siblings to adjust to new normals at home. God's grace upon grace for all people in transition places. God is with you.

### **Other ways River of Hope can live into its purpose: We go out:**

•to offer a community of openness and inclusion and acceptance and God's love and our love •to serve •to help those in need--everywhere •to help the homeless •into the city parks again with cookies and water •to serve meals on wheels •to be advocates for immigrant children separated from their children •to prevent poverty and homelessness •provide fresh vegetables to those who can't get them •to go to the King's Hotel where transient people live •to be kind •to serve our community instead of expecting to be served by our church

### **Laundry Love Prayers:**

•uncle Brian who had back surgery •my friend Pam who's son committed suicide •my boyfriends dad who had a stroke and remains in the hospital •for this laundry love program •my grandma who is in the hospital with pneumonia •The VanWagner family •continuous health and happiness for my girls •my health issues •the trials of life •Taliah & Ameilyah to have good health and happiness •for Steven to keep him safe and for his health and well being •my mother who is in hospice •for the Christensen family and the passing of Donald •for my mother Jane •my son Mike who is going through a difficult time right now •on the upcoming birth of my son

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

Thor Skeie; Sara Pollmann; Andy Koenig; Nan Crary; Sara Shorter; Jan Schaefer; Pesta family; Dan - friend of Schofields; Amy Leister - Bo Young's sister; Kyle Merkins; Anita Weitzman; Sophia Muir - Katie Weisenberger's niece; Robin Aanden - friend of Bob Klassen; Nyssa Johnson; Victims of trauma & military service members who are recovering from PTSD; Joyce - grandma of Krafts; Grandma Jane - Heidi Caya's grandma; Ben - son of Jan Hansch; Roger Stearns; brother-in-law - Rita Pettit; Sammy Mayland; 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; 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 & Jack - friend of Hausers; Ronda Matthias - friend of Remucals; Grant Scotting; Nate, Dennis- cousin, friends 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, Andy and other friends; Mark, Mom & Liz - brother, mom & friend of Nan Crary; Grandpa Norm & Tim - grandpa & uncle of Britt and Chad; for those battling eating disorders; friends and family of the Kempferts - CJ, Sue Gustafson, Danielle's grandpa George, Marissa, Roger, Kellen Summers, Nic, Aggie, Liz; friends & family of Phyllis Lindstrand - brother in law Gary, daughter Nikki, son Jason, brother Philip, brother in law Ed, Jan & Janet; friends and family of Betty Brandt - husband Gene, Rob Vos, Uncle Chuck S, Velma Brandt, Kathleen, Grace, Matthew; Josh Benson - Shirley Olson's nephew; people who suffer with chronic pain; all who are fighting cancer

## Invite

**Blessing of the Bibles**, Sun. Sept. 23 during worship. 3 year olds-2nd grade will receive a Beginner Bible, 3rd-6th grade will receive the Action Bible & 7th grade and up will receive the Lutheran Study Bible.

**Beer & Hymns:** will resume, Tuesday, Sept 25th, 6-8pm, Main Street Sports Bar



## Disciple

**Confirmation starts soon!** Here are some dates to put on your calendar:  
**Confirmation kick off:** Wednesday, Sept 5th, 6-8pm, Hutchinson Event Center  
**Living Creed Prep:** Wed., Sept. 19, 7pm & Oct. 10th, 7-8pm, at downtown office lobby (16 Washington Ave)  
**Living Creed Prep:** Wed., Oct 31, 7-8pm, at downtown office lobby (16 Washington Ave)  
**Youth, Parents, Mentors Share Living Creeds:** Saturday, Nov 3, 9am at downtown office lobby (16 Washington Ave)  
**Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation):** Sunday, Nov. 4, 10:30am

**WELCA Fall Gathering:** Saturday, September 29, St. John's Lutheran Church, Annandale. Registration begins at 8am. Speaker our very own! Pastor Laura Aase! Registration Deadline, Sept., 19. \$10 to Nan Crary. See connect table for more information.

**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:** Monday, Sept 17, 3pm

**Financial Stewardship:** Tuesday, Sept 11 @ 6pm @ Sue Benson's home

**Vision Table:** Tuesday, August 28th, 6pm

**River Table:** Tuesday, August 28th @ 6:15

**Women of Hope** will have their first meeting of the fall on Wednesday, Sept., 5 @ 9:30am at Andy Koenig's home. For more information contact Andy Koenig 320-894-8549.

**Men's Bible Study**, Wednesday Sept. 5 @ 9am at Caribou Coffee in Cash Wise. For more information contact Dave Pedersen 763-807-0993.

**Steady Eddy - Sunday, September 23, noon-2pm** The leadership of River of Hope will meet at the first annual "Steady Eddy" of River of Hope's history. The leaders of River of Hope are all those actively serving on tables. The "Steady Eddy" gives us time to circle up and communicate vision for the future, to discover new direction, to eliminate redundancy, and to lead our church well into the future.

## We Go Out

**God's work.  
Our hands.**

 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, Sept. 16, God's Work Our hands.** Join River of Hope in serving our community! Folks will have a variety of projects to choose from: helping at the Habitat for Humanity work site, completing projects around town for the city of Hutchinson, and writing letters of thanks to those who serve us in the community and beyond. Contact Ruth Hamlow ([rhamlow@hutchtel.net](mailto:rhamlow@hutchtel.net)) or Bev Mueller and Keri Thoreson ([bkmail04@gmail.com](mailto:bkmail04@gmail.com)) with questions.



**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, September 18th. We're partnering with Vineyard United Methodist Church to help people afford to do their laundry. Introverts, extroverts & 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](mailto:alleng747@hotmail.com). In July, Laundry Love served 45 families, of which 11 families were new. Thank you to all of you who serve & donate!



**Jim Nelson's sing-a-long schedule:**

+Thurs., August 30, 10am @ Woodstone+

+Thurs., Sept 6, 10am @ 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!

## Connect

**Financial Giving to River of Hope:**  
8/19/2018:

Worship attendance:	70
In-Worship Offering:	\$515.00
Laundry Love:	\$90.00
Auto Deposits:	\$3685.00
July average attendance:	73

Check out River of Hope's 2nd Quarter Report, available at the Connect Table.

**Upcoming Bible Study** with Pastor Laura. We will be reading the book of Matthew, one chapter each week starting Sunday, October 14th at the Event Center, 8:45am

**River of Hope Members:** You are invited to join New Journey as they Drum by the River! Wednesday, August 29th, Riverside Park @ 6:30. Bring a bag dinner and eat at 6pm. See connect table for more information.

**A huge shout out to Brian Tillmann** for coordinating the fair booth volunteers! We appreciate your hard work. Thank you to all who spent time in the River of Hope booth & gave away root beer floats. It wouldn't happen without you!

## Staff

**Laura Aase, Pastor**

[pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org)

**Jim Nelson, Worship & Music Curator**

[music@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto:music@riverofhopehutchinson.org)

**Sara Wilke, Office Administrator**

[office@riverofhopehutchinson.org](mailto: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](http://riverofhopehutchinson.org)

*FYI: Pastor Laura is in Hutchinson Saturday evenings through Thursdays until about 4pm. She is in Fairmont Thrs PM - Saturday afternoon unless an emergency calls her to Hutchinson. Please call or email if you'd like to see her. Her time is flexible.*

## River Team Schedule

### August - Amazon + ALL

River Guide: Ruth Hamlow

320-587-5045 or 320-223-5859

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

### October-Tigris

River Guide-Kris Hartman

320-296-5151

[sippelhartman@gmail.com](mailto:sippelhartman@gmail.com)

Scott Gross-Sand

941-451-9413

[sgrosssand@gmail.com](mailto:sgrosssand@gmail.com)

### September-Nile

River Guides - Mike & Katie Weisenberger

320-234-7229

[weisenberger@mchsi.com](mailto:weisenberger@mchsi.com)

### November-Jordan

River Guides: Rob & Jennifer Hauser

320-587-7072

Rob:320-469-2800

## August/September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Worship 10:30 am Blessing of the Backpacks	27 Staff Meeting 9am	28 Vision Table 6pm River Table 6:15pm	29	30 Sing-a-long 10am Woodstone	31	1
2 Worship 10:30 am	3 Staff Meeting @ Noon	4	5 Confirmation 6pm Women of Hope 9:30am Mens Bible Study 9am	6 Sing-a-long 2:30pm Harmony River	7	8
9 Worship 10:30am Katie Weisenberger preaching	10	11 Financial Stewardship 6pm	12	13	14	15
Pastor Laura Sabbatical Week September 9th-15th						
16 Worship 10:30am Mike Weisenberger preaching God's Work Our Hands	17 Staff Meeting @ noon Parish Personnel 3pm	18 Laundry Love	19	20 Sing-a-long 2:30 Harmony River	21	22