

The Weekly River News
River of HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH
18th Sunday after Pentecost--September 23, 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

On my sabbatical week this month, I visited a church community in south Minneapolis called Fabric. (I encourage you to visit this community or other church communities when you are out of town on the weekend.) They, too, are a young ELCA congregation, 12 years old, meeting in a middle school with no plans to build or ever "look like a regular church." As I sat and talked with their pastor the next day, he talked about what has changed in his 12 years of being a pastor and seeking out those who have never been part of a church community before. He narrowed it down to value. "People used to ask if there was value in being part of a church. They aren't even asking the question anymore." It's a sobering view point but it's right on. There are so many other ways for people to participate in life-giving activities and communities that add value to their lives. Church is just one of countless options and much of the time, we don't communicate well what the value is in being part of our community. Think about it. What would you tell someone about why they would find value in being part of River of Hope? I believe our central issue is that we don't know how to tell the story - the one we hear in scripture - so that people see that it not only relates to but is relevant to their lives. Because we, ourselves, don't have the words either. It's the best news we have to share, yet we lack the words to share it. Kind of ironic, right? We are on the cusp of something new. New questions, new ideas, new roads to travel down. It seems like a natural part of our 8 year life together so far - to look back to see where we've come from and then to look ahead, realizing that nothing looks the same. The church is changing and has to change because the terrain around us is radically different than we anticipated. In a town filled with steeples, roughly 50% of Hutchinson isn't part of a church and that number is growing faster than any church in town. Nobody's looking for a committee to join or an annual meeting to attend - they want something that *means* something. They want to be part of something that has value. We do too, don't we?

River of Hope, we've got the best story to tell. God loves you because that is what God does! It just doesn't get any easier. You've got 2 assignments. **Be curious about scripture and read it.** Don't burden yourselves with guilt or shame about not knowing enough. Just read a verse or a section or a chapter with this question: "What does this say about God? What does this say about me? What does this say about my community/the world?" And then don't worry if you're not sure of the answers. The questions are the important part. **Pray.** Pray while you're driving and doing yard work or walking or at work. Ask God for guidance or patience. Say thanks and help and wow - 3 of the most prayed prayers there are. What will God do with our story next?

We're in this together. Let's see what God has in store for us,

In faith, hope, and love,

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 •for the family and friends of Mary Anderson as they mourn her death •for the family and friends of Pastor Stephanie Coltvvet-Erdmann as they mourn her death • those being affected by hurricane Florence •family & friends of Greg White as they mourn his passing

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 Nile as they lead us in worship in September •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 •for friendly co-workers •the blessings in my life •to River of Hope a church where I feel loved and welcomed

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 Confirmation students & their mentors •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 •all those who are feeling broken hearted •the homeless •for families struggling with generational differences and decisions •surround Shakira with your love, guidance and comfort as she adjusts to her life and school in Hawaii •kids and teachers heading back to school •Evidio as he seeks guardianship of Alex and brings her back to Minnesota •for families struggling with hardships •for Becky as she prepares to move back to MN •that good will conquer evil •provide clarity to my daughter as she seeks answers about her future •to our congregation that we may thrive and grow as we go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ

Hey you, GO:

•to those who are "done" •dance as if no one is watching, sing as if no one is listening and share as if we are family •out to transform lives

Laundry Love Prayers:

•my girlfriend Dorrie, who is very sick with cancer •my son Carter, to know love, have peace, knowledge & truth •for love and guidance •my daughter who has been really sick all her life •help and strength for Jenna & Cassie to stay sober •for Doreen who has three forms of cancer

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

Thor Skeie; Sara Pollmann; Andy Koenig; Nan Crary; Sara Shorter; Jan Schaefer; Pesta family; Rachel Templin, Tori Bailey, Norah Heille; 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; 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, niece Sofia & Ben - family & friends of Shorters; Holly & Jack - friend of Hausers; Grant Scotting; Nate, Dennis - cousin, friends of Ron & Susan Johnson; Laurie & Mike - friends of Lindbergs; 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 - Karen, 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

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



Confirmation dates to put on your calendar! 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

Connect

Financial Giving to River of Hope: 9/16/2018:

Worship attendance: 62
In-Worship Offering: \$57.00

Laundry Love: \$28.85

Auto Deposits: \$675.00

August average attendance: 71

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

Upcoming Bible Study with Pastor Laura.

This year, the book of Matthew is the Gospel we will read once Christmas rolls around. Each day of the week, read the same chapter of Matthew. Grab a notebook and write down your questions. Notice what changes in your daily reading. Bring your learnings, your observations, your questions to a small group at the Event Center. Reading starts with Matthew 1, October 14, with first small group discussion October 21, 8:45am - 9:45am

Pastor Laura read the book, "I'm still here".....by Austin Channing Brown in July and is wondering if anyone would be interested in reading this book and doing a 6-week study? Maybe starting in January. If you're interested, please email Pastor Laura @pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org

Disciple

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: TBA

Financial Stewardship: TBA

Vision Table: TBA

River Table: Monday, October 22, 6pm

Women of Hope Wednesday, October 3rd @ 9:30am at Andy Koenig's home. For more information contact Andy Koenig 320-587-9052

Men's Bible Study, Wednesday, October 3rd @ 9am at Caribou Coffee in Cash Wise. For more information contact Dave Pedersen 763-807-0993.

Faith Lutheran Church is offering a class "The Smart Stepfamily" This is a faith based 8 week series based on the book, The Smart Stepfamily by Ron Deal. Class will begin Thursday, October 4 @ 6:30pm @ Faith Lutheran and will run for 8 weeks (minus Thanksgiving). The cost is \$25 per individual or \$35 per couple. Cost includes books & workbooks. Pre-registration is requested by September 28. Questions can be directed to Wendy 587-2093 or office@faithlc.com

We Go Out



Common Cup announcements! 512 students benefited from the school supply drive!

Watch for information on upcoming fundraiser "Coming Together in Song" directed by Jim Nelson. November 18th.

Backpack program-we have been assigned 100% fruit juice boxes.

McLeod County Coat drive, donations of warm, gently used coats, boots, snow pants and warm mittens for children now being accepted until October 15. Drop off at the River of Hope office (9am-noon, M-Fri) or at Common Cup. Contact Andy Koenig with questions 587-9052.



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, October 16th. We're partnering with Vineyard United Methodist Church to help people afford to do their laundry. Introvers, 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 al-leng747@hotmail.com. In **September**, Laundry Love served 43 families, of which 6 families were new. Thank you to all of you who serve & donate!



Jim Nelson's sing-a-long schedule:

+ Thurs., Sept 27, 10am @ Woodstone

+Thurs., October 4, 10am @ Woodstone

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

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

September-Nile

River Guides - Mike & Katie Weisenberger

320-234-7229

weisenberger@mchsi.com

October-Tigris

River Guide-Kris Hartman

320-296-5151

sippelhartman@gmail.com

Scott Gross-Sand

941-451-9413

sgrosssand@gmail.com

November-Jordan

River Guides: Rob & Jennifer Hauser

320-587-7072

Rob:320-469-2800

Jennifer:320-469-2801

Robert.c.hauser@gmail.com

Jennifer.g.hauser@gmail.com

December-Team Shenandoah

River Guides: Chris & Lisa Kraft

320-234-7680

Chris:320-583-4434

Lisa: 320-583-6784

clkraft123@hotmail.com

September/October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 Worship 10:30 am Blessing of the Bibles Steady Eddy noon-2pm	24 Staff Meeting @ noon	25 Beer & Hymns 6pm	26	27 Sing-a-long 10am Woodstone	28	29 WELCA Fall Gathering
30 Worship 10:30 am	1 Staff Meeting @ noon	2	3 Confirmation 6pm Women of Hope 9:30am Men's Bible Study 9am	4 Sing-a-long 10am Woodstone	5	6
7 Worship 10:30am	8 Parish Personnel 3pm	9	10 Staff Meeting @ 9am 10th Grade confir- mation meeting 7pm	11 Sing-a-long 2:30pm Harmony River	12	13
14 Worship 10:30am	15	16 Laundry Love	17	18	19	20
Pastor Laura on Sabbatical October 14th-20th						