

River Table Meeting
Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 5pm – In Person

1. Highs/Lows/Opening Devotion Pastor Hans – 5mns
2. A reminder of the Principles and Group Norms – 3mn

God's purpose for River of Hope

We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles

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 work for God's justice.

Disciples serve with no strings attached.

Disciples invite and welcome through loving acceptance.

We meet you where you are.

3. **GROUP NORMS**

Show grace to each other.

Participate with honesty and respect.

Ask for clarification.

Assume the best intentions of others.

Offer own thoughts honestly and listen carefully to others.

4. Discussion/Approval of minutes from last month's River Table Meeting – 5 mns
5. Financial Report – 5 mns
6. Table Reports/Pastor Report – 10 mns
7. Continuing Business/New Business using IDS (Identify/Discuss/Solve) model from the following – 35 minutes
 - "Samaritans" documentary in September
 - Constitution Update
 - Still need a backup treasurer for Arlyn
 - Report from Ron about Synod Assembly
 - Anything from Tables/Pastor Report
 - River of Hope Goals for 2026: Increased Visibility. Increased Member and Targeted Group Participation
8. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, July 28th? at 5pm at the Event Center?
9. Closing – Lord's prayer – 2 mn

River Table Meeting Minutes 4/14/26

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 5pm in person

Present: Geoff, Jim, Ron, Pastor Hans, Arlyn

1. Highs/Lows and Opening Devotion – Jim
Ron was asked to be the note taker for this meeting.
2. Minutes from last month's River Table Meeting were discussed.
Motion to approve: Ron, Second: Geoff
3. Financial Report: Arlyn took us through work with the new financial software that has been working successfully.
4. Ron J and Jim S will participate in the Synod Assembly June 5-6. Agenda will include some constitutional changes. Other updates, River Table ok'd a temporary "Publicity Folding Table" which will meet on April 15th.

Parents Night out is Friday evening, the 17th 5 - 7:30. An additional update included more information on Mark Charles, Indigenous speaker, March 19, upcoming. He will be at New Journey for worship and River of Hope from noon to 3 pm.

Discussion on identifying protocols and mapping out duties of the Treasurer. Consideration of having a position to shadow Arlyn and learn the new system. Still looking for this fill-in person, Pastor to pursue more conversations. Arlyn's time and expertise is very much appreciated.

No questions from other table minutes.

5. Pastor's Report - Sr. High Youth Gathering was a spiritual and wonderfully pleasurable event!
6. Continuing concerns as to having members of the congregation volunteering for helping out doing the necessary jobs of the worship service. Ruth has worked hard and tirelessly to see that the worship services run smoothly and worshipfully.
7. Continuing Business - Enjoy and appreciate the Event Center!
9. Next meeting – Tuesday, May 12th at 5pm, live, not virtual at Event Center - Ron will zoom in Georgia.
Motion to adjourn: Jim 2nd: All Ayes!
10. Closing – Lord's prayer

We Go Out, April 13th, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Meeting at Caribou Coffee Cashwise 10:30-11:30am

In Attendance: Allen G, Leslie K, Jerry L, Phyllis L, Lisa T.

1. Devotion by Allen
2. Adult Education Allen: We discussed that maybe a Sunday Morning might be too rushed for the class, so we are wondering about Wednesdays 5-6pm Headwaters night then the group could possibly attend supper. We are thinking about coming up with Bible Questions. The goal is to learn how to have healthy discussions with those who have different opinions on bible topics/subjects. Along with this discussion Jerry made mention of a good book called "Disciples of White Jesus" that may correlate with these topics.
3. We went over the compiled list of what our congregation does "To Go Out" We decided to make a poster with all these ideas with sticky notes by the welcome table for all to see and take a note along with them to volunteer out into the community. (and adding some)
4. We tabled hospitality for Mark Charles Author "Unsettling Truths" Speaking in June. We are unsure what ROH responsibility is for lunch, etc.
5. Portia talked to our group about helping with the Bood Mobile meals and snacks for next year in April of 2027. 25 meals for the workers, 10 dozen large cookies. We decided it was a good idea to help.
6. We decided that meeting once a month was not necessary. We will wait for Kay to decide on the next meeting. Then further discussion at that time.

Our meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes submitted by Lisa T

We Go Out

Minutes for June 15, 2026

We Go Out met at the Kiel residence for the summer meeting. In attendance were Jerry L, Allen G, Phyllis L, Kay H, and Leslie K. Lisa T was unable to attend. Grandma duty called.

We began our discussion with a devotion followed by sharing our highs and lows.

Discussion points:

Adult forum:

- Allen talked about the pros and cons of hosting a Sunday adult forum. More thought will take place before a decision is made.

Freezer Foods:

- The idea of having a few casseroles available in our freezer was presented to the We Go Out table. The idea behind this was that we would have easy access to a meal if there were accidents, family crisis, etc. We agreed this is a good idea. After further discussion, we decided to use this opportunity to include folks in our surrounding community, perhaps a neighbor, coworker, friend. Our table felt this could be a great way to fulfil our purpose, to go out and transform lives. We will present this to our church family soon, ask for volunteers to be on a "call list" to ensure we always have a couple of meals ready to go. Jerry and Kay volunteered to make the first casserole or hot dish for our freezer.

Frequency of meetings:

- After discussion, it was decided this table will meet 4 times a year, 1 for each quarter. However, if there is a need, we will schedule a meeting.

Tabled items:

- "All Tables Meeting" report from Lisa
- Yard Signs

Next meeting:

September 14, 11:00 Location to be determined.

Our meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer and a delicious meal prepared by Jay and Leslie.

FW: Fellowship Folding Table

From Jim Nelson <Jim@riverofhopehutchinson.org>

Date Wed 7/1/2026 11:10 AM

To Lisa Tschimperle <lisa@riverofhopehutchinson.org>

These are Minutes (sort of) from June 16

From: Angie Elton <ajperrea@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 11:02 AM

To: Jim Nelson <Jim@riverofhopehutchinson.org>

Cc: Louis Bedard <jensk83@hotmail.com>; suephutch@gmail.com; Kellie Wendland <kjwendland13@gmail.com>; Emily Heilman <emily@riverofhopehutchinson.org>; Hans Peterson <pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org>; Jim Schaefer <jimbo101948@hotmail.com>

Subject: Fellowship Folding Table

Hello everyone,

Louis, Jim and I met on Friday. The agenda we discussed is attached. Big take away was our swimming event. We settled on a July 12th date, however, when I called, they told me that was already reserved for a free community swim night (the social medias say differently). I ended up booking for Saturday, July 11th from 7:30-9:00. We can ultimately call and pick a different date but I knew the Bedards and myself were gone the 19th. Please let me know if I should change this or if someone else wants to call and find out more with the 12th.

On July 20th, we are going to do another drive thru root beer float gathering at the Bedards. This will be from 6:00-7:30. We had to cancel games last week, but we still had a good time with floats, a 90s youth group play list and bubbles. Hence why we decided to try it again! Let's encourage many to come!

We need to vote on the band name for Music and Mingle. It's is down to The Tributaries or Streams of Mercy! Instead of printing lyrics for songs, we are going to bring a projector. Also, thinking of not providing alcohol but people can bring their own if they would like. We will provide snacks, lemonade, water and things that can last through the three times we do the event. Music and Mingle will need to be met on to make some more decisions and lock down what we are doing for sure.

Other things we pondered:

- We should be in the parade next year and have a boat that is called the S.S. Fellowship. We could hand out root beer barrels.
- Allen may be getting a popcorn machine donated. We could give out popcorn at our drive thru and use it for music and mingle. This could also lead to an outdoor movie at some point.
- Yard signs saying "All are welcome... there is no fine print." We discussed that many churches say all our welcome but there are stipulations and fine print. With River of Hope, it truly is all.
- Next June, do we make a presence at the Pride Picnic as it is too late for this year's.
- Our publicity folding table has evolved into a fellowship group. We are planning fellowship opportunities that also invite others to be part of. Fellowship seems like a boring name, so if you have an idea, please share!

That is all! We will need to meet again but we haven't planned a date.

-Angie

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Pastor's Report June 2026

Synod Assembly

I am grateful to Ron Johnson for his attendance at this recent event at Gustavus in St. Peter. It was good to gather with people from over 200 ELCA churches in Southwest Minnesota for worship, Bible study, ministry, milestones of pastors and deacons, and stories about what's happening around the geographical synod. Three motions were approved: to pass the 2027 budget, to approve the 2027 Synod compensation guidelines for rostered leaders, and to approve a \$240,000 loan for the purpose of renovating the Synod office building.

Author Event

On Sunday, June 28 Mark Charles spoke about his book "Unsettling Truths" to 80 people who gathered at the Event Center. A simple lunch featured ingredients indigenous to the Americas: a ground bison, mushroom, wild rice stew, and a "Three Sisters" soup. His presentation was challenging for everyone, no matter one's political perspective. In addition to making us aware of the far-reaching, current day effects of the Doctrine of Discovery, he challenged us to consider passages of scripture that depict God as violent. As a modern-day prophet he critiqued the complicity of the church in current day injustices and repeated that "God is love and love is not violent."

Publicity "folding" (as in temporary) Table

I'm so grateful for the energy and time that this group of people have been dedicating to making River of Hope more visible in the community. Thanks to Angie Elton, Sue Peters, Louis Bedard, Jim Nelson, Kellie Wendland, and Emily Heilman for brainstorming ideas and entry points to connecting people in the community with River of Hope. If you did not get a list of those outreach activities when you were at worship, please stop by the office and pick one up. Research shows that between 70 to 85 people first attend church because of a personal invitation from a friend, neighbor, or relative.

Screening of the Documentary "Samaritans"

Pastor Sandy Damhof, and other members from New Journey United Church of Christ, are organizing a Minnesota tour for the screening of a documentary titled "Samaritans". They asked if River of Hope would be interested in co-sponsoring the event which will be free and open to the public. The tentative date is Monday, September 28. Screenings are already scheduled that weekend in St. Cloud and Duluth.

Continuing ed in July

From July 20 to 22 I will attend a conference on Worship, Theology and the Arts at St. Olaf College. I will help lead worship in exchange for my conference fee being waved. My understanding is that worship each day will be livestreamed. On Monday, Ginny and Hilde Evenson will also help lead with opening worship at 1pm. Leading up to the conference I will be in Alaska. Jim Nelson's brother Josh will preach and preside on Sunday, July 19.

Larry Olson to perform locally July 18

A nearby ELCA church, Stockholm Lutheran, in rural Cokato, is hosting a parking lot party as they celebrate their 160th year reunion. My partner Larry Olson and his spouse Karol will be performing on Saturday, July 18 from 3-4:30pm followed by Airborne Attraction starting at 5:45pm. The latter is the band that Charlie Bortnem, Synod youth band fiddle player and his brother coordinate. There will be food available and games as well.