

River Table Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 1, 2026, 5pm – In Person at the Event Center

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
 - Brief presentation by Pastor Linda Pedersen explaining Constitution updates
 - Transition team update
 - Office space challenges/benefits
 - Anything from Tables/Pastor Report
 - River of Hope Goals for 2026: Increased Visibility. Increased Member and Targeted Group Participation
8. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, Oct 6 at 5pm at the Event Center
9. Closing – Lord's prayer – 2 mn

River Table Minutes

1. Everyone Shared high and lows
 2. 2. And 3. Jim went through
 3. “ “
 4. Sarah moved approve and Geoff Second
 5. Arlen was unavailable for financial report
 6. Han's went through the pastor report
- 2nd piano may be able to stay
 - Discussion on “samaritan” about what action we could take as a congregation. There is a website for donations of supplies and other donations.
 - Not on report, almost September, new River Table members. Next president and vice president. Geoff would be interested to be president and Ron could be vice president and note taker.
 - Perish Table minutes discussion. Completed job reviews.
 - Faith Formation minutes discussion. Discussion about youth volunteering options.
 - Han's circled back to paid leave. Are pastors exempt from participating in paid leave. Further research needed.
 - Jim talked about the Folding Table. Sargent Urlingson meeting, fire evacuation plans. Fire or active shooter. Police and fire response time is about three minutes. Better to shelter in place. Lots of concern from the river table group about how they were combined on how we should respond. Fire discussion how businesses usually handle fire and fire drills. Kay found a website with templates for faith based organizations related to the topic.
7. First three continued business are done. The pool party was successful. 40-50 people attended with only 10 of which were from the River of Hope congregation. Sarah was curious about music/social gathering. The question of if we are advertising was asked.

September 1st tentative next meeting 5-6pm

Ended with Lords Prayer

Pastor's Report September 2026

I say goodbye on September 20

It is, and will continue to be, hard to say goodbye. River of Hope is a wonderful community. Thank you for welcoming me into your midst to partner in ministry. My last Sunday will be September 20. For any interested in joining a pick-up choir come practice before worship at 9:45am. There will be root beer floats to follow.

Interim Pastor

The Vision and River table met with Pastor Heather Culuris from the SW MN Synod on Wednesday, August 26 to discuss transition plans. The Synod will be working closely with this group to help with the transition. The leadership team will keep the congregation informed about this process.

Supply Preaching set for October

Before an interim pastor arrives, it is typically the responsibility of the president to set up supply preaching. Jim Nelson will assist Jim Schaefer with this scheduling since he will be in direct contact with each preacher to plan the worship services. Supply preaching is covered through the end of October:

Sept 27 – Pastor Linda Pedersen

Oct 4 – Pastor Josh Nelson

Oct 11 – Pastor Josh Nelson

Oct 18 – Pastor or “Mother” Kerri Meyer (I love how the Episcopal church uses this title)

Oct 25 – Pastor Linda Pedersen (confirmation Sunday)

Confirmation

Pastor Linda will be assisting with the older students who will be confirmed on October 25. Both Headwaters and the other Confirmation students will learn about the Fruits of the Spirit this year. Until an interim pastor arrives Angie Elton has volunteered to lead and oversee the confirmation program. All the meals are in place for Headwaters but we could ALWAYS use help from volunteers who are not automatically signed up by being on a Table.

Lease for 2027

In light of my new call in Bloomington, I reached out but have not heard back from Lynn Neuman to see if she wants to go over the details of the lease for 2027. Jeannette Krommenhoek, who is familiar with the details from the past couple of years, has agreed to accompany Jim Schaefer to meet with along with Lynn.

Screening of the Documentary “Samaritans” Monday, Sept 28

The screening of “Samaritans” at the Event Center is set for Monday, September 28. 5:30pm free pizza. 6pm Film Screening with Q & A to follow. This is co-sponsored with New Journey and free and open to the public.

Personal Computer

The first two years at River of Hope I used my own personal computer. Three years ago, ROH purchased one which I have used for music scripting. Would it be possible to purchase to take it with me? It is a 2023 14-inch MacBook Pro with a M3 chip and 16 GB of Ram.

Gathering Table Minutes

August 3, 2026,

9:30AM

Members Present: Portia Brandsoy, Kim DeBruckere, Linda Cox, Roxanne Stensvad, Rachel Stearns Gwenn Smeby, and Lisa Tschimperle. Absent: Deb Kroger, Jan Schaefer, Diane Lietzau and Pastor Hans

Old Business:

1. Potluck-August 23 at the Park.
2. Items needed: paper plates, small/short water cups, plasticware, napkins, water cooler, clorax wipes, pail and rag, power cords, serving utensils
 - a. Portia will check on napkins and water cups
 - b. Roxanne will bring power cords
 - c. Lisa will bring water cooler
 - d. Gwenn has paper plates, plasticware, serving gloves, and clorax wipes
3. Set up time is 9:30AM
4. People to set-up, help watch over the serving tables and clean-up are Rachel, Portia, Kim, Roxanne, Gwenn, Lisa. Hopefully we can recruit a few strong men to help move tables before and after the potluck.

New Business:

1. Headwaters schedule is attached.
2. Gathering Table will serve on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.
 - a. Serving sloppy joes, chips, pickles, fruit, veggies and dessert
 - b. Portia will get a Thrivent card for the meat, and buns
 - c. Be at the church at 5:30 for set-up
 - d. Rachel – chips
 - e. Portia – vegan joe's
 - f. Gwenn-sloppy joes
 - g. Linda-pickles
 - h. Kim and Roxanne – dessert
 - i. Lisa-veggies
 - j. Still in need of fruit (clementines) and one (1) more dessert
 - k. Workers: Rachel, Portia, Kim, Roxanne, Linda, Gwenn
3. Rachel will make an announcement during Purpose Sightings for people willing to donate hamburger that can be frozen for future Headwaters meals, donation of vegetables from ROH family gardens, helpers for serving and clean-up.
4. If anyone purchases items for the kitchen/Gathering Table use such as; coffee, creamers, cups, napkins, etc. Please let Gwenn know of the amount you spent even if you get reimbursed from the church as Arlyn would like to know what we as a Table have spent in a year. This is due to him late October.

Submitted: Gwenn Smeby

August 2026 Report on the progress of Circle of Welcome-Hutchinson team:

The Circle of Welcome-Hutchinson team (Angie, Louis, Portia, Dale, Jerry, Hans, Heidi, Beth, Sara P. and Allen) have been supporting an immigrant family from Honduras and El Salvador (parents and 4 children) since last November. Hans received the referral from a faith-based non-profit in Willmar who had been helping them previously. As of August 22nd, we have spent a total of \$13,261.24, which was donated specifically for this purpose. There is a full accounting of every bill paid in a google sheet, which Arlyn has access to. For the past 10 months, the generosity of River of Hope has paid for the rent for the land and payment on their trailer, utilities, and phone bills. We have helped the dad obtain a driver's license, which included helping him pass the written test (which took many tries and CoW folks driving him to a location where he could take the test in Spanish) and finally passing the driving test in July. We have also paid for 12 months of liability car insurance. We have also helped with car repairs, fuel, trailer maintenance, and the securing of a washing machine. The team has helped them navigate various systems in the school and community to help them obtain access to food, clothing, school backpacks, and other supports. We've also applied for and donated Thrivent cards for groceries, cleaning supplies, diapers, toiletries, and Christmas gifts. Finally, this past summer, the parents worked at Good Courage Farm to gain experience and as a way for them to contribute labor in exchange for the financial support.

At our meeting together last Sunday, we confirmed that our financial support will be ending. We knew this would happen at the end of August, and we had many conversations previously with the family to make them aware of this transition. Individuals may continue to support them as they are able, but we decided to end our "formal" Circle of Welcome-Hutchinson team.

River of Hope Lutheran Church							
All Funds: Fiscal Year 2026 Revenue/Expenses for Accounts with Activity							
Account	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	Jul '26
Revenues							
Contribution Revenues							
Offering Revenues	5,945.05	6665	5269	6275	3217	5519	5615
River of Hope Givers							
Auto-Deposit	10,750.88	18,003.33	14,690.13	14,470.18	14,021.38	14,438.94	15,003.02
Charitable Giving Programs	1600	18070	9325	9,560.90	1900	2125	1925
Erins Kids Memorial Revenue	0	2,178.81	347	711	292	300	115.41
Headwaters Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Laundry Love Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	59	0
Memorials & Unexpected Gifts	0	0	100	50	58.72	0	670
Thrivent Choice Dollars & Action Teams	33	81	36	140	232	25	0
Watering Can Special Revenue	206	185	325	392	203.43	337.55	444
Youth Fundraisers	0	0	65	1210	0	1,293.22	0
Subtotal for River of Hope Givers	12,589.88	38,518.14	24,888.13	26,534.08	16,707.53	18,578.71	18,257.43
Subtotal for Contribution Revenues	18,534.93	45,183.14	30,157.13	32,809.08	19,924.53	24,097.71	23,872.43
Miscellaneous Revenues							
Camps & Events	525	1400	65	-1,946.16	110	70	290
Total for Revenues	19,059.93	46,583.14	30,222.13	30,862.92	20,034.53	24,167.71	24,162.43
Expenditures							
Operating Expenses							
Discipleship (Grow)							
Book Groups & Bible Studies	0	0	22.64	0	0	0	0
Camp Registration	0	0	0	0	0	325	0
Camp Travel	0	0	0	0	0	84.86	1,016.57
Confirmation/Youth Ministry	0	13.49	0	0	0	75.60	0
Headwaters	0	8.56	39.10	4.67	31.34	0	17.98
Learning/Training Events	21.58	147.70	0	0	0	0	600
Synod Assembly & Theological Conferences	0	0	0	506	265	0	0
Youth (Pray Ground Supplies)	0	0	0	0	43.15	0	0
Subtotal for Discipleship (Grow)	21.58	169.75	61.74	510.67	339.49	485.46	1,634.55
Giving Money Away							
Common Cup	350	350	350	350	350	350	350

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Imigrant Support	3,176.72	1,362.46	619.94	2,277.58	2,434.48	1,030.83	902.61
Laundry Love	350	350	350	350	350	350	409
Other Local Charities	225.18	315	0	0	0	558.43	337.55
Southwestern Minnesota Synod	2,790.32	2,869.55	4,444.31	0	5,610.56	0	4,233.69
Subtotal for Giving Money Away	6,892.22	5,247.01	5,764.25	2,977.58	8,745.04	2,289.26	6,232.85
Hospitality (Connect)	0	0	130.46	19.95	0	0	0
Special Occasion cakes/treats/flowers	0	23	0	0	11.96	70	0
Office (Outpost for Ministry)							
Auto-Deposit Fees	108.76	109.01	103.57	105.63	110.52	103.82	105.54
Copies & Contract	49.67	49.67	120.29	0	99.34	224.77	49.67
Internet/Phone	183.08	182.69	182.69	182.61	182.83	182.61	183.12
Membership Directory	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99
Paper	79.98	0	0	0	0	69.99	0
Software	242.83	153.44	114.66	198.60	50.81	170.80	50.81
Supplies & Postage	306.67	0	15.60	68.36	120.77	15.60	0
Subtotal for Office (Outpost for Ministry)	980.98	504.80	546.80	565.19	574.26	777.58	399.13
Reaching Out (Invite)	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Advertising	0	0	0	0	629	0	0
Beer & Hymns- Music Events	1,095.27	63.45	0	0	0	0	0
Logo Product	126.26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out Reach/ Eating Out	9.70	12.42	5.61	78.65	42.95	0	0
Pastor Discretionary Expense	0	0	0	50	20	0	0
Subtotal for Reaching Out (Invite)	1,235.23	79.87	5.61	128.65	691.95	0	0
Staff	11,803.67	12,692.96	12,291.42	9,630.01	9,760.20	9,635.61	9,670.90
Background Checks	0	3	175	0	31	14	0
Headwaters	310	310	310	310	310	310	0
Insurance- Liability & Workers Comp	2,477.65	0	-18	0	0	0	0
Music & Worship Curator							
Guest Musician	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pastor							
Guest Pastor	235	150	0	300	0	300	426
Pastor Mileage	249.20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pastor Phone	207.57	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portico Benefit	3,484.87	3,484.87	3,484.87	3,609.55	3,609.55	3,609.55	3,609.55
Subtotal for Pastor	4,176.64	3,634.87	3,484.87	3,909.55	3,609.55	3,909.55	4,035.55
Payroll Services	115.50	115.50	115.50	115.50	115.50	115.50	115.50

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Payroll Tax Expense	1,748.59	1,854.28	1,719.69	1,740.92	1,770.39	1,747.67	2,089.90
Subtotal for Staff	20,632.05	18,610.61	18,078.48	15,705.98	15,596.64	15,732.33	15,911.85
Worship (Discipleship Practice)							
Communion Supplies	17.96	0	0	40.45	14.48	14.48	0
Event Center	5500	2750	2750	2750	2750	2750	2750
Milestones Celebrated in Worship							
Easter/Palm Sunday/Holy Week	0	0	24.30	143.56	0	0	0
Graduation	0	0	0	0	50	0	0
Subtotal for Milestones Celebrated in Worship	0	0	24.30	143.56	50	0	0
Music Licenses	0	0	0	212	312.09	0	0
Narrative Lectionary Resources	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Off Site Event Rental (park etc)	0	0	0	0	0	525	0
Visual/Worship Arts	0	0	449	0	45	0	45
Worship Supplies	0	62.29	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal for Worship (Discipleship Practice)	5,517.96	2,812.29	3,223.30	3,146.01	3,181.57	3,289.48	2795
Subtotal for Operating Expenses	35,280.02	27,447.33	27,810.64	23,054.03	29,140.91	22,644.11	26,973.38
Total for Expenditures	35,280.02	27,447.33	27,810.64	23,054.03	29,140.91	22,644.11	26,973.38
Other Revenues							
Interest Income							
Bank Interest							
Ameriprise Interest/Dividends	0	531.88	499.66	551.07	548.17	536.50	531.80
Checking Interest	13.63	11.98	15.73	16.03	15.10	30.98	14.79
Savings Interest	0	0	0	15.05	0	0	0
Subtotal for Bank Interest	13.63	543.86	515.39	582.15	563.27	567.48	546.29
Subtotal for Interest Income	13.63	543.86	515.39	582.15	563.27	567.48	546.29
Total for Other Revenues	13.63	543.86	515.39	582.15	563.27	567.48	546.29
Other Expenditures							
Other Misc Expenses							
Credit Card Charges	41.14	1,485.64	74.23	59.68	59.47	68.09	74.15
Total for Other Expenditures	41.14	1,485.64	74.23	59.68	59.47	68.09	74.15

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Total for Other Revenues	13.63	543.86	515.39	582.15	563.27	567.48	546.29
Total for Other Expenditures	41.14	1,485.84	74.23	59.68	59.47	68.09	74.15
Revenue minus expenses	-16,247.60	18,194.03	2,852.65	8,331.36	-8,602.58	2,022.99	-2,338.81
End of Month	December 20	January	February	March	April	May	June
Checking	\$ 78,005.18	\$ 73,790.84	\$ 83,918.47	\$ 85,254.23	\$ 93,723.68	\$ 84,694.16	\$ 84,892.20
Checking Interest	\$ 13.69	\$ 13.63	\$ 11.98	\$ 15.73	\$ 16.03	\$ 15.10	\$ 15.76
Savings	\$ 30,513.69	\$ 30,513.69	\$ 30,513.69	\$ 30,528.74	\$ 30,528.74	\$ 30,528.74	\$ 30,543.96
Savings Interest	\$ 20.85			\$ 15.05			\$ 15.22
Ameriprise	\$ 180,632.59	\$ 181,164.47	\$ 181,664.13	\$ 182,215.20	\$ 182,723.80	\$ 183,271.97	\$ 183,808.47
Ameriprise Interest	\$ 572.60	\$ 531.88	\$ 499.66	\$ 551.07	\$ 508.60	\$ 548.17	\$ 536.50
Total Cash Available	\$ 289,151.46	\$ 285,469.00	\$ 296,096.29	\$ 297,998.17	\$ 306,976.22	\$ 298,494.87	\$ 299,244.63