

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

The Gift of Travel



Pastor Eric Luedtke

As you may know, I recently returned from a family trip to Germany and Austria. It was a privilege and a gift to be able to travel for two weeks with my family (parents, my brother and his family, as well as my own). I do not use the words *privilege* or *gift* lightly in this context. I recognize there are many

people for whom such travel is simply not possible for one reason or another.

Being granted paid-time-off from work is a privilege I do not take for granted. Despite the many studies that demonstrate the value of employees being granted paid time off from work, many employees in our nation are given precious few days to be away from work without it impacting their pay. For many this limits what they are able to do with that time and often the few days workers are given are used to care for children (or parents) or attend medical and other appointments. I give thanks to House of Prayer and the leadership of this congregation for agreeing to include paid time off in the benefits that I am afforded as your pastor.

I also recognize this trip was a *gift* because I was fortunate to travel with my extended family and, through the generosity of my parents, have many of the costs of the trip paid for. Without this gift it would not have been possible for our family of four to spend two weeks in Germany and Austria. Having time together with family to deepen our bonds and create memories (admittedly some of those memories we could have foregone, like our luggage not traveling with us for 10 days, but so be it) is also a gift to treasure. I can already hear “do you remember when ...” and the laughter that will ensue.

Having had the privilege and gift of travel throughout my life, I recognize the richness of

such experiences in shaping my worldview and my understanding of how my faith intersects with a world stage. On this particular trip we had the opportunity to see some of the historical places where Martin Luther lived and studied and published thoughts that ignited the Protestant Reformation. We had the opportunity to be blessed with music that transcended language and spoke to my soul in ways words alone could not. We visited cathedrals built with the intention to inspire faith in followers of Jesus. We saw the grandeur of mountains, rivers, and fields that were reminders of God’s provision through the daily needs of life in lands far and near.

I know that many of you have also had opportunities to travel throughout the United States and around the world. I hope that those travels have provided you opportunity to reflect on ways you have been enriched and challenged through those experiences. I hope you have created memories with family and friends in those times that you look back on with joy and appreciation.

I wonder if travel is something that people of House of Prayer might consider engaging in together. Recognizing ways we can be drawn together in community as we experience places, foods, and cultures together, is there a place that is on your heart (or your bucket list) that you think, “a trip to this place or event could inform or deepen my faith?” It doesn’t have to be a multi-week pilgrimage to some far-off land (though it could be) it might be a day trip nearby or an evening outing to a concert or festival. Maybe you’ve wanted to spend a weekend at Luther Park or hike and camp in God’s creation together. Is there a mission that is on your heart that requires leaving the familiarity of your home to accomplish and would be enriched in doing it with the partnership of others from House of Prayer?

If the thought of encountering experiences with others at House of Prayer intrigues or excites you, let me know. We can plan together for how to make such events happen.

Leadership Ministry Team Update



Brent King
HOP President

Roller Coaster

OK, one of these articles will be my last one, so I've been trying to figure out what to "finish" on. Over the past 4+ years I have used historical/cultural/popular references to make a point. Song lyrics, movie dialogue, and political quotes have played a role in sharing messages for your consideration.

So as August 2023 rolls in, I would like to quote an actress named Helen Shaw (1897-1997). Helen began acting when she was 82 years old and acted in only eight movies. You may recognize Helen from roles she played in *Twilight Zone, the Movie* (1983) and *Parenthood* (1989). She also made a big splash with her 1989 appearance on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. A nerdy trivia tidbit: Helen was visiting Egypt in February 1923 and was present when King Tut's tomb was opened by the party led by archaeologist Howard Carter.

It is a monologue that Helen made in *Parenthood* that I offer this month. Helen played Steve Martin's grandmother in this movie, so her character brought a lifetime of wisdom to the following words (responding to Steve Martin's character complaining about his complicated life):

"You know, when I was 19, Grandpa took me on a roller coaster. Up, down, up, down. Oh, what a ride! I always wanted to go again. You know, it was just so interesting to me that a ride could make me so frightened, so scared, so sick, so excited, and so thrilled all together! Some didn't like it. They went on the merry-go-round. That just goes around. Nothing. I like the roller coaster. You get more out of it."

What does this have to do with anything, you ask? I think it's about acceptance, especially the things in life that we can't control. If life has taught me anything, that in order to have the high points in life, I need to accept that there will also be low points. I believe that perspective helps achieve and maintain balance.

I submit that the House of Prayer family can take something away from Helen's words. HOP has weathered the highs and lows that any individual or gathering of people could expect to experience in 70 years of existence. We have the means, talent, and ability to move into our shared future, and I know that this church is in good hands.

Please make sure your lap bar is in place and enjoy the ride!



Collaboration Worship Veterans Park Sunday, August 20th, 10am

Join worshippers from Tapestry, Woodlake, Oak Grove, and House of Prayer as we come together with neighbors and guests from our community in Veterans Park for worship on Sunday, August 20. Musicians from all of the Richfield area Lutheran churches will join together to lead us in worship.

Bring a blanket or a chair and come prepared to share the Good News with all who gather. Please contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612-866-8471, ext. 2 if you have any questions.

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

It is summer and our schedules can change during the warm Minnesota months. Help keep our cash flows flowing. Consider giving on-line. Financially, House of Prayer is in a good space.

Including all 2023 cash flows, net operating deficit and net dedicated surplus, HOP ended the Fiscal Year on June 30, 2023 with a net surplus of \$30.8 K. See reports for the details of the Operating and Dedicated Funds. Total annual operating revenue of \$618 K came in 3% below budget. Offerings were \$406 K, or 6% below budget. Compared to prior fiscal year, offerings were down 4%, and total revenue down 2%. Total operating expenses for the fiscal year were \$621K, or 10% below budget. Compared to prior year, total operating expenses were down about \$27 K.

Savings were due to decisions to delay adding an additional visitation pastor, larger building repairs, and wifi hotspots. Areas with higher expenses included utilities, insurance. Dedicated funds used included a significant electrical panel replacement, a new church awning, J Kietzer anniversary celebration exp, HOP grant pay and a variety of small expenditures. The net annual increase in dedicated funds of \$33 K is from a surplus in Operating Reserves.

I have been an accountant for over 40 years but this is the first time I have been a church treasurer. With Patti's help I have learned much over the last few weeks. Thanks Patti!

Sara Barnaby

P.S. I mainly go to 11:00 church but I visit coffee often. Do not hesitate to come talk to me!

Dedicated Fund Activity as of June 2023

Dedicated Funds Received	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Evangelism	0	0
Discipleship	0	50
Worship	210	16,000
Facilities	1,185	19,584
Fall Festival	0	2,745
Foundation	0	2,075
Youth and Family	125	3,233
Preschool	741	12,335
Total Dedicated Funds Received	3,232	121,480
Dedicated Funds Spent		
Evangelism	0	251
Discipleship	0	50
Facilities	0	27,698
Fall Festival	0	439
Foundation	0	2,075
Worship	0	11,612
Youth and Family	100	3,971
Preschool	1,561	15,096
Total Spent	6,141	88,066
Net Dedicated Activity	-2,909	33,414

Cont'd on next page

Around House of Prayer

Luther Park Open House

Saturday, July 15, was a beautiful day to gather at Luther Park-Danbury for its annual Open House event! HOP members/friends Kim and Travis Houle, Tommy Shultz, Scott/Cara/Caity Wright, and James Powell met up at outdoor worship to experience “Wonder,” which was Luther Park’s summer programming theme. We read the story of Miriam, one of the “wonder women” of the Bible. Just as campers are doing all summer, we heard that “God knows us, Jesus loves us, the Holy Spirit Guides us, and we use our story to bring God the glory!” We enjoyed a delicious lunch together, toured the camp, got our face paint Luther Park tattoos, and took in all the beauty of God’s creation. If you have any questions about Luther Park, please contact Executive Director, Leah Pletcher, at camp@lutherpark.com / 651-472-4868.



Monthly Finance Report cont. from previous page

	<u>June Financials</u>		<u>YTD</u>		
	<u>June 2023</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Revenue					
Offerings	21,276	33,000	405,754	431,000	-25,246
Rental Income	8,575	8,550	115,950	101,100	14,850
Other Income	2,160	30	6,302	7,890	-1,588
Preschool Income	578	5,000	90,359	98,325	-7,966
Total Revenue	32,589	46,580	618,365	638,315	-19,950
Total Expenditures	50,100	68,526	620,977	692,067	
Net Operating Revenue	-17,511	-21,946	-2,613	-53,752	51,139

Around House of Prayer

Outdoor Worship with Woodlake

On the beautiful, summer morning of July 9th, House of Prayer congregation met together with our Woodlake friends for outdoor worship on Woodlake's front lawn. The energetic worship service was led by Pr. Neal, Monica Livorsi and the Modern Worship band, as well as children/youth joining the Luther Park Camp staff for a kick-off to our Vacation Bible School held that week.

Also leading the worship music were singers from both congregations who 'popped up' to form a combined Pop-Up Choir, singing the familiar spiritual, I've Got Peace Like a River along with the congregation. The fellowship continued after the service with a shared outdoor meal.

For questions regarding our collaborative partner events, please contact Cara Wright at cwright@hoplc.org, or 612-866-8471, ext. 3.



Around House of Prayer

Veggie Table

Bravo to our eight dedicated HOP volunteers who distributed about 2000 pounds of fresh produce, bread, and ketchup on Tuesday, July 18, at HOP's first Veggie Table event. We served 64 households, including 133 adults, 89 children, and 20 seniors. Christine Barneson and Julie Bonebrake loaded up the food, drove the vans to Season's Park/back to VEAP, and unloaded the extra food. Elayne Gilhousen checked in our guests. Kim Houle, Annabel Houle, Terri Behrends-Singer, Lida Stoner, Cara Wright, and Pastor Eric Luedtke greeted our guests and helped pack bags for everyone bring home. It was a perfect (hot) summer day to meet our neighbors! If you would like to help at our next Veggie Table event on Tuesday, August 15th, contact Christine Barneson at cmillerdance@gmail.com.



HOP Music Ministry: Update for the 2023-2024 Season

Our organist of 50 years, Jon Kietzer, will play for the Welcome Sunday service on September 10th, his official retirement date. This Sunday will mark exactly 50 years since Jon began at HOP. A coffee and cake reception in honor of Jon's ministry through music will follow worship that morning.

Jon will begin in his new role as Organist Emeritus, playing on a monthly basis, and continuing to lead the HOP Brass and HOP Winds. On Sunday, September 17th we will welcome another fantastic organist, Timothy Buendorf (biography right), to join our ranks (pun intended!). Tim will lead worship from the organ bench on a regular basis, as will Roselyn Hanson Weber, adding to a rotation of organists/pianists going forward. Karen Bartz will also continue to serve as substitute organist when possible. This arrangement will allow for both continuity and new direction in our music ministry.

Welcome, Tim Buendorf!



This fall, we welcome Tim Buendorf as a part-time organist. Tim holds degrees in organ performance and sacred music from the Yale University School of Music, the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Gustavus Adolphus College. He studied organ performance with Thomas Murray, Charles Krigbaum, Gerre Hancock and David Fienen. In addition to music, he pursued coursework in Lutheran theology, Lutheran Confessions and liturgy at the Yale Divinity School. His Master's thesis focused on the musical interpretation of theological themes related to the Lutheran Catechism in the organ works of J. S. Bach.

Tim has served as an organist/choir director/director of music throughout the United States. His first position out of college was at St. Mark's Lutheran in Jacksonville, FL. He was also

Around House of Prayer

appointed Director of Music for the Florida/Bahamas during that same period. Since then, he has held positions in Connecticut, Illinois and Minnesota. Serving several parishes in the Twin Cities metro area, he has been on staff at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark (Episcopal), the Church of St. Mark (Roman Catholic), Jehovah Lutheran and many others.

For seven years, Tim was the Chapel Organist at the University of St. Thomas where he accompanied the Liturgical Choir, gave recitals and mentored liturgical music students.

As an organist, Tim especially enjoys leading congregational singing and accompanying choirs. Performing regularly throughout the region, he appeared on the AGO Centennial Recital, performed the complete Les corps glorieux of Olivier Messiaen for the Messiaen in Minnesota festival, participated in the Minnesota. Bach Festival and numerous recital series. Active in many professional organizations, he has held leadership positions in the American Guild of Organists, Choristers Guild, Twin Cities Church Musicians Association and the Organ Historical Society.

Tim works full-time as a Software Development Manager at SPS Commerce, and lives in Minnetonka with his wife and son, Stephanie and Max. Contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org with any questions.

Summer Choir Invitation

All are invited to sing as part of a **SUMMER CHOIR** for our Sunday morning service on **August 6th**. We will meet at 8:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary to rehearse before the 9:30 a.m. service, singing an easier choral piece that we can learn quickly and offer for the worship service that morning. Come join in making a joyful noise to the Lord! Contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org or 612-866-8471, ext. 7



HOP Fall Music Ministry Invitation



As the fall approaches, we look forward to beginning a new season of music ministry starting in early September. We **WELCOME ALL MUSICIANS** - past, current and prospective **SINGERS, RINGERS**, and **BRASS/WIND PLAYERS** - to raise our voices and instruments together in Song. The fall is a great time to join in making beautiful music together!

Whether you are an experienced musician, or wanting to become involved for the first time, we welcome you to join the Adult Choir, Hand Bell Choir, and HOP Brass.

Our rehearsals for the 2023-24 season will begin on Wednesday 9/6, at the following times:

Wednesday evenings:

5:45- 6:45 p.m. – Hand Bell Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7- 8:30 p.m.– Adult Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)

7- 8/8:30 p.m. - Brass rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday mornings: 8:45 a.m. (generally) rehearsal; 9:30 service

For questions regarding HOP Brass, contact Jon Kietzer, jonkietzer@mac.com. Please contact Jon if you are interested in playing with the HOP Winds, which plays in worship several times throughout the year and rehearses on an ad hoc basis for those occasions.

For questions regarding the Adult and Handbell Choirs, solo & smaller ensemble music, contact Director of Liturgical Worship, Roselyn Hanson Weber, rhansonweber@hoplc.org. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

RALY, Children, Youth and Family

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was a great success! The kids had a great time learning about who they are in Jesus, playing games, eating good food, and doing crafts. The theme this year is "Wonder," and the kids all got superhero t-shirts with the verse: "Many, Lord my God, are the Wonders you have done, the things you have planned for us" which comes from Psalm 40:5a. If you have any questions about VBS, contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com.



Summer Stretch 2023

Summer Stretch is a wrap! We had kids playing Gaga Ball and going to the "Heist" Escape Room at the Mall of America. On Wednesday, the kids went to the Richfield swimming pool. It might have been cold for us older folks, but the kids had a great time! Thursday, they wrapped it up with a trip to Vertical Endeavors. We look forward to seeing some of these faces in youth group this fall. For questions about Summer Stretch, contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

Hello from Summer Camps at HoPP! We have been having fun with Sports Week, Treasure Week, Splish Splash Week and Art Week! We love these informal weeks when we can play, make fun crafts, eat yummy snacks, and enjoy the summer weather. It's a nice time for the school to slow down and enjoy time with the children.

Plans are well underway for the fall, when we start back to full-time on September 6th. We have Playground gathering planned for all 2023-2024 families in a few weeks, an orientation night, and individual family visits to preschool at the end of August. We want all of our families to feel comfortable with our program before we start. We look to have another wonderful group of families and will welcome returning children, siblings, and new families! If you have questions about HoPP, contact Nicole at nolson@hoplc.org.



Sprout-A-Spark A Space to Grow Your Faith



HOP Sunday School has created a special space during ReFuel for our youngest members to stay engaged with the service while letting their creativity flow. An art table with a variety of craft supplies will be set-up Sundays during the summer for children to let their imaginations soar.

If you would like to donate supplies (coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, washable markers, kinetic sand, playdough, origami folding paper, friendship bracelet kits, and other “quiet” crafts), please contact Kristi Liu at kline010@umn.edu.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

Confirmation

Attention all students and families with youth entering 7th-9th grade! Confirmation Registration is now open! Confirmation is a time of intentional learning about the most important parts of the Bible and our faith. It is also a time of relationship building and fun!

Confirmation Orientation will be August 20th, at 1pm at Woodlake Lutheran Church. The first day of Confirmation will be September 17th from 6-8pm at Woodlake and will continue the 3rd Sunday of every month through May 2024.

To register for Confirmation please follow the QR code or [go to this link](#). For more information about Confirmation, please contact Pr. Neal Cannon (ncannon@woodlakechurch.org) or Pr. Eric Luedtke (eluedtke@hoplc.org). Hope to see you this fall!



Boys & Girls Club

We're excited to be partnering with the Boys & Girls Club to provide after school opportunity for Richfield Middle School students. In collaboration with Woodlake Lutheran, we'll be offering an after school program one day a week at Woodlake that offers students an opportunity to build relationships with trusted adults and learn unique skills, crafts, and games taught by adult volunteers. Our program will start in October to give us time to work with Boys & Girls Club leaders to invite students to participate and plan events. If you want to participate, we'd love to have you on the team. Your commitment is for a 4-week session at a time. Think about a skill or topic you'd like to share with youth or just be a friend. If you're interested in participating or have questions, contact Pastor Eric eluedtke@hoplc.org 612.866.8471 ext 2.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TWIN CITIES

RALY Schedule this Fall



With Back-to-School on the horizon, we're looking forward to seeing our youth and their families at our RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth) programming. Youth from 4th grade to 12th grade are invited to join in our programs throughout the year – from Wednesday evening gatherings to movie nights to retreats and special events.

We kick off our RALY gatherings at House of Prayer on **Wednesday, September 20 at 6pm** with Pizza! Invite a friend, share a story about your summer, bring a question you want to ask. We'll meet each Wednesday (with a few breaks) from 6-8pm at House of Prayer – Youth Room. You can find the full calendar here: <https://raly-mn.org/calendar-communications/> If you have questions about RALY, contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org 612.866.8471 ext 2.

RALY Director Updates

As we prepare for Fall programming, we received resumes and interviewed candidates for the RALY Director position. After prayerful consideration by both our interview team and the candidates we were not able to find a candidate to fill the role at this time. No worries, we are working with InterServe Ministries to bring an Interim RALY Director on board for our Fall programming. Interserve Ministries is a Twin Cities based organization that provides highly qualified and experienced Youth Ministry Professionals to provide interim staffing services for congregations. We trust that this will allow us to continue building the RALY program providing events and opportunities that are welcoming and affirming, engage youth and their families and celebrates wonder.

If you have questions about RALY or the Director search, contact Pastor Eric eluedtke@hoplc.org 612.866.8471 ext 2.

Community Engagement



VEAP BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: If you've been shopping lately, you probably can tell that summer is almost over (already) because the shelves are stocked with school supplies. Our mission partner, VEAP, is holding a school supply drive to help support clients in need. Items of greatest need are new backpacks, scientific calculators, and headphones/ear buds. Please check the list here: <https://veap.org/blog/events/backtoschool23/> and bring supplies to the church VEAP bin in the Narthex. Your donations are always very much appreciated!

EVERY MEAL: House of Prayer has assembled a team of volunteers who will be receiving training in August in preparation for the new school year. Thank you to those who have expressed interest! If you are interested in helping with the weekly distribution, please contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com. Trainings will be offered in mid-August.



The **Richfield Farmers' Market** outdoor market opens every Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. offering a variety of fresh produce, eggs, cheese, and crafters from all walks of life. Hearing local music and smelling fresh brewed Ecuadorian coffee are my favorite reasons to attend.

Music in the Park continues at our city bandshell and starts at 11:00 a.m. for the young (at heart) and at 6:30 p.m. for family friendly music and outdoor activities. Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket, and don't forget to pack snacks! A concert series brochure can be printed here: https://cms9files.revize.com/richfieldmn/Document_Center/Department/Parks%20&%20Recreation/Flyer%20Entertainment%20in%20the%20Park%202023.pdf.



Penn Fest 2023 is slated for Sunday, September 17th. Due to scheduling conflicts (40th class reunion) Kim is unable to host the table this year, but will offer support and encouragement to anyone who can. Please contact Kim Houle if you are able to help with this community event.

Watch this space for upcoming events to get involved in other community-wide events! Contact Kim Houle at 612-558-0634 or wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com if you have suggestions for ways to bring a HoP presence to the community.



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Sundays at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
www.hoplc.org/recordings



The *Hi-Lines* is published by the House of Prayer staff and volunteers. Any questions can be directed to Cara Wright, Director of Administration, at cwright@hoplc.org, or Mary Weaver, Administrative Assistant, at mweaver@hoplc.org.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)

Couples	Date	Years
Louie and Gloria Larson	8/4	67
Frank and Irene Sable	8/5	62
Al and Geraldine Bowman	8/8	59
Michael and Janet Krulich	8/10	55
James and Marilyn Peterson	8/12	63
Kent and Kim Wengenroth	8/12	35
Phil and Cindy Mennike	8/15	25
Chris Johnson and Amber Winter	8/17	10
Josh and Katie Daubenmeyer	8/30	15

MEMORIAL SERVICES

No Memorial Services in June

A Look Back



1988 HOP Staff