

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

Here Am I, Send Me



Pastor Eric Luedtke

and community), Music and Arts, Food, and Collaboration.

In the coming weeks, we'll unpack these themes a bit more and see what additional threads tie them all together as we continue to work toward creating a cohesive Mission Statement that leads us forward as God's people at House of Prayer. But a mission and vision statement is only as good as the people willing to carry it out, and to that end I was struck by the words of Abraham in our June 25 worship text, "Here I am" was a phrase that Abraham spoke multiple times, first in response to God, then in response to Isaac, then in response to the Angel. As I reflected on Abraham's response, I couldn't dislodge the prophet Isaiah's response to God in Isaiah 6 which is very similar to Abraham. Isaiah responds, "Here I am, send me."

As I have had a chance to reflect on our Cottage Meetings held in May, there are a number of thoughts and threads that have come to light. As I shared at the Annual Congregational Meeting, the four primary themes that were evident were: Care (of our congregation

Too often we hear God speaking to us or sense some direction from God and we're quick to say, "Here I am, God, but please send someone else." We promptly make excuses for why it shouldn't be *me* that God is inviting into this task or way of living. We might feign innocence by saying "but this person has these gifts that would make them a better fit."

That makes me think of Moses when he is called by God to lead the Israelites. Moses comes up with multiple excuses for why he can't be the one God has chosen and God promptly dismisses each of Moses' excuses and says "Go."

As we think about being House of Prayer Lutheran Church into the coming years, there is a part for each of us to play. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, "we are all part of one body and individually members of it." Or as Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians, "some are called to be teachers, some prophets, others pastors, but ALL are called."

Knowing that all are called our faithful response is "Here am I, send me." So when the time comes that you are asked to commit to the mission that God is calling us to as a congregation, may it be a resounding chorus that says these words and carries out what God is calling us to do together.

Shared Worship at Woodlake to Kickoff VBS Sunday, July 9th at 10am



House of Prayer and Woodlake will join together for one shared worship service on Sunday, July 9, at 10am at Woodlake Lutheran Church (2120 W 76th St., Richfield). We'll gather outdoors (in case of inclement weather we'll move inside) for a shared worship service led by RALY and staff from Luther Park-Danbury. RALY youth, Mara Lien, will be preaching. This worship gathering will kickoff our week of Vacation Bible School.

Bring a chair or blanket, invite a friend or neighbor, and let us join our voices as we worship together. After the service, hot dogs, chips, and other goodies will be served by the Children, Youth, and Family Team of Woodlake. Contact Cara Wright at 612-866-8471 ext. 3 / cwright@hoplc.org if you have any questions.

Leadership Ministry Team Update

An Ending, A Beginning



*Brent King
HOP President*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church stood at the corner of 33rd and Pillsbury in South Minneapolis for over 129 years. Angela and I had many connections with Zion; Angela grew up in the church and was confirmed there, her dad was the long-time caretaker of the property (her brother & sister-in-law pitched in too), and we were married at Zion in 1979.

Like many churches are experiencing today, Zion's congregation changed and aged, and, recognizing the need to act, the congregation "bravely recognized the need to complete their ministry" (their words) in 2022. The Zion Dissolution Team's letter to the congregation acknowledged the prudence in having started the dialogue on this process well in advance of the closure date.

Zion's congregation established a "Holy Closure Team" in early 2022, the necessary synod and state documents and processes were prepared, and the congregation enlisted real estate expertise to proceed with selling the property.

Zion held its final worship service on November 6 (Angela and two of her brothers attended), and the Final Articles of Dissolution were submitted to the Minnesota Attorney General on December 28, 2022. If this article ended here, it might look like a damn sad story. But it's not.

Zion's congregation and leadership recognized the importance and mandate to acknowledge the legacy of Zion's 129+ year presence in the community. Zion's leadership, with strong Synod support, focused on the success of its 129+ years and its legacy (as opposed to viewing the closure as a failure).

Zion's leadership and congregation amplified its legacy in a couple significant ways:

- As you all know, the Zion church building itself has been sold to Simpson Shelter, and building updates are in process to support that important ministry.
- Zion chose to distribute its building proceeds to 19 different organizations (ranging from Lift Garage (which helps income-challenged folks with low-cost care repairs), Lutheran Social Services, Reconciling Works (LGBTQIA++ ministry partners), and Trinity Lutheran Church, which received Zion's grand piano, the Lyndale Neighborhood Association, and Luther Seminary (just to name a few beneficiaries).

Angela and I are proud of our association and history with Zion. We are equally proud of the foresight, maturity, and selflessness the Zion leadership showed in their response to the realities of their situation in the 2020's. The actions that Zion took have assured that Zion's legacy will live on in the community for many years to come.

What does this story mean to us at House of Prayer?

As you have been hearing for the past several months from Pastor Eric's sermons, as well as at our Cottage Meetings, we are compelled to be missional in how we approach and make decisions.

We continue to have a mission at HOP; our means of carrying out the mission may change (i.e., building ownership or location might look different in the future), but our calling will be to assure that the mission is carried out.



Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting in June and listened to Patti and I talk about the year's financials and what is expected for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget, which can be found in the Annual Report section of the HOP website was approved, and focuses on continuing to create opportunity for growth while serving our existing congregation. It also bears saying that the reason we are able to analyze and present financial information in a clear and concise manner is directly tied to the time and expertise we get from Patti on a year-round basis. We are lucky to have her.

As this is my final monthly finance report as HOP Treasurer, it has been a pleasure serving at HOP with an amazing leadership team over the past six years. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve the congregation but am also very excited to turn things over to Sara Barnaby. Sara started attending HOP in 2019 and officially became a member in 2022. She brings with her experience from her work life providing accounting services to churches, non-profits, and small businesses. I am very grateful Sara agreed to take on the responsibility and with her experience and energy for House of Prayer, I know we are in great hands.



Thank you, Charley Simonson

Dedicated Fund Activity as of May 2023

Dedicated Funds Received	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Evangelism	0	0
Discipleship	0	50
Worship	1,120	15,790
Facilities	875	18,399
Fall Festival	0	2,745
Foundation	0	2,075
Youth and Family	125	3,233
Preschool	1,927	8,406
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,047	53,886
Dedicated Funds Spent		
Evangelism	0	251
Discipleship	0	50
Facilities	0	27,698
Fall Festival	0	439
Foundation	0	2,075
Worship	1,987	8,406
Youth and Family	100	3,971
Preschool	1,061	13,535
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Spent	3,148	56,425
Net Dedicated Activity	899	-2,539

Cont'd on next page

Around House of Prayer

HOP Annual Congregational Meeting Summary

House of Prayer’s Annual Congregational meeting was held Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. It was preceded by a simple meal and lots of conversation among members of the congregation.



- Pastor Eric shared an overview of feedback from the Cottage Meetings highlighting that conversations showed energy for Care Ministry, Music & Arts, Food, and Collaborative Opportunities – watch for details of a late July gathering to continue the Cottage Meeting conversations.
- Cara Wright shared an overview of how we spent our money in 2022 recognizing that 59% of our budget reflects salary/benefits expenses, utilities have increased significantly (as many homeowners are aware), and that a combination of salaries allocated to building support combined with building expenses reflects about 48% of our expenses.
- Charley Simonson and Patti Benson presented the budget for 2023-24 which reflects a projected increase in Offering revenue based on increased pledges, a budget increase to include a part-time staff member focused on Congregational Care, and some specific property expenditures. The budget passed unanimously.
- We give thanks for president Brent King, Vice President Paul Danielson, and Treasurer Charley Simonson whose terms end on July 1, 2023. All three have been dedicated leaders who have helped House of Prayer come through a time of transition with great leadership and a calm demeanor.
- Election of LMT named Cindy Jacobs as the Vice President, Sara Barnaby as Treasurer, and leaves an open slot for President.
- A variety of viewpoints were shared and questions asked around the Letter of Intent (LOI) presented by Southview SDA and the costs and opportunities associated with House of Prayer’s building. The result of the vote to continue discussions with SVSDA on the LOI was 34 Yes, 43 No – which means there will be no further conversation with Southview regarding the LOI.

Please contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612-866-8471, ext. 2 with any questions.

Monthly Finance Report cont. from previous page

	<u>May Financials</u>			
	<u>May 2023</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue				
Offerings	28,013	34,000	383,401	398,000
Rental Income	9,300	8,950	107,375	92,550
Other Income	201	2,630	4,142	7,860
Preschool Income	9,562	10,000	89,781	93,325
Total Revenue	47,077	55,580	584,699	591,735
Total Expenditures	48,106	54,952	570,896	623,542
Net Operating Revenue	-1,029	628	13,803	-31,807

Around House of Prayer

Veggie Table

Announcing HOP's upcoming season of Veggie Table events supported by VEAP.

This year the events will take place Tuesday, July 18th and August 15th from 4:30-6:30pm or until food runs out. We are looking for volunteers to help set up at Seasons Park Apartments (951 E 77th St.) starting at 4pm, food distribution, and take down. Please contact Christine Miller Barne-son at millerdance@gmail.com or 507-990-6482 to volunteer to help.



Table Top Board Game Meet Up

Join us on the first Friday of the month, from 1:30 -5:00 pm for Table Top Board Game Meet Up.

Come play a game, meet new people, and enjoy fellowship. All are welcome!

If you have any questions contact Sara Barnaby at anriasmgames@gmail.com.



Coffee & Donut Fellowship

This important Sunday morning ministry will continue all summer long. We are so grateful to our dedicated volunteers that help every Sunday to make it happen. We are always looking to recruit new helpers! Please connect with Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com if you can help staff a shift to set-up, serve donuts, or clean-up.



Pop-Up Choir for Outdoor Worship



As part of the outdoor worship service on July 9th, all singers from Woodlake and House of Prayer (as well as any visitors) are invited to join in forming a combined pop-up choir. We will sing the familiar Spiritual "I've God Peace Like a River." Plan to meet at 9:20am for a brief rehearsal prior to the 10:00am service. Hope you can come! Questions? Please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org, or at 612-866-8471, ext. 7.

Around House of Prayer

Minnesota Boychoir

Our worship service on Sunday, June 4th was filled with the beautiful voices of the Minnesota Boychoir, who sang throughout the service and led the hymns and liturgy with much energy and poise. Artistic Director Mark Johnson shared with the singers and congregation about the choir's long history with House of Prayer and with Jon Kietzer. All were blessed by this musically rich and inspiring service, which was followed by an exciting mini-concert by the singers. Thanks be to God for the great gift of music!

If you have any questions regarding our music ministries, please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org/612-866-8471, ext. 7.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

Thank You Daniel

Dear friends of RALY, Woodlake Lutheran, and House of Prayer Lutheran,

RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth), a shared ministry of Woodlake and House of Prayer Lutheran Churches, is undergoing program restructuring and staffing changes that we want to make you aware of.

Effective June 12, 2023, Daniel Ditmanson will no longer be serving as Youth Outreach and Program Director.

Daniel has contributed much to Woodlake and House of Prayer during his time here. We wish Daniel the best in his future endeavors and pray for his next chapter of ministry.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Neal Cannon ncannon@woodlakechurch.org or Pastor Eric Luedtke eluedtke@hoplc.org.

Pastor Neal Cannon
Woodlake Lutheran Church

Pastor Eric Luedtke
House of Prayer Lutheran Church

RALY, Woodlake and House of Prayer,

I am overwhelmingly blessed to have been a part of this ministry. Thank you to the youth and families who participated in programming as we were coming out of Covid and living into a new ministry partnership. Thank you to the congregation members who support children, youth and family through financial gifts, volunteer time and prayer. Thank you to both leadership teams and all the staff for the ongoing support, wisdom, flexibility, and patience.

*To the youth,
Thank you for being such the gifts of creation that you are! I will cherish all the memories, and I know each and every one of you have greatness in your future!*

Daniel D.

Share Your Skills with Youth from the Boys & Girls Club

RALY is partnering with the Boys & Girls Club to offer after school programming during the 2023-24 school year. Each month will rotate a team of 4-5 volunteers to work with 10-12 middle school youth on Wednesday afternoons. We'll pick our topic for the month based on the skills and interests of our volunteers. From cooking to crafts, sewing to storytelling, this program relies on teams of volunteers to come together and share their interests and talents with kids who have worked hard to be part of this unique opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering one month or every month, if you have an idea for a theme or just want to jump in where you're needed, we need the skills and gifts of our House of Prayer members to make this partnership with the Boys & Girls Club a success. If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact Pastor Eric Luedtke at eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612.866.8471 ext. 2.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

It's summertime at HoPP! The first weeks of June were spent deep cleaning our room, preparing for summer camps, touring families for fall, and taking some vacation time.

We are so excited for the children to return as we begin to offer four summer camp weeks - Sports Week, Treasure Week, Art Week and Splash Outdoor Week. As we offer full-time care during the academic year, our families make various summer plans. More than half will attend our camps, some take the summer off to be with family, and some continue to need full-time care and so enroll in other summer or daycare programs. All of the families who can return in the fall are returning, and we look forward to welcoming several siblings and new families. We may still have space available if you know of anyone needing part or full-time care starting in September. Contact HoPP Director Nicole Olson at nolson@hoplc.org.



Sunday School

Our annual Ice Cream Sundae Sunday was a great celebratory event. Ice cream lovers of all ages enjoyed a variety of sundae toppings including sprinkles and cherries. Although we are sad for the school year to end, we are excited for the bright days of summer vacation. We are already making plans for next fall, and look forward to being together again on Sunday, September 10th.

We encourage families looking for faith at home activities to visit our website for our occasional posts and updates. We also hope to see everyone at our collaborative VBS (Vacation Bible School) this summer which will be hosted at Woodlake Lutheran on July 10th – 13th from 6pm – 8pm. And please join us for the community meal beforehand at 5pm - 6pm.

Please contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com, or Kristi Liu at kline010@umn.edu.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family



Sprout-A-Spark A Space to Grow Your Faith

HOP Sunday School is creating 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.

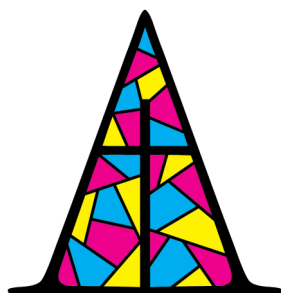
If you would like to donate supplies (coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, washable markers, kinetic sand, playdough, origami folding paper, friendship bracelet kits, and other “quiet” crafts), please contact Kristi Liu at kline010@umn.edu.

Open Position Director of RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth)

RALY (the collaborative Youth Ministry of Woodlake and House of Prayer) is hiring a Director who will curate programs and partnerships that create meaningful relationships and share God’s love with youth inside and outside our church walls, with a primary focus on middle and high school ministry.

A full position description can be found on the Announcements page of the HOP website: <https://hoplc.org/announcements>.

Resumes of interested candidates can be sent to office@woodlakechurch.org or Woodlake Lutheran Church c/o Pastor Neal, 2120 W. 76th St., Richfield, MN 55423.



Luther Park Danbury Open House July 15, 2023 Everyone Welcome!

Luther Park staff are excited to host the annual Open House Saturday, July 15th from 10am -4pm!



We will gather together onsite to worship together, enjoy a delicious lunch, tour the camp, shop at the Canteen, enjoy ice cream sundaes, and meet old / new friends.

For more information, visit the Luther Park Danbury website at www.lutherpark.com or contact HOP’s Luther Park Board representative, Caity Wright, at caitywright13@gmail.com.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School: July 10-13 Woodlake Lutheran Church

Our collaborative VBS program with Woodlake Lutheran continues this summer. Children ages 5 – 12 are invited for a week of songs, skits, bible stories, games, crafts, and friendship. Join us July 10th – 13th from 6pm – 8pm at Woodlake Lutheran.

A free community meal will be served beforehand from 5pm – 6pm.

Register for VBS through our website: <https://hoplc.org/children>.

Please contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com with any questions.



Summer Stretch

Summer Stretch July 10 - 13, 2023 For Youth in Grades 6 - 9

Summer Stretch is back for another summer of fun! Youth in grades 6 – 9 are invited for a week of activities starting July 10th – 13th from 1pm – 5pm at Woodlake Lutheran.

Join friends for daily adventures that include a visit to the Richfield Outdoor Pool and Vertical Endeavors. Cost for Summer Stretch is \$100 (\$25 per day) and scholarships are available.

Register for Summer Stretch through our website: <https://hoplc.org/children>.

If you have any questions, or for scholarship information, please contact Andry Jurcich at: andryj@invisik.com.

Community Engagement & Collaboration

Every Meal

But first, short anecdote:

Anyone who met my mom, Carol, instantly felt her generosity and compassion. When I was in high-school, my mom worked in the food service program “ala carte” line, where she would often encounter an occasional silver dime or quarter. For that reason, she kept a roll of quarters in her work apron so she could quickly exchange the quarters when she heard a familiar “ching” of silver. However, I later learned that she had an alternative purpose for keeping that roll of quarters in her apron. She also took it upon herself to monitor kids’ lunch choices and encourage them to return to the line and grab a sandwich or cheese & crackers if they didn’t meet her criteria for nutrition. Usually she would end up dipping into her quarter reserves to cover the student who was buying a single ice cream sandwich with their meager lunch money. She was aptly called, “Mommy Matson” to not only my close friends, but to many classes of students after me, as she followed this vocation for over 20 years. It is with that spirit that I want to honor her and continue to help bridge the gap for students who are in need.



**EVERY
MEAL**

This past week I had the opportunity to join Pastor Eric in Roseville at the Every Meal warehouse. Every Meal provides weekend meals to students who are in need. No questions asked. Some students are identified by staff, others self-advocate when they know there are resources. They currently serve students in 537 schools in the metro area. The weekly duties require volunteers to discreetly tuck bags of food into students’ backpacks on Friday mornings/afternoons. We have identified that STEM School in Richfield (70th Street & 12th Avenue) is in need of a partner organization to continue providing meals in the 2023-24 school year.

CALL TO ACTION!

- Please prayerfully consider joining a team of volunteers to cover distributions at STEM School. Contact Kim Houle at 612-558-0634 or wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com to inquire. Training will begin in August and will require a mandatory background check with the Richfield Public School District.
- We could host an intergenerational packing event at House of Prayer in the Fall.
- Learn more about this locally-grown program at www.everymeal.org/contact and be sure to check out the website’s easy ways to donate time, treasure, and talents.

Answering the Spirit’s call, we can offer hope to so many. Thank you for your support!
Kim Houle

Collaboration Worship at Veteran’s Park

Join worshippers from Tapestry, Woodlake, Oak Grove, and House of Prayer as we come together with neighbors and guests from our community in Veteran’s Park for worship on **Sunday, August 20, at 10am.**

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 luedtke@hoplc.org or 612-866-8471, ext. 2 if you have any questions.



House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

(612) 866-8471

E-mail: office@hoplc.org

Website: www.hoplc.org.

Pastor: Senior Pastor, Eric Luedtke

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 2944

In-Person Worship Services:
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
Wayne and Gretchen Swenson	7/2	56
Steve and Ann Barnes	7/26	65

MEMORIAL SERVICES

No Memorial Services in June

A Look Back



1973 Clowning around with Dave Stenson