



HOUSE OF PRAYER

*Is a gathering of God's people
connecting our faith to our daily lives
so that all would encounter Christ in each person.*



Does the Resurrection Matter?



Pastor Eric Luedtke

Author Phyllis Tickle in her book, *The Great Emergence*, writes about what she terms “the great church rummage sale.” Her contention is that every 500 years there is an event that happens that “upends the church as we know it.”

A student of history, Tickle tracks this theory from the birth of Jesus through Constantine’s embrace of Christianity through the Reformation, she even predates Christ with 500-year increments of events happening that dramatically shift the understanding of the Jewish tradition.

Tickle asserts that these events, seemingly insignificant at the moment, become the kind of events that dramatically alter the future. In writing the book near the turn of the millennium, Tickle theorizes that there is an event that will happen around the year 2000 that will create another such shift to the church, but unlike previous shifts that were studied as *history* this would be an event that historians, sociologists, and theologians were trying to study *as it happens*. The problem is, how would we know which event marks that major shift and what effects it would bring until 200 years from now?

Imagine if Jesus were alive today. Traveling the countryside, healing the sick, preaching the Good News, promising God’s love to everyone. Imagine it creating such a stir that people would take time off of work to go to witness Jesus for themselves. Then imagine in a week’s time, Jesus going from the Messiah, the next one who will help everyone, to being the one that everyone despises and rejects – to the point of being killed.

You can already imagine how that would hit the news in our current era of technology. Which reporters can even be believed? Do we trust the eye-witnesses? Is the “evidence” even evidence at all or is it just Artificial Intelligence generated wishful thinking?

If it happened today, would the resurrection of Jesus even matter?

For Christians, the answer is Yes! Absolutely. The resurrection of Jesus is a timeless event with an impact that shakes the entire world. The love of God being stronger than the impact of death itself is a BIG DEAL! It’s something we celebrate and cling to with every funeral we attend. It’s a promise of hope that anchors us when life is turbulent.

What must it have been like to be among the Roman Empire when Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the Empire, creating an expansion of the message of Jesus’ story? What must it have been like to be among those who received a Gutenberg Bible, being able to read the words of scripture in your own language and not have to rely on those who spoke Greek, Hebrew, or Latin to tell you their version of the stories?

Three hundred or more years from now, we’ll likely look back and say “what was it like to believe in the story of Jesus before the internet and technology; to share the story of God’s love in the world?” What was it like to be people of faith at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield, a gathering of God’s people connecting their faith to their daily lives so that all would encounter Christ in each person?

We don’t have to imagine how they will answer because those will be our stories that they are sharing. But how will they hear our stories unless we share with those around us that the resurrection matters in our lives?

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Lent and Easter



*Caity Wright
President*

What a wonderful time of year it is! So much has happened, is currently happening, or will be happening soon, as I write this during the busy Easter season.

This time of year and Christmas are the two major turning points in the liturgical calendar, and we get 40 whole days of Lent to remember, reflect, and receive God's love!

Let's talk about Lent. It's essentially the church version of New Year's when everyone has new resolutions and goals for "this time around." But, to the church's credit, it feels like many more of said resolutions stick around for the whole 40 days. It's a nice time to select something in your life that you need less of, more of, or a higher quality of and make it a focal point during this season.

While some people may have a connotation of dread associated with giving something up or altering their life choices for this period, I think it's a wonderful time of year. It sets us up very nicely for the rest of the year.

Perhaps my favorite aspect of Lent has been the Holden Evening Prayer services on Wednesday nights, as well as the dinner and conversation that takes place around it. On a surface level the songs and worship structure can't be beaten, but to have that time dedicated to church and community an extra day of the week is invaluable.

Another pro to these combined Holden services is the community we combine with, Woodlake. Their members, their values, and their very presence in our church brightens it up so much. It is so fun to have a bigger choir, more people to talk to, and kids running around!

The Holden services are in the rear-view mirror and we are now (as of this writing) approaching Easter Sunday. Easter is perhaps my favorite day of the year for so many reasons. The music, the celebration, the flowers, and the bright outfits just bring me and everyone around me so much joy. And that's the main idea of Easter right? To celebrate and give thanks for all we have and all that God has given us as, we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we wind down this season of Lent and head full-on towards Easter Sunday, I hope that you take some time to look back on this time, or perhaps look even further back and reflect on Lenten seasons of old. What stands out to you about this time of year? What are some of your favorite things about these 40 days?

Your Leadership Ministry Team

All these great people are here to answer questions and hear your feedback about HOP.

Caity Wright - Congregational President: caitywright13@gmail.com

Cindy Jacobs - Congregational Vice President: blondiegirlsmom@yahoo.com

Sara Barnaby - Treasurer: sara@anrias.com

Shirley Moen - Recording Secretary: smoen@riverway.com

Kim Houle - Community Development: wifeofadrummeryguy@gmail.com

Andry Jurcich - Congregational Development: andryj@invisik.com

Steve Pierson - Support Ministry: stevepierson56@hotmail.com

Betsy Paradise - Human Resources: betsyparadise1@gmail.com



Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

February Financial Summary:

REVENUE:

February finished in a stable position with revenues greater than expenses by \$2,100. Year to date offerings are below budget by \$16,000. A surplus compared to budget of rental revenue of \$20,243 is currently offsetting the offering decreases. Rent is up \$9,700 from last year.

EXPENSES:

February expenses continue to be below budget expectations, with the benefit of the continued open Human Resources positions, with savings in utilities and property costs. Year to date expenses are less than budget by \$74,077.

YEAR-TO-DATE:

Fiscal year-to-date operating surplus is \$2,136 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$72,100 . Combined Dedicated funds have increased \$7,806 year to date, primarily due to new music fund JK Music fund.

Receipts & Expenses

	February 2024
Revenues	
Offering - online & plate	31,919
Rental Revenue	12,164
Preschool Tuition	8,741
TOTAL Operating Receipts	52,824
Expenses	
Donations to Outreach Partners	3,223
Human Resources & Ministry Programming	36,614
Building Maintenance & Utilities & Admin	10,887
TOTAL Expenses	50,724
REVENUES MINUS EXPENSES	\$ 2,100

Cash Funds Available

Operating Cash	64,857
Operating Reserves	223,712
Dedicated Funds	196,998
TOTAL	\$ 485,567

Thank you for returning your pledge card. It helps with the 2024-2025 budget process. If you wish to have more finance details contact: Patti Benson pbenson@hoplc.org.

Sara Barnaby, HOP Treasurer

Stewardship Sunday

On **Sunday, April 28**, we will mark Stewardship Sunday. We are inviting you to give freely from what God has given you to renew your commitment to God’s work through House of Prayer. We give in many ways through our time, our abilities and interests, and our finances. Pledge cards for the upcoming budget year (July 2024 - June 2025) will be distributed and available at the church, or pledges can be completed online at <https://hoplc.org/give>. A pledge allows you to make a financial commitment to God, and to your House of Prayer community. We ask that you prayerfully consider the commitment God is calling you to make and **return the card or bring it in person to worship on Sunday, April 28**. Your pledge helps our Leadership Team make informed decisions in the budgeting process.



Around House of Prayer

Maundy Thursday / Jueves Santo Collaboration Worship

We shared a Holy time of worship together (in both English and Spanish) with our collaboration partners across Richfield from Tapestry, Oak Grove, Woodlake and House of Prayer on March 28, Maundy Thursday. A delicious soup supper was provided by Tapestry, music was shared by the Tapestry Band and Collaboration Choir, pastors and lay leaders from all four congregations participated, and Oak Grove Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom called us into Jesus' challenge to love one another as we celebrated Holy Communion.

Contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org with questions about the Richfield Collaboration.



Good Friday Worship

Our Good Friday worship had a different focus this year when we looked at the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion through the perspective of Peter. Throughout Lent we've imagined our own faith through the ups and downs of Peter's time with Jesus, and this evening we experienced that focused love of Jesus that extends beyond Peter to each of us by name.



Easter Egg Hunt

HOP welcomed many friends and neighbors for our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt!



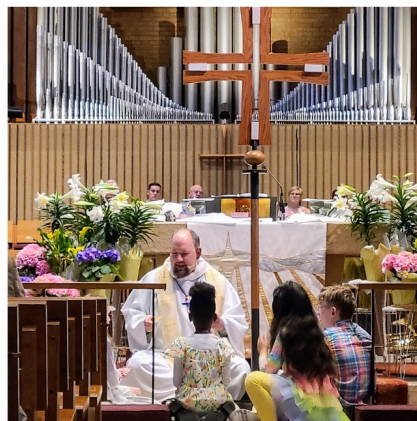
Around House of Prayer

Easter at House of Prayer

A festive worship celebration of Jesus' triumph over death. With brass, handbells, and choir we celebrated with Alleluia's the hope and promise of the resurrection. As Peter witnesses the empty tomb he clings to hope that Jesus is the Messiah and we cling to the hope that the promise of the resurrection makes a difference in our lives, too.

Thank you to HOP staff and all worship participants., musicians, and Altar Guild members for making this Holy Week at House of Prayer a special time to celebrate together. Thank you also to all those who contributed toward our Easter garden and/or gave an Easter memorial gift / honorarium.

Contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org / 612-866-8471 with any questions about worship at HOP.



Around House of Prayer

Welcome Sunday for Pastor Korla



We look forward to welcoming Pastor Korla Masters to House of Prayer as our new Minister for Congregational Care.

In this part-time role, Pastor Korla will focus on visitation of members and helping us build our capacity to care for one another and our community.

Pastor Korla will start in the office on Tuesday, April 16.

To provide a warm welcome on her first **Sunday, April 21**, we will have a celebration with cake between services. **We will ask that everyone create a nametag** (we'll have supplies on hand) to help Pastor Korla with learning your name. Please plan to join us and show the warm hospitality that House of Prayer is known for.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org, or at 612-866-8471, ext. 2.

New Member Orientation

Have you been visiting House of Prayer and want to become a Member? Curious what being a member even means? Maybe you know someone who wants to learn more about who we are at House of Prayer? Join Pastor Eric for a "New Member Conversation" on **Sunday, April 14, from 1-3 pm** in the Conference Room. We'll share a light lunch, get to know one another, and consider how God is calling us to be church together. **Please RSVP to Pastor Eric** eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612.866.8471 ext 2.



Card Ministry

If you're looking for a fun, creative activity that brightens someone's day, come join us for Card Ministry on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 10:00-11:30 am. We meet in Classrooms 1-2.

We will also be selling cards on the last Sunday of the month. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact Nancy Bjornstad at ne_bjorn.6203@yahoo.com.



Game Meet-Up

Do you love card and board games? Want to learn some new ones or play old favorites?

Join Dave and Sara From 1:30 to 4:00 pm on Friday April 5th in the Narthex. Come in the door with the awning,



We will have games to play, but you can bring your own. It is your responsibility to keep track of your games. Covered drinks are allowed.

Want to take the bus?
77th St E & Chicago Ave S
Stop Number: 48623 Route 540

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

Around House of Prayer

Creation Care Team Think Before You Throw!

GOALS:

- Efforts to reduce trash to avoid spending more money to increase trash service; streamlined ordering of bags.
- Building-wide initiative with rental partners.
- Education about what goes where!



WHAT GOES WHERE: RECYCLING (BLUE BIN)

Blue is the bin color for recycling. If an item can be recycled or composted, choose to recycle so it can be turned into something else.

Common recyclable waste items at HOP include:

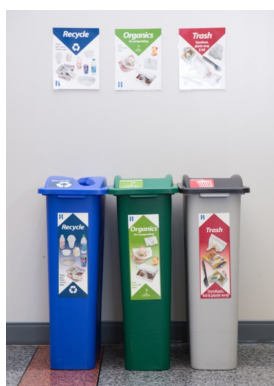
- Church bulletins and other paper handouts
- Metal, glass, and plastic drink containers
- Toilet paper tubes
- Clear plastic cookie containers, cardboard boxes

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

- Saves energy / resources - takes less energy to reuse than to make new
- Reduces landfill waste which lasts many years
- Reduces the demand for virgin resources - resources are limited
- Making new products from recycled material produces less CO2 emissions - CO2 is a leading "greenhouse gas"
- Supports businesses and jobs
- Materials you recycle really are recycled- check this website: recyclingexists.com
- Reduces the need to pay for a larger trash bin

Become a Hennepin County Recycling Ambassador:

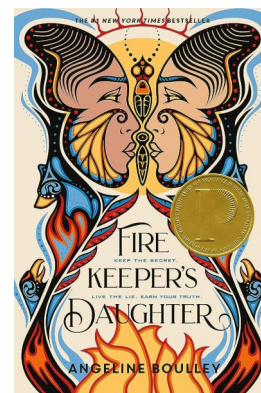
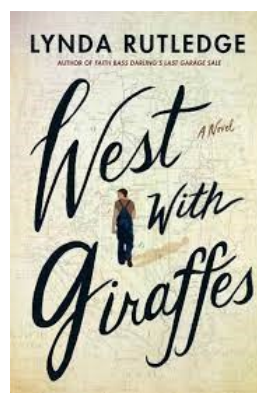
<https://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/become-recycling-ambassador>



Book Discussion Group

House of Prayer Book club readers will meet on April 4th at 12:00 pm in the Conference Room to discuss *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge and *Firekeeper's Daughter*, by Angeline Boulley. In May, we will discuss *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell: A Novel* by Robert Dugoni .

We welcome anyone who loves to read! For more information about Book Club, please contact Sandy Williams at srwllms70@hotmail.com.



Inclusive Educator Award Presented to Josh Countryman



Josh Countryman Honored With Inclusive Educator Award

Our very own ReFuel Director, Josh Countryman received an Inclusive Educator Award for his work with students at the Two Rivers High School. Read the article at: https://www.isd197.org/news/josh-countryman?fbclid=IwAR0htMZRlSr4cPnx8dQ3GJB9XVaTe_gTHp_MZPYD3aWjV-t10QlTeFDpGRhc

RALY, Youth, Children and Family

RALY Recap



During Lent, RALY joined the larger congregation to eat, worship, and discuss how God's colors outside the lines! RALY joined House of Prayer and Woodlake's shared Wednesday services on February 21st, 28th, and March 13th. We also took some time to just for ourselves. On March 6th we ate pizza, watched a movie, and interviewed our students about their year in RALY (that video will be shared in April)! On March 20th we listened to music and stuffed Easter Eggs for both of our churches annual Easter Egg hunt. Overall, we had a *eggcellent* month!

RALY Upcoming Events

April 3rd – Hide and Seek! Dinner provided! By popular demand, we'll play an all church game of Hide and Seek this night. We'll also have a devotion on how we don't need to hide from God. Back to our usual time 6:00-7:30pm.

April 10th – Service Night! Service TBD

April 17th – NO RALY

April 24th – Mini Golf! No dinner. We'll head to Moose Mountain at the MOA for a fun night together! Cost is \$15 (scholarships available). Meet at House of Prayer at 6:00pm. Pickup at HOP at 8:00pm.

RALY Sunday!

If you've been in church for a long time, you've probably done Rally Sunday, but have you ever done a RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth) Sunday? As a way to say thank you for all the support we've been given, on April 21st at Woodlake RALY youth will lead the worship services. Similarly, as a way to show thanks on Wednesday April 10th RALY youth will have a night of service at House of Prayer. You might also see some RALY videos come out throughout the month to give you insight into what goes on during RALY. Hope to see you at RALY Sunday!

Boys and Girls Club

March was positively fun as we tested various science experiments! This month, we made our own marble runs, did an egg drop, and even made a lava lamp. It was fun to see the youth's creativity and engagement with these projects. If you would like to participate as a leader in after school programming, please email Pr. Neal Cannon (ncannon@woodlakechurch.org).



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TWIN CITIES



RALY, Youth, Children and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

Hello from HoPP! We love this time of year, it's when learning really starts to consolidate, friendships are solidified, and so many giggles can be heard. We are getting outside more and more and enjoy our days together. We have two months left of the school year and we will have birthdays to celebrate, lots of play outside, an end of year picnic and so much more.

As I finish out my last two months with the children here at HoPP, I am feeling very grateful for everything we've been through during the last six years. It's been an honor and blessing to grow a program that families love and return to over and over again with siblings - how fun to see families grow. I'm thankful we were able to stay open during the COVID years and provide a safe space for children to continue to socialize and learn.

I'm so thankful for these last three years of being a full-time program where so much learning happened. I know this is largely due to the support of the church staff and congregation! All of the prayers, well wishes, labor, financial donations and material donations have meant a lot and I'm very thankful for it all.

I look forward to making my last two months with children the best yet! If you have questions about our current program, please email Nicole at nolson@hoplc.org. If you have questions about the future of HoPP, please email Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org.



House of Prayer Preschool Open Positions

Please help us spread the word about our open Preschool positions. Summaries of the positions are below and full position descriptions are available on our website at <https://hoplc.org/preschool>. To apply, send resume / cover letter to Pastor Eric Luedtke at eluedtke@hoplc.org by April 28. We would also consider an established, licensed preschool looking for dedicated classroom space as a rental partner.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Preschool Director/Lead Teacher

HOP Preschool is seeking a passionate and experienced leader for our preschool program to ensure the highest standards of care and education for children aged 3-5. Responsibilities include curriculum development, staff management, and fostering a nurturing environment that promotes social, emotional, and intellectual growth. The ideal candidate will possess strong leadership skills and experience in early childhood education, meet the requirements of a Teacher through MN DHS, understand and know how to independently implement all DHS Childcare Licensing requirements, and have a commitment to fostering a sense of community within our preschool family.

Preschool Assistant

We are seeking an energetic, caring, and qualified Preschool Assistant to join our classroom 3 days/wk.

RALY, Children, Youth and Family

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

RALY VBS is happening again this summer and we are excited to invite you and your kiddos to join us for another week of games, crafts, Bible stories, songs, and more! The Luther Park staff and adult volunteers will again be joining us for an amazing week of activities. We hope you consider inviting a friend this summer!



Who: All kids currently in PreK-5th grade

- Youth in grades 6 and up are invited to apply as a VBS youth leader! Youth leaders may contact Pastor Neal at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org to apply.
- All young children must be potty-trained to attend VBS

When: July 8-11th

- 5:00-5:30pm - Family Meal
- 5:30-7:30pm - Programming

Where: House of Prayer Lutheran Church
(7625 Chicago Ave, Richfield, MN 55423)

How Much: Free!

How to Register: Fill out the form on the main page of the HOP website at hoplc.org.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask! God bless, and hope to see you this summer! If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org).



2024 Summer Stretch

Summer Stretch is an afternoon program focused on fun and fellowship! This program is for students entering 6th grade to 9th grade. It will run the same week as VBS, from July 8th to 11th. Tentative activities include bowling, mystery day, escape room, and vertical endeavors.

For questions, please contact Pastor Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org. Register on the main page of the HOP website at hoplc.org.



Community Engagement

Simpson Housing Meals



Our Simpson Housing Meal for March was beef stew, salad, cornbread, brownies, and quiche for our vegetarian option. Thanks to this month's cooking crew of Leanne and Jenna Hyde, Jean and Charlie Robbins, Sue Holton, Cara and Scott Wright, and Steve Pierson.

Each month, HOP serves a delicious and nutritious meal to approximately 50 guests of Simpson Housing on 33rd & Pillsbury in Minneapolis. We meet at HOP at 5pm to carpool to Zion Lutheran.

Upcoming dates to serve at Simpson are:
April 16, May 14, June 11

All are welcome to join us for this fun, community building, opportunity to serve. No previous experience needed! Contact Leanne Hyde at maramom62@gmail.com to serve.

Luther Park Camp Shower

Luther Park is hosting a Camp Shower on April 20th to get ready for summer. And HOP folks are planning to attend!

Let's prep the cabins, restock the summer supplies (link to Amazon wishlist: https://www.amazon.com/.../s/EYT2N41Q6UVY/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex or pick up a list on Sundays at the Info Desk), and get a taste of summer with fun games and activities! You also have a chance to sponsor a 2024 camper who asked for a subsidy or scholarship. All genders and ages are welcome for the day! Bring all donations to HOP by Sun. 4/14.

If you'd like to stay over the night before, carpool, or just plan on attending please let Caity Wright (caitywright13@gmail.com) or Pastor Eric (eluedtke@hoplc.org) know.

Schedule of Events:

- 10:00am - Welcome!
- 10:15am - Volunteer duties assigned
- 12:15pm - Free will offering lunch
- 1:30pm - Camp Shower games - including prizes!

Volunteer projects include deep cleaning cabins, designing bulletin boards, making cabin bins, organizing arts and crafts, and so much more!



Mount Olivet Day Services

WARM and FRIENDLY on the INSIDE

Mount Olivet Adult Day Services
612-413-7500

Enthusiasm measures our being alive and there is plenty of that here at Mount Olivet Adult Day Services.

Programming includes opportunities to hear a poem, sing a song, hug a friend, dance, and play a game; all in one glorious morning or afternoon!

Mount Olivet Day Services serves as a wonderful reprieve for caregivers and is the best place for someone you love, as it has been for 28 years!

Deep down, we all want to be acknowledged, loved and accepted as cheered on and encouraged. To take a chance at making art, reminisce to your favorite music with friends, and enjoy a meal together. There is a space here for your loved one. For more details contact **Marcus Dahl, Director of Admissions and Marketing, at 612-413-7500.**

Richfield 4th of July Parade

The city of Richfield is bringing back the 4th of July celebration and parade, and we are going to have a float in the parade. We need people to help us decorate the float, and, people with creative ideas to join us as we put it all together. Please contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com if you have ideas, or want to help!



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.
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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
Ross and Vicki Kiehl	4/16	30

A Look Back



MEMORIAL SERVICES

03/08/24 - Angela King

03/25/24 - Delores "Dee" Fiedler

April 23, 2019—The choir attended a National Lutheran Choir rehearsal at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.