

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

Who Are We Created to Be?



Pastor Eric Luedtke

Sometimes it feels easier to ask questions than to give answers. Questions allow us to wonder and explore, but answers force us to commit and define - if only for a moment. Maya Angelou writes, "you are the sum total of everything you've ever seen, heard, eaten,

smelled, been told, forgot - it's all there. Everything influences each of us." Questions invite us to draw out the variables that have created who we are and help us understand how we have arrived at this moment in our existence.

Who are we as a congregation called House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield, Minnesota?

On four pillars in our Narthex, you'll find the self-identified core values of our congregation. Simple words that could be unpacked in multiple ways: Welcoming, Relationships, Compassion, Openness. As a congregation we have identified these as words that guide our shared ministry and action.

During the month of January, we'll focus our worship on exploring each of these words to unpack what they mean for us as a community.



We'll have opportunities during worship and fellowship time to answer some questions that take us deeper and remind us of how we arrived at these core values (fear not, you'll still have plenty of time for coffee and free form conversation as well). We'll use your input in guiding us into February, because knowing who we are is only part of the question, knowing who we are created to be carries us into the future. We'll explore that question, as we get to February.

Contact Pastor Eric with any comments, insights, or questions at eluedtke@hoplc.org / 612-866-8471 ext. 2.

Installation of Pastor Eric Luedtke Sunday, January 8, 2023



During both the 9:30 am and 11:00 am worship services on Sunday, January 8, 2023, Pastor Eric will be officially installed as Senior Pastor of House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

This is a celebration of the public commitment by both Pastor Eric and House of Prayer to our shared work in the Gospel. Join us in worship and celebrate with Kringle (one of Pastor Eric's favorite treats) during fellowship time.

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Congratulations



*Brent King
HOP President*

As 2022 ends and we look ahead to 2023, I want to offer my congratulations to you, the House of Prayer community. When we congratulate, usually the focus is about the past, and in the case of HOP that is appropriate. HOP has survived another year of pandemic impacted existence, dispatched our Interim Pastor (Jeff) to his next calling, welcomed our Bridge Pastor (Sarah) for a short and enthusiastic six-week stint, and completed a call process to add Pastor Eric Luedtke to the HOP family. Whew!

Short pause. I cannot let a monthly newsletter article occur without another “word nerd” moment: when we dissect the word “congratulations,” it has its origins in two words:

- Con (Latin: cum) – meaning with or together
- Gratulations (Latin: gratulari) – meaning to give thanks or show joy

Hence, there is no reason we cannot apply congratulations to what House of Prayer is going to do in 2023 and beyond. Here are three items that come to mind which I believe will help gather momentum and shape our future:

- On January 8, Pastor Eric will be installed as HOP’s Senior Pastor. I look forward to a festive and momentous day. If you have not ventured back to HOP since the COVID era started, this would be a great time to check out what’s new.
- As Pastor Eric continues to grow his engagement with the HOP community, I look forward to him engaging and collaborating with the congregation to revisit and reestablish our Mission and Core Values in the new year.
- Finally, I think this will be a year we can focus on our Welcoming values and reestablish some of the momentum that took on new meaning in 2019 with our RIC (Reconciling in Christ) efforts. Pastor Eric has already hinted to the Leadership Team that Welcoming can be one of our focus areas entering 2023.

For as much as congratulations are appropriate for the continued perseverance and commitment of this HOP family for 2022, I am just as encouraged to offer my congratulations for what you - what WE - are going to do—in 2023 and beyond.

Happy New Year!

If you have any questions, please contact me at brentgking8157@gmail.com.

Your Leadership Ministry Team

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

Brent King - Congregational President: brentgking8157@gmail.com
Paul Danielson - Congregational Vice President: pdanielson1@comcast.net
Charley Simonson - Treasurer: charleysimonson@hotmail.com
Shirley Moen - Recording Secretary: smoen@riverway.com
Kim Houle - Community Development: wifeofadrumnerguy@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

Happy New Year! I hope everyone at House of Prayer had a wonderful Christmas. We thank everyone for their generosity this year and look forward to what 2023 has to offer.

November financials ended right around budget for the month we have a net operating revenue of -10,175 for the year, which is better than our projected expectation for this time of the year. While offering income has been a little lower than anticipated, an increase in rental revenue has mostly offset that and expenses have been lower than budgeted thus far into the year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at charleysimonson@hotmail.com

Thank you, Charley Simonson, HOP Treasurer

| <u>November Financials</u> | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <u>Nov. 2022</u> | | <u>YTD</u> | |
| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
| Revenue | | | | |
| Offerings | 23,457 | 26,000 | 148,775 | 155,000 |
| Rental Income | 8,150 | 8,750 | 43,800 | 39,650 |
| Other Income | 1,026 | 200 | 5,851 | 520 |
| Preschool Income | 9,855 | 10,000 | 31,423 | 33,325 |
| Total Revenue | 42,578 | 44,950 | 229,080 | 228,495 |
| Total Expenditures | | | | |
| | 52,884 | 54,853 | 239,255 | 269,119 |
| Net Operating Revenue | -10,306 | -9,903 | -10,175 | -40,624 |

| <u>Dedicated Fund Activity</u> | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
| Dedicated Funds Received | | |
| Evangelism | 0 | 0 |
| Worship | 0 | 20 |
| Facilities | 700 | 9,209 |
| Fall Festival | 1,785 | 2,745 |
| Youth and Family | 125 | 2,908 |
| Preschool | 720 | 2,770 |
| | <u>3,430</u> | <u>18,077</u> |
| Dedicated Funds Spent | | |
| Evangelism | 0 | 63 |
| Facilities | 2,468 | 4,935 |
| Fall Festival | 439 | 439 |
| Youth and Family | 0 | 3,871 |
| Preschool | 766 | 5,030 |
| | <u>1,305</u> | <u>14,763</u> |
| Net Dedicated Activity | 2,126 | 3,314 |

Around House of Prayer

Festival of Carols From Generation to Generation... We Sing This Story

On Sunday evening, December 18th, the musicians of HOP and friends joined forces in a revival of our Festival of Carols tradition, in celebration of the Advent / Christmas season. The joyous tones of voices, handbells, wind/brass instruments, and organ created a festive musical celebration through word and music. It was a wonderful community collaboration between the singers from HOP and Woodlake Lutheran, the HOP Handbell choir, the HOP Winds and the Northern Winds Concert Band.



Based on the Lessons & Carols tradition of the Church of England, the music was interspersed with scripture readings that tell the story of Christ's coming into the world. Our Director of Shared Youth Ministries Daniel Ditmanson, together with Mara Lien, a high school student from Woodlake Lutheran, served as lectors for the Festival.

Pastor Eric offered a warm welcome and blessing to all in attendance, who were a part of the musical celebration as well, singing many beloved Advent and Christmas hymns together with the choirs and instruments.

There was a free-will offering collected to support both the war relief efforts in Ukraine through Lutheran World Relief, and the operating budget for the Northern Winds Concert Band.

A reception with Christmas cookies and warm cider was enjoyed by all following the Festival of Carols, rounding out this special celebration of Christ's birth at House of Prayer.

Please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org if you have any questions about music at HOP.



Around House of Prayer

Christmas Eve - We Keep Telling This Story



Thanks to all who participated in Christmas Eve worship to once again tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Whether it was hearing the Christmas story or being immersed in the beautiful music, seeing old friends or gathering extended family – we all play a part in continuing to tell the story of Christmas that extends beyond the extinguishing of the last candle to remind us that God dwells with us in our daily lives.



Around House of Prayer

Fellowship Speaker Series

Join us on Thursday, January 12, from 1-3 pm as we welcome Maser, Amundson, & Boggio P.A. to speak on the topic of elder law in a seminar titled Estate Planning 101.

Stay for cookie and coffee fellowship after the speaker. All are welcome!

Contact Steve Barnes at sebarnes36@gmail.com or Noel Sagness if you have speaker suggestions or would like to help plan the next event.



Altar Guild & Sanctuary Cleaning

The Altar Guild meets on the 2nd Monday of every month. Come join us on January 9th at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall.



Following our January meeting, we will have some extra time sprucing up the sanctuary for the new year. All men and women are welcome!

On Monday, January 9, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. we will wipe down the pews and whatever else needs our TLC. This is an annual Altar Guild project, but extra hands would be so appreciated. Please bring a bucket and your favorite cleaning supplies, if possible.

For questions, please contact Nancy Bjornstad at ne_bjorn.6203@yahoo.com, Sharon Stewart at system13@gmail.com, or LeRae Finn at ler-aef@comcast.net.

Caring for our Congregation Homebound Ministry Team

Our Homebound Ministry Team keeps our members connected and cared for when they are unable to attend worship regularly. Individuals or couples make regular visits to members for prayer, conversation, and bringing them communion.



If you aren't able to be in worship regularly and would like to be visited by a team member or if there's a congregation member you know of that should be on our list, please contact Cathy Shromoff at cshromoff@msn.com or Pastor Eric 612.866.8471, ext. 2 or eluedtke@hoplc.org and we'll make sure to coordinate a visit.

If you're a caring soul who would like to be part of the team that makes visits, contact Cathy Shromoff at cshromoff@msn.com or Pastor Eric 612.866.8471 ext. 2 or eluedtke@hoplc.org and we can tell you more about being part of our care team.

Book Discussion Group

House of Prayer Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, January 4, at 1:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

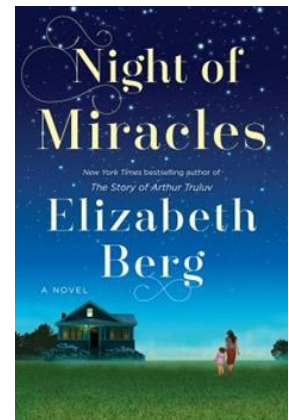
At our January meeting, we will be discussing *Night of Miracles* by Elizabeth Berg

Upcoming Books:

2/2023 - *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

We welcome anyone who loves to read!

For more information about Book Club, please contact Sandy Williams at srwillms70@hotmail.com.



Around House of Prayer

Table Top Board Game Meet Up

Join us on Friday afternoons in the Narthex from 1:30-5:00 pm for a new group at HOP. Come play a game, meet new people, and enjoy fellowship on the first Friday of each month.



More information will be coming soon.

If you have any questions in the meantime, contact Sara Barnaby at anriasingames@gmail.com.

All are welcome!

Coffee & Donut Fellowship

Coffee and Donut Fellowship continues Sunday mornings between worship services.

We are continually grateful to the volunteers who pick up donuts, make coffee, set-up the coffee bar, and provided service with a smile!

Please keep supporting this special ministry as you are able. The sign-up board is available every Sunday morning or contact the church office during the week to be added to the volunteer list.

Please connect with Andry Jurcich to get involved (andryj@invisik.com).



Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes for 2023 have arrived.

Envelopes are available for pickup in the Narthex. They are grouped alphabetically by last name, and each envelope has a sticky note with the member's name. Please note, some may have a new envelope number.

New user to envelopes? We do have some additional envelope packets available. Please make sure to write your name and address on the accompanying list so we will know who to link to these open account numbers.

Thank you for your generosity and support for House of Prayer Church!

If you have any questions, please contact Patti Benson at pbenson@hoplc.org / 612-866-8471 ext. 4.



Card Ministry

Card Ministry is meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 10am – noon in Classrooms 1-2. Come join us!



We have a great time making donated cards new again. No special skills or craft experience needed. All materials are provided.

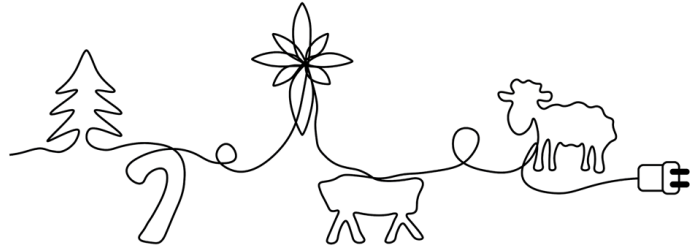
The cards we make are sent to HOP members and friends for special birthdays and anniversaries throughout the year to say hello from HOP!

Please contact Sharon Stewart at system13@gmail.com with any questions.

Children, Youth and Family

Richfield Area Lutheran Youth (RALY) presents: A Plug-and-Play Christmas Pageant!

Thanks to RALY youth, Sunday School children, and their leaders for telling the story of Christmas on Sunday, December 11th at Woodlake Lutheran Church and Sunday, December 18th at House of Prayer in the Plug and Play Christmas Pageant!



RALY youth served as the narrator and everyone else was “plugged in” to roles as Mary/ Joseph, inn keeper, shepherds, angels, and kings. Anyone that wanted to participate found a part to play.

For more information about Youth and Family programming at HOP, contact: Daniel Ditmanson for RALY at dditmanson@hoplc.org, Pastor Eric for confirmation at eluedtke@hoplc.org, Kristi Liu (kline010@umn.edu) or Andry Jurcich (andryj@invisik.com) for Sunday School.



Children, Youth and Family

RALY Summer Schedule

It's not too early to think about summer!

Save the dates:



June 25-30 - Camp Week
at Luther Park Danbury (1st-12th Graders)

July 10-13 - Vacation Bible School
(PreK-5th Grade)

July 10-13 - Summer Stretch
(Middle School Grades 6th-8th)

July 21-30 - Senior High Service & Learning Trip (Grades 8th-12th)

Come join us for the Shared Ministry Team meeting on Tuesday, January 10, at 6pm at Woodlake to brainstorm ideas / themes for the summer and to finalize dates. Contact Daniel Ditmanson at 612-866-8471, ext. 5 / dditmanson@hoplc.org with any questions.



Sunday School January Lessons



- 1/8 Wise Men
- 1/15 Simeon & Anna
- 1/22 The Boy at the Temple
- 1/29 John the Baptist

Contact Kristi Liu at kline010@umn.edu or Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com for more details about HOP Sunday School or if you have questions.

Family Skating / Sledding Event

We invite everyone of all ages to join us Sunday, January 15, 2023, from 2 pm - 4 pm, at Christian Park (6900 Bloomington Ave. S. in Richfield).

Bring ice skates if you'd like to skate! Bring sleds if you want to sled! Or both! Dress warmly! And, of course there will be snacks!

Please contact Daniel Ditmanson at dditmanson@hoplc.org if you have any questions.



Children, Youth and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

Happy 2023 from House of Prayer Preschool!

I feel beyond blessed to help children grow and am so grateful for the HOP community for supporting us. As we enter 2023, we look forward to more time together as a community the rest of this academic year, summer camps this summer, and a new school year in the fall. The children have become a tight knit group that loves to spend their days together - taking care of each other, taking care of the room, and learning so many new things. We have been lucky to fill our program with referrals and siblings and this year is no exception - we have the 2nd and 3rd sibling from many families!

If you know of someone who is interested in preschool for fall 2023, please contact Nicole Olson at nolson@hoplc.org. Happy 2023 to you all!



In the Community

Gift Card Donations to HOP Friendship Fund

A big Thank You to all who donated gift cards to our HOP Friendship Fund over the holidays. We continue to help friends and neighbors with \$25 gift cards to Holiday Station Stores and Walmart (closest to church).

Our outreach budget provides \$180/month for gift cards. We typically run out in the first week of each month. Your continued help is needed to support this very direct ministry to our community. There is no other program in the area like it.

Please drop off your gift card donations in the Church Office with your name on them and the amount you donate will be added to your HOP annual contributions.

If you have any questions about HOP's Friendship Fund, please contact Cara Wright at 612-866-8471 ext. 3 or cwright@hoplc.org.



Simpson Housing Meal Team & New Shelter

The HOP Simpson Housing Meals team will be serving a meal again on January 10th. This will be the first day at Zion Lutheran, the interim site for the shelter. Simpson will be building a new building at the shelter's current location (E. 28th St. and 1st Ave. in Minneapolis).

**A
MODEL
FOR
MORE**



Information from the [Simpson Shelter website](#): The new building will continue the church's legacy and will be a national best practice, low barrier shelter model designed to meet the short-term housing needs of shelter guests through enriched services, with hopes that guests achieve increased stability and better housing outcomes as a result. Plans for the four story facility include two floors of permanent supportive housing (70 beds), a commercial kitchen capable of serving 100 people, a 24 -hour front desk, and offices/clinic space for Health Care for the Homeless, service staff, and community and cultural partners. One of Simpson's core values is: "We celebrate and embrace the uniqueness and dignity of every person." As a mission-driven organization, Simpson evaluates all opportunities in light of our core mission and values. Our recognition that everyone deserves a safe and dignified space is the primary focus in this project.

Steve and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of Simpson Housing. We will also be serving on February 14th and March 14th. If you are interested in joining us preparing a meal, contact me at maramom62@gmail.com.

Leanne Hyde and Steve Pierson

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 |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Roger and Cathy Shromoff | 01/17 | 53 |

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None in December

A Look Back



2003 HOP Brass