

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

Where is God?



Pastor Eric Luedtke

Something about warmer weather brings on the existential questions of life. Maybe it's the ability to sit outside and gaze into the blue sky or wonder about the budding trees and blooming flowers. I hope your schedule allows you time for such pursuits and allows you to open

your mind the questions that come. Questions like, *Where is God?* We might ask this question from multiple angles.

Where is God? is a question we ask when tragedy strikes, when we wonder if God is truly present with us because the pain we feel is so unbearable that we can't imagine God would let us experience such a challenging time.

Where is God? is a question we ask when we feel alone, where we don't think anyone understands us or is with us in a time of confusion or doubt.

Where is God? is a question that might be asked by children and adults when we truly wonder where the physical presence of God resides. Is God in heaven? Is God here on earth? Why don't we see God the way we see our friends and family?

Where is God? is sometimes a question that gets asked when we feel we have lost our way as a community, when we begin to get sidetracked by things that drive us away from what we understand to be God's will in our lives.

As summer allows us a chance to take a step back (hopefully) and slow down a bit, I hope you will take a moment to wonder, *Where is God?* In my life, in my community, in my family. As we allow ourselves to ask the question, I pray that we will gain a greater awareness to where God shows up in our lives. We will see God in our neighbor, in community leaders, in our selves.

Bring this question with you to worship, watch for the ways that God appears in our singing, praying, and through the tangible gifts of Holy Communion. Bring this question to your home, watch for the ways God guides your daily choices.

Bring this question on vacation, see God in the majesty around you, in the wonder of creation, in the places you see for the first time or for the five-hundredth time.

Bring this question into your conversations with friends and family, ask them where they see God in and around their lives.

*God, my God, it's you I search for,
my whole being longs for you.*

~Psalm 63:1

Annual Meeting & Dinner



Please join us for HOP's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. A simple supper will be served at 5:00pm. If possible, please RSVP for the dinner to the church office or sign up on Sundays (but come even if you didn't RSVP). The booklet of reports is available on the HOP website at <https://hoplc.org/annual-reports>. A letter with Annual Meeting details was mailed to HOP members at the end of May and sent to our E-News subscribers. For any questions, contact Cara Wright at cwright@hoplc.org or 621-866-8471 (ext.3).

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Back to Basics



*Brent King
HOP President*

As of this writing, I have been employed for 46+ years. I have spent 44 of those years with the title "manager." With that title in corporate America, you get a lot of training in management theory and practical application. Through the years, one of the (theory) concepts I was exposed to was called "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs." This theory suggests humans require the most basic needs to be satisfied before aspiring to greater needs, with the peak of the hierarchy known as "self-actualization" (the point when a person can reach their full potential).



My purpose today is to focus on the base of Dr. Maslow's hierarchy: Physiological Needs. As noted in the pyramid diagram, Maslow's thesis is that the basic needs of breathing, food, water, shelter, clothing, and sleep are *essential to sustaining life and necessary to move up* the hierarchy. In other words, humans can't skip levels; the levels build on each other.

I believe we address basic needs in much of our work at House of Prayer. One specific example is how we gather to help members and friends mourn the loss of their loved ones at funeral services. Following the funeral service, the church offers a meal (the funeral lunch). Food is a fundamental human need. When we have been impacted by the loss of a loved one, one of the ways we help each other heal is simply by offering food. It seems so simple that we almost overlook it, but it is critical to survival. Something that we can celebrate, and raise as a core competency of our church, is how HOP's Funeral Lunch Team does a wonderful job providing this essential service. The support, care, and fellowship which occurs during the funeral lunch serve a basic human need when our grieving friends need it most.

As we follow Pastor Eric's leadership through our cottage meetings and efforts to develop and affirm our mission and vision, I encourage all of us to recognize the important ministry of food (as a basic human need) as one of the foundations of HOP's compassion and strength. That's a tribute to our people, our purpose, and our faith.

(Diagram Source: Simply Psychology)

Monthly Finance Report

	<u>April Financials</u>			
	<u>April 2023</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue				
Offerings	35,758	40,000	355,735	364,000
Rental Income	10,350	8,750	97,975	83,600
Other Income	988	2,825	3,941	5,230
Preschool Income	9,156	10,000	80,219	83,325
Total Revenue	56,252	61,575	537,870	536,155
Total Expenditures	54,548	61,149	522,789	568,589
Net Operating Revenue	1,704	426	15,081	-32,434

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

We continue to operate ahead of budget this year. On the income side, increased rental receipts have more than offset lower offerings. On the expense side we continue to spend less than budgeted, most notably, due to lower than expected HR costs. In this year of transition with a new pastor we have also moved in a deliberate manner on facilities expense to ensure that our spending reflects mission as well as prudent evaluation of need from our operations and facilities staff and leaders so we have not spent as much on facilities as we budgeted for. I am grateful for such a thoughtful group.

June also brings us into budgeting for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Thank you to all who have returned pledges for the upcoming year. This allows us to create a meaningful budget and I appreciate all Patti Benson's work to evaluate all aspect of income and expense to create an accurate financial picture for us that will be shared in the upcoming annual report.

While we have not spent as aggressively as budgeted in the current fiscal year, we anticipate budgeting for major facilities projects again for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. The major items on the list will include a parking lot refresh and new HVAC controls. Inflation has also had a significant impact on our energy costs which will account for the greatest increase in our operations costs next year. More detail on our finances will be shared in the annual report and I encourage anyone with questions to reach out to me at 612-483-3081 or charleysimonson@hotmail.com.

Thank you,
Charley Simonson



	<u>Dedicated Fund Activity</u>	
	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Dedicated Funds Received		
Evangelism	0	0
Discipleship	0	50
Worship	3,450	14,670
Facilities	2,265	17,524
Fall Festival	0	2,745
Foundation	0	2,075
Youth and Family	0	3,108
Preschool	3,876	9,667
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	9,591	49,839
Dedicated Funds Spent		
Evangelism	0	251
Facilities	0	27,698
Fall Festival	0	439
Foundation	0	2,075
Worship	2,238	6,419
Youth and Family	0	3,871
Preschool	3,633	12,474
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Total Spent	5,871	53,227
Net Dedicated Activity	3,720	-3,388

Around House of Prayer

Hearing Your Voice

We've had a great season of Cottage Meetings here at House of Prayer. More than 50 people have shared their voice as we develop a Mission and Vision statement that will lead us into the coming years of ministry together. At the Congregational Meeting on June 14, Pastor Eric will share an update of the overall themes that have emerged along with some next steps that we will take as a congregation toward developing the statement and making a commitment to live into our shared future.



If you didn't have a chance to participate in the Cottage Meetings, Pastor Eric would be glad to connect with you to hear your thoughts and ideas. Just drop him an email at eluedtke@hoplc.org or call 612.866.8471 ext. 2 to set up a time for conversation.

Card Ministry

The Card Ministry Group would like to thank members and friends of House of Prayer for the great support you provide us.



We could not do this ministry without your donation of used cards or your purchases of the reconstructed cards. This year, we once again made a donation to the Youth Program to help cover the cost of meals for the Luther Park staff who assist with VBS. We also send "sunshine" cards to church members for various occasions.

We remake anniversary, birthday, get well, thank you, thinking of you and sympathy cards. Any donations of used cards may be left in the church office.

We will resume our regular schedule in September with crafting days the first and third Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Again, "THANKS"!! If you'd like to join us, just show up, or contact Nancy Bjornstad at [ne_bjorn6203@yahoo.com](mailto:bjorn6203@yahoo.com).

Coffee & Donut Fellowship

We are thrilled that our ever-popular fellowship hour will continue through the summer. We sincerely appreciate the many hands who help with making the coffee, picking up the donuts, setting-up and serving the goodies, clean-up, and generous donations to keep it all going.

We continue to welcome (and need) more volunteers to be a part of this special church ministry. Youth can help, too! The sign-up board is available every Sunday morning in the Narthex or contact the church office to be added to the list. We especially still need a coordinator to keep us organized. Please connect with Andry Jurcich (andryj@invisik.com) to get involved.



Fellowship Speaker Series/Expo '27

On Thursday, May 11, HOP welcomed Jamie Verbrugge, Bloomington City Manager, to share information about Expo 2027. Bloomington is one of five sites around the world being considered.

Expo is a World's Fair, allowing countries from around the world to showcase and unveil their most remarkable achievements of today/tomorrow. Bloomington's theme "Healthy People, Healthy Planet" would highlight how the world works together in health and wellness for all people in a place that is a leader in healthy lifestyle.

The site decision will be announced in June by the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE). If Bloomington is selected, the event would be held from 5/15/27 to 8/15/27. Bloomington is a strong candidate as the site is already "Expo ready," with close proximity to travel and hotels.

If you have questions or ideas for the Fellowship Speaker Series, contact Noel Sagness at 612-866-0833 or Steve Barnes at sebarnes36@gmail.com.

Around House of Prayer

Music Sunday

On Sunday, May 21st, HOP musicians gathered for Music Sunday, in celebration of God's gift of music, and of Jon Kietzer's 50 years of service to the HOP Music Ministry. The HOP Winds and Hand Bell Choir played a variety of instrumental music, including hymn settings for organ and instruments, a lovely, contemplative Kyrie setting by Jon, the beloved Gabriel's Oboe, and the Blessing of Vaughan Williams. The prelude brought the singers and HOP Winds together in a piece recognizing Kwanzaa, titled Imani ("Faith" in Swahili). The Festival Choir comprised current and former HOP Adult Choir members, and several singers from the Woodlake Lutheran Choir. A highlight of the service music was the special commissioned arrangement by Mark Sedio of Jon's favorite hymn, *How Shall I Sing That Majesty*. The congregation joined all the singers and instrumentalists in offering this very special surprise gift to Jon in recognition of his contributions to HOP. A festive Canadian Brass arrangement for the postlude concluded the service on a very high note. The Sanctuary was filled with music participants (ca. 90 in all!), congregational members, and friends of HOP and Jon Kietzer. The service was followed by a special brunch honoring Jon, where gifts, many thanks, and memories were shared. A round of limericks by Mike Murphy provided entertainment and humor for this festive and momentous celebration. Many thanks to all who helped plan and participated in Music Sunday. For questions about HOP's liturgical worship, contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at 612-866-8471 / rhansonweber@hoplc.org.



Around House of Prayer

From Age to Age - Beauty in the World Concert

A lovely concert took place at HOP on Saturday evening, May 6th, when From Age to Age, a local chamber choir performed an eclectic program entitled, "Beauty in the World."

Music from various countries - including Argentina, Italy, South Africa, and the United States- expressed the beauty of our humanity and the wonder of nature. The group's finely-tuned Acapella (unaccompanied) singing brought out the best of the HOP Sanctuary acoustic. A reception following the concert was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Dr. Peter Durow and the singers of From Age to Age for sharing their beautiful choral music at HOP!

If you have any questions regarding From Age to Age, please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org or at 612-866-8471, ext. 7.



Minnesota Boychoir at HOP

The Minnesota Boychoir, directed by Mark Johnson, will sing at a Combined Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 4th.

The Boychoir has a long Richfield history, where for many years they rehearsed and sang for special services and hymns for festivals at HOP.

For our upcoming service, the choir will sing a variety of contemporary and more traditional music, and offer a mini-concert immediately following worship in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend, with a special invitation to any families with youth and children/grandchildren!

We will only have one service that day to accommodate the Boychoir schedule.

If you have any questions about the Boychoir, please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org.



Around House of Prayer

Spiffin' Up the Place Entrance Garden

Many thanks to Julie Bonebrake for all her work to clean up, plant flowers, and re-mulch the garden by the parking lot entrance! It's a lovely welcome to all who enter HOP. If you would like to help around HOP, please contact Cara Wright at 612-866-8471 ext. 3 or cwright@hoplc.org.



After School Program

As an extension of RALY and our Collaboration Partnership with the Lutheran ministries in Richfield, we are kicking off an After School Program in partnership with the



Boys & Girls Club. A "trial round" of programming was hosted at Woodlake with great results, so we are "all systems go" for launching a full schedule in 2023-24. Each Wednesday of the school year we'll host around 10 middle school students for an after school class/program based on the gifts of the adult volunteers – baking, knitting, card games, tutoring ... whatever your gift its, it can be shared.

If you're interested in learning more about the program or if you are ready to jump in and volunteer, plan to attend the Informational Meeting on **Wednesday, June 7, 3:30pm** at Woodlake Lutheran Church. Please contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612-866-8471, ext. 2.

Aster Commons Housing for Homeless Youth

One factor in the issue of homelessness is the shortage of deeply affordable housing for those with low incomes. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative seeks to address this issue by building and operating supportive housing developments. Beacon's latest project proposal is Aster Commons, to be located in the southeast corner of E. 66th St. and Portland Ave. S. This property is currently vacant, and is the remnant of two lots that were taken by Richfield to put in a roundabout ten years ago. Because of their size and location it has been difficult to find a developer for them.

This development would include:

- About 40 high-quality, well-managed apartments.
- Focused on young adults (ages 16-24) who are or have experienced homelessness.
- On-site support services will help autistic and other neurodivergent residents build community and work toward achieving their goals.
- Efficiency apartments will be deeply affordable, fitting budgets for young adults who have extremely low incomes (30 percent of the Area Median Income or less).

Further information can be found at: <https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/blog/housing/create-homes/overview-aster-commons/>.

For this project to become a reality it will need advocates, if you would like to be part of this process contact Scott Dahlquist at (612) 919-9232 or sjadahlquist@comcast.net.



Around House of Prayer

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.

Book Discussion Group

House of Prayer Book Discussion Group will not meet throughout the summer months. However, we have chosen two books for discussion in September.

- *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson
- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

We welcome anyone who loves to read!

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



HOP Foundation

House of Prayer Foundation Update

The HOP Foundation met on Monday, April 10, 2023, to discuss business and review funding requests.

At the end of April 2023, the Foundation had total assets of \$720,357. We have \$28,000 available for distribution – our policy is to use 4% (which approximates the gain) of the previous year balance (12/31/2022) for funding grant requests the following year (2023). The Foundation had 5 specific funding requests it received for the 4/10 meeting. All were unanimously approved as follows:

- \$2,500 to purchase 2 HOP office computers.
- \$2,900 for the HOP Preschool to purchase Montessori teaching supplies.
- \$3,000 for Luther Park Bible Camp to fix and enhance the Low Ropes Challenge.
- \$2,000 for our mission partner, Tapestry, to sponsor 2 work permits for a Venezuelan family.
- \$3,000 for Conversation with Friends, a local volunteer organization that helps to support and end isolation by visiting people detained by ICE. Detainees are all in MN facilities and are provided a backpack with survival supplies when they are deported.

Last year, the HOP foundation provided funds for the Luther Park waterfront project, HOP youth programs, Jon Kietzer's 50th Anniversary Music Celebrations, and with congregational approval used funds to pay off the church mortgage.

The HOP Foundation meets quarterly the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 (January, April, July, October) and takes funding requests at the April meeting for summer activities and July/October meetings for fall activities. Current board members are: Jon Kietzer, Jill Larson, Jill Johnson, Steve Pierson, Charles Robbins and Sandy Williams. Pastor Eric is a non-voting member. Contact any of the Board members if you have questions about the HOP Foundation.

Children, Youth and Family

Sunday School

Our last in-person Sunday School for the 2022-2023 school year will be Sunday, June 4th at 10:30am. Please join us for Ice Cream Sundae Sunday when we'll celebrate our successful year with an ice cream bar, special crafts, and games. Everyone is welcome!

As we look forward to summer, we encourage families to look into the different Bible camp weeks at Luther Park Camp-Danbury, as well as to register for Vacation Bible School and Summer Stretch programs. VBS/Summer Stretch are week-long, super fun programs that will take place at Woodlake Lutheran the week of July 10 -13, and are part of our collaborative RALY children and youth program. Visit our HOP website for more information and to register!

Our HOP Sunday School team is very thankful for the children of all ages who joined us each Sunday, and the many caring adults who pitched in to support our year-long adventures. We wish everyone a terrific summer, and look forward to even more fun when Sunday School returns in the fall. Please reach out to Kristi Liu at kline010@umn.edu or Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com if you have any questions or are interested in faith at home resources during the break.



House of Prayer Preschool

Hello from HoPP! ...and just like that, another year is done. I've just finished my 5th year as the Preschool Director and Lead Teacher and it might have been the best one yet!

We have grown into a full-time preschool and childcare center and can serve up to 20 families a year. We are lucky to have HOP families attend as well as families from Richfield, Eagan, Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Bloomington and Apple Valley! Our children this year were as young as 31 months and 8 of our children will go to kindergarten in the fall.

While it's such a wonderful time to celebrate all we learned, I do sometimes get a little sad that so many children will leave and I have to imagine the room without them. I know I'm lucky that many families return with younger siblings, but I still miss the children who move on.

We continue to employ amazing staff, who are so caring and loving to the children. Thank you Abby and Whitney, who will return in the fall!

This summer I will take time to deep clean, organize, and refresh the room, conduct summer camps for current families, and get ready for the new school year. We may still have a space or two open in the fall if you know of anyone who would like to join us! Please contact Nicole at nolson@hoplc.org with any questions about the preschool.



Children, Youth and Family

Camp at Luther Park Danbury

Camp Week: June 25-30

We are once again going to Luther Park, which is located in Danbury, WI. House of Prayer Lutheran Church is a founding member of Luther Park Danbury, and this is one of the many ways we support its ongoing ministry. We also know that a camp experience is one of the keys to faith development and a lifetime of engaged faith! We have chosen the week of June 25th - 30th because there are multiple programs available:

Half week (June 25 - 28)

Suggested for youth in grades 1 - 4

Full week (June 25 - 30)

Suggested for youth in grades 3 - 6

Full Week Beginner Horse Camp (June 25 - 30)

For youth in grades 4 - 12

More information on all programs, as well as registration, can be found at:

[Luther Park Summer Programming](http://www.lutherpark.com/summer-camp-2023.html) (<http://www.lutherpark.com/summer-camp-2023.html>)



Family Camp: June 30 - July 2

This is an excellent opportunity for families to introduce their children/youth to camp. Especially if the children/youth may not be old enough/experienced enough to go to overnight camp alone. Or for grandparents to spend time with their young ones. Or young adults to come as a group. You name it, this weekend is an open schedule! More information on Camp Getaway, as well as registration, can be found here:

[Luther Park Family Getaway](http://www.lutherpark.com/camp-getaway-for-families-2023.html) (<http://www.lutherpark.com/camp-getaway-for-families-2023.html>)

50% Paid By HOP for All Luther Park Summer Experiences!

For details, contact Daniel Ditmanson at dditmanson@hoplc.org.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)



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

Woodlake Lutheran Church



Vacation Bible School is an evening program focused on hands-on faith. This is a FREE 4-day evening program, and will begin with a community meal at 5pm, and then VBS until 8pm. Each evening will be filled with songs, games, arts and crafts, bible stories, and more.

Register on the RALY website at raly-mn.org or contact Daniel Ditmanson at dditmanson@hoplc.org.

Children, Youth and Family

Summer Stretch



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

Summer Stretch is an afternoon program focused on fun and fellowship!
 Afternoon Program Offerings (Tentative):

Monday : Bowling
 Tuesday : Educational Day (TBA)
 Wednesday : Richfield Outdoor Pool
 Thursday : Vertical Endeavors

Cost: \$100/ participant. Helps cover entry into activities, staff time, travel expenses, and snacks. If there is a financial barrier to participation, please don't hesitate to reach out. Both congregations have additional dedicated need-based funds. As we like to say, no questions asked, just ask.

Pre-register prior to June 8th to be guaranteed a T-Shirt in the correct size. Any registrations after the Pre-registration deadline will receive a T-Shirt on a first come, first served basis, and we cannot guarantee the correct size for your child.

Contact Daniel Ditmanson at 612-866-8471, ext. 5/dditmanson@hoplc.org with any questions. Register on the RALY website at rally-mn.org

Community Engagement

Christian Park Clean-up

House of Prayer members and friends gathered at Christian Park on Sunday, May 7th, to walk around and pick up trash and recyclable materials. Thanks to many hands and perfect weather, the work was easy and the day was delightful. We removed close to 25 pounds of trash and debris. Special thanks to Sara Barnaby, Dave Burgwald, Lida Stoner (and friends Amy & Geri) and Pastor Eric. We have also notified Richfield city officials to make sure that Christian Park's "Adopt-A-Park" signage is updated to reflect House of Prayer as the sponsor.

We will plan a fall park clean-up, so watch this space for future opportunities to join us as a steward to God's creation. If you have any questions about HOP's community engagement team, please contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com 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

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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
Chuck and Sandy Hatfield	6/12	52
Don and Antionette Tuffley	6/17	62
Gerald and Pat Buffington	6/18	35
Jeffrey and Gwen	6/27	53
Ed and Myrt Thom	6/27	59

MEMORIAL SERVICES

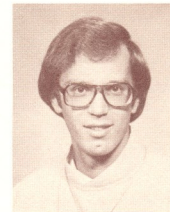
No Memorial Services in May

A Look Back

INTRODUCING OUR PASTORS AND STAFF



John M. Chell



Stephen G. Haschig



Ralph J. Larson



Wilbert Johnson



Jan Bailey
 Church School Coordinator



Jon Kietzer
 Minister of Music

1978 HOP Staff