

# HOUSE OF PRAYER

*Is a gathering of God's people who value:*

**Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness**

## Relationship: A Building Block



Pastor Eric Luedtke

As a pastor, I get welcomed into a variety of spaces others do not. I get welcomed into the tender places of people's lives; the celebrations, the pain, and the sorrow. If only for a moment, people share with pastors stories and experiences they do not readily share with

others. When I take the time to think about the commonalities of these moments it helps me understand a community and what makes them tick.

In January we took a journey through our Core Values as a congregation. We talked briefly about Welcoming, Relationships, Compassion Community, and Openness. I shared with multiple people that when I ask people "why are you part of House of Prayer" their stories often point to one of those core values. This is a good thing – we know who we are and whose we are.

Anglican Priest, Mike Breen, developed a series of what he calls *lifeshapes*, simple shapes that can be drawn to explain theological concepts. Breen uses the triangle to discuss the "up, in,

and out" relationship of discipleship. Up represents our relationship with God. In represents our relationship to our inner circle. Out represents our relationship with the wider world. Breen goes on to teach that discipleship calls us into an equilateral triangle where each side is dependent on the other. We are called to pay attention to each of these types of relationship so that the triangle holds its shape and strength.

The scripture that we read in this Easter season reflects this triangle of relationship of discipleship. This season gives us an opportunity to focus on one of our Core Values as a congregation – Relationships. Many of you have lifted up stories about relationships being one of the primary reasons you are a member of House of Prayer Lutheran Church. I wonder if you see your relationships in the scripture we read? Which part of the triangle do you find yourself most drawn to? How do the people you are in relationship with help you live deeper into your life of discipleship?

As we explore scripture in this Easter season, may you be strengthened by the triangle of discipleship, may the relationships you have with others at House of Prayer be strengthened by what you offer, and may your relationship with God be deepened in all that you do.

## 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](mailto:brentgking8157@gmail.com)  
 Paul Danielson - Congregational Vice President: [pdanielson1@comcast.net](mailto:pdanielson1@comcast.net)  
 Charley Simonson - Treasurer: [charleysimonson@hotmail.com](mailto:charleysimonson@hotmail.com)  
 Shirley Moen - Recording Secretary: [smoen@riverway.com](mailto:smoen@riverway.com)  
 Kim Houle - Community Development: [wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com](mailto:wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com)  
 Andry Jurcich - Congregational Development: [andryj@invisik.com](mailto:andryj@invisik.com)  
 Steve Pierson - Support Ministry: [stevepierson56@hotmail.com](mailto:stevepierson56@hotmail.com)  
 Betsy Paradise - Human Resources: [betsyparadise1@gmail.com](mailto:betsyparadise1@gmail.com)



**HOP Leadership  
Ministry Team**

## Leadership Ministry Team Update

### Do Your Job



*Brent King*  
*HOP President*

Recently Angela and I attended a funeral for our neighbor's dad. During the family memories portion of the service, our neighbor (Dave) shared stories about how his dad (Dick) had been a Navy veteran, an ironworker, and an all-around good mentor to his family. What struck me about Dave's depiction of his dad was how quietly and stoically Dick went about his life; from leaving high school early to join the Navy, broken bones and severed toes from his ironworking days, to the way he dealt with the devastation of melanoma and terrible side effects of the immunotherapy which made his final months so painful.

As I listened to Dave eulogize his dad, I couldn't help thinking about two other dads that impacted me. My dad (Leonard) and Angela's dad (Ralph) were both farm boys from west-central Wisconsin and Minnesota, respectively. Both eventually came to the Twin Cities and found jobs; my dad at Minnegasco and Angela's dad as a house mover. Both Leonard and Ralph were hard workers, did everything they could to make sure their families had the basics (and then some), and enjoyed seeing their kids grow up with a chance at getting a better living than they had. They loved having fun, a cold beer after a hard week at work, and welcomed the chance for a well-deserved break. I suspect that most of you reading this have similar memories that make you smile.

The common thread between these three dads: they did their jobs as dads. They weren't looking for a pat on the back or a trophy for doing their jobs. They were simply doing jobs that needed to be done. That quality ("just doing my job") is one of the strongest traits I see in those I admire.

Your Leadership Ministry Team has a job to do as well. It isn't always the most fun, but the Team recognizes its obligations to House of Prayer. When the LMT recently shared the news regarding the Letter of Intent received from Southview Seventh-Day Adventist Church, we knew the news might be unwelcome to some in our congregation. We were driven to share that information with you on Palm Sunday out of the sense of responsibility for transparency to this congregation.

Much like the dads referenced earlier in this article, I admire House of Prayer's leadership for recognizing and respecting the trust you have placed in them as your elected representatives. It's another great example of hard-working and mature people who are "just doing their job."

### We Want to Hear From You

During the month of May, House of Prayer members will participate in Cottage Meetings to shape a mission and vision statement to guide the congregation forward. While *vision* and *mission* seem like nebulous concepts, they are drawn from everyday conversation around some simple questions:

- What excites you about House of Prayer?
- What concerns you about House of Prayer?
- What do you want to do together with people from House of Prayer?

Pastor Eric will be facilitating our Cottage Meeting conversations to receive the answers the congregation gives to these (and a few other) questions and shape them into guiding statements that we as a congregation will use to guide our ministry in the many years to come.

Sign-ups will be available in the early part of May and meeting dates will be in the middle of May on a variety of days and times of day. We want to hear your voice and engage the whole congregation in these conversations. If you have questions about the Cottage Meetings, contact Pastor Eric [eluedtke@hoplc.org](mailto:eluedtke@hoplc.org) or 612.866.8471 x2.

## Leadership Ministry Team Update

### Monthly Finance Report

I hope everyone had a wonderful and meaningful Easter. Thank you to all who have returned their pledges for the upcoming year. We appreciate the thought that people put into giving at House of Prayer so we can create an accurate budget for the upcoming fiscal year and there is still time to submit your pledge if you haven't done so. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [charleysimonson@hotmail.com](mailto:charleysimonson@hotmail.com). Charley Simonson, HOP Treasurer

<b><u>March Financials</u></b>				
	<u>March 2023</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Offerings	30,957	37,000	319,978	324,000
Rental Income	10,350	8,750	87,625	74,850
Other Income	983	725	2,953	2,405
Preschool Income	10,101	10,000	71,063	73,325
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>52,391</b>	<b>56,475</b>	<b>481,619</b>	<b>474,580</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>				
	51,444	59,277	468,242	507,440
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>-2,802</b>	<b>13,379</b>	<b>-32,860</b>

<b><u>Dedicated Fund Activity</u></b>		
	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Dedicated Funds Received</b>		
Evangelism	0	0
Discipleship	0	50
Worship	0	11,220
Facilities	1,525	15,259
Fall Festival	0	2,745
Foundation	250	2,075
Youth and Family	0	3,108
Preschool	790	5,791
	<u>2,565</u>	<u>40,248</u>
<b>Dedicated Funds Spent</b>		
Evangelism	0	251
Facilities	0	27,698
Fall Festival	0	439
Foundation	400	2,075
Worship	4,106	4,181
Youth and Family	0	3,871
Preschool	1,207	8,841
<b>Total Spent</b>	<u>5,713</u>	<u>47,356</u>
<b>Net Dedicated Activity</b>	<b>-3,148</b>	<b>-7,108</b>

## Easter at House of Prayer

### Easter at HOP!

Happy Easter! We had a joyous celebration on Easter Sunday with Brass, Bells, Choir, Energetic Preaching, Congregational Singing, Easter Egg Hunting, and Fellowship! It was great to see family and friends traveling from a distance as well as our regular worshippers. If you missed the service, you can find it on our YouTube channel and you'll know why everyone is saying "Christ Is Risen, I Am Risen, We Are Risen!" For questions about our services, please contact Pastor Eric at [eluedtke@hoplc.org](mailto:eluedtke@hoplc.org)/612-866-8471 ext. 2.



## Easter at House of Prayer

### Easter Egg Hunt

The kids had a great time hunting for Easter eggs on Sunday morning. The "hunt" occurred in place of Sunday school. Sunday School welcomes kids from preschool through early teens. Sunday school lasts from 10:30 to 11:00, and parents are welcome to have a donut and cup of coffee with the members, or leave and come back for the kids. We also have worship services at 9:30 and 11:00 for those who are interested in worship. For questions regarding this Sunday school, please contact Andry Jurcich at [andryj@invisik.com](mailto:andryj@invisik.com), or Kristi Liu



### RALY Prepping for Egg Hunt

Thanks to RALY for filling all of the Easter Eggs for both Woodlake and House of Prayer! To get involved with our youth group, contact Daniel Ditmanson at [dditmanson@hoplc.org](mailto:dditmanson@hoplc.org).



### First Communion

At our Collaborative Maundy Thursday worship service we got to celebrate with 10 young people who received Holy Communion for the first time. We celebrate that ALL are Welcome at Christ's table and recognize that taking the time to learn our Lutheran understanding of Communion is not only good learning for those experiencing it for the first time, but a great reminder for parents as well. If you have questions regarding communion, please contact Pastor Eric with any questions at



### Maundy Thursday Foot Washing

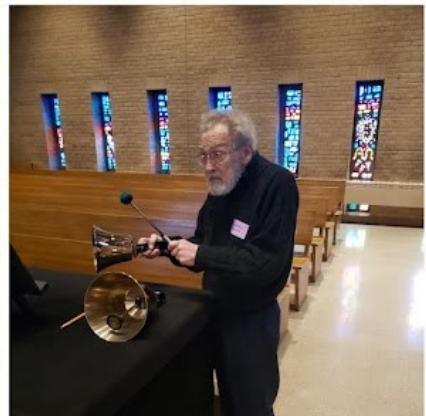
We joined with Richfield Area Lutheran Ministry partners Tapestry, Oak Grove, and Woodlake for a joint Maundy Thursday worship that included foot washing. Deacon Josue and Pastor Melissa of Tapestry brought a powerful message of God doing a new thing in this ancient call to "love one another." For questions about our collaborative services and partners, please contact Pastor Eric at [eluedtke@hoplc.org](mailto:eluedtke@hoplc.org)/612-866-8471, ext. 2.



## Around House of Prayer

### Celebrating Jon Kietzer's 50 Years of Music Ministry Hymn Festival

The Hymn Festival honoring Jon Kietzer's 50 years of music ministry at House of Prayer was a lively evening of music, worship and fellowship. With over 50 choir members, HoP Handbells, and 6 outstanding organists the congregation sang along to favorite hymns and enjoyed new arrangements. If you missed the event, you can watch the recording on House of Prayer's YouTube channel or follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/pq17jjh79o0?feature=share&t=196>. Contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at [rhansonweber@hoplc.org](mailto:rhansonweber@hoplc.org) with questions or feedback.



## Around House of Prayer

### MUSIC Sunday



### Music Sunday in May

All singers, wind ensemble members, and bell players (past and present) are invited to participate in Music

Sunday on May 21. The 9:30 am worship service will celebrate Jon Kietzer's 50-year anniversary/retirement, and **will be the only service that day**.

More details will be forthcoming soon about a special rehearsal in preparation for Music Sunday.

For any questions, contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at [rhansonweber@hoplc.org](mailto:rhansonweber@hoplc.org) / 612-866-8471 x7.



### Music Sunday Brunch

On May 21, 2023, House of Prayer will be honoring Jon Kietzer's 50-year anniversary/retirement of music ministry at HOP by celebrating Music Sunday.

Following the 9:30 AM service, a brunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no 11:00 Refuel Service on this date.

The brunch is \$15 per person; checks payable to HOP with "Brunch" in the memo line. HOP members have been offered the tickets first. If space remains, the brunch will then be opened to other guests.

Please plan to join in this festive gathering. For more information, contact Karen Steenson, at [d2ksteenson@gmail.com](mailto:d2ksteenson@gmail.com)



### MN Boychoir Sunday, June 4th, 9:30 am

Sixty years ago, father and son—Morris M. Nilsen and Morris A. Nilsen—wished to give back to their community, and, so, they founded the Morris Nilsen Boys Choir, featuring the high treble voices of young, male singers. In the first decade, three talented directors worked with the vocalists, teaching discipline, teamwork, and appreciation for the magic of music.

In the early 1970s, Paul H. Pfeiffer with his wife, Virginia, took up the baton, adding new repertoire and changing the name of the organization to the Minnesota Boychoir.

The choir grew in size and reputation when its fifth director—Mark S. Johnson—stepped onto the podium in 1993. During his tenure, he's formed six choirs, a summer camp, and other opportunities for singers to lift their voices in song. He and his team put their creativity in overdrive during the pandemic, knowing "the show must go on," and it did. Over the years they have traveled extensively and sung in the major concert halls and cathedrals around the world including a number of concerts with the Minnesota Orchestra.

For many years, House of Prayer Lutheran Church was home to the Boychoir and we would see and hear the boys rehearsing on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. We were also blessed for many years with their appearance at worship and the Paul Manz Hymn Festivals.

As a former member of the Board of Directors and continuing supporter of the Boychoir, Jon Kietzer invited them back to HOP to celebrate his 50 years of music ministry and their role in our total music program. **We will only have one service that day** to accommodate the Boychoir schedule.



## Around House of Prayer

### From Age to Age Concert at HOP Saturday, May 6, at 7 pm



From Age to Age is proud to present a highly eclectic program entitled “Beauty in the World.” This phrase is found in Ysaye M. Barnwell’s song, Wanting Memories. The choir will present secular songs from Argentina, Italy, South Africa, and the United States. Timothy Hoekman’s humorous “Nature Walks for Gentlemen” and “Nature Walks for Ladies” will spotlight smaller groups of tenor-bass and soprano-alto ensembles. There is something for everyone in this program. Come experience “Beauty in the World” with From Age to Age. Contact Roselyn at [rhansonweber@hoplc.org](mailto:rhansonweber@hoplc.org) with questions.

*From Age to Age is a MN non-profit choral ensemble comprised of accomplished musicians who inspire audiences of all ages with their passion and performance of the highest level of choral music. Established in 2007, From Age to Age has been enriching communities in music appreciation through cultural, educational, and outreach programming.*



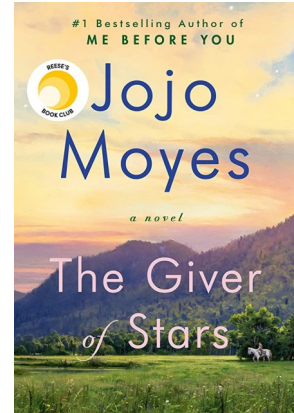
### Lifeline Screening

Lifeline Screening will be at HOP on Wednesday, May 24th to perform ultrasound screenings of arteries to look for plaque build-up. High risk factors include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, smoking and family history of heart disease. These are indicators that you should be screened. To register for an appointment and receive a special discount, call 1-800-640-6307 or visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](http://LLSA.SOCIAL/HC).

### Book Discussion Group

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

At our May meeting, we will be discussing *The Giver of Stars* by Jo-Jo Moyes or a book of your choice.



Summer reading for discussion in September:  
*The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson  
*And*  
*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](mailto:srwillms70@hotmail.com)



### Fellowship Speaker Series Expo '27

Bloomington is one of the five sites around the world being considered for Expo 2027. Expo is like a World’s Fair, which is used by countries around the world to showcase and unveil their most remarkable achievements of today and tomorrow. Bloomington was selected as the official bid location for the United States last year with the theme “Healthy People, Healthy Planet.” The event includes exhibits from over 100 countries, over 13 million visits, and 100’s of millions of digital “visitors” focused on health and wellness.

Come and see a special presentation on May 11th at 1:00 pm at House of Prayer. Refreshments will be served. The picture above is a rendering of what the Expo “may” look like in Bloomington, over near the Mall of America. Contact Noel Sagness at [ncs6391@gmail.com](mailto:ncs6391@gmail.com) or Steve Barnes at [sebarnes36@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnes36@gmail.com).



## Children, Youth and Family

### Sunday School

Our Sunday schoolers are winding down the year and will celebrate with an ice cream party on Sunday June 4th. Kids will be off for the summer, but will reconvene in the fall.

All children Pre-K (age 3) and older are invited to join the fun. Come share in exploring God's love for all people through crafts, songs, games, and Bible stories.

No pre-registration required! Parents are welcome to attend or enjoy Coffee and Donuts Fellowship.

#### Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday, May 28: Memorial Day Break (No Sunday School)

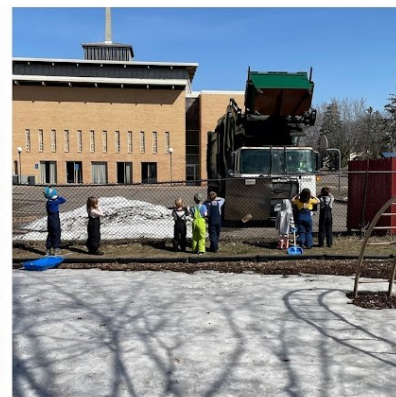
Sunday, June 4: Ice Cream Sundays at 10:30AM

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



### House of Prayer Preschool

Hello from House of Prayer Preschool! April had an abrupt change in weather and signaled to us the upcoming end of the school year. The academic year preschool program will end on May 26th. We are planning an end of year picnic with the families and of course a preschool graduation, with caps and diplomas! The last month of school is always an exciting time. We can reflect on just how much the children have grown and start to prepare for several to leave us to go to kindergarten. We would keep our children and families forever if we could! This summer we will run small part-time summer camps for current families and those who are enrolled for fall. We may still have a space or two for new families to join us in September. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please contact Nicole at [nolson@hoplc.org](mailto:nolson@hoplc.org).



## Children, Youth and Family

### RALY Summer Schedule

#### **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 here:

[Luther Park Summer Programming](#)



#### **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](#)

**50% Paid By HOP for All Luther Park Summer Experiences!** For details, contact Daniel Ditmanson at [dditmanson@hoplc.org](mailto:dditmanson@hoplc.org).

#### **Vacation Bible School: July 10-13 (PreK-5th Grade) at Woodlake Lutheran Church**

Vacation Bible School is an evening program focused on hands-on faith. This is a FREE 4 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](http://raly-mn.org).



#### **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

## Children, Youth and Family



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](mailto:dditmanson@hoplc.org) with any questions. Register on the RALY website at [raly-mn.org](http://raly-mn.org)

## Community Engagement

April showers WILL bring May flowers. We believe this because “to everything, there is a season.” Now that we’re peeking into May we have some opportunities to focus on events that demonstrate our compassionate care for God’s creation and the world in which we live. ADOPT-A-DRAIN MINNESOTA: Volunteer once a month to clear debris and waste away from a storm drain near your home. Follow this link to register for a drain close to you! [Adopt-a-Drain - Minnesota](#)



[This Photo](#) by



On Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at Christian Park in Richfield (6900 Bloomington Ave. S) to tidy up the park and fulfill our church’s “ADOPT-A-PARK” obligation, which has endured for several years. Many hands will make light the work, and we invite you to bring your own grabbers, but we will also have some available. The fun starts at noon! Contact Kim Houle at [wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com](mailto:wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

The Richfield Farmers’ Market outdoor market opens on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. offering a variety of fresh produce, eggs, cheese, and crafters from all walks. Hearing local music and smelling fresh brewed Ecuadorian coffee are my favorite reasons to attend.



On Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, the RICHFIELD FOUNDATION will host its annual fundraising event at the Woodlake Office Center in Richfield. This event enables the Foundation to support local organizations through grant funding. A “Wall of Wine” raffle will take place, along with free appetizers and wine tasting from over 60 area vendors. Tickets are available at [www.richfieldfoundationmn.org](http://www.richfieldfoundationmn.org)

The Richfield “CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE” will take place from Thursday – Saturday, May 18-20. This is a great opportunity to meet and greet neighbors and help repurpose household items that might otherwise end up in a landfill.



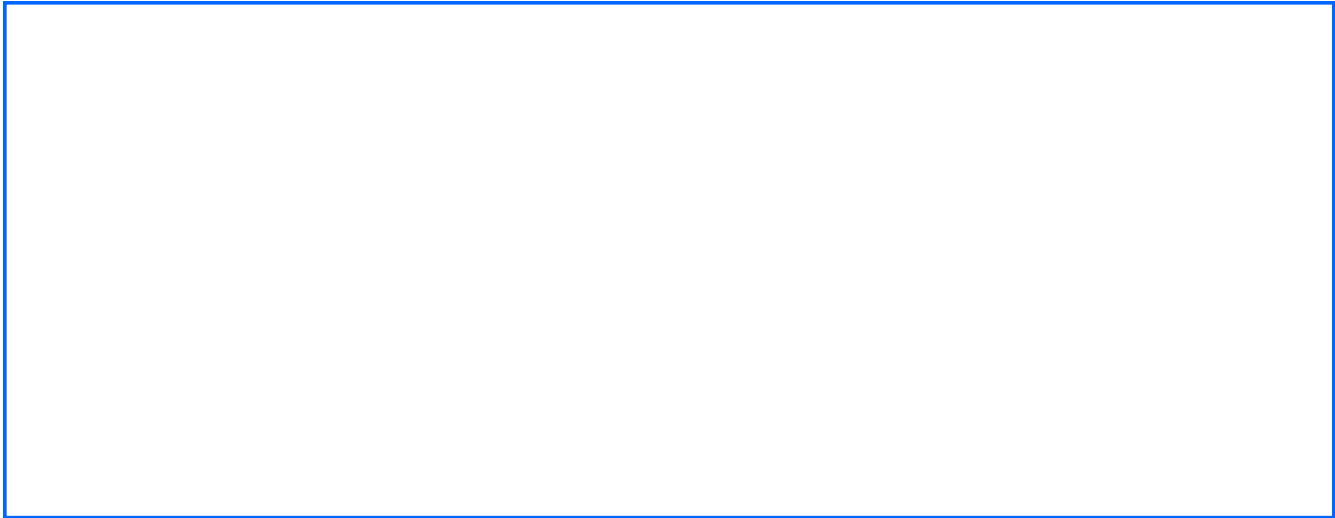
House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
 7625 Chicago Avenue South  
 Richfield, MN 55423

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

(612) 866-8471  
**E-mail:** [office@hoplc.org](mailto:office@hoplc.org)  
**Website:** [www.hoplc.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:cwright@hoplc.org), or Mary Weaver, Administrative Assistant, at [mweaver@hoplc.org](mailto:mweaver@hoplc.org).

**Milestones**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

*Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)*

Couples	Date	Years
Dale and Lorraine Swanson	5/1	70
Don and Sue Burt	5/5	56
Harold and Cynthia Zarn	5/15	52
Jeff and Marguerite Thiele	5/29	58
Thomas and Ann Haffely	5/30	53

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**

Jerrie Nachicas	3/30
Virginia Berryman	4/20

**A Look Back**



**2008 Bell Choir**