

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

Ecclesia Semper Reformanda est



Pastor Eric Luedtke

It's hard for me to let the month of October pass without reference to the Reformation and the occasional Latin phrase (especially since I know so few of them). On October 31, or the Sunday prior to it, Lutherans celebrate Reformation Day. For some it is a reminder of the

history of the protestant church, the day that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. I like to think of Reformation Day as a reminder of this wonderful Latin phrase, *Ecclesia Semper Reformanda est*, which is roughly translated to mean, *the church reformed, ever reforming*.

Think about those words for a moment. *The church reformed*. I don't think any of us would deny that the church of today is not the church of 500 years ago, or maybe 50 years ago, or even 5 years ago.

Ever Reforming. These words likely bring more anxiety to us. Many of us like our church the way it is. We are here because of what we experience today. We don't want things to change. The good news is that as we change and grow as a church, God is leading us and we go forward together.

Over the past few months we've been discerning where God is leading us and what God is calling us to do as a congregation. To that end, I share with you this mission statement that encompasses who we are, how we live out that reality, and what we hope to accomplish in living that way:

House of Prayer is a gathering of God's people who value Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community and Openness.

We connect our faith to our daily lives by caring for each other, our neighbor, and our creation; nurturing the gift of music; being inwardly fed to outwardly feed; and collaborating with others so that all would encounter Christ in each person.

I know, that's a lot of words; but the words contained there are important to get the full picture of who we are and who God is calling us to be. In fact, there are more words to support that statement to really explain what we mean in some of these phrases. But there's a shorter way to remember this statement as well:

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.

This is what God is calling us to do. The words of this mission statement are rooted in our history and will guide our decisions and our ministry in the months and years to come. You'll see these words. You'll remember these words. Together we will live out these words to bring to fruition the prayer we pray each week in worship, "thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

May these words guide the reformation of a church always reforming.



Leadership Ministry Team Update



Cindy Jacobs
HOP Vice President

Greetings to you, and Happy Fall! It's hard to believe that autumn is upon us when the temps are hovering around 80 degrees outside today, but the cooler weather and changing landscape vistas will be here before we know it. With that comes delicious locally grown apples, squash and pumpkins, Trunk-or-Treating, Fall Festival at House of Prayer and our preparations for Advent. Where did summer go?

My name is Cindy Jacobs; I am the new Congregational Vice President and I am excited to give the Leadership Ministry Team update this month. For those of you who don't know me, allow me to share a little bit about myself and my family at House of Prayer. I joined in 2003, along with my two daughters, Grace and Julia. We had been searching for a church home for some time, but visited HOP regularly for several years because my parents (Doug & Carol Larson) are members here. Julia was baptized here as an infant. But because we live in St. Paul, I had it in my head that we needed to find a church to join in our neighborhood, and I just wasn't finding the right fit. Finally, little Grace, who was 8 at the time, said "Mommy, can't we just join THIS church? I like this one best!" And I thought, "You know what? I do too!" so that's what we did. Oh, from the mouths of babes....

In my years at House of Prayer, I have volunteered and served in several capacities: I have been a Sunday School teacher, a Confirmation leader and mentor (and chaperoned many all-night events!), and I worked with VBS as a station leader and then as the Pre-School Director for many years. I enjoy helping out at the Fall Festival, and until recently I sang in the Adult Choir, which I truly loved to do! Outside of church, I work as a Clinic and Program Manager for a Pediatric Residency Program based at MHealth Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital.

I have a passion for health related topics, especially around health equity and health education, and I hope to bring some of that into my role as VP at church. **We will be hosting a Flu Vaccine clinic on October 19th**, and you can find me and my daughter, Julia (who is now a Public Health RN) at a table in the Narthex on 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15 between services to help with sign-up. To sign up on your own, please go to <http://blm.mn/clinics>.

In the future, I also plan to host a basic first aid and AED class at church so we can all get a refresher on how to use this important life-saving equipment located in our Narthex. If you have other topics you'd like to run past me to possibly host a talk, class, or Narthex table, come and chat with me! Until then, let's soak up these last rays of warm sunshine and backyard greenery. Our summers are too short, yet the fall holds so much promise of the rich blessings of the upcoming seasons. Enjoy all of God's glory in EVERY season (but check in with me in January, I may be singing a different tune then!)

Blessings,
Cindy Jacobs



Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

Summer months are typically slow for church donations. However, HOP financial activity compares favorably to budget, and offerings are running higher compared to prior year. August net operating gain was breakeven compared to a budgeted \$15 K deficit. Fiscal YTD (Jul & Aug) is a deficit of \$7.9 K, better than our budgeted deficit of \$34 K.

REVENUE - Offerings continue to come in a bit higher than expected, up 19% over budget and 9% higher than prior year.

EXPENSES - Aug and fiscal YTD expenses are 12% lower than budget. Savings are primarily due to the budgeted expense for an unfilled care ministry position, utilities costs holding steady, building repairs minimal, and lower youth summer expenses due to programming changes. Timing in a couple of other bills such as HVAC and IT consultant created small increases compared to budget, but nothing concerning.

House of Prayer has committed to providing 9% of our offerings to reaching out beyond our walls in this fiscal year. Our current mission partners are: EveryMeal, Loaves and Fishes, LSS, Luther Park, Meals on Wheels, Minneapolis Synod, Simpson Shelter, Tapestry ministry, VEAP and Lutheran Disaster Response. Through August our Outreach Payments are \$5,666.

Additional HOP Foundation grant funds are provided for the Friendship Fund (Holiday and Walmart gift cards). This provides stable funding for that program which is also included in our monthly budgeted operating funds and donations accepted directly from the congregation.

Sara Barnaby
HOP Treasurer



House of Prayer Lutheran Church Operating Summary Fiscal Year 2023-2024					
	August 2023		YTD		Variance
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
REVENUE					
4000 Offerings	39,951	31,300	72,684	61,100	\$ 11,584
4100 Rental Revenue	8,200	8,117	16,950	16,233	\$ 717
4609 Other Worship Revenue	106	348	226	646	\$ (420)
4700 Preschool Revenue	800	800	2,481	2,400	\$ 81
TOTAL REVENUE	49,057	40,565	92,341	80,379	\$ 11,962
TOTAL EXPENSES	49,027	55,988	100,216	114,509	\$ (14,293)
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	30	(15,423)	(7,875)	(34,130)	26,255
Dedicated Fund Activity as of August 2023					
DEDICATED FUNDS RECEIVED	Aug '23		YTD		
Facilities	1200		2,935		
Worship (incl JK Ministry grant)	98		98		
Preschool	33		451		
Total Funds Received	1,331		3,484		
DEDICATED FUNDS USED					
Worship	1,397		1,397		
Preschool	1,981		3,101		
Total Funds Spent	3,378		4,498		
NET DEDICATED ACTIVITY	(\$2,047)		(\$1,014)		

Around House of Prayer

Jon Kietzer Retirement & Welcome Sunday

It was a festive celebration on Welcome Sunday, September 10, honoring Jon Kietzer's official 50th Anniversary Sunday/Retirement and transition to Organist Emeritus at House of Prayer Lutheran Church. Jon led the HOP Brass, who were joined by the HOP Handbell and Adult Choirs in offering music composed by Jon, and the commissioned setting by Mark Sedio of Jon's favorite hymn, How Shall I Sing Thy Majesty. Many HOP members, friends, and musicians joined in the celebratory service and reception following. THANK YOU, JON for 50 YEARS of MUSIC MINISTRY!!



Around House of Prayer

Agate Housing Snack Pack Project

On Sunday, September 24, our Narthex became an assembly line with all hands on deck. Together we packed 104 snack packs to deliver to AGATE Housing and Services on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis. These healthy kits will provide a nourishing snack while recipients are on the “intake.” Thank you to everyone who joined – both young and “young-at-heart” – to make light the work. Please contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com if you have any questions, or ideas for another project we could participate in.

God’s Work – Our Hands!!!

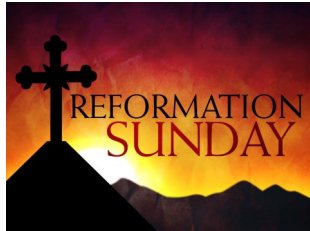


Around House of Prayer

HOP Fall Music Ministry

The HOP Choir, Handbells, & Brass are busy preparing and offering special music for each Sunday during this Pentecost Season. We look forward to two upcoming services that highlight this period in our liturgical year – the service of Reformation, and All Saints Sunday.

Reformation Sunday, October 29, at 9:30 am Liturgical Worship Service – Enjoy the festive tones of the organ, the HOP Brass, and the Adult Choir as we celebrate this important festival, honoring our heritage and giving thanks for the richness of our Lutheran faith and music tradition.



All Saints Sunday, November 5, at 9:30am Liturgical Worship Service – On All Saints Sunday, we join in both grief and gratitude as we remember those who have passed from this earthly life, and now know the victory of eternal life in heaven with God, our Creator. Our Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and soloists will lead the rich liturgy, hymnody, and special music that reflect this important and beloved festival of the Church Year. Please plan to arrive early to hear the extended prelude by the Handbell Choir, which will set the tone for this quiet, contemplative service of healing.



If you have any questions regarding these services, please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org.

Combined HOP/Woodlake Choir Invitation October 8, 9:30 am Service

The combined HOP/Woodlake Choir will offer special music for the House of Prayer Liturgical Worship Service on Sunday, October 8, at 9:30 am. **Rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, 10/4 from 7-8:30 pm.** Come join us as we sing and worship together, continuing to build community with our partners in faith from Woodlake Lutheran Church. Please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org, or at 612-866-8471, ext. 7.



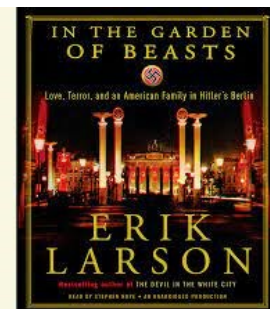
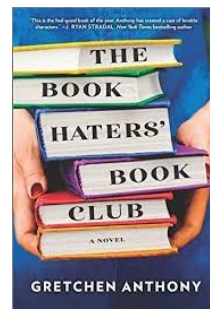
Book Discussion Group

House of Prayer Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, October 5, at 1:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

At our October meeting, we will be discussing *The Book Haters Book Club* by Gretchen Anthony

In November, we will be discussing: *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson

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

Tabletop Board Game Meet Up

Come play board and card games with Sara and Dave on the first Friday of the month. We will be meeting in the Narthex on October 6th from 1:30-5:00 pm.

This month we will have two game days! The second one will be on October 20th from 1:30-5:00 pm.

We bring games or bring a game to share. We love learning new games. Enter at the door with the awning (main door).



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

Annual Fall Festival!

Saturday, November 4th 9am-3pm

The Fall Festival team is ready to **WELCOME** you to the 2023 Fall Festival! Here is some important information for the festival happening from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- The day's activities will take place in Fellowship Hall (downstairs) and parking will be designated in the south lot, due to our SDA worshippers on site that day.
- The volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the Information Desk, starting in October. We need greeters, event helpers, and setup/cleanup helpers. Certainly, something for everyone.
- **YOU CAN HELP NOW!** We anticipate needing donations of books for the book sale. Also, *your handmade crafts* are needed for our HOP craft table. Please sign up in the volunteer book with a description of your craft(s) and bring them to church on Friday 11/3.
- Start baking and freezing cakes, pies, cookies, and bars to bring to the church on Friday, 11/3.
- There will be several craft vendors, a book sale, and a bake sale (including LEFSE!)

The FF team welcomes your ideas and energy! Please contact Julie Bonebrake if you have any suggestions jabonebrake@yahoo.com.



Veggie Table #3

Tuesday, September 19th was a great night for our last Veggie Table of the summer at Season's Park Apartments. Our volunteer team of Julie, Scott, Kim, Jessica, Terri, Elayne, Ruth, Cara, and Pastor Eric met neighbors from 49 families (189 people). Thanks to VEAP for providing onions, carrots, cabbages, sweet corn, apples, canned tomatoes, and crackers - and their support of these events all summer long. What a fun way to spend an evening! We hope to continue Veggie Table next summer. If you want to learn more about this opportunity, contact Christine Barneson at cmillerdance@gmail.com.



RALY, Youth, Children and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

Preschool is back! After a summer of camps and room and playground revitalization, we're back with 14 sweet children. We spent the first few weeks playing name games, getting to know our routines, and starting to learn new materials. Our Montessori room is divided into several areas - practical life, which are materials that help us take care of ourselves, our room, and others; sensorial, which are materials that help us learn our world through the five senses; language, which helps us learn our ABCs; and math, which offer us a hands on approach to learning numbers and the four operations. The materials are presented to the children based on their age, interest and ability, allowing us to provide individualized education. We also have a lot of fun with stories, songs, art projects, yummy snacks and plenty of play time on our playground and large muscle room. We can't wait to keep you updated on how our year goes! If you have questions about HoPP, contact Nicole at nolson@hoplc.org.



Support Your Local Scouts



The start of fall also means it's time for Scouts BSA Popcorn and Wreath Sales again! Stop by Life Scout Max's fundraiser booth on Sunday, October 22nd between both worship services. Pick-up some popcorn or pre-order your holiday wreaths, and catch-up on Max's Scouting progress this year. You can also visit Max's online page at www.trails-end.com/store/scout/H85F85F0. More than 73% of proceeds stays with local Troops, and Scouts work hard to stretch every dollar. Hope to see you at the booth, and thanks for supporting Scouting! Please contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com if you have questions.

Confirmation



Hello Woodlake and House of Prayer! We're off to a great start to the year with RALY Confirmation and Wednesday night youth group. Our 8 confirmation youth started the year by doing an overview of the New Testament (through New Testament Charades of course!), and learning about baptismal promises! Afterward, we had some fun on the playground.

If you have a child or grandchild that you would like involved in Confirmation, please contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org or Pastor Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org.

RALY, Children, Youth and Family



Have you seen our new gathering sign in the Narthex nook? Children in Pre-K and older are welcome to meet up with us every Sunday morning at 10:30 am for the lesson of the day and hands-on activities or crafts. Some activities can be taken home, while others can be continued at the Sprout-a-Spark station during the ReFuel Worship Service at 11:00 am.

Every month we will explore a new Biblical theme that teaches God’s love for all people. Our October theme is Heroes of the Old Testament. Come join us for stories about Noah, Abraham, Esther, and lots more. No pre-registration necessary! Parents are welcome to join our fun or enjoy Coffee and Donut Fellowship. For questions about HOP Sunday School, please reach out to Kristi Liu at kline010@tc.umn.edu or Andry Jurcich at andryj@inivisk.com.

RALY’s Trunk-or-Treat 2023



The Community Trunk-or-Treat event at the Morris Nilsen Funeral Chapel is Saturday, October 14, from 3 – 6 pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet hundreds of families in our community and share information about our amazing ministries. RALY will be participating again this year, and our theme is “The Big Top.” Put on your favorite circus costume and join us! We have the best location at the event and need lots of hands to help give out candy. We especially need donations of LARGE bags of assorted candies (fun size, individually wrapped). For more information about helping RALY with the Morris Nilsen’s Community Trunk or Treat, please contact Andry Jurcich at (612) 242-0940 or andryj@inivisk.com or drop-off candy in the church office.

Sunday School Popcorn & Movie Sunday

Save the date for our annual **Popcorn and Movie Sunday on October 22nd**. Wear your comfiest clothes and bring your favorite lovie to snuggle while we enjoy the Veggie Tale version of Queen Esther’s courageous story. We will meet at the Sunday School corner in the Narthex before heading to Classrooms 1 and 2 for our movie (run time of 45 minutes). Popcorn and treats will be provided. Come one, come all and bring a friend! For questions about Popcorn & Movie Sunday, please reach out to Kristi Liu at kline010@tc.umn.edu or Andry Jurcich at andryj@inivisk.com.



Coffee & Donut Fellowship

Our ever-popular fellowship hour continues to be a wonderful time for gathering and connecting.



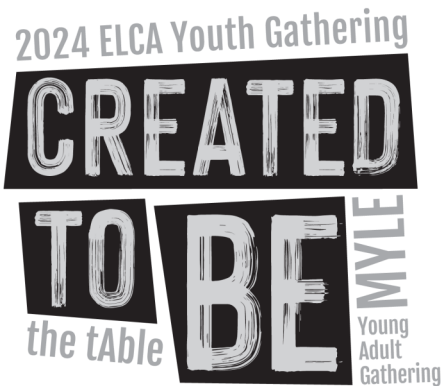
We wholeheartedly thank our devoted volunteers who faithfully make the coffee, pick up the donuts, set-up, serve and clean-up every Sunday morning.

We look forward to more friends helping with this special church ministry wherever you can pitch-in. 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.

Please connect with Andry Jurcich at andryj@inivisk.com to get involved.

RALY, Children, Youth and Family

ELCA Youth Gathering Info Meeting

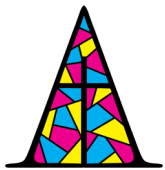


All Woodlake and House of Prayer youth currently in grades 8-12 are invited to the ELCA Youth Gathering info meeting on Sunday, October 8, at 1:00 pm at Woodlake Lutheran Church.

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be in New Orleans, LA, this year from July 16-20th. This event draws over 20,000 youth from all over the United States for a week of fun, worship, service, justice, and more!

Contact Pastor Neal at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org if you have any questions.

RALY News



The first RALY Night of the year was a big success! We started the night outside and ate pizza (it was National Pepperoni Pizza Day, after all!), tossed water balloons (some were aimed particularly close to Pr. Neal!), played giant Connect 4, and did a little bean bag toss as well. We then went inside to the House of Prayer youth room where we previewed our year and read a devotion where students came away with the message, "God loves you AS YOU ARE!" Then, on September 27th, we had our adventure night and went rock climbing and tried archery. It was a great September;

and we look forward to an even BOOTER October!

- **October 4th - RALY Night**
- **October 11th - RALY Leads**
- **October 14th -Trunk or Treat**
- **October 18th - NO RALY MEA/Confirmation Retreat!!**
- **October 25th - RALY Adventures - Real Life Clue! Everyone who comes will solve a real life mystery! No pre-registration needed.**

We're looking forward to an amazing year of RALY activities! Please contact Pr. Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org for more information about RALY.



Community Engagement

Lutheran Social Services Gala

Over 750 people attended the LSS Gala – Celebration for Changing Lives, in Minneapolis on Saturday, September 16. Among them were HOP members and friends: Wayne and Gretchen Swenson (table sponsors), Charlie and Jean Robbins, Jill Larson, Jon Kietzer, Barb Zell and Bruce Trident, Pastor Eric Luedtke and Pastor Stephanie Luedtke. The Auction raised over \$1,013,000 for the work of LSS in all 87 counties across Minnesota. From LSS, “We are grateful for your generous support and all the ways you join LSS in inspiring hope, changing lives and building community.” For more information about LSS projects at HOP, contact Jean Robbins at jean7340@gmail.com.



LSS Group Home Barbeque

On Tuesday, September 12, the LSS crew met with Park Avenue group home residents to have a barbecue and chat. Thanks to Charlie and Jean Robbins for enlisting the team to help. The residents are always very happy to see us and enjoy sharing a meal. They look forward to our future visits. If you’d like to help, please contact Jean Robbins at jean7340@gmail.com for more information.



Every Meal



EVERY MEAL

The 2023 Every Meal Program is underway at STEM School in Richfield. House of Prayer has enlisted a team of volunteers to show up each Thursday, locate lockers on the list, and place bags of “weekend meals” for students to take home each Friday. Even with the universal school breakfast and lunch program, approximately 300,000 children in Minnesota are still experiencing food insecurity. These bags are a reliable source of food.

Participating families are able to choose from 5 different food bag types that are tailored to various cultural dietary preferences or situational needs. If you’d like to see what items might be included in these bags, please visit www.everymeal.org/foodbags to take a peek.

The House of Prayer distribution team meets on Thursdays at 2:20 p.m., and there is always need for more helpers. Please contact Kim Houle (612) 558-0634 to enlist, or email wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com.

Thank you to our current volunteers: Maxine Dahl, Jean Petersen, Irene Sable, Kris Scharping, and Pastor Eric.

If you would rather support Every Meal with a financial contribution, you can visit <https://www.everymeal.org/give/?form=DONATE> to set up an online payment or request more information.

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Richfield, MN 55423

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

(612) 866-8471

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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
Paul and Katie Doyle	10/09	39
Charley and Kielyn Simonson	10/26	10
Duane and Carla Houle	10/30	25

MEMORIAL SERVICES

No Memorial Services in September

A Look Back



Karen Bartz Retirement - October 2008