

# Annual Report 2017

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – JUNE 13, 2017, 6:30 P.M.

House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7625 CHICAGO AVENUE SOUTH, RICHFIELD, MN 55423

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# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

**Tuesday, June 13, 2017**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Reports
  - Senior Pastor
  - Leadership Ministry Team, Staff (See Booklet of Reports)
4. LMT Restructuring Constitutional Change (in line with the ELCA model constitution)
5. Financial Report & Budget Approval
6. Election of Officers, Ministry Team Leaders, Nominating Committee
7. Other Business
8. HOP Foundation Report
9. Adjournment
10. Closing Prayer

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# SENIOR PASTOR

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

It has now been over three years since I began serving House of Prayer as senior pastor and it continues to be a wonderful partnership. My call to serve among you is regularly strengthened by the work we have done together and the promise of an ever-brightening future. I am blessed to work with a wonderful church staff, filled with talent and passion. I also have the pleasure to work alongside the elected and appointed leadership of the congregation who serve with dedication and skill. I continue to be amazed by the volunteers who serve in a myriad of ways at House of Prayer and our community. You are the hands and feet of Christ!

As I look back at the last year a few key areas are worth noting for the annual report:

**Community Engagement:** Connecting to the community remains the number one goal for House of Prayer and we have made strong progress in the past year. All our ministry and mission work needs to be focused outward to achieve the vision of House of Prayer as a community church. This means thinking beyond our four walls and seeing Richfield as our “parish.” As a parish, Richfield is our ministry context and we are to be fully connected to what happens in our community. This is a big vision for the future and will take time to develop.

A community engagement team was formed this past year and is charged with facilitating our congregation to: invite people to House of Prayer, become a visible presence in the community, encourage our members to get involved with local organizations, and serving the needs of Richfield. A new position for community engagement was formed to help foster new connections with community leaders. Ben Whalen has done a great job getting connected which has produced much fruit already.

My recently completed Doctor of Ministry program was also focused on facilitating the connection between House of Prayer and Richfield. The project entailed a team of ten HOP members conducting interviews with Richfield residents. This provided a process for listening to the community and developing insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Richfield. One opportunity from the project I am currently working on is a partnership with the police department to strengthen the block captain system and provide cross-cultural training for residents. This could truly help our congregation and community love our neighbor in transformational ways.

**Collaboration:** Our continued collaboration with Woodlake and Oak Grove continues to be a blessing. In past year, we have worshipped together on multiple occasions, done mutual listening, participated in shared ministry programming, and invited one another to our respective events and programs. Most importantly, we continued to build connections and trust between the congregations. This is the foundation on which all shared work begins. I look forward to the continued development and progress of the collaboration process.

**Staff:** House of Prayer has a great church staff. They do excellent work and our truly committed to our shared future. We were blessed to add Ben Whalen as our Director of Youth Ministry and Community Development and Cara Wright as Director of Operations and Communication. We also said good-bye and gave thanks for the service and ministry of Pastor Linda Lund and Annela Rova. Please share your appreciation with our talented staff team!

God’s Peace,

*Pastor Ben Sandin*

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# PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

As I write this year's Annual Report, I have two thoughts:

"Wow, I am so grateful for this past year!"

"Wow, I am so excited for the years ahead!"

Every year we gather together for our Annual Meeting and share our annual reports. The meeting gives us a chance to celebrate the good work that God is doing in our midst ... and there is much to celebrate! As you look through the Booklet of Reports you will again see a LOT of good news. Our worship attendance is up and our finances are in very good order. We are again presenting a balanced budget for your approval. Sadly, we have said good-bye to Pastor Linda Lund because of her retirement. Our HOP staff is a very talented group that will continue to lead us in the right direction in the years to come. We also have continued to make many more improvements to our church as a result of our recent 15 for '15 Capital Campaign. One of the most recent additions is the new sound booth and speakers in the sanctuary. I am sure you will read about many, many other positive improvements in Jim Bauer's Support Ministry report. Please read ALL of the reports and shout out a word of thanks to all of our dedicated staff and Leadership Ministry Team members for their outstanding leadership and accomplishments. As you may recall, we recently had a special congregational meeting to discuss the restructuring of our Leadership Ministry Team (LMT). The changes will make our governing body much more efficient. This will require a second vote of approval at this year's Annual Meeting.

If you are one of the few who had not heard about this year's Richfield Sun Current Reader's Choice Awards, let me again brag about how House of Prayer did (I am pretty sure that this will be in at least one other report in this booklet). Sun Current's Reader's Choice Awards is an annual contest published online and in print. This past June and July, hundreds of readers chose their favorite service providers, medical professionals, church, schools, daycare providers, restaurants, fitness centers, etc..... Readers voted online or by mailing in the newspaper ballots. The results were published on January 26, 2017. Congratulations were expressed to HOUSE of PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH on being awarded the 2017 Reader's Choice Award for BEST PLACE OF WORSHIP, BEST RELIGIOUS LEADER-Ben Sandin, BEST CHOIR/MUSIC PROGRAM, BEST YOUTH GROUP, and BEST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL by our Richfield Sun Current readers! Wow! What a great achievement that we can all be very proud of as members of HOP!

If that isn't enough, you probably also heard that HOP was one of the congregations to receive the Lutheran Social Service 2017 Service of Christ Award that was presented at the recent synod assembly. Go share ALL of this good news with your friends, family, neighbors, etc. and invite them to HOP to experience what a wonderful place of worship this is!

It really is true that there is power in community and it does take a village to impact individuals, families, cities and the world. Sincere thanks to each one of YOU for being a part of that village as we strive to do Gods' work with our hands. It has indeed been a privilege and an honor to serve as your president.

*Wayne Swenson*

Congregation President

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# VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

The main responsibility of the Congregation Vice President is to act as House of Prayer's risk management officer. Our members and visitors, building, ministries and resources are gifts from God. It is up to us to do what we can to care for them. Church risk management is faithful stewardship of these gifts. Please refer to the Support Ministry Team Report from Jim Bauer for updates on our ongoing risk management maintenance. Many thanks to Jim and his team for all their work.

We don't take time enough to consider everything that our faithful Maintenance Supervisor, Ramo Zejnilovic, does for HOP! Please thank him for his dedication, caring and tireless efforts to ensure everything we need in our facility is safe, well maintained, set up and cleaned for our use. THANK YOU RAMO!

My term as Vice President ended March 31, 2016, when I accepted the position of Director of Operations & Communications. It has been a pleasure to serve in this role and I look forward to new challenges.

*Cara Wright*

Congregation Vice President

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# DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2016 – 2017 Annual Report

I am honored and delighted to have joined the staff of House of Prayer this year and have loved working with such a wonderful congregation! Hard to believe it's been almost a year already but looking back we have done a LOT this year. Given the dual nature of my job I thought I'd report on the two areas separately:

## **Children, Youth, & Family Ministry**

The first thing I need to do here is thank all the dedicated and amazing volunteers who make children & youth programs run. They do SO much each week including most of the direct teaching, mentoring, and caring for our congregation's kids. So again, I say THANK YOU to anyone who has played a part in that!

The ongoing Sunday School and Wednesday Night Youth programs are a huge portion of what we do together at House of Prayer. This year in Sunday School we added a musical component and got to have the children lead us in song several Sundays during worship. We also had a beautiful Christmas Program at both services thanks to a lot of hard work and good acting by all the kids. Wednesday nights we had a few new sessions on "Connecting Faith to Life" around the topics of money, vocation, and justice. We had service projects for several of our mission partners as well as a chance to explore the season and themes of Advent alongside the adults in a new intergenerational format. Also through the Wednesday night programs we had 8 youth celebrate First Communion and 13 youth celebrate Confirmation this year. Congratulations to all of you!

This year also included several opportunities for overnight events. In fall, the Confirmation group went to Luther Park Camp to grow together as a team and explore the start of Jesus' ministry. In winter, the high schoolers went to Luther Park for a training on "Peer Ministry Leadership" where we unpacked the Good Samaritan story and tried out practical interpersonal skills to be Good Samaritans to people every day. In spring, we once again hosted the Gustavus Youth Outreach group to lead a lock-in at church which focused on grace and forgiveness. All three of these also included plenty of time for games, laughter, late night snacks, and new friendships. This summer the high schoolers will travel to Montana for a wilderness rafting trip and some of our families will join members of Oak Grove & Woodlake for a Family Mission Trip to Madison, WI.

I'd be remiss to leave out the wonderful "Barnyard Roundup" VBS program last summer but cannot say too much as I had just started and did not play a big role. Mostly I want to thank Heidi Thomas and all the other volunteers for organizing and running that so beautifully! They're already hard at work planning this summer's VBS – "Backstage With the Bible" – which will be July 24-27. Shameless plug: Talk to me or Heidi if you want to register!

Last but certainly not least, I need to thank the Youth & Family Ministry Team. As I started, their main role was simply to show me how to do my job and remind me of everything going on at church. As the year progressed (with many of them also volunteering in the weekly programs), the team worked on restarting the practice of recruiting mentors for Confirmation youth and planned the Flat Jesus summer project to encourage families to practice faith together outside of church. These types of efforts will continue to be a focus even as the team

*(Cont.)*

changes shape in the coming months. We plan to switch from one large team to smaller, focused “task forces” that allow greater flexibility and the ability to work on more projects simultaneously. This may have a bit of a learning curve at first but I’m confident it will benefit the congregation immensely in the long run.

### **Community Engagement**

Knowing our neighbors and being involved in the city of Richfield is by no means new to House of Prayer (especially since Pastor Ben’s research project) but having a staff person dedicated to it has led to so much growth even in the first year. Here are some of the highlights of our reconnection to the community:

- The **Community Engagement Team** was formed in late 2016 and has been leading the charge on new community initiatives since then. Having congregational leaders to help out and brainstorm new directions has been absolutely vital to our growing connection with neighbors. Thank you!
- We’ve had **one on ones with community leaders** throughout the year. I’ve met with 40 different people from Richfield Public Schools, the Police Department, City Council, Richfield Recreation, the School Board, local nonprofits, other churches, Augsburg Park Library, and more. The team has also begun reaching out to even more leaders and groups in Richfield. All these relationships have resulted in more new connections, invitations to community events, and many of the ideas we act on as a team.
- We have congregation members **reading to students at Richfield Dual Language School**. This year 6 of our members volunteer one or two days a week to go read with students, a new connection with the school where our congregation first worshipped (prior to our church being built). We hope to continue and expand this next fall with the new school year.
- We **adopted Christian Park** on 70<sup>th</sup> & Bloomington and held our first litter clean-up day in April. We’ll continue to clean up the park at least twice a year and look forward to the opportunity to meet and work with neighbors in the process.

In addition to all these, I want to highlight one story from this past spring. In late April, Season’s Park apartments (just south of us off 77<sup>th</sup>) went up for sale. With the new connections to community leaders and city staff, we heard about this the very next day. There was a lot of concern in town about maintaining quality housing without displacing the families currently living there. Thankfully it was sold to Aeon, a reputable organization that fixes up rental housing while keeping it affordable. Within a week of first hearing the news, we had 5 members of House of Prayer attend a city council working session discussing the future of rental housing in Richfield. None of this was a volunteer opportunity or an event hosted by a local group, it was simply being aware of what was happening in the neighborhood around us and getting involved as good neighbors. While there will continue to be many worthwhile chances to volunteer or attend/host events, I think these less formal modes of engagement are essential if we want to truly be a part of the community around us.

Overall, I am extremely happy with how far we’ve come in the last year and am very optimistic about this ministry going forward. I’m not exaggerating when I say this community engagement work gives me great hope not just for House of Prayer but for all of God’s Church in the world. This work of bringing our faith, love, joy, and peace into the community around us is truly holy work and I can’t wait to do more of it together.

*Ben Whalen*

Director of Youth Ministry & Community Development

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# DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

What an exciting two months it's been in this new position! The church office is always a busy place with lots of activity and lots to do. It's my job to use the gifts and resources of HOP and its members to share God's love with each other, within our congregation, and with our community – and to keep things running smoothly. In this role, I hope to provide leadership in four main areas of focus: Office Management, Communication and Marketing Management, Facilities Management and Congregational Administrative Leadership.

**Office Management:** The House of Prayer Church office is open and staffed with awesome volunteers Monday–Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. I am in the office Monday/Tuesday afternoons and all day Wednesday/Thursday usually until 5:00 p.m. (and later by appointment). I also work from home throughout the week. A big THANK YOU to all the office volunteers! I am very grateful for all these wonderful people. They are always ready to do whatever is needed, have a welcoming smile for all, and love to learn new things (that's our motto!). Their patience and grace under fire with all the changes these last six months has kept the office running and that's no small accomplishment. Thank you to Jim Bauer, Sharon Bauer, Irene Sable, Mary Settles-Kroeplin, Walter Bloom, Ruthann Clay, Sandy Jenson, John Bostrom, Gloria Larson, Elyn Kirchner, DuAnn Thompson, Sally Boyd, Laura Baldwin and Shirley Moen.

**Communication and Marketing Management:** There are so many great things happening at House of Prayer and it's all about getting the word out! Here's an overview of our communications and how you can contribute and be better informed. Use these tools to share HOP with your friends and neighbors!

- Weekly News - The Community News bulletin insert and E-News email newsletter are published on Thursday mornings. Send your news to me by Wednesday noon. If you aren't already getting the E-News, sign up today by emailing the church office at [office@hoplc.org](mailto:office@hoplc.org) or signing up on the front page HOP website at [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org). If you want to see past issues of E-News, they can be found by clicking "Announcements" on the homepage of the HOP website.
- Bulletin Attendance Cards - Look here for sign-ups and let us know about any prayer requests you have.
- Prayer Chain - Prayer is a powerful way for you to connect to others at HOP and be supported. Email your prayer requests to Pastor Ben at [bsandin@hoplc.org](mailto:bsandin@hoplc.org) or write them on the Attendance Card.
- Hi-Lines Newsletter - Delivered to you in print or by email (sign up on HOP website), the Hi-Lines is published at the end of each month. Submit your news to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. If you want to see past issues or read this publication on-line, it's on [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org) under News & Events.
- Electronic Outdoor Sign – Part of the '15 for '15 Capital Campaign, the sign lets our neighbors and passers-by know about our worship times, simple suppers, upcoming events, and occasionally- Pastor Ben's humor.
- HOP Facebook Page - Like us on Facebook @hoplcMN or search House of Prayer Lutheran Church. Learn about upcoming events, see great pictures and recaps of HOP happenings.
- HOP Website - There's great info on [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org)! It's a work in progress, however, and there is updating to be done. Over the summer, I'll be focusing on updating the content pages and adding new ones. Keep checking back!

(cont.)

Later this summer, Pastor Ben and I hope to assemble a team to dig deeper into a communication plan to more actively share HOP with our neighbors and our community. More info to come!

**Facilities Management:** Our building is a wonderful resource and we are doing our best to use it to its full potential. If you ever want to know what's happening at HOP, here's 'how:

- Website Calendar - Check out the new Calendar tab on [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org). It's an up-to-date calendar that syncs with our church software, PowerChurch.
- Community News Weekly Calendar - Events for the upcoming week are printed on the back of the Community News bulletin insert.
- Narthex Monitor - Right inside the door from the parking lot, look up and you'll find a redesigned and automated monitor with the daily building schedule (including which room your meeting is in) and news about upcoming events / programs.

As you might guess, keeping on top of all the happenings at HOP is a big job, so thanks to all for scheduling space well in advance for all your activities so we can do our best to be set up and ready for you. Do this by completing a Building Request Form (usually printed on blue paper) available in the church office and on our website under the News & Events tab. Return completed forms to my box in the church office or see me with special requests.

Renting our facility has become an increased focus this year to bring in revenue to supplement our annual budget. I am reviewing and updating our rental policies, costs, and contracts to best serve HOP and our renters.

I am truly thankful for our Maintenance Supervisor, Ramo Zejnilovic, and our Support Ministry Team Leader, Jim Bauer, as I learn more about the intricacies of our building, daily maintenance, vendors and contracts.

**Staff/Congregational Administrative Leadership:** I think this is the "and all other duties as assigned" line on my job description. Every day is full of exciting challenges and I thank God for the opportunity to do God's work in this place. Here are some of the bigger projects we are working on currently:

- Office 365 Conversion - The HOP office is moving to new cloud-based computing for our Microsoft Office tools that we use on a daily basis (Word, Publisher, Excel, etc) as well as email, calendar, notes and shared document storage. We have completed Phase 1 (email/calendars, contacts) and are working out the bugs and learning the new tools. The next phase will take us into a clean-up of years and years of documents, reorganizing them and storing them in a cloud-based environment so we can access our work remotely. None of this would be possible without Todd Brandt (Tech Planet), our awesome computer guy! Huge thanks to Todd for all his hard work on this project (and many others), his responsiveness, patience, ingenuity and great explanations.
- Office/Custodial Supply Cost Review - In order to ensure that we are good stewards of funds spent to run/maintain our office and building, Ramo and I are reviewing costs with other vendors for products we use frequently. We are happy with our current suppliers, but it's a good exercise to compare occasionally.

It has been a blessing to work with such an awesome, talented and faith-filled staff! We work hard and do our best to have fun doing it. And thanks to you all for your support and kind words as I begin this new position. It is very much appreciated!

On the next page, you will find information pulled from the Congregational Report for the year ending December 31, 2016, which was submitted to the ELCA February 2017.

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**Congregational Report – December 31, 2016**

Baptized Membership at the end of 2015.....	973
Baptized Members received during 2016	
By Baptism: children (15 yrs. And younger).....	8
By Baptism: adults (16 yrs. And older).....	1
Affirmation of Baptism (New Members).....	13
By Transfer: .....	1
Total members received this year.....	23
Baptized Members removed during 2016	
By death.....	27
By transfer.....	2
Total members removed this year.....	29
Baptized Membership, end of 2016.....	967
Total Confirmed Membership, end of 2016: <u>965</u>	
Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2016: <u>5</u>	
Average weekly attendance in 2015: <u>280</u>	

*The names below are of those whose funerals were done under the House of Prayer ministry 2016-2017:*

Elmira Doering	Merle Root	George Kline	Arthur Anderson
Carol Matson	Frances Sheppard	Donald Russel	Emelie Femrite
James Amberson	Delores Knudsen	Marlin Gilhousen	Aleida Van Dyke
DeWayne Markes	Vernon Strong	Dorothy Peterson	Bernice Robinson
Dwight Exe	Morris Holm	Jeanne Anderson	Bill Ashley

*The names below are of those who were confirmed in 2016-2017:*

Josh Hyde	John Diercks	Ahna Christian	Alisia McFarland
Brianna Wieman	Evan Burkstrand	Jenna Lankey	Domonique Fitz
Jack Mennicke	Isabella Ludvigson	Will Thomas	Ella Doyle
			Saraelizabeth Ongeri

*The names below are of those who were baptized in 2016-2017:*

Cash Anderson	Soren Frees	Ryan Jendo	Madelyn Zaun	Natalie Grimm
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*The names below are of New Members in 2016-2017:*

Josh Countryman	Andrew Countryman	Noah Bonebrake	Michael Riemer
Amy Countryman	Marin Countryman	Julie Bonebrake	
Will Countryman	Ben Whalen	Rachel Bonebrake	

*The names below are of the Weddings for 2016-2017:*

Marrisa Smith and Chad Wengenroth on October 28, 2016  
 Stefanie Fiser and Eric Kleven on May 28, 2017  
 Karen Nordgaard and John Erickson on June 3, 2017

*Cara Wright*

Director of Operations & Communications

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# FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

This past year we were blessed to have the same group of dedicated volunteers faithfully serve in the same roles again. With this kind of stability, our time together starts to feel more like fellowship and less like work. I am very grateful for the good work they do, and the great company they provide.

As of this writing, giving has risen 2.09% over last year. The extra income has enabled us to run nearly all unbudgeted expenses (almost always building repairs) through the Operating Fund. Being able to afford all the expenses within the Operating Fund does two things: it documents the actual expenses needed to run the facility, which allows us to forecast more accurately for future budgets; and it preserves the Dedicated Funds.

I am honored to have spent another year within the House of Prayer community. I highly value the time spent working here and look forward to the upcoming year!

*Jo Shoberg*

Financial Administrator

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# DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

*Sing the Glory of God's Name! Praise God with timbrel and dance, with the sound of the trumpet! Praise God with strings and pipe, with tambourine and clanging cymbals! Sing Praise to our God, Sing praises!*

(This report is largely focused on 9:30 worship – I will leave Refuel in the very capable hands of its outstanding leader, Josh Countryman.)

House of Prayer continues to embody the words of the Psalmist above. Our worship is very much alive, very much engaging and very much inclusive. We are quite intentional about involving as many voices as possible within worship, and all rise to the occasion every time!

Beyond musicians, huge thanks to all who volunteer in SO many ways to make our worship flow so well and display great flexibility and ability to adapt on the fly: ushers, communion assistants, lectors – just to name a few.

Without fail, visitors to House of Prayer express how much they enjoy the energy, structure and commitment to detail displayed in our worship, and there are many people to thank for that.

Here is a brief summary of some highlights and descriptions of the program as a whole in 2016-17.

**Director of Worship & Music:** Phil Mennicke. Hard to believe I've completed year number TEN in this wonderful place. I continue to enjoy collaborating with staff and congregation members in creating, structuring and carrying out worship services that appeal to as broad a base of people as possible. We who are charged with leading the 9:30 service continue to seek the effective balance between tradition and "freshness" of different and new sounds.

**Organist: Jon Kietzer;** Jon continues to play for services at a very high level, as well as nimbly wearing various other hats within the dept. (see below). Karen Bartz has done her usual superb job of filling in for Jon when he is traveling. Also serving in the "accompanist" area are frequently utilized guitar players Dave Decker and Chuck Hatfield.

**Adult Choir:** This ensemble has again served as a "worship leader" for the entire year. The group is increasingly flexible with diving into worship elements that go way beyond "the anthem of the day". We have also enjoyed collaborating with other choirs (more on that later). In the Fall, the choir will be part of a HUGE 500th anniversary Reformation service/celebration at Central Lutheran with the National Lutheran Choir. The massed choir for the event is projected to be upwards of 1,000 singers!

**Joyful Noise:** We are in transition with this group these days. They presented great music on a number of occasions this year, but the core of the group is on the verge of "graduating" from the typical "children's choir" (especially the several changing voice boys). We will continue to explore opportunities for these kids and be creative in how their skills can still be used to present high quality music within our worship. The hope is that the reins will eventually be taken by....

**Sunday School Children:** Heather Harrison led this group this year. The kids worked on songs during the Sunday School time, and presented music several times for both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. There is a good

number of these younger children, and hopefully many will continue to be involved with music at the church as they get older.

**Handbell Choir:** This group plays in worship at a very high level, playing a highly eclectic variety of music. They are also very good about playing many things outside of their “stand alone” anthems, adding a nice and effective touch to hymns and liturgical items. An exciting event coming up next year: Renowned handbell conductor and clinician Carolynne Mathis will be leading a workshop at HoP on Saturday, September 30. This promises to be VERY rewarding and a marvelous opportunity for learning for our players (and conductor). The bell choirs of our fellow Richfield Lutheran congregations are also planning to be involved with the event.

**Brass Ensemble:** Jon Kietzer directs this group, which also provides music for services on a monthly basis. We are VERY fortunate to have such an exciting and inspiring (volunteer!) group to give us that occasional edge in worship that only a brass group can, whether it be in their literature or adding extra life to our hymn singing.

**HOP Wind Ensemble:** Jon also conducts this group, which, like the brass ensemble, can bring our worship experience to a whole different level on the occasions they play for services. They are supplemented by members of the “Northern Winds Concert Band”, a group that rehearses here under the inspired direction of HOP member Joe Speakman.

It has also been enjoyable to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with our fellow Lutheran congregations in Richfield. While the other churches may not approach certain elements of worship exactly how we do at HOP, it has been a good experience to get to know these neighbors and work closely with their leadership. We’ve found that perhaps the ideal service for this type of collaboration is Thanksgiving Eve, so the hope is that continues in the future.

We have been fortunate this year to have several outstanding visiting groups share their artistic ministry with us for services. Among these groups are the JUSTHREE Brass, the Barbary Coast Dixieland Band, and the Aberdian String Quartet.

Another collaborative effort was that which involved our adult choir and that of our “daughter” congregation, Peace Lutheran in Bloomington. It was a thrill for our choir to join with theirs at their church, then the next week their group doing the same at HOP. Looks like a tradition may be building!

One of the greatest blessings we have here at HOP is the cornucopia of countless individuals who freely give of their time and skills to provide solo music, both vocal and instrumental, as well as serve in worship leadership roles with cantoring, etc. It is simply amazing to me how much time and energy so many people of HOP selflessly give to contributing to our music and worship life.

And as long as we’re listing our blessings, I’d be remiss to not count the entire congregation as chief among them. Our people engage actively in worship, try new things with positive attitudes, and sing their hearts out with one collective voice. All the planning and structuring and leading doesn’t add up to much of anything if the “people in the pews” aren’t willing to dive in and lend their voice. That’s why it works here!

With the various changes and needed “evolution” of HOP, our worship service remains a rock of the church community, a fire that still burns brightly. Great things are happening in music and worship – more is yet to come – and we have the dedicated people of HOP to thank for that – Kudos to you all!

*Phil Mennicke*

Director of Worship and Music

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# REFUEL WORSHIP

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Mission Statement: *To create an alternative worship experience that is experiential, relevant, participatory, and welcoming!*

I Have now been leading ReFuel for a year and half, and I can say that this service and this church have really been a great blessing in my life and that of my family.

## **Music**

As the music leader for ReFuel I have broadened the scope of music that we sing in our worship by using a blend of secular music and contemporary Christian music. We continue to build upon the catalogue of worship songs, and in the last year and a half we have gone through nearly 200 unique songs! In ReFuel we work very hard to create an intimate and meaningful worship experience where the music connects deeply to the message. For those who wish to hear the music that we have been singing and hearing in service, I have a public playlist on Spotify that anyone can access via the link below.

<https://open.spotify.com/user/1258623437/playlist/2GZV3l1uFj2NhFSw86aFNx>

We are also continuing to build our musician volunteer pool, and now have two regular rotating worship teams. A big thank you to my fellow musicians for contributing your time and talents to help making ReFuel a great service! We are going to keep finding ways to worship God in new ways (in other words we're going to do cool stuff)!

Also, if anyone reading this has the desire to come and volunteer as a musician for ReFuel, please come talk to me or send me an email.

## **Volunteers**

A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers that make this service run, and to Cara Wright for organizing them! As always, we need more volunteers, so please consider connecting with Cara or myself to find ways to volunteer. We are not asking anyone to volunteer every Sunday, but many hands make light work and this service belongs to all of us, so please help us make it an inviting place for all! In particular we are in need of some new volunteers willing to run sound and screens since some of our regulars are heading off to college. It's may sound daunting, but it's actually pretty easy, so don't hesitate to step forward. We will help you be prepared!

*Josh Countryman*

ReFuel Worship Leader

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# HUMAN RESOURCES MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Members of the HR Team include – Diane Casey, Nick Freiheit, Dave Steenson, Les Bauer, Jon Kiehl, and Pastor Ben Sandin. Monica Dorow serves as chair. Thank you to the team for your time and service in support of our dedicated House of Prayer staff.

We are thankful for our hard-working and committed staff, whose work helps keep House of Prayer going on a day-to-day basis.

Key accomplishments this past year include:

- Developed and managed the HR budget.
- Helped manage staff transition in the position of Administrative Assistant.
- Assisted in the development of a job description and the hiring of Cara Wright in the new position of Director of Operations & Communications.
- Commenced HOP Blue Cross Blue Shield group health insurance coverage for full time staff on July 1, 2016, with HOP paying 50% of the cost. ExMT also approved the adoption of a Premium Only Flex Plan with Select Account which allows full time employees utilizing the coverage to pay their portion of premiums out of pre-tax payroll dollars.
- Hosted cake receptions for the Directors of Youth Ministry and Community Development and Operations & Communications. Helped plan and host retirement celebration for Visitation Pastor, Linda Lund.

The vision for HR in 2017-18 and beyond:

- Continue the ongoing duties of the HR Ministry Team.
- Continue to assure that the goals and talents of our staff are aligned with HOP's strategic goals.
- Continue recognition of the commitment and talent our staff brings to HOP.

*Monica Dorow*

Human Resources Ministry Team Chair

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# HOUSE OF PRAYER FOUNDATION

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Our Foundation was started in 1986 and has grown in assets to over \$430,000. We received around \$48,000 in contributions and memorials for the 2016 calendar year. Since 1995, we disbursed over \$100,000 to help with the mission of HOP and the church worldwide. The HOP Foundation exists to provide monetary support to HOP ministries, facility needs and programming that are not included in the annual budget. It also supports God's work outside of HOP through organizations like VEAP, Luther Park Bible Camp, and an ELCA Missionary. We've continued to only spend earnings, keeping all gifts received into perpetuity.

The Foundation can receive contributions of money, real estate, property, memorials and honorariums from individuals, groups and organizations. It can also accept insurance policies, gift annuities, stocks, bonds and IRA distributions. If you would like to discuss a never-ending gift to HOP, please contact your attorney or a member of the Foundation. Your gift to the Foundation is stewardship for tomorrow. It really works.

<i>Officers and Directors of the Foundation are:</i>		<i>Term Expires</i>
Treasurer	Scott Wright	5/2018
Secretary/Legal Counsel	Ernest Lindstrom	5/2018
Board Member	Steve Pierson	5/2019
Board Member	Charles Robbins	5/2019
Board Member	Wayne Swenson	5/2018
Board Member	Buzz Moen	5/2019
Board Member	Jill Johnson	5/2018
Board Member	Charles Hatfield	5/2019
Pastor Liaison	Pastor Ben Sandin (non-voting member)	

All members serve a 2-year term, with the ability to be reelected if they so choose.

The Foundation provides an opportunity for people to express their gratitude to God for the blessings they have received. It gives us a way to continue Christian stewardship and financial support to House of Prayer Lutheran Church beyond our lifetime.

Thank you for supporting the FOUNDATION!

*Scott Wright*

House of Prayer Foundation Treasurer

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# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

2016-2017 saw more of the '15 for '15 items from the Capital Campaign completed. The sign is in and operating, along with the sanctuary sound system. The back parking lot lights have been changed to LED design and the information boards completed.

The only major item still to be completed is the kitchen. This has proven to be a more complicated task than originally thought. Our first design was turned down by the city as we did not have the space outside to install the necessary equipment. It is hoped to get a design that the city will approve this spring.

While the first 15 projects are nearing completion, there are many areas of House of Prayer that need attention. It is hoped that task teams can be formed this year to look at the cost of attending to those areas. The Interior Design Team has completed some early design work and will make that information available to the task teams.

Some of these areas are:

- Fellowship Hall
- Lower level bathrooms
- Office windows
- Upper level bathrooms

Please contact me if you have any questions. *(Please see Page 31 of the Annual Report for the break-down)*

*Jim Bauer*

Support Ministry Team Chair

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# BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

The Budget & Finance committee meets periodically and works closely with the ministry teams, financial administrator, pastors and staff to ensure that House of Prayer's resources are managed wisely and in support of our mission to do God's work in this community.

## Highlights from the 2016-2017 fiscal year:

- One year ago, the congregation approved a balanced budget of \$610,000 in expenses with \$610,000 of income. We have done an exceptional job of managing expenses throughout the year, but income/offering have fallen short of expectations during this year of renewal.
  - Results through April are: income \$526,682, expenses \$504,272, variance \$22,410.
  - However, the good news is, there's money in the bank and we project to have a \$8,000 balance going into the new fiscal year (along with an \$8,486 balance from the 2015-16 fiscal year).
- Our *15 for '15* capital campaign renewal has brought some visual updates and changes to our facility. We continue to receive funds and have 90% of the work completed, with the kitchen being the big one still to complete. These important facilities refurbishment projects will continue to support our ministry focus on Evangelism, Worship, Youth & Family, and Discipleship.
  - See the separate Capital Campaign Report for additional details.
- We changed our primary bank to Bank Cherokee due to continued service issues with our old bank. We still use them to make the local deposit, but then electronically transfer the balance.
- We made an additional principal payment of \$4000 towards the mortgage principal to help pay it off within 9 years. Current balance is around \$230,000.

## Looking forward to the 2016-2017 fiscal year (Please see Page 30 of the Annual Report for the break-down)

- We are proposing a balanced budget for the new fiscal year 2017-2018. We should be going forward with a projected \$16,000 balance from last year. The proposed budget calls for \$624,000 income, \$624,000 expenses.
  - We are seeking a continued commitment from the entire congregation to support HOP ministries financially, pray for our staff and the leaders, and to support membership growth initiatives.
  - Budget & Finance will conduct formal financial reviews quarterly to monitor and assess progress, and will work with LMT to make adjustments as necessary.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:21*

Scott Wright

Treasurer

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# SUPPORT MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Support Ministry has the second largest amount of the yearly budget (next to Human Resources). There are three sub-committees of Support Ministries. They are:

Budget and Finance  
Interior Design  
Property

Budget and Finance: Please see Scott Wright's report.

Interior Design: The work in the Narthex is now complete. The carpet is in, the painting is done and the coffee bar, donut bar and information desk are complete. The last items are the information bulletin boards to be placed to help people find their way around the church. Additional work has been done for future projects and information will be passed on. With the 10 years of hard work done, the current Interior Design Team feels it is time to pass the torch to new people. Effective the first of June, we will be looking for someone to take on the new projects. We offer our thanks to all the dedicated people of Interior Design and especially to Pam Murphy, who has been the chair for these 10 years.

Property: House of Prayer is a large campus and property has the responsibility of caring for and maintaining the building and grounds. As it is an older building many of the infrastructure areas need constant care and repair. With Jo Shoberg's hard work, we have been able to develop a budget that reflects the finances needed to cover the costs each year. With Ramo's magic touch, we have ended the year within our budget.

A major part of each year's expense is to be sure that systems in the church are operating properly. Some of these are:

- Boiler inspections (two per year)
- Sprinkler System
- Kitchen Hood System
- Fire extinguishers
- Exit Lights
- Elevator (inspected yearly)
- First Aid Kits
- AED Defibrillator

There are new things also ahead. If you noticed, the three large trees on the north side are gone. Plans are under way to do new landscaping there and at the sign. Also, new landscaping is being done around the church.

House of Prayer has an excellent staff and the Support Ministry Team would like to thank them for all they do to make our Team's mission easy and productive.

*Jim Bauer*

Support Ministry Team Chair

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# YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

We have been so blessed with the addition of Ben Whalen in the new position of Director of Youth Ministry and Community Development. Ben started full time in August. With the new format for congregation leadership set to begin in July, our team will no longer operate with a chair person and will start to operate with Task Force Teams on specific project/programs under the direction and leadership of Ben Whalen.

## **Regular Programing:**

Sunday morning Sunday School for ages 3 years to 4th grade is offered at two class times (duplicate lessons) at 9:30 and 11:00. The Spark curriculum is bible story based and tells the stories through four week rotations.

Wednesday Night Programs Ignite, Jolt, and Tribe for grades 5-12. We now have two learning nights, one service project night and one fellowship night each month. The confirmation program is divided by 5th and 6th graders pre-confirmation (Ignite) using the Connect Curriculum and the 7th and 8th graders in confirmation instruction.

## **Special events/projects the Youth and Family Ministry Team were part of this past year:**

- Participated with the House of Prayer group in the 4th of July Parade.
- Organized and provided Barnyard Round Up VBS July 25-28. That week we had about 80 farmhands, 30 teen and adult guides and about 10 café volunteers. Our VBS won the “Best VBS in Richfield” for the fourth year.
- Trunk or Treat again on October 26th in connection with our Wednesday night activities.
- Sunday School Christmas program was December 18th. This year the program was presented at both 9:30 and 11:00 services.
- A small group attended the Recharge Workshops for youth leaders on January 7th.
- Ben Whalen and Kielyn Simonson accompanied 5 youth to a peer ministry retreat Jan 27-28.
- Gustavus Adolphus College students from their GYO team lead our 8-12 grade kids with organized activities and bible study at our church for a lock in. Ben Whalen and Pastor Ben were up all night supervising as well as a few other adult members.
- First Communion for 8 of our Fifth and Sixth graders was celebrated on Palm Sunday, April 9th.
- We introduced the Flat Jesus project May 14th. This will run throughout the summer.
- Confirmation was celebrated on May 21st. There were 13 Eighth graders confirmed.
- Wednesday night year end banquet was Wednesday May 17th.
- Sunday School year end party was May 21st

## **Plans In Process For The Coming Year:**

- We will again offer youth the opportunity to join Oak Grove Lutheran and Woodlake Lutheran to offer a Summer Stretch program of Thursday activities throughout the summer to learn, do service, and have fun and fellowship with other teens.
- We are planning to join other HOP people/groups in the Richfield 4th of July Parade.

*(cont.)*

- A Family Mission Trip is planned for July 6-9. Several of our Families along with some from Oak Grove will go to Madison to do God's work.
- A Youth Trip to Flathead Camp in Montana July 15-23rd. There are 7 youth and 3 adults traveling by train to build relationship and commune with God in the wilderness of Montana.
- VBS is scheduled for the last week in July and plans are in the works. This coming summer's theme is "Backstage With the Bible".

*Heidi Thomas*

Youth and Family Ministry Team Chair

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# LIFE TOGETHER MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

## **Simple Suppers**

Jen Neumann (our rock and solid leader) has been providing healthy, well rounded meals for Wednesday nights 4 years running. Delicious meals have included lasagna, breakfast for dinner, assorted sliders, cheeseburgers and fries, pizza and so many wonderful and tasty meals!

During Lent, we had Crockpot Meals brought by Jen, DuAnn and members of HOP.

A special event has included feeding Many Hands, Many Meals April 19.

We provided a lasagna luncheon for Pastor Linda's retirement luncheon April 30.

We provided dinner for the May Youth Banquet.

We will also be providing the dinner for our annual meeting June 13, 2017.

Simple Suppers doesn't run by itself and we are grateful to Shirley Moen, Diane Casey and Joe Speakman, Jim and Sharon Bauer, Cathy Shromoff, Irene and Frank Sable, Gil Frosig and Cal Jenson and ANYONE who contributed food, help setting up, tearing down and washing dishes. Your faithful service and talents know no bounds and we are so very blessed to have you help us each year.

## **Sunday Morning Coffee Service**

Each week, the Fellowship Clubs provide coffee and donut service, so thank you to Alphas, 35 or Soss, HOP UPS, and Zetas for their ongoing support.

Special thanks to Ramo who makes coffee each week and sets out the donuts so our coffee servers don't have to get to church so early.

Thank you so much to our help, support, Jen Neumann and our diners for making our year so very successful!

*DuAnn Thompson*

Life Together Ministry Team Chair

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# EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Mission Statement: *"To be welcoming and open about our faith and House of Prayer"*

## **Evangelism Ministry Team**

2016-2017 Team members: Sally Boyd, Emelie Femrite, Paula Kiehl, Shirley Moen, DuAnn Thompson

The Evangelism Ministry Team would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers that make House of Prayer a welcoming and inviting church. As members of The Evangelism Ministry Team; we have strived to keep our focus on our team's Mission Statement.

During this past year; our worship service *Greeters* have welcomed members and guests with smiles; *Information Desk* and Sunday morning *Office Volunteers* were all in place as a friendly and helpful face at House of Prayer.

Thank you to DuAnn Thompson who makes sure there are volunteers in the office every Sunday and makes sure our members have an updated Guide Book each year, Sally for providing volunteers for the information desk and greeters for our Sunday morning church service. Emelie provided us with greeters until her final days. Our team was blessed to have Emelie on our team; one of God's special angels that holds a special place in our hearts.

EvMT enjoyed our annual Ice Cream Social event with The Northern Winds Band Concert on July 31, 2016. We look forward to serving for the concert in July 2017. Thank you to our team for coordinating this wonderful event each year.

The Evangelism team enjoys providing and serving a lunch for our New Member Orientations. This is a wonderful opportunity for our team to learn and understand the decision our new members have chosen to be a part of House of Prayer's church family.

The Evangelism team visited our Richfield Tower ladies in September 25, 2016, for an amazing and wonderful Tea Party; the ladies at the towers greatly appreciate and enjoy the company of some of House of Prayer's members. We look forward to the opportunity to serve the Richfield Tower ladies in 2017.

*House of Prayer is blessed to have our wonderful members on the Evangelism Team, Thank You for all your hard work throughout the year!*

## **Visiting Team**

2016-2017 Team members: Jim & Sharon Bauer, Les & Barb Bauer, Teri Behrends-Singer & Paula Kiehl, Jon & Beth Lankey, Shaun & Jill Murphy, and Matt & Andry Jurcich.

The visiting team is enjoying the experience and opportunity of meeting our House of Prayer guests. The guests have been gratefully surprised and have appreciated the opportunity to learn more about House of Prayer.

*Paula Kiehl*

Evangelism Ministry Team Chair

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# WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

The Worship Ministry Team supports and coordinates work of the dedicated volunteers who serve every week. Our team members are liaisons to these groups of volunteers who make our worship services inspiring and meaningful. The Worship Ministry Team includes Sandy Jenson representing Altar Guild, Steve Sather representing ushers, Kim Houle representing choir, Phil Mennicke who coordinates the worship lectors and prayer leaders, as well as communion servers and Pastor Ben Sandin. Cara Wright coordinates the schedule of greeters, communion assistants and audio/visual support at the ReFuel services. Our team meets as needed to assist planning of special services including All Saints Sunday and outdoor worship services. Heartfelt thanks to the team and all volunteers for providing their talents and time over the years.

New volunteers are always welcome always to serve in these essential roles at worship services. Please consider helping if you are able. Thanks be to God for the wonderful congregation of worshippers of House of Prayer and the generosity of our volunteers!

*Sandy Williams*

Worship Ministry Team Chair

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# COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

House of Prayer's newest ministry team has now completed its fifth year. The team's purpose is to share the good news of HOP - special events, programs, opportunities, and other noteworthy items important to our mission as a church - with the community, through various news outlets. Our goal is to make House of Prayer more visible in Richfield and the surrounding area, and invite others to share in our fellowship through various outreach activities.

The team makes changes as needed to our weekly Sun Current ad, places ads in special advertising sections during certain times of the year (Rally Sunday, Fall Festival, Christmas, Easter, Vacation Bible School), covers postage cost for the monthly Hi-Lines newsletter, funds the required monthly web hosting fee, and oversees any changes needed to HOP's technology services. Cara Wright and Elyn Kirchner assist the CTMT with excellence in their roles as Hi-Lines designer and copy editor, respectively. Additionally, Terri Behrends-Singer stepped down this year as Hi-Lines designer after many years of dedicated service, and we thank her for sharing her time and talents with our congregation.

Over the past year we have enjoyed a new and improved website, easier to navigate with faster speed and updated regularly with photos and announcements. We also upgraded our internet service and began offering free Wi-Fi to members and guests in our building, which is something they greatly appreciate. The CTMT currently consists of team chair Beth Lankey (through June '17) and Mary Markes. Mary works with Cara Wright and Ben Whalen on HOP's website, [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org),

In 2016 and 2017, the CTMT helped share news of the following events with our community:

- Outdoor Community Worship Service
- Northern Winds band concert & ice cream social
- ReFuel Alternative Worship
- Flu Shot Clinic
- Festival of Carols
- HOP Community Garden
- Vacation Bible School - Voted '2016 Best VBS in Richfield' by Sun Current readers
- Trunk or Treat
- Fall Festival
- Women's Luncheon
- Christmas Worship
- Holy Week/Easter Worship
- Parking Lot Party

*Beth Lankey & Mary Markes*

Communication & Technology Team

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# OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

House of Prayers continues to grow in benevolence. Pledged benevolence giving together with special gifts have increased about 9% over last year. This means we are able to provide more to help those in need in our community and throughout the world. A complete accounting of the giving this past year will be in the community news and the Hi-lines at the end of this fiscal year. The gifts are greatly appreciated by the recipients.

We continue to give quarterly gifts to our mission partners: Minneapolis Area Synod, ISAIAH, Luther Park, Lutheran Social Services, VEAP, ELCA World Hunger, and Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. We had two of our mission partners come to House of Prayer to share with us their mission and give us opportunities to learn more about them and their volunteer opportunities. One was Lutheran Social Services (LSS). LSS helps Minnesotans by providing a wide range of human support services related to the basic necessities of life - food and shelter, physical health and safety, and emotional and spiritual wellbeing. If you would like information on how you can be involved with LSS, see Jean Robbins. The second partner was VEAP. Their mission is: Neighbors serving neighbors in need. Their Vision is: Improving the lives of people in the community. VEAP is a basic needs and social services organization whose programs promote access to healthy foods, stable housing and transportation. If you would like to get information on how to get involved with VEAP, see Irene Sable.

There are many other places where benevolence gifts were made this year. They include: Martin Luther Manor, Richfield meals on Wheels, Caring Bridge, Habitat for Humanity, Tapestry, Gustavus Adolphus College, Many Hands Many Meals, and Gift Cards.

There were also many opportunities to serve and use benevolence dollars or special gifts.

- Monthly HOP members prepare and serve a meal at Simpson Shelter which advocates for people experiencing homelessness.
- HOP members also prepare and serve meals at Loaves and Fishes serving the Richfield Community.
- HOP members monthly collect food and other items such as toys, gifts, birthday bags, gift cards, back to school supplies, and hygiene items for those in need in our community.
- We packaged kids kits for Camp Noah. Camp Noah is a locally hosted event for elementary-age children whose communities have been impacted by disaster.
- During December, we decorated a cardboard House of Prayer with hand written prayers. We used the house to collect items for LSS homeless youth programs. Socks, long underwear and hygiene items went to Rezek House, most will be used by our Streetworks ministry. Cleaning supplies and gift cards went to programs in our Youth and Family Services programs. They serve families who are coming out of long-term homelessness and are finally getting settled.
- In June, we will be working with Woodlake Lutheran Church to help feed and support the families they have in the Families Moving Forward program.
- HOP members are working with ISAIAH to help build a healthy, just, and vital Minnesota.
- In April, we partnered with Many Hands Many Meals to have a food packing event at HOP. We had over 100 volunteers and packed more than 30,000 meals for hungry people throughout the world. The food we packed last year was sent to Somalia.
- HOP members attended a luncheon to help put an end to youth homelessness.
- This summer HOP will continue to have a Community Garden to help provide food for needy in our community.

*(cont.)*

- HOP members deliver Meals on Wheels to people in our community.
- HOP has generously given to VEAP – 600 pounds of food plus school supplies, toys, and hats.

House of Prayer received one of the Servant of Christ 2017 awards from Lutheran Social Service. Each year, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota recognizes a congregation, or partnering congregations, in each of the six ELCA synods as the recipient of the LSS Servant of Christ Award. These congregations are leaders in social ministry and social justice in their community, have a connection to LSS services in their area, and faithfully provide financial support for the service ministry of Lutheran Social Service. This year the Minneapolis Synod has chosen to acknowledge congregations who have been deeply engaged in their youth services.

Thank you for your continued and increased support for the benevolence outreach of House of Prayer Lutheran Church. All contributions that you designate as benevolence are used to fund the above programs and activities. Our total benevolence dollars and special gifts will total about \$35,000 this fiscal year.

I would like to thank the members of the Outreach Team: David and Karen Steenson, Kim Houle, Paul Danielson, Steve Johnson, Sue Holton, Irene Sable, and Gretchen Swenson. We would love to have some new members of the team that have a desire to serve and help others. Also, if you are interested in any of the activities listed above or have ideas for new activities for outreach please contact one of the members of the team.

*Jean Robbins*

Outreach Ministry Chair Chair

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# ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

“The Adult Ministry Team's mission is to provide lifelong, holistic support and education.”

**Adult Education:** Wednesday evening adult ed. classes are held at 6:30 following Simple Suppers. While the pastors usually choose the topics, the AMT offers suggestions. This year's topics included “Animate Faith,” “Faith, Sexism and Justice,” Bible study with Pastor Ben and intergenerational events.

**Lectionary Bible Study:** is offered on Thursday mornings at 9:30. It is led by the preaching pastor and based on the lectionary for the week.

**Bloomington-Richfield Grief Coalition:** House of Prayer is a member of the Bloomington-Richfield Grief Coalition. They meet weekly and offer speakers who present topics of interest to people dealing with the death of a loved one. Meetings are 8-week sessions hosted at alternating area churches.

**Depression Support Coalition:** We are investigating joining this group, and have made our members aware of the current schedule of meetings. HOP has been invited to join them, or to help form a north-of-the-river group. All the 14 current member churches are located in Dakota County, except for St. Richard's in Richfield. Take a look at their website to see what they do: <http://depressionsupportcoalition.org>.

**Flu Shot Clinic:** was held on Sept. 26 with 32 members receiving their vaccinations. The clinic will be repeated next September also. We may add some other health screenings or information booths.

**90+ Celebration:** on Nov. 13 we honored twelve members who would turn 90 during 2016. Cake was served, and each received a flower, plus a gift from the church.

**Women's Retreat:** held at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington on Oct. 15-16, and led by Rev. Sarah Ciavarri. The event was a joint effort of the AMT and the retreat task force.

**AARP Defensive Driving Class:** held on April 18 for those age 55 or older who needed to renew their certificates to receive a 10% insurance discount. Taught by Charlie Robbins, it will be repeated this fall.

**Library:** the House of Prayer Library contains nearly 1500 books, CDs, and DVDs for our members young and old. As the library has a tiny budget, we always welcome appropriate donations from members. The library is the loneliest room in the building-- please stop in often to browse, and choose some books!

**Flower Delivery:** The Sunday morning Flower Delivery continues to run smoothly under the direction of Ilene Holen. Each Sunday the Sanctuary flowers are delivered to a member in the hospital or who has been recently discharged. Thank you to all who help brighten their day. We are always looking for people who can help just a few times a year.

*(cont.)*

**Homebound Ministry:** This ministry continues to grow under the leadership of Donna Price. Eighteen individuals or teams currently visit and bring monthly Communion to approximately 32 homebound people, and the need is growing. Thank you to all of you who are involved in this important ministry.

**Sunshine Cards:** Another service of the AMT is sending out greeting cards on certain occasions. Since last June, we have sent about 80 get-well and sympathy cards to members or their families and over 85 birthday greetings went to members age 85 or older and anniversary cards to every couple celebrating 50 years or more. In addition, we sent over 40 Christmas and Easter cards to our homebound members.

Can you help with any of these projects? We welcome your involvement.

The AMT has shifted from an every-month scheduled meeting to an as-needed task force, so time is not a huge commitment. If you would like to participate in any of our activities or have suggestions for other projects we might undertake, please contact any of our members: Jeanne Lindstrom, Mary Markes, Donna Price, Mary Settles-Kroeplin, or Ellen Thompson.

*Mary Markes*

On Behalf of the Adult Ministry Team

# House of Prayer Lutheran Church

## Proposed Budget FY2018

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
Offerings	475,038	507,541	535,000	545,930
Rental	26,218	31,130	40,000	40,000
Ministry	14,023	12,506	10,000	11,070
Preschool		22,868	25,000	27,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>515,279</b>	<b>574,045</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>624,000</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Human Resources	348,742	346,277	384,399	396,877
Support				
Finance / Insurance	67,932	56,215	51,095	50,370
Utilities	63,494	66,343	71,210	72,460
Property	16,298	22,833	25,646	20,158
Office Administration	17,014	20,343	25,650	23,088
Ministry	26,981	30,550	30,000	35,047
Preschool		22,997	22,000	26,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>540,461</b>	<b>565,558</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>624,000</b>

	OPR	# of Pledges	Benevolence	# of Pledges
FY2016	324,688	124	31,418	55
FY2017	363,790	133	37,446	57
FY2018	360,456	126	34,172	47

# Capital Campaign 5.3.17

## Contributions

Paid to date	479,544		
Unpaid pledges	-		
<b>Projects</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Air conditioning	20,414	20,414	-
Computers	-	5,322	(5,322)
Copier		8,750	
Roof	130,000	127,274	2,726
Parking lot	8,248	8,248	-
Sound system / Refuel	6,100	6,405	(305)
Sound system / Traditional	6,200	10,989	(4,789)
Sound System Sanctuary		57,910	(57,910)
Youth room	-	-	-
-Carpet	3,000	3,000	-
-Furniture & TV	3,000	2,764	236
Fellowship Hall		9,634	(9,634)
Narthex		-	-
-ADA Doors	6,990	6,990	-
-Brick cleaning	2,500	2,500	-
-Carpet	32,000	30,569	1,431
-Ceiling repair	24,000	26,647	(2,647)
-Ceramic tile	3,000	3,000	-
-Drinking fountain	2,600	4,150	(1,550)
-Fireplace	8,516	9,816	(1,300)
-Furniture	18,000	19,922	(1,922)
-LED Bulbs	3,803	4,799	(996)
-Misc (bulletin boards)	2,810	2,810	-
Kitchen equipment	30,000	3,698	26,302
Kitchen equipment install	20,000	-	20,000
Security system upgrade	12,368	12,518	(150)
Sign	42,000	36,058	5,942
Phone, Internet, WiFi	24,108	24,108	-
Capital campaign dinner & marketing	3,621	3,793	(172)
	413,278	452,087	(30,059)