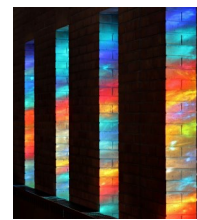




HOUSE OF PRAYER

*Is a gathering of God's people
connecting our faith to our daily lives
so that all would encounter Christ in each person.*



One Year! Already?



Pastor Eric Luedtke

Dear friends of House of Prayer, November 1 marks one year since I started as your pastor. Can you believe it? I admit there are days I still feel like I just walked through the door and am trying to find my way (I do still hunt for light switches). There are other days that I feel like I've been here longer than 12 months. Whatever the amount of time is, I will say this – I am in the right place and I think you are, too.

I could make a list of all of the highlights of the year, the events that are etched into my soul, the laughter we have shared, the tears we have cried, the food we've eaten, the times I've turned down a cup of coffee (because I don't drink coffee), the prayers we've prayed, the songs we've sung, the times I've been blown away by God's presence around us.

It has not been an easy year. We've had conversations that we wish we didn't have to have. I've been with you in times of receiving news you didn't want to hear. That's life, we face challenges. God doesn't ever tell us things will be easy, God does promise to always be with us.

I appreciate that many of you have been intentional about checking in with me and making sure over these last 12 months that I'm not feeling overwhelmed or under supported. Your genuine concern is appreciated and your invitation for me to be honest is treasured. This is a gift I do not take for granted.

I get the chance to share the good news going on at House of Prayer with regularity and I love that I have stories to tell that get others excited about what God is doing here. About our RALY

ministry and the growth we've experienced in the past few months. About our music ministry and the ways our worship is blessed through the gifts of congregation members both in ReFuel and our Liturgical worship. About the people who show up to work behind the scenes doing tasks that go unnoticed unless they are left undone. About our staff members who are dedicated to their work and to supporting one another.

I speak often that House of Prayer is a church that is truly rooted in its Core Values. I love that when you share stories, I can easily point to how those stories lift up our values of Welcome, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness.

As I mark one year of ministry with you, I look forward to the many memories and milestones that are in front of us. I look forward to living into our mission statement: *a gathering of God's people connecting our faith to our daily lives so that all would encounter Christ in each person.* I look forward to the ways we will do that by caring for one another and creation, nurturing the gift of music, being fed so that we can feed others, and collaborating with others.

I truly believe that God has called us **all** here for just such a time as this. That we are all part of a future that will unfold in God's presence that relies on the gifts that each of us brings to House of Prayer. And if this past year is any indication, I have a feeling we'll be marking many milestones together in the future and at each one we'll be rejoicing in the good news that God is with us in each and every moment.



Leadership Ministry Team Update

Welcoming

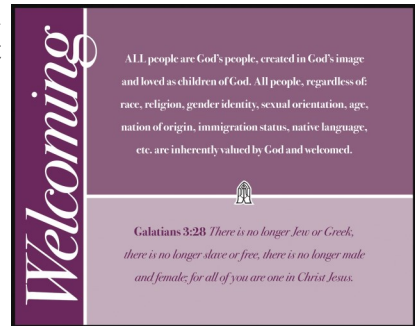


Caity Wright
President

The first couple of these articles were dedicated to introductions, and while there may be more sprinkled in as these goes on, I thought it would be beneficial to dedicate articles to each of House of Prayer's values. The first one I chose to elaborate on was "Welcoming." Our values are central to who we are as a congregation and community, and as president, I thought it was a good exercise in examining how we live out these values every day. Being welcoming of all is a pillar of any community, and House of Prayer has been diligent in creating an inclusive, inviting congregation.

We have worked hard and continue to work to build an inclusive and safe space for people to gather. But welcoming, as all of our values do, extends outside of the church. We want everyone to know how wel-

coming we are, that we love and accept you and meet you where you're at. I think this is so important, it is exactly what Jesus did, and now it's what we are called to do. I see welcoming in our member's faces, how we all go out into the world trying our best to project that love and acceptance of everyone. How each person receives such a warm greeting, and how it is continued in the conversations, events, and general day-to-day happenings around the church. From the moment you step through the doors, you are greeted with genuine smiles, warm embraces, and an invitation to join the community. Whether you are a first time visitor or a long-time member, you feel like an integral part of the church family.



As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, it is important to feel included from the second you step foot in our building no matter where life has taken you beforehand. I think that House of Prayer's RIC status sends a powerful message of welcome and acceptance to not only its congregation but to the entire community. The visible and unwavering commitment to embracing LGBTQIA+ individuals makes the church a beacon of hope for those who may have faced discrimination or exclusion elsewhere. This inclusivity extends the church's warm embrace far beyond its physical walls and serves as a symbol of love and equality. There are some great new signs to show it too, another great way to show our welcoming to the outside world!



Our partnership with our fellow Richfield Lutheran churches is another place I see Welcoming. We are welcoming change and how we can partner with each other to make our community even better! Particularly though our work with Woodlake Lutheran and RALY, I see youth welcoming their friends to join them! Inviting them to events and weekly RALY meetings, it has been so cool to see!

There are endless ways to see welcoming, I just named a few. I encourage you to do this alongside me. As I write these articles, think about how you see each of our values in our congregation and yourself.

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

September and first quarter financial performance continues to trend better than budget. HOP had a net operating deficit of \$6,964 for September vs. a budgeted deficit of \$8,875. First quarter showed a similar performance with a net operating deficit of \$14,841 vs. a budgeted deficit of \$43,005. The dedicated fund activity, which created a net positive revenue helped bring the total net deficit for September to about break even at \$328, and for the first quarter, a \$9,428 deficit. *(Cont'd on next page)*

Operating Summary Fiscal Year 2023-2024					
	Sep-23		YTD		Variance
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
REVENUE					
4000 Offerings	23,353	31,200	96,037	92,300	\$ 3,737
4100 Rental Revenue	10,550	9,966	27,500	26,199	\$ 1,301
4609 Other Worship Revenue	175	318	401	964	\$ (563)
4700 Preschool Revenue	9,628	10,000	12,109	12,400	\$ (291)
TOTAL REVENUE	43,706	51,484	136,047	131,863	\$ 4,184
Expenses					
Outreach, Community Engagement and Congregational Dev.	4,816	5,614	13,293	17,171	\$ (3,878)
Human Resources Ministry	33,105	40,420	98,872	115,833	\$ (16,961)
Finance, Insurance, Office Admin, Legal and Professional Fees	2,552	4,140	14,952	13,667	\$ 1,285
Property and Utilities	10,197	10,185	23,771	28,197	\$ (4,426)
TOTAL EXPENSES	50,670	60,359	150,888	174,868	\$ (23,980)
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(6,964)	(8,875)	(14,841)	(43,005)	28,164
Dedicated Fund Activity as of September 2023					
DEDICATED FUNDS RECEIVED	Sept '23		YTD		
Evangelism	2400		2400		
Facilities	1300		4,235		
Worship (incl JK Ministry grant)	2,000		2,098		
Preschool	6,193		6,644		
Total Funds Received	11,893		15,377		
DEDICATED FUNDS USED					
Evangelism	123		123		
Worship	492		2,099		
Preschool	4,641		7,742		
Total Funds Spent	5,256		9,964		

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report *Cont'd*

REVENUE

Offerings drive much of the revenue variance, and it is encouraging to see a 3-month trend in giving that is now 4% better than budget. Revenue also compares favorably to prior year, up 4% for the first quarter, due primarily to higher rent revenue and a small increase in offerings.

EXPENSES

September and first quarter expenses came in lower than budget. Savings were in areas of HR with open staff positions of ministry staff, and in utilities, with tapering energy costs and lower HVAC repairs

DEDICATED ACTIVITY

Grants were the word of the month for September. Both the HOP Foundation and First Childrens Finance provided funding for expenses including refuel technology, friendship fund gas cards for the community, and preschool revitalization projects.

CASH

Cash balances include \$473,000 in the bank at the end of September, of which \$211,000 is operating reserves, \$200,000 restricted dedicated funds, and \$48,000unrestricted funds.

Note: At the end of each quarter, I will provide a break down on major expense costs and variance from budget. On a month- to-month basis, variances can be due to timing rather than increases or decreases to expense. Quarterly should show trends in expenses better.

Sara Barnaby
HOP Treasurer

Around House of Prayer

Minister of Congregational Care (MCC) Position Posted



**Congregational
Care**

During the Transition Team work before calling Pastor Eric and during the Cottage Meetings held last Spring, there was a consistent need lifted up for a staff position to support visitation and networks of care at House of Prayer. At our June congregational meeting, the budget was approved with a budget line for a Minister for Congregational Care. The job description has been created and posted on the [Announcements page of the HOP website](#) (and we are working with our Minneapolis Area Synod to develop a pool of candidates to interview for the position.

This is a part-time position with primary responsibilities focused on visitation of homebound and hospitalized members. The ideal candidate will be able to build networks of care within the congregation and help our members look outward with their compassionate care toward others. We anticipate this candidate will be involved in the worship life of House of Prayer including preaching and leading worship about once a month. If you are aware of someone who might be interested in the position, please invite them to apply for the position or share their information with Pastor Eric so we can include them in the pool of candidates. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Eric eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612.866.8471, ext. 2.

Around House of Prayer

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 to get involved at andryj@invisik.com.

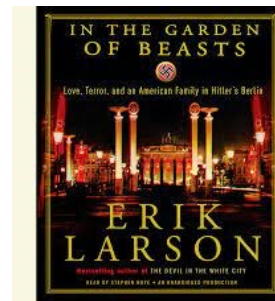
Book Discussion Group

House of Prayer Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, November 2, at 1:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

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

In December we will be discussing: *One Plus One* by JoJo Moyes

We welcome anyone who loves to read! For more information about Book Club, please contact Sandy Williams at srwllms70@hotmail.com.



90th Birthday Celebration



On Sunday, Nov. 12, we will be honoring two long-time members who are celebrating their 90th birthdays in 2023.

Please join in celebrating Marianne Lind and Lorraine Swanson with cake and coffee between worship services.



Game Meet-up

Do you love card and board games? Want to learn some new ones or play old favorites?

Join Dave and Sara From 1:30 to 5:00 pm on Friday Nov.3 in the Narthex. Come in the door with the awning.



We will have games to play, but you can bring your own. It is your responsibility to keep track of your games. Covered drinks are allowed.

Want to take the bus?
77th St E & Chicago Ave S
Stop Number: 48623 Route 540

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

Around House of Prayer

Fall Music Ministry



HOP/Woodlake Choir Collaboration

The combined HOP/Woodlake Choir joined forces in offering special music for our 9:30 am Liturgical Worship Service on Sunday, October 8th. The choirs rehearse together and sing for services at both HOP and Woodlake Lutheran approximately one week each month, and thus build community through our shared music and music. Please consider joining us - we always welcome more singers!

All Saints Sunday, November 5th 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.



Thanksgiving Eve Joint Service Wednesday, November 22nd

Join us Wednesday, November 22nd at 7pm as House of Prayer hosts our Richfield Area Lutheran Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Fellowship. Gathering with friends from Oak Grove, Woodlake, Tapestry, and House of Prayer we'll sing and praise God for the abundant blessings in our lives. After worship we'll have a time for conversation and pie. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor, even if they usually attend another church. If you have out of town guests, bring them along. All are welcome to join in giving thanks together.



Festival of Carols Sunday December 10th, 10:00am

Please join the HOP Adult and Handbell Choirs for a special service celebrating this Advent/Christmas season, as we anticipate and rejoice over the coming of Christ to our world. This expanded Service of Lessons and Carols has its origins in the music of the Church of England. It is shaped around several scripture readings that convey the Christmas story, moving from the promise of the Savior to bring light to the darkness, the miracle of the annunciation, to the joy of Christ's birth. The readings are interspersed with festive carols, hymns, and traditional music for choirs and congregation, which guide our reflection and response to each of the lessons. Come worship with us as we celebrate this very special season of the Church Year!

Please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org if you have any questions regarding these services.

Around House of Prayer

Building Maintenance Update

Summer and Fall provided great opportunities for building maintenance around HOP. After our 2023-24 budget was approved at the June Annual Congregational Meeting and we received confirmation of grant funds awarded to HOP Preschool, we've moved ahead on these maintenance projects.

- **New Carpet for the Nursery - Approved \$6,400.** Old roll carpet in the Nursery and Sleeping Room will be torn up and replaced with colorful carpet squares. Targeting Thanksgiving week for install when Preschool is closed.
- **Quote Process for Vinyl Planking in Education Hall & Classrooms - Bid \$41,000.** Received one bid for LVP to cover asbestos tile in Education Hallway & Classrooms. Tiles are currently secure enough to allow installation over existing material. Doing this project soon will save abatement cost. This is not a 2023-24 budgeted expense. We will get several other bids before moving forward and determine if we can use dedicated funds to proceed.
- **Parking Lot Repair - Approved, Phase 1 complete \$5,000.** Removed cracked asphalt and filled in low area in parking lot to prevent winter ice build-up and improve safety. Phase 2 to seal coat and stripe lot will be done in the Spring (Approx \$17,000).
- **Digital Controls for Boiler - Approved \$13,000.** Work will start in November to install digital controls for the boiler and the pumps to replace old pneumatic controls that no longer function. Heating will be easier to control in the offices / sanctuary and will adjust based on outside air temperatures. This will smooth temperatures inside and hopefully save money.



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 encouraged in the south lot, due to our SDA worshippers on site that day.
- The volunteer sign-up sheets are at the Information Desk. There are still opportunities to volunteer! We need greeters, event helpers, and setup/cleanup helpers.
- Your donations of books, games, and movies can be dropped at church as late as 11/3. Also, *your handmade crafts* are needed for our HOP craft table. Please bring them to church on Friday 11/3.
- The Bake Sale is always a hit! Please bring your cakes, pies, cookies, and bars to church on Friday, 11/3.
- There will be several craft vendors, a book sale, and a bake sale (including LEFSE!)

Come join us for the Fall Festival and bring your friends and neighbors!

Please contact Julie Bonebrake if you have any questions at jbonebrake@yahoo.com.



RALY, Youth, Children and Family

Trunk or Treat

RALY hosted a booth at Morris Nilsen Funeral Chapel for the annual Trunk or Treat event on October 14th from 3-6pm. Families brought their kids, walked around to the differently themed trunks, and received candy. RALY handed out candy to over 1000 families in Richfield. Thank you to RALY and the Jurcich family for putting this together, and thank you to everyone who brought candy to support this endeavor. Happy Halloween everyone! Please contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com if you have any questions.



Confirmation Retreat 2023—God is With Us!

God showed up at our Confirmation Retreat at Luther Park - Danbury, so did Santa, some elves, and a bunch of energetic youth! We had a great time digging deep into the story of Jesus' birth and recognizing how we blend stories from multiple sources to add details to the story we tell others about God being with us. We ate hearty meals, we played a variety of games, we built relationships, we ran (well, most people ran, Pastor Eric walked with purpose), we enjoyed God's beautiful creation. Ask any of our youth about the retreat, they're bound to have a story or two.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family



On Sunday, October 22nd we held our annual Veggie Tales movie viewing event. Kids were invited to bring their comfiest clothes, blankets and stuffed animals to watch "Esther: The Girl Who Became Queen." Popcorn was provided just like in a movie theater! Esther is one of the Old Testament Bible heroes we are learning about in our Sunday School curriculum and the story is one that the kids were less familiar with. (If you'd like to read the Spark Bible story with a child in your life, see "Queen Esther" on p. 152). We talked about Esther's bravery, how she saved her people, and how the Jewish holiday of Purim celebrates this story in the Bible. We looked at some pictures of how people might celebrate Purim today. It was a fun, low-key Sunday for us. Next week we learn about another Old Testament Bible hero.



Children in Pre-K and older are welcome to meet up with us every Sunday morning at 10:30am 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. No pre-registration necessary! Parents are welcome to join our fun or enjoy Coffee and Donut Fellowship. Please contact Kristi Lui at kline010@umn.edu or Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com. **There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on November 26th.**

RALY Recap – October

What a great month for RALY! The last Wednesday of September we went Rock Climbing and did archery at Scouts BSA Basecamp. Fun (and sore arms!) was had by all! October began with a Starbucks run where we met unexpected friends and a night of youth leadership, where youth planned our November "RALY Adventure" night. Breaking up our regular RALY programming was the Confirmation Retreat to Luther Park in Danbury, WI. 7 kids, Pr. Eric & Pr. Neal had a blast with a Christmas themed (yes... Christmas!) retreat where we learned that "God is With Us." Finally, we played, "Real Life Clue" together at House of Prayer where 6 volunteers dressed up as Clue Characters and kids had to solve a mystery! Overall, RALY Kids are having fun and finding faith! Thanks for supporting RALY!



November RALY

Nov 1, 6:00-7:30pm - RALY Night - Join us at youth group for a meal, games, and devotion!

Nov 8, 6:00-7:30pm - RALY Leads - Join us as we continue to learn leadership skills and put them into action by planning events.

Nov 15, 6:30-9:15pm - RALY Serves - Feed My Starving Children. Meet us at House of Prayer at 6:30pm as we head down to Feed My Starving Children to help package meals for people in need around the world! Contact Pr. Neal Cannon (ncannon@woodlakechurch.org) ahead of time to sign up, or with any questions about RALY.

Nov 22 - No RALY - Thanksgiving

Nov 29, 6:00-7:30pm - RALY Inspires! - Special Activity at Urban Air!

RALY, Children, Youth and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

Hello from a busy fall at House of Prayer Preschool! We have been off to a great start and are so thankful for the sweet families that have joined us. While some days can be challenging, we love our time together and our days fly by.

We are so thankful for the summer playground project with our new storage box, wood chips, signage, and sand. We received some wonderful donations and our classroom is bustling with activity.

We LOVE art projects, music, and dancing, and if you walk down our hallway during the day you may hear a book on CD or something playing on our record player!

We are looking forward to all the fun activities the holiday season will allow us and continue to grow our community. If you have questions about HoPP, please email Nicole at nolson@hoplc.org.



Community Engagement

Luther Park Fundraiser Thank You

The Luther Park Morpheus Concert on September 30th was a huge success! Thank you so much to everyone who donated to HOP's Pot O' Gold auction basket! The Morpheus band played, we danced, gathered, bid on raffle baskets, played games, and had a great time together. There were 9 raffle baskets, each donated by a different church, all with amazing themes like Brunch and Bloodies, Camp in the Great Outdoors, and one congregation donated ¼ cow to raffle off!

If you missed the event and would still like to donate to make sure camp is affordable for everyone, follow the link here:

<https://lutherparkdanbury.campbraingiving.com>.

For any questions, contact Caity Wright at caitywright13@gmail.com.



Simpson Shelter



We are beginning to cook meals and serve on location at Simpson Shelter at their Zion Lutheran Church location (128 West 3rd Street, Minneapolis).

We will leave HOP at 5:00pm for those who want to ride together.

We will serve on Sunday nights in October (10/29) and November (11/19).

Starting with December, we will be serving on the following Tuesdays:

12/12	05/14
01/09	06/11
02/06	09/10
03/19	10/08—Lunch
04/16	11/12
	12/10

If you would like to help cook and serve on any of these dates, please contact Leanne Hyde at maramom62@gmail.com or Steve Pierson at stevepierson56@hotmail.com.

Community Engagement

Meals on Wheels



Karen Steenson and Carleen Ulmer help coordinate deliveries to Meals on Wheels recipients in Richfield. This organization has been around for decades and continues to enrich the lives of our neighbors.

When you donate to Meals on Wheels, you're doing your part to create a community where seniors can live at home for as long as possible. With each meal costing about \$6, as little as \$30 will provide a nutritious meal and a safety check to a senior in need.

Financial support can be provided here: <https://meals-on-wheels.com/donate/>.

If you would like to help deliver meals, please contact Karen Steenson at d2ksteenson@gmail.com.

Winter Clothing Needed!

Tapestry is looking for winter clothing! We continue to welcome people, mostly immigrants from various Latin American countries to Tapestry primarily through worship, Community Meal and classes. People arriving are already cold! See this link for sizes and winter clothing for Tapestry people and friends. It will be updated as we receive donations and as new people continue to arrive. Here is the link to see our list of requested clothing along with sizes: [Winter clothing](#) Please contact Melissa Melnick-Gonzales at pastormelilymel@gmail.com if you want to participate, or if you have questions.



Every Meal Distribution Volunteers Needed



**EVERY
MEAL**

We are excited to be supporting Every Meal in our Richfield community as a distribution partner at Richfield STEM. This means that every week a team of volunteers from House of Prayer will distribute food to lockers of the children who have signed up to receive Every Meal food assistance. Our team typically delivers on Thursday afternoons at 2:20pm (may vary on vacation weeks) by meeting at the school, gathering the distribution, and putting items into lockers. If you are able to help us each week or occasionally, please use this Signup Genius link to join the crew: [Sign up Link](#) or contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com for more information. Together we can fight child hunger in our community.

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 at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com to volunteer.

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

"Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are." - Augustine of Hippo

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

(612) 866-8471

E-mail: office@hoplc.org

Website: www.hoplc.org.

Pastor: Senior Pastor, Eric Luedtke

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 2944

In-Person Worship Services:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
www.hoplc.org/recordings



The *Hi-Lines* is published by the House of Prayer staff and volunteers. Any questions can be directed to Cara Wright, Director of Administration, at cwright@hoplc.org, or Mary Weaver, Administrative Assistant, at mweaver@hoplc.org.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)

Couples	Date	Years
Roger and Wilma Peterson	11/07	50
Adam and Meredith Johnson	11/10	5
Dave and Sharon Erickson	11/14	65
Kern and Debbie Wessman	11/30	55

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Sue Zmeskal 10/27

A Look Back



1983 Choir