

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

Collaboration



Pastor Eric Luedtke

We use the word *collaboration* often at House of Prayer, specifically in relationship with our *partner* ministries here in Richfield. Over the past seven years we have been in intentional conversation with Oak Grove, Woodlake, and Tapestry around ways that we might utilize the resources of our congregations to do more together than we could do separately.

That word *collaboration* is used intentionally because, by definition, it points us to “the action of working together to produce or create something.” Standing against the idea of *cooperation* which evokes the idea of sharing the work to achieve an individual goal.

To really live out *collaboration* we must come together to not only accomplish something together but to discern together what that outcome should be. In many ways this means that in *collaboration* we are seeking something bigger than our own selves or our own imagination. I am reminded of the early church as described in Acts 4:32-35,

The community of believers was **one in heart and mind**. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. **Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.** (emphasis mine)

I don't quote this to suggest everyone should give all their possessions to the church (but if you want to, Patti Benson is standing by to assist with that) but because I note that they are of “one in heart and mind” and together they determined what the needs of the community were.

In our Collaboration conversations with our partner congregations in Richfield, we have set this purpose in front of us:

As Lutheran Churches in Richfield, we are feeling called by God and each other, to be a stronger, more vibrant, more relevant presence in our community. By working together we hope to energize our members to more deeply know God and each other, find new and different ways to grow, and share our faith. We also seek to meet people in our community in the places and ways that are most needed and desired.

Among our Collaboration Partners we admit that the COVID-19 Pandemic derailed the work we were doing together to this end. While we have continued to have times of shared worship together, we have isolated ourselves and replicated efforts when it comes to reaching out to our neighbors. It is time for us to recommit to this work together; not because it will necessarily increase the number of people who join us for worship, but because it is being faithful to who God calls us to be as churches in Richfield. We do not exist for ourselves and our comfort, but to share God's love in the world.

In the coming weeks and months leaders of our congregations will be re-engaging this conversation and inviting members of our congregations to be in dialogue about what God is calling us to do together and what God is asking us to do as individual congregations. We'll be in conversation about what resources we bring to the conversation and how we can be faithful stewards of those resources to best meet the spiritual needs of our Richfield community together.

Our work these past several months through Cottage Meetings and conversation at House of Prayer reaffirms for us the core identity of who we are and the gifts we bring to the wider conversation. Now it is time for us to see the ways in which our “puzzle pieces” fit together with others to create the masterpiece that is intended.

If these conversations excite you and energize you, let me know. If these conversations bring anxiety and concern for you, let me know. Our response is a gift to our shared conversation and our conversation only happens when we express our voices in the conversation.

Leadership Ministry Team Update

LMT Appoints Caity Wright as Congregation President

At our Congregational Meeting in June, there was one Leadership Ministry Team position left unfilled, President. Despite reaching his term limit, Brent King has continued to serve in the role as LMT worked to find a leader for the position.

After prayerful consideration and a unanimous vote at the August 15 LMT meeting, Caity Wright was appointed (per constitutional process) to the position of President to serve until our next Congregational Meeting. We are excited about the energy that Caity brings to this role and her experience as a life-long member of House of Prayer as we look forward to wear God is leading our congregation.

Contact Caity at caitywright13@gmail.com.



An Introduction



*Caity Wright
HOP President*

Hello! Many of you already know me. My name is Caity Wright, I am your brand new Congregation President! Here are some things you may or may not know about me.

I have been a member of House of Prayer my whole life, from Baptism to Congregation President. I've been a part of a few things in between; last year I served as the 'Convener' of the call committee (they didn't tell me it meant chairperson!). Through lots of help from the Holy Spirit, the Minneapolis Area Synod, and my fellow call committee members, we made the wonderful decision to call Pastor Eric Luedtke in November of 2022. I learned an incredible amount through this process that I hope will help prepare me in this new role.

Luther Park Camp has always been a huge connection of mine to HOP. I went as a camper for 6 summers and was on staff for 5 (and still help fill in when I can – like at HOP/Woodlake VBS last year). Now, I am the House of Prayer representative on the Luther Park Board. It has been great to stay connected to Luther Park. I get to keep up on all of the news and help with amazing fundraisers! We have one coming up in fact, the Morpheus Concert on September 30th at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church. I have been collecting raffle basket items for the "House of Prayer Pot 'O Gold'" and cannot wait to put everything together and see it at the concert.

I've loved being a part of the Handbell Choir, filling in with the Brass/Wind Ensemble on Timpani, and singing in the Choir when I can. Music has always been a big part of my life and the life of House of Prayer. I am so glad to be able to continue playing music after college. I've made some wonderful friends and connected so much deeper to some people I've known my whole life!

You also may see me fill in as "B Team Sound Tech" whenever Ethan Alberg - our "A Team Sound Tech" is out. I fill in wherever I can, and am sure that with all of the love and support around me from all of you I will grow into the Presidency and make everyone proud (especially my Grandma Donna who I know is just grinning down at me writing this). I will certainly need guidance, but with prayerful deliberation and conversation with my fellow LMT members we will navigate through anything life throws at us!

So please, come talk to me or email me (caitywright13@gmail.com) and pray for me and my fellow LMT members as we continue to keep House of Prayer a special place for me and so many others.

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

Our first month of the fiscal year was favorable compared to our budget. Both revenue and expense had a favorable variance from budget. July was an operating deficit (or a net loss) of \$8K compared to an expected operating deficit of \$16K.

REVENUE was \$43K, or 9% higher than budgeted primarily due to higher offerings.

EXPENSES of \$5K were lower than budget by \$4,415. Savings were due to fewer and less expensive building and HVAC repairs, unspent HR funds for a future visitation pastor, and delayed timing for youth programming expenses. The only expense of note coming in over budget was an HR legal consulting fee for restructuring of the RALY Director position.

CASH BALANCES—At the end of July, the bank balance was a healthy \$477K. Of this amount, \$55K are unrestricted operating funds, 10K is available for bills, and \$412K are dedicated funds.

COMPARISON TO PRIOR YEAR:

Comparison to last year shows offerings down \$8K, rent up \$2K.

Expenses were up \$11K, from higher HR, insurance and utilities costs.

With the new Online giving computer interface, I will be available for questions on Sunday mornings 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10. On a positive note: A cash donation of \$678.00 from the joint service with Tapestry, Oak Grove and Woodlake, is going to Lutheran Disaster Response to help with Maui, Hawaii.

Sara Barnaby
HOP Treasurer



House of Prayer Lutheran Church			
Operating Summary - Fiscal Yr 2023-3024			
	July 2023		
	Actual	Budget	\$ Variance
REVENUE			
4000 Offerings	32,733	29,800	2,933
4100 Rental Revenue	8,750	8,116	634
4609 Other Worship Revenue	120	298	-178
4700 Preschool Revenue	1,681	1,600	81
REVENUE	43,284	39,814	3,470
EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	51,189	55,604	(4,415)
NET OPERATING GAIN (DEFICIT)	\$ (7,906)	\$ (15,790)	\$ 7,885
DEDICATED FUND ACTIVITY			
Add: DEDICATED FUNDS RECEIVED			
Facilities Fund	1,735		
Preschool	418		
TOTAL	2,153		
Less: DEDICATED FUNDS USED			
Preschool	(1,120)		
TOTAL	(1,120)		
NET DEDICATED FUND GAIN	1,033		
TOTAL NET GAIN (DEFICIT)	\$ (6,872)		

Around House of Prayer

New HOP Pictorial Directory

It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our dates of photography are September 26-28, from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.



Just for participating, you will receive a **complimentary 8x10 portrait and a church directory**. You will view your images right away and have the chance to purchase family portraits for your own memories, and to give as gifts.

You can make an appointment after church services on **8/27, 9/10, or 9/17**, or by clicking on this link: www.ucdir.com, using **mn395** as the church code, and **photos** for the password.

We also need people to help host the photography sessions. Hosting sessions will be 3 hours in length (2p-5p; 5p-8p), The Hosts will be checking in families as they come in. A very simple but important task. Please contact Mary in the office (mweaver@hoplc.org/612-866-8471) if you can volunteer for one of these time slots.

We are excited to have a new directory, and look forward to everyone participating! Please contact Mary Weaver at 612-866-8471 or mweaver@hoplc.org if you have any questions.

HOP Online Giving - Check It Out New Easy to Use Website

Enroll in HOP Online Giving, our preferred platform to contribute your recurring gifts in a secure, confidential, and reliable manner. We offer a few options to use this service:

- visit HOP Online Giving at hoplc.org/give to self-enroll or manage your account
- use the QR code: Use your phone camera to scan the QR code below. Click the pop up to go to HOP Online Giving to self-enroll or manage your account.
- print a paper enrollment form here: 2023 HOP Online Giving, or request one from our financial administrator Patti at pbenson@hoplc.org or at 612-682-3158.

To ensure your full donation goes to HOP, we suggest using an automatic bank transfer (ACH) which incurs no fee to you or HOP. Or if using a credit card, please consider covering the processing fees. All our gifts come from God and we are called to give back to the church and our world. Your gifts to House of Prayer contribute to our ministry and mission and are always greatly appreciated.

For Help Enrolling: Contact Patti Benson at pbenson@hoplc.org or stop by to see Sara Barnaby, HOP Treasurer, on Sunday mornings in the Narthex in September.

Aprende español con el pastor Eric



Can't read that headline? Learn Spanish with Pastor Eric.

It is no secret that many immigrants to our nation and particularly our community are native Spanish speakers. Richfield has one of the largest Latino concentrations in the Twin Cities and some reports indicate as many as 30% of students at Richfield Public Schools come from homes where English is not the primary language spoken.

We can be more **welcoming**, more **open**, more **compassionate** and build better **relationships** with our neighbors if we make an effort to learn key phrases of Spanish to help bridge the language divide.

Recognizing his own short-comings in this area, Pastor Eric will be attending the Spanish Classes offered by **Tapestry** this fall and would love for you to join him on Tuesday evenings September 19-November 21. Dinner at 6pm (served by Tapestry members who will share delicious cultural specialties). Class from 6:30-8pm. Recommended contribution of \$100.

Come learn, eat, and build relationships with one of our ministry partners. If you have questions contact Pastor Eric eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612.866.8471 ext. 2.

Around House of Prayer

Collaboration Worship at Veteran's Park

We could not have asked for a better morning for our shared worship at Veterans Park on Sunday, August 20, 2023.

Musicians from Tapestry, Woodlake, Oak Grove and House of Prayer lead us in festive song, Pastor Neal Cannon preached and Pastor Melissa Melnick Gonzales translated to Spanish so that we could all hear the message that love breaks down our biases and brings us together. With over 200 people in attendance we celebrated Holy Communion and following worship had fellowship with our friends and neighbors in Richfield.

If you missed this year's event, we'll do it again next summer! If you have questions about our collaboration efforts, please contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org/612-866-8471. ext. 2.



House of Prayer Foundation Update




**House of Prayer
Church Foundation**

7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
612-866-8471

The HOP Foundation will meet on Monday, October 2, 2023, to discuss business and review grants. At the end of July 2023, the HOP Foundation had invested assets of \$731,458. We will be discussing funding requests at this meeting. If you'd like to make a request, you can email co-treasurers Sandy Williams at (srwillms70@hotmail.com) or Jill Johnson (stemcoordinator@gmail.com) for a funding request form. The request should be submitted via email by September 25th to allow for review by all committee members before the meeting.

Projects the HOP foundation has supported over the years include Stroke Screening, Playground equipment, HOP sound System, HOP Sunday School, ELCA Domestic Relief, kitchen equipment, Quilters Group, Luther Park Bible Camp, HOP lighting conservation upgrade, parking lot cracks repair, HOP drinking fountain, Barbary Coast Band, HOP Kids Against Hunger, HOP Youth Mission Trips, Many-HandsManyMeals, HOP scrubber-vacuum, HOP Preschool, Women's Grief Ministry, Confirmation History Project, HOP entryway, coloring book project, tables, lift (ladder), HOP bus, HOP evangelism support, HOP windows and roof, continuing education, HOP hand bells, HOP office computers, LP Screen Porch, HOP lower-level remodel project, HOP heating system, mission partner Tapestry, Conversations with Friends, and Jon Kietzer 50th Anniversary Music Celebrations.

The HOP Foundation meets quarterly the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm (January, April, July, October) and takes funding requests at the April meeting for summer activities and July/October meetings for fall activities. Current board members are: Jon Kietzer, Jill Larson, Jill Johnson, Julie Bonebrake, Steve Pierson, Charles Robbins, and Sandy Williams. Pastor Eric is a non-voting member.

Around House of Prayer

Altar Guild

Altar Guild will begin meeting again in September on the 2nd Monday of each month from 1:30-3:00 pm the Parish Hall.



Come join us on Monday, September 11 for our first meeting of the fall season. Contact Nancy Bjornstad at [ne bjorn.6203@yahoo.com](mailto:bjorn.6203@yahoo.com) for questions about Altar Guild.

Tabletop Board Game Meet Up

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

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

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



Card Ministry



If you're looking for a fun, creative activity that brightens someone's day, come join us for Card Ministry on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every

month from 10-11:30am in Classrooms 1.-2. No experience necessary! All materials are provided. Contact Sharon Stewart at system13@gmail.com for questions about Card Ministry.

Book Discussion Group

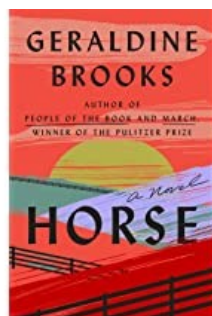
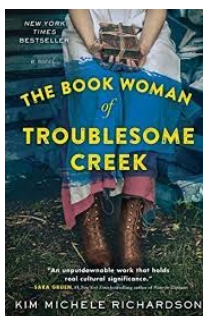
House of Prayer Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, September 7, at 1:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

At our September meeting, we will be discussing

The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Richardson, And

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

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



Coffee & Donut Fellowship

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

We whole-heartedly thank our devoted volunteers who faithfully made the coffee, picked up the donuts, set-up, served and cleaned-up all throughout the summer. We look forward to more fellowship times ahead this fall, and still request volunteers to help with this special church ministry wherever you can. **Youth can help, too!**

The sign-up board is available every Sunday morning in the Narthex or contact the church office to be added to the list. We especially still need a coordinator to keep us organized. Please connect with Andry Jurcich (andryj@invisik.com) to get involved.



Around House of Prayer

Welcome Sunday/ Jon Kietzer Retirement Recognition

On Welcome Sunday, September 10, 2023, we will recognize Jon Kietzer's official retirement Sunday. This date will mark exactly 50 years since Jon began at HOP in 1973.

We are so fortunate that Jon will continue at HOP in his new role as Organist Emeritus, leading our service music and the HOP Brass on a monthly basis.

Please consider making a donation to the Jon Kietzer Music Ministry Fund, for which envelopes will be available at the welcome counter that morning.

A coffee and cake reception in honor of Jon's music ministry will follow the 9:30 service. Please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at 612-866-8471, ext. 7/rhansonweber@hoplc.org with questions.



HOP Fall Music Ministry Invitation



As the fall approaches, we look forward to beginning a new season of music ministry starting in early September.

We **WELCOME ALL MUSICIANS** - past, current and prospective **SINGERS, RINGERS,** and **BRASS/WIND PLAYERS** - to raise our voices and instruments together in Song. The fall is a great time to join in making beautiful music together!

Whether you are an experienced musician, or wanting to become involved for the first time, we welcome you to join the Adult Choir, Hand Bell Choir, and HOP Brass.

Our rehearsals for the 2023-24 season will begin on Wednesday 9/6, at the following times:

Wednesday evenings:

5:45- 6:45 pm – Hand Bell Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7- 8:30 pm – Adult Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)

7- 8/8:30 pm - Brass rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday mornings:

8:45 am (generally)

rehearsal; 9:30 am service

For questions regarding HOP Brass, contact Jon Kietzer, jonkietzer@mac.com. Please contact Jon if you are interested in playing with the HOP Winds, which plays in worship several times throughout the year and rehearses on an ad hoc basis for those occasions.

For questions regarding the Adult and Handbell Choirs, solo & smaller ensemble music, contact Director of Liturgical Worship, Roselyn Hanson Weber, rhansonweber@hoplc.org.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Welcome Tim Buendorf



Timothy D. Buendorf will begin as part-time organist at House of Prayer on Sunday, September 17th. Tim holds degrees in organ performance and sacred music from the Yale University School of Music, the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Gustavus Adolphus College. He has served as an organist/choir director/director of music throughout the United States, and especially enjoys leading congregational singing and accompanying choirs. Performing regularly throughout the region, he appeared on the AGO Centennial Recital, performed the complete Les corps glorieux of Olivier Messiaen for the Messiaen in Minnesota festival, participated in the Minnesota Bach Festival and numerous recital series. Active in many professional organizations, he has held leadership positions in the American Guild of Organists, Choristers Guild, Twin Cities Church Musicians Association and the Organ Historical Society. See Tim's full biography in the August Hi-Lines. Please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber with any questions at rhansonweber@hoplc.org/612-866-8471, ext. 7.

Around House of Prayer

Luther Park Fundraiser - Morpheus Band Concert

Mark your calendar and come support [Luther Park Bible Camp - Danbury, WI](#) at the Morpheus Concert on Saturday, September 30, from 7:00-10:00 pm. Enjoy great music from the 60's - today from this very talented and fun 11-piece horn band (including former member/HOP Brass player, Doug Talus). Put on your lucky shoes and come ready to win one of the raffle baskets donated by Luther Park partner churches. You may even win HOP's Pot O' Gold basket (coordinated by HOP Board member Caity Wright). Contact Caity Wright at caitywright13@gmail.com for more information about this event.

**LUTHER PARK BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURING
Morpheus Band**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 7:00PM-10:00PM
DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Tickets sold at the door – suggested donation of \$25/ person.

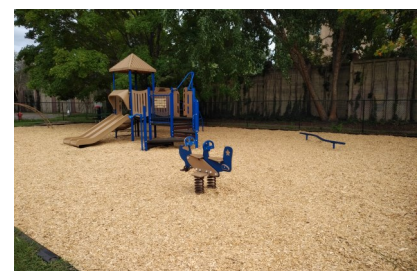
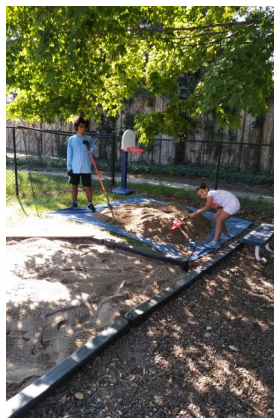
Food, drink and raffle tickets for BIG raffle baskets will be available to purchase during the night by cash only.



Playground Rejuvenation - Scout Eagle Project

House of Prayer youth and Life Scout Max J. has been busy working on his Eagle Project over the summer. Wanting to lead a project that would benefit his church and the Richfield community, Max was very grateful for the opportunity to work with HOP Preschool and rejuvenate the playground.

Max coordinated the efforts of volunteers to re-cover the playground with new mulch, add more sand to the sandbox, spruce up playground equipment, and install a larger, more secure toy shed. With the support of dedicated mentors and volunteers, the different stages of the project came together successfully resulting in an improved play area for HOPP, our youth and family ministries, our partner ministries, and the surrounding community. Many thanks to Max and all the volunteers that helped!



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

Hello from HoPP! What a summer of fun! We had several summer camps, including Sports Week, Splish Splash Week, Art Week, and Treasure Week. The children loved to see each other and enjoyed fun projects and activities. The end of August brought our annual fall family playground get together, family orientation night and family visits. We look forward to starting our 3rd year of full-time care September 6th. Our families can choose to enroll 4 or 5 days a week and we have a variety of afternoon pick up times - this allows each family flexibility in their childcare. It's fun to see siblings and new families join us this fall!



We are thrilled to have a rejuvenated playground thanks to Max J. and look forward to using the space this fall and winter with the children, as well as putting together spring and summer events. A House of Prayer Preschool Alumni event is currently being planned! If you have questions about HoPP, please contact Nicole at nolson@hoplc.org.

RALY Director Position Update



Hello House of Prayer & Woodlake, this is Pr. Neal Cannon. I have an update for you all on the RALY Director position. This summer has come and gone without us finding a permanent RALY Director. However I have good news for you all on this front! I have agreed to step in as the Interim RALY Director, and in doing so I became a part-time employee of House of Prayer. I'm excited to be a part of the HOP & Woodlake teams and further our collaborative youth ministry efforts! A little bit about me!

I first became a youth ministry leader at Augustana College. I volunteered with Young Life during the school year and during the summers I worked at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry as a camp counselor, BWCA canoe guide, and program staff. After college, I worked as the Middle School Youth Director for Roseville Lutheran Church before attending Luther Seminary to become a pastor. Both of my pastoral calls to Christ Lutheran Church in Belvidere, IL, and Woodlake were/are specific to children, youth and family ministry. So all this is to say, I love working with youth and have a lot of experience in doing so!

I am thrilled to work collaboratively with HOP to continue the important work of doing youth ministry through RALY programs and events. I see RALY as a true collaborative effort between our churches. I'll work diligently with Pr. Eric to make sure ALL youth receive equal attention and care. We will also continue to reach out to and invite new people into our ministries! And of course, we'll make sure to maintain and improve our current offering of programs and ministries in the coming year. We do all this for the sake of Jesus Christ to share his good news to our communities and to the world!

Look for more updates in the coming days and weeks! Till then, if you have questions about RALY programming and events you can reach me at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org.

God Bless!
Pastor Neal

RALY, Children, Youth and Family

Confirmation

Attention all students and families with youth entering 7th-9th grade! Confirmation Registration is now open! Confirmation is a time of intentional learning about the most important parts of the Bible and our faith. It is also a time of relationship building and fun!

The first day of Confirmation will be September 17th from 6-8pm at Woodlake and will continue the 3rd Sunday of every month through May 2024.

To register for Confirmation, please follow the QR code below. For more information about Confirmation, please contact Pr. Neal Cannon (ncannon@woodlakechurch.org) or Pr. Eric Luedtke (eluedtke@hoplc.org). Hope to see you this fall!



Boys & Girls Club Volunteers

Do you have a skill, hobby, or passion (baking, car mechanic, knitting, tutoring, etc.) in life that you could share with a young person? Or do you just want to support local youth? If so, there is still time to sign up for our collaborative after school partnership with the Boys and Girls Club! Programming tentatively starts October 4th, so if you'd like to participate or have questions, please email Pr. Neal Cannon at (ncannon@woodlakechurch.org).

We'll have a RALY leaders meeting on Wednesday September 13th from 4-5pm. Register as a volunteer with the QR code below! Thanks for supporting Richfield youth!



Sprout-a-Spark: A space to grow your faith



Our special space for our youngest members has been a joyful experience Sundays during ReFuel this summer.

Children of all ages sat at the just-right sized art table and engaged in worship while letting their

creativity flow. We really appreciate the generous craft supplies and toys that have been donated towards this special ministry, and which makes it possible to continue Sprout-a-Spark in tandem with Sunday School this fall.

For information and to get involved with Children and Family Ministry at HOP, please contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com.



Sunday School Begins

We are very excited for the return of Sunday School this fall! Beginning with Welcome Sunday on September 12th. We, we will gather weekly at 10:30 am in rooms 1 and 2, but hope to be outdoors while the weather is still nice. All children Pre-K (age 3) and older are invited to join the fun. Come share in exploring God's love for all people through crafts, songs, games, and Bible stories. No pre-registration required! Parents are welcome to attend or enjoy Coffee and Donut Fellowship. For questions or more details, please contact Kristi Liu at kline010@tc.umn.edu.

September Calendar

Sunday, September 10: Welcome Sunday!

Outdoor fun and popsicles

Sunday, September 17: Caring for our Neighbors

Sunday, September 24: God's Work, Our Hands
Intergenerational Hands-on Project

RALY, Children, Youth and Family

RALY Fall Schedule



Get ready to have lots of fun, because Wednesday night RALY programming begins on September 20th! A typical RALY program will be from 6-7:30pm at House of Prayer and this year will be for all 6-9th grade youth. Dinner will be served from 6-6:30pm. We hope you all can make it! In addition to our traditional programming, we're making some changes this year to enhance our ministry! Our typical monthly schedule will look like this:

1st Wednesday of the month – **RALY Night!** These nights will include dinner, games, check in and a devotion! Similar in style to what we did last year.

2nd Wednesday – **RALY Leads!** On the second Wednesday of the month, we'll be using the Peer Ministry leadership curriculum AND planning the upcoming middle school lock in! Who can lead? God gives us all gifts, so whoever shows up can be a leader! Dinner included!

3rd Wednesday – **RALY Serves!** Our aim is to have a service project lined up on the third Wednesday of each month! We might volunteer with Feed My Starving Children, VEAP, Loaves and Fishes, or another organization! Some service nights might require a separate sign up, which will be provided one month in advance. Spots may be limited, so sign up ASAP! Timing of RALY may vary on these days. We will not serve dinner to youth on RALY Serves nights!

4th Wednesday – **RALY Adventure!** Every 4th Wednesday RALY will have a fun activity! RALY youth might go rock climbing, do a game of Real Life Clue, or play blacklight dodgeball. Some RALY Adventure nights might require a separate sign up, which will be provided one month in advance. Spots may be limited, so sign up ASAP! We will not serve dinner on RALY Adventures nights.

5th Wednesday - **RALY Inspires!** - Every 5th Wednesday RALY will bring in a surprise speaker! Who will it be? You'll have to wait to find out! RALY Inspires will include dinner, activities/games, check-in, and a special speaker!

Of course, not every month will work out exactly in this way, so keep a close eye on announcements each month for details.

Upcoming for September and October:

September 20th - RALY Night! RALY will kick off with some high energy games and activities, as well as a preview of our year.

September 27th - RALY Adventure! For our first RALY Adventure night, we will rock climb and participate in archery at Scouts BSA Base Camp in the Twin Cities! All participants must fill out a waiver and returning the signed copy to Pr. Neal or Pr. Eric. For this event, we will meet at House of Prayer at 5:30pm and return to House of Prayer by 9pm.

October 4th - RALY Night!

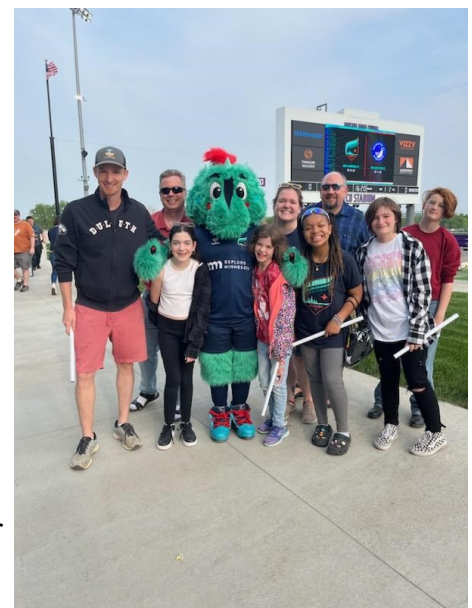
October 11th - RALY Leads!

October 18th - NO RALY!!! MEA/Confirmation Retreat

October 25th - RALY Adventures! Real Life Clue! Everyone who comes will solve a real life mystery! No pre-registration.

We're looking forward to an amazing year of RALY activities!

Please contact Pr. Neal Cannon ncannon@woodlakechurch.org for more information.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

HOP Campers Share Experiences from Luther Park-Danbury

Evelyn and Quinn Murphy love Luther Park! Here's what they have to say about their week at camp.



Evelyn shares: Do you ever look back at your childhood and think of your best memories? When I get older I will always remember Luther Park and how it was my favorite part of my summer. Hi, my name is Evelyn Murphy and I have been going to Luther Park since I was 7 years old and I am 12 now. Luther Park is always the highlight of my summer and I always look forward to it.

There are camp songs and they are stuck in my head year round which is a great thing and I am always excited the next year to learn the new songs. The Luther Park staff members are so caring, kind, and loving but that list could go on and on. Some of my favorite Luther Park staff are the cooks because they are so sweet and have the most delicious recipes. The first time I went to Luther Park I thought the food was going to be disgusting and boring, not good camp meals, but let me tell you there are professional chefs in that kitchen. Luther Park helps me grow in my faith so much and it helps me grow as a person. I have learned so much from my time at Luther Park about teamwork, treating others with kindness, and treating the world how it should be treated and so much more. Overall Luther Park is an AWESOME place to be and I will never forget it and I definitely recommend visiting. Oh and by the way I am definitely working there when I get older.

Quinn shares: I am Quinn Murphy, Evelyn's younger sister, and I have been going to Luther Park summer camp since I was 7 years old. I am 10 now. Every year our cousins Emily and Kate join us which makes it extra fun. Questions about camp:

What does a day at camp look like? In the morning you wake up and you go up to the lodge to eat breakfast. Before every breakfast we do a prayer, which is like a song. They make different songs from popular music and change the words to make it about God. Then after you eat breakfast, which is delicious, you go to worship which is really fun. Then you go back to your cabin for cabin time. Your cabin gets to decide what to do for cabin time (arts & crafts, swimming, game room). After cabin time you go to Bible discovery. After Bible discovery then you do "clean scene" which is cleaning your cabin. Then you go to the lodge to eat lunch, which is also delicious. After that you leave to have quiet time in your cabins where you are in your bunk bed to read a book, take a nap, or write in your journal. After quiet time it's free time where you can go swimming, go to the game room, go to the arts & crafts room, or go to the canteen to buy candy or Luther Park merch. After free time it's dinner back up at the lodge. Then there is an all-camp game. At the end of the day you go to campfire and have a delicious snack and you sing songs there too.

What is your favorite camp food? The first day you get these waffles that are delicious. They put strawberries on there, which are delicious, plus some cool whip!

What was this year's theme? Wonder

What's one thing you learned? The wonder women of the Bible.

What's your favorite camp activity? Swimming in the lake.

What's your favorite camp song? Sanctuary



Community Engagement

Veggie Table

It was another fun community night at Veggie Table at Season's Park Apartments! On Tuesday, August 15, our House of Prayer team (Elayne, Ruth, Christine, Julie, Terry, Marianne, Leida, Cara, and Pastor Eric) packed up 1800 pounds of fresh veggies, fruit, breads/sweets, and Cheerios to share with our neighbors. The sweet corn easily won the day! We met folks from 63 households (with 137 adults, 91 children, and 10 seniors). Many thanks to VEAP in Bloomington for providing all the food!

We're planning for one more Veggie Table in September on the 19th from 4:30-6:30pm at Season's Park Apartments.

Please contact Cara Wright at 612-866-8471/cwright@hoplc.org if you would like to help.



Lutheran Social Services-Celebration for Changing Lives



Lutheran Social Services of MN invites you to the Celebration for Changing Lives on **Saturday, September 16**. This year's gala celebrates 3 significant milestones: 70th Anniversary of Camp Knutson, 50th Anniversary of Portland House, and 20th Anniversary of Lifehaven Home; in addition to the ongoing work LSS does in all 87 counties of Minnesota. If you would like to participate in this gala event you can sponsor a table for \$1,000 or purchase individual tickets for \$125.

Tickets are available now at <https://gather.lssmn.org/celebration/> If you're not able to attend the gala but still want to make a gift to support the work of LSS, follow the same link and make a contribution. House of Prayer continues to be grateful for the partnerships we have in the community to do far more than we can do on our own. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Eric eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612.866.8471 ext 2.

Fall Grief Support Group

Thursday, Sept 21—November 9 from 4:30-6pm
 Christ the King Lutheran Church
 8600 Fremont Ave. S.
 Bloomington, MN 55420
 (952) 881-8600



September 21	Soul Work	Bob Bartlett
September 28	Show Yourself Some Love	Brittany Squillace
	Self-care & Grief Breaks	
October 5	Letting Go	Bob Bartlett
October 12	Grief Wishes	Brittany Squillace
	A Guide to Navigating your Grief Journey	
October 19	Grief and Resiliency	Catherine Duncan
October 26	The Puzzle Called Grief	Donna Mathiowetz
November 2	Missing Our Son (Parents' Grief)	Chris and Bob Lewis
November 9	Navigating Through the Holidays	Erin Hente

Community Engagement



GOD’S WORK – OUR HANDS: Sunday, September 10th, will commemorate 10 years of the ELCA joining together in community service. House of Prayer will use the month of September to collect sets of snacks that will be used on Sunday, September 24th for a preparing snack packs that will be donated to Agate Housing Services (formerly St. Stephens and House of Charity).

These snack packs are given to Agate program participants who arrive at the Welcome Center to access supportive services. Being able to offer 'quick fuel' in the form of a small resource like this creates a positive community atmosphere in their spaces while clients access needed services. Snack packs are typically sandwich-size zip lock bags, paper lunch bags, or drawstring bags that include non-perishable foods, water bottles on the side, etc.

Below is the suggested list of what to include with **3-4 snack foods per bag:**

- Beef Jerky
 - Protein shake
 - Granola or soft textured Nutrition Bars
 - Trail Mix
 - Pudding Cups
 - Fruit Snacks
 - Small Cookie Packs
 - Small Cracker Packs
 - Bottled Water or Water Bottles (*on the side if using a snack bag that doesn't accommodate their size*)
 - Juice Boxes/Bags
 - Snack Crackers
 - Candy
 - Dried Fruit
- Plastic Utensil Packets, or Reusable Utensils

Please note:

- Products included in packs must be unopened and prior to their Best By, Use By, or Expiration date.
- If you would like to add any notecards/messages, or items that are not listed above, you must text/call/or email Abby (*info below*) beforehand to ensure that the Donation Center is able to accept them. Thank you so much!

Want an even quicker way to donate the most needed items? Check out their Amazon wish list:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2N4POMHPS5C6A>

For questions about HOP’s community engagement projects, contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrummerguy@gmail.com.



A Look Back at HOP Summer 2023...

A look back at summer... We had a Baptism; a Confirmation; Vacation Bible School; Camp at Luther Park; Summer Stretch; Outdoor worship at Woodlake, Outdoor worship at Veteran's Park, A river cruise for the Kietzer Music folks who worked so hard to pull together both Music Sunday and a Hymn Festival; Luther Park Open House; Veggie Table; VEAP Back-to-school drive; Preschool Camps; our Annual Meeting, and more!

For being the "quiet" time of year, our summer was pretty loud! Here's a look back...



See you in the Fall! As always, contact Pastor Eric Luedtke at eluedtke@hoplc.org / 612-866-8471 ext. 2, for any questions about House of Prayer!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

(612) 866-8471

E-mail: office@hoplc.org

Website: www.hoplc.org.

Pastor: Senior Pastor, Eric Luedtke

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



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

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

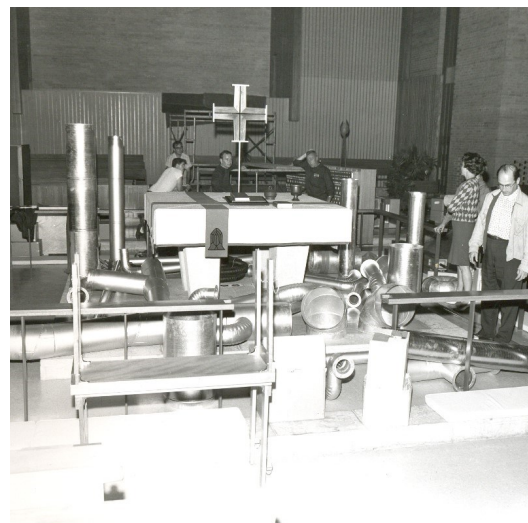
Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)

Couples	Date	Years
Norman and Ilene Holen	9/3	63
Charlie and Jean Robbins	9/16	56
Darrell and Leanne Hyde	9/17	35
Gene and Ruth Doyle	9/19	59

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Bradley Johnson	8/19
Wayne Hornicke	8/31

A Look Back



1968 Organ Assembly