

# HOUSE OF PRAYER

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

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

## Investing Your Heart

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:19-21



Pastor Ben Sandin

We live in a consumer society that defines success, directly or indirectly, based on the amount of possessions or wealth a person has. This mindset is instilled in us at a very young age and is reinforced through extremely effective advertising and marketing. The siren call of materialism sucks us in before we are even aware of it, and without a lifestyle of active resistance, we will find ourselves living an empty and idolatrous life. The problem of materialism is there is never enough to satisfy our appetites. There will never be a time when a person can be content or at peace. Instead, we race after the newest and best thing, mortgaging our financial futures for fleeting pleasure and losing our soul in the process.

Materialism is not new to the human condition. Jesus knew how people struggled to find peace, contentment, and spiritual purpose. His prescrip-

tion is strong medicine for the sickness of affluenza: generosity. Jesus instructs us that we cannot serve God and wealth. We have to decide because both will compete for first place in our lives. The only way to move beyond our materialistic appetites is through behavior modification.

We cannot think our way to change; we must act our way to change. Jesus says: "where your treasure is, your heart will be also." He doesn't say put your treasure where your heart is, but the opposite. Wherever we invest our wealth, will get our heart. This is a natural connection. If all of my money is in the stock market, I will monitor it very closely. By contrast, if I invest in a local charity or service organization, I will be more likely to volunteer or serve. The antidote to the idolatry of materialism and greed is generosity. We cannot wait for our hearts to decide to be generous, however, we must give first. Becoming generous through giving will change our hearts and change our lives. This is the only cure and Jesus, the great physician, knows our hearts and what we need to become whole. Let us give generously and allow God to change our hearts!

God's Peace,  
Pastor Ben

## Pledge Sunday April 8

I encourage everyone to complete a commitment card and bring it to the altar as an act of worship at both worship services. The generosity of our members continues to allow us to grow in mission and ministry. I encourage you to take a step forward in giving, trusting God will continue to bless you!

*Where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be also*

## Leadership Ministry Team Update



*Monica Dorow  
Human Resources  
Team Chair*

### A Little Bit of Fun from the HR Team!

We all know that House of Prayer is blessed with a faith-filled, all-star staff! Each one of them, without exception, adds SO much to the day-to-day operation of our congregation. Please take time this month to thank them for their service to House of Prayer and the community! And, while you're at it, see how well you do at the following:

You have seen our staff in their roles at HOP and gotten to know them over time, but how well do you REALLY know them? Pastor Ben, Minister Kelly, Phil, Mindy, Cara, Jo, Ben, Ramo, DuAnn, and Josh have provided the following "who am I?" questions. Do you know who is who?? (Answers will be provided in the May HiLines)

"I love board games and currently have about 50 at home."

"I am a relative of the Rockefeller family."

"My middle name is keenly appropriate with my view on life; it means keeps the happiness together."

"As a kid I practiced finger whistling every day until I perfected it. It's quite loud and has proven to be an effective life skill."

"I shattered my arm when the car in which I was a passenger crashed...into a hospital..."

"There weren't iPods when I was a kid, so I played with bears instead."

"I had 9 teeth pulled when I was 12 years old (4 permanent, 4 wisdom and a stubborn baby tooth).

My grandfather couldn't figure out why anyone would have 'good teeth' pulled and promised to make me a necklace out of them."

"I roast my own coffee. I'm a real coffee snob."

"As a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, I made up my own comic strip: The Adventures of Banana Man."

"My Christmas tree burning habit almost burnt down my neighborhood."

Bonus points: Two people on staff sported killer mullets in their earlier years....

It's an interesting crew! GOOD LUCK! - Monica Dorow ([monicadorow@gmail.com](mailto:monicadorow@gmail.com))

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**

### **GUSTAVUS FAITH CONFERENCE**

#### **"Doubt and Difference: Finding Faith Through Authentic Engagement"**

We invite you to take a short drive on a Spring Saturday to St. Peter, MN for the annual Gustavus Faith Conference in Christ Chapel. The conference begins with a festive opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. featuring many talented Gustavus musicians. Below is the schedule:



9:00 a.m. Door Opens – Enjoy coffee, treats and fellowship

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Ceremony

10:15 a.m. Featured Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, Professor of Religion, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

11:15 a.m. Featured Speaker: Bishop Emeritus Dr. Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land

12:15 p.m. Faith Conference concludes

Individual tickets = \$10/person / Group Discount Rate = 5 tickets for \$40, 10 tickets for \$60

Call Paul or Sue Danielson at 952-920-0714 if interested and we will coordinate. Please join us if you'd like to be inspired to live an authentic faith that is bold, joyous, active and unifying.

## In the Community

### Interested in Community Events?



As House of Prayer strives to be more connected to our neighborhood, we've started participating in more Richfield events like Unity in the Community, Fourth of July Parade, Penn Fest, and also hosting our own like the Gardener's Market and



Parking Lot Party! Many of those happen in the summer so we'll be planning them soon. If you'd like to help make any of all of these possible, please reach out to Ben Whalen 612-500-9523) or ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) and let him know how you'd like to be involved.

### Community Wellness Expo

Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m.-noon is the annual Wellness Expo at Richfield High School! It's a great chance to meet neighbors and connect with lots of organizations promoting wellness in town. Activities include a one-mile fun run, "Kid Zone" games, obstacle course, local vendors, choir performances, cooking demonstrations and samples, door prizes, and more! We hope you can stop by to check it out. If you'd be interested in helping with a House of Prayer table focused on spiritual wellness, please talk with Ben Whalen ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) or 612-500-9523).



### Tenant Listening Sessions

Richfield is considering a few ordinances that would affect rental housing in town and would like some feedback from current tenants. VEAP and Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAP-HC) are working together to host three tenant listening sessions around town on April 16, 24, and 29. If you are a renter and would like to attend or if you'd just like to learn more about working on affordable housing issues, please reach out to Paula Kiehl ([paula@ecosmarte.com](mailto:paula@ecosmarte.com)) or Ben Whalen ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org)) for more details!



## Around House of Prayer

### Many Hands Many Meals



Many Hands Many Meals 5th Annual HOP packing event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18th. You will have the opportunity to donate and sign up to volunteer beginning Sunday, March 18th. Don't miss this fun intergenerational event. We will start with dinner in the Parish Hall at 5:30 and then move to the Fellowship Hall to pack meals from 6:30 to 8:00. The over 30,000 meals we packed last year went to Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world where 75% of the people live in poverty. For more information on MH-MM visit their website [www.mh-mm.org](http://www.mh-mm.org).

### Defensive Driving Class

Save the date – Charlie Robbins will be teaching a 4-hour Defensive Driving class on Tuesday, April 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost will be \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. If you are 55+ and have taken the 8-hour course, this is a great opportunity to renew your car insurance discount. Class size will be limited to 15. Sign-ups will begin soon.



### Thank You Simple Supper Volunteers



A hearty and heartfelt Thank YOU to all the volunteers and dishwashers this Lenten Season and all through the Simple Supper Season – Shirley Moen, Sally Boyd, Joe Speakman, Diane Casey, Lida Stoner, Kim Houle, Cal Jenson, Jeanne Lindstrom, Jim and Sharon Bauer, Kathy and Aidan Zent, and Kristi and Ava Liu. I'm so very grateful for each of your time, talent and keeping me on my feet!

Thank you to all the AMAZING cooks during Lenten season – Shirley Moen, Kim Houle, Karen Steenson, Sharon Bauer, Myrt Thom, Elaine Gilhousen, Cara Wright, Jeanne Lindstrom, Sally Boyd, Diane Casey, and Karen Stohl! Without your delicious cooking skills, dinner would not have been possible!

Thank you to all our wonderful guests and diners for coming to join us!

### Men's Fellowship Group Thursday, April 12, 2018 • 9:00 AM House of Prayer Fellowship Hall

*Guest Speaker:*

*Jill Meclenburg, Crime Prevention Specialist,  
Richfield Police Department*

All Sisters & Brothers are invited for fellowship – devotion; topic (“Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention”), meet; greet; chit-chat; including refreshments. You will hear Jill's presentation reflecting on Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention programs, activities and services that are available for Senior's welfare.

Sign up (before 4-10-18) at the information desk.

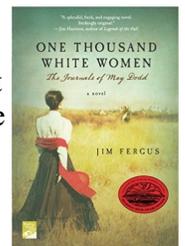
For more information call Noel Sagness (612-866-0833).



### Book Discussion Group

We will meet **Thursday, April 5,** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Conference Room to discuss *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus.

All are welcome!



## Around House of Prayer

### From the Creation Care Team

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22nd. This year marks the 48th anniversary since the birth of the modern environmental movement begun in 1970. The stage was set for the environmental change by the publication of Rachel Carson's bestselling book *Silent Spring* in 1962, as the book represented a watershed moment and began to raise public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment, and links between pollution and public health. Earth Day 1970 gave voice to the emerging consciousness and put environmental concerns on the front page. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans demonstrated in streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment.



Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

Earth Day has reached its current status as the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year. Today, the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every day. As God's stewards, we are called to care for the earth and all of creation; our desire is to protect and preserve our earth's health and beauty for our children and future generations. Watch for further news, views, and ideas from House of Prayer's Creation Care Team about Earth Day and caring for God's creation.

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Psalm 24: 1-2*

### Habitat for Humanity Outing

House of Prayer is participating in a service project with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, April 14. Currently, we are assigned a project in Saint Paul; however, this could change, depending upon Habitat's needs and priorities. Further details will be available when we get closer to the event date; however, the work at the site goes from 8:30 a.m. - ~ 4 p.m. and you should check in by 8:15 a.m. Registrants must be at least 16 years old to participate. Feel free to arrange to carpool from House of Prayer, or meet at the site, as you choose. Please dress appropriately for the weather, as work can be outside.



If you are interested in participating, please contact Paul Danielson at 952-887-8896 or paul.danielson@toro.com. Please provide an e-mail address, if available, so directions and details on the outing can be forwarded quickly to you, as they become available. You can pre-register via a web link that will be sent out later. This will speed up the check-in process. This makes for a rewarding experience that can make a huge difference in people's lives.

### Funeral Luncheon Coordinator Position Open

After 9 years of dedicated service as our Funeral Luncheon Coordinator, Shari Sjostrand will be stepping down April 1. HOP is looking to fill the position as soon as possible. The process is well organized and ready for someone to fill the roll. Come work with an awesome team of volunteers in this greatly appreciated ministry. Visit the [Announcements](#) page of the House of Prayer website [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org) to view the full job description.



## Around House of Prayer

### Monthly Finance Report

Following Easter, April will bring us into our annual stewardship drive. In the first week, you will receive the annual stewardship letter and House of Prayer will ask that pledges be returned by April 15. I am grateful to be part of the House of Prayer community and all that the congregation and staff do to bring Christ into the church and the community. Our congregation and staff work diligently to make good use of our resources, which include talent, time, and financial contributions. This year, please prayerfully consider giving to House of Prayer during this annual stewardship campaign so that we can continue to serve and grow.



#### February Financials

	Feb-17		YTD	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>Revenue</b>				
Offerings	\$31,378	\$38,200	\$332,247	\$366,900
Rental Income	\$7,110	\$4,240	\$34,108	\$26,770
Ministry Income*	\$7,692	\$700	\$30,038	\$9,350
	<b>\$46,180</b>	<b>\$43,140</b>	<b>\$396,392</b>	<b>\$403,020</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
	<b>\$63,522</b>	<b>\$54,944</b>	<b>\$403,156</b>	<b>\$399,440</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ -17,329</b>	<b>\$-11,804</b>	<b>\$ -6,745</b>	<b>\$3,580</b>

\*Ministry Income includes, but is not limited to, money to offset expenses, such as coffee, youth donations, retreat offsets, flower donations, and advertising donations.

Thank you,  
Jo Shoberg and Charley Simonson

### Family Mission Trip Lunch

All families who are attending this summer's Family Mission Trip to Superior/Duluth are invited to lunch on Sunday, April 22! This will be an important chance to meet all the other families who are coming along (including those from Oak Grove Lutheran), talk a bit about why it's so important to serve together as families, and ask any questions you have about the trip.

You should have received more details already via email, please let Ben Whalen (bwhalen@hoplc.org) know if you have not seen that information.



## Children, Youth and Family



### End of Year Youth Banquet

As summer approaches so does the end of another year of Wednesday Night Youth Group. The whole congregation is welcome to join us for a banquet on May 16th starting at 6:00pm where we will celebrate everything we did this year and our wonderful youth & volunteers who make it all possible! The night will include a picture slideshow, awards, and of course dinner. This event is free but please RSVP by May 2nd so we know how many to cook for. You can RSVP on the attendance card in the Sunday bulletin or by contacting Ben Whalen ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) or 612-500-9523).

### Children & Youth Calendar

- 4/1: Easter Sunday – Children sing in both services with Easter Egg hunt between
- 4/4: Youth Movie Night – movie TBD
- 4/8: Sunday School – Mary & Martha
- 4/11: Youth Learning Night with peer groups AND youth mentor time
- 4/15: Sunday School – Mary & Martha
- 4/18: All Ages Service Project – “Many Hands Many Meals” AND Youth Gathering Meeting afterward
- 4/22: Sunday School – Mary & Martha AND Family Mission Trip Lunch
- 4/25: Youth Learning Night with peer groups AND youth mentor time
- 4/29: Sunday School – Fruit of the Spirit
- 5/2: Youth Service Project – Cleaning up litter at Christian Park



### First Communion



Congratulations to: Amelia, Audrey, Ava, Brandon, Miley, & Molly who celebrated communion for the first time on Palm Sunday!



We invite the whole congregation to pray for them and their families in their continued faith journey.

### TY for TP!

Thank you for all the toilet paper the congregation donated the last few months! The youth group brought around 1,200 rolls of TP to VEAP in March and helped repackage it to be given out to clients. Obviously this fills a very important need for families but is not the first thing many people think of when they donate to a food shelf. We hope you continue to support VEAP in the months and years to come!



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**Website:** [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org).

**Pastors:** Ben Sandin, Senior Pastor  
Kelly Sandin, Interim Minister of Faith Formation  
and Visitation

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**Sunday Worship Services:**  
9:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
11:00 a.m. ReFuel Alternative Worship



The **Hi-Lines** is published by the House of Prayer Staff and volunteers. Copy Editor, Elyn Kirchner, can be reached at [editor.hilines@gmail.com](mailto:editor.hilines@gmail.com) for submissions. Any questions can be directed to Cara Wright, Director of Operations & Communications, at [cwright@hoplc.org](mailto:cwright@hoplc.org).

**Milestones**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

**Couples**                      **Date**                      **Years**

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

Al & Bev Ludvigson	04/10/1965	53 years
Earl & Pat Sack	04/18/1953	65 years
Jerry & Charlotte Carlson	04/19/1958	60 years



**15 Years Ago:** House of Prayer Easter 2003