

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

Spiritual Practices for Lent

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Psalm 51:10-12

This year we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Psalm 51 is one of the texts appointed each year for Ash Wednesday and appropriately so. Lent is a time for spiritual reflection and renewal; a time for strengthening our prayer life and deepening our biblical literacy. In Lent, we seek a new and right spirit for ourselves that only God can provide. My prayer is that each of you will take intentional time to connect to God through spiritual practices and the Spirit would restore the joy of salvation within you.

The first spiritual practice I commend to you this Lent is silence. We live in a busy and frenetic world. We are endlessly bombarded with activity and noise. Many people are surrounded by noise throughout the day. My challenge would be to take time each day to sit in silence. Turn off the television, shut off the phone, and put away all the devices. Start with 5 or 10 minutes and work up from there. Take this time to be silent and listen. Take a few deep breaths and listen to your body and listen for the nudging of the Spirit. You may also wish to write things down immediately afterward.



Pastor Ben Sandin

A second spiritual practice is prayer. Prayer offers us the opportunity to speak with God and to listen to God. For some, prayer comes naturally while others struggle. The challenge for Lent is strengthen your prayer life in some way. For experienced prayers this may mean praying through the scriptures or starting a prayer journal. For others this may simply mean committing to regular and disciplined prayer each day. I can personally attest to the transformational power of prayer in my life. How prayer works is sometimes mysterious, but it has a profound effect on the one who prays.

A final spiritual practice for Lent this year is reading the Bible. Like other faith practices, there are many different ways to read God's Word. I would commend reading the Bible each day for devotional purposes. As you read the text simply ask two questions: what is God up to? what is God saying to me? These questions shift the focus away from historical or academic questions to matters of the heart. We read the scriptures to hear God's promises and to discern God's path. The Bible continues to speak to me in powerful ways and has shown me Christ again and again. Feel free to use the reading schedule below or read on your own.

May God's Spirit be a blessing on your Lenten journey! God's Peace, Pastor Ben

2018 Lenten Reading Schedule

Week 1: (2-14 to 2-17) Psalm 51, Isaiah 58, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 6:1-6

Week 2: (2-18 to 2-24) Matthew 1:9-15, Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, 1 Peter 4:1-11, 1 Peter 4:12-19, 1 Peter 5:1-14

Week 3: (2-25 to 3-3) Mark 8:31-38, Genesis 17:1-16, Psalm 22, Romans 4:13-25, Romans 5:1-11, Romans 5:12-21; Romans 6:1-14

Week 4: (3-4 to 3-10) John 2:13-22, Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, 1 Corinthians 2:1-16, 1 Corinthians 3:1-23, 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

Week 5: (3-11 to 3-17) John 3:14-21, Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107, Ephesians 2:1-10, Ephesians 2:11-22, Ephesians 3:1-13, Ephesians 4:1-16

Week 6: (3-18 to 3-24) John 12:20-33; Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:1-16; Hebrews 5:5-10, Hebrews 5:11-6:12, Hebrews 8:1-13, Hebrews 10:1-18

Lent.

a season of spiritual preparation

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Camp Ministry is for Everyone



Scott Wright
President

Luther Park Sunday was just a few weeks ago. We heard Joel Legred, Executive Director of Luther Park, talk about the power that camping ministry has for youth – increased self-confidence, happiness and maturity plus an interest and comfort in talking about their faith. But camp is not just for kids.

I remember the first time I was at Luther Park and how it changed my life. It was around 1993 when HOP Youth Director Jim LaDoux asked me to help chaperone a confirmation retreat. It was springtime and the trees were budding. It was peaceful and relaxing being in nature with God. I could really feel God's presence. The confirmation lesson was on tithing and giving back to God. It was when I first matured as a Christian. I always wanted and felt like I was in control, but realized God was. Everything that I had was a gift from God. And, the more I let go and let God take care of things, the happier and less stressed I was. I'm still maturing as a Christian and have a hard time letting go and not being in control. The journey certainly isn't a straight line, but my detour to camp was an influential stop along the way.

In 1958, Representatives from 30 churches in the Minneapolis District of the Augustana Synod were invited to an organizational meeting regarding establishment of Luther Park, Inc. House of Prayer was one of the founding churches that helped Luther Park become a reality! The Board voted to purchase approximately 160 acres of beautiful lakefront property in Danbury, WI...about 120 miles from Minneapolis. In 1988, Joel Legred was hired as executive director October 1. You're probably asking yourself, why the history lesson?

This summer, Luther Park will have its 60th anniversary! On July 14, 2018, Luther Park is celebrating with a big party – coincidentally, Joel Legred will also be turning 60 years old and marking his 30th year as Luther Park's Executive Director! Think of all God's children, young and old, that have been had life changing experiences at Luther Park over those 60 years. Here are a few ways you can celebrate with Luther Park:

- **Come for the 60th Anniversary Open House on July 14.** It's a FREE day at camp and there's no registration necessary. Outdoor worship, led by camp staff at 11am, followed by a delicious lunch, swimming/pontoon boating, ice cream social and lots of other fun camp activities.
- **Join me for the Luther Park Bike-A-Thon** and ride from Minneapolis to Luther Park on June 2-3 and/or pledge your support for camper scholarships.
- **Make an Anniversary/Birthday Donation to Luther Park** (<http://www.lutherpark.com/donate.html>) How about \$60 – to honor 60 years of camping ministry and/or Joel's 60th birthday.
- **Help build the new Bethel Family and Adult Retreat Center** with your construction skills and/or check book.
- **Encourage your kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends to come to Luther Park** for summer camp, an adult retreat or intergenerational event.

Luther Park is a special place and I hope to see you there this summer.

"Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes, in the middle of nowhere, you find yourself." –author unknown.

New Bethel Family and Adult Retreat Center at Luther Park

Throughout more than a half-century of service, Luther Park has built a reputation for excellent ministry to youth. We know that Luther Park's relational ministry can benefit the parents and grandparents of youth campers as well. Churches are looking for spaces and tools to help parents and other adults share their faith with children. The new Bethel Family and Adult Retreat Center (opening summer 2018) will be a valuable resource for intergenerational ministry in our church. Find out more about it at:

<http://www.lutherpark.com/bethel-retreat-center.html>.



In the Community

Citizenship Classes

Coming soon to House of Prayer! Anyone who wants to become a US citizen needs to (among other things) take a test on the history and government of the United States. To support our immigrant neighbors in their efforts to pass this test, we'll be partnering with Hope Church in the coming months to offer 10 weeks of classes with one on one tutoring. If you didn't yet get a chance to sign up or would like to learn more about this, please contact Paula Kiehl (pkiehl3@gmail.com).



Beginner Spanish & ESL Classes

Interested in learning or helping teach a new language?

Tapestry, a local bilingual ELCA church and one of our mission partners, is starting up classes again on February 12 at Oak Grove Lutheran Church.



ESL classes (English as a Second Language) are held on Monday & Thursday nights while Spanish classes are held just on Monday nights. Mondays also provide time for the two classes to get to know one another and practice their new language skills with native speakers.

If you are interested in attending or assisting with either class, please contact Ben Whalen (bwhalen@hoplc.org or 612-500-9523).



Affordable Housing Update



Several of our members are involved in a local housing team that began with guidance from the Suburban Hennepin Housing Coalition. This team is working to inform the community and gain support for several ordinances Richfield City Council is considering to help preserve the affordable housing units we have in our community. You may have talked with them at coffee hour on a Sunday morning about contacting your city council member regarding these ordinances. If you'd like to learn more about the ordinances being considered, want to contact your council member, or want to be updated on upcoming ways to support affordable housing, please contact Paula Kiehl

Social Justice Community Meeting

The Richfield Social Justice Community, a group of local people working toward a more equitable community, is having a large group meeting on Saturday, February 10 from 1-3pm at the Augsburg Park Library's community room.

If you're interested in bringing curbside composting to Richfield, increasing the police department's transparency, urging the school district to adopt tools to monitor progress on racial disparities, or have a new social justice idea to propose this is the place to be! Veterans and newcomers to justice work are all welcome.

If you'd like more information or want to sign up for the RSJC newsletter, please contact Ben Whalen (bwhalen@hoplc.org or 612-500-9523).



Children, Youth and Family

Summer Camp 2018

Luther Park Bible Camp offers many options for children, youth, families, and adults to get away from everyday responsibilities and find God out in the woods and lakes of northwest Wisconsin.

The full schedule and options can be found at www.lutherpark.com but we're encouraging all kids in 1st-9th grade to attend the first week of camp, June 17-22. Young children can go for a half-week while older children attend the full week. Everyone gets to enjoy games, crafts, Bible study, swimming, hiking, camp songs, fires, and more with the friendly staff and counselors of Luther Park. Register through the website above by March 1st to save on your costs AND let Ben Whalen know if you plan to attend because church will cover \$50 of your registration cost!



Children & Youth Calendar



- 2/4: Sunday School – The Disciples
- 2/7: Youth Night – Learning night with peer groups AND Mentor Kickoff Event
- 2/11: Sunday School – The Disciples AND children sing at 11:00 service
- 2/14: No Youth Night – Please join us for Ash Wednesday worship
- 2/18: Sunday School – Walking on Water
- 2/21: Youth Night – Learning night with peer groups AND Mentor meetings
- 2/25: Sunday School – Walking on Water AND children sing at 9:30 service
- 2/28: Youth Fellowship Night – Zombies (a nerf dart game)

Do Justice Retreat

The first weekend in March, our high schoolers are invited to join several other youth groups for a retreat exploring the theme of "Identity."

We'll dive into conversations about who we are as diverse children of God, how we think about those who are different from us, and how we are all connected. We'll also have time for games, icebreakers, and a talent show in the midst of those deep topics. If you or your child are in high school and have not yet gotten information about this retreat, please contact Ben Whalen (bwhalen@hoplc.org or 612-500-9523).



Invest in Youth!



Seven youth and three adults from House of Prayer will be attending this summer's ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX where they'll join 30,000+ other youth in worshipping & serving God together. It's a truly amazing experience that can't happen anywhere else.

It takes money to make it there! Each Sunday in February the youth will be selling shares in the trip to all willing to invest in this formative faith experience. Shareholders will get periodic updates on how the group is preparing for the trip, photo updates & youth reflections during the trip, and an invitation to a post-trip dinner with a slideshow. Please stop by the table on Sunday morning to invest and start praying now that Nicole, Jozie, Sara, Amelia, Alyssa, Meghan, Anna, Abby, Dayna, & Ben have a wonderful time in Houston and experience God in new ways!

Communion Instruction



Parents, is your child ready to start taking Communion or already have but never learned what this holy meal is all about? Pastor Ben will be teaching about communion over three Wednesday night sessions from 6:00-6:30pm on 2/28, 3/7, & 3/21. We'll celebrate with all participants during worship on 3/25. This is for all children whose parents think they are ready (no age requirement) and is open to those wanting "First Communion" as well as those who have already begun taking communion. Please sign up with Ben Whalen.

Around House of Prayer

YOUTH MENTORING



Be a Mentor!

This month we kick off another spring of building relationships between adult mentors and youth, knowing that these supportive connections are essential to growing in faith together. This year we've expanded it beyond Confirmation youth and opened it up to high schoolers as well. If you did not get the information about this and would like to get involved or know more, please contact Ben Whalen (bwhalen@hoplc.org or 612-500-9523).

Lenten Worship

We kick off our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday (February 14) services at noon and 7:00 p.m.

On the following Wednesdays throughout lent, we will be worshipping with the *Holden Evening Prayer* service. Please note this service will begin each week at 7:30 p.m. (15 minutes earlier than our usual Wednesday evening worship), so other Wednesday programs will also be cut a little shorter). Please join us!



Bring Crock Pot Meals for Lent

Beginning Wednesdays, February 21 through March 21 at 5:30 p.m., weekly Simple Suppers becomes Simple Crockpot Suppers! Please bring your favorite crockpot meal, soup, or stew to share.



We'll be serving from the kitchen, so an electrical outlet will be available for your delicious meal! Look for sign-up information on the weekly attendance cards. Please indicate what you'll be bringing on the card AND the date you can bring a dish to share, or email DuAnn Thompson at thompsond@polarsemi.com. To complete the meals, bread, salad, and dessert will be provided.

Men's Fellowship Group

Thursday, February 8, 2018 • 9:00 AM
House of Prayer Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker:

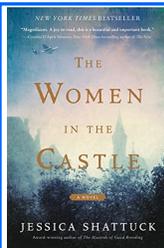
Erin Parrish, AARP Representative

All Sisters & Brothers are invited for fellowship – devotions, topic (AARP Program – “Health Care, What’s Happening at the Federal and State Level”), meet, greet, chit-chat, including refreshments. You will hear Erin’s presentation reflecting on Government’s actions that will impact on Senior’s welfare.

Sign up before February 6 at the information desk. For more information call Noel Sagness (612-866-0833).



Book Discussion Group



We will meet **Thursday, March 1**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Conference Room to discuss *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck. All are welcome!

FEAST Worship/Lunch on SUNDAYS

Sunday, February 4th, 11:00 am

Feast worship and lunch will move to the **FIRST SUNDAY** of the Month during the ReFuel service. Invite your friends and join us in the Parish Hall for this innovative and dynamic gathering!



Around House of Prayer

Creation Care Team Sponsors Paul Douglas Climate Change Event



Paul Douglas, one of Minnesota’s best-known meteorologists, will be presenting his topic, **“Climate Change: Natural Cycle or Troubling Trend?”** at **House of Prayer Tuesday evening, February 20 at 7:00 p.m.** He will also bring copies of his book, “Caring for Creation: An Evangelical’s Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment,” co-authored by Mitch Hescocx. As Christians, we believe it is our responsibility to care for God’s creation, including protecting children from illnesses such as asthma and protecting all life on earth. Many Christians report experiencing God in nature, but many haven’t made the connection that caring for creation nurtures our relationship to God.

In 2012 at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, climate change became a punch line. “President Obama promised to begin to slow the rise of the oceans and heal the planet,” Mitt Romney said and paused for laughter, “My promise is to help you and your family.” Paul Douglas responded to Mr. Romney with The Blog and stated his Top Ten Reasons to Accept Reality on the Climate: (10) Shifting Weather Patterns; (9) Rising Sea Levels; (8) Warmer, More Acidic Oceans; (7) Straining Water Resources; (6) Dying Forests; (5) Extreme Rains and More Severe Local Storms; (4) Spike in Wildfires; (3) More Drought; (2) Superheated summers; (1) Record Arctic Ice Loss. Douglas says, “Climate change is a threat, but it is also an opportunity to transition to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable economy. We have the technology and entrepreneurial DNA to mitigate climate change, foster innovative, job-producing clean energy technologies, and reinvent America’s economy.”

Invite your neighbors and friends for the most up-to-date, interesting and informative thinking on Climate Change. Paul Douglas says, “As people of faith we have an obligation to pay attention, and be good stewards of the earth, of God’s Creation.”



Monthly Finance Report

With half of the fiscal year complete, both income and expenditures are looking good; a continued thanks to the congregation for its generosity in money, time, and talent. You all make House of Prayer great! Thank you, Jo Shoberg and Charley Simonson

December Financials

	Dec-17		YTD	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue				
Offerings	\$67,211	\$66,600	\$268,646	\$268,500
Rental Income	\$3,770	\$4,240	\$20,893	\$18,600
Ministry Income*	\$1,953	\$480	\$20,097	\$14,990
	\$72,935	\$71,320	\$309,637	\$294,940
Expenses	\$46,914	\$52,681	\$289,431	\$291,240
Net Operating Revenue	\$26,020	\$18,639	\$20,206	\$3,700

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

Christ in Community - Collaboration of Richfield ELCA Churches

New Paths Forward for the Collaboration

We've made great progress as a collaboration of Richfield ELCA churches over the past 2 years! We've built relationships, shared events, jointly worshipped together and continue to learn more about each other. Recently, our collaboration structure was adjusted from 24 to 8 people. This change has allowed us to work with more focus.

It has always been true that our collaboration has sought to work together to effectively connect with and serve the community of Richfield.

Centering question: How can we embody Jesus in and with our community?

Purpose: 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.

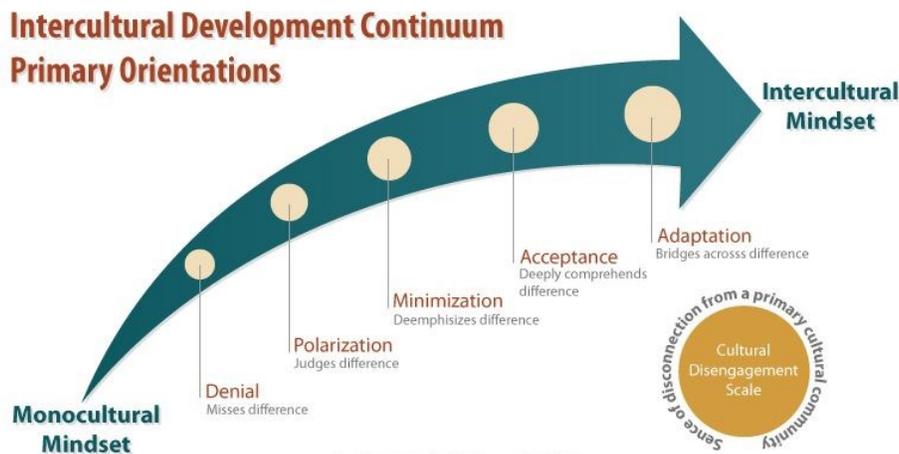
We continue to rely on our centering question and purpose statement to direct our work, believing that we are making progress and now want to take a more meaningful next step. To do this, the newly configured Collaboration Team took the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). This assessment measures an individual's capacity and competence in relating to people with different cultural backgrounds. Intercultural skill is vital for our congregation's efforts to relate to a community as diverse as Richfield. The IDI allows people to see where they currently are in their intercultural skills and also provides a development plan for continued growth.

The Collaboration Team believes there would be great value and insight from having 40 members from each congregation take the IDI. This would allow individuals to see their results, and also how each congregation is assessed as a whole. This information would help us understand the future steps needed for our collaboration to effectively minister to our community.

The results of this process will be shared at an all-congregational Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 13th at Oak Grove from 6-8pm. At this meeting, we will share the collective results of 120 people from the collaboration and begin to think of paths forward.

If you have questions, please reach out to a member of the Collaboration Team:

Pastor Ben Sandin (HOP), Cara Wright (HOP), Pastor Tom Zarth (OG), Julie Tvete (OG), Mike Tvieta (OG), Bonnie Oien (OG), Scott Dahlquist (WL) and Laurel Johnson (WL).



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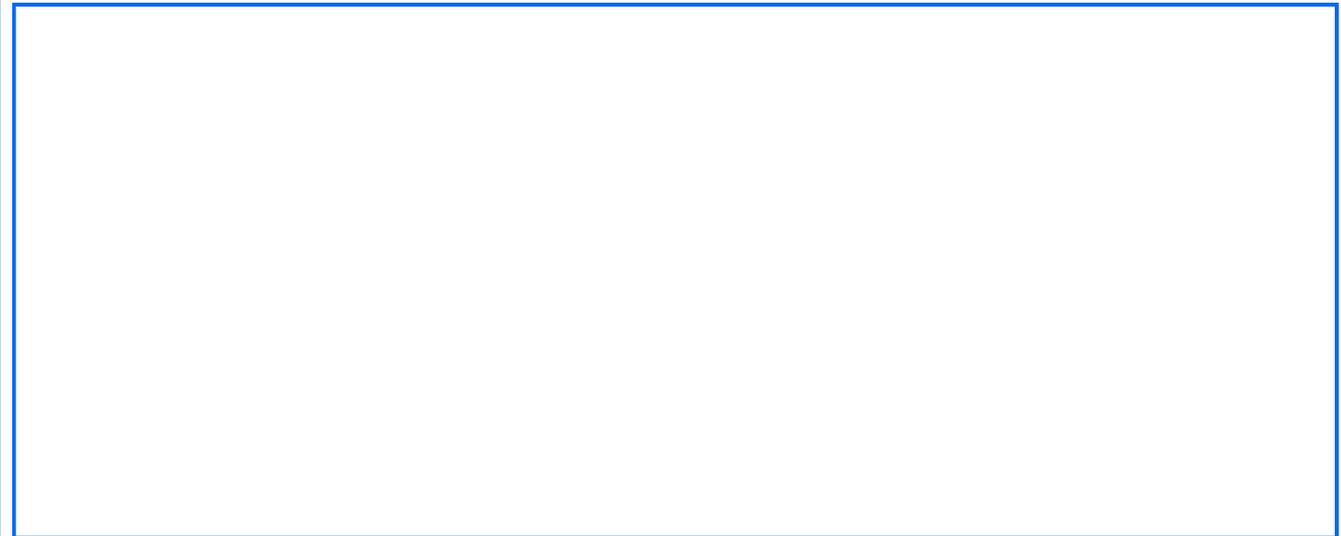
E-mail: office@hoplc.org

Website: 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 for submissions. Any questions can be directed to Cara Wright, Director of Operations & Communications, at cwright@hoplc.org.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couples</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
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Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)

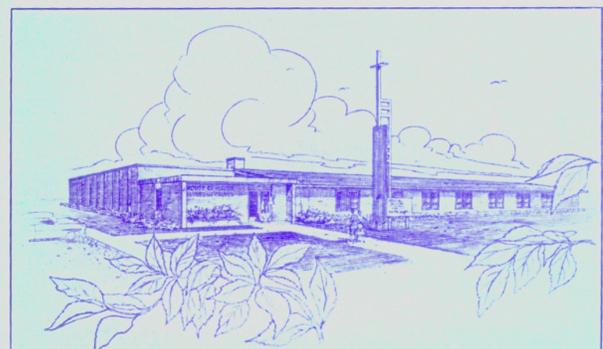
Andy & Betty Henrickson	02/03/1945	73 years
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John and Pam Bostrom	02/24/1973	45 years
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DEATHS

Joe Berryman	01/15/18
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THE NEW HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Under Construction at 77th and Chicago Ave.



"God sends no churches from the skies;
Out of men's hearts they must arise."

50 Years Ago: 1953 Sketch of House of Prayer Lutheran Church (First Unit) during construction.