

# HOUSE OF PRAYER

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

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

## Abiding Together

*As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

John 15:9-12



Minister Kelly Sandin

An image in John 15 of what abiding in Jesus' love looks like is that of Jesus being the vine, his father the vine grower, and his disciples the branches. It is a beautiful metaphor of relationship where all are mutually dependent, and all are cared for under the watchful eye of the vine grower.

Jesus said, "Abide in me as I abide in you" (John 15:4). Abiding is staying. Abiding is remaining connected to the source that gives life. This connection brings a life of abundance where all are sustained, and fruit is plentiful. This is the hope that God has for the world, and one that Jesus modeled in his relationship to his Father. It is our model for discipleship. Otherwise, separated from the vine, the branch withers and dies. Severed from our life source of mutual dependency, bearing fruit becomes impossible.

Jesus shared this intimate metaphor of dependence because he knew the disciples needed comfort and assurance of a continued relationship

when he would be gone. It was a promise that if they stayed in the vine the fruit of love would grow. And to do that, whatever hindered growth would need to be removed and pruned so that the source of all life, God, could produce the best possible fruit. All this would require the direct attention from the vine grower who would nurture and provide just the right amount of care for a promising harvest.

In my short time as a novice gardener, I learned it takes a daily watchful eye to nurture a garden to grow. It requires daily maintenance to water, prune, remove, and sometimes pollinate certain plants to produce fruit. And it is beautiful to admire; even a source of pride! It is an opportunity to witness life and see the fruit of our labor. Joy comes forth as the garden grows. I imagine this is how God feels looking at us as we grow together in the vine.

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." We abide in Jesus' love by loving others. By connecting ourselves to others, we grow in the mystery of God's love given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit we are sustained and able to love even more. When we give of ourselves and remain mutually dependent, new life and hope unfolds. The metaphor of Jesus as the vine, his father the vine grower, and the disciples the branches brings life in abundance as we remain together and love.

## Feast at ReFuel

**Sunday, May 6th, 11:00 am, Parish Hall**

Come join us for this dynamic worship service and lunch. The topic this month is mutual relationships (abiding) and dependence in order to live out the commandment to love.

Contact Pastor Ben ([bsandin@hoplc.org](mailto:bsandin@hoplc.org)) if you would like to help prepare meals for future FEASTs.



## Leadership Ministry Team Update



*Jim Bauer  
Support Ministry  
Team Chair*

### Support Ministry

Support Ministry, as most of you know, takes the second largest part of the church budget. The budget is divided into four sections. They are, highest to lowest:

- Utilities
- Finance and Insurance
- Office Administration
- Property

Each segment has about eight separate line items or accounts in them with monies budgeted for each item. The budget is prepared looking at each item, its history and projected changes based on expected cost adjustments.

As Jo Shoberg mentioned in her recent temple talk, we have been able to meet our obligations the past years within budget. Jo, Cara and I have spent many hours preparing next fiscal year's budget and are confident that it is a good, solid budget.

The next year's budget is not what I really want to discuss with you, but rather that word we have been hearing more and more about lately, that being infrastructure. Wikipedia defines infrastructure as "Infrastructure is the fundamental facilities and systems serving a country, city, or other area, including the services and facilities for its economy to function" or as the way I look at it, you only notice it when it doesn't work.

House of Prayer is an older facility and as such, has an aging infrastructure needing care and repair. To look at the different areas, I have divided the various components into three segments:

- Water and sewer
- Electrical system
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)

While we have had very little sewer difficulties, we have had some, but aging sewer lines and systems are creating problems throughout Richfield.

Our water system has need of outside valve repair and replacement. Hot water is not always delivered to where it is needed, as distribution valves are not working. The biggest area of concern is that before some of these areas can be addressed, we have to handle the asbestos insulation disposal.

When HOP was built, the electrical system was state of the art. However, now if we need to repair most electrical items, those parts are no longer available and need to be replaced. When we have electricians in for a project, they marvel that our relays etc. are still working. An example of an electrical problem is when the parking lights didn't work. Old timers and relays failed, and replacements had to be located and installed.

Last year we experienced a situation when one of our suppliers had an infrastructural failure. Xcel Energy had an older transformer serving HOP fail, causing a voltage drop (brownout). Either during the brownout or voltage surge when the transformer was repaired, we lost several relays and controls on the HVAC system, and experienced problems with the phone system and computer servers.

The biggest system in our infrastructure is the HVAC system. HOP has five boilers for heat, and ten air conditioning units, plus ten transfer pumps. I'm sure we have several miles of pipes and unknown number of thermostats and valves. The control system is complex and complicated and any malfunction results in either too hot or too cold someplace in the church. The problem can be difficult to locate, and repair may take some time and effort. Then there is always the asbestos that must be taken care of first.

I don't want to be an alarmist, but I want you to be aware that while we have a wonderful facility, it needs our care and concern.

## 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

- 5/2: Youth Service Project – Cleaning up litter at Christian Park
- 5/6: Sunday School – Fruit of the Spirit
- 5/9: Youth Learning Night with peer groups & final youth mentor time
- 5/13: Sunday School – Fruit of the Spirit
- 5/16: End-of-Year Youth Banquet
- 5/20: Last day of Sunday School celebration & Confirmation Sunday



### May 20 - Confirmation & End of Sunday School

Join us on Sunday, May 20, to celebrate with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they affirm their faith. We'll have cake during coffee hour to celebrate and we invite you to pray for them as they continue to grow in faith.

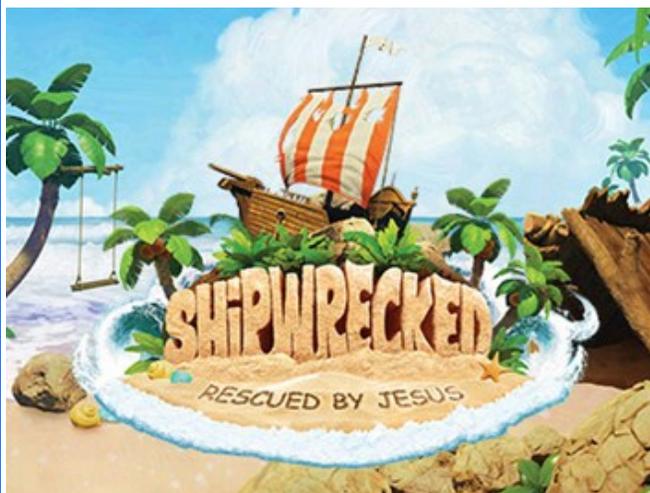


Also, May 20 is the last day of Sunday School for this year. We'll celebrate with the children and thank all our wonderful volunteers for another great year!

### VBS "Shipwrecked"

Register now for Vacation Bible School – "Shipwrecked" – and discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms! Shipwrecked is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences where kids see, hear, and touch! Through games, crafts, and Bible adventures, kids will embark on a journey to discover how we are rescued by Jesus. Pre-school to elementary age children can register as participants and older youth or adults can register as volunteers at [www.myvbs.org/hopvbs2018](http://www.myvbs.org/hopvbs2018)

When: July 23 - 26, 2018  
 Family Dinner: 5:15-5:50 p.m.  
 Program: 6:00-8:15 p.m.  
 Contact: Heidi Thomas, VBS Director,  
 612-869-5023 or [heidit1109@live.com](mailto:heidit1109@live.com) with questions.



## In the Community

### Unity in the Community



Richfield is home for people from around the world, but too often there are barriers that keep us from knowing our neighbors from different cultures. One upcoming event can offer an opportunity to cross those lines to learn more about the cultures in Richfield and meet our neighbors.

On Thursday, May 24, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. we encourage you to come to Unity in the Community hosted by the Police Multicultural Advisory Committee. It will take place at Veteran's Park under the big pavilion and offer: free food, crafts for children, dancers, story-telling, music, and cultural displays of art, instruments, games, books, and more put together by Richfield residents. We hope you can stop by for a while to meet someone new, eat dinner, and enjoy the event! If you would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Ben Whalen ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org)).

### Loving Our Literal Neighbors

Last fall, Aeon – a housing nonprofit – purchased the Season's Park Apartments just to the south of HOP. Previous owners of these buildings did not maintain them well so Aeon is now in the long process of making sure all these units are safe, dignified places for people to live. We met with their staff to see how HOP can build relationships with people at Season's Park and support Aeon in this important work. We may be able to help beautify their landscaping, assist with upkeep, and we will likely be hosting the Gardener's Market in their parking lot.

### Conversations With Friends

The immigration task force at HOP learned about immigration issues and organizations that are working with immigrants. One of these is Conversations with Friends (CWF). This group is a dedicated, all-volunteer group that visits, writes cards and letters to, and provides safe release and accompaniment to people detained in immigration custody in Minnesota. There are over 500 people detained by ICE in our county jails. Immigration detention is civil detention. A person detained by ICE is being held while their case is being considered in immigration court. They have few rights and may have little or no contact with family. Two of us from House of Prayer attended a training session to become a CWF volunteer. Barb Bauer and I were trained and now both have a "pen pal" that is in immigration detention. We see this as an opportunity to show our "pen pal" that someone is thinking about them. We hope to break some of the isolation and bring them some compassion and hope. We write a letter weekly and will do so as long as they are in detention.

One of the programs of CWF is the Circle of Compassion. Through the Circle of Compassion, individuals, groups, and congregations hold detained individuals in thought and prayer. I would like to add HOP to the Circle of Compassion. Each month HOP would get a list of detainees that have requested someone to pray for them and think of them and their families. They are likely to face detention within the next few months, resulting in separation from family and friends, and return to a country in which the majority have not lived for more than 10 years. On the current list there are 90 detainees from 25 different countries. There will be a box on the attendance card where you can sign up to be a member of the Circle of Compassion prayer group. You will then receive a list once a month of detained individuals that would like to be included in your prayers along with their families. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity.

If you have any questions regarding Conversations with Friends or Circle of Compassion I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Jean Robbins, Outreach Ministry



## Around House of Prayer

### Demystifying Alzheimer's Disease: A guide for Patients and Caregivers

Join us on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm – 7:30pm at House of Prayer for this educational discussion. Southview Seventh-day Adventist Church and House of Prayer are co-hosting this informative and beneficial presentation about Alzheimer's disease. Come and hear Dr. Michael Rosenbloom, from HealthPartners Center for Memory and Aging as he discusses:

- Dementia versus Alzheimer's disease
- Clinical features of Alzheimer's disease
- Living with Alzheimer's disease
- Progression of Alzheimer's disease
- Risk factors for Alzheimer's disease
- Treatment for Alzheimer's

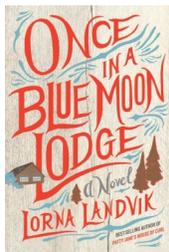


Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn more about Alzheimer's disease.

### Book Discussion Group

We will meet Thursday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Conference Room to discuss *Once in a Blue Moon Lodge* by Lorna Landvik.

All are welcome!



### Thank You to Shari Sjostrand

A special thank you to Shari Sjostrand for her faithful ministry to the House of Prayer community for nine years as funeral luncheon coordinator!

Her cheerful demeanor and heart for service have been a great gift to those having lost loved ones during her years on the job.



### Men's Fellowship Group

Thursday, May 10, 2018 • 9:00 a.m.

*Guest Speaker:*

*Scott Dahlquist, Rock of Ages Light House Preservation Society*

All Sisters and Brothers are invited for fellowship – devotion, topic (“Light Houses and what has happened with the old ones”), meet, greet, chit-chat, including refreshments. You will hear Scott's presentation on preservation of Light Houses old and new.

Sign up before May 8 at the information desk.

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



### Flu Shot Clinic—Save the Date

Planning ahead ... We have already scheduled the 2018 Flu Clinic for Sunday, September 23. The flu mist vaccine will be available once again. If you are planning to receive your vaccination at HOP – and it is so convenient to have the entire family done at once – and think you/your children would want that choice, please contact Mary Markes ([maryjmarkes@gmail.com](mailto:maryjmarkes@gmail.com)) so we can let the MNVN know how many doses of the flu mist to bring.



## Around House of Prayer

### Answer Key: A Little Bit of Fun from the HR Team

The answers you have all been waiting for!!!

(See April 2018 HiLines)

“I love board games and currently have about 50 at home.” Ben Whalen

“I am a relative of the Rockefeller family.” Jo Shoberg

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

DuAnn Prakrongsook Thompson

“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.” Minister Kelly Sandin

“I shattered my arm when the car in which I was a passenger crashed...into a hospital” Phil Mennicke

“There weren’t iPods when I was a kid, so I played with bears instead.” Ramo Zejnilovic

“I had 9 teeth pulled when I was 12 years old (4 permanent, 4 wisdom, and a stubborn baby tooth). My grandpa couldn’t figure out why anyone would have ‘good teeth’ pulled and promised to make me a necklace out of them.” Cara Wright

“I roast my own coffee. I’m a real coffee snob.” Josh Countryman

“As a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader I made up my own comic strip: The Adventures of Banana Man.” Pastor Ben Sandin

“My Christmas tree burning habit almost burnt down my neighborhood.”

Mindy Mennicke

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

... Drum roll please ... Phil and Cara!!!



### Your Human Footprint

*From the Creation Care Team*

Your human footprint is the mark you make on the Earth. As God’s stewards, we are called to care for the earth and all of creation. Recently, we came across the children’s book, “Human Footprint” by Ellen Kirk which explored the idea of everything each person on earth will eat, use, wear, buy, and throw out in their lifetime. Each person can significantly make a difference in the size of their footprint upon the earth, and when you think that each person is one of over six and a half billion people on the earth, the more aware and active each one is, the larger difference we can contribute.

One of the many examples given in the book is that Americans throw away 694 plastic bottles a second. In the United States, 4 billion pounds of plastics are recycled each year saving enough energy (oil and natural gas) to heat 2.1 million homes. Over a lifetime, on average, each of us will toss out 29,700 pounds of plastic packaging—plastic food wrap, plastic grocery bags, plastic garbage bags, plastic toy boxes, and more! Almost all plastic is made from oil or natural gas. In the January 29, 2018 issue of Time Magazine, page 12, this article was in the Ticker column: “E.U. declares war on plastic waste: The E.U. pledged to make every piece of plastic packaging found in member states reusable or recyclable by 2030 as part of its first Europe-wide strategy to combat plastic waste.” Furthermore, Earth Day Network has begun to focus on changing attitudes and behaviors about plastics with the goal to significantly reduce plastic pollution. Plastic waste is just one area where each of us can be more aware.



Affirming that we are God’s stewards and accepting our biblical responsibility to care for all that God has entrusted to us, we are aware that our human footprint has major significance, and if we can minimize our waste, it will make a dramatic difference!

Eco tip: Use less plastic. Bring a cloth bag when you shop, and use refillable water bottles. Recycle your plastic bags at any CUB store.

## Around House of Prayer

### Monthly Finance Report

Thank you for all who have turned in your pledge cards. For those who have been delayed due to the snow, there is still time and even a late submission is a great benefit.

Offerings have now fallen to over \$28,000 under budget, so please help us finish out the year strong if you are so able. The increases in rental and ministry income have subsidized the shortfall to keep the lights on but House of Prayer will be in better shape to fully fund all programs in the next fiscal year if offering income can move closer to the budgeted amount. We thank you for all that you give of your time, talent, and money. Thank you, Jo Shoberg and Charley Simonson

#### March Financials

	<u>MAR-18</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>Revenue</b>				
Offerings	\$36,383	\$40,200	\$378,614	\$407,100
Rental Income	\$5,980	\$4,240	\$40,273	\$31,010
Ministry Income*	\$3,550	\$530	\$33,107	\$9,880
	<b>\$45,913</b>	<b>\$44,970</b>	<b>\$451,994</b>	<b>\$447,990</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
	<b>\$49,318</b>	<b>\$50,637</b>	<b>\$452,475</b>	<b>\$450,077</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ (3,405)</b>	<b>\$ (5,667)</b>	<b>\$ (481)</b>	<b>\$ (2,087)</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.

### Many Hands Many Meals Packing Event

Wednesday April 18th House of Prayer had its 5th annual packing event for Many Hands Many Meals and it was a great success. We started with a delicious dinner thanks to DuAnn Thompson and the Simple Supper crew. We then had over 90 volunteers of all ages packed almost 27,000 life-saving meals that will help ease world hunger. Everyone worked hard and had a great time. We received this thank you from the MH-MM coordinator: "WOW! Thank you for a fantastic event last night. That was such a blast to be part of the excitement of House of Prayer's packing event. You and the congregation did a wonderful job, and MHMM is so blessed to partner with you in feeding the hungry." When the food we packed is distributed I will let you know where it was sent. MH-MM is a non-profit volunteer-driven organization located in Excelsior. They pack over 550,000 meals a year at packing events. We had a chance to taste the food that we were packing. It is a balanced mix of soy, rice, vegetables and vitamins that brings relief to those affected by wars, natural disasters, and systemic poverty. Thanks to all of you that participated in the event. Thanks for making a difference.



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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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Permit No. 2944

**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

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

Dale & Lorraine Swanson	05/01/1953	65 years
Don & Sue Burt	05/05/1967	51 years
Gordy & Judy Holmes	05/06/1967	51 years
Greg & Tracie Maloney	05/15/1993	25 years
Dick & Linda Victor	05/21/1966	52 years
Jeff & Marguerite Thiele	05/29/1965	53 years



**10 Years Ago: HOP Bell Choir 2008**