

# HOUSE OF PRAYER

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

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

## A New Year Ponderings

Even though my cell phone calendar keeps me organized with all the sound alerts and banners to remind me of my schedule, I still want to keep a paper one. I cannot help but to faithfully cross off the previous calendar square with the beginning of each new day. And there is something about getting to the very last calendar page that jolts me into realizing another year is about to be done. Without having a new paper one, which I rarely do by January 1, there is a transitional time of being almost out of one year, but not quite into another.

Maybe that is why many New Year's resolutions are made on the eve of December 31. It is in that in-between time where the last day of the year has not quite passed, yet it is not quite time to cross off that last square, either. And in those hours, there is opportunity to reflect upon another year, a looking back and a looking forward. A sifting of the old and new that brings an excitement to the cold night air—full of smells and sounds, fireworks and countdowns, celebrating and singing, and hope for new beginnings. (Though some of us do fall asleep before the year is officially over!)



Minister Kelly Sandin

But this ushering in of a new calendar year is rather like the Christmas season in the year of the church, too. (Well, hopefully not the falling asleep part, anyway!) By this time, we have experienced the birth of Jesus and we are in that transitional time of wonder.

*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:10-11).*

Excitement truly was in the air that long-ago night! This bright star led Gentile wise men into the welcoming light of Christ, into the joy of unconditional and inclusive love. What a way to start the new year than to be reminded that even though we might want to create resolutions to better ourselves, we are already fully right in God's sight.

Peace and joy,  
Minister Kelly



## Leadership Ministry Team Update

### Associate Pastor Progress



*Scott Wright*

The Leadership Ministry Team (LMT) met on December 4 to discuss congregation feedback on calling an Associate Pastor. Over 65 families gave input during and after the forum that was held on November 18. There was overwhelming support for Minister Kelly Sandin and the Associate Pastor position. Concerns were raised about HOP's current deficit budget and the extra cost of hiring a full-time Associate Pastor.

The LMT listened and has determined from feedback that additional resources were committed by the congregation to support Minister Kelly as the Associate Pastor at three-quarter time (30 hours/week) rather than the full-time position (40 hours/week) proposed. Given this, we may not be able to accomplish everything we had outlined in the original job description; but we're working to update it to balance outreach with more pastoral care to the congregation. The LMT is also working on a revised budget for the balance of the fiscal year to ensure that we are fiscally responsible.

We discussed this change with Minister Kelly and she feels a strong calling to stay at House of Prayer. A call committee will be formed to move ahead to call Kelly to the Associate Pastor position. There will be a congregational meeting at the conclusion of the call process. Our goal will be to ordain and install Kelly at HOP in the first half of 2019.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support for HOP. Please feel free to talk with me about any questions or feedback you have.

God's blessings to you and your families!  
 Scott Wright, HOP President

### Financial Report

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you to all for your faithful giving in 2018. Here is the monthly financial report through November.

Thank you, Jo Shoberg and Charley Simonson

<b><u>November Financials</u></b>				
	<u>Nov. 2018</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue				
Offerings	\$45,039	\$55,000	\$212,580	\$225,000
Rental Income	\$6,405	\$6,660	\$31,965	\$28,550
Ministry Income	\$322	\$540	\$2,774	\$1,970
Total Revenue	\$51,766	\$62,200	\$247,319	\$255,520
Total Expenditures	\$52,766	\$51,958	\$262,469	\$271,009
Net Operating Revenue	-\$1,000	\$10,242	-\$15,150	-\$15,489

## Around House of Prayer

### Festival of Carols



Thanks so much to the MANY musicians who presented another successful and “awe”some Festival of Carols. Thanks also to other staff members and many “non-music” volunteers in the church, all of whom contributed much behind-the-scenes assistance. Kudos to all! (and to all a good night...)



### Wednesday Night Bible Study Book of Job

Universally recognized as a literary masterpiece, the Book of Job skillfully intermingles poetry and prose to deliver a delightful rendition of creation. The sovereign grace of God is revealed in its glory. Don't think this is only a sad account of life. Let's dive in together and discover what we can in what some say is the oldest book of the Bible.

Six Wednesdays, starting January 16, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of House of Prayer. Led by Pastoral Intern, Deanna Bassett. Just bring your Bible. No fees! No new books to buy!



### Happy New Year and Peace from House of Prayer Preschool



As we welcome 2019, the preschoolers will continue to develop peace within themselves and their community. Like many others, Maria Montessori believed you can guide children to collaborate and accept each other from a very young age. Children age 3-6 are in what she called a sensitive period for language and we can give them words to use to articulate their feelings. If you step into our room, you may see the children working collaboratively with each other, peacefully next to each other, or talking through a conflict. These are skills we continuously work on in preschool and, while we don't expect perfection, it's incredible to see how they have grown in their ability to be peaceful! Contact Preschool Director, Nicole Olson ([nolson@hoplc.org](mailto:nolson@hoplc.org) or 612-861-7110) about enrollment information.

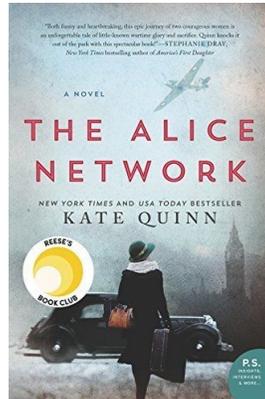
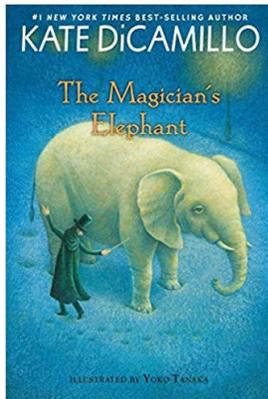
## Around House of Prayer

### Book Discussion Group

On December 6, we will be discussing:  
*The Magician's Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo.

On February 7, we will be discussing *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn.

We meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Conference Room. All are welcome!



### HOP Fellowship

Thursday; January 10, 2019  
9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker – Rev. Linda Lund  
House of Prayer Member

All Brothers & Sisters are invited for fellowship, devotion, speaker, meet, greet, chit-chat and refreshments. This month's topic is "Alaska – The Last Great Frontier." Rev. Linda visited this most northern state of the USA with mountains, glaciers, ocean, wildlife, ethnic cultures and more. Come hear about her experience. Contact Noel Sagness (612-866-0833) with questions.



### Concordia Christmas Concert *From the Creation Care Team*

Concordia's 2018 Christmas Concert theme was "For the Beauty of The Earth" and featured messages about how God's divine voice sings through all creation with hymns "The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God," "All Creatures of Our God and King," and "This Is My Father's World," and many other beautiful pieces. One segment of the program had the Narrator reciting various Praises for God's Creation with the Choir singing responses. We were especially moved by the following segment of Petitions for God's Creation:

Narrator: We pray for the waters of the rivers, that through God's grace we will fill them again with bountiful life.

Audience: We pray for God's creation.

Narrator: We pray for the soil of the earth, that through God's grace we will work for abundant harvests for all.

Audience: We pray for God's creation.

Narrator: We pray for the birds of the trees, that through God's grace we can offer them sheltering green leaves.

Audience: We pray for God's creation.

Narrator: We pray for all of the sacred earth, that through God's grace and with God's help we will renew the music of creation's pulsating life.

Audience: We pray for God's creation.

And to that the Creation Care Team says, "We pray for God's creation. Amen."



## Children, Youth and Family

### High School Retreat at Luther Park

February 1-3 the high schoolers are headed up to camp for a winter retreat! This will be a great chance to enjoy some time out in nature, go sledding or play broomball, build community with the youth group, and dive deeper into our faith. Talk to Ben Whalen for more information and please sign up by January 9.



### Children & Youth Calendar



- 12/26: No Youth Group
- 12/30: No Sunday School
- 01/02: Youth Group – Learning night with peer groups
- 01/05: ReCharge conference for volunteer training
- 01/06: Sunday School – Lord’s Prayer
- 01/09: Youth Group Service Project – Bingo at Martin Luther Campus
- 01/13: Sunday School – Lord’s Prayer
- 01/16: Youth Group – Learning night with peer groups
- 01/20: Sunday School – Lord’s Prayer
- 01/23: Youth Group – Sledding
- 01/27: Sunday School – A Storm
- 01/30: Youth Group – Discipleship Practices
- 02/01: Deadline to sign up for Family Mission Trip 2019!
- 2/1-2/3: High School Retreat at Luther Park

### Family Mission Trip

Please join families from House of Prayer, Oak Grove, and Woodlake next July 12-14 for the 2019 Family Mission Trip to Superior, WI!

We’ll stay at Camp Amnicon on the shores of Lake Superior and do service projects with food shelves, parks, nonprofits, churches, and more to serve the local community. Literally all ages are invited – last year our ages ranged from 2 years old up to over 70 – and “family” can mean parents, kids, grandparents, extended family, neighbors, friends, single adults, couples, or anyone else who’d like to join.

Talk to Ben Whalen ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) or 612-500-9523) for more information. The deadline to sign up is February 1st!



### Children’s Christmas Program

The children put on their annual Christmas Program and did a marvelous job! Thanks to Mindy Mennicke for envisioning and coordinating the whole thing as well as leading all the rehearsal. Thank you parents and volunteers for practicing with the children and helping with costumes. And of course, thank you to all the kids in the program for sharing the beautiful reminder of what we’re really celebrating at Christmas time!



## In the Community

### Community Organizing Training

In mid-January, three members of the HOP Community Engagement Team will be attending a weeklong organizing training hosted by the Minneapolis Synod. This opportunity will help our congregation continue reaching out into our neighborhood and working for positive change. It will also help connect us with other local churches seeking to do the same! Please pray for Kim Houle, Savanna Kamara, and Ben Whalen to have a transformative experience at this training and let one of them know if you'd like to attend a training like this in the future!



**Minneapolis Area Synod**  
of the ELCA

### Accessible Housing & Tenant Surveys



The Richfield Community Housing Team continues to meet regularly and reach out to new people. Currently one part of the team is working with the city to make sure that affordable housing is also accessible for people with disabilities. Another part of the team is working with VEAP to survey tenants about their experiences renting in the area so that we can collect more local data that informs our continued work. If you'd like to help with either of these initiatives or learn more about the housing team, please contact Ben Whalen ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) or 612-500-9523).

### Veggie Table 2019



We're starting to plan our produce distribution for the summer and are talking with VEAP and our collaboration

churches about how to work together to increase our impact. If you'd like to share some ideas or be part of the visioning process, please contact Ben Whalen ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) or 612-500-9523).

### Richfield New Year's Eve

Richfield is the place to be on New Year's Eve. Tuesday, December 31, the Ice Arena hosts their annual New Year's Eve Skating Party from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Open skating on two rinks. Cost is \$4.50/skater (no discount passes or coupons). Price includes prizes, complimentary beverages and snacks.

Then, head over to Wood Lake Nature Center for Candlelight & Ice from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Cost is \$4/person; free for WL members. Follow hundreds of candle-lit luminaries on a walking trail through cattails and trees while on the lookout for deer, fox, and owls. Roast marshmallows over a crackling fire or warm up inside with hot cocoa. Make crafts, play a game, or just sit back and relax. No pre-registration is required.



### Three Kings Day

MIRA will be hosting a celebration for El Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) on Friday, January 4, 2019, from 5-7 p.m. at HOP in the Fellowship Hall.



All are welcome to come for treats, crafts, activities, and presents. Contact Ben Whalen with questions or if you would like to assist.

## Collaboration of Richfield ELCA Churches

### Collaboration Update: Hear! Hear!

Over the past two months our collaboration has been engaged in an intentional process of listening. Our goal was to learn more fully the similarities and differences within House of Prayer, Woodlake, and Oak Grove. We formed six teams with a person from each congregation to learn more about: staffing, finance, leadership, worship, ministry, and mission. Collectively the teams conducted 55 interviews of congregation leaders, staff, and members from our churches. Needless to say, they learned a lot! The team members all expressed how much they enjoyed the experience as they not only learned more about our congregations, but formed new friendships with one another. We are thankful for all who took the time to be interviewed and the openness to share and learn from one another.

The Collaboration Task Force met in late November to share the key learnings from each interview team. At this point no concrete plans have been made for next steps (this will happen when the task force meets in January), but we are able to share several important insights. The biggest takeaway was that the process of listening to one another truly helped us understand one another in significant ways. We discovered that we have more similarities than we expected both in terms of opportunities and challenges in ministry and mission. We also have a shared desire to reach out to the community and to minister to youth and families. As we move ahead, we will seek to identify strategic initiatives that we can work on collectively. As these initiatives become clear, we will share our plans and provide opportunities for congregation members to get involved.

The Collaboration Task Force would like to thank those who served on an interview team. They have many hours of service to this effort and are much appreciated.

Worship Team: Kris Brehmer, Cara Wright, Carol Olson  
 Finance Team: Carol Tveite, Jim Bauer, Scott Dahlquist  
 Staff Team: Bonnie Oien, Paul Danielson, Jean Kass  
 Leadership Team: Mike Tveite, Les Bauer, Bev Erickson  
 Ministry Team: Kelly Sandin, Julie Tvette, Ann Miller  
 Mission Team: Leanne Hyde, Jan Philibert, Laurel Johnson



God's Peace, The Collaboration Task Force  
 Oak Grove: Pastor Tom Zarth, Bonnie Oien, Mike Tvette, Julie Tveite  
 Woodlake: Pastor Micah Pearson, Laurel Johnson, Scott Dahlquist  
 House of Prayer: Pastor Ben Sandin, Cara Wright

## ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

Hello House of Prayer,  
 I'm Allyssa Hyde. As a member of the HOP congregation, I wanted to share what I have been doing this year. I am participating in the ELCA's amazing program called YAGM. This year of service invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus. I have been serving at the Lutheran Church in Cambodia since September. My position includes teaching English classes and helping the Church with lessons and other day to day operations. It has been absolutely a life changing experience so far and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has to offer. I would love any thoughts and prayers. You can follow my journey through my blog at <https://allyssahyde.wixsite.com/website/blog>. If you feel called, I would greatly appreciate your financial support as well. You can find this information at [http://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1052891&pg=personal&fr\\_id=1181](http://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1052891&pg=personal&fr_id=1181). With lots of love, Allyssa ([allyssa.hyde@gmail.com](mailto:allyssa.hyde@gmail.com))



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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  
Deanna Bassett, Pastoral Intern

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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).

## The Heritage Team Remembers

*compiled by Darlene Clauson*



**25 Years Ago:**  
1994 Youth learn about baptism