

# HOUSE OF PRAYER

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

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

## The Lure of Water

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Believe it or not, we can finally say summer has arrived! All the telltale signs are here. Folks are strolling about. Gardens have been planted. Flowers are blooming. Fragrant and unexpected scents billow by and wake us to the present. Windows and doors are open. Neighbors stop to chat. Birds are singing with renewed enthusiasm. Rivers and streams are flowing. Lakes and oceans lap the shorelines. Folks want to be in water, on it, or near it. In fact, water is foundational to everything we love about summer.

Recently I went for a walk and noted how many people were heading toward bodies of water, whether that be a pond, a river, a lake, or a fountain in one's yard. I personally could not help but stop and take in a beautifully made gurgling fountain and pond built on the edge of someone's lawn. I spent a little time looking at the large goldfish swimming about, a turtle peeking its head above the water, and the lush plant life surrounding this little piece of heaven. I instantly became more tranquil and reflective. It made me curious about the owners' placement of this lovely creation on their sidewalk's edge. To me they were encouraging people to stop. They were gifting those who took the time to see it the opportunity to slow down and simply breathe. This thought stayed with me for the rest of my walk, as did the peace I encountered there.

The sight, sound, and smell of water (though, in truth, not always a wonderful scent) has the power to draw us to it and is something that is a part of our DNA. Even if we cannot swim, and have a healthy fear of water, water gives a sense of calm and peace that is rather unexplainable. Those who have a cabin on a lake say they are going to the cabin, but I think it is more than just the cabin. It's what "the cabin" on a lake does for our sense of well-being that we are seeking.



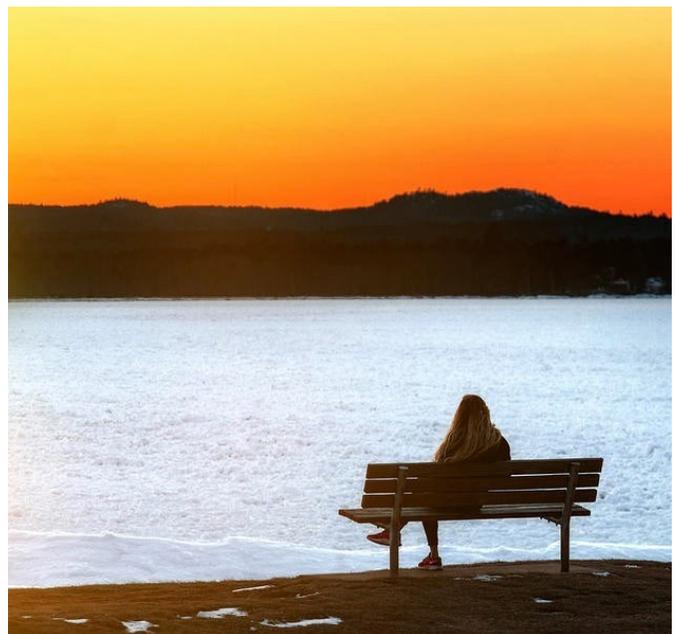
*Pastor Kelly Sandin*

And those who live to get out on their boat and fish express how much they look forward to it. But I wonder if it is much more than "fishing." Perhaps, it is the breeze, the caw of seagulls circling above, the lull of swaying back and forth, or the rhythmic water slapping against the boat. Perhaps it is all these things that add to the love of fishing.

With an innate attraction to the power of water and our need for it, we will have a three-part sermon series beginning July 7 on the Theology of Water from Genesis to Revelation. This will complement the work of the Creation Care Team. We will focus on creation water, baptismal water, and living water.

As you go about your summer, I hope you will reflect more deeply about the lure and sacredness of water, how it impacts our well-being, and the abundant source of all life we have been given.

The peace of Christ,  
Pastor Kelly



## Leadership Ministry Team Update

### Get Busy Living



*Brent King  
President*

That quote from The Shawshank Redemption was on my mind as I participated in House of Prayer’s Annual Meeting on June 12. The more I listened to the reports, I was reminded consistently that:

House of Prayer is BUSY – LIVING!

- The messages during that meeting resonated with me:
- Active and vibrant worship and enthusiastic congregation,
- Financial support of the church’s vision and mission,
- Community outreach & partnership,
- Compassionate and skilled staff,
- Fellowship and compassion, and
- Vision towards welcoming and embracing our current and future members of all ages.

I’m highly appreciative of Scott Wright’s leadership as he hands over the baton as congregation president and I am very pleased to be assuming the president’s role with the church so very alive and at high points of congregational, community and spiritual strength. I look forward to the future of House of Prayer, because that is our direction when we are BUSY LIVING!

Brent King  
Congregation President

### Monthly Finance Report

At the June annual meeting our congregation approved the budget for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This new budget continues the growth at House of Prayer that we have seen over the last year with a focus on the community and making House of Prayer a vibrant place to worship. I look forward to seeing the impact our ministry work has on the community and in our own church.

Our financial picture for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2019 is positive. We are projected to end the year with a shortfall of around \$700. Thank you for all who have contributed financially this year to keep House of Prayer financially sound and thank you for all the time, effort, and energy you have all put in to make House of Prayer a great place!

#### May Financials

	<u>May 2019</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue				
Offerings	35,408	40,000	513,626	510,000
Rental Income	7,205	6,860	72,700	66,340
Ministry Income	340	490	10,950	5,890
Total Revenue	42,953	47,350	597,276	582,230
Total Expenditures	54,809	55,482	600,000	609,224
Net Operating Revenue	-11,856	-5,997	-2,724	-26,994



Jo Shoberg,  
Financial Administrator & Charley Simonson,  
Treasurer

## Around House of Prayer

### Water: Rain Gardens *From the Creation Care Team*

Rain gardens are gardens of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. They are designed to temporarily hold and soak in rainwater runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, parking lots, patios or lawns. Runoff is collected from paved surfaces and directed into the garden. A depression in the earth is filled with a mixture of sand, topsoil, compost, and sometimes gravel, that filters runoff. Native plants do not require fertilizer and help filter pollutants from the runoff. Native plants provide food and habitat for birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. A typical rain garden is between six and nine inches deep. Benefits of rain gardens include pollution control, flooding protection, habitat creation, and water conservation. Rain gardens are effective in removing 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediment from the rainwater runoff. Compared to a conventional lawn, rain gardens allow for 30% more water to soak into the ground. Because rain gardens will drain within 12-48 hours, they prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

**Special Note:** The Creation Care team is pleased to announce that scientist Paul Nelson, Environmental Services Program Manager for Scott County, will be speaking at House of Prayer between services Sunday, July 14. Paul Nelson is a volunteer with EcoFaith Network, an initiative of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. Mark your calendar and watch for further details regarding this special program.

### Did You Hear What We Heard?

The Listening Campaign Dinner was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall with over 50 attendees. At the dinner, Pastor Ben, Pastor Kelly, and Ben Whalen shared the results of their recent listening campaign. The focus of the campaign was to listen for how things were going in the life of the congregation in regard to connecting to God, connecting to one another, and connecting to the community. A total of 40 people were interviewed and many important insights were learned. The dinner provided the opportunity to share these learnings and not only discuss next steps, but also take action.

While it is challenging to fully summarize the various ways people talked about connecting, we can share a few overall trends from the listening campaign. People were asked: *“how is your relationship with God going?”* The answers people shared were from all places on the faith journey. Some shared they felt strong in their connection to God, while others were not sure how to answer. Overall, people acknowledged the need to give more time to their relationship with God and understood this to be an area of growth. When asked: *“how connected do you feel to House of Prayer?”* many people shared the opinion that House of Prayer is a welcoming congregation. They also acknowledged the work of including people goes beyond welcoming, so we must continue to work in this area. Additionally, we heard that people make a correlation between their sense of connection to House of Prayer and their own level of investment. When asked: *“what does it mean to be a community church?”* people spoke about the need to build community within the congregation as well as the need to serve the community at large. There was strong support for our current work in the community, both by those who are participating in these efforts and by those who appreciate these efforts but do not, for whatever reason, participate.

At the end of the dinner everyone was asked to show their enthusiasm for concrete next steps. Some people signed up to help lead these efforts and other committed to help. Areas for further exploration included: working with the collaboration churches to reach Richfield residents, a women’s group, an “upside down” Sunday worship, parents attending confirmation, spiritual formation, Sunday School between services, relational connecting on Sundays, and family events. There will be more to come in each of these areas and there is still time to get involved. Let us know you are interested!

Overall, this event was filled with great energy and excitement about the future of House of Prayer. We are thankful for all who attended and look forward to the Spirit’s work among us!

God’s Peace, Pastor Ben, Pastor Kelly, and Ben Whalen

## Around House of Prayer

### House of Prayer Preschool

House of Prayer Preschool ended its school year on May 30th. We enjoyed a Family Celebration, had some end of the year fun, and were thankful for our time together. This year was much more than learning ABCs and 123s. We created a community in our Montessori-style room and learned to care for each other and our space. The children worked together side by side and grew so much! We ran three weeks of summer camp in June and look forward to fall! There is still space for the upcoming school year. Email [nolson@hoplc.org](mailto:nolson@hoplc.org) for information.



### Ladies' Dessert Luncheon Monday, September 9 • 1:00 p.m. • \$5

*Speaker:*  
**Janet Letnes Martin, whose books were the inspiration for "The Church Basement Ladies" musicals.**



Sign up will be every Sunday in August or call the church office (612) 866-8471.

Do you have a special talent such as art, crafts, etc.?  
If so, we would like to display some examples at this Dessert Luncheon.

Contact Mary Markes @ 952-382-4220  
Jeanne Lindstrom @ 612-866-4895  
or Ellen Thompson @ 612-869-2775

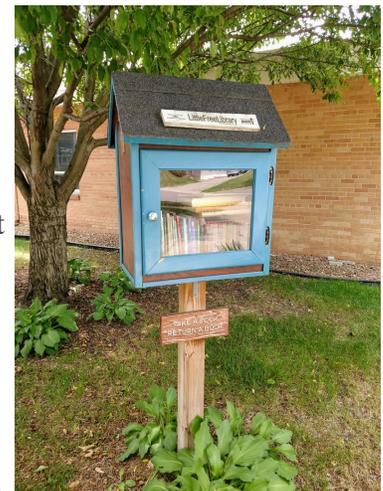
### Sponsor Bulletin /Sanctuary Flowers

You can honor loved ones or celebrate special occasions by sponsoring the Sunday bulletin and/or flowers. Visit the Information Desk to fill out the donation envelope and leave it in Cara Wright's box in the church office or with an office volunteer. (Flowers-\$40, Bulletin-\$20).



### Got Books?

The supply of books in our Little Free Library outside the Chicago Ave. entrance is dwindling. If you have any extras that you think our neighborhood adults and kids would like to read, please drop them off. And see if there are any available you would like to read yourself!



"Take a book, Share a Book."

## Children, Youth and Family

### Summer Sundays with Mindy

Mindy did a marvelous job leading our Sunday School children in music and will keep doing so over the summer! All children ages 3-12 are invited to join her Sundays during 11:00 worship from June 9-July 28. She will continue leading them in singing and playing instruments but also train them to be leaders in our worship services and give them opportunities to usher, read scripture, greet folks, and serve communion.

You can reach her at [mennick-es@comcast.net](mailto:mennick-es@comcast.net) if you have questions.



### Children & Youth Calendar

- 7/4: March in the Fourth of July Parade with us
- 7/7: Summer Sunday with Mindy
- 7/10: High School Youth movie night
- 7/12-7/14: Family Mission Trip
- 7/14: Summer Sunday with Mindy
- 7/21: Summer Sunday with Mindy
- 7/21-7/26: Summer Camp week at Luther Park
- 7/25: High School Youth bonfire & s'mores
- 7/28: Final Summer Sunday with Mindy
- 7/29-8/1: Vacation Bible School – "The Incredible Race"



### Ready, Set, Go! The Incredible Race VBS

House of Prayer is *warming* up to offer our FREE Award Winning VBS again this summer.

**The Incredible Race VBS.**  
**July 29 – August 1, 2019**  
**Supper 5:15 – 5:50**  
**Programs 6:00-8:15**



At the Incredible Race each night, kids will race from continent to continent uncovering clues and attempting challenges. From the minute we board the first flight in our race, kids will experience God's love for every tribe, language, and nation! EVERYONE!

We'll also discover that no matter where we live, what shade of skin we have, or what language we speak, we are all part of the same race – the human race – and all part of the same family from Adam and Eve. Kids will learn that God is calling people from every tribe and nation of the world. And that he wants us to share this good news in kindness and love with our neighbors nearby and far away.

For easy registration, go the House of Prayer Website or [www.myvbs.org/hopvbs2019](http://www.myvbs.org/hopvbs2019) If you want to join in on the fun and get involved by volunteering in a small or big way to help make this meaningful for the kids, please contact Heidi Thomas, Cindy Jacobs, or Ben Whalen.

### Family Mission Trip

This month, 8 families from House of Prayer join 7 families from Oak Grove and Wood Lake Lutheran Churches for a long weekend in Superior/Duluth. This group of nearly 50 folks, ages 3-60+, will serve together, play together, and pray together for a wonderful weekend. Please pray for safety, stronger connections, and meaningful God-experiences through this adventure!



### Summer Camp at Luther Park

Several House of Prayer youth will go up to Luther Park Bible Camp this month for a half or full week of camp! They'll get a chance to explore the great outdoors, play games, grow in faith, sing songs, swim in the lake, and more. Research shows camp can make a huge impact on children's faith, so again, a huge thank you to all the share-



holders who helped keep the cost down and open this opportunity up to more folks. We can't wait to hear their stories once they return!

## In the Community

### Fourth of July Parade

Richfield LOVES to celebrate the 4th of July, so much so that they make a three-day festival out of it!

We've been enthusiastic participants in the annual parade for several years now and are excited to be part of it once more. It's still not too late to walk in the parade with us on Thursday, July 4, if you contact Ben Whalen asap ([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) or 612-500-9523). We'll hand out candy, spread the word about what our congregation does, and celebrate with the community.

Don't forget to check out the rest of the festivities July 2 and 3 – more info at [www.facebook.com/richfieldredwhiteandbluedays](http://www.facebook.com/richfieldredwhiteandbluedays)



### Urban Wildland Run

Each summer, Richfield hosts the Urban Wildland Half Marathon and 5K – this year on Saturday, July 27, starting at 7 a.m. It's a fun event that funds the opportunity for students of Richfield schools to get hands-on education through the Wood Lake Nature Center. House of Prayer is helping sponsor the event and already has 7 folks committed to run! There are also many volunteer opportunities to hand out snacks/water, help runners check in, and more.

If you'd like to run, volunteer, or just cheer folks on, please reach out to Ben Whalen

([bwhalen@hoplc.org](mailto:bwhalen@hoplc.org) or 612-500-9523). More information is available at [www.urbanwildland.com](http://www.urbanwildland.com).



### The Veggie Table

Once again, this summer we will be handing out free produce and creating opportunities to meet neighbors at



our Veggie Table! We're happy this year to partner with VEAP's Mobile Pantry to provide the food and bring some from our very own House of Prayer community garden. The first Veggie Table will be on Tuesday, July 2, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the office of Season's Park Apartments (951 E 77th St.) and will happen again July 16, August 6 & 20, and September 3 & 17. Everyone is invited to attend for food or just for fun. If you'd like to volunteer and help with setup, handing out food, playing yard games with folks, or takedown, please contact Brent King at [brentking8157@gmail.com](mailto:brentking8157@gmail.com).

## Collaboration of Richfield ELCA Churches

### Summer Worship at Veterans Park in August



Our next opportunity for a collaboration outdoor worship will be Sunday, August 18 at 10am at Veteran's Park.

Mark your calendar to come worship with our friends from Woodlake and Oak Grove.

A picnic lunch will follow. Woodlake will provide the main dish, House of Prayer the salads/sides, and Oak Grove the dessert.

Watch for more information next month!

### Summer Collaboration Project

VEAP has a program called "Donate and Do," which involves collecting diapers over a certain period of time and then providing volunteers to repackage the diapers for distribution to families in need. The VEAP Collaboration Team, with a VEAP representative from each church – Oak Grove, House of Prayer, and Woodlake – has committed to this project. All three congregations will collect diapers from now until the end of September. The diapers can be any size and quantity. If you would prefer they be purchased by others, please contribute with a check made out to House of Prayer and designate "VEAP Donate & Do" in the memo line.

We will pick a Saturday in October for volunteers to meet at the VEAP warehouse to repackage the diapers for distribution. During this repackaging, VEAP gives the volunteers a tour of their facilities so we can see the whole operation and how they serve our neighbors in need. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, so plan to bring your whole family.

Thank you for your continued support of this awesome organization.



## Group Volunteering



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

(612) 866-8471

**E-mail:** [office@hoplc.org](mailto:office@hoplc.org)

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

**Pastors:** Ben Sandin, Senior Pastor  
Kelly Sandin, Associate Pastor  
Deanna Bassett, Pastoral Intern

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
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

Couples	Date	Years
<i>Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)</i>		
Bob & Heather Daggett	07/16/1994	25 years
Wayne & Gretchen Swenson	07/22/1967	52 years
Christopher & Amanda Mulfinger	07/25/2009	10 years
Steve & Ann Barnes	07/26/1958	61 years
Doug & Carol Larson	07/28/1984	35 years



**35 Years Ago:** 1984 Diane Frosig, Office Coordinator, posting bulletins from “Traveling Congregation” members.