

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Is a gathering of God's people who value:

Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

Beyond Our Control

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:6-8



Pastor Ben Sandin

In the wake of Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples were consistently confused and bewildered. They could hardly keep up with what Jesus was saying and doing, much less comprehend the meaning behind it all. Jesus' final resurrection appearance to the disciples was no different. He appears to them and they believe he has come to usher in the end times. Instead, Jesus tells them they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit and be sent out as witnesses to all the ends of the earth. Jesus then ascended into heaven and would not appear to them again. The primary challenge the disciples needed to overcome was their desire to be in control. They wanted to know what would happen next, but they only received a mission with an unspecified time frame.

Like the disciples, we too want to be in control. We would often chose a definitive answer that is negative (at least then we can deal with it) than be left without answers. Uncertainty drives us

crazy because we are under the illusion we can control most things in our life. We then find ourselves struggling to control the uncontrollable, God lets us know our role is to be faithful to our call rather than seek answers to all our questions. For the disciples, this meant sharing the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection with as many people as possible. They didn't need to know God's

overarching plan or when Christ would return. Instead, they are told they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will enable them to share God's love with the world.

As a congregation, we would do well to heed these words from Jesus. We have been given the power of the Spirit to bear witness to God's work in our lives. We have been planted in Richfield and have the opportunity to be agents of God's grace and mercy for the community. Do we know what the future will hold for House of Prayer? We will continue to be a strong, viable congregation in the years to come? These questions are beyond are control and not easily answerable. What we do know is we have the Spirit and a calling to serve and love. Let us focus our hearts and minds on these fundamentals and trust God with the rest. Grace and Peace,

God's Peace to you!
Pastor Ben

Annual Congregational Meeting

House of Prayer's Annual Meeting will be held **Wednesday, June 12 at 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Please **RSVP for dinner** on the attendance card in the bulletin or by calling the Church Office at 612-866-8471.

The booklet of reports and other meeting materials will be emailed to members, posted on the church website, a few copies will be available to pick up at the Information Desk the first week of June.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Thinking Outside the Box



House of Prayer Lutheran Church is a gathering of God’s people who value:
Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness

People who know me well, would say I’m risk averse. It’s true, I don’t like conflict. I like to think that this is a great quality to have in a leader. I’m open to new ideas and with the help of others, try to think outside the box. I listen to everyone’s input. I try to make informed decisions using the Holy Spirit to guide me. We as HOP leaders have been doing a lot of this kind of thinking lately.

Scott Wright

As the congregation and the building ages, the leadership will continue to have to make tough decisions. Where should our resources be spent? On maintaining a building or outreach to members and surrounding community? Southview Seventh Day Adventists have been wonderful renters. Very friendly, cooperative, and respectful of the building. They approached us 5 or 6 years ago about buying our building. We said we weren’t interested in selling. They approached us again about 2 years ago to rent and use our wonderful building. In the meantime, they’ve been looking for a building to purchase. They haven’t had any luck and they have become comfortable at House of Prayer. They’ve said they love the space and see themselves developing their congregation and mission in this community. Leaders from both congregations have had a few conversations about possible ways we might work together in mission and in our building. We would never give up our ability for the HOP congregation to utilize the building; however, if we could figure out a way for Southview to take a more active role in the day to day care and maintenance, ongoing improvements, and financial responsibility for the building, that might not be a bad thing. If you haven’t been here on a Saturday, I invite you to come. You’ll see that they have 350-400 members using all the upstairs space in the building. It’s awesome to see the excitement and activity in the building.

Make sure to be at the annual meeting on Wednesday, June 12th, to hear more about our conversations. Dinner is at 6 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30. Scott Wright, Congregation President

Monthly Finance Report

We have had a good April and fiscal year to date from a financial perspective at House of Prayer. Thank you for your continued generosity and giving. We look forward to the Annual Report and Annual Meeting on June 12 to give a more detailed look at this year’s finances and what we expect in the year ahead.

	<u>April Financials</u>			
	<u>Apr 2019</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Revenue				
Offerings	62,936	55,000	478,218	470,000
Rental Income	7,545	6,140	66,385	59,480
Ministry Income	4,150	560	10,583	5,400
Total Revenue	74,631	61,700	555,186	534,880
Total Expenditures				
	57,602	55,482	544,430	555,878
Net Operating Revenue	5,334	6,218	10,756	-20,998



Jo Shoberg,
Financial Administrator & Charley Simonson,
Treasurer

Around House of Prayer

64 Years of Confirmation Class Photos

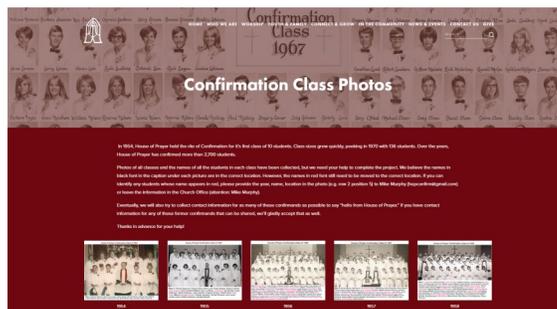
In 1954 House of Prayer held the rite of Confirmation for its first class of 10 students. The class sizes quickly swelled in concert with the rapid growth of House of Prayer Church, peaking in 1967 with a class of 135 and in 1970 with a class of 136 students. Over the years, House of Prayer has confirmed a total of 2,772 students. How many do you think you can recall?

We have been working to reconstruct the history of those classes. Photos of all classes and the names of all students in each class have been collected. We have been attempting to add a caption to each photo that identifies each student in each class. Many are done, but many are left! We will need your help to complete this project. The History page under the Who We Are section for House of Prayer's website now has the photos of all classes available online at <https://hopcl.org/history>. We believe the names in black font in the caption under each picture are in the correct location. However, the names in red font still need to be moved to the correct location.

As you look through the photos, if you can identify any student whose name appears in red font please provide the year, name, location in the photo (e.g. row 2 position 5) to Mike Murphy (hopconfirm@gmail.com) or just jot down the information and leave it at the information desk or in the House of Prayer office (attention: Mike Murphy).

Eventually, we will also try to collect contact information for as many of these confirmands as possible and contact them to say "hello" from House of Prayer. So, if you happen to have contact info for any of these former confirmands that can be shared – we'll gladly accept that as well.

Thanks for any help you can provide. Mike Murphy



Ladies Dessert Luncheon



Save the date for the Ladies Dessert Luncheon on Monday, September 9, at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Janet Letnes Martin, author of *Growing Up Lutheran* and inspiration for Church Basement Ladies musicals. Contact Ellen Thompson at etgrambug@q.com or Mary Markes at mmarkes@frontiernet.net with questions.

House of Prayer Fellowship

Thanks to Noel Sagness, Steve Barnes, and the leadership team for bringing many great topics and guest speakers for the House of Prayer Fellowship Speaker Series. The speaker series will resume in the Fall. Please contact Noel Sagness (612-866-0833) if you have questions or would like to be part of the planning team.

Summer Outdoor Worship Service at HOP

Join us on Sunday, June 16th at 10:00 am for a combined liturgical and ReFuel worship service; there will only be one service this Sunday. We'll enjoy worship outside on the Chicago Avenue lawn. In case of bad weather, we'll move inside.

Indoor picnic lunch will follow in the Parish Hall.



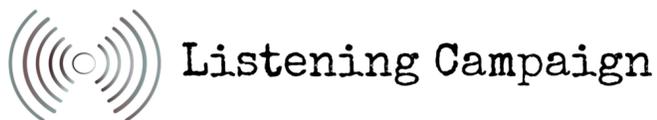
**Outdoor
Worship
Service**

Around House of Prayer

You Spoke, We Listened

Over the past few months, Pastor Ben, Pastor Kelly, and Ben Whalen have conducted a listening campaign at House of Prayer. Our goal was to intentionally take time to listen to the congregation and learn. We specifically wanted to know how people were doing connecting to one another within the congregation, connecting to God in their spiritual life, and connecting to our community as a congregation. We conducted 40 interviews with members from a wide spectrum of age, gender, and length of membership. This listening campaign has been and will be incredibly helpful in our discernment of next steps in our mission and ministry.

We invite everyone to join us (whether you were interviewed or not) to hear the results of the listening campaign and be part of shaping our direction moving forward. We will have a Listening Campaign Dinner on June 19th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a catered meal so please RSVP with Pastor Ben bsandin@hoplc.org or the church office.



Former Bishop Chilstrom's Visit

Former Bishop Herb Chilstrom visited House of Prayer on Sunday, May 12. We so enjoyed hearing Bishop Chilstrom's sermon about Tabitha (also known as Dorcas), a saint of the early church known for her generosity and witness to others. He reflected on women in his own life that have encouraged him in his faith and helped him find his spiritual path.



He also shared insights about writing books which has been an unexpected retirement venture for him. Thanks for coming Bishop Chilstrom!

Water: Make A Difference *From the Creation Care Team*

Minnesota is known for its abundance of water resources. However, the quality of Minnesota's lakes, streams and wetlands is threatened by increasing development and pollution. When it rains, the storm-water that runs off driveways, lawns, houses, churches and parking lots can carry pollutants like oil, paint and chemicals down storm sewers and into nearby waterways.

We can make a difference by steps we take to reduce runoff and protect our water resources and wildlife habitat such as: **Fertilize Smart:** making certain that the fertilizer is phosphorus-free. **Grass and Leaves:** should be left on the lawn so that they don't end up in storm sewers eventually feeding algae and other aquatic plants. **Use Chemicals Wisely:** look for natural remedies to control weeds and pests.

Plant a Rain Garden: that captures, cleans, and infiltrates rainwater that would otherwise run off your property. **Adopt a Storm Drain:** keeping neighborhood storm drains free of leaves, seeds and grass clippings. Each of us can make a difference and have an important impact on reducing runoff and protecting our water resources.



House of Prayer Creation Care Team's Mission Statement: As Christians we recognize our biblical responsibility to care for creation; we work together to encourage, educate, inspire members and neighbors to join in protecting and caring for God's creation.

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 if you have questions.



Children & Youth Calendar

- 6/9: First Summer Sunday with Mindy
- 6/16: Outdoor worship at House of Prayer with cookout lunch
- 6/23-6/29: High School Mission Trip to Chicago



First Communion

Congratulations to Jamie Mennicke, Mason Myers, and Rachel Bonebrake on their Confirmation last month! We celebrate this important milestone and will continue praying for their ongoing faith journey.



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
 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.

Chicago Mission Trip

Later this month, 8 of our high schoolers and 3 adults will head to Chicago, Illinois, to join Serve Boldly for a week of service projects and learning more about organizations doing good work in Chicago. Please pray that they have safe travels, meet new people, grow closer together, and encounter God through this experience! Many thanks again to all the Shareholders who invested money to make this trip possible.



In the Community

Fourth of July Parade

Richfield LOVES to celebrate the Fourth 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. If you'd like to walk in the parade with us the afternoon of Thursday, July 4th, we would welcome you AND give you a free House of Prayer tee-shirt to wear. It's a great opportunity to hand out candy, spread the word about what our congregation does, and celebrate with the community.

Please contact Ben Whalen if you'd like to join us (bwhalen@hoplc.org or 612-500-9523).



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 or 612-500-9523). More information is available at 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 Street) and will be held the first and third Tuesdays of July, August, and September. 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 brentgking8157@gmail.com.

Christians Clean Up Christian Park

Many thanks to everyone from House of Prayer and from Southview Seventh Day Adventist Church who came out last month to help clean up litter at Christian Park. It was a great opportunity for our two congregations to meet one another while helping care for God's creation and the green space of our community. We'll continue to care for this park since we "adopted it" through Richfield Parks & Recreation. We also have more opportunities this summer to connect with Southview so stay tuned for those!



Collaboration of Richfield ELCA Churches

Unity in Diversity Sermon Series



The Bible is multicultural. Jesus is multicultural. But how are we allowing the Spirit to move us towards different people, bringing us to new life? In this sermon series, Intern Deanna Basset, will examine the kingdom of God especially as it relates to unity without uniformity, and diversity without fragmentation. Join us each Wednesday in June in Woodlake Lutheran Church's chapel, 7525 Oliver Avenue South, at 8:00 a.m. for the Matins worship service.

Summer Worship at Veterans Park

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.



In the Community

Affordable Housing Update

As you may know, several of our members help lead or have worked with the Richfield Community Housing Team (RCHT) in their efforts to address the affordable housing crisis in our community. The team recently worked with VEAP to complete a survey of renters – more info below – and will soon be kicking off a renewed outreach effort to connect with more Richfield renters to hear their experiences and work together. A few important statistics from the VEAP survey are worth sharing. These are based on feedback from 78 renters living in Richfield:

- The median rent reported was \$890 per month
- Median cost for utilities was \$124 per month
- Median income was \$1,180 (annual income of \$14,160)
- Only 22% receive any kind of subsidy to help pay their housing costs
- 58% reported that their rent had gone up in the past year with the average increase being \$62.88/mo
- 43% are on a month-to-month lease (which means any month they could be given notice, with no cause, that their lease will not be renewed and they need to move out)
- 21% reported significant health issues related to their housing, with the most common answers being asthma and allergies (often due to mold)

These statistics highlight the importance of the work that VEAP is doing to provide food for families, assist with housing needs, and much more so THANK YOU to all members who support VEAP. We're proud to have them as a mission partner. It also highlights the need for policy change at the local and regional level to address the lack of dignified, affordable housing. If you'd like to join the RCHT and be part of that push for change, please contact Paula Hall (paula@ecosmarte.com).

Vintage Baseball - 1860's Style with the History Center

June 22nd, 1:00pm - Lyndale Fields, 6901 Lyndale Ave S, Richfield. Take your peanuts and cracker jacks to 1860 as the Quicksteps team plays baseball with the old-time rules. No gloves, no sliding, no bunting. Join the History Center and the team as we watch (or play) as they would in 1860!

<http://www.richfieldhistory.org/programsevents/vintage-baseball-1860s-style/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/302431607078341/>

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

(612) 866-8471

E-mail: office@hoplc.org

Website: www.hoplc.org.

Pastors: Ben Sandin, Senior Pastor
Kelly Sandin, Associate Pastor
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 for submissions. Any questions can be directed to Cara Wright, Director of Operations & Communications, at cwright@hoplc.org.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Couples	Date	Years
<i>Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)</i>		
Bill & Cheryl Hjortaas	06/07/1969	50 years
Bob & Norita Johnson	06/08/1957	62 years
Roger & Donna Paulsen	06/10/1955	64 years
Dick & Janice Kiehl	06/16/1956	63 years
Don & Antoinette Tuffley	06/17/1961	58 years
Scott & Cara Wright	06/17/1989	30 years
Craig & Stephanie Hatfield	06/27/2009	10 years
Don & Dorothy Wiecher	06/30/1951	68 years

MEMORIAL SERVICES in May

Andy Henrickson	05/16/2019
Myrtle Wickstrom	05/21/2019
Beverly Bolsinger	05/29/2019



10 Years Ago: 2009 House of Prayer Chicago Avenue entrance.