

Leadership Ministry Team Update

Luther Park Camp Shower Fun / Reflection



*Caity Wright
President*

The Camp Shower at Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center in Danbury, Wisconsin was lots of fun! Camp has always been a very special place to me and my family, so I love any chance I get to go back. This event was extra fun because (as camp usually does) it combined work and fun! Service and fellowship are two of camp's main pillars, and I think it's so important to incorporate that into as many aspects of our lives as possible.

We started the morning by doing work projects and starting to get camp ready for summer! It is so rewarding to do projects knowing there will be a direct benefit to campers and staff this summer. Luther Park is always incredibly appreciative of volunteers, which also makes working fun! As I mentioned, camp means a lot to me. As a camper, a staff member and now a board member, I'm proud to say that I've impacted camping ministry in more ways than one, and seeing the tangible benefit of the service I do is so important to me. One of the things that drew me to camp and having that be my primary avenue towards feeling closer to God is being in his creation. Whether it's a nice view of Lake 26 or a nice walk through the woods (not during prime tick season of course), adventuring around Luther Park's campus on the weekends is one of my favorite things.

I also should mention that with Earth Day approaching, it was that much more important for me and my family to get into nature, help preserve the outdoor settings that make camp so special and do our part to contribute to keeping Earth beautiful.

After a delicious lunch and a few more work projects, it was time for games! We played guess the camp song (which turned into a camp song sing-along, of course) and camp bingo! I saw many of my fellow Luther Park board members as well as friends of mine and the camp alike. Luther Park brings so many different personalities together in such wonderful ways. I won't ever get used to seeing people of all ages do all the different dances and actions to the camp songs and it never gets old! In my many years working with camp, I've seen people of different ages, different backgrounds, and sometimes different continents. What makes everyone come together in a wonderful and fun way is the impact felt throughout those age gaps and language barriers. It's God's love and God's creation that unites all of us and allows to connect with all God's children.

The Camp Shower was a great mixture of making work fun, taking time to be in God's (slightly chilly!) beautiful creation, and fellowship. In these "off peak" times of the church calendar, where Easter has passed us by and Christmas feels like a distant future, it's important for us to continue connecting with God in whatever way we see fit. For me, that's getting in the car, driving over to Wisconsin, and spending some time in one of my favorite places on Earth.



Leadership Ministry Team Update

Monthly Finance Report

March Financial Summary:

REVENUE:

In March, revenues covered all expenses, save for a few hundred dollars. Year to date offerings are below budget by \$30,380. Last year we had several one-time memorial offerings totaling \$20,000. Surplus rent revenue of \$26,942 compared to budget is currently offsetting the offering decreases.

EXPENSES:

March expenses continue to be below budget expectations, with the benefit of the continued open Human Resources positions, and savings in utilities and property costs. Year to date expenses are less than budget by \$81,901.

YEAR-TO-DATE:

Fiscal year-to-date operating surplus is \$2,073 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$72,941. A change in the dedicated funds was an interfund transfer between Preschool and Facilities. A \$4,376 transfer was made to reimburse Facilities for nursery carpet and asbestos abatement expense paid in part by Facilities Funds in December 2023. Combined Dedicated funds have increased \$9,775 year to date.

We are busy preparing the 2024-2025 budget. The LMT will review it in the May meeting. If you wish to have more details contact: Patti Benson pbenson@hoplc.org, or me at sara@anrias.com.

Sara Barnaby, HOP Treasurer

Receipts & Expenses

| | February 2024 |
|--|----------------------|
| Revenues | |
| Offering - online & plate | 31,919 |
| Rental Revenue | 12,164 |
| Preschool Tuition | 8,741 |
| TOTAL Operating Receipts | 52,824 |
| Expenses | |
| Donations to Outreach Partners | 3,223 |
| Human Resources & Ministry Programming | 36,614 |
| Building Maintenance & Utilities & Admin | 10,887 |
| TOTAL Expenses | 50,724 |
| REVENUES MINUS EXPENSES | \$ 2,100 |

Cash Funds Available

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Cash | 64,857 |
| Operating Reserves | 223,712 |
| Dedicated Funds | 196,998 |
| TOTAL | \$ 485,567 |

Stewardship Sunday Thank You & Reminder

Thank you for the great pledge response on HOP's Stewardship Sunday held April 28th! We are making good strides and are currently at 60% of our last year's pledge total.

We know a number of you are still planning to make a pledge to support the many ministries of HOP, so keep sending in your cards, make your pledge online at our website <https://hoplc.org/give>, or call / email Patti with your information at pbenson@hoplc.org, 612-882-3158 ext. 4.



Around House of Prayer

Pastor Korla

Hi, I'm Pastor Korla! I am here and I want to hear from you. While I settle in, my work hours will consistently be:

Tuesdays 10a-4p
Wednesdays 10a-4p

I'll also be available outside those times by appointment, and I will be around on Sundays about half the time. The get ahold of me to talk or to schedule a visit you can call or text me at 612-682-3162 or email me at kmasters@hoplc.org. We can visit in your home, at the church, or out in the community.

Card Ministry



If you're looking for a fun, creative activity that brightens someone's day, come join us for Card Ministry on May 8th from 10:00-11:30 am. We meet in Classrooms 1-2. Usually, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, but May 8th will be our last meeting before a summer break. We will resume Card Ministry in September.

We also sell cards on the last Sunday of the month, from September through April. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact Nancy Bjornstad at ne_bjorn.6203@yahoo.com.

Pastor Korla Welcome Sunday

It was wonderful to have cake and lively conversation as we welcomed Pastor Korla Masters as our Minister for Congregational Care at House of Prayer. At each worship service, we got to hear a little bit about Pastor Korla and many people got to have conversations with her beginning to make connections that we know will grow in the years ahead. In the weeks ahead Pastor Korla will be leading worship, preaching, and we'll celebrate her official Installation on Sunday, June 2. If you want to connect with Pastor Korla, you can call her at 612-866-8471 ext. 5, or by email at kmasters@hoplc.org.



Around House of Prayer

Music Sunday



For the **9:30 service on Sunday, May 5**, the HOP musicians will gather for Music Sunday, in celebration of God's glorious gift of

music. The HOP Winds and Hand Bell Choir will play a variety of instrumental music, including hymn settings for the organ, instruments, and the congregation.

The combined HOP Adult Choir & Woodlake Choir will lead the singing, as well as offer special music for the festival day. A highlight of the service music will be our earlier commissioned arrangement by Mark Sedio of the hymn, How Shall I Sing That Majesty, combining all the ensembles and congregation. All are invited to join us for this special worship experience filled with wonderful music. Come help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

If you have any questions, or want to sing with the choir, please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at rhansonweber@hoplc.org, or 612-866-8471.

Introducing Nathan Orcutt Assistant Director HOP Brass

I am a graduate of Jefferson high school where I was involved with jazz bands, concert bands, pep bands, orchestra, and was the drum major of the marching band after being on the drumline for four years. I am a current music education student at the university of Minnesota where I also play quad/tenor drums on the drumline. My experience in conducting and organizing musical groups come from leadership in the Jefferson bands as well as my experience in advising and organizing a drumline. My mom is Jan Root and her siblings are Vicki, Lisa, and Palmer Jr... Palmer and his wife Pam, and Lisa are still members. Another fun fact is that I always show up to church in my grandma's car. Thanks! Nathan

** A fun fact is that Nathan's grandmother was Loretta Root who was a long-time member of House of Prayer and was a most dedicated choir member and bell ringer. Nathan and his family would worship at House of Prayer on special occasions over the years and it was on Christmas Eve two years ago that he heard the brass and became a member of HOP Brass. We are so excited to have him join us not only as a player but also as a conductor.



Pentecost, Bluegrass, Confirmation, OH, MY!!

Sunday, May 19, we'll join with our collaboration partners at Woodlake for one worship service at 10am at Woodlake Lutheran Church. Andy Pokel, Woodlake's Minister of Music, is pulling together a bluegrass band to lead the worship service as we celebrate Pentecost together AND we'll have three of our 9th graders Affirming their Baptism on that day as well!

We'll share a potluck meal after worship, so bring a dish to share and even wear red if you feel so inclined. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org.



Around House of Prayer

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, April 28, House of Prayer welcomed two new members during worship and fellowship time! We are very excited that Carol and Andrea have joined HOP!

Carol Farnham

I was born and raised in South Minneapolis. I worked twenty-nine years for the J.C. Penney Company. I am now retired. I enjoy working on 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles and reading historical novels. I also enjoy playing board games and look forward to the Friday afternoon game days.



In 1981 I joined Hope Lutheran Church and was a member there until it closed in 2020. Pastor Eric was our closing pastor at Hope. I started coming to HOP because of Pastor Eric. As I got to know the people of HOP, I felt very welcome. The music, the message, and the warmth of the members are what drew me to this church. For this, I say "Thanks be to God!"

Andrea (Andy) Myerson Schulz

My name is Andrea Myerson Schulz and I was born in Oshkosh Wisconsin, where I lived for about a month. Living within a naval family afforded me the opportunity to live and travel both domestically and internationally. I am currently retired after working for the airline industry for much of my professional life. I enjoy gardening, reading, and continuing to feed my gypsy heart with as much traveling as possible.



I am grateful to the Lord (And the Wrights), for helping me find my new church home and I look forward to spending time getting to know and experience HOP.

Game Meet-Up

Do you love card and board games? Want to learn some new ones or play old favorites?

Join Dave and Sara From 1:30 to 4:00 pm on Friday May 3rd in the Narthex. Come in the door with the awning,



We will have games to play, but you can bring your own. It is your responsibility to keep track of your games. Covered drinks are allowed.

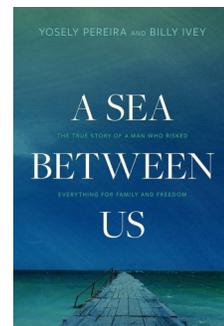
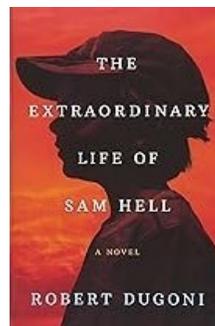
Want to take the bus?

77th St E & Chicago Ave S
Stop Number: 48623 Route 540

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Barnaby at anriasingames@gmail.com.

Book Discussion Group

House of Prayer Book club readers will meet on May 2nd at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room to discuss *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell: A Novel* by Robert Dugoni.



Book Club will not be meeting in the summer, but will resume in September to discuss *A Sea Between Us*, by Yosely Periera and Billy Ivey, and *Waiting For Snow in Havana*, by Carlos Eire. For questions, contact Sandy Williams at srwillms70@hotmail.com.

Around House of Prayer

Creation Care Team

April: Think Before You Throw Month

Thanks to the Creation Care Team (Karen Steenson, Mary Markes, Christine Barneson, Jean Robbins, Elayne Gilhousen) Cara Wright, Steve Pierson, and Pastor Eric for a great month highlighting our theme: "Think Before You Throw." The Creation Care Team was very busy this Spring and worked hard to accomplish these goals:



New Bins

- Applied for and received a \$3,000 Hennepin County Recycling Grant for new bin stations,
- Standardized 3-bin stations / bags,

Replace Outdoor Dumpsters

- Worked with Republic Services to replace trash / recycling dumpsters with clear labeling,
- Reduce / refund contamination fees
- Lock recycling dumpster to prevent misuse

Focus on Education

- Weekly "Trash Talk" from Pastor Eric at worship services; including Blessing of the Bins,
- Weekly "Trash Talk" features in E-News & Community News,
- New Signage / bulletin boards in the Narthex,
- Printed recycling / organics handouts at the Information Desk,
- Earth Day Table Display "Planet vs. Plastics"
- 90% Trash Free Lenten Suppers with Collaboration partner, Woodlake Lutheran Church.
- Training Sessions with HOP Rental Partners who share our building spaces.

Contact Cara Wright at cwright@hoplc.org with questions about the Creation Care Team.



House of Prayer Preschool Closing

Following the resignation of House of Prayer Preschool Director, Nicole Olson. LMT appointed a team to explore the future of House of Prayer Preschool. Team members included Betsy Paradise (Human Resources Ministry Leader), Andry Jurcich (Congregational Development Leader), Sara Barnaby (Treasurer), Nicole Olson (Pre-School Director), Cara Wright (Director of Administration), and Pastor Eric Luedtke (Senior Pastor).

Based upon due diligence in posting the Director job position, having conversations with community preschool leaders, and reflecting on the challenges highlighted by Nicole about best practices in operating HOPP, LMT has heavy heartedly arrived at the conclusion that the most faithful course of action is to close House of Prayer Preschool in May after the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Nicole Olson will continue to be employed at House of Prayer through July 31, 2024, in order to:

1. Engage the process necessary to officially close the license of House of Prayer Preschool with the State of MN
2. Organize classroom resources and supplies to determine which items can be sold, donated to other organizations, utilized by House of Prayer, or otherwise repurpose.

Plans are underway for a Service of Holy Closure for House of Prayer Preschool and a celebration of Nicole's ministry as PreSchool Director on Sunday, June 9, 2024, as part of the 9:30 worship service.

If you have any questions, please reach out to LMT president Caity Wright (caitywright13@gmail.com) or Senior Pastor Eric Luedtke (eluedtke@hoplc.org).



RALY, Youth, Children and Family

RALY Recap



April ended with a bang of great activities! On April 3, 10 youth played Hide and Seek at House of Prayer. This is one of our youth's favorite activities of the year as the church provides so many great hiding spots! April 10, 7 youth showed up to do service projects at House of Prayer. We weeded the islands in the parking lot to make way for new and beautiful flowers. April 17,

we had a Wednesday off, but we were back on April 24, for a trip to the Mall of America and Moose Mountain.

RALY Upcoming Events

- **May 1 Grab Bag Games** (6:00-7:30, Dinner Provided) – Do you like youth group games? What about an evening of ONLY games? Come join us at House of Prayer for an evening of fun!
- **May 8 Park Clean Up** (6:00-7:30, Dinner at the Park) – RALY loves to serve the community, and have some fun along the way! On May 8th we'll have a picnic at Christian Park (6900 Bloomington Ave S, Richfield, MN 55423) and follow that up with a clean up activity. Please plan for pickup and drop-off to be at Christian Park this day! If you need a ride, please contact Pr. Eric Luedtke (eluedtke@hoplc.org) as Pr. Neal is off that day.
- **May 15 End of Year RALY Party** (6:00-7:30, Dinner Provided) – Let's celebrate an amazing year of fun together. Come to House of Prayer as we play games, eat cake (probably), and reminisce on all the things we've done this year!
- **May 22 No RALY**
- **May 29 MN Lynx Game** (6:00pm, Dinner *NOT* provided) – Our final RALY event of the year will be a trip to a Minnesota Lynx game! We will meet at House of Prayer at 6:00pm and plan to depart by 6:15pm and estimate a return to House of Prayer by 10pm. To attend, you must register using this code. Tickets are \$30, full scholarships are available! **Registration deadline is May 20th.**



MN Lynx Registration

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Neal at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org, or Pastor Eric at eluedtke@hoplc.org.

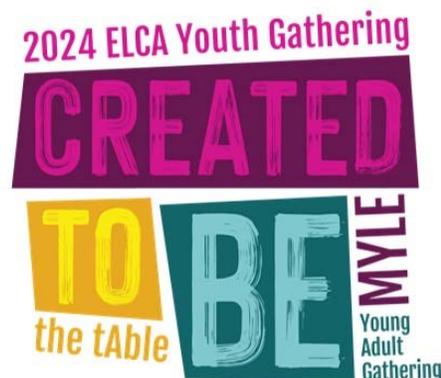
ELCA Youth Gathering

1,200 miles one way ... in two vans ... 13 teenagers and 5 adult leaders from 6 congregations ... we're New Orleans bound on Sunday, July 14.

Over the past few months our group has been meeting together to get to know each other and learn about some of the themes that will come together at the ELCA Youth Gathering.

We're excited for the trip and we know we can use your prayer support for safe travel, patience with one another, good weather, an opportunity to be shaped and molded by what we experience. Will you commit to praying for us?

For more information about the ELCA Youth Gathering, contact Pastor Eric eluedtke@hoplc.org or 612.866.8471 ext. 2.



RALY, Youth, Children and Family

House of Prayer Preschool

What a year! We have just finished month 8 of preschool and I recently sat down with the children and asked what their favorite part of the day was. "Playing with lincoln logs," "reading books," and "playing play dough" were all heard many times, but I also heard "seeing my friends," "playing with my friends," and "eating snack." This has been the sweetest group of children to come together and form a community this year.

While I typically do feel a bit down in May knowing that the end of the year will come, it feels especially bittersweet this year, knowing that the end of time at HoPP will come this summer. It is sad to know I'm leaving these families and perhaps won't see them again; however, it's been amazing to watch them grow and learn and mature - they are more than ready for wherever they go next. We can't wait for all the fun things we plan to do with our last month and will end the year on May 31st - check the weekly E-News and/or Facebook page to see what we'll be up to! If you have questions about HoPP please contact Nicole at nolson@hoplc.org.



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

RALY VBS is happening again this summer and we are excited to invite you and your kiddos to join us for another week of games, crafts, Bible stories, songs, and more!

Who: All kids currently in PreK-5th grade

- Youth in grades 6 and up are invited to apply as a VBS youth leader! Youth leaders may contact Pastor Neal at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org to apply.
- All young children must be potty-trained to attend VBS

When: July 8-11th

- 5:00-5:30pm - Family Meal
- 5:30-7:30pm - Programming

Where: House of Prayer Lutheran Church, No Cost!
(7625 Chicago Ave, Richfield, MN 55423)

How to Register: Fill out the form on the main page of the HOP website at hoplc.org. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org.



RALY, Children, Youth and Family

2024 Summer Stretch



Summer Stretch is an afternoon program focused on fun and fellowship! This program is for students entering 6th grade to 9th grade. It will run the same week as VBS, from July 8th to 11th. Tentative activities include bowling, mystery day, escape room, and vertical endeavors.

For questions, please contact Pastor Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org. Register on the main page of the HOP website at hoplc.org.

Sunday School

May is a month of many celebrations, and our Sunday School friends are looking forward to nicer weather to enjoy it all. This month we will gather at 10:30 am on Sunday, May 5th and May 12th (Mother's Day) to continue learning and sharing God's love for all people.



We will not meet at House of Prayer on Sunday, May 19th because of our joint Pentecost/Bluegrass Festival/Affirmation of Baptism celebration hosted at Woodlake Lutheran. We hope all our HOP friends will join us for the special service that morning at 10:00am, with a pot luck to follow. We will also be on break Sunday, May 28th for Memorial Day weekend. We pray for safe travels to everyone who may be on the road that weekend.

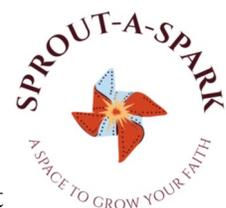
We also hope everyone is saving the date for our annual Ice Cream Sundae Sunday on June 2nd. This will be our last Sunday School meet up before summer break. Everyone is welcome to come craft a delicious treat! The Ice Cream Sundae bar will be set up in the Narthex at 10:30 am during Coffee and Donuts Fellowship. Please join the celebration of another successful Sunday School year! If you have any questions, contact Kristi Liu at kline010@umn.edu, or Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com.

Sunday School Calendar

May 5th—Sunday School at 10:30 am
May 12th – Sunday School at 10:30 am
May 19th—Pentecost Celebration Joint Worship Service at Woodlake Lutheran
May 28th—No Sunday School; Break for Memorial Day Weekend
June 2nd – Ice Cream Sundae Sunday at 10:30 am
July 8th – 11th: RALY VBS hosted at House of Prayer
June-August—Sprout-a-Spark during ReFuel Worship

Sprout-a-Spark: A space to grow your faith

Our special space for our youngest members continues to be a joyful experience Sundays during ReFuel. Children of all ages can gather at the just-right sized art table and engage in worship while letting their creativity flow. The generosity of HOP members to provide craft supplies and toys for this special ministry makes it possible to continue Sprout-a-Spark in tandem with Sunday School all year long. For information and to get involved with Children and Family Ministry at HOP, please contact Andry Jurcich at andryj@invisik.com.



Community Engagement

Simpson Housing Meals



On Tuesday, April 16, HOP's Simpson team prepared and served the evening meal at Simpson Housing. We served BBQ Ribs, Cornbread, Baked Beans, Salad, Quiche, Lemon Bites, and Lemonade. Once every month during the school year, we prepare and serve a meal at Simpson.

We'd love more volunteers! We always meet at House of Prayer and carpool, and we have a lot of fun! If you have any questions or want more information about [Simpson Housing Services](#) and how we connect with them, contact Leanne Hyde at maramom62@gmail.com, or Steve Pierson at stevepierson56@hotmail.com.

Upcoming dates to serve at Simpson are:

May 14, June 11

All are welcome to join us for this fun, community building, opportunity to serve. No previous experience needed! Contact Leanne Hyde at maramom62@gmail.com to serve.

Christian Park Clean-up Woodlake/Hop/RALY

House of Prayer friends and family spent time together on Sunday, April 21st, to clean up Christian Park. It was a lovely day and those who attended were grateful for the lovely weather. We made some new friends and collected nearly 2 full trash bags of debris – including a pizza box and several tennis balls rescued from the pond.

The water fowl and turtles will benefit greatly. Thank you to our faithful servants – Lida, Amy, Jessica, Quinn, Anna, and Kim.

There will be another opportunity to care for God's creation and tidy up Christian Park with RALY on Wednesday, May 8th, at 6:30 p.m., RALY youth will meet at Christian Park for a picnic at 6 pm, then join in the clean up.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com or Pastor Neal at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org.



LSS Benefit for Youth

Lutheran Social Service (LSS) is having their annual Benefit for Youth that celebrates all the ways that together, we are reaching further to support youth and families with the resources they need to live full and abundant lives. I am hosting a table and would like to have you join me.

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
Quincy Hall, Minneapolis
5:30 p.m. Registration and Social Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Program
Ticket price \$25

Please let me know if you would like to attend this event. Jean Robbins (952) 738-1704, or at jean7340@gmail.com



Richfield 4th of July Parade

The city of Richfield is bringing back the 4th of July celebration and parade, and we are going to have a float in the parade. We need people to help us decorate the float, and, people with creative ideas to join us as we put it all together. Please contact Kim Houle at wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com if you have ideas, or want to help!



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.

Pastor: Senior Pastor, Eric Luedtke

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In-Person Worship Services:
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
www.hoplc.org/recordings



The *Hi-Lines* is published by the House of Prayer staff and volunteers. Any questions can be directed to Cara Wright, Director of Administration, at cwright@hoplc.org, or Mary Weaver, Administrative Assistant, at mweaver@hoplc.org.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)

| Couples | Date | Years |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Don and Sue Burt | 5/5 | 57 |
| Harold and Cynthia Zarn | 5/15 | 53 |
| Rich and Jan Orcutt | 5/20 | 30 |
| Jeff and Marquerite Theile | 5/29 | 59 |
| Thomas and Ann Haffely | 5/30 | 54 |

MEMORIAL SERVICES

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Cal Jensen | 4/4 |
| Dorothy Wiecher | 4/29 |

A Look Back



1999 Group Shot