

HOUSE of PRAYER

Hi-Lines October 2009

Mission Statement:

A community in God called to learn ~ grow ~ support

October at House of Prayer

- * October 18th—Healing Service, 4:00 p.m.
- * October 25th—Dog Days , 11:30 a.m.
- * October 25th—Reformation Sunday



Reflections and Directions

As I write this, I see the signs of fall every day as I'm driving around. I'm having a hard time believing that this weekend will be the last weekend of summer. It seems as if

we were just winding down the program year, and now everything is back up and running at more or less full speed. It's fun to see the energy and enthusiasm of all involved. It feels good to see the renewed activity.

You've read that we will be beginning a process called Transformational Ministry on October 1. A handful of folk from House of Prayer, including Anne and Buzz Moen, our congregational president, will be going off to Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, Minnesota for four days of training. The process is going to help us focus on the changing world around us and our need to see how that affects our mission and our purpose. You've heard me say before that change is a constant in life and that attempts to control that change are illusory at best. We need to be able to recognize the changes in our situation and community to be able to best respond with a mission that serves us and the community around us. We can't control change, but we can be informed so that our responses aid us in our ministry.

Some things for us to consider as we move into this process:

Awareness. In the midst of change, where do you see or experience God?

Direction. Who are we? Why do we exist? What do we believe and highly value?

Where do we think we need to go? How do we intend to get there?

Compassionate living. How do we identify the living Christ in the choices we make? How do we live those choices out with integrity and compassion?

This process is going to be a process that we will use as a frame for the years to come. It's a partnership that includes all of us. The above questions aren't meant to be all-inclusive; they're just a priming of the pump so we can tap into some "living water" to give us life in the process. This should be fun and energizing.

A couple of administrative type notes:

Parking lot is near completion; striping should occur in the next couple of weeks.

Finances remain steady. Our income is meeting our expenses. The treasurers will give an update on October 18 at both services.

We have a couple of lighting issues in both parking lots that are being worked on, as well as a couple of others inside the building.

The Interior Design Team and the Support Ministry Team are working on some plans for a new stove in the Parish Hall kitchen. Details will be available soon.

We are blessed with so many gifted folk who so generously give of their time and talents.....We are truly thankful!

Peace.....Chuck

Ministry Teams

ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Augsburg Adult Bible study continues through December 16. We meet in the Parish Hall at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday. A “Simple Supper” of tacos, lasagna, soup and sandwich, or pizza precedes the study. The cost of the meal is \$3.00. Pastor Chuck and Pastor Anne will be sharing leadership of the study based on “Covenant Communities.” A book is available for \$4.00.

Sunday morning forum meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The forum dates and topics are as follows:

October 4: Chaplain Linda Lund will lead a Bible study based on her experiences in healing at Augustana Home in Hastings.

October 11 and 18: Pastor Bob and Diane Johnson will lead a study and discussion on “Healing Touch Ministry.”

October 25: The Heritage Team will display pictures and documents celebrating the history of House of Prayer Church. Come and re-live old memories and learn about our past.

HEALING TOUCH MINISTRY

Can Lutherans accept and practice “Healing Touch Ministry”? We all know that healing miracles occurred when Jesus lived, but many believe the age of miracles is past. Many are also aware of the false teachings of TV “healer performances.” Martin Luther supported the practice of healing in the church, healing which brings into harmony body, mind and soul.

Pastor Bob writes in his research project that the “laying on of hands” and “anointing with oil” in visitation of the sick and in public services is needed. Pastor Bob and Diane Johnson bring us their biblical understanding and personal experiences in their ministry of “Healing Touch.” Come and learn from their two-part presentation.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OUTING

House of Prayer is participating in a service project with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, November 14. Further details will be available when we get closer to the event date. However, the work at the project site typically goes from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feel free to arrange a carpool from House of Prayer, or meet at the site, as you choose. Please dress appropriately for the weather, as work may be outside.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Paul Danielson at 952-920-0714, or e-mail him at paul.danielson@toro.com. Please provide an e-mail address, if available, so that directions and details on the outing can quickly be forwarded to you as they become available. This makes for a rewarding experience that can make a huge difference in people’s lives.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY TEAM

Small Group Leader Social, October 14

Do you know there are nearly 50 active small groups at House of Prayer?

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for all of the hard work that goes on throughout the year in the numerous small groups at House of Prayer. The Small Group Ministry Team will be serving tacos at 5:30 p.m. on October 14, after which we'd like to meet with the leaders of each group immediately afterwards. We will play some small group bingo, talk about any needs that my team can help with, and get a short update about your group. Hope to see you there!

All current or potential leaders of small groups, please RSVP by October 2!

Dustin Kasel, Chair
Small Group Ministry Team

LIFE TOGETHER MINISTRY TEAM

So little time -- so much to do! Our Fall Festival is one month away, and we are in need of volunteers -- volunteers who can give to their church by offering two hours of their time on November 7; volunteers who can give to their church by donating baked goods or beverages. We are in need of donations of Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Root Beer, bottled water, frosted brownies and pumpkin bars for the lunch on the day of the Festival. The beverages can be brought to the church office anytime, noting they are for the Fall Festival. The bars can be brought to the church kitchen on November 6 or November 7. Please deliver them uncut, or cut into three-inch squares. We are also looking for baked goods to sell for profit! All baked goods for the bake sale should be labeled and packaged in quantities of 6 or 12 (if applicable) and dropped off at church on November 6 or November 7.



Do you have something fabulous that you would like to donate to the raffle? We're looking for raffle items as well. The raffle items bring in a great profit and happy customers. It's a win-win situation. Contact Debbie Wessman at 952-432-2692. If you know of someone who might be interested in renting a table, please contact Sandy Oleson at 952-948-9131. Don't miss out! Mark your calendars for November 7 and join us at the Fall Festival . . . **Help! Shop! Eat!** . . . You'll be glad you did!

Women's Fellowship 3rd Annual Craft Workshop

This activity will be held on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the House of Prayer Fellowship Hall and kitchen. Morning coffee and lunch is included!

Please bring \$10 to cover the cost of supplies. We will be making *Gifts in a Jar* and *Gifts in a Mug* to donate to the Fall Festival craft table.

This does not require any crafting skills. We will be assembling the items in the jars and mugs.

We need wide-mouth quart canning jars. Please bring these to the church office before October 22.

DOG DAYS

The Evangelism Ministry Team and the Life Together Ministry Team are sponsoring *Dog Days*. Mark your calendar for "House of Prayer Dog Days" on Sunday, October 25.

For more information on joining the Life Together Ministry Team, contact Jill Larson at 612-861-6415 or lars1969@juno.com

EXECUTIVE MINISTRY TEAM

RETREAT

From October 1 through 4, members of House of Prayer Lutheran will be on a retreat to "officially" begin our journey into transformational ministry. We will be meeting with other congregations at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, Minnesota. Most of the members of House of Prayer's Transformation Ministry Team have been chosen. Our team includes Buzz Moen, congregational president; Kristin Tranby, staff representative; Gretchen Swenson, Leadership Ministry Team representative; Kim Houle and Larry Edlund, congregational representatives; and Pastor Anne as the pastoral representative.

As we begin this journey, a process that will take us three to five years to live into, we ask for your prayers for guidance, patience, and wisdom as we discern how our hands may be about God's work in our ever-evolving world. The Transformational Ministry Team will be sharing information with the congregation at all levels so that our life together is a witness to God's redeeming love in this part of east Richfield, Bloomington, and beyond.



Anne's Anecdotes

October is a beautiful month. Autumnal pallet of colors is diverse: golds, yellows, oranges, maple reds melded together with shades of browns and greens all under a canopy of clouds, sun, and stars in the night. October is the month of change. We move from late summer into early winter. We dress in layers welcoming the first days of coolness and enjoying the stolen moments of summer heat. The physical world that welcomes October 1 is usually full of color. By month's end, the hues of fall have faded and fallen to the ground. We now dress knowing that cooler air is a part of the day. The hope of warm comes with dreams of an early spring.

For us Lutherans, October is our heritage month. On October 31, we gather to celebrate Reformation Day, our birthday as a church. We dress in festive red to singing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and "Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," Hymns that are the cornerstone of our Reformation Heritage: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Word Alone.

As many of us learned in Confirmation as we memorized Luther's *Small Catechism*, there is one proverbial Lutheran question: *What does this mean?* There may be some who ask, "Why do we celebrate Reformation Sunday year after year? What's Reformation got to do with me!? Some old Lutheran or a quaint Lutheran chick might ask it this way: "What does the Reformation mean for me?"

Before I answer that question, let me draw your attention to Chuck's article. In his article, Chuck directs our reflections to the upcoming Transformational Ministry Retreat from October 1 to 4 when a handful of House of Prayer folks will go and get some good training on how to foster a process that sustains us as a congregation in the midst of all the changes we are experiencing. Chuck reminds us, "*We can't control change, but we can be informed so that our responses aid us in our ministry.*" He's right. We cannot control

change. Yet one way to live with change, to experience abundant life as things change, is to use a bit of wisdom that the first Lutheran churches understood as they changed the way they worshipped and talked about God.

What does the Reformation mean for me? Well, the wisdom of the Reformation is that we, as God's people, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are always *reforming to form*. Sometimes, when we hear the word *change*, we picture starting from nothing, scratch, *nada*. For us Lutherans, change is about attending to the stuff around us, listening with our ears of faith, asserting that God is present, agreeing that there will be differences among us, acting in faith, and then pausing again to ask, "What does this change mean for us now?"

When I think about the phrase, "reforming to form," my "Afraid-of-Change" meter moves from the Danger Zone into the Uncomfortable Zone. These three words, "reforming to form," ground me and ground us in our heritage. They give me the perspective of seeing the colors of God's creation that is always in the process of changing. Freed from the fear of change, it is certain that, in the midst of things that cannot be controlled, I will be able to see God's hands shaping each of us and our congregation into a reformed community, renewed and vital to do God's work with our hands.

I look forward to sharing what happens at the Transformational Ministry Retreat with you. Look for more to come. As you wait for the wisdom gleaned at this retreat, I invite you to experience many of the mission and ministry events possible at House of Prayer. Accepting the Spirit's invitation into our life together is one way to practice "reforming in order to form." If you are a senior, come to a Social Senior's event. If you are in need of a word of hope, come to one of the three adult forms about Healing. If you want to experience a contemplative worship service, come to the Service of Word and Healing on October 18. If you want to pass on the Reformation Heritage to our children, consider being a Sunday School teacher for just one Sunday. If you want just to experience God's transforming grace, come.

Living into the grace that is before us, Anne

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

MILESTONES

This year, we enhanced our Bible Milestone program by honoring both our third graders and three-year-olds with Bibles during worship. Third graders are Erik Larson and Johnathan Ongeri. Three-year-olds are Lucy Kern, Shayna Lemeiux, Tommy Freiheit, and Audrey Tanghe.

On October 1st, our current 10th Graders will take part in the Milestone "Stepping Behind The Wheel", and will be acknowledged in worship on October 4th.

Please take a look at the youth bulletin board for upcoming event information!

Blessings! Kristin and Laura

YOUTH AND FAMILY TEAM

Help us put *you* back into our YOUth program! Looking back, we had a busy summer, most notably, when 16 youth and four adults drove to San Francisco on their mission trip in August. A week later, the Vacation Bible School saw 102 kids, plus 60 adult and youth volunteers. Looking forward, we're not slowing down anytime soon!

If you have a couple hours a month you could spare, look our way! One of our biggest **needs** is adult volunteers. (Don't have kids? Not to worry - we have plenty!) Our new rotational Sunday School program is based around stations featuring music, art, drama, games, computer, cooking, science, and video. Read us your favorite Bible story, help to enhance the nursery program, take notes at a Youth and Family Ministry Team meeting, serve a meal with youth at Simpson shelter, or be an extra pair of eyes during the Wednesday night music or youth groups! The possibilities are endless - great for ages from one to ninety-nine! We'd love to have you. Please contact Laura Kasel at 612-876-2610, or at dustinlaurak@gmail.com.

Laura Kasel, Chair
Youth and Family Ministry Team

VEAP



Thank you to every one who donated school supplies, money or time to the VEAP Back-to-School Program.

This year, 3,266 children registered for the program. All of your help is greatly appreciated. You have made a positive influence in the lives of children in need. Thank you for helping them have the opportunity to start school with the supplies they needed!

House of Prayer has accepted the 2009 assignment for the Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) 'Build-a-Bag' project of 400 cans of corn.

People in our own community are experiencing the pain of hunger that touches the lives of children to the very old. VEAP helps support these folks during their time of need, and many times, with just a little help, they are able to get back on their feet to resume their normal lives. With the current economy, these times are more difficult than usual.

VEAP FACTS

Last month VEAP served over 6,400 individuals in the Food Pantry! VEAP is seeing larger households and more frequent visits than they have in the past.

According to the Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, evidence from recent research about child nutrition shows that, in addition to having a detrimental effect on the cognitive development of children, under-nutrition results in lost knowledge, brainpower, and productivity for the nation.

Hunger and malnutrition exacerbate chronic and acute diseases and speed the onset of degenerative diseases among the elderly. This not only leads to an unnecessary decrease in the quality of life for many older people, but also increases the cost of health care in the United States. National data for people ages 65 to 75 show that a majority are not consuming even two-thirds of the nutrients they need to stay healthy.

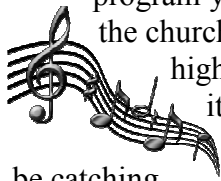
Hunger and insecurity about whether a family will be able to obtain enough food to avoid hunger also have an emotional impact on children and their parents. Anxiety, negative feelings about self-worth, and hostility towards the outside world can result from chronic hunger and food insecurity.

The challenge is on. Please bring your donation of canned corn to church on or before October 22, 2009. Thank you for your continued benevolence and generosity.

Music Department Notes

UPCOMING WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We've had a great first month in the new "program year" - tons of positive energy in the church and active engagement to a high degree. The new liturgy, with its variety of beautiful melodies and singable tunes, appears to be catching on fast. Does anyone else have a hard time getting these tunes out of your head throughout the week? The congregational singing has been strong – *kudos* to all of you!



Here is a projected schedule of music to expect for services in the near future:

October 4: 8:00 a.m., Adult Choir with violin; 10:30 a.m., House of Prayer Brass.

October 11: Hand bells at both services; Children's Ensemble at 10:30 a.m. (Everett Tranby baptism).

October 18: 8:00 a.m., special music (to be announced); 10:30 a.m., Adult Choir.

October 18: Healing service at 4:00 p.m.; various small groups and individuals providing music.

October 25, Reformation Sunday: 8:00 a.m., special music (to be announced); 10:30 a.m., Adult Choir and House of Prayer Wind Ensemble.

November 1, All Saints Sunday: Adult Choir at both services.

November 8: Hand bells at both services.

GRAND SYMPHONIC WINDS

The Grand Symphonic Winds (GSW), one of the premiere ensembles in the Twin Cities area, will be giving a concert here on October 17 at 7:00 p.m. The GSW has performed in the House of Prayer sanctuary in the past and was received with great acclaim. Further details on the event will be coming out as the date draws near. Please consider coming to support one of the area's truly fine musical groups!

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The fall schedule is officially in full swing, and House of Prayer is very energized. This year we are focusing on the ELCA tag line: "God's Work, Our Hands." For us, this means to study God's word and see how God wants us to use "our hands" to do His work in our congregation, community, and throughout the world.

The Worship Ministry Team and the Adult Education Team have joined together in promoting the theme of spiritual healing for the month of October. This theme will be emphasized at the adult education hours on October 11 and 18. Pastor Bob and Diane Johnson will lead these sessions. They will share with us what spiritual healing is and how we can use it in our everyday walk with God.

On October 18 at 4:00 p.m., there will be a special worship service devoted entirely to healing that will be open to all. Our pastors, music staff, and adult choir will lead the service. Please join us and bring your friends, relatives, and neighbors. All of us either know someone or are personally in need of physical, spiritual or emotional healing at some time in our lives. Mark your calendars. You will want to be at church for this!

Health issues regarding the current worldwide flu epidemic have also caused a lot of discussion. You have probably already noticed that we are taking precautionary steps in worship by encouraging people to find new, healthy ways to "share the peace." We have also decided to serve communion using individual cups rather than by intinction. We ask those assisting with communion to go to a station on either side of the choir loft and use hand sanitizer before coming to the altar. Annette Bray will be sending a letter explaining our new procedures to the communion assistant

SERVICE OF HEALING AT HOUSE OF PRAYER

The sanctuary of House of Prayer will be home to a "Service of Healing" later this month. The

service will be held on October 18 at 4:00 p.m., preceded by Adult Education sessions in the weeks leading up to the actual service. The service will be an opportunity for House of Prayer members, as well as anyone from the community, to feel the comfort of Christ. As the name suggests, the emphasis of the service will be on the healing (physical, spiritual, and emotional) of persons, their family members, friends, society as a whole, or any individual or group that is in need of the balm that is our God. It will be a reflective service, with ample time given to personal meditation, as well as an invitation to have someone pray with you in order to provide comfort.

Many of you may be unfamiliar with this type of service. You may have certain images in your head about what a "healing service" really entails. Visions of gyrating television evangelists, snake handlers, and other kinds of "hocus pocus" may be what come to mind. For that reason, House of Prayer is offering sessions during the Adult Education time in hopes of clearing up some of those potential misconceptions. These will be held at 9:15 a.m. on both October 11 and 18. The presenters are Pastor Robert and Diane Johnson, a husband and wife team with a wealth of experience in the healing ministry.

The service promises to be a very uplifting, powerful event. There are none of us who are not in the need of Christ's healing power on some level. You are encouraged to attend this service and be rewarded in this new and different way for House of Prayer.

SOCIAL SENIORS

The Social Seniors have planned a visit to the Richfield History Center at 6901 Lyndale Avenue South in Richfield on Wednesday, October 28. The tour of the Bartholomew House will begin at 10:00 a.m. Admission is \$2, which will be collected at the museum. Following the visit to the Richfield History Center, we will go to "Houlihan's" for lunch. Please sign up at the Information Desk so we will be able to inform the Richfield History Center and "Houlihan's" about the number who will attend. If you have any questions, contact Dorothy Bjurman at 612-866-5932.

FALL NEW MEMBER CLASSES

The dates for the fall 2009 New Member Series are November 8, 15, and 22. The topic for each date is as follows:

November 8: *Lutheranism 101*. This class is a brief overview of what we, as Lutherans, believe about God, worship, and our world. As Lutherans we ground ourselves in the Living Word of God as we go about our lives doing God's work with our hands. At this class, participants are given a book, *Baptize We Live*, by Dan Erlander. A light lunch is provided.

November 15: *House of Prayer 101* and Leadership Ministry Team Potluck. This class provides a brief overview of House of Prayer and all the mission and ministry opportunities that we live out as a community of faith. Members of the Leadership Ministry Team and the House of Prayer members who are sponsors to each new member or family join in a casual presentation. A potluck lunch is provided.

November 22: New Member Sunday (Christ the King Sunday). New Members are received at the 10:30 a.m. service.

If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a member of House of Prayer, please have the individual contact DeeDee Edlund or Pastor Anne at the church office.

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WREATH SALE

The boy scouts will be selling wreaths outside church starting the week before Thanksgiving. We will also have a pre-sale list at the Information Desk starting in October. Price is \$14.

Thank you. If you have any questions, call Steve Pierson on his cell phone at 612-508-6085.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

The **Hi-Lines** is published monthly by House of Prayer volunteers. **Editor Sandy MacKenzie** can be reached at sjmackenzie89@msn.com.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

| <u>Couples</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Dayle and Marge Erickson | October 30, 1948 |
| Marlin and Elayne Gilhousen | October 2, 1948 |
| Donald and Carolyn Johnson | October 4, 1952 |
| Russ and Charlotte Johnson | October 2, 1945 |
| Jonathan and Beth Lankey | October 23, 1999 |
| Neil and Norma Peterson | October 22, 1954 |
| Alvin and Francis Sheppard | October 5, 1946 |
| Willard and Vivian Stevens | October 1, 1949 |
| LaMar and Donna Wangen | October 30, 1954 |

BAPTISMS

Name: Garrett Edward James
Baptism: September 20, 2009
Parents: Greg and Tanya James
Sponsors Baptized: Ryan and Melody Sandell

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, October 1, and on Thursday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. The October book is *The Friday Night Knitting Club*, by Kate Jacobs, and the November book is *A Long Way Gone*, by Ishmael Beah. Everyone is welcome to participate.

HELP NEEDED

A call is extended to individuals who might be able to drive the bus for different functions, but also to pick up people occasionally for Sunday services. If you are able to respond to this call, please contact Pastor Chuck.