

# HOUSE of PRAYER

## Hi-Lines November 2011



*Mission Statement:*

*A community in God called to learn ~ grow ~ support*

### ....Offering Forgiveness....

**Bible Verse for November:** “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.

--Second Reading for the Eve of Thanksgiving, 2 Corinthians 9:11–14

**Prayer for November:** Holy God, you are generous and faithful, forgiving sins without number, welcoming all to the feast, giving us a place among the saints. Through the humble obedience of Christ Jesus, who went to the cross for our sake, You forgive us and make us whole. Your Spirit is at work in us, enabling us to live for one another. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



### Anne’s Anecdotes

In the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW), there are 127 songs that reference *forgiveness*. The titles range from songs of joy like *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* to

songs of deep need for God’s mercy as lifted up in the hymn, *Out of the Depths I Cry to You*.

What is your favorite hymn about forgiveness?

My favorite hymn about forgiveness is called *Healer of Our Every Ill* by Marty Haugen. (ELW hymn 612.) I like it because it ties together the truth about God’s healing that comes to us through grace, compassion, and presence. The refrain of the hymn is, “*Healer of our ev’ry ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*”<sup>\*</sup> These words ground me in God’s steadfast promise to be present in each of our pasts, presents, and futures. In the Triune God, it is impossible to ever be “north of hope.” (I borrowed this phrase from a title of a novel by Minnesota author, John Hassler.) The theme for our November worship services will be

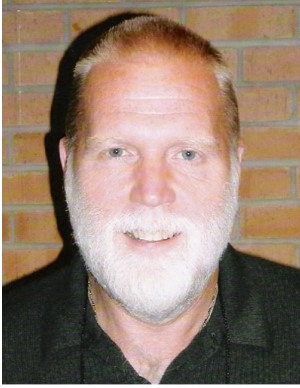
centered on God’s offering of forgiveness to us, and then, God’s empowerment of grace in our lives to extend and offer forgiveness to others. The healing power of the words “*you are forgiven*” are beyond measure. Forgiveness is a process. It can take moments. It can take years. Forgiveness is an individual experience. Forgiveness occurs within community.

My prayer for us in this traditional season of thanksgiving is to celebrate our practices of giving thanks to God robustly; to claim our rootedness in God that says we understand life to be more about abundance than scarcity. In addition to giving thanks to God for our full life, I pray that each of us can enter into the process, the gifting of forgiveness, which *gives us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow*.

Live in love and hope found in God’s name, through the cross of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Anne

<sup>\*</sup>*Hymn 612 is from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License #31429.*



## Reflections and Directions

As I write this we are over halfway through the month of October looking forward to celebrating Reformation Sunday and then All Saints Sunday.

Reformation reminds me of our roots as Lutherans, and as followers of Jesus. Martin Luther was a radical for his time. He believed that God had no filters or obstacles between us and God, that God always has and would always have a loving relationship us. He believed that works, education, power, wealth or status were no barriers or guarantee to that loving relationship. God created us in love and wanted nothing more than for us to accept that, unconditionally. Martin literally put his life on the line for that. He was excommunicated from the Church of the time and he was under a sentence of death had he been arrested by the authorities. He taught what he understood God was all about, especially in relation to Jesus and grace. He was about changing/reforming folks' perceptions about God and how to live that out in life.

Jesus was also a radical in his day...you might say the original! Jesus was the God in the flesh, the embodiment of love for a world gone crazy with the

need for getting it right. The people in Jesus' day were not villains, but people stuck with faulty perceptions that caused them problems. Jesus, through his teachings and personal encounters, was all about reformation. He desired that all know God the same as he did, as a loving and compassionate presence. He was ultimately made fun of and put to death, rather than accepted as the life changing agent he was born to be. We still can get stuck there, but then it's not about our perceptions but God's. We may not always know it, but God always has and always does love us. Radical indeed!

All Saints Sunday is for remembering. We remember that we all belong to God as we celebrate with all those who have been baptized during the year, sharing in the "Sacrament of Belonging". That baptism marks our "yes" to an eternal journey of love with God. We also remember all those who have died during the year. That remembering is not always easy, but reminds us that even though our loved ones are gone from our day-to-day life, they continue in that same eternal journey of love.

It's a good season for some reflection on our perceptions of God and the changes we might consider as we continue our daily journey.

Peace and good reflections

Chuck

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the God-given gifts as the season of Harvest comes to an end and the season of holiday rejoicing deepens.



On Wednesday, November 22, House of Prayer will hold a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m. Dan Nelson, the Associate Director of Youth and Family Ministry and a Contextual Education student from Luther Seminary, will be preaching. Our worship will be filled with the voices of children, adults, and families singing, "...give thanks with a grateful heart..." as we begin this season of joyous praise to the Holy Trinity.



Following the Thanksgiving Eve worship service, there will be pumpkin pie and apple bars available to celebrate the beauty of the season as you experience community following the service. The Thanksgiving treats will be served in the Narthex.

## A word from our Congregation President



November is a full month at House of Prayer. Fall programs are underway for the young and not so young. The Fall Festival will bring women and men together from throughout our community for fun, laughter and, oh yes, shopping!

On November 3, 2011, House of Prayer will be hosting the 5th annual Minneapolis Area Synod Global Mission Celebration. Please come and listen to what it means to have a Companion Congregation. Check out the bulletin board next to the sanctuary doors, "Where in the world is the Minneapolis Synod". Did you know that Lutherans in Nigeria and Ethiopia (7.6 million) outnumber Lutherans in the United States (7.4 million)?

Be sure to attend Youth and Family Ministry Team's Thanksgiving dinner followed by turkey bingo. You might be a winner!

Early this month the Human Resources and Executive Ministry Teams will receive names of competent Interim Associate pastors and will be conducting interviews. It is our hope that by December 1, we will be able to extend an offer to a contract associate interim pastor that God is currently preparing to do God's work with us at House of Prayer. I, along with the Leadership Ministry Team, will keep you informed.

By the end of November, Cathy Shromoff and her planning committee will finalize plans for December 18, our day of celebration with Pastor Chuck and Sandy as he heads into retirement. Please contact Cathy if you would like to help.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 23, our Thanksgiving Eve service. It is a time for us to give special thanks to God for all the blessings we have received this past year. It is a time for us to say thanks for all the hands doing God's work at House of Prayer and a time to raise the hopes of our future as we continue our mission of Learn, Grow, Support.

Go in peace, thanks be to God.

DeeDee Edlund,  
Congregational President

## Music Department Notes

### MORE MUSICAL VISITORS TO HOUSE OF PRAYER!

We will be privileged to welcome a variety of guest musicians to play in worship and/or give concerts here in the coming weeks:

- **November 13:** The Twin Cities Girls Chorus (TCGC), co-conducted by Stefanie Fiser, will be leading us musically in worship. TCGC will also give a concert in our sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. the following Sunday (November. 20).
- **November 20:** In addition to the TCGC concert at 4:00 p.m., HoP welcomes the brass ensemble from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie to our worship that morning. The Immanuel brass group will be joining forces with our own brass that morning to lead worship. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this particular collaboration, and it has been very exciting each time!
- **December 3:** The *Lake Wobegon Band* will be giving a concert here on Saturday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. This is one of the finest ensembles of its type in the region, so make your plans now to attend!

## Ministry Teams

### Adult Ministry Team

#### Grief Group

*Someone who has been a part of your days on earth no longer walks the earth with you. Life is not the same. And it hurts.*

(from "Winter Grief, Summer Grace" by James E Miller)

Can you identify with those words? Are you looking ahead to the holidays and wondering how you will get through them? Holidays can be particularly hard for those who have lost loved ones.

If you have lost a loved one, and are concerned about getting through the holidays, join us for House of Prayer's new group "***Journeying Through Grief***". **We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. beginning November 2, 2011.**

Come at 5:30 p.m. and eat supper and then join us in the Big Muscle Room at the end of the hall. We will be using the book "*How Will I Get Through The Holidays: 12 Ideas for those Whose Loved One Has Died*" by James Miller. The books are \$7 and they will be available the first night. The book is also available on Amazon in the Kindle Edition and at Barnes and Noble in the Nook Edition for \$5.50.

If you want more information about the group please call Linda Lund at 651-322-1524 or e-mail [lklund22@gmail.com](mailto:lklund22@gmail.com)

#### Adult Education

The Sunday morning study "Making Sense of Scripture" and the Wednesday Evening Study "Making Sense of Our Christian Faith" continues each week through December. Watch future Hi-Lines for the Adult Education schedule beginning in January.

#### Health Cabinet

We are looking for 4-5 people willing to serve on a Health Cabinet within House of Prayer. This group is formed as a partner with Fairview Southdale Hospital and will be involved in bringing some healthcare information and events to House of Prayer and the community. If you are interested call Linda Lund at 651-322-1524 or e-mail [lklund22@gmail.com](mailto:lklund22@gmail.com)

#### Adult Ministries Team

We have an active, working Adult Education Team at House of Prayer but Adult Ministries goes beyond Adult Education. If you would like to serve on this new ministry team and help create a vision for Adult Ministries that include education, social events, and support groups for adults within House of Prayer and the surrounding community, contact Linda Lund.

#### **New Bible Study on Wednesdays**

We will begin a 16-session overview of the Bible: Genesis through Revelation. It introduces the key people, places, and events of scripture in an easy-to-understand story.

Participants are invited to explore where they fit in the greatest story and how the greatest story fits in their lives.

Each session will be visually depicted through captivating session videos that feature the sand art of renowned artist Joe Castillo.

**When:** November 2011 through May 2012.  
(Study takes a break during Lent)

**Where:** Parish Hall

**Time:** Wednesday evenings at 6: 30 p.m.

**Cost of Materials:** \$15.00

There is a registration and book order form at the Information Desk, or call the church office to reserve your copy!

**Leadership Ministry Team**

The Leadership Ministry Team will gather on Tuesday, November 22 to receive a copy of the Listening Post report. At this meeting, the church leadership will begin to discuss and design conversation about how the stories shared by House of Prayer members can provide holy wisdom on how to plan for our present and prepare for God’s future for House of Prayer.

Copies of the Listening Post report will be available to all congregational members in electronic and printed forms after the November LMT meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please contact DeeDee Edlund, our Congregational President at [dseidlund@comcast.net](mailto:dseidlund@comcast.net) , or Jim Bauer, Human Resources Team Leader at [Jab1241@aol.com](mailto:Jab1241@aol.com) , or Pastor Anne Hokenstad at [ahokenstad@house-of-prayer.com](mailto:ahokenstad@house-of-prayer.com). If you would like to call one of these leaders, their numbers are available in the church directory or you can leave a message in the church office: (612) 866-8471.

**Youth & Family Ministry**

Join us on Thursday, November 17 at 6 p.m. for our annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale at the Info desk. Help is needed, please contact Kristin if you are able to help cook, decorate tables, carve turkeys, serve or clean up.



**Operation Christmas Child**

Thanks to many awesome volunteers, we already have enough shoe boxes collected AND wrapped for our Operation Christmas Child Shoe box project this year! Now we need some things to fill the boxes!

Please bring donations of clothing, socks, toiletries (no liquids please), small toys and games, and hard candy starting on October 30 and place them in the large box in the Narthex. We will fill the boxes on November 20, following worship. Our hope is that the boxes will be able to go to the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, SD. Our youth were deeply touched by the children on the reservation and would like to give them the gift of hope and Christmas cheer this year!

**Financial Update**

Through September, 2011, our financial picture has stabilized although our cash flow continues to be closely monitored by the Budget & Finance team. The year-to-date financials compared to budget for the General Fund are:

	July-Sept <u>Actual YTD</u>	July - Sept <u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Receipts	\$131,733.86	\$130,636.99	\$1,096.87 (higher than budget)
Expenses	\$133,526.01	\$138,125.63	\$4,599.62 (lower than budget)
Total	<b>-\$1,792.15</b>	<b>-\$7,488.64</b>	

As of September 30, receipts are just slightly above what we expected to receive between July and September based on your pledges. Our expenses are lower than we expected to see, but that is by design because although a deficit budget was passed, the leadership also promised that we would not spend more than we received.

Some special projects are still being conducted, however these are utilizing Dedicated fund money donated for that purpose.

Thank you to all who were able to catch up on their pledges or to provide a little extra to ensure our general programs, supplies, salaries and utilities are paid on time. You are doing God’s work with your hands.

## Interior Design Team



Thanks to the generosity of so many, and especially the contributions from the Fall Festival, our new commercial NSF certified refrigerator and freezer have been purchased and installed in the Parish Hall Kitchen. With these additions, our kitchen is now

compliant with city regulations. The Interior Design Team (IDT) is thankful for everyone's patience as we explored alternatives in understanding what deficiencies the Parish Hall kitchen had, and in selecting these affordable, energy efficient models. The IDT is also grateful to the many HoP members who offered suggestions for improvements to the kitchen and helped define and prioritize potential improvements. Please take a minute or two of your time and stop in to see these wonderful additions.



On behalf of the IDT,  
Pam Murphy

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl circles will meet on Monday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, November 30 at 2:00 p.m. Both circles meet in the Narthex. The fireplace will be lit and there will be hot apple cider. Bring a treat and a friend. This will be our holiday gathering.

We will meet only once in December. We will gather for our brown bag lunch and cookie share on Wednesday, December 28 at 12:00 p.m.

### **Social Seniors**

The Social Seniors have been invited to the turkey dinner sponsored by the Youth and Family



Group on Thursday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. There will be turkey bingo again. The cost is \$10 and tickets may be purchased on Sundays prior to the dinner. Watch the Youth and Family news for more details.

The Social Senior planning committee is happy to announce that Karen Stohl has volunteered to work with us. She attended our October meeting. Welcome Karen, we are happy that you are with us. We could use even more volunteers.

The Social Seniors have an opportunity to go on a Christmas lights two- to two-and-a-half hour tour on Saturday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m. The tour will leave from the Richfield History Center (69th and Lyndale Avenue). The cost is \$10. We need to find out how many are interested. Sign up at the information desk with your phone number



**November 5**  
**9 a.m.—3 p.m.**  
**Crafts, Raffle, Food, Fun**  
**Don't Miss It!**

## The Heritage Team Remembers

### 50 Years Ago: House of Prayer Groundbreaking Ceremony Sunday, November 12 1961



Donald Peterson is shown breaking ground for the new sanctuary. Pastor Chalstrom (front left) and Pastor Bingea, architect John Rauma, and John Madsen of the George C. Madsen construction firm are on the platform. Over 700 people turned out for the groundbreaking ceremony. This photograph was published in *The Richfield News* with this description of the building:

*“The sanctuary will seat 750 people, at a total cost of \$478,000. The church will be built in the shape of a Greek cross, with the altar in the center. Choirs, pulpit, organ and baptismal font will be in one arm of the cross; the congregation will be seated in the other three arms. Completion is expected September 1, 1962.”*

**30 Years Ago: Our New Fireplace Doors:** The Hearth Room has a new look. Stop by and see the new fireplace doors that have just been installed. It is a gift from our 1981 Confirmation class and one of our families. This special gift also includes fireplace accessories. The balance of the Confirmation gift will be given to World Hunger. Thanks, Confirmands of 1981! (*Hi Lines, November 18, 1981*)

**25 Years Ago: The Peace March** has reached its destination! The 3,235-mile walk from Los Angeles (March 1<sup>st</sup>) to Washington,

D.C. ended November 15. Our House of Prayer member, Aleida VanDyke, walked the entire way. You’ll be able to share in her experiences at the Sunday Forum on January 18, presented by Aleida. Welcome Back, Aleida! (*Hi Lines, November 18, 1986*)

**25 Years Ago: “Carols & Canticles”** at House of Prayer on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. featuring all Choirs, Wind Ensemble, Bells and Something Special Singers. An afternoon of grand holiday music. Special gifts for children. Reception follows. (*Hi Lines, November 25, 1986*)

**25 Years Ago: Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner, Sunday, December 7 – 5:30 pm.** It’s time to enjoy this annual feast. Choose Lutefisk only or Meatballs only or both! Cost: \$6 adults; \$3 age 4-11; \$2 under age 3. Make reservations at church by December 4. Maximum seating = 250. “O Lutefisk, O Lutefisk!...” (*Hi Lines, November 25, 1986*)

### Greeters at House of Prayer November 2011

- **November 6**  
Roger and Cathy Shromoff  
Kevin and Jill Tanghe  
Gabriella and Audrianna Tanghe  
Marilyn Johnson
- **November 13**  
Ron and Arliss Anderson  
Barbara Zvorak  
Marilyn Johnson
- **November 20**  
Ron and Arliss Anderson  
Kevin and Jill Tanghe  
Gabriella and Audrianna Tanghe  
Marilyn Johnson
- **November 23**  
Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Sally Boyd  
Emelie Femrite
- **November 27**  
Wes and Mary Anne Bry  
Mavis Weingartner  
Marilyn Johnson

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**Pastors:** Chuck Carlson and Anne Hokenstad

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### Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Service: 9:30am

Sunday School: 9:30am

Faith Talk (formerly Adult Forum): 10:40am

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### FALL FESTIVAL

#### Fall Festival This Week!

Please plan to stop by church for the Fall Festival on Saturday, November 5, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. We will have nearly 50 vendors selling crafts and products, a raffle, bake sale and book sale, as well as caramel rolls and coffee in the morning and lunch served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on what is sure to be a fun, action-packed day.

### Milestones

#### BAPTISMS

<u>Name / Parents</u>	<u>Date</u>
Addison Grace Burt John and Kari Ann Burt	10/15/2011
Juliet Jambreau Camille Jeanette Kline James Kline and Sharan Tolzin	10/16/2011

#### FUNERALS

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date</u>
Robert "Wayne" Olson	8/30/2011
Milton E. Nordmeyer	10/13/2011