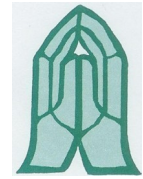




HOUSE of PRAYER

Hi-Lines February 2012



Mission Statement:

A community in God called to learn ~ grow ~ support

Loving, Living, Serving

Bible Verse for Month: "Go near, you yourself, and hear all that the LORD our God will say. Then tell us everything that the LORD our God tells you, and we will listen and do it."

Deuteronomy 5:27 (NRSV)

Prayer for the Month: "Dear Jesus Christ, in God's love you were empowered to live as a humble servant as you bore the weight of human need. In the mystery of Divine Love, you showed us mercy through the cross and hope in an empty tomb. Holy Spirit gather us to worship in voice, heart, and body so that in Grace we may love, live and serve You, our neighbors and yourself according to your will and the gifts given in your name. Amen. -

adapted from the hymn *Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service*, ELW 712.

Meet Pastor Ken

Sisters and brothers in Jesus,

So here we go, you and me, congregation and a fancy titled preacher, Intentional Interim or Transitional Pastor Ken DeFor. Whatever the title means is what we will be doing together. Ready, set, go, and let the journey begin.

I am excited to be with you. We have been long time neighbors. For 21 years I served Christ The King Lutheran of Bloomington. This means that I already know some of you and for better, for worse, some of you know about me. Simply put, I am the husband of one, the father of four, three sons and a daughter, and the grandfather of ten. I was born and raised in Austin, MN, and the son of a father who was a packing-house worker and also of a stay-at home mom. For forty-seven years I have also been a pastor who recently has had trouble passing the retirement test.

What are we going to be doing? In a nutshell,



preparing for the next pastor of HOP. This preparation will involve all of you who choose to be involved. In a series of congregational workshops we will do such things as identifying who and what we are with the use of a diagram of an SUV. You will have opportunity to share your hopes and dreams for HOP, and what you consider HOP is doing well. This will result in a plan you will put together for mission and ministry good for at least the next five years. As they say, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." You will then decide what skills and qualities in a pastor you will need to work with you as you move along the journey of mission and ministry.

A key to the success of the process is that ALL will have an equal voice in determining who and what and where HOP is and will be. Remember, together you are the priesthood of believers, the true ministers of HOP.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Ken DeFor

Anne's Anecdotes

by Pastor Anne Hokenstad

Most folks who grow up in the Christian Church learn somewhere along the way that Matthew 28:1 is called the *Great Commission*.



Jesus said to his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." These words end the Gospel of Matthew with a clear understanding of the job description of a disciple. According to this story, Followers of Jesus are to "Go," "Disciple," "Baptize", "Teach", "Obey", and "Remember." It's a worthy description of how to follow Jesus, and Christian people have been working on what it means to *live* the discipleship Job Description ever since the words were first spoken.

In Matthew 22: 37-39, Jesus describes what some people call the *Greatest Commandment*. Jesus is talking to some religious leaders. They ask him a question, and he responds, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

As Christian people, we live with these two "Greats" in our lives. In these scripture stories we learn whom to love and how to live out that love. Sometimes this is easy to live. Sometimes it is difficult to live. It is hardly ever an in-between or a lukewarm experience. We are fairly passionate about whom we love and how to live out that love day to day.

During our 2012 Lenten Journey, Pastor Ken and I are inviting you to consider one of the two *Greats* in our lives as disciples of Christ.

A word from our Congregation President



Sunday, January 15, we welcomed Pastor Ken DeFor as our interim transition pastor. He was hired from a field of candidates interviewed by Human Resource and Executive Ministry Team members. He comes with a great deal of experience from working alongside congregations similar to House of Prayer ..congregations like us that have said farewell to a pastor who served them for many years.

I am asking everyone, **yes everyone**, to think of themselves as partners in ministry and mission. We all have ownership to House of Prayer and have an important role to play in determining House of Prayer's vision. It may sound lofty. But it is simply doing God's work; figuring out what work God has intended for us and how to get it done.

The Listening Post was a step in our strategic planning process. Pastor DeFor will be building on that step as he helps guide us through the development of our visioning and planning. God does work in mysterious ways. Listen for the Holy Spirit. Listen to what God is calling us to do. We are not all called to do the same job. We have been given different talents and gifts. But we all have the ability to pray.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and hearts, helping us to venture down the path that God is calling.

Leading a Community in God
called to Learn, Grow Support,

DeeDee Edlund



FINANCE 101

by Judy Erickson, Chair, Budget & Finance Team

PART 1: WHAT IS HOP FINANCE ALL ABOUT?

To talk about our finances at House of Prayer (HOP) it is important to define some terms which we commonly use. Some of them will be familiar to you since they are part of your own financial picture.

INCOME—cash and checks received through offerings, gifts, memorials and rental agreements.

EXPENSES—operating costs to run our building (think of your home expenses), salaries including the employer costs for FICA and Medicare, pension accounts, insurance, mortgage payments, office supplies, bulletins and programs, flowers, communion supplies, repairs, maintenance, equipment purchases, advertising, and the list goes on.

BUDGET—projected income and expenses for a set time frame. For HOP the operating or fiscal year time frame is July 1-June 30.

HOP has two checking accounts managed by the Budget and Finance Team (B/F). In late 2006, with the approval of the Executive Ministry Team, B/F went from one checking account to two. These accounts are referred to as the Operating Fund and the Dedicated Fund.

If you look at your offering envelope, there are several lines indicating the areas you want to support with your gift. Only “**Regular**” dollars go into the Operating Fund. The projected operating budget comes primarily from your pledge dollars. Income received for rental space, loose offerings, Holiday offerings, coffee and donuts, flowers, etc. go into this fund.

The other lines are considered income to the Dedicated Fund. The Outreach Ministry

Team oversees the Benevolence fund which currently supports Luther Park, Lutheran Social Service, Minneapolis Area Synod, VEAP, and Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Contributions to these organizations are given dollar for dollar as members have designated and transferred to them quarterly. Outreach also directs the Hope Fund.

The Dedicated account includes income from gifts, memorials, debt reduction and special projects. Recent projects have included sanctuary carpeting, bell refurbishment, kitchen remodeling and equipment, and sidewalk replacement.

There are many ways each of us is called to serve as a disciple of Christ. Providing financial support is only one of them. However, it is an important one to the mission of HOP. Only through your thoughtful and generous gifts are we able to go forward as a community of believers.

Anne continued from page 2

At the mid-week Lenten Wednesday night services, we will talk about what it means to live Monday-Sunday with a *Great Commission* influencing our lives. To follow the *Great Commission* is not a fancy, super-sophisticated program to change your life. *The Great Commission* is a way ordinary people, like you and me, can be day-to-day disciples doing what we can with our hands, hearts, heads, and mind to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves as God in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit first loved us!

Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Anne

Thrivent Financial Members

by DeeDee Edlund

Calling all members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Thank you to those who have chosen to allocate your Choice Dollars to House of Prayer. Now it's time to put it to work!

When: Sunday, February 5th at 10:40 a.m.

Where: Parish Hall

What: Discussion regarding how to best use the Thrivent Choice Dollars allocated to House of Prayer

The total in the fund is \$7,138. Bring your thoughts about how to do God's work with these financial gifts. Questions? Please feel free to contact DeeDee Edlund, lead congregational advocate at 612-730-5758 or dsedlund@comcast.net.

Greeters Wanted

by Shirley Moen

What's the first thing you notice when you slide across the chilly parking lot into the warmth of House of Prayer on a Sunday morning? There is someone there to say "Hello, Good Morning and Welcome to House of Prayer!" Who are these people and how do they know to do this—so we feel welcome and invited into the HoP fellowship?

They are the Sunday Morning Greeters! Greeters are a part of the Evangelism Ministry



and they are scheduled by Emilie Femrite. Their job is to be the face of HoP by making sure members and visitors alike feel a sense of being invited and welcomed to the service.

Being a Greeter is easy and training is provided. Not only does a Greeter get a chance to make people feel welcome, but as a Greeter, you have a chance to see long-time friends and meet a new friend or two!

Evangelism Ministry Team would like to expand the pool of Greeters and we would ask that you consider this ministry at House of Prayer. Dates are flexible and Emilie will work with you to schedule. If you think you might want to try but are not sure, consider working with someone who is already a Greeter on a Sunday. It would be a "Try it – you might like it plan!"

Please see Emilie at House of Prayer, give her a call at 952-831-4796 or via email at ffemwa@aol.com. Thank you for considering this valuable service to House of Prayer.

FOUNDATION SUNDAY

by Ernie Lindstrom

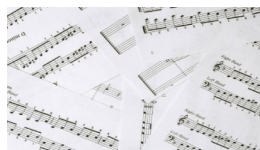
February 12, 2012, is Foundation Sunday. House of Prayer Foundation has no expenses and spends only its income, supplying many church necessities and supporting endeavors within the church that otherwise would not be possible.

Remember – it's not what you have, it's what you do with what you have that makes all the difference. The time to remember the Foundation is now. If you wait for the perfect moment when all is safe and assured to support the Foundation, it will never happen.

The Foundation is one of the missions you can support at House of Prayer. The more difficult the economy, the more important the Foundation becomes. Join Foundation givers who have been so generous in the past.

Worship Ministry Team

by Gretchen Swenson



The Worship Ministry Team is asking House of Prayer members to tell us what favorite hymns or songs you love to sing...hymns from the hymnals, songs from Sunday School, songs from contemporary Christian music. Your suggestions will help the Worship Planning Team to determine your musical interests.

Beginning February 1, there will be a suggestion box located at the Information Desk in the Narthex. There will be slips of paper available where you can write down your selection. Please put these selections in the box.

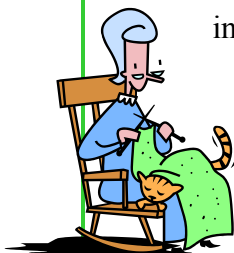
We have a rich and beautiful history of wonderful music and great congregational singing at House of Prayer. With your help, we look forward to making our worship experience even better.

Thank you in advance for your help with this.

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Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Circles will be on Monday, February 27 at 6:30pm in the Church Office. We will also meet on Wednesday, February 29 at 2:00pm in the Narthex.



Dear VEAP Member
Congregation,



We are just wrapping up a successful Holiday Toy Program at VEAP. And I want to say thank you so much for your support and donations. It is truly amazing to see the outpour of generosity come from the churches and their members to make this program possible.

Thousands of toys were received along with books, games, gift cards and winter wear. Every donation really mattered and helped us serve each child equally. Whether your church collected a box full or multiple car loads, by working together we met our goal and the need this year.

For all who donated —your contribution is greatly appreciated by VEAP and all those we serve. We have received thank-you notes and phone calls from families expressing their gratitude for the help they have received. The “thank yous” in multiple languages, tears of joy and hugs were just a few ways our guests wanted to let us know how much they appreciated everything they received.

We are still counting the final numbers but we know over 4,800 children received gifts and more than 3,000 households received Cub Cards for a holiday meal. With your support VEAP was able to help our neighbors create and maintain holiday traditions for their families.

Thank you to everyone who helped at your church. Your time and energy are GREATLY appreciated. We simply cannot do what we do here without you. THANK YOU!

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas,

Krista Phillips
Children and Youth Services Manager
Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People

Children's Christmas Program

by Stephanie Fiser

Thank you to everyone who was involved in this year's Children's Christmas Program, *The Holiest Pet Shop*. It is only possible with the dedication of all of the kids, parents, staff, and a host of other volunteers. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and efforts so that the kids could tell the Christmas story in such a meaningful way. I am deeply grateful and blessed to be able to minister to God's people at House of Prayer. Enjoy these pictures from the Advent season at House of Prayer! May the light of Christ touch your lives this winter season!



Spirit Singers and CROSS-VOCALS from Music School, about to sing in the Festival of Carols.



The Angels' dance in *The Holiest Pet Shop*



Children singing and playing handchimes in *The Holiest Pet Shop*.

MIRACLES ABOUND!

Miracles continue for the Ashley family — not without some concern, however.

On December 28, Bill's brain surgeon, Dr. Thomas Bergman, gave Bill a clean bill of health regarding any problem with his brain bleed. Two options were presented for thought:— surgery, which could be done but not without a 5-10% chance of another stroke — or just leave it alone.

With the time he was at Sister Kenney, Bill lost a number of his house cleaning clients. He needs to get the network going to recruit replacements. Bill has always left this kind of a problem in the hands of "the Higher Power" but "God helps those who help themselves." So please keep your ears open in the event you hear of anyone who needs house-cleaning help. Small jobs accepted. Anything will help at this point. Sincere thanks to all.

Bill and Connie Ashley

P.S. We certainly see why our church is called "House of Prayer." A great number of prayers were directed to us while at Sister Kenny Institute and look what it did!



Exciting Music Opportunity CALLING ALL SINGERS!

by Phil Mennicke

As some of you may be aware, the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly is going to be held over the weekend of February 17-19. The Assembly is being hosted by Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Prior Lake.

House of Prayer has been given the unbelievable opportunity to plan the Opening Worship for the Assembly (a pretty big deal...). We are honored to be trusted with this large endeavor, and are working closely with the great people of Shepherd of the Lake in pouring much creative energy into forming a powerful, exciting and meaningful worship experience.

Music will play a HUGE role in this worship, as you can imagine, and a large choir is being assembled to do much of that. The House of Prayer adult choir is joining with the Shepherd of the Lake choir to provide the "core" of this ensemble. In addition, singers have been invited from all over the Synod to join in. It is shaping up to be a GREAT group.



We invite any and all HoP people to be a part of this worship. So, for the many of you that joined our choir for Festival of Carols or other occasions, the invitation is open! (One need not be an official delegate to attend or participate in the opening worship.)

The opening worship for the assembly will be that Friday morning (February 17). If you are interested in lending your voice, please contact Phil Mennicke for more details.

This promises to be a truly phenomenal worship experience, and we hope to see some of you involved!

The Heritage Team Remembers

compiled by Darlene Clausen

45 Years Ago: The Importance of Family Worship. Participation in worship need not always mean intellectual comprehension. Dr. Albert Schweitzer once commented that it is important for children to attend worship with their families, not because they will understand every word, but because they will feel the reverence of their parents and become sensitive to the wonder of life. In other words we can promote worship for the whole family without feeling that we must put on a three-ring circus to amuse the children. It means that those who conduct the service and the parents will, each in his own way, prepare for a genuine worship experience for all members of the family.

(From Hi Lines, February 15, 1967)

35 Years Ago: Special Congregational Meeting. Great News! Our Call Committee and Church Board have a candidate to present for Second Pastor at House of Prayer Church. In accordance with our Constitution, the Board hereby calls a special congregational meeting for Sunday, February 13, at 12:00 noon for the purpose of presenting the name of Rev. Ralph J. Larson and of voting to extend him a call. Our urgent request is for all members to be present at the special meeting. If you attend the 9:00 a.m. service, please return to share in this important decision at 12:00 noon. We pray for the Lord's guidance as we seek additional pastoral leadership. *(From Hi Lines, February 10, 1977)*

5 Years Ago: "New" Bus. House of Prayer is now the proud owner of a newer bus that, among other purposes, will be used to support transportation to and from church. This bus has a wheelchair lift to accommodate our members. When we receive the names and addresses of those who wish to ride the bus, a schedule will be put together for drivers and riders

(From Worship Service bulletin, February 11, 2007)

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The **Hi-Lines** is published monthly by House of Prayer volunteers.
Copy Editor Elyn Kirchner can be reached at Editor.Hilines@gmail.com.



Ash Wednesday Worship
 Wednesday, February 22, 2012
 10:30am and 7:00pm

Lenten Theme: *Marks of Discipleship*. Pastor Anne and Pastor Ken will be preaching a sermon series on *Marks of Discipleship* to help us think about how God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ in God's mission in the world.

Lenten Bible Study: *Discipleship*. Information about program and materials will be announced in the weekly Community News and e-Community News. You can register at the Information Desk.

Lenten Suppers: There will be Simple Suppers served on Wednesday evenings before Mid-week Lenten Worship. Watch for details.

Milestones

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Marriage Date</u>
Gordy & Lois Allison	2/15/1958
Joanne & Jack Carlson	2/3/1951
Mike & Linda Cornell	2/25/1967
Dolph & Florence Engstrom	2/2/1962
Andy & Betty Henrickson	2/3/1945

FUNERALS

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Funeral</u>
Ralph B. Sherwood	12/25/2011	12/29/2011