

# HOUSE of PRAYER

## Hi-Lines September 2009

*Mission Statement:*

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

### September at House of Prayer

- \* September 13—Rally Sunday; return to two worship services (8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m)



### Reflections and Directions

There are many changes on the horizon as we move from summer to fall. On September 13, Rally Sunday, we change our service times back to 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.,

with Holy Communion served at both services. Here's a quick survey of the start-ups of some of our programs:

- Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, September 3, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study begins September 9 at 6:45 p.m.
- Sunday Morning Adult Education begins September 13 at 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday School begins on September 13 at 10:10 a.m.
- Bell Choir rehearsals begin Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m.
- Simple Suppers begin Wednesday, September 16, at 5:15 p.m.
- Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.
- Music School begins Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.

This is not an exhaustive list but is meant to get you started thinking about where you fit and the opportunities available to all of us. More information about some of the above is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

We have been talking about Transformational Ministry for awhile now with the ministry teams and in the newsletter. The dates are set for some of our leadership to go to Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, Minnesota, from October 1 to 4 for a training event that will more than get our feet wet. You will be hearing more about the Transformational Process as we get on the other side of that event.

We've been getting some projects done around church. The north parking lot has had the cracks repaired and sealed and will be stripped in the middle of September. All of our exit lights have been repaired and brought up to code. The roof has been repaired. The sidewalk from the north parking lot to the Sanctuary was replaced. All of this has happened because of a \$6,000 grant from the Foundation for the parking lot, \$3,200 from an estate, and about \$3,000 in gifts from members. A special thank you to Greg and Jesse Gardner and their families for the donation of all costs for the sidewalk and to some folk from the Property Team for their dedicated labor in replacing the sidewalk. We are also doing some upgrades of our computers because of a gift from a memorial. We extend thanks to all who have helped in getting this work done.

So, we are getting ready to hit the ground running. Two of my favorite passages from Isaiah always come to mind this time of year. God speaks: "I'm doing something new. Can you see it?" Are we willing to live it? And again, God speaks: "My word goes out from me and does not return to me empty." God's call is God's enabling. So we are always in a state of change, but we have a God who calls us to use the changes to make a difference, and that call will not return empty.

Peace.....Chuck

## Ministry Teams

### ADULT EDUCATION TEAM

Wednesday evening Adult Bible Study will resume on September 9 at 6:45 p.m. We will be following the *Augsburg Adult Education Bible Studies* series. The first series is entitled *Covenant Communities* and begins by taking a look at Joshua, Gideon, Ezra and Nehemiah. Books are available for \$3.75, and you can sign up at the Information Desk.

Simple Suppers will resume on September 16 at 5:30 p.m. The supper is open to all.

Sunday adult forums begin on September 20 with a presentation by our own Louis Larson. Why would a mature man drive across the country for a month in a 70-year-old Jeep? In his presentation, *MVPA Convoy '09*, Louis will give us the answer.

Looking for a change of pace when you turn 50? Dave and Chris Gorder (friends of the Wessmans) joined the Peace Corps in 2004 and served in Jordan. They will share their experiences with religion, food, living conditions, work, and culture on September 27.

A look ahead:

- October 4: *Creation*; Bible study
- October 11 and 18: *Healing Touch Ministry*
- October 25: *A Visual Tour of House of Prayer History*; Heritage Team

### WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

This summer we tried something new. We voted to have one worship service on Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. From all reports, it has been a huge success. Our worship service had great attendance, congregational participation was exhilarating, and all of us got reacquainted with old friends and made some new ones. Thanks to all of you for being flexible and willing to try something new.

Now our fall schedule is in full swing. During

one of our Worship Ministry Team (WMT) meetings this summer, our team was introduced to Pastor Bob and Diane Johnson. They have a Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry in the Lutheran Church and conduct seminars, retreats, and healing services. We were so impressed with their presentation and their ministry that our WMT, along with the Adult Education Team, invited them to do two presentations at the Adult Education Hour. These two presentations will take place on October 11 and October 18 at 9:15 a.m. At these two educational opportunities, we will learn what spiritual healing is all about and how we can use it as a resource in our lives.

Then, on October 18 at 4:00 p.m., your pastors and the WMT will have a worship service devoted entirely to the Ministry of Healing. Please watch for more information about this in the Sunday bulletin and in publications in our area.

### OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



VEAP for September: Personal hygiene products.

## Children, Youth and Family Ministry

### Children's Ministry

Sunday School resumes on September 13! Meet in the Parish Hall at 10:10 a.m. for some Rally Sunday fun! On September 20, children will begin Sunday Morning *SPARK*, a fun, rotation-style Sunday School, similar to Vacation Bible School! Each week, groups will learn Bible stories through cooking, music, video, science, computer lab, Bible skills and games, art or drama. Teachers are needed!

Please talk to Kristin if you are interested in leading a station. The commitment can be anywhere from two weeks to the entire year.

All third through fifth graders are invited to come to church on September 18 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a **CLICK Movie Night**. We'll also be making personal pizzas! RSVP to Kristin by September 16.

### Youth Ministry

Confirmation kicks off on September 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Veteran's Park with our annual KICK-BALL GAME! Come for a picnic at 6:00 p.m. and some kickball from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.! Confirmation orientation will be on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Simple Suppers are starting at 6:00 p.m.

God Squad will be starting September 9 for ninth through twelfth graders. You are invited to meet at church each Wednesday in September for Bible Studies, games, and hang-out time. Bring your friends. There will be a senior high lock-in on September 11 at 5:00 pm. We will be playing lots of games, watching some movies, having great food, and hanging out in the church all night. Cost is \$10. Please turn in forms to Laura by September 6.

Once a month, youth will be going out for breakfast and fellowship. The first youth breakfast is on September 20 at 9:00 a.m. Meet at church. We'll be back in time to go to worship together.

The first SLAM is on September 26 at 9:00 a.m. Turn in forms by September 20.

### Garage Sale Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the garage sale this past June. With your donations and the hard work of the youth and parents going on the mission trip, we managed to raise \$850 towards the cost of our trip. It wouldn't have been possible with the donations from the congregation, and for that I say a hearty thank you!

### Prayer Partner Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported us in prayer as we journeyed to San Francisco for our mission trip. The trip was very long, but serving in San Francisco created memories that we will hold dear for a lifetime.

### Congregation Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported us by donating their time, money, or prayers to our group as we prepared for and journeyed to San Francisco for our mission trip.

Blessings!

Kristin and Laura

### SOCIAL SENIORS

The Social Seniors have planned a potluck for Wednesday, September 30, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$3, plus a dish to share. Our own Ramo will entertain us. He will share some music from around the world. Please sign up at the Information Desk and indicate if you are bringing a hot dish, salad, or dessert. We would appreciate any help with clean-up after the program. If you have any questions, contact Laura Baldwin at 612-861-4886 or Joanne Carlson at 952-854-3309.

The following are future Social Senior activities so you can plan ahead.

- Wednesday, October 28: Richfield History Museum at 10:00 a.m. with lunch to follow at Houlihan's
- Thursday, November 19: Thanksgiving dinner and turkey bingo at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 12: The tour bus will leave House of Prayer at 10:15 a.m. for the Plymouth Playhouse in Plymouth. The show, *A Church Basement Ladies Christmas*, starts at 11:30 a.m. The tour bus will leave immediately after the performance.



## Anne's Anecdotes

After a recent summer worship service, I was chatting with a parishioner. We were talking about the changing of the season and

the upcoming activities at church. He said, "Well, it's football-and going-back-to-church season! *Are you ready for some Jesus?!*" Hm, am I ready for some Jesus?! Well, for sure!

Like the schools, we in the church will return to the program schedule of the fall and spring. We will weave our way through the latter days of the Pentecost season, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. When the kids and teachers are getting ready for summer vacation, we will have rounded the liturgical seasonal clock and begin the journey of the spring-green Pentecost season. All the while, we will be ready for Jesus, and He for us.

One of my favorite assignments to write as a kid and then to assign when I was a teacher was the proverbial essay-writing task, "*What I did on my summer vacation.*" The wisdom of this assignment is that it is a creative writing venture, and, as the essays are shared, the stories begin to knit together the divergent strands of the students' summer experiences into a wearable garment

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Our mission statement, "House of Prayer Lutheran Church is a community in God called to learn, grow, and support," is one of the strands

that weaves our life together into what it means to be *clothed in Christ*, to use the Apostle Paul's words. Our mission statement gives us focus and nurtures us as we join together to be God's church on the corner of 76th Street and Chicago in Richfield, Minnesota.

As we enter into our transformational ministry journey, we will need the ties that bind us to ground us and to provide a foundation for the future that God's grace is leading us into. As we move into the season ahead, with its changes and sense of newness, another strand -- *God's Work, Our Hands*. -- will sharpen our focus, centering us in the Cross of Christ that is active in the world. Look for this phrase: *God's Work, Our Hands*. It is the mission theme of concentrating our mission statement, our call as a congregation.

*What I did on My Summer Vacation*, by Anne Hokenstad

The summer started out with the passing of a kidney stone. Even though the pain was great, there was joy as members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church joined their hands in prayer so that God's healing peace would surround me. For their hands folded in prayer, I am grateful.

The stone passed just in time for my Doctor of Ministry class to begin at Luther Seminary. It was one difficult week of schooling: 12 hours of class per day, and three to four hours of homework each night. During this long, delightful week, I learned how God is working in new ways to empower our hands to join with Jesus' hands to care for others as the Spirit renews us and gives us hope.

My summer isn't over yet. There are a couple more weeks before Rally Sunday. That is good because I see God so at work, directing the work of our hands to speak about love. Hands are working to create educational programs for all ages. Hands are preparing the Parish Hall for a new stove. Hands are sorting music for worship. Hands are folding newsletters, bulletins, and thank-you letters for a successful stewardship campaign. Hands are knitting prayer shawls and

creating crafts for the Fall Festival. Hands are folded in prayer for healing, peace, and sabbath from life's burdens. Hands are extended in welcome to greeters and new members to ministry teams. Hands -- human hands --doing God's Work!

Living into the grace that God has for us,  
Anne

God's Work, Our Hands.

## Music Department Notes

### Hitting the Ground Running!

The House of Prayer musical ensembles are all set to begin meeting regularly in September. We will be sharing their music ministry in services starting with Rally Sunday. Here is how the first several weeks look to be shaping up as far as what you can expect to enjoy in services:

- September 13 (Rally Sunday): Adult Choir at both services
- September 20: 8:00 a.m., Special music TBA; 10:30 a.m. Adult Choir
- September 27: 8:00 a.m., Special music TBA; 10:30 a.m. Adult Choir
- October 4: 8:00 a.m., Adult Choir; 10:30 a.m., House of Prayer Brass
- October 11: Handbells at both services; 10:30 a.m., Children's Choirs/Adult Choir

Rehearsals for all these groups will begin within the first couple of weeks of September. For specific information on Adult Choir and Handbell Choir, see Phil Mennicke; for Wind Ensemble and House of Prayer Brass, see Jon Kietzer; for all children's ensembles, see Stefanie Fiser.

All House of Prayer groups are looking forward to living out the church's theme of "*God's Work, Our Hands*" (whether those hands be holding a handbell, wind instrument, drumstick, keyboard, or choir folder!). We welcome and encourage anyone and everyone to come along for the ride!

Phil Mennicke

## Music School Begins Wednesday, September 16!!

I'm so glad to be back at House of Prayer after spending the summer away. I had the privilege of working with high school students at Lutheran Summer Music, and now it's time to gear up for another season of Music School! This year we will continue to meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and sing in Sunday worship services about once a month. It is an exciting opportunity for the children of House of Prayer to spend some time learning music together and having fun in God's house.

Please invite all the children in your lives to participate. Music School is for anyone in kindergarten through fifth grade. To best serve the abilities of the kids, we will have an upper elementary choir of third to fifth graders and a lower elementary choir of kindergartners through second graders. There will be music opportunities for the pre-kindergarten children on Sunday mornings in conjunction with Sunday school. I can't wait to get started with some new songs! Listen for their sweet voices around House of Prayer as they learn to do God's work with their hands (and voices!).

Stefanie Fiser

Associate Director of Music – Children's Music

### PRAYER SHAWL ACTIVITY

Prayer Shawl Knitting Circles start on Wednesday, September 23, at 1:00 p.m. and Monday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Narthex. If you would like to join the group, bring a pair of 11 or 13 knitting needles, and we will set you up with yarn and a pattern. We will continue to meet on the fourth Monday and the fourth Wednesday of each month until May, except in December. If you would like to learn to knit, there is a place for you! Come and join us!

## The Heritage Team Remembers

**55 Years Ago.** “Together We Build” was the theme in September 1954, with information meetings held in the parsonage basement. “Not many are privileged to take part in the building of a new church...usually a single opportunity in a lifetime.” (From the Worship bulletin, September 12, 1954.)

**50 Years Ago.** Sunday School staff of 140 regular teachers and 70 substitutes enrolled to serve. Department leaders were Mrs. Francis Belisle, Mrs. Malcolm Amundson, Mrs. Orville Steen, Mr. Lester Michels, Mr. Roy Eide, Mrs. Walter Hornicke, Mrs. Roger Bollig, Mrs. Herbert Weibrecht, Mrs. Burton Reitan, Mrs. Doug Frank, Mrs. Herbert Stevens, Jr., Mr. Wally Johnson, Mrs. Weymen Liljedahl, Mr. James Youngquist, Mrs. John Melchert, Mrs. Richard Ott. Mr. James Bergstrom served as general superintendent with Mrs. Howard Palm as Director of Christian Education. (From Hi-Lines, September 2, 1959)

**50 Years Ago.** Pastor John Palmquist resigned after two years as associate pastor and accepted a call to become pastor of the First Lutheran Church in Hibbing, Minnesota. (From Hi-Lines, September 16, 1959)

**45 Years Ago.** Mrs. Howard Palm resigned as Director of Education after eight years of service. (From Worship bulletin, August 23, 1964)

**45 Years Ago.** Announcement of personnel appointments: Mrs. Dalores Haroldson, office secretary; Miss Jerie Robison, part-time office secretary; Mrs. Paul Olson, director of church schools, and Mr. Harold Martens, senior choir director. (From Worship bulletin, September 6, 1964)

**40 Years Ago.** Roger Erickson of “Boone and Erickson” on WCCO radio was a guest at the first Couples Club dinner meeting September 19. Guests were members of “mother-church” Bernadotte Lutheran Church near Lafayette, Minnesota. New presidents of Couples were Jim and Bev Schaeffer. (From Hi-Lines, September 3,

1969)

**40 Years Ago.** A faithful crew of volunteers prepared Hi-Lines for mailing. Those who met each Wednesday were Goldie Johnson, Rosemary Urbick, Doris Anderson, Julie Buffington, and Verneal Kolstad. It was a great service and saved hundreds of dollars in clerical costs annually. More than 100 ladies helped out last year in this effort. (From Hi-Lines, September 17, 1969)

**40 Years Ago.** Bonds or loan certificates went on sale to help refinance the short-term indebtedness. Our Finance Committee, under the leadership of Marvin Anderson, offered for sale \$50,000 in loan certificates in \$100 denominations under the following schedule: 3-year certificates at 7 per cent interest, 5-year certificates at 7.5 per cent interest, and 7-year certificates at 8 per cent interest. Certificates replaced short-term notes held by Richfield Bank & Trust and the Schantz Organ Company and were available to members and non-members alike. (From Hi-Lines, September 17, 1969)

**35 Years Ago.** We welcomed to our music staff Miss Jean Giske, Youth Choir Director, and Mrs. Jill Schostag, Children’s Choir Director. The addition of these two qualified and personable choir directors greatly strengthened our music program! Jon Kietzer, our Minister of Music, continued to serve as coordinator of our entire music program, organist, and Senior Choir Director. (From Hi-Lines, September 11, 1974)

**35 Years Ago.** The Gamma Group of Couples Club set Sunday, September 15, as a special day to honor Wally Johnson. Wally is Commissioner of Property and has faithfully served our church in many capacities – on the board, teaching church school, Men’s President, etc. (From Hi-Lines, September 11, 1974)

**20 Years Ago.** Wedding congratulations to Jim LaDoux and Gina Luffman, who were married September 2, 1989, in Milford, Illinois. Jim and Gina held a wedding reception here on September 8. (From Worship bulletin, September 3, 1989)

**20 Years Ago.** Rev. Dr. Richard Bingea retired from the ordained ministry September 30. He was founder, organizer and pastor of House of Prayer Lutheran Church from 1953 to 1976, and his wife, Marian, was the organist. He had served University Lutheran Church in Seattle since 1976. A retirement reception for Pastor Bingea and Marian was held at House of Prayer at a later date. (From Hi-Lines, September 19, 1989)

**15 Years Ago.** A Rainbow Bag of Toys for your child to use during worship could be found on a tree in the Narthex. Each bag was different. Little children are a vital part of our church and needed to be included in the family of God during the worship hour. When worship was over, parents were asked to help their children put all the pieces back in the bag and return the bag to the tree. Caring for the bags was a learning opportunity in stewardship. Thank you to Ruth Nordholm for assembling this project. Thanks to the Education Commission for this great idea. (From Worship bulletin, September 11, 1994)

**10 Years Ago.** The new House of Prayer Cookbook was available Sunday, September 19, at \$12.50 per copy. Volunteers were sought for a "Bake For A Taste" sale, using recipes from the new book. Coordinators were Kathy Bonnett and Sue Holton. (From Hi- Lines, September 1999)

**10 Years Ago.** Scott Stai, House of Prayer's Director of Youth and Family Ministry, took on a new role as he became our intern. He joined with Pastors McKinley and Carlson in preaching, worship leadership, counseling, visitation, teaching, and all of the varied tasks of the parish pastor, in addition to continuing to give direction to the youth program. (From Hi-Lines, September 1999)

### Is Your Marriage Due For A Tune-up?

Is your timing off? Does your marriage lack spark? Attending a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend will make your marriage run like new. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7:00 p.m. to Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations, followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room. There is no counseling and no group sharing. No one tries to change who you are. It's great for couples who already have a good marriage and want to enrich their relationship, but it also does wonders for those marriages that have lost their luster through years of child-rearing and work obligations.

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekends in Minnesota are from October 16 to 18 in Duluth and from November 20 to 22 in Brooklyn Center. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick and Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete and Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575, or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Budget and Finance Team is looking for volunteers this fall to help with the annual financial audit. This would be a one-time commitment of three to four hours on a Saturday. Please contact Judy Erickson, chair, at 952-835-2069 if you are willing to help.

### BOOK DISCUSSION

The Book Discussion Group will meet September 10 at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis and *The House of Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Everyone is welcome. Please come prepared to offer book suggestions for the coming year.

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

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

**Milestones**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

<u>Couples</u>	<u>Date</u>
Reuben and Clarice Anderson	September 16, 1950
Warren and Carol Anderson	September 5, 1959
Joe and Virginia Berryman	September 25, 1948
Paul and Susan Danielson	September 29, 1979
Gene and Ruth Doyle	September 19, 1964
Don and Carolyn Frederick	September 14, 1946
Gil and Karen Frosig	September 11, 1954
Donald and Marge Hermstad	September 3, 1949
Darrell and Alice Lindberg	September 6, 1942
Dewayne and Phyliss Markes	September 28, 1946
Beryl and Naomi Melzer	September 5, 1953
Bill and Delores Nemitz	September 3, 1946
Don and Bev Priebe	September 15, 1951
Jim and Joan Stromberg	September 6, 1951
Larry and Terry Wickstrom	September 7, 1974

**FUNERAL**

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Funeral</u>
Andrew Weingartner	August 9	August 15
Patti Bergstrom (Louise Bergstrom's daughter)	July 6	July 14