

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear siblings in Christ,

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. As communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world, we are confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. Whether worshiping wherever two or more are gathered, engaging in lively conversations about faith, or rolling up our sleeves and getting to work, we strive to share God's grace and love in Christ for all people and creation. This reflects the vitality we find in Jesus Christ, our own spiritual life and our desire to participate in what God is doing today.



Within each community of Jesus there are leaders who strive to model an attitude of servanthood, trustworthiness, humility, patience and listening first while striving to work with others in healthy ways. These leaders teach all ages, motivate believers, build consensus, share a vision, discern direction and facilitate action. Their attention is focused on growing disciples who are sent into their daily life to love and serve others as friends, neighbors, parents, citizens and workers. Together we recognize the importance of growing disciples and multiplying leaders who serve inside your congregation and beyond your walls.

As our congregations plan their work for the coming year and how to use the resources God has entrusted to them, I invite you all to think about the relationships that bring you vitality and the leaders you nurture for God's mission in the world. While you make many decisions, remember you are not alone. We are all partners in sharing the gospel. Together, by God's grace, we can do what God is calling us to. May you go forth to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Serving together in Christ's name,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all
your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

Mark 12:30

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Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
House of Prayer Lutheran Church Oakdale, Minnesota
Sunday, January 27, 2019

President: Dean Libby
Vice President: Tom Gualdoni
Secretary: Susanne Reibel
Treasurer: Scott Hults

1. Call to order
2. Opening Devotions
3. Teller's Count
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Adopt Minutes of January 28, 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting,
6. Reports
 - A. Approval of written Ministry Reports
 - B. Council President's Report
 - C. Pastor's State of the Congregation Report
 - D. Year of Renewal / 5-10 Year Plan
 - E. Auditor's Report
 - F. Treasurer's Report
7. New Business
 - A. Delegates for Synod Conference Assembly / Tool Kit:
Saturday, February 23, West St. Paul
Delegates for 2018 Synod Wide Assembly
Friday, May 17 – Saturday, May 18, St. Andrews
 - B. Church Council Elections
 - C. Adoption of 2019 Budget
 - D. Announcements
 - E. Other
8. Dinner Grace/Closing Prayer

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 28, 2018

House of Prayer Lutheran Church Oakdale Minnesota

Council Members: Pastor Dan Streeper, Dean Libby (President), Lynne Johnson (Vice President), Karen Munos (Secretary), David Buan (Treasurer), Karla Danley (At Large), Dawn Bottolfson (At Large), Rosie Flannigan (At Large), Bill Ham (At Large), David Burau (Financial Secretary), Women of Hope (Irene Kube), Broadcaster (Marcia Olson), Webmaster (Mike Nelson).

Members Absent:

1. **Call to Order:** The Annual Congregational Meeting of House of Prayer Lutheran Church (HOP) was called to order by President Dean Libby at 10:45 a.m. All page numbers herein refer to the pages in the 2017 published Annual Report.
2. **Opening Devotion:** Pastor Dan Streeper opened the meeting asking the congregation to reflect on what we are thankful and asked the congregation for thoughts on what our challenges and difficulties we face in the coming year. Answers from congregation: more space for our musicians, drawing in more young families, serving our neighbors, working to not “burn out” our volunteers. Pastor reminded us that these challenges are also points of thankfulness in that working towards these goals gives us the opportunity to grow as members of the body of Christ. Pastor ended with a devotion of thanks and prayer for guidance
3. **Teller’s Count:** Tom Gualdoni reported that 71 members were in attendance. More than the 52 members are required for a quorum.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Barb Lind motioned to accept the agenda, with a second from Linda Siluk. Change: Strike the “8” in the date 2017. The motion to approve the agenda with the addition and change was passed. Addition: Approval of Special Congregational Meeting on July 30, 2017.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting, January 29, 2017.** Motion to accept by Bev Buan, seconded by Mary Lou Hodge. There being no changes, the motion was passed.
6. **Addition: Approval of the Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of January 30, 2017:** Motion to accept by Mike Hansen, seconded by Audrey Orf. Being no changes the motion to approve was passed.
7. **Reports**
 - A. **Approval of written Ministry Reports:** With a “thank you” to all, Dean asked that all ministry reports be approved (pages 8-29). With a motion from Rose Flannigan and a second from Dawn Bottolfson, all ministry reports were approved. Summary of Ministry Reports:
 - **Memorial Committee** (Page 23). Contributions made to the memorial fund were used to fund the purchase of items to enhance our worship and church. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up.

- **Property Committee** (Page 24-25). Actions include spring clean-up; boiler inspection and recertification; tree and stump removal; HV/AC replacement (cost \$9,291) – to date \$4,894 has been contributed; the Community Garden was expanded and a chain link fence was installed; a replacement snow-plow truck was purchased for \$2500, the old one was sold for \$950, and a \$500 donation was received as well as some funds from the 50th Anniversary; in 2018, the boiler may need additional maintenance.
- **Service Ministry** (Page 26-27). The Service Ministry offer many outreach and charity opportunities. Among them are: Caring Hearts Supply Drive for Homeless People, North St Paul Food Shelf, Feed My starving Children, Arc’s Value village Thrift Store, School Tools Outreach, Sheridan’s Story, Operation Christmas child, Red Kettle Bell Ringing, Giving Tree, Gifts for Seniors, and other opportunities as they arise.
- **Women of Hope** (Page 28). Provide hospitality related ministry at House of Prayer. The services they provide promote cohesive fellowship, comfort, healing, and wholeness of the members of HOP, society, and the world.
- **Music Director’s Report** (Page 29). The HOP music program continues to educate the congregation in the understanding of Liturgy, help children participate in worship, improve musicianship and vocal technique, and provide learning opportunities to grow and learn varied repertoire. William gave special thanks to Penny, Ginny, Paul, and Betsy. He also said, “come and join, we will make room.”

B. Council President’s Report: (Pages 8-9). Dean reflected on the highlights of 2017. In his report he acknowledged the many initiatives in which the members of House of Prayer so generously collaborate. He also thanked all who quietly and regularly “pitch in” without any fanfare, to help others. He noted that the money we have raised through special offerings have supported projects such as Good Gifts Project, The Sheridan Project, and the North St Paul Food Shelf.

Looking toward 2018 and beyond. . . Dean reported that the council has had numerous discussions about the future of HOP. He would like to see the mission re-defined as well as our Mission Statement (something shorter and easier to remember). He said that he is excited about developing new ways to reach out to the surrounding community. He said he is also excited about the progression of the work on the building. He is excited about the things that have already been done as well as what HOP will do in the future.

C. Pastor’s State of the Congregation Report: (Pages 30-31) He began his report with “Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Pastor Dan reflected on all that has taken place at House of Prayer in 2017. The past year has really allowed us to discover who we are. He thanked all for their talents, their time, their treasure - especially the music staff and musicians, the many members in Ministry, and the Council. He went on to say that even though HOP is a small church, we have done and continue to do great work. He talked about the difference we are making for the students at Covern School who are benefitting from the weekend backpack food. He told us that the teachers note that the kids are visibly excited, energetic and ready to learn.

Pastor Dan noted that there are things we need to work on together. No unlike the time of MLK – time of upheaval and 300 years of war followed. The world today is better yet it feels out of control. Every pastor in the Lutheran church is feeling the lack of young

people in the church. First and foremost, we need to work in deepening out relationships with the Lord. We need to be not only a “come and see” church but also “a go and tell church.” We perhaps need to do a better job of inviting people. He challenged us to find a small group or bible study to join in order to stretch our own faith. Our young people must be taught. “Faith is a lifetime journey – we need to find new things every day to help us grow.” We will need help with Sunday School next year and are asking for people to pull together and help with Christian Education. There’s a challenge. Pastor Dan made a promise to the congregation that he will put together a number of teachings to help members identify their individual spiritual gifts.

Pastor asked us to note that membership numbers have dropped from 513 to 345, not because people are leaving but that the office has been working to clean up the church’s data base. Pastor said that he is more impressed with quality than quantity, but numbers are an indicator of how we are doing. However, the fact that connecting with young families and drawing them in is a challenge and one that is being felt by all churches.

In summary, Pastor Dan said that during the year of our 50th Anniversary we reflected on where we have been but in 2018, we need to identify and concentrate our efforts on our areas of focus - “A ship without a goal and a sailboat without focus on the horizon tends to wander.” Pastor said that when we are pulled in so many ways, we get tired. We need to figure out ways to support each other. We want to do things because we are excited about doing them and not that they are chore - “The Lord calls us to work and there will be work to do, but we can find a place of thanksgiving in the work that we do.” Biggest areas of concern are:

- Ability to invite and reach out to the community
- Work together for our own education and our depth of our relationship with the Lord
- Training on how to reach out to the community

If we focus on those areas, we will have a great year. We will not let go of services. It is an important component of what we do. Pastor Dan ended his written report with “The great news is that GOD is already doing a new thing here at House of Prayer and in this community. We simply need to listen and follow!”

D. Auditor’s Report: (Pages 32 and 33) Audit Committee members are Penny Hults, Perry Johnson, and Bruce Johnson. Penny reports on behalf of the committee that all accounts were found to be in order. They have provided recommendations to various accounts.

E. Treasurer’s Report: (Page 34-35) Pastor Dan thanked Dave Buan for his two years of service to HOP as Treasurer. Dave reported the following:

- On page 34, current assets include our checking account, Global Mission and the Love Fund checking accounts with a total of \$119,061.72 as of December 31, 2017. Current liabilities which include Global Mission, Love Fund, and other Designated Funds totaled \$92,456.51.
- The Treasurer’s Report and Balance Sheet shows our current assets at \$119,061.72 and our current liabilities which include our Designated Funds at \$93,838.43. The difference being our reserve of \$25,223.29.

Motion to approve the budget, Audrey Orf, second, Richard Pruden. Motion approved.

8. New Business:

- A. Personnel: Holiday/Vacation Update:** (Page 36) Dean explained that this policy document has been in existence, in its present form (without any changes), but was never formally approved. In December 2017, the Personnel Committee submitted the document to the Executive Board for review. They, in turn, brought it to the Council for approval – it was approved. It is now being submitted to the congregation for its final approval. Council moved to accept the Holiday/Vacation Policy, Linda Siluk seconded. Motion approved.
- B. Faith Forward 2018:** (Page 15 and 32) Dean Libby spoke to the historical progress of the Faith Forward campaign which ended on January 1, 2017. He noted the areas of improvement that have been made to the church (lighting upgrade, roof replacement, and AV system). When the campaign ended, it was voted on to move any remaining monies (\$61,175.17) into a designated fund to be used in the future. Since that time, \$9005.25 has been added to the fund for a total of \$70,180.82.

Dean said that the Council recommends that the campaign be started again for a period of one year. He stated that we need a total of \$108,858 and are fortunate that we have a group who is willing to match funds up to \$30,000. Added to the \$70,000 we already have the matching funds will enable us to meet our goal. We will divide the funds into thirds and tithe on the amount raised. The tithe will go towards; outreach in the community, support of the Sheridan Project at Cowern School, and support of our sister church in Tanzania (Scholarship Program). Bids for upgrading the remaining building improvement areas have come in at: Bathrooms, \$75,000; Doors/Security, \$3726 and Handicap Buttons, \$4,832; Carpeting, \$25,000; The total for all projects is \$108,858. Council moved to approve, seconded by Mike Hansen.

Discussion: Tithe would be 10% of everything that comes in; Debt reduction was discussed in terms of pros and cons – we are due to redo our mortgage which is \$274,511.98 at 4%; would it better to put the funds toward debt reduction?; It is possible to put the excess money raised towards debt reduction or in reserve; Question is where can we best use the money?

Amendment to the motion by Mike Hansen: Any monies raised over and above what we need will be voted on by the congregation as to how it is to be used. Second by Barb Lind. Motion approved.

- C. Delegates for Synod Conference Assembly, Saturday, February 24, Roseville:** Need two lay females. Dawn Bottolfson, Mary Lou Hodge volunteered; Two lay males (TBD).
Delegates for 2018 Synod Wide Assembly Friday, May 18, Saturday, May 19, Mahtomedi: Need one female (TBD), one male (TBD).
- D. Year of Renewal: Overview, Approval of Team and their Mission:** This coming year will be a year to examine the needs of the church and community. One of Pastor Dan's personal goals will be to go out into the community to listen to what is being discussed.
- E. Church Council Elections:** Dean thanked outgoing Council members Lynne Johnson, Dave Buan, Bill Ham, and Karen Munos, who are leaving the council. A ballot was distributed to the Congregation – Tom Gualdoni, Vice President, Sue Reibel, Secretary, Karla Danley, Treasurer, Jim Morgan, At Large, Barb Zehoski, At Large. All are two year positions with the exceptions of the Secretary, which is a one year position as the current Secretary, Karen Munos, has already served for one year. Nominations were asked from the

floor. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Barb Lind and second from Linda Siluk to accept the ballot as it stands. Ballot approved.

Moving on to the election with a motion from Monica Streeper and second from Julie Burau, the 2018 candidates for Church Council were approved.

- F. Adoption of 2018 Budget:** (Page 38-40) Dave Buan presented the proposed budget for 2018. The income projection is \$237,210 which is an increase of \$7,210 over last year. Changes to the expense budget include an increase in Synod Benevolence to \$23,700 as this should equal 10% of projected income. This equals \$1,975 per month.

On page 39, under Executive Committee, utilities increased to \$11,500; insurance and assessment increased to 46,500 due to Workman's Comp premium increase; Pastor continuing education increase to \$800 which is Synod recommendation; Christ in Our Home decrease of \$100, due to adjustment in the number of copies; Bank Charge increase of \$70, this includes Simply Giving charges.

Staff, Musicians and Nursery: 4% raise of Pastor Dan; Shared intern expenses with St. Andrews – we budgeted \$4,000 at \$1,000 per quarter; 3% increase for Music Director, Parish Administrator, and Musicians and \$.50 per hour increase for Custodian; Outreach Committee, \$150.00 increase.

Faith Factor on page 38 was decreased by \$3,411 from \$33,365 to \$29,954.

This brings the Total Operating Expense Budget to \$267.164 which is an increase of \$3,799 over last year.

G. Announcements:

- Tool Kit for congregational Leaders, March 10, 2018 - Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders will be held February 25, 2017. All Council members are invited to attend.
- August 2019, ELCA Church wide Assembly - One male and one female member may attend.
- Other

- 9. Dinner Grace/Closing Prayer** - Pastor Dan ended the meeting in prayer and the congregation sang "Be Present at our Table." With a motion from Bill Ham and a second from Linda Siluk, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Reibel
Council Secretary

House of Prayer Special Congregational Meeting

April 29, 2018

12:00 Noon

The meeting was called to order by President, Dean Libby at 12:00 noon.

TOPIC: FINALIZE CONGREGATION APPROVAL OF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHURCH REMODELING PROJECTS WHICH ARE:

FIRST STAGE:

Modernize the Women's and Men's Bathrooms and make them handicapped accessible – which would include widening entrance doors and adding Handicap Door Openers.

SECOND STAGE:

Add security lighting in parking lot and on the outside of the building.
Equip external doors with Keyless Entry Locks and Handicap Door Openers.
Equip the outside and inside of the church with security cameras which enable office personnel to determine who is at the door and/or who has entered the building.

THIRD STAGE:

Install new floor coverings in the Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall, Youth Room, Nursery, . . .

Dean spoke to the fact that the Capital Campaign started in January 2018. He shared with the Congregation that HOP received a generous offer from three families to match the total contribution up to \$30,000. Dean said that, to date, the Campaign was well under way, almost exceeding \$10,000 in the first four months.

Dean suggested to the congregation that the giving periods be divided into three sections - the first from January through April, the second from May through August, and the third from September through December – with each third receiving matching dollars up to \$10,000. The rationale being that the combination of Capital Campaign donations and matching funds would enable construction to begin on the first stage of the remodel as soon as the final bids were submitted and approved. The second and third stages would be operating on under the same conditions. Dean stated that no project would be begun unless HOP had the funds to pay for it.

Following the presentation, there were questions and suggestions from the congregation pertaining to each stage of the project. Other's asked for clarification on the stages of the remodeling. All questions were answered, and a motion was made from the floor to approve the project. A second to the motion followed. The congregation voted unanimously to approve the project.

Meeting adjourned:

Respectfully Submitted
Sue Reibel

Council President's Report

Another exciting year in the life of House of Prayer has come to a close and I would like to look back on some of the highlights of 2018.

The remodel of the bathrooms, the security cameras, the handicap doors, the addition of storage cabinets in the Sunday school room all need to be near the top of the list. But topping the list are the things we have done outside of our walls, such as our Lenten Special offering and the money raised during the Community Festival, which we split three ways between The North St. Paul Food Shelf, Lutheran Social Services and The Sheridan Project. In addition to that, we also donated over 500 pounds of food and many volunteer hours to the North St. Paul Food Shelf and Sheridan the pig took in additional money mostly in change.

We participated in the Giving Tree, Gifts for Seniors, the Love Fund and probably some other things I am forgetting. A poem was written for last year's 50th Anniversary. The opening line said, "For 50 years this house has stood, on this corner doing good." That still holds true now and for the next 50 years and beyond. To quote another saying, "If you're like me and I know I am" ... then you're proud of God's work through House of Prayer.

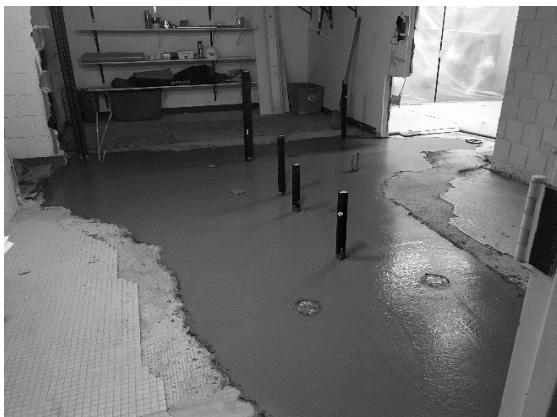


Bathroom renovation

My term as President of the Council is also coming to a close with this annual meeting and the election of new council members. I leave proud of what we have accomplished together and knowing that the new council will continue that good work, God's work. I would like to thank all Council members, those staying as well as those who are leaving. Bless those who have stepped up to serve on the council this year. The coming year(s) will be an exciting time in the life of House of Prayer. The information gathered through the listening team as well as information gathered from the community will be used to put together a plan for the future.

Thank you.
Respectfully submitted,

Dean Libby



Bathroom Renovation



Bathroom Renovation

Christian Education Committee

Faith 5 Family Time:



Blessing of the Backpacks

I became a facilitator in the fall of 2016. That was the first time I worked with our children during the regular school year. (I helped in Summer Bible School for one year.). I am a retired elementary teacher who still does occasional subbing from preschool to fifth grade. This year we have 7 registered students aged 6 to 11 years. My second year we had quite a few guests. I've spent time learning how to develop a weekly plan that met the needs of our children and their families. I followed two programs, the Faith5 practice and the Sparkhouse Online Program. The Faith5 practice involves saying our highs and lows, studying a Bible reading, discussing this reading, making a prayer, and saying blessings. The Sparkhouse curriculum follows a reading taken from one of the pastor's readings for that particular Sunday and adds related activities. I intertwined these two programs to make it workable for our students. This format includes roles for assistants, parents, and other adults to help with this ministry.

After 9:30 the student and their families may come in to eat their snacks and do a sit-down activity. About 9:45 we start with the chapel service. It is led by our wonderful music team of William Mills and Penny Hults. Also, Paul & Betsy Hanson have helped on the third Sundays.

During the fall of 2016 the pastor and I have tried to simplify our Christian Education program for students who are under confirmation age. We have less time for teaching lessons because of the routines of the Faith 5 practices. We have at least one session off each month. I have been doing the teaching for most of these sessions except for the scheduled art sessions. Then I tried to get two adults to teach those lessons, and I became a helper. These art projects ideas come from the SparkHouse Online website. These projects are usually related to the Bible readings for that day or a lesson close to it.

Every week the children learn about life in the church by helping Pastor with the sending message at each service. The children have also assisted in the service by pairing with siblings or parents to perform, to usher, to lector, or to do prayer duties.

This spring the Sunday School office was cleaned and organized. Materials and supplies for Sunday School are located on the shelves and are newly labelled in the Sunday School room. Thank you to Sara and volunteers who helped changed the storage of materials.

Last November our students started getting into the Christmas spirit by filling some boxes for Operation Christmas Child project. The congregation also helped. Thank you to the Women of Hope for organizing it.

In December children practiced a Christmas program called Christmas Pageant. William Mills was our leader. I helped with props, etc. Many of the children had reading parts including some confirmation students who volunteered. The audience participated by singing the Christmas carols with us. Also we want to thank Pastor Dan, Monica Streeper, Ruth Byboth, and Alex Odegard for their extra help.

This spring the Sunday School office was cleaned and organized. Materials and supplies for Sunday School are now located on the shelves on the walls in the main Sunday School room and are newly labelled. Thank you to Sara and the other volunteers who helped with this project.

Last May we did two special activities. First the class made a large mural on telling everyone about Jesus. It took more than one Sunday. On May 20 we had our End of the Year Celebration. We invited the congregation to celebrate with us. First we had a small program thanking certain members who have helped during the past year(s). Next we had ate cake other treats. At the end I invited the congregation to try to do an activity mainly from the Sparkhouse curriculum.



Children's Message with Intern Erin

The Christian Education Committee is still seeking more individuals to become a committee members, to help in the Sunday School classes, or to teach in one of the art sessions. I had cancelled our last committee meeting because there weren't enough people to attend.



Christmas Eve

We thank the many members who have volunteered to teach, help with music, and support us. A special thank you to all the parents and grandparents who trust us with your precious children. We continue to ask the entire congregation to pray for and support the children of House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

I resigned at the end of last May. I have enjoyed being a facilitator of our Sunday School program and being the Chris Ed Chair for the past two years. I plan to continue to do other activities for our church.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Linda Siluk

* Please note- There is no further report for Christian Education for the 2018 year because we do not currently have a Christian Education Ministry chairperson or an active ministry committee.

Confirmation:

It is noteworthy to mention that this past year I have continued to develop our teaching partnership with Beaver Lake and Holy Cross Lutheran churches for 6-8th grade confirmation. In this effort additional time is taken to plan and coordinate teachers, guides for each class, and it takes time to create a curriculum that we can all agree on that teaches the basics of our Christian / Lutheran faith and to make it relevant for our youth today.

In addition, in an effort to build our youth ministry we have added a program called, "The Rock" for youth in elementary school up to confirmation age. This program is currently being led by the 10% time Holy Cross youth director and high school students from each of our three congregations. It is a program with some brief devotions and Bible learning coupled with fun activities. The hope is that these young people will come each week during the same time as our confirmation class, then transition to confirmation, and upon completion of confirmation transition again to the high school group that leads the activities.

-Pastor Dan Streeper

Community Festival

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2018 Community Festival a tremendous success this year. To all the HOP Congregation members & Scouts who volunteered their time and effort on Sunday, August 19 2018... Nice Job!

Also, thank you to everyone who attended this year's HOP Community Fest.

Thanks go to the folks who donated all the delicious food. We had a huge selection of items, from pickles and coleslaw to beans and cakes to go with our roast pork. Delicious!



Shucking corn

There was a great selection of articles to bid on at our silent auction and raffle this year. The variety was awesome. Thank you to everyone generous enough to donate an item to bid on.

The weather was beautiful and we had a perfect day. The bouncy house went up and didn't blow away (thank you Pastor Dan and Monica). Live music was provided by Paul and Betsy Hanson. We had lots of fun activities & games.

We served over 248 people from our congregation and the surrounding neighborhood. That's up slightly from last year.

After expenses, we distributed \$4495.34 to our community. The proceeds were divided evenly between North St Paul Food Shelf, The Sheridan Project at Cowern School and Lutheran Social Services.

Again, well done everybody!
 Bill Ham
 2018 House of Prayer Community Festival Chairperson

Revenue and Expense

Income

Beginning Balance	0.00
Contributions	500.00
Raffle	467.00
Cake Walk	340.00
Silent Auction	1066.00
Food Sales	41.00
Freewill Offering	2857.00
Total Before Expenses	5271.00

Expenses

Meat	420.00
Sweetcorn	100.00
Kitchen Supplies	98.06
Face Painting	40.00
Newspaper Ad	117.60
Total Expenses	775.66

Ending Balance **4495.34**

Distribution

1/3 North St Paul food Shelf	1498.45
1/3 Sheridan Project	1498.45
Cowern School	1498.45
1/3 LSS – Senior Services	

Total Distribution **4495.34**

Faith Forward Capital Campaign Report

At last year's annual meeting it was voted that we run the Capitol Campaign for one more year in order to pledge enough money to finish all the remodeling steps we have had on our plans for the future when we first started the original campaign back in 2015. We divided the year into three parts of four months each. We had a small concerned group that promised a matching fund for each 1/3 of the year to match anything raised by the congregation up to \$10,000 for each four-month period.

As the year progressed, we used money pledged to complete the bathroom remodel, the security cameras, the handicap door openers on the main entry as well as the bathrooms. We also added two rows of storage cabinets to the north wall of the Sunday School room (due to the loss of storage room behind the bathrooms.)



Bathroom Reno

The last thing on our list at the time of the vote was replacing the floor covering in all areas that are currently carpeted. As the year progressed, we continued to build our fund, thanks to you, and we also continued to get bids for new flooring from contractors and to take their advice on possibilities. We also have three dedicated funds...Sanctuary Enhancement, HOP Flooring, and Beautification which all will be transferred to the Faith Forward/Capitol Campaign.

That being said, as I write this report we have the money available and will start the new flooring on or about January 9, 2019 so that it can be completed before we start the Lenten season. At that point we can turn our attention outside the building with the knowledge that as we attract visitors and new members, we will be inviting and welcoming. Also included in the vote at the beginning of 2018 was that we would tithe on the amount of money raised during the year. This was part of the original three-year program but it was included in the last part of that three-year program and, because we didn't reach our money goal, that part of the plan didn't come true. We voted to include it this time and used each 1/3 division of the year to name three things we would support as our tithe. As is our history, we divided the thirds into (1) in-house, (2) local and (3) global:

1. The in-house will be used for outreach, which will be tied to information gathered by the listening team and our long-range plan.
2. The local will go to support the Sheridan program where we deliver weekend meals to struggling families at Cowern school.
3. The global will go to support our sister congregation in Tanzania.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Capitol Campaign this past year. Your support has allowed us to update God's house to be more user-friendly and more welcoming to everyone-members and visitors alike.

Now with the information the Listening team has gathered this past year, not only from the congregation but from the surrounding community, the Council will begin work on a 5-10 year plan for HOP. Thank all who have been willing to be interviewed. Your input is greatly appreciated and helps the council do its work. The saying, "Bloom where your planted" comes to mind which is what our hope for House of Prayer. We will adopt a plan for the future that is not only meaningful for the congregation but serves the community where we have been planted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dean Libby, Council President

Finance Ministry

The Finance Ministry Board was added as a bylaw at our Annual Meeting on January 2015 and its responsibilities are as follows:

The Finance Ministry shall oversee any financial accounts intended for longer term than annual operating budget, including any accounts that hold securities (stock, bonds, mutual funds, insurance policies, etc).

The current members on the Finance Ministry Board which were appointed by the HOP Council are Scott Hults, Mike Nelson, Dave Burau, Perry Johnson and Karla Danley. The ex-officio members include the Church Council President and Pastor Dan.

The primary financial firm that handles transfers of stocks and money market funds is RBC Wealth Management located in St. Paul. See page 28 of this Annual Report for the financial activity for HOP's account at RBC.

David Burau
Chair Person

Ifunda Companion Congregation Report Global Missions Committee

We continue to receive great blessings from a partnership with our Companion Congregation in Ifunda, Tanzania. They pray for us daily and have enriched our lives in countless ways since our partnership began in 2000. Our promise to our partner congregation continues to be to pray for them, to help them with church projects by sending \$1,000 (funded through our church budget) each year and to build relationship with our partners.

We sponsored 18 students with scholarships for Secondary School in the Iringa Diocese. The gifts for education that you at House of Prayer have given over the past seventeen years have blessed the families of Ifunda beyond measure. As our friends in Iringa like to remind visitors, given how extended families work in Tanzanian culture, each scholarship received has a ripple effect that directly impacts the lives of ten other people. Asante Sana (Thank you) to all for your generosity in walking beside these students and helping them to have a profound impact on their communities. Cost of education keeps rising in Tanzania as well. The cost to educate a secondary student is currently \$400.



Baked goods for sale!

Our annual Community Christmas Breakfast raised about \$3,000.00. It was a great day with 160 people attending. Thank you to all the workers who cooked, served, donated to the silent auction, made crafts, helped with advertising, etc. Not only did we raise money to help our congregation in Ifunda but it was a wonderful time with family, friends and people from the community. All the money raised will be used to help our partners at Ifunda Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The Women of Hope provide the bake sale. This adds much to the morning. The profits from the bake sale are used to fund the various projects of the Women of Hope.

We plan to visit our partners in Ifunda in February 2020. We will be hosting an informational meeting soon.

Gene and Pam Hults
Global Mission Chairs

Internship Committee/Teaching Congregation

During the 2018 year we were very fortunate to partner with St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi to host two interns and to share their cost as well.



Our primary intern this past year was Deacon Erin Morris. Erin has been a wonderful gift to our ministry at House of Prayer. As a full-time staff member of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, she was required by Wartburg Seminary, where she has been attending as a distance learner, to complete a significant portion of her hours in a different ministry setting. To that end she has been preaching once or twice a month and assisting with worship. Some of Erin's goals included: assisting regularly with worship and worship planning, walking with a family through grief and loss and the planning of a funeral. She also centered her time shadowing the Church Council and working with me to plan a year of Jubilee lectionary focused on the three-great listening: listening to God, each other and our neighbor. Erin completed her internship in December and will continue to preach once a month with us through May of 2019. As many of you know, Erin is a fantastic preacher and we will be grateful to have her worship with us through May.

Our second part-time pastoral intern was Jenny Sung. Jenny spent her year internship with St. Andrew's to develop skills as a Mission Developer Pastor. To that end she spent much of her time helping to develop the new Hugo mission start congregation. Due to the number of interns and pastors St. Andrews hosted, Jenny joined us once a month to work on her preaching skills and to gain additional experience assisting with leading worship. Jenny was a Master of Divinity student at Luther Seminary and was with us through June of 2018.



Both interns did fabulous work and were recommended for final approval for ministry.

As a reminder, the responsibilities of an internship/teaching congregation include the ability to provide an adequate salary for the intern, with some health and other benefits, but more importantly an environment from which to learn, be mentored and coached and to experiment in ministry. This includes providing a dedicated committee and congregation who will meet with the intern to offer encouragement, give critical feedback and coaching on ways to better their ministry and make them a part of the ministry of a place. Our role is to help train interns not just give them a place to work. We do not currently have plans for an intern for the fall but have budgeted for this expense if we would like to apply for one, although the numbers of available interns from Luther has decreased significantly in recent years.

Respectfully, Pastor Dan Streeper

Members in Ministry

With the changes we made in 2017 to the process we use to fill our Members in Ministry positions, we have continued to see a ease to the management of positions. We continue to ask everyone to update their desired Members in Ministry position assignments and then use that information to provide a six-month Members in Ministry Schedule and an accompanying Members in Ministry Directory twice a year.

The management of Members in Ministry is quite a big task. I'd like to take a moment to thank a few of the office volunteers who help make this process go smoothly. First, a giant 'thank you' to Mary O'Malley. Each week, Mary makes reminder calls to everyone who has been called to a position for the upcoming weekend. Mary has been a great help and has allowed the scheduling and reminding process to go much more smoothly each week. Second, I'd like to extend a thank you to Bev Buan. Creating a six-month schedule is an enormous task. Bev spends considerable time combing through the first draft of the schedule to help me see and correct potential issues. Bev's knowledge of House of Prayer and her attention to detail has been a huge help to me my entire tenure here at House of Prayer, but it is especially beneficial in this task.

As we look to next year, I would like direct your attention to a few areas that could use extra hands:

1. First, we are in great need of people to serve in **all** Ministry positions for the 10:45 am service.
2. Second, I would like to make a special plea to those of you who feel called to serve as a Worship Coordinator. Being a Worship Coordinator can sound daunting, but it isn't. It's just about helping Pastor set-up and shut down the building, helping Pastor by checking that everyone who was assigned to serve that weekend has come to service and helping with the hospitality. Tasks include: open/close the building, turn on/off lights, ensure communion is set out/put away, set-up/put away the coffee, juice and treats, and ask people to help with any tasks that need to be done.
3. And finally, we are in need of a few additional people to help with the AV for each service. Many people think that they don't have the skills to do AV, but I want to ensure you that you can do it. If you can turn on a computer and open a PowerPoint document, you can serve as an AV Assistant. Not only that, we will train you.

Please prayerfully consider these opportunities and contact the office if you feel you have been called to serve in any way.

Finally, I want to give thanks to God for each of you and thank you for offering your gifts in ministry to assist with our House of Prayer weekly worship. Having two services each weekend is no easy task and it literally cannot happen without your help. Whether you greet or usher, help with communion or read, set-up treats or turn off lights, every gift you bring to us is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Martin, Parish Administrator

Membership Report

An examination of the parish records indicates the following statistics regarding the status of our congregation:

	<u>Members</u>
1. Membership, end of 2017.....	348
2. Members received during 2018	
a. By Baptism: Child (15 years and under).....	4
b. By Baptism: Adult (16 years and over).....	0
c. By Affirmation of Faith.....	0
d. By Transfer.....	0
e. From other sources/statistical adjustment	0
Total members received this year.....	4
3. Baptized youth confirmed in 2018.....	5
4. Members removed during 2017	
a. By death.....	4
b. By transfer	0
c. For other reasons/statistical adjustment	3
Total members removed in 2017.....	7
5. Membership, end of 2018.....	345
6. Average weekly worship attendance.....	114

Members Added in 2018

Baptisms:

Blue, Journey – September 23, 2018	Richards, Ethyl – November 11, 2018
Booker, Kamira – September 23, 2018	Danley, Olivia – December 2, 2018

New Members:

none

Members Removed in 2018

Deaths:

Phillip Schoch	January 11, 2018	Marie E. Breen	May 6, 2018
Marilyn Joan Lutz	January 23, 2018	Helen McEwen	August 30, 2018

Transfers:

None

Other: (moved or unknown):

Miller, Garry -- Other sources: Inactivity	Morgan, Patricia -- Other sources: Other
Morgan, James -- Other sources: Other	

Other Funerals (non-members, held at House of Prayer):

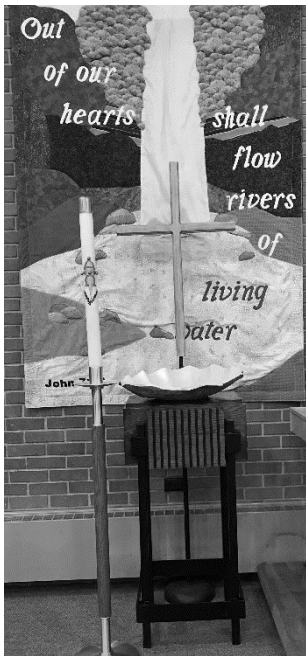
Kobow, Robert Arlen, July 1, 2018	Willkom, Richard Edward, August 21, 2018
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You will notice that we accepted no new members in 2018 outside of those accepted by baptism. It is worthy to note that we do have 50+ new prospective members who are interested in joining House of Prayer. In fact, many of these prospective members are already giving of their time, talent and treasure to the congregation and as such in many ways are already fully participating members. We will be hosting a new member Sunday sometime this spring to formalize their membership which will bestow full voting privileges.

Memorial Committee

Many families made memorial gifts to House of Prayer in remembrance of loved ones this year. We wish to thank these families for contributing to the memorial fund which has been established to use money donated to beautify and enhance our worship and church. The memorial committee is responsible for deciding how these gifts are spent. Suggestions for items needed for our church are given to the committee and/or families may designate their contributions for things they would like to see the church have.

Members who serve on this committee are Pam Hults, Irene Kube, and Dienne Wyland. If you are interested in being a part of the memorial committee, please give your name and contact information to me or another committee member.



New Pascal Candle Holder

In 2018 memorial money was spent on:

- A banner rack for the Altar Guild
- Indoor plants for planter by front doors
- White tables for fellowship hall
- Pascal candle holder
- Design consultant for carpeting and interior finishes



New banner rack for the Altar Guild



Indoor plants for new planter

To all the families who have remembered your loved ones through donations to House of Prayer this year, we wish to acknowledge the sorrow of your loss and thank you very much.

God's blessings,
Mary Kay Meisner

Property Committee



2018 was a year for HOP's property concerns.

This year's annual spring clean-up on May 14th accomplished a number of outside items including the parking lot, brush removal and landscaping. Many of the inside items were put off because of the bathroom renovation.



Because of the expansion of the new bathrooms, the central storage room was reduced about in half. In order to accommodate the need for storage, new storage cabinets were added on the North wall of the Sunday School room. Dean Libby ordered the cabinets and they were installed before the renovation started.

Bathrooms- mid reno

The bathroom renovation resulted in them now being handicap accessible. In addition to that the bathroom doors now automatically open by a push button. Dean Libby was the official HOP General Contractor for the project, spending many hours bird dogging the whole process. The target date for completion of the bathroom renovation was the second week of August prior to the Community Festival on August 19th. They made it. Whew!

On May 28th we discovered that we had a garage break-in. The ZTR lawnmower, bench grinder, air compressor and a floor jack were all stolen. In addition to that the garage door was pretty well trashed. The Oakdale Police and our insurance company were notified of the break-in. Our insurance company, Guide One, covered the loss and we paid the deductible \$1000. In return we received a brand new 54" Troy Built ZTR lawnmower (beautiful), bench grinder and new garage door. The garage door was reinforced to prevent a similar break-in. In the meantime, until we got the new lawnmower, Larry Goplen brought up his



Dean begins the renovation

lawnmower every week to do the lawn mowing, which was most of the summer.
Thanks, Larry.

Our parking lot was beginning to show its age. The striping of the parking lot had almost completely worn off and there were several significant cracks in the asphalt. A number of bids were obtained from four contractors and the HOP Council approved the expenditure to stripe the parking lot and seal the asphalt cracks. Without the crack sealing the deterioration of the asphalt would happen much sooner.

Along with the bathroom renovation, a new security system was installed. The new system requires a keypad entry code, eliminating a key for entry. Along with that a number of cameras were added throughout the building and outside. The video from each camera is stored digitally for a number of days. The video from each camera can be viewed in real time or retrieved from storage as needed. Sara has the ability to see who is at the front door from her desk, ask who they are and can buzz that person in when the front door is locked. Many churches have this type of security system.

Guess what? We still had a roof leak in the intern office this Summer. The Fischer Company came out at least four times. The last time the President of the company came out with his crew and they did find the probable cause. It hasn't leaked since.

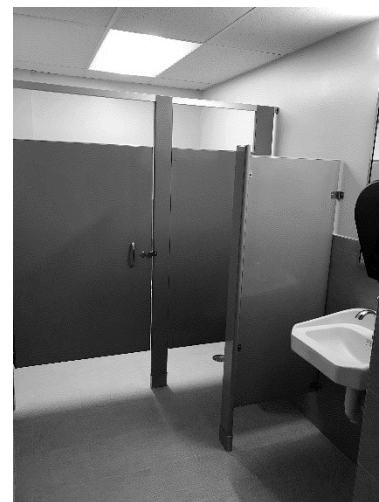
Washington County has a Watershed Program putting in "Rain Gardens". They contacted us to see if we would be interested in having one put on our property. There was no cost to us and they were given the go-ahead. It was quite a bit bigger than I expected. It's purpose is to filter the run-off from the parking lot before it enters the creek. They will maintain the garden for the first two years and then it's up to HOP to maintain it after that. I think it is a nice addition.

A special thanks to all the HOP volunteers as well as the Boy Scouts who have helped with lawn mowing, plowing snow, housekeeping, landscaping, general maintenance and much more.

David Burau
Property Chair



Women's room- completed



Men's room- completed

Service Ministry

The Service Ministry members donate their time, creativity, and hard work to offer a variety of outreach and charity opportunities. These members, who help coordinate the projects, include Rosie Flannigan, Lori Libby, Mary Kay Meisner, Deb Seyfer, and Jan Stiles. Ministry Rep to Council – Rosie Flannigan.

We want to thank you, the House of Prayer members,
for your participation and generous support of these ministries in 2018.

Undies Sunday - Underwear, socks, sweatshirts and sweatpants were collected for the staff at Cowern Elementary School to have available for their students. We exceeded our goal to collect sufficient items for up to 40 boys and 40 girls. (Jan. 2018)



A few of the many Undies collected

Caring Hearts Supply Drive for Homeless People - HOP collected 6 cartons and 2 large garbage bags of personal hygiene products, over-the-counter medications, and cotton socks for distribution by local programs to benefit homeless children, women and men. (Feb. 2018)

North St. Paul Food Shelf - HOP members generously support this mission throughout the year, donating items and volunteering time for the food shelf. March is the annual “Food Shelf Month.”

Arc’s Value Village Thrift Store – Four individuals worked a two-hour volunteer shift (May 19) at this Thrift Store, which generates funds for The Arc Greater Twin Cities’ programs that help adults and children with disabilities, their families, and the community.

School Tools Outreach - School supplies for Cowern School children helped ensure a good start to their school year! HOP delivered 35 filled backpacks, as well as additional supplies. (July-August 2018)



Making fleece blankets

God’s work, Our hands. was a dedicated day of service (Sept. 10). We made 26 fleece blankets for Camp Noah; and made 400 simple sandwiches for the 363 Days Food Program to distribute to homeless.

Sheridan’s Story – Sheridan’s goal is fighting child hunger by supporting a child (and family) with a consistent supply of nutritious food every weekend of the school year. Two-person teams

from HOP deliver food packages to 21 children at Cowern Elementary School every week. (Sept.-May)

Feed My Starving Children – Twenty-nine (29) people from HOP participated in the *Five Million Meals* community megapack held in Woodbury. During that shift, volunteers packed 1,135 cartons of meals, which feeds 671 children for a year. (Oct. 6)



Blankets for Camp Noah

Operation Christmas Child – Children and adults at HOP worked together to fill 30 shoe boxes to be distributed worldwide. (Nov. 18)

Red Kettle Bell Ringing – Seven (7) volunteers staffed a four-hour shift (Dec. 6) for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing, at the Oakdale Cub Foods.

Giving Tree - HOP members provided gifts for 17 people, including four families in the Kinship Care Program at Lutheran Social Services and two HOP families. You helped others have a blessed and Merry Christmas. (Dec. 2018)



2018 Giving Tree

Kids in Foster Care – Partnering with Washington County Community Services, HOP donated 6 large garbage bags of gift items for some of the 110 kids / 45 families in foster care. (Dec. 2018)

Gifts for Seniors - Established in 1994, this group provides donated gifts and life-affirming personal contact to isolated seniors in the Twin Cities area. HOP members filled a barrel with items. (Dec. 2018)

It is a rich blessing that HOP members embrace these opportunities to carry on God’s ministries in our community and around the world! This report is a reflection of a congregation with a truly generous giving spirit. We will continue to carry out God’s work through 2018 and beyond.

God Bless You! Service Ministry Committee



The LARGE group for Gods Work Our Hands

Women of Hope

What is Women of Hope?

As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

Grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

God's Blessings! to all the creative and generous women at House of Prayer! **Thank You!**



Women of Hope plays a key role in hospitality-related ministry at House of Prayer by maintaining the kitchen, including stocking it with supplies; and additional service to the church and its members as needs arise, providing refreshments for church functions not covered by any other ministry. Hospitality commitments included hosting five funeral receptions; serving lunch for the Annual Congregational Meeting; refreshments and

supplies for Sunday social hour; Lenten Soup Suppers; Confirmation Day reception; and dinners for First Communion training and New Member Orientation. After the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, pies and beverages were provided for the fellowship time. WOH funds come from family donations for funeral receptions; free-will offerings for Sunday social hour, Lenten Soup Suppers, and other church events; plus the annual Bake Sale. WOH members disbursed funds to support efforts within the church, in the local community, and internationally.

The Grace of God is With You was the theme for the 31st annual Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Spring Convention, held May 4-5, 2018.

East Central Cluster, of which House of Prayer is a member, again held two meetings for women from its member churches. These Cluster meetings provide an opportunity for fellowship; and to learn of news and activities at the Cluster member churches, as well as at the Synod. Besides a business meeting, there is a guest speaker. The monetary and material giving is usually related to the guest speaker's presentation topic.

Knitting Ministry / Yarn Craft at HOP continues meeting weekly (Wednesday, 9:30 am) and produces warm and colorful hats, mittens, scarves, and baby blankets. Cowern School and children in foster care were among the recipients of the much-needed winter weather items. The baby blankets are gifts for baptisms. **Nighttime Knitters** meets twice a month; and provides the tools for people wishing to learn to knit/crochet.

Officers in 2018: Irene Kube (President), Deb Breister (Vice President), Julie Burau (Treasurer), Deb Seyfer (Secretary), Dawn Bottolfson (Purchasing), Barb Zehoski (At-Large Rep to Council); Rosemary Jensen (Historian), and Bev Buan (Hospitality Chair).

W O H CONTACTS:

Irene Kube 651-739-1450 gikube@hotmail.com

Deb Breister 651-233-6771 327djb10@centurylink.net

Deb Seyfer 651-398-6115 debann2695@yahoo.com

Music Director's Report

Children's Music

As Sunday School has evolved so has the involvement of the music ministry at House of Prayer. There is currently no regular participation of the musicians of House of Prayer in Children's Music.

Adult Choir

The choir is currently participating in service on a monthly schedule as has been our recent practice. We provide anthems for the service and have enjoyed both challenging and uplifting pieces over the last year. We look forward to our continued musical growth and the ability to enliven worship with music and thoughtful contemplation.

Handbell Choir

This year we have done a complete cleaning of our bells and maintained them so that they will last into the future in best working order. We have also enjoyed the continued participation of many of the people that joined us in the previous year and look forward to our further growth. In the next year we look forward to expanding our library by adding several new anthems to ensure that we have new and varied music for years to come.

HOP Musicians

The HOP Musicians continue to provide excellent leadership for our worship at House of Prayer. We have focused on learning more varied music as well as bring out things that have not been performed in some time. We are also driven to really understand how our music relates to the topics being presented in worship and how it can further the message that the Pastors wish to present. We would like to extend special thanks to our worship planners, particularly Jacky Hansen, as we have been off lectionary in our year of Jubilee.

Further Notes

William Mills, the Music Coordinator, was invited this year to participate in a project choir called Together in Hope. This choir was created to promote unity between our Lutheran and Catholic sisters and brothers. The goal of the choir was to perform the *Holy Spirit Mass and So That the World May Believe*, two piece of composer Kim Andre Arnesen, in Rome. Further performances were held at the Vatican including a celebration of the Mass for All Saints. The choir also sang at an audience for the Pope. William represented House of Prayer and the broader Lutheran community by his participation in the group.

Pastor's State of the Congregation Report

Greetings sisters and brothers of House of Prayer!

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecc. 3:1
In 2018 following our wonderful 2017 50th year anniversary, we observed a **year of Jubilee** and completed our Faith Forward Capital Campaign. A 50th Jubilee year according to scripture (see Lev. 25) is to be a year of Sabbath rest and simple life and to release other from debt and restore the land. To that end we cared for many in the community and focused on many of the ministries we love and let other things take a season of rest.

Here are some of the highlights and areas of ministry for which we should rejoice!

- Our **Service Ministry** (as Jesus directed us - caring for those in need) continues to be strong and an area of passion and solid participation for many. The Sheridan Story project and our growing partnership with Covern Elementary school is one of my favorites. It would be wonderful to see this grow into building relationships at Covern by reading to students or mentoring! There are so many important service ministry efforts we participate in each year, it is truly wonderful for a congregation our size. For details please see the Service Ministry report. These local ministry efforts to care for others are a great sign of our love of Christ shared with others.
- **Global Mission Ministry** accompaniment efforts with our partner congregation in Ifunda, Tanzania. - We should all be pleased to be part of one of the most robust and successful partner ministries in the Synod. Our sisters and brothers in Ifunda, pray for our congregation daily, and we learn so much about faith filled living when we visit. I invite you to read Pam Hults' report for details.
- **Summer Community Festival and Winter Community Christmas Breakfasts** were great successes. Feeding many from the community as well as our own congregation, while having fun and raising money for important ministry efforts.
- **Weekly Worship and wonderful Worship Music efforts.** A big thanks to our Music Director William Mills, accompanists Penny Hults, Ginny Johnson, Paul and Betsy Hanson, and all our musicians both instrumental and vocal for adding such an important and joyful component to our worship life; and to the Altar Guild, members in ministry, and all who make worship a success each week.
- The **near completion of our Capital Campaign.** This year we have nearly finalized our efforts to bring the House of Prayer facility up-to-date. We have completed a new roof, building technology including audio and visual in the sanctuary and other areas, led lighting lessening our energy footprint, and this year in particular updating our original restrooms and finally making preparations to replace 20-year-old carpeting and painting walls. I would like to commend congregation President Dean Libby who will be ending his 4-year term this year for shepherding these important facility efforts! Thank you, Dean, what a gift to the congregation.

As your Pastor, it has been a joy to work with a congregation that is so committed to making a difference in the community and in the world. And since my 2019 Epiphany Star word was "Sharing", I want to share with you that the things that brought me the most joy in 2018 were:

Teaching confirmation, mentoring Interns and leading weekly Bible Studies. Getting to know many of you better during hospital visits or in conversation. I love leading worship, especially during joyous celebration days when the music is glorious; and most of all, I love deepening our relationships with God and helping each of you to discover what gifts of the Spirit God has blessed you with.

As we look forward to 2019 here are **a number of challenges ahead of us.**

1. **Mission and Outreach:** Churches across the United States are shrinking, and House of Prayer is no exception as you can see by the empty seats on Sunday mornings. We need to discern why and we must work on outreach and church growth. With the development of two new neighborhoods in Oakdale and nearby Maplewood, we not only need to reach out to people new to the area, but we also, must do a better job reaching out to the non-churched in the community. Did you know that the average age of residents in Oakdale is 39, while the average age of House of Prayer members is around 58?
2. **Creating a 5 to 10 Year Plan for Ministry:** Every organization needs direction. House of Prayer does too, and we will need input from everyone for this effort to be successful. The Council has a goal of having much of this plan together by mid-year.
3. **Education.** Fewer and fewer people know the Bible. In fact, the Church Councils #1 goal is for the entire congregation to deepen their relationship with God/Jesus. As you can see by our nearly non-existent Christian Education report, we have much work to do in this area. IF we look to Christ as our example, he called the disciples and taught them for three years before sending them out. We should have a vibrant education ministry if we are to prepare ourselves to do ministry in the world. - Personally, I am teaching confirmation and a regular Bible study each week. And, whenever possible, I also teach a class on Sunday for either the youth or the adults. Each of these classes take from 2-4 hours of preparation time. I have also been supervising interns, mentoring one post-confirmation youth monthly, and I also lead devotions and leadership efforts for the Church Council on a regular basis.

Brothers and Sisters, it is a joy to serve the Lord and House of Prayer is a wonderful congregation. And, the seasons continue to change, things die and are made new. God is wonderfully at work making things new. We need to listen and to be part of a new season of ministry at House of Prayer. And, I can say this with great conviction; I am personally not worried about God's church! God will make a way! I simply want to be part of the new things God is up to and I hope that you do too!

Thanks for a wonderful 2018 and I look forward to serving Jesus in 2019 with you,

Respectfully in Christ,

Pastor Dan Streeper

Community Festival Financial Report

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	\$0.00
Income	\$5271.00
Expenses	\$775.66
Disbursements	<u>\$4495.34</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	\$0.00

Faith Forward Capital Campaign Financial Report

Received in Dec 2017	\$5,750.00
2018 1st four months	\$11,885.73
2018 2nd four months	\$8,191.10
2018 3rd four months	<u>\$8,675.00</u>
Total	\$27,751.83

Financial Ministry Financial Report

Beginning account value January 2,2018

Medtronic stock (165 shares)	13,323.75
Money Market cash account	<u>48,249.65</u>
Total	61,573.40

Money coming into HOP account in 2018

Interest and dividend income	530.30
Other income	<u>33,482.81</u>
Total	34,013.11

Withdrawals from Money Market cash account

General expenses	15,000.00
Faith Forward Matching Fund	20,000.00
General expenses	4,000.00
RBC account fee	<u>140.00</u>
Total	39,140.00

Year-end account value

Medtronic stock (165 shares)	15,008.40
Money Market cash account	<u>42,950.36</u>
Total	57,958.76

Global Mission Partnership Ministry Financial Report

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2017	\$ 5,053.91
Total Disbursements	\$49.67
Total/Income/Deposits	<u>\$1,295.00</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2016	\$ 6,299.24

Deposits to this account include fund raisers and donations by individuals (some outside the congregation from family and friends). The breakfast money has not been transferred and is not included in this report. Monies raised are used for financial support for our partners in Ifunda. This account is also used for travel to Tanzania. Individuals pay their own expenses to this account. No donations are ever used for travel.

Love Fund Financial Report

2017 Year End Balance (Anchor Bank)	\$904.16
2018 Donations (credits)	\$2,266.00
Help for those in need (debits)	<u>\$2,407.97</u>
2018 Year End Balance (Premiere Bank)	\$762.19

First, a huge thank you to everyone that contributes to the Love Fund in addition to all the other House of Prayer ministries you contribute to. For those who do not know, the Love Fund is a fund to help people who are in need of emergency assistance in some way and all other options have been exhausted. It is intended to be a pay-it-forward fund where those who received funds will hopefully pay-it-forward to help others in need in the future, but there is no requirement for repayment. In reality, very little is returned to this fund, so, thank you to everyone who contributes.

We began 2018 with a balance of \$904.16. These funds were located at Anchor bank in North St. Paul. During the year Anchor bank was purchased by Old National, based in Virginia, and the Church Council decided to move these and all our funds to local Premier Bank.

This year we have distributed \$2,407.97 and received \$2,266.00 leaving us a balance of \$762.19.

I would like to thank our Office Administrator Sara Martin for helping to manage gift cards for food and gas, triaging requests for assistance and helping to make referrals. I would also like to thank Karla Danley and Scott Hults for helping to balance this account.

This year we helped 12 different families/individuals who were in need of assistance. Assistance included help with rent/medications/food/gas or other items without which could have led to a loss of a job, eviction and homelessness or the inability to afford doctor prescribed medications. In one case an elderly disabled couple was aided with some needed home repair expenses which were well beyond their means and the cost split with the company doing the work. The Council also approved the use of \$250.00 from this fund as a gift to our Music Director William Mills to defray a portion of his Vatican Choral trip. Assistance offered from this fund this year totaled: \$2,407.97. In addition, almost 15 bags of groceries were distributed people requesting food, from

the food donated to House of Prayer before it is sent on to the North Saint Paul Food Shelf, and many others were referred to the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Resource Center and to other locations for assistance.

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Dan Streeper

Women of Hope Financial Report

Beginning Balance, December 31, 2017	\$1,848.88
Income	\$2,169.45
Expenses	<u>\$1,427.99</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	\$2,590.34

Treasurers Report and Balance Sheet

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House of Prayer Lutheran Church

01/10/19

Balance Sheet

Accrual Basis

As of December 31, 2018

	Dec 31, 18
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Premier Bank	57,856.72
Premier Bank Global	6,299.24
Premier Bank Love	1,732.19
RBC	57,958.76
Total Checking/Savings	123,846.91
Other Current Assets	
Mission Investment Loan deposit	106.21
Total Other Current Assets	106.21
Total Current Assets	123,953.12
Fixed Assets	
Building	1,086,000.00
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	80,000.00
Garage and Contents	29,000.00
Land	185,169.00
Total Fixed Assets	1,380,169.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,504,122.12
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	4,622.51
Total Accounts Payable	4,622.51
Other Current Liabilities	
Deferred Giving Income	57,958.76
Designated Funds	
Beautification	679.12
Bell Repair & Supplies	307.92
Christmas Breakfast	3,141.95
Community Breakfast	30.00
Community Garden	215.44
Confirmation	120.60
Easter Flowers	356.00
Faith Forward	17,644.59
Global Mission	6,324.24
HOP Flooring	1,594.56
HOP musicians	850.00
Hymnals/Bibles	82.72
Ifunda Scholarships	220.00
Lenten Special 16	1,402.26
Love Fund	1,732.19
Memorial	4,930.73
Other	229.00
Sanctuary Enhancement	1,228.57
Sendafu Ministry	510.00
Sheridan Story	965.54
WAPO	39.00
Worship & Music Guitar	402.02
Youth	6,621.81
Total Designated Funds	49,628.26
Payroll Taxes Withheld	1,158.31
Total Other Current Liabilities	108,745.33
Total Current Liabilities	113,367.84

6:57 PM
01/10/19
Accrual Basis

House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2018

	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
Mortgage	274,511.98
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>274,511.98</u>
Total Liabilities	387,879.82
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	884,559.16
Retained Earnings	246,374.05
Net Income	-14,690.91
Total Equity	<u>1,116,242.30</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,504,122.12</u></u>

Resolution to Amend the Constitution

House of Prayer made no amendments to the constitution or bylaws during the 2018 year. However, please note that we will need to update the constitution during the 2019 year to be consistent with the changes made at the 2016 ELCA National Assembly.

2019 Church Council Elections Ballot

These are the positions that are currently open.
A ballot will be made available a week prior to the elections.

President (2 years): **Bruce Johnson**

Secretary (2 year): **Bev Buan**

Treasurer (1 year): **Scott Hults**

At Large #1 (2 years): **Dave Biedermann**

At Large #2 (2 years): **Your name here**

Delegates for Conference Assembly and Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders (1 year/1 meeting, Sat Feb 23, 2019): will consist of at least the following members:

- The Pastor
- 2 Male Lay Members
- 2 Female Lay Members

Delegates for St Paul Synod Assembly (1 year/1 meeting, Fri and Sat May 17-18, 2019): will consist of at least the following members:

- The Pastor
- 1 Female Lay Member
- 1 Male Lay Member

Churchwide Assembly Delegate (1 year/ 1 weeklong conference, all expenses paid, Aug 5-10, 2019):

- 1 lay member may run for election at this year's conference assembly to be held Sat Feb 23

House of Prayer 2019 Budget

2018/2019 Budget Information

Operating Income

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	notes
Envelopes Current	226,110	218,394	228,525	
Loose	2,500	13,191	6,000	
Facility Use	3,000	3,400	12,000	
Envelopes Other - Debt Reduction	5,000	273	5,604	
Thrivent Choice	600	125	600	
Other	-	91	500	
Total	237,210	235,475	253,229	
Faith Factor	(29,954)	(14,691)	(30,965)	

Other Income

Benevolence from Other Income			
Community Festival	4,951		
Designated Income	603		
Lent Special	3,881		
Ifunda Scholarships	6,670		
LSS	504		
Total Benevolence	16,609		
Total Operating Income	252,084	-	

Operating Expense

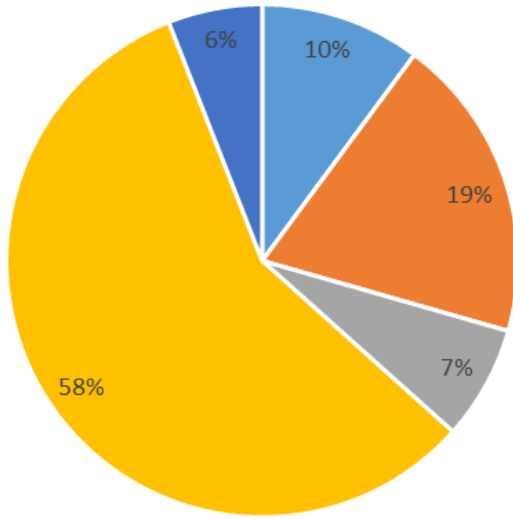
	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	
Benevolence Expense				
Saint Paul Area Synod	23,700	19,988	25,323	SPAS 10% Tithe Challenge
Seminary Scholarship	1,000	250	1,000	
WAPO Membership	600	630	660	\$1.50 per baptized members
Cowern School (Sheridan Story)		1,650		
Ifunda Companion Congregation	1,120	1,250	1,250	
Food Shelf		1,650		
Other				
LSS		1,650		
Total	26,420	27,069	28,233	11.15%
		-		<i>Benevolence as % of Income</i>

Operating Expense (Continued)

Executive Committee				<i>changes every 5 yrs</i>
Mortgage	31,200	31,086	32,196	Int rate from 4.125 to 4.875%
Utilities	11,500	13,388	13,000	
Insurance & Assessments	6,500	6,951	6,500	
Designated Expense		-		
HOP Bookkeeping	5,400	5,808	5,400	
Supplies & Postage	5,000	3,891	5,000	
Copier Maintenance	4,000	4,404	4,100	
Telephone	1,350	1,547	1,500	
Synod Assembly	400	390	400	

Technology	1,000	-	1,000	
Pastor Continuing Ed	800	800	800	
Christ in Our Home	150	132	150	
Lutheran Magazine	180	269	180	
Discretionary	1,000	265	1,000	
Council Retreat	150	-	150	
Bank Charge	200	206	200	
Fill-in Pastor	875	625	875	5 wks pulpit supply @ 175 ea
Pastor Sabbatical 2020	-	-	1,400	Budget 1/3 of Sabbatical
Miscellaneous	-	839	100	
Total	69,705	70,601	73,951	
Staff, Musicians, & Nursery				
Pastor Base & Housing	65,425	64,988	70,005	7%
FICA	5,005	4,972	5,355	7.65%
Pension & Insurance	18,865	17,469	18,818	
Auto Reimbursement	2,100	2,100	2,100	
MDIV Intern (All Intern Expenses)	4,000	1,000	4,000	
Music Director	9,734	9,685	10,415	7%
Other Paid Staff - Salaries	39,346	36,198	37,284	3%
- FICA	3,754	3,590	3,649	7.65%
Musicians (Includes FICA)	13,412	13,215	13,734	3%
Total	161,641	153,217	165,360	
Committees				
Property	2,000	8,357	6,000	
<i>Property - Equip Replacement Desig Fund</i>			2,000	rooftop HVAC estimate \$10k
Worship & Music	3,000	3,744	3,500	\$500 for Worship on the Farm
Christian Ed	1,948	2,246	2,200	
Stewardship	1,000	477	1,000	
Outreach	1,000	1,021	1,500	Increase for 2019
Social Ministry	200	44	200	
Youth	250	-	250	
Total	9,398	15,889	16,650	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	267,164	266,775	284,194	
Operating Income or (Loss)		(14,691)		
Total from Profit & Loss Report		266,775		

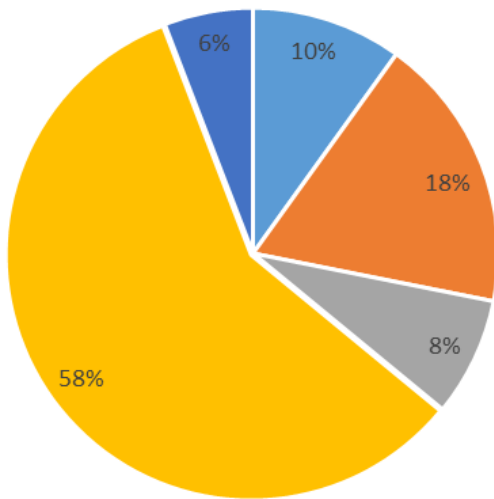
2018 Actual Expenses



- Benevolence
- Mortgage, Utilities, Insurance
- Operating, Office
- Staff, Musicians, Nursery
- Committees

Benevolence	\$ 27,069	10.15%
Mortgage, Utilities, Insurance	\$ 51,425	19.28%
Operating, Office	\$ 19,176	7.19%
Staff, Musicians, Nursery	\$ 153,217	57.43%
Committees	\$ 15,889	5.96%
	\$ 266,775	100%

2019 Budgeted Expense



- Benevolence
- Mortgage, Utilities, Insurance
- Operating, Office
- Staff, Musicians, Nursery
- Committees

Benevolence	\$28,233	9.93%
Mortgage, Utilities, Insurance	\$51,696	18.19%
Operating, Office	\$22,255	7.83%
Staff, Musicians, Nursery	\$65,360	58.19%
Committees	\$16,650	5.86%
	\$284,194	100%

Bishop Lull's Annual Report to Congregations January 2019



Bishop Lull's Annual Report to Congregations January 2019

"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I was greeted by the eloquent words of John 1 in worship on Christmas Day, reminded at year's end that our lives are swaddled in the grace of God, made fully known to us in Jesus Christ. How fortunate we are to be a part of the church in which God's love, forgiveness, and grace are a daily part of our lives. Grace upon grace.

During 2018 we leaned in to hear the voices of young adults from across our synod. Thirty young adults served as inspirational speakers, discussion group leaders, and provocateurs at the Synod Assembly. They challenged us to live into the fullness of our vocations, reminding each of us that God has equipped us to make a difference in this world. These same young adults spoke at our fall mission support event and wrote blogs for our website about their experiences as part of the church and synod. The Young Adult Initiative, piloted the previous year, has included an exploratory trip to Tanzania, experiential learning in the city, and a civil rights immersion in Atlanta. It is a bright spot in our synod's common work.

We continue to be blessed with the pastors and deacons we need to serve the 112 congregations and mission starts of the synod. This past year 25 rostered ministers were installed within the synod. There were also 3 consecrations of new deacons and 3 ordinations of new pastors. These new colleagues include: Sister Stacie Lightner, deacon at St. Paul-Reformation in St. Paul; Allen Blegen, deacon with Ecumen Hospice in North Branch; Heather Roth Johnson, associate pastor at St. John's in Lakeville; Lindsey Bina, associate pastor at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley; Kari Olsen, deacon at Christ on Capitol Hill and Shobi's Table, both in St. Paul; and Brice Bloxham, associate pastor at Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview.

The vocation of each of these new leaders grew through years of nurture and formation – within families and local communities of faith and eventually in seminary. In 2018 the synod has walked with 41 candidates as they prepare to serve as rostered ministers. This includes 19 men and 22 women. Currently our candidates are enrolled in ten different seminaries with the greatest number at Luther, Wartburg, and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. They come from thirty congregations, reminding us that a congregation like yours is the seedbed not only for raising up pastors and deacons, but also the next generation of church council members, stewardship leaders, and teachers of the faith within your congregation.

In 2018 the synod applied for and was awarded a grant of \$375,000 from the Lilly Endowment for a five-year project to strengthen the ministry skills of pastors within the synod. This generous award will also help the pastor-participants equip their lay leaders with biblical imagination and administrative insights. The first learning cohort will be convened in early 2020.

2018 was an active year for new mission explorations and renewal work across the synod. In Hugo, the Depot Church was launched in September as a partnership between St. Andrew's in Mahtomedi, the synod, and ELCA Churchwide. After a time of restructuring, Shobi's Table was relaunched in October. Lutheran Church of Peace in Maplewood and Christ the Servant in Vadnais Heights both moved into intentional redevelopment status with support from the synod and ELCA Churchwide. In addition, Hope Lutheran in St. Paul became a parallel new start, embracing a small established congregation and a mandate to form a new congregation alongside the old.

Some of the most significant work for congregational vitality occurs as congregations enroll in a year-long process of renewal. The 2018 participants in the Year of Renewal cohort included Living Waters in Lino Lakes, Trinity in Stillwater, House of Prayer in Oakdale, Cross of Glory in Mounds View, First in Harris, Lutheran Church of Peace in Maplewood, Amazing Grace in Inver Grove Heights, and Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview. Each committed to a year-long process of discipleship formation, engagement with the surrounding community, and active stewardship training.

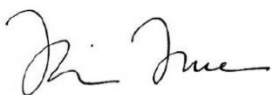
A second strategy for strengthening our congregations uses a model for shared ministry in which two or more congregations agree to share programming or staff while maintaining a unique congregational identity. In 2018 five congregations in mid-Chisago County (Zion in Chisago City, Trinity in Lindstrom, Chisago Lake in Center City, First in Taylor Falls and Immanuel in Almelund) coordinated a joint “God’s Work, Our Hands” service day, sharing in worship, a meal, and fellowship. In a more formal way, Atonement in New Brighton and Cross of Glory in Mounds View are preparing to call one pastor to serve both congregations. St. Mark’s and St. Luke’s, both in the city of St. Paul, are sharing an interim pastor and Spring Lake in North Branch is being served during their interim by the pastor of Calvary in Stanchfield. There are many other examples across the synod and I hope your congregation is one that has discovered ways to be stronger by working together with other congregations.

In September the synod hosted a Partnership Building Event to bring together those with interests in global and local mission for a common conversation. This group began exploring ways to address hidden biases and cultural and racial stereotypes so that the gifts of all neighbors might be received and respected.

It’s no longer a surprise to be reminded that the word *synod* means to *walk together*; it is what we do so that others will know the grace and mercy of God. We walk together with our companions in the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and in La Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala. Walking together is what we do at conference meetings and in consultation with congregations in conflict or transition. Walking together is also what members of the synod staff do when invited to preach in your congregation. In 2018 the bishop and the four assistants to the bishop preached 93 times. If you were not one of the congregations that invited a synod staff member to preach, please do so in 2019. We are eager to share God’s Word with you and to experience the life of your congregation.

At the end of one year and the start of the new, I am grateful for the work and witness of your congregation. Thank you for being bearers of God’s *grace upon grace* to one another and in your witness in the wider community. I am also grateful for the members of the synod staff and all that they do. They include Michael Gold, office assistant; Alicia Rodriguez, office manager; Chloe Ahlf, communications coordinator; Greg Triplett, financial administrator; Joe Lees, assistant to the bishop for vital congregations, vital partnerships; Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for next generation ministries; Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation; Anna Marsh, executive assistant to the bishop; and Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega and assistant to the bishop. What a joy it is for all of us to serve with you in the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Yours in God’s service –



Bishop Patricia Lull

Notes

[Annual congregational meeting opening liturgy]

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897
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 hymn #800. May be reproduced without restriction.

Litany

- L Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.
- C And also with you.

- L Teach us, O Lord, to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- C Lord in your name we pray.

- L Descend on our hearts, O Lord, that we may love others in the way Jesus loves us.
- C Christ in your name we pray.

- L Empower us, O Lord, to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.
- C Lord in your name we pray.

- L Move us, O Lord, to engage issues in our community in Christ-like ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those we serve and partner.
- C Jesus in your name we pray.

- L Strengthen us, O Lord, to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others although we may not agree.
- C Lord in your name we pray.

- L Give us, O Lord, the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.
- C Christ in your name we pray.

- L Guide us, O Lord, to be a healthy congregation that learns from our failures as well as our successes and offers wisdom to others.
- C Lord in your name we pray.

- L Let us pray. As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, help us to grow leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Help us to take a fresh look at our baptism each day so we may discover vitality in our relationship with you, each other and those we serve in the world.
- C Amen.

Reflections on understanding a living and vital faith

In Mark 12:28 Jesus is asked by a scribe: "Which commandment is first of all?" Jesus responded with "the Lord is one," and went on to say, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). These words are very similar to those that served as Israel's central confession of faith (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). Joshua (22:5) later reminded the people of Israel to observe these words. With this text as a guide, how do we begin to explore the ways we will nurture a living and vital faith in each person and the congregation?

Within the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, congregational vitality is defined as "communities of Jesus where there are life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world." These are three important dimensions of our work together. But it is the way in which we bring our heart, soul, mind and strength into our life and work that shows how the light of Christ shines in and through us. Our heart is the way we feel and sense God's presence in and through emotions. The soul is our mindful awareness of the presence of God within us and the world. This awareness encourages us to find meaning and purpose in life, both individually and as a community of faith. The mind is how we learn our beliefs, perspectives and practices that shape our understanding, knowledge and expressions of faith. And strength is the way we use our abilities, passions and skills to shape and live a life of faith.

The vitality of our faith as Christians, and as a church in the Lutheran tradition, finds meaning and purpose in Jesus' words from Mark 12:30. As we engage our strategic directions for the future, we find both power and insight by reflecting on what brings us vitality. Please consider the following:

Heart

- When are the times you feel or sense God is present?
- How are these experiences different when you are with others rather than alone?
- How do these emotions bring vitality to your faith and relationship with God?

Soul

- What Scripture passages give you an awareness of life or "living faith"?
- How does this awareness of a living faith help you find meaning and purpose in life?
- What about your life experiences brings a sense of vitality to your faith?

Mind

- What motivates you to continue growing in your relationship with God?
- What have you found helps you learn more about God?
- Where do you find vitality through your learnings and spiritual practices?

Strengths

- What God-given abilities, passions and skills have you discovered in your life?
- How does your faith guide you in using these?
- What about using these abilities, passions and gifts gives you vitality?

May your responses to these questions help you gain new insight and vitality into your relationship with God, each other and the world.