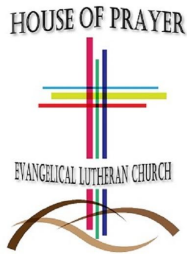


PEW NEWS

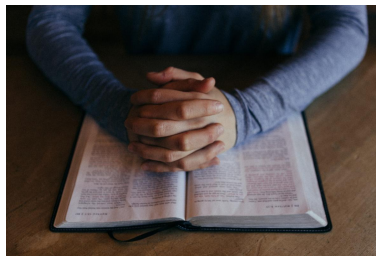


February 2023

House of Prayer Lutheran Church
1470 S Washington, Bismarck ND 58504



**Visit our
Website**



LIGHT

During the long winter nights, it is not uncommon to yearn for the light. Darkness tends to weigh heavy on our heart. Even as a young child when I shared a room with my brother I remember asking in the night, “David are you still awake?” I didn’t ask because I wanted to talk to my brother, I just wanted to know I wasn’t the only one awake in the midst of the darkness of the night.

Darkness tends to cause us to have heavy hearts and feel alone. It tends to bring our fears to the surface. There was a boy named Tommy, and one of Tommy’s favorite games was to ride his mother’s broom around the yard like a horse. When it started to get dark, Tommy went into the house, leaving the broom in the yard. In cleaning up after dinner, Tommy’s mother asked Tommy to bring in her broom. “But I’m afraid to go out in the dark, Mama.” His mother answered, “The Lord is out there honey, don’t be afraid.” So, Tommy opened the door just a crack and called out, “Lord if you’re out there, could you hand me the broom.”

During these winter long winter nights when it seems like we leave for work in the dark and then arrive home in the dark it can begin to weigh on us. Darkness can cause our fears to bubble to the surface; tempers to flare; anxieties to rise, and maybe worse can make us feel alone during it all. But we can learn a simple lesson from Tommy. Amid darkness, during our fears, in the midst of feeling alone, we can turn to God who is there. Many places in scripture, especially in the Gospel of John it talks about how God can bring light into our

darkness. Light is highlighted in the church season of Epiphany. In John 8:12 Jesus states, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” In this season of Epiphany, we are reminded to turn to the light that is there even in the midst of our darkness. This season highlights how Christ birth brings light into our world, a world that can too often be filled with the darkness of human sin and brokenness. Allow His light to make a difference in your life. When you tend to drift to all that is going wrong, all that you haven’t accomplished, the many ways that you fall short; turn back to the light. Focus on what is going right, what you have accomplished, how you have succeeded. Focus on a Heavenly Father that loves you for who you are and walks with you in the midst of it all. Christ has brought his light into our darkness, and in this season, we celebrate the difference that light makes.

Praise the Lord,

Pastor Joel



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

February

1 – Wednesday	7:30	Senior High Group
8 – Wednesday		No Senior High Group
15 – Wednesday	7:0	Senior High Group
22 – Wednesday	6:00	Ash Wednesday

CONFIRMATION YOUTH FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

February

1 – Wednesday	6:00	Confirmation – Lesson 8
8 – Wednesday	6:00	Confirmation – Lesson 9
15 – Wednesday	6:00	Service Event
22 – Wednesday	6:00	Ash Wednesday – Required Service

New Orleans July 16-20, 2024



**2024 ELCA
Youth Gathering**

including **MYLE the tABLE**
Young Adult Gathering

***Winter Ski Retreat - Red Lodge MT
January 13-16***



Sunday School and Wednesday Night JAM had a great start after Christmas break!

The kids came back to a wonderful gift of Bible Bags from the Quilters! They were so excited to pick their own and have been using them every week to bring their bibles and worksheets home. You can look for weekly Family sheets, as well as info about what we are doing each week.

The kids have been working on learning The Lord's Prayer and we encourage you to say it with them at home.

Sunday and Wednesday challenged each other to a friendly competition to see who can bring more items to help support Tracy's Sanctuary House! You can find our challenge calendar and growing piles in the narthex. JAM has been winning the breakfast bar weeks thus far!

Children's Ministry offering will also be going to help Tracy's Sanctuary House and we have a goal of \$1000 set to help families in need. In January the kids have already raised \$264.01!

January 22nd the 4th graders came together with their families to receive their Catechisms and have a wonderful lesson from Michelle.

Thank you to the 3rd grade class for providing brunch for this event.

Coming up in February:

5th--Sunday School hosts treats and Service Duties

12th--Sunday Noisy Offering! Bring your change to help make a change!

15th--JAM Noisy Offering! Bring your change to help make a change!

15th--JAM hosts treats ♥ desserts

22nd-- NO JAM--Families are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Service †

Don't forget to upload your family photo to the church directory so that you can connect with other HoP families.

Join the House of Prayer Sunday School and JAM page to stay connected!



[Register for Sunday School](#)



Thank you for being a part of God's mission at House of Prayer! Just the fact that you are reading this demonstrates your desire to be a part of God's kingdom and the mission we share.

As we continue our stewardship journey, we will proceed further into the book "Embracing Stewardship." Our last session was about understanding that all that we have is a gift from God and as faithful stewards of His gifts, it is our

responsibility to manage these resources to the best of our ability. Serving others and glorifying Him in the process.

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:12) Now I would like us to consider the intersection between faith and finances, as Jesus did multiple times in the Gospels. Jesus taught that faith and finances are inseparable. Our faith affects how we manage our finances, but more importantly how we manage money has a tremendous impact on our faith. The best example of this comes directly from Jesus himself when he said, **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34)**

Notice Jesus did NOT say, “where your heart is, there your treasure will be also.” Our heart follows our finances, not the other way around. If I put my treasure with Jesus and his work in the world, that will cause my heart to draw closer to Jesus. Conversely, if I put my treasure in things that have nothing to do with Jesus, my heart will be drawn to those things and away from Jesus.

God’s people are to live and give generously, especially to help those in need. It is part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, following His example and joining His mission.

Respectfully, Kadon Hintz



The EMF Board of Directors met for their quarterly meeting on January 23. Discussions were held on goals for 2023.

-Priorities are to update and communicate with the congregation what the Extended Ministry Fund is, how the distributions are used and methods of giving.

This will be done by semi-annual temple talks, revised handouts and being available to congregation, committees and council for questions and/or suggestions.

-Plan to have current and old documents scanned and organized by year end to integrate into church record keeping system.

-Meet with EMF financial advisor annually.

-Prepare thank you and recognition to donors.

The By-Law resolution presented to the congregation at the annual meeting was approved formalizing compliance with ND Century and IRS tax codes, increasing the amount undesignated gifts to House of Prayer to the EMF from \$1,000 - \$10,000 and changing distribution policy percentages and ranges to allow for flexibility to be able to access community outreach needs.

The next meeting is April 17th @ 6:30 PM.

In praise of all that is shared,

Carol Beiswanger, EMF Financial Secretary

Rheannon Huber-Chairperson, Mandy Gienger-Recording Secretary, Thomas Schauer, Mark Costain & Patrick Davenport-Board Members, Keith Zhorela-Council Rep.



The Saturday Welca Bible study is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for everyone's support of money raised thru coffee time the third Sunday of the month, Advent brunch, and the Mother/other banquet which allowed us to make monetary donations in the community to: Abused Adult Resource Center/Ministry on the Margins/Heaven's Helpers Soup Café/Community Action Backpack for Kids/Salvation Army/ and WISE (Women in Seminary). TOGETHER we can help those in need. Thank you.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Plans are in the making to keep House of Prayer Church congregational members informed with a new update each month of our financial situation. It will be posted in the P E W Newsletter.

A report of the total amount of expenditure's that were paid out and the total net income that was received.

Thank you all for supporting Gods Ministry,

*God's Peace
Budget & Finance
Treasurer,
Keith Zhorela*



Annual Meeting Success

The House of Prayer Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall following the service on January 29. President Jarred Roloff called the meeting to order after a hearty lunch served by the Church Council and sixth-grade youth. Special thank you goes out to Dick and Colleen Olson for sponsoring the pulled pork and buns and Pony Express for donating the soup and chili.

Roloff presented a recap of 2022 and highlighted the accomplishments and activities of the church. The meeting ended with cupcakes in honor of hitting \$65,000 for our capital campaign, the first goal the Council set for on our way to \$85,000. Amazing!

Thank you to the many hands and faces who made the day successful and memorable. House of Prayer is truly blessed with the best church family around.

House of prayer received a very generous donation from a member which allowed us to add assisting listening devices to our audio equipment. 4 assisted listening devices are now available for those that need assistance with hearing clearly. It's wonderful to know that we



can offer this option, allowing as many people as possible to attend service with us in person and be apart of our congregational community.



BIO GIRLS – BEAUTIFUL
INSIDE & OUT

This is the 6th year we've hosted a site and have now expanded to a spring and a summer session at House of Prayer. The BIO Girls mission is to improve the self-esteem in adolescent girls through empowerment of self and service to others. It's a 12-week program for 2nd-6th grade girls and the girls will train to run a 5k race at the end!

Registration for the SPRING session opens at **8am on February 7!** This typically fills in minutes, so if you're interested, register right away! Contact Michelle with questions.

Register here:

Bio Girls
Registration



NEW MEMBER CLASS

We love all the new faces at House of Prayer! Join the new member class to make it official! March 23rd. Join us for dinner at 530 and new member class at 6p. Bring your kids; childcare will be provided.

Register here!

<https://forms.gle/ayUZJTZLmXN62M3i9>



Join us for our Amazing Grace Lenten series based on the beloved song that celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. In our Ash Wednesday service, which will include the Imposition of Ashes, we will focus on the amazing grace of God King David experienced when he confessed his sins and was forgiven. We experience that same amazing grace of God in confession and forgiveness this Lent as we look toward the cross of Christ that made our freedom from sin possible.



ABC Seamless has started installing the new siding.

New plug-ins have been installed on the mezzanine above the Sanctuary eliminating several extension cords.

A new safety light has been added in the basement by office #2 to make for a clearer view of the exit signs in case of a power outage.

We have hired Marie Schaaf for custodian of the church and Pat Gilhooly for building maintenance.

*Thank You
Reinie*



Hello from HOP Chancel Choir!!

6PM on Tuesday evenings is always a highlight of my week! Are you doing anything at 6PM on Tuesday evenings? I know what you would LOVE to do at 6PM on Tuesday evenings...Join Chancel Choir! We have begun preparations for our Holy Week Cantata, to be performed on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. When do we rehearse? **6PM TUESDAY EVENINGS!**

Chancel Choir FAQ

1. Do I have to have choir experience to join? No! Many of our members made their choral debut with HOP Chancel Choir.

2. Is the music hard? Sometimes the music might challenge you, but we always spend plenty of time working out tricky spots. I promise, nothing will be "too hard" for you.

3. What if I can't come every Tuesday at 6PM? Totally understand! We love our members to come as often as possible, but if you have to miss, a simple email or text beforehand is fine!

4. What if I am scared to sing in front of people? In choir, you are not alone. The only people you sing "in front of" in rehearsals are the Lord and myself. In performance, there may be more people in front of you, but think of how many people you have beside and behind you!!

5. What if I want to get involved, but just don't think choir is my thing? Come for a few rehearsals, no strings attached! If you still feel choir is not for you, Michelle would love to get you hooked up with other ways to be involved at HOP!

6. ??? Ask away!!

Blessings,
Jane Gowen
jcgowen8@gmail.com



Wednesday Night Playlist

Get familiar with the songs we sing on Wednesdays! Check out our YouTube playlist and praise our Lord through these incredible songs anytime you want!
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhtSOAM0sTpm_vdyODOleWk1DnMNO DXuo&feature=shares



Save the Date! **March 3-4, 2023** we will be hosting **If:Bismarck 2023** at House of Prayer! This is an incredible opportunity to gather with other women in our community. We will be watching the speakers live from TX Friday evening and Saturday. If you can come for even a portion of it, it will be worth it! Register here today and watch for more details to come!
<https://watch.if2023.com/register/join-group?groupid=27733>

We exist to equip women with gospel-centered resources, events, and community so they may learn more about who God is and disciple other women right where they are.



Thank you, thank you, thank you! YOU stepped up and raised over \$67,000 for our “Restore His House” Campaign. With those funds, ABC Seamless has already begun installing the new siding on our building. Because of your continued faithfulness we will be able to fortify our walls that allow us to continue to proclaim Christ to one another and the world. I hope you recognize the significance that your contributions will make for years to come. In a difficult economy to choose to continue to give to God speaks to what is truly important in your lives. Praise the Lord for the faith that he has shared with each of you, and for your willingness to share your gifts with House of Prayer. Your generosity has made a difference, and on behalf of the

congregation we thank you.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” (Matthew 6:21).

God’s Peace,

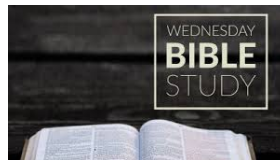
Pastor Joel & Minister Michelle



The Missouri Valley Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #3 (MVFOP3) is proud to announce our 2023 "Cops and Kids" Back to School Event. This event will be held at the Walmart in Bismarck, the exact date/time to be announced. The program is designed to unite Bismarck law enforcement officers and public safety employees with local disadvantaged children for a special day of shopping. Children and families will be carefully selected and screened by a committee of local law enforcement officers to reach those most in need. Approximately \$200 will be spent on each child. Our goal is to sponsor as many children as possible through the support of donations from our citizens and businesses here in Bismarck.

If you'd like to help financially with this event, fill out this form!

<https://forms.gle/Wv5KGg1QHLeYMn7LA>



Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30am! Come any week you're able as Pastor Joel and Michelle lead a study on the upcoming weekend's gospel lesson! This is for all ages & stages!



<https://hopbismarck.ctrn.co/directory/index.php>

We are still at about 18% participation in the church directory.

Did you know that you can:

Keep in Touch - Easily reach out to other organization members with one-touch calling, texting & emailing. Our new “favorites” feature makes frequent contact even faster!

Find a Friend - Using the Online Church Directory mobile app, members can navigate to each other with easy-to-use directions & mapping. Never get lost again!

Safe & Sound - Our member directory utilizes SSL for secure communication, so your data is password protected, encrypted & safe.

The directory is more than just pictures...you can email, text & call and navigate from address to address with the directory.

Please, let's fill the directory with photos so we can all use this in our ministry.
Vera



Technology and social media are scary to some people and a part of everyday life for others. If you're comfortable with computers and social media (or are interested in learning more about them), help House of Prayer by volunteering to advance slides or stream Facebook during a church service. With Wednesday and Sunday services we will need extra hands to help keep things running smoothly. Connect with the public relations committee to learn more. Contact Chris Reinicke or Dana Hager.

**Sign Up
Genius**



Will you consider sponsoring a fresh bouquet of flowers for our Altar this year? SIGN-UP TODAY...on the "NEW" FLOWER CHART located on the Kiosk in our Gathering Area. Bouquets are \$25.

Putting the Ha in Hallelujah



Super Bowl Fan

A man saved up money to attend a Super Bowl one year. It was very expensive, and he was so excited to go. Once he arrived at his seat, he noticed an empty seat next to him. He asked the man next to him, "Is this seat not taken?"

- The man sitting next to him said, "yes. It used to be my wife's seat, but she is now dead."

- The man asking said, "I am so sorry for your loss!"

- The man thinking of how valuable the seat was asked the man next to him, "Could you have given this seat to one of your friends or relatives?"

- The man next to him said "No."

- The man asked, "Why?"

- The man next to him said, "They are all out to the funeral. "

Obituary

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, someone did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results, "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth be known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember—we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

*Pastor Joel Samuelson
Minister of Discipleship - Michelle Hintz*

House of Prayer's Church Council

*Chris Reinicke - President
Kadon Hintz - Vice President
Colleen Nelson - Secretary
Keith Zhorela - Treasurer
Amy Erickson
Dana Hager
Luke Ingemansen
Reinie Kembel
Alex Roeder*

House of Prayer Lutheran Church



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**Office Hours:
8am to 5pm - Monday - Thursday
8am - Noon - Friday**

**Administrative Coordinator:
VeraLyn Weber**



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Pastor Joel - 701-516-4368

jsamuelson@houseofprayerbismarck.com

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Contact

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