

# HILLTOP *Journey to* 150

DEDICATED TO DISCIPLESHIP 1868 - 2018

DEC 2018-JAN 2019

## The Ultimate Breakthrough

For the entire year we've been praying for a breakthrough. We've been yearning with great expectation that God would *REVEAL* his wildest dreams to us, that he would *INCREASE* our faith so that we would truly live like there are no limits to what he can and will do in our lives and in the lives of those outside our church walls, and that he would *HUMBLE* us to the breakthrough work of his Spirit so that through us others would come to follow Jesus and the world would be transformed.

A huge way that God answered these prayers is in the way he unified us behind a single, clear, strategic vision with a 96% approval vote on our MCCI report. Now that this report is the official strategic plan of the church, we can begin to pray that God will continue to breakthrough as we step into some exciting new territory of reaching the next generation for Christ, developing stronger disciple-making systems, discovering what our "signature ministry" is, and dreaming about the current and future capacity of our church building.

These breakthroughs—both the overwhelming rallying behind our MCCI recommendations, and these future breakthroughs that we're already anticipating—are exciting; however, they pale in comparison to that ultimate breakthrough that we celebrate this Advent season.

All breakthroughs rest on the shoulders and are dependent upon one, singular moment in history—the breakthrough of God's entry into this world through the birth of Jesus Christ. In Christ's coming we see the wall between heaven and earth completely shattered, and the entire human race is blessed with the very presence of Emmanuel, *God With Us!*

For centuries the church has celebrated four great gifts that God gives us through this breakthrough: *Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy*. And these are not only gifts that we each receive from Jesus, but gifts that we too can give to

the world as we partner in God's breakthrough.

As excitement and anticipation continues to grow over the approval of our MCCI report, and as we move forward with great expectation on how we can each partner in this brand-new season of ministry at Hilltop, may the foundation of our passion be in the breakthrough of Jesus into this world. May we each join together daily praying our *2018 Advent Breakthrough Prayer*:

### Advent Breakthrough Prayer

2018

**Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace,**

**you came into this world to give your PEACE.**

**Transform me into a person of peace—one who creates  
*shalom* in this world.**

**Jesus Christ, King of Kings,**

**you came to this world to give your HOPE.**

**May you be the only source of hope in my life as I share  
hope with others.**

**Jesus Christ, God With Us,**

**you came to this world to give your LOVE.**

**May I live out your love through Christlike self-sacrifice.**

**Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords,**

**you came to this world to give your JOY.**

**May I find my ultimate joy in you as the one and only  
God who fulfills all of your breakthrough promises.**

**This Advent season, direct all my desires to follow your  
example, and make me a passionate person who wants  
nothing more than to partner with you in giving the gifts  
of PEACE, HOPE, LOVE, and JOY to the world.**

**Amen.**

Pastor Kelly

# HILLTOP ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

## Hilltop United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 15 2018, 6:30 pm

**Present:** Kelly McCuaig, Ashley Goltermann, Allison Bass, Bonnie Weingartz, Robin Staloch, Paulette Booker, Terry Berg, Bill Scherer, Michelle Behsman, Paulette Adams, John Phelps (via phone).

The meeting was opened in prayer by Don Putzier.

**Pastor's Report:** Kelly asked if there were any thoughts on MCCI and he discussed the next steps in the process. An interest survey will be distributed in the next month to assist in building prescription teams. The goal is to have all teams formed by the end of February, and met with the assigned MCCI prescription coach.

**Charge Conference Action:** Pastor Kelly presented the pastoral compensation forms for both lead and associate pastor, which were approved by SPRC. After a brief discussion, Don Putzier motioned to approve pastoral compensation as presented. Allison Bass seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes from the last meeting on Oct. 25 2018, were available for review. A motion was made by Paulette Booker to approve the minutes as presented. Terry Berg seconded. The motion passed.

**Inward:** Pastor Kelly reported that there were 28 individuals signed up for Connect Academy. Jody Thone, MN Annual Conference Leadership Development Director, led the group in discussion of Clifton Strengths at the last meeting.

**Outward:** Don Putzier reported on behalf of Stephanie and gave an overview of the Sierra Leone medical mission trip—the team visited a new clinic in the area and they tended to over 500 patients.

Kelly added that the current work of the Outward team may be absorbed by Ad Council in the coming year, as an MCCI prescription team will be formed to focus on our “signature ministry”.

**Trustees:** Bill Scherer reported that on Oct. 27th Alec Scherer had completed his Eagle Scout project (to redo the mulch around the building and replace mulch around the sanctuary with larger rock), with the help of several hard working scouts. Bill also asked the status of budgeted funds for future trustee initiatives.

**SPRC:** John Phelps reported that SPRC has been discussing via email the use of the HEAT (Higher Education Action Team) grant to provide a stipend for the Wesley House Coordinator.

**Kids Connection/Nursery:** Robin Staloch reported that the nursery has been fully staffed recently due to the increased number of volunteers. She said that the youth in Kids Connection will present a nativity program on Sun., Dec. 16, at the 10:30am worship service.

**Finance:** Michelle Behsman reported that YTD expenditures were \$306,160.84 and YTD income was \$288,131.91. Checking balance at the beginning of the year was \$52,053.15. The checking balance at the end of October was \$34,024.22. \$38,739.34 is designated for various missions, leaving a working general fund balance of \$15,284.88. Bonnie Weingartz made a motion to approve the finance report. Don Putzier seconded. The motion passed.

**Youth/Campus:** Ashley Goltermann discussed the need for dedicated space for the youth group and suggested that tables and chairs be moved from the west classroom to provide more space for the youth. Also, she asked that the trustees add doors with windows to this room to meet Safe Sanctuary policy.

She reported the Wesley Foundation would be having a *Friendsgiving* on Sun. Nov. 25 at Hilltop. Thirteen of the students are going to the OCC processing center in December. The MN Annual Conference wrote a great article on the Wesley Foundation at MNSU in the last MNConnect. Also, the Teal Pumpkin event was a great success in outreach to the community—over 70 neighborhood kids attended. Terry Berg asked if there was a need for Finals Week gift bags and Ashley said that it would be nice to have them ready by Dec. 9th.

**Endowment:** John Phelps reported that due to stock market fluctuations, the endowment funds were down about 2%.

**New Business:** Allison Bass asked if there was any conflict with December 20th as the next Ad Council meeting date.

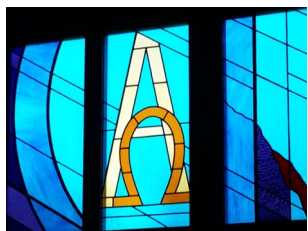
Kelly led the council in the breakthrough prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Behsman.

## HILLTOP NEWS

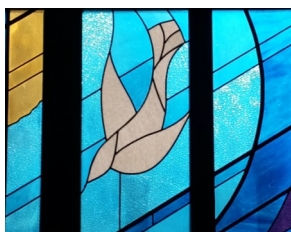
### A New Logo for a New Season of Ministry

I'll never forget the first time I stepped into the sanctuary here at Hilltop United Methodist church. I was immediately struck by the two stunning stained-glass windows. It wasn't long before I learned that most of you are struck by those windows as well. Of all the physical features of our church property, those two windows are the most iconic, and they so perfectly sum up who we are. The left window



reminds us that God is the Alpha and the Omega, and the right window reminds us of the Holy Spirit's presence in our life. All the while the shapes and colors of both direct our

eyes to the front and center of the sanctuary, the place of the Communion Table—the place where we remember, participate in, and place our hope in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Our windows are an ever-present reminder of that truth that has become so much a part of our identity at Hilltop, that best of all... *God is with us!*



So, it's only natural that in exploring how we can best portray ourselves to the world through a logo, our windows would play a critical part of that process. The new logo you'll start seeing on various forms, publications, and our website is inspired by both our denominational logo of the *Cross & Flames*, and also our iconic windows. You'll see the striking colors of purple and red that pop out of both windows in this new logo design that resemble panes of glass with the center cross holding it all together.



In these panes you'll see both a flame surrounding the cross, and also a hill which reminds us of our location on the hilltop and the call on our lives to be a light on top of a hill "that cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).

But this new logo is more than just new shapes and new colors. It is another reminder that God is doing a new thing at Hilltop, just as he has always done and always will do! Just as God did a new thing in 1868 when this church was first established. Just as God did a new thing in 1917 when we changed from a German-speaking church to an English-speaking church. Just as God did a new thing in 1968 when we moved up the hill and worshiped in this new location for the first time ever. Just as God did a new thing in the early 90s when the sanctuary was completed. And just as God is doing a new thing now as we've celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and have now entered into an exciting new era of ministry with the adoption of our recent MCCI report as our official strategic plan of ministry moving forward.

Yes, this will be more than a logo, it will be a sign of our faith in God's continual presence in the life and ministry of our church. This logo will be a way that we express our faith in that ever-present call on our lives as sung in our hymns: "Ponder anew what the Almighty can do..." ("Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", *The United Methodist Hymnal* #139). So be on the lookout to start seeing this logo in all sorts of places, and may it be a reminder to all of us to look even more passionately for God's presence in all of our lives, because best of all... *God is with us!*

Pastor Kelly

### Administrative Council Meeting

The next Ad Council meeting is **Thursday, December 20, from 6:30-8:00 pm** with the Committee meetings following at 8:00 pm. The Ad Council will approve the 2019 budget at this meeting in addition to other regular business.

### Annual Meeting/Charge Conference

There will be a Church Conference on Tuesday, January 15, to elect 2019 leadership, approve inactive membership report, and receive other annual reports. All baptized and professing members are eligible to vote and encouraged to attend.

## HILLTOP NEWS

### Walk to Emmaus - An Invitation

The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity for you to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as He is revealed to you through other believers. It is an experience that begins with prayerful discernment, followed by attending a three-day experience of God's grace.

There are fifteen talks regarding various aspects of Christianity, small group discussions, communion, lots of food, and fellowship during the weekend. Following the three days, you are encouraged to participate in small groups, connect groups, and class meetings. You can continue to share in God's grace in a variety of ways, while supporting others in our ongoing walks with Christ. Emmaus is a terrific part of our discipleship development at Hilltop.

The purpose of Walk to Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church. Walk to Emmaus will inspire, challenge, and equip participants for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work. Walk to Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Upcoming Walks are January 17 to 20, 2019 for men, and January 24 to 27, 2019 for women. These walks will be held at Good Counsel here in town this fall! Transportation to and from the walk will be taken care of, and scholarships are available to cover the cost of the walk. Over 60 members from this church have attended the Walk to Emmaus or another three-day or Fourth Day Christian event, such as Cursillo, Tres Dias, or Unidos en Cristo. If you are interested in attending a Walk, or if you want more information, please contact Barb Keith, Jeff Adams, Adela Scherer, Don Putzier, or Pastor Kelly for more details. They can put you in touch with other members from this church who have also attended a Walk.

Cost: The cost of the Walk is \$200.00 for the entire weekend, which includes meals and lodging. Do not let finances be a barrier to going. The local Emmaus Community and Hilltop can help with scholarships if needed.

### Hilltop Christmas Festival

Come to Hilltop for breakfast Saturday, Dec. 1, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., then stay and shop! Jeanette Phillips is serving two varieties of egg bake—ham & cheese and sausage waffle topped with maple syrup, fruit cups, cinnamon rolls, and other treats. Find that special handcrafted gift or bid on a wonderful selection of gift baskets. We have all the sweet treats—homemade Christmas cookies, candies, baked goods, peanut brittle and tea rings. You can drop off your donations for the Christmas Festival 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30th. Half of all proceeds will benefit the Connections Ministry homeless shelter.

NEW THIS YEAR for the KIDS there will be face painting, make 'n take Christmas ornaments, a holiday movie, and a visit from Santa from 10 - 11 a.m.

### Red Kettle Campaign

Come join in the fun and ring the bell for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 8 at Cub Food West (indoors!) from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Please sign up for a 1-2 hr. shift at the Welcome Center.

### Christmas Eve Worship

I know for many of us it is a challenge to invite people to church, but the Advent and Christmas season is a time when people actually expect *and want* to go to church. Who will you invite to our Christmas Eve service this year? We will be offering two services on Monday, December 24, at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Both services will be identical—candlelight worship services, with lots of music, and a choir blessing us at both services.

### Christmas Eve Cookie Ministry

Keep an eye out for more information coming on a brand new Christmas ministry here at Hilltop. We're gathering as many people as possible to serve our Mankato Community by baking and delivering cookies and treats to our first responders and medical professionals who have to work on Christmas Eve. More information coming soon on how everyone can be part of this impactful community outreach.

## HILLTOP NEWS

### Night of Carols and Worship

There's little else that's as heart-warming during the Holiday Season than singing Christmas carols and songs together. So gather with us at Hilltop (in the sanctuary) Sunday, December 9, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., as we celebrate God's ultimate breakthrough--the birth of Jesus Christ in this world--through this powerful night of worship.

### Children's Nativity Program

The kids will be sharing a Nativity Program during the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, December 16th. There will be a practice on Saturday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m., pizza will be provided.

### Online Giving

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up a one-time or recurring gift and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at:  
**[www.mankatohilltop.com](http://www.mankatohilltop.com)**,
2. Click on the **Give Now** button,
3. Click on the **Create Profile** button, then follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your contribution.

"I GAVE ONLINE" cards can be found in the pews and are to be used by those who give electronically by auto-tithe, online giving or text-to-give. This allows members an opportunity to put something in the offering plate as a physical act of worship.

### Upcoming Youth Fundraiser

Is it a Plane? Is it Superman? No, it's a Flock of Flamingos that could be coming to your yard soon. Rise Youth are preparing to hold their first big fundraiser of this year. Please be on the look out for more information on how you can participate in Flocking someone or how to avoid having your yard Flocked!!!

### Happy Birthday!


Julie Foster	12/01	Lucas Peterson	1/1
Barb Keith	12/03	Micaylia Kraywinkel	1/2
Joseph Eckert	12/04	Caden Clark	1/3
Meghan Moore	12/05	Christine Wilson-Winter	1/8
Mike Mattox	12/05	Matt Rausch	1/10
Ron Beaty	12/05	Tara Swalve	1/11
Sikari Ross	10/07	Kelly Rivers	1/12
Jeanette Phillips	12/09	Mary Gaskins	1/12
Ella Gavin	12/10	Adam Brown	1/14
Joan Lang	12/14	Don Bohn	1/14
Anna Rivers	12/16	Debby Westby	1/15
Jacob Zierdt	12/16	Gary Cooper	1/15
Johnny Bittner	12/16	Shannon McCuaig	1/15
Marlys Marrs	12/17	Peter Jarnstrom	1/18
Adam Born	12/19	Chuck Rowen	1/20
Cori Mundt	12/20	Derrick Galinat	1/23
Dan Held	12/22	Betty Goebel	1/25
Holly Aasen	12/23	Dennis Thorsen	1/25
Dean Zimmerli	12/26	Dianne Mell	1/25
Sarah Horn	12/28	Ken Green	1/25
Aaron Daby	12/29	Logan Swalve	1/26
Sophia Morgan	12/29	Brandon Page	1/28
Brad Propp	12/30	Neil Westby	1/29
Donn Rakow	1/1	JJ Morgan	1/30
Wanda Rakow	1/1	Del Goebel	1/31

### Happy Anniversary!

Craig & Diane Zimmerman	12/02
Alexis & Aaron Adams	12/17
Dan & Fiona Swanson	12/21
Linda Vogel/Peter Jarnstrom	12/26
Dianne & John Mell	12/27
Rolly & Zada Utzinger	12/27
Bob & Terry Berg	12/28
Bill & Adela Scherer	1/1
John & Judy Harrington	1/4
Andrew & Mary Bittner	1/5
Dianne & Mark Daby	1/5
Bob & Char Kraywinkel	1/26

# December Calendar at Hilltop

Details for calendar events can be found at <http://mankatohilltop.org/calendar/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>30</b> 7a Men's Group 8a-8p Cookie Drop-off for Christmas Festival 8a Teacakes for Christmas Festival	<b>1</b> 9a-12p Christmas Festival 9a-12p Organist Practice
<b>2 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 10:30a Connect Group 6p WF Let's Get Real		<b>4</b> 10:30a Staff Meeting 1:30p Women's Group 6-7:30p Connect Group 6:30p Fourth Day	<b>5</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 6:30p Connect Academy 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>6</b> 6:00p Connect Group	<b>7</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	<b>8</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice 9a-13p Bell Ringing at Cub West for the Salvation Army
<b>9</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 10:30a Connect Group 6p WF College Night 7p Night of Carols and Worship		<b>11</b> 1:30p Women's Group 6-7:30p Connect Group	<b>12</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 6:30p Connect Academy 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>13</b> 6:00p Connect Group	<b>14</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast 6pm Emmaus Team Mtg.	<b>15</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice 8a-5p Emmaus Team Mtg 6p Christmas Program Practice
<b>16</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 10:30a Connect Group 6p WF College Night	 <b>17</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Connect Group 6p WF College Night	<b>18</b> 10:30a Staff Meeting 1:30p Women's Group 6-7:30p Connect Group	<b>19</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 6:30p Connect Academy 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>20</b> 4:30p Wesley Brd. Mtg. 6:00p Connect Group 6:30p Ad Council 8:00p Committee Mtgs	<b>21</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	<b>22</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice
<b>23</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 6p WF Night	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE 24</b> 4:30p Worship 6:30p Worship	<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	<b>29</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice
<b>30</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 6p WF Night	<b>31</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	

# January Calendar at Hilltop

Details for calendar events can be found at <http://mankatohilltop.org/calendar/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	<b>5</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice
<b>6</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 6p WF Let's Get Real	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30a Staff Meeting 1:30p Women's Group 6:30p Fourth Day	<b>9</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	<b>12</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice
<b>13</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 6p WF College Night	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1:30p Women's Group 7p Church Conference	<b>16</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>17</b> 4:30p Wesley Brd. Mtg. 6:30p Ad Council 8:00p Committee Mtgs	<b>18</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	<b>19</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice 8a Emmaus team mtg.
<b>20</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 6p WF College Night	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30a Staff Meeting 1:30p Women's Group	<b>23</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 9:00p KTV Broadcast	Men's Walk to Emmaus—Good Counsel—Jan 17-20		
				<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	<b>26</b> 9a-12p Organist Practice
				Women's Walk to Emmaus—Good Counsel—Jan 24-27		
<b>27</b> 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 6p WF College Night	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 1:30p Women's Group	<b>30</b> 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 9:00p KTV Broadcast	<b>31</b>		



[www.mankatohilltop.org](http://www.mankatohilltop.org)

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Hilltop United Methodist Church

## Confirmation at Hilltop

### What is confirmation?

Confirmation in The United Methodist Church is a time of intentional preparation, it gives teens and tweens the opportunity to reflect on the most basic tenants of our faith and gives them a safe environment to ask questions and grapple with the divine truths and mysteries proclaimed by the church of Jesus Christ. Confirmation helps youth to investigate to depths of the faith and helps them begin to understand what it means to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, and to make their first public profession of faith. During this time young persons "make firm" what has gone before: God's prevenient grace, baptism, the teaching and witness of parents and other persons of faith, the teachings and life together in the church, the student's own growing faith. Youth are invited to claim for themselves the name Christian and the name United Methodist. We believe that Confirmation is a significant step in the journey of faith.

### When will confirmation begin? When will we meet?

Confirmation will meet weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:15 a.m. beginning January 13, 2019 through May 5, 2019.

### Who is invited to participate?

Confirmation is open to learners grades fifth and beyond! This process is designed to provide foundational knowledge of the Christian faith those who have not yet been confirmed. A parent/guardian is also required to be present at and actively participate in every Confirmation Class as well as Sunday morning worship with their student(s).

### How do we sign up for confirmation?

Families wishing to participate in confirmation should email Pastor Ashley at [ashley@mankatohilltop.org](mailto:ashley@mankatohilltop.org) by January 6, 2019.