



916 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
www.houseofprayerhingham.org

Tidings

The Monthly Newsletter of
 House of Prayer Lutheran Church

February 2018

Dear House of Prayer family and friends,

A colleague recently sent me a photo of candy hearts with Ash Wednesday sayings: ASH 2 ASH, U R DUST, REPENT, and U R LOVED. It was a little disconcerting at first, but I'm actually quite taken by them. They are strangely fitting, since Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. How the church tells time and how the secular world tells time meet oddly again this Easter – which falls on April Fools' Day. That'll preach. Look for a sermon title like "The Joke's on You, Death." (Easter candy heart sentiments could be #LOVE, WICKED COOL, XOXO, and BEST DAY.) In case you're wondering, the last time Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day were on the same day was back in 1945, but it will apparently happen again in both 2024 and 2029.

For the whole season from Ash Wednesday, through Lent, and all the way to Easter, we live more mindfully with God's message "U R LOVED." Marked with a cross of oil at our baptism, we are claimed by God as beloved children. The cross of ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are beloved and mortal children. Lent gives us time to reflect on God's love, especially as we know it in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and on our response to that remarkable, undeserved, TRUE LOVE.

Traditional ways to observe Lent include prayer, fasting, and acts of love and kindness. We don't do such things for what we get out of them, but because they focus our attention and can bring us insight or unexpected gifts. I hope you've read Bishop Hazelwood's article, "A Church Being Reborn." in the most recent copy of Living Lutheran. It's right in the center of the issue. There are also paper copies at church, as well as an attachment along with the Tidings. It's a clear-eyed, sometimes daunting, always hopeful discussion starter about what it means (and will mean) to be the church in a changing world. In the section on Spiritual Vitality, the bishop notes that ". . . even in our healthiest congregations, vast majorities of people answer yes to the [assessment tool] question, "While spirituality is important to me, I just don't have time for it right now." Whatever our own personal answer to that question might be, perhaps Lent is just the right time to take time – to make time – to tend to our spiritual lives. We might do that in more faithfulness to worship or to prayer. We might fast from indulging our whims and wants so that we become more attuned to what we actually need – and to what our neighbors need and may lack. We might intentionally look for opportunities to be kind, to show love, to care for one another and for God's world. Last week, I followed a car with a bumper sticker that said, "Be Kinder Than Necessary." Lent might be just the right time to offset some of the lack of kindness – and the downright meanness -- in our society with simple acts of kindness.

From the darkness of December, we move through Lent as the days lengthen and the whole earth prepares for new life yet again. We yearn not just for the natural cycle of life, death, and new life around us, but for the distinctly Christian good news about the power of God over even death and the gift of God that is new life in Christ. It has already been given to us, and it's always good news. Remember, U R DUST and U R LOVED.

Grace and peace,
Pastor

Weekly Worship

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
 10:45 - 11:30/11:45

Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday 7:15 p.m.
 February 14

Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 p.m.
 February 21 & 28
 March 7, 14, & 21
 (preceded by Soup Supper at 6:15)

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Dates to Note

Confirmation Retreat
 February 9 & 10

Lent Event
 February 11

Ash Wednesday
 February 14

Deadline for March Tidings
 February 25

Capital Campaign Fundraiser
 March 4

Habitat Build
 March 17

Adult Faith Formation
 March 18



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

Church Staff

The Rev. Susan C. Henry
Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Alan Grant
Pastor Emeritus

Church Office (781) 749-5533
FAX (781) 740-2649
Church Email hopchurchoffice@comcast.net
Web Site www.houseofprayerhingham.org
Pastor's email hoppastorhenry@gmail.com

Minister of Music Lenae Badger
Church Administrator Kristen Croke
Associate Minister of Music Barbara Hutchinson
Sexton George Sullivan
Nursery Attendant Katherine "Angela" Appel
Financial Secretary Lynda Watt
Tidings Staff Dana Abbott, Kristen Croke

Please send all information for the Tidings to:
hoptidingseditor@comcast.net

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President Ed Martin
Vice President Janet Waters
Treasurer Kristine Niendorf
Secretary Kathleen Almand

AT LARGE CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Marcia Alexander
Kim Boyd
Connor Hudson-Bryant
Ginny Just
Cyndee Marzullo
Federico Morales
Joanne Temperly
Linda Vassallo

HOUSE OF PRAYER MISSION STATEMENT

*To share and spread Christ's message of love.
To nurture a vigorous and compassionate
church family, open to all.
To provide meaningful worship and Christian education.
And to actively reach out to help and serve others.*



ELCA MISSION STATEMENT

*"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed,
gathered and sent for the sake of the world"*



ALTAR FLOWERS

February 3 & 4 Open
February 10 & 11
February 17 & 18 Warneck family
February 24 & 25

Flowers cost \$56.00 for two vases.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle burns to the glory of God,
given by Kristin Olsen in loving memory of her
mother, Diane Peterson.

The Sanctuary Candle is \$20.00 for the month.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Christian Education June Fontaine & Kim Boyd
Evangelism Ginny Just
Facilities Scott Morad
Finance & Stewardship open
Parish Life Brandy Hugo
Shepherds Barbara Buntrock & Linda Lundin

Council Retreat 2018

On January 19th and 20th, Church Council met for its annual retreat – a total 8 hour session held at HOP and in President Ed Martin's offices in South Hingham. Almost all of us were there for the whole session, along with staff members Lenae, Kristen and Barbara.

After spending some time preparing for the Congregational meeting to be held the next day, we spent the first portion of the meeting catching up on each other's lives, concerns, and thoughts about House of Prayer. We talked about how affirming the response to the Capital campaign continues to be (and how much we love the Fellowship Hall floor☺). We are blessed with a generous congregation and a building which serves God's purpose here well. We can't wait for the new capital projects and a refreshed interior of the church! We also talked about a sense of renewed energy – Vicar Jonathan's gifts to us, the new adult forum program, our diverse social ministries, our outreach to other faiths through the joint VBS program and the interfaith response to the Texas disaster, and as always, our music and worship services (including our lay preaching and the emphasis on the common cup) which sustain and strengthen us. In our celebration of the Reformation, we have opened some new doors and ways of thinking about our Lutheran faith. It's exciting! On the flip side, we continue to worry about how many tasks many of our members undertake and the leadership gaps that exist. We reflected on our meeting last year and although we feel we are known as a welcoming congregation, we haven't made as much progress as we had hoped in broadening our diversity. And we worried about our future in a society which has seen some devastating events occur over the past year, and where Sundays are beginning to play a different role in family life.

These themes followed through as we began to think about the year ahead. Our hopes centered around growth and inclusion and the ability to find our right role as God's church in a society that is seeing increasing division in the difficult political times in which we find ourselves. We worry that anxiety about our future will limit our ability to serve that role in faith. And mostly we worry that nothing will change.

As we did last year, Pastor then led us in considering scripture that might resonate with who and where we are right now. Many passages came to our minds but the one that resonated most was Mark 1:14-20 – where Jesus calls the disciples to cast aside their nets and follow him. We pray that we can emulate the faith and courage of the disciples as we move forward in 2018.

On a personal note, this will be my last Council retreat as my term ends this year. It has been a highlight of my service to HOP and in my spiritual journey.

Kathleen Almand, Council Secretary



Adult Faith Formation
 Sunday, March 18, after worship

As Holy Week approaches, Naomi Just will focus on artwork related to the Last Supper. Naomi taught art history at Lesley, so she's got great images and information to share.



Capital Campaign Projects Update

Here is the line-up for capital projects this Spring. In February, the fellowship hall will be finished with heat diffusers, baseboard trim and new chairs. The exterior wall contractor bid process has resumed and, subject to congregational approval for the expenditure, the project will begin immediately after Easter Sunday (April 1). Tree removal and landscaping beautification for the front of the church is next on the list; the timing depends on the completion of the exterior wall project.

Capital Campaign Fundraisers – March 4 and April 22

For all ages! Events will be held in the fellowship hall right after coffee hour. There will be a light luncheon provided by Parish Life.

Sign-making party. No "skills" required. You paint a \$25 4"x24" or \$15 4"x12" (for the kids) sign the color of your choice, then adhere a fun saying onto it. Large variety of phrases to choose from, see picture below for samples.



Painting party with an Earth Day theme. Heather Martin will be taking us, young and old, step by step through painting a picture you will be proud to hang on your wall! No experience or painting prowess needed, honestly!



From the Office

Please note David Gray has a new email address: gadavid.gray@jwcemail.com

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

(Kathleen Almand, Cathy Martin, Co –Chairpersons)



Souper Bowl of Caring

A collection will be taken on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, after worship service by the Confirmation Students, proceeds to aid world hunger.

Blankets, Sheets, Towels Drive

Thanks to all who donated to the blanket, twin sheets and towels drive to aid Father Bill's. The collection bin was over-flowing, and Ann Rasmussen has already made one if not more trips to deliver to Father Bill's in Quincy.

Honduras Trip has been cancelled due to the political situation there.

The Sunday School is collecting "gently used and new books" for book bags for displaced families at Carolina Hill, a shelter in Marshfield, or in the hotels along Rt. 53 in Norwell.

On January 7, the Social Ministry Committee met to review programs for the coming years. Coming up in March we will prepare a bag lunch for Father Bill's, ELCA chicks and peeps and Easter Boxes for Wellspring. April will find us providing backpacks and school supplies for Ascentria. An Ascentria representative will join us at a future meeting.

A Habitat work day is planned for late March or April. The Duxbury Habitat building project is coming along.

And, of course, May will bring us to our 4th Annual "God's Work, our Hands" project in conjunction with the Hingham Senior Center.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 15 after worship.

Many thanks to Brandy and Madison Hugo for hosting the delayed Epiphany dinner on the evening before Groundhog Day. A good time was had by all and the Yankee Swap was fun!





Ascentria
CARE ALLIANCE

14 East Worcester Street, Suite 300, Worcester, MA 01604
ascentria.org | 774.243.3900 | info@ascentria.org
Formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England

December 31, 2017

The Rev. Susan Henry
Ms. Kristin Olsen
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
916 Main St
Hingham, MA 02043-3504

Dear Pastor Henry, Kristin, and Members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church,

Thank you for providing Christmas gifts for children in Ascentria's Intensive Foster Care Program. We can say with absolute certainty that there were many joyful, smiling faces on Christmas morning thanks to members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

Staff members were touched by your generosity and your commitment to finding gifts that were on the children's wish lists. Thank you so much for your time, energy, resources, and dedication to making Christmas meaningful and personal. Your thoughtfulness has made a lasting impact!

You have brightened the lives of the individuals and families that we are honored to serve. We look forward to working together in service in the new year.

Gratefully, *Thank you so much !!*

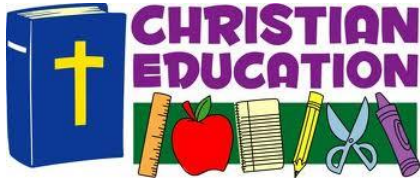
Candace Cramer
Chief Development Officer

Thanks to all!
Diane
Diane Fitzmaurice
Volunteer Manager

As a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit charity, your gift has been used for the tax-exempt purpose of this agency. For Internal Revenue Service purposes, this letter is your official receipt for this donation. According to IRS regulations, it is the donor's responsibility to establish the value of donated items.

Empowering People. Strengthening Communities.





Kim Boyd and June Fontaine, Co-Chairs

This past month has flown by. School is back in session, and Sunday School is no different! As we start the New Year, we also look to the New Testament for where our stories come from. With Lent starting this month, our focus will be mostly there.

Feb 9/10 is a confirmation weekend event at church. See below for additional dates related to confirmation.

Feb 11th will be the Lenten Event for all ages to participate in during Sunday School time. We will be making pretzels, scratch art crosses, foam sticker crosses to send to our homebound members, and work on cutting pictures for South Shore Collaborative for making vision boards for those unable to speak to make their needs known. There will be birthday bags for the children to decorate for Wellspring. Wellspring has said that these are so appreciated by families. The supplies that can be included are frosting, cake mix, cupcake liners, birthday candles, sprinkles, small prizes, and anything else that might make a child's birthday special. We are seeking donations of these items, thank you!

Feb 18th we will NOT have Sunday School due to February vacation, but there will be a WINTER WALK hosted by Phoebe Morad on and around our church grounds during Sunday School time. We hope friends of all ages will stick around to check out our surroundings and enjoy a walk together. Dress warmly and bring your boots!

Feb 25th Sunday School resumes as usual.

We are still working on collecting new and gently used children's books to put into repurposed canvas bags that Sandy, Vicki, and June have offered to sew up. These bags will be delivered either to Carolina Hill (shelter in Marshfield) or to hotels on Rt. 53 for displaced families with children.

Our next Christian Education committee meeting will be held on Feb 11th after the Lenten Event. All are welcome to join and share ideas with us! Bring a lunch to enjoy as we chat.



Confirmation: Upcoming Dates

Our first weekend in 2018 will be February 9/10 with the topic of the Ten Commandments. The next dates for you to keep on your schedule are: March 2/3 - topic the Bible (backup weekend March 9/10). May 4/5 will be the topic of Communion (with backup dates of May 11/12). Calumet is June 22 thru June 26.

Please contact Vicki Oman, Phoebe Morad, Pastor Henry or Sandy Swanson with any questions.

MUSIC NOTES FROM LENAEE



Happy Epiphany! January has been a bit of a challenge for the choirs. Three of our Adult Choir members have gone to warmer climates for the winter, two regular members have stopped singing with us, and there's been some illness and health issues. Still, it seems we've been able to pull off our anthems with whoever is able to make it on Sundays, and for that I am grateful! Having said that, we would still always welcome new members!

After a great Children's Musical on January 7th, (congrats to the nine children who participated! Very proud of all of them, three for whom it was their first musical!) in Children's Choir, we're back to our six "regular" members, but between an unexpected trip for me to FL, illness and conflicts, we haven't even been able to have our "complete" cast party where the kids get to see themselves on video! Hopefully this week!

Remember Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on February 14th at 7:15. Then our midweek Wednesday evening events will begin with soup supper at *6:00 p.m. (please note new time) and Holden Evening Prayer at *6:45 p.m. (please note new time). Emily Boyd will once again be singing the cantor parts for us on several of the Wednesday evenings. Both choirs will be singing during Lent, and I also hope to have some of our instrumentalists share their talents with us during this season.



Don't forget to have your photo taken in the hallway by the gray cloth with Kim Boyd for the church directory. It would be wonderful if we could have everyone's updated photos and information by the end of the month as church council had hoped.

February 2018



Ramblings with Ed

Here I am writing to you from somewhere over Canada heading to China. Technology is amazing that I can write this and send it back to the Tidings office for publication before I land in about 12 hours!

After our semi-annual meeting a couple weeks ago, I was reminiscing in my head. As my term is quickly coming to a close I thought, what has House of Prayer accomplished in the last 5 ½ years? The answer is a lot. Our very generous congregation has given us a balanced budget and fulfilled it! We are still working at finishing the \$500,000 Capital Campaign, but have made significant strides in getting to the final number, and our Social Ministry program is very strong, to list a few items. We have done a lot!

But there is one thing I wanted to see happen in these past years. I wanted to see House of Prayer grow in people, stewardship and mission! Needless to say, this is a task, which all churches have been and still are struggling with. If you read *Living Lutheran* in January, you will find a pull out section in the middle written by our own Bishop Jim. He gives his thoughts, ideas, and roads we might go down to get to the future church. But he is quick to point out there are no road maps to get wherever we want to go. We need to use his ideas as well as our own to get to a very nondescript point in our future!

One thought I had as I was preparing to write this article was to look right in our own homes and families. Have you ever asked your children or grandchildren why they don't participate in a church or its programs? This might be helpful in gathering information as to our direction.

What is our next step?

First, I would read the article by the Bishop and gather your thoughts.


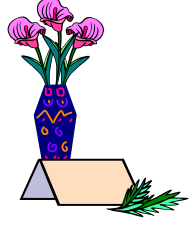
Next I would speak to your kids and read up on the generations younger than us.

I would take this information and write down your findings and pass them to the council to help us discern our direction.

As the Bishop said, "This is hard but the church isn't dying, it's being reborn!"

In the end, this is up to all of us!

Celebrate the re-birth!

	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
February 1	Drew Martin		
February 15	Naomi Just		
	Scott Morad		
February 16	Emily Badger		
February 23	Jack Morse		

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary added to the calendar, contact Kristen in the office.

February 2018

Saturday	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24
Usher				
Communion Assistant		Ann Moegle		
Reader				
Worship coordinator	Brandy	Naomi	Phoebe	Sandy
Sunday	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
Ushers	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
Acolyte				
Communion Asst/ Cross Bearer	1.Kim Boyd 2. 3. 4.	1.Ann Rasmussen 2.Sandy Swanson 3. 4.	1. 2. 3. 4.	1. 2. 3. 4.
Reader	Linda Vassallo		Ginny Just	Kim Boyd
Lenten Symbol	XXXX	XXXX	Robe	Crown
Coffee	1.Linda Lundin 2.	1. Ann Rasmussen 2. Sandy Swanson	1.Linda Oman 2.	1. 2.
Kids Snack				

Altar Guild – Linda Lundin & Cathy Martin

***Ushers please arrive by 9am; Communion Assistants please arrive by 9:20. If you are unable to be at worship, please arrange to swap with someone else on the chart or ask a friend in the congregation to substitute for you. If possible inform the church office before Thursday of that week. Or you may contact the Sunday morning coordinator listed above the Sunday you are signed up to assist if you cannot find a replacement.*

Prayer List

“Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.” Psalm 97:10

Anderson, Arlene (friend of Diezemann's)
Armstrong, Sophie (Bergman's granddaughter)
B., John (friend of Grays)
Badger, Tim
Bernard, Jamie (friend of Chris Hayes)
Bryson, Caitlin (friend of Chris Hayes)
Carlson, Joanne (Linda Lundin's sister)
Ching, Krista (relative of Lundins)
Clifford, Kathy (friend of Kim Boyd)
D'Arcy, Peggy
Daley, Kate (friend of Chris Hayes)
Dauber, Lynda (friend of Parsekians)
Denehy, Tom (brother of Kathleen Bergman)
Everett, Glenn (friend of Lenae)
Ferdinand, George (friend of MaryJane)
Fichtner, Shirley (sister of Vicki Haukom)
Foley, Marylou (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Gifford, Bill (friend of Chris Hayes)
Gilarde, Vinny (friend of Chris Hayes)
Gilmore, Lois (sister of Vicki Haukom)
Glennon, Tom (neighbor of Parsekians)
Hackemer, Henry
*Hall, Kevin (nephew of Rae & Gerda Hall)
Hammerquist, Colleen
Harmon, Rose (friend of Chris Hayes)
Higginbottom, Sophia (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Hotchkiss family (friends of Leah McGaughey)
*Hussey, Brendan (friend of Croke family)
Husted, Susan (friend of Diezemanns)
Isles, Andrea (sister of Katie Linscott)
Kalla, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Kelleher, Elaine (friend of Kristen Croke)
Kiely, Mary (friend of Victoria Warneck)
Kroll, Gertrude (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Lawless, Pat (friend of Joan Philipon)
Leary, Erin (Millie's granddaughter)
Leary, Kris (daughter of Millie Hill)
Lewis, Mary Ellen & Paul (friends of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Lombard, Dan (friend of Victoria Warneck)
Lundin, Kurt
MacKennon, Linnie (friend of Lundins)
Mears, Les

Mitchell, Marcia
Mulcahy, Jennifer (niece of Diezemanns)
Mulkern, Carol (friend of many at HOP)
Nickele, John (friend of Parsekians)
Niendorf, Kris
O'Donnell, Kathleen (friend of Rita LaPlante)
*Oliveira, Andrew (friend of Croke family)
*Olsson, Adam (Doris' grandson)
*Olsson, Emily (Doris' granddaughter)
*Olsson, Todd (Doris' grandson)
Parker, Marilyn (friend of Dorothy Flett)
Paresky, David (friend of Parsekians)
Parsekian, David
Patterson, Betty
Pearson family
Pitman family (friends of Pastor Henry)
Rawlins, Betty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Rawlins, Patty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Renee and family (friends of Dana Abbott)
Richardson, Al (friend of Kristen Croke)
Richardson, David (Victoria's uncle)
Schmid, Barbara (relative of Gloria)
Scott-Rawlins, Chereese (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Sheehan, Alice
Smith, Don (friend of Lancasters)
Street, Bill
Street, Marcy
Sullivan, Elizabeth (daughter of Alice Sheehan)
Sullivan, George (friend of Bill Hayes)
Surprenant, Louise (sister of Joan Philipon)
Trubiano, Norma (friend of Diezemanns)
Varasso, Margaret (friend of Rae & Gerda)
von Lange, Hans-Jochen (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Warhaftig, Andrew (friend of Victoria Warneck)
Wilson, Matthew (friend of Joan Philipon)
Winiewicz, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Wood, Ann (friend of Chris Hayes)

*serving in the military