

In loving memory and honor of our parents and grandparents – by the Edwin Martin family.

In thanksgiving for our children and their families – by Doris and Bob Olsson.

In memory of Alwine and Walter Stuben, and Geneva and George Hall - by the Hall family.

In memory of all our loved ones – by Wes, Janet and Lisa Rydin.

In honor of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Hammond and in loving memory of the families of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hammond and Mr. and Mrs. Hans J. Hansen – by Jan Hammond.

In celebration of life – by David and Mary Jane Parsekian and family.

In loving Memory of Helene Torrey – by her family.

To the continued recognition of the importance of the wise stewardship of our life support system while on earth, a system recognized by many from St. Francis of Assisi to contemporary ecologists – by Frances, Mardie, Bob, Elizabeth, Katherine and Raymond Reimold.

In loving memory of Edward J. Stoner – by Dorothy Stoner Ahearn and his daughters Holly Schjolden and Jane Ohlson.

For everyone's fond memories of Confo Camp – by Kristin and Amy Nixon.

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# Windows of Prayer



The Stained Glass Windows of  
**House of Prayer  
Lutheran Church**  
A Self-Guided Tour

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## The Concept

On July 17<sup>th</sup> 1964, the Reverend Gordon Nils Larson was charged by the Board of American Mission of the Lutheran Church in America to canvas Hingham and the surrounding area. In October of that year, a service committee was formed that guided the church toward formal organization. "Interest" meetings were held with forty persons in attendance, suggesting that a congregation be formed.

By the time the church was officially organized on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 1965, the group had grown from the original founders to 108 charter members. The name selected for the congregation was HOUSE OF PRAYER, based upon the words of Jesus "...It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer...'"

Years later, when members donated memorial funds for the purpose of replacing the clear glass windows in the original sanctuary with stained glass, it was natural to follow the theme of prayer. This was accomplished from a historical perspective emphasizing spiritual vignettes from the biblical tradition along with those from various periods of later history, up to and including a prayer event from the present confirmation program at House of Prayer.

The stained glass firm "Glassworks", owned by Mr. Stephen Torrey, designed and produced the "Windows of Prayer" to be not only straightforward and beautiful representations of events in prayer, but also to be understood as true "icons", that is, works of art that can be used for teaching purposes. Anything less would fail to capture the true spirit of the founders of House of Prayer.

## The Tour



The signature window, "My house shall be called a house of prayer," sets the tone for all of the prayer windows in the church. Based on Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in **Luke 19:46**, this is the Founders' Window.



The "Moses and the Burning Bush" window expresses **Exodus 3:6** - "...and Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look at God." Moses' initial prayer contained the plea that God would send another in his place. Instead, his trust in God enabled him to overcome his fears and he was able to lead the people out of bondage.



**Psalm 141:2** "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice." This is the first of two examples of the prayerful rhythms of the psalmist; glimpses of life lived in intimate relationship with God.



**Psalm 98:5** "Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody." Prayer takes the form of praise to God. Musical instruments are included as God's gift of music is joyfully returned and praise enriched.



**Job 7:17** "What are human beings, that you make so much of them, that you set your mind on them...?" Everyone can identify with Job's feelings of helplessness, insignificance, pain and grief, yet we are never insignificant in the eyes of God and never abandoned.



**Luke 2:16** Jesus' birth reminds us of verse 3 of the hymn "Away in a Manger" which is called, in legend, "Luther's cradle hymn." "Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven to live with you there."



**Luke 3:22b** "...when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying...a voice came from heaven, 'You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'" Here, prayer is connected with the renewing waters of holy baptism as Jesus, bringer of salvation, entered fully in to our human condition.



**Luke 22:42** "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." In this difficult moment of resolve in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus affirms his unity with and obedience to God.



**Luke 23:34** "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they are doing." No words can capture the fullness of Jesus' saving love for all. We can only see, and know, and wonder and give thanks.



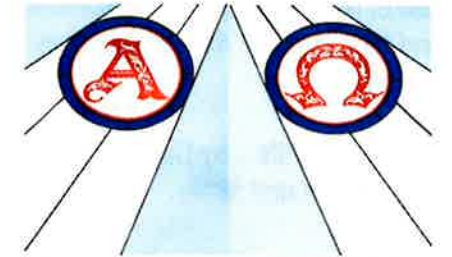
**Prayer of St. Francis** "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace..." reminds us of the true meaning of God's peace that passes all understanding. This is the peace where all creation is in harmony, where "...the wolf shall live with the lamb...the calf and the lion and the falling together..." Isaiah 11:6.



**Dietrich Bonhoeffer** This window portrays the modern martyr and German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed by Adolf Hitler. He is seen being freed in the Lord who stands with him as the barbed wire of inhumanity is broken. In a prayer, while in prison awaiting death, Bonhoeffer wrote, "...whoever I am, Lord, Thou knowest I am Thine."



**Confo Camp** The final window depicts the youth of our own congregation at an outdoor prayer occasion at summer Confirmation Camp at Camp Calumet. With Lake Ossipee and Mount Chocorua in the background, this window helps us to place our present and future alongside those who have gone before in prayer, with the faith that the word of God remains yesterday, today and tomorrow.



**Revelation 22:13** "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October,  
Nineteen Hundred Ninety Two  
and

In loving memory of the Reverend Gordon Nils Larson and in memory and honor of the founding Steering Committee: Chester Patterson, Edward Stoner, Donald Twigg, Carl Brandt, Joseph DeiSanti, Dagfinn Jorgenson, as well as other founding members of House of Prayer.

In loving memory of Nels W. Branstad, Harold G. Lacy, Lillian Counters and Elizabeth James – by Rob, Julie, Blair and Britton Lacy.