



916 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043  
[www.houseofprayerhingham.org](http://www.houseofprayerhingham.org)

# Tidings

The Monthly Newsletter of  
 House of Prayer Lutheran Church

January 2019

Dear House of Prayer family and friends,

The way the church tells time, we began a new year back in Advent, but the way the world tells time, January 1 marks a new beginning to a new year. I suspect we all plant seeds of hope for the year ahead when we hang up a fresh calendar, start our new planner, or just anticipate what the year ahead might bring. I wished you all “a blessed new year” rather than “a happy new year” (although I hope there will be plenty of happiness for you) because my own experience tells me that, not only in happy times but even in difficult times, blessings do come our way.

Sometimes a difficult situation engages our creativity in ways that we didn’t anticipate, and that’s life-giving for us or others. Sometimes an unexpected diagnosis grabs our attention and we discover anew how precious ordinary moments have become. Or sometimes, in our grief, we are surrounded by the love and care of those around us, and we feel sustained and blessed even as we mourn. The Christian story is one of death and resurrection – Jesus’ own, of course, but also the little deaths and little resurrections that make up human life together.

Creation itself experiences deaths and resurrections. At a writing workshop a few years ago, I listened carefully as a student at Princeton Seminary described his experience at the “farminary” there. Princeton has a seminary track focused on creation itself, and students who take part in it work some land owned by the seminary, coaxing new life out of soil that has been ravaged by its use as a turf farm and then a tree farm. The students reclaimed that land, and by the end of the first year, they had grown enough lush and luscious produce to invite all their neighbors to a feast! The most striking image I recall was of the students emptying seemingly endless plastic clamshells of slimy, disgusting salad greens discarded by the local grocery into the farminary’s big compost heap. Definitely the “death” part of the story. But, in time, and after lots of turning and tending to the compost pile, the result was new life for the soil that then yielded all those fruits and vegetables. The professor’s stated curriculum was simple: Death and Resurrection. It’s the Christian story and our way of life as followers of Jesus. Some things come to an end so that new life can begin in us or in our world.

This fall, you might have noticed that a watermelon vine unexpectedly found its way out of our House of Prayer compost pile. With no help from anyone, it inched its way toward some sunlight, and, if the summer had been longer, the little watermelon on that vine would surely have become a big one! Death and Resurrection, just like at the farminary and just like in our lives. When our egos die a little, our compassion for others can grow. When we don’t insist on having everything we desire,

## Weekly Worship

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

Sunday School  
 10:45 - 11:45  
 September – June

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## Dates to Note

Epiphany  
 Luncheon/Yankee Swap  
 January 12

Adult Forum & Deadline  
 for February Tidings  
 January 20

Confirmation weekend  
 January 25-26

New Members,  
 Special Meeting &  
 Congregational Meeting  
 January 27

some of our resources can be used in life-giving ways for others. When we refuse to give into our fears about the future, new energy arises that may be harnessed to address seemingly impossible challenges like the fate of our planet. It's all about Death and Resurrection. We know that God is at work making all things new, and a new year is surely a good time to remind ourselves of that!

May you have a blessed New Year – and may we travel through it together as pastor and people together who trust God's power to bring new life out of the least likely places. Expect to be surprised!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor*



**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

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**Minister of Music** Lenae Badger  
**Church Administrator** Kristen Croke  
**Associate Minister of Music** Barbara Hutchinson  
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**Nursery Attendant** Katherine "Angela" Appel  
**Financial Secretary** Lynda Watt  
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**CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**President** Janet Waters  
**Vice President** Phoebe Morad  
**Treasurer** Kristine Niendorf  
**Secretary** Linda Vassallo

**AT LARGE CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Marcia Alexander  
 Kim Boyd  
 Connor Hudson-Bryant  
 Jacqui Lyons  
 Dana McGivney  
 Federico Morales  
 Vicki Oman  
 Joanne Temperly

**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**

January 5 & 6 open  
 January 12 & 13 open  
 January 19 & 20 open  
 January 26 & 27 open

Flowers cost \$56.00 for two vases.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

The Sanctuary Candle burns to the glory of God,  
 given by Ann Rasmussen, in memory of Janet McDonnell.

The Sanctuary Candle is \$20.00 for the month.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Christian Education** June Fontaine & Kim Boyd  
**Evangelism** open  
**Facilities** Scott Morad  
**Finance** Jacqui Lyons  
**& Stewardship**  
**Parish Life** open  
**Shepherds** Barbara Buntrock & Linda Lundin  
**Social Ministry** Kathleen Almand & Cathy Martin  
**Worship & Music** Sandy Swanson

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**



Most of you know the story of Alex and Leo. They travelled here from Burundi in June of 2014 so that 4-year-old Leo could receive free medical treatment from Shriners Hospital to repair some of the serious damage done by a cooking fire accident in his home at the age of two. A missionary arranged for their travel, recruiting Alex as Leo's caregiver. We met quite by accident (or more accurately, by God's design) at a playground in Needham about a week after their arrival. As we watched the children play, Alex told me their story, which moved me beyond description.

Alex and Leo had arrived with \$1000 but no real plan for their immediate future, other than the surgeries at Shriners. Alex relied heavily on his faith in the providence of God. Over the next 4 ½ years they have lived in three different locations, Leo has had multiple surgeries, attorneys were procured to work on asylum requests, Leo started school, Alex's family fled Burundi for Rwanda because of political violence, and the Boston Globe featured them in a two-week cover story in their Sunday magazine.

Over time a "committee" of sorts developed to fund raise and to provide guidance for Alex and Leo. We watched as Alex grew into his role as Leo's guardian. We assisted with interventions when peers bullied Leo at school. We found summer camps for Leo. We procured donations of clothing, money and a car. Alex's humility and his deep faith in the providence of God amazed us all.

Since he was born, Alex has faced the kind of challenges that we read about in books. Yet miracles mark his life too, strewn together and sewn in place by faith. Here is the latest one: Alex recently earned his Master's Degree in Public Health from Boston University. Upon his application to the program two years ago, the Dean of the school found Alex's story so compelling that he arranged for donations and University support that mean Alex has graduated without a penny of debt.

Alex's dream is to work for better health outcomes for poor countries on an international scale. For now, he will seek more local employment so that he can continue to care appropriately for Leo. That job search will begin in January after a well-deserved break.

Alex frequently assigns credit to me for the strides he has made while in this country. This does not comport with my view of events; there are others on the "committee" who have devoted a good deal

more of their time and their resources to Alex and Leo than I have been able to. He reminds me, “But you were the first, Janet. You were kind to us when we were lonely and afraid. Your church was my first official worship experience in this country and the people there made me feel welcome and loved.”

As a community, we strive to be friendly and inviting. I wanted you to know how much that meant to Alex as he began his journey here. A journey that will take him who knows where!

Janet Waters

### **Adult Forums – Spring 2019**

We have a good line-up this spring for our adult forums after worship – all are welcome to attend and we welcome others who may wish to share/lead a session.

On tap for January: January 20<sup>th</sup> – “Three Prayers.” Together we’ll why we pray, and we’ll look at the prayer of Dag Hammarskjold, the Serenity Prayer, and the Lord’s Prayer.

### **From the Office**

A reminder that if a major weather event is expected you can check our Facebook page and/or WCVB for church closures and cancellations.

There will be a Special Meeting and Congregational Meeting, January 27, after worship.



## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE – OKTOBERFEST 2019**

There are some openings on the Oktoberfest Committee. Please consider joining us next year to plan for another successful event. Different people have different ideas and we are always looking for new ways of doing things. The areas we are looking for help are:

**Food** - we are looking for an additional person to help a committee member in setting up chafing dishes, dinnerware/napkins, preparing coffee, putting ice in coolers, and other tasks the day of the event. You will not have to make every meeting but coming to some will give you an idea of the pre-work like BJ's run, ordering cakes, ordering Smokehouse meat, inventory items from last year and ordering what is needed.

**Public Relations** - making sure that all advertising for the event is taken care of in a timely manner. Many different vehicles to do so are listed for review. We will share what has worked in the past year. You will not have to make every meeting but making sure that information is out in both social media and hard copy is timed to maximize "getting the word out"

**Children's Tent** - Plan different crafts, games for children, face painting and display in tent.

**Co-Chair trainee for the event** - I am stepping down as the Chair and would like to train someone in 2019. Much of what I do is scheduling the meetings, taking notes, applying for permits, making sure we secure band, tent, alcohol, police detail etc. Believe me, all the people on the Committee know what their individual jobs entail and go about it without supervision, but bi-monthly meetings help to make sure that nothing falls through the cracks. I have timelines and notes and will work with a volunteer to get the job done in 2019. I will not be leaving the Oktoberfest Committee as I will help in other areas.

These four positions above need to be addressed and filled by March 2019. If we don't get any volunteers then the event will be in jeopardy, so please get in touch with myself or any member of the Committee to let us know of your interest.

Looking forward to hearing from you...

Chris Borkowski  
Oktoberfest Chair

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT**

(Kathleen Almand, Cathy Martin, Co –Chairpersons)



### **The Ruth House**

Ann Rasmussen brought to our attention that Ruth House owned by the Hingham Congregational Church and leased by Father Bill's is now the home for five women who were previously homeless and lived at the shelter. On their Christmas list they requested some pots and pans. A donation of three saucepans and two fry pans were donated as a gift from House of Prayer. We will continue to be apprised of their needs.

### **Father Bill's Place** – Ann Rasmussen

Twin sized blankets & sheet drive is on for January. The "In Stitches" group will prepare two or three blankets at their January meeting to be held at the church. A lunch is planned for March. More volunteers are needed to help prepare lunch as regular volunteers are away during this month. Please sign up to help.

### **Hingham Veterans' Home** – Millie Hill

Monthly meals continue twice a month. A volunteer is needed to fill in April & October 2019 to work with Barbara Buntrock & Kathy Gray. This will entail providing either an entrée or a starch & vegetable or rolls and dessert. Please let Millie know for more information or if you can assist.

### **Habitat for Humanity** – Kathleen Almand, Nancy and Ed Martin

Social Ministry will serve lunch at the worksite in February. Volunteer if you can help Can you make a few sandwiches, some cookies, include some chips and a bottle a water. Any or all these items would be appreciated. Let Kathleen know if you can help. Ed and Nancy Martin participated in the El Salvador building project.

**Wellspring** – Cathy Martin

Christmas boxes – 26 were prepared and delivered to Wellspring. Easter boxes are being planned.

**Ascentria** – Janet Waters

The Christmas giving tree was very successful this year. Kathleen will check with Pastor as to the appropriate time regarding a project similar to the lantern project we did last year.

**Other**

God's Work, our Hands – Plans will be made at the next meeting.

Budget – In 2019 we will request \$600 to cover incidentals associated with our various activities. The committee is truly blessed with the generosity of the congregation in our many outreach projects thus enabling our budget to be kept at a minimum. Thank you!!

Next meeting: Sunday, March 10 after worship. All are welcome to join us.

Please see Kim Boyd or use the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer to get your photo taken for our church directory. We should have a new directory soon if I can get everyone's pictures taken! Very informal, just a gray backdrop. Just need a current family photo. Hoping with the holidays approaching and school winding down for the semester, I can catch everyone. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. Any questions, please feel free to contact Kim Boyd, (781) 987-4537 or via email at kimboyd61@hotmail.com.

A quick reminder to please return your advent wreaths made at the advent event this year to the green bin in the hallway. It will be labeled "Advent Wreaths". We hope to have them all returned so we don't need to purchase additional new ones again next year. Thanks for your help! ~~The Christian Education Committee





♪♪ Music Notes from Lenae ♪♪

A new musician made her official debut at HOP on Dec. 23rd! Thea Morad shared her talent on trumpet during the worship service and did a great job!

Many thanks to those who participated in our Family Choir on Christmas Eve, and to our wonderful musicians at the 5:30 service -- Kathleen Almand on violin, Kim Boyd on flute, and Christopher Warneck on harp. Lovely!

Thanks also to Brianna Sheldon for filling in for me at the Service of Solace on December 16th when I had a conflict, and for the Sunday service on December 30th while I was away! I heard she did a great job.

SO proud of my nine young singers/actors who did a super job on "Shobi Shares a Miracle" on January 6th! They are a very young group, so this was a challenge, but they all stepped up and took their roles seriously and the result was awesome! We will enjoy our cast party on Thursday where the kids will watch the video of themselves in the musical. Great fun! As this is a musical I have done several times over the years, I always enjoy going back and watching the kids in the old performances, many of whom are now grown and have kids of their own! Lots of wonderful memories!





*Kim Boyd and June Fontaine, Co-chairs*

Did it seem like December flew so fast away to you? I am thankful for the meaningful season of Advent that the church knew was necessary to get ready for the "Mystery of Christmas", as our Godly Play stories about "Going to Bethlehem" reminds us each Sunday. While on this yearly and timeless journey, the children go with the Prophets, the Holy Family, the Shepherds, and the Magi to unravel this mystery week by week and "Go on the journey that was not just then but is also now". It has been a pleasure to teach our youngest Sunday School students using our Godly Play materials, so lovingly donated by our own Holly Schjolden several years ago. Each time we prepare for the stories, I know that Cheryl and I feel the holiness and the mystery and are blessed by the joy in which the children receive it. Martha adds so much to the class with the love she shows for each and every child present.

Our month began with the Advent Event, a yearly tradition at House of Prayer which welcomes the entire congregation's participation. Many made Advent Wreaths to help mark each day and week of the Advent Season with prayer and devotions, Advent calendars also helped us to get ready. Pastor led a project in which folks could make cards of hope and concern for detainees and migrants, a project begun by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Additionally, children were offered scratch art, craft stick manger scenes and more to remind us of what is most important during December and brought us together in community on that rainy Sunday morning.

The older Sunday School children also went on a shopping trip to purchase the supplies needed to fill a "Christmas Box" to help provide a delicious Christmas dinner to a family in need. Thank you, Kim and Stefanie for organizing this.

Many of the Sunday School children are preparing to present the Epiphany musical: "Shobi Share A Miracle" with Lenae and graced several of our December church services with their voices and musical talents. A special shout-out to Thea Morad for her beautiful playing of "Joy to the World" on her trumpet last Sunday.

Families we thank you for your efforts in bringing your children to Sunday School to hear the Good News during this busy month as often as you were able.

Our January schedule is as follows (a reminder that Sunday School runs from 10:45 to 11:45):


January 6th  
January 13th  
January 20th

There will be a Congregational Meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> and a movie will be shown for all Sunday School-aged children.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Boyd and June Fontaine





	<b>Happy Birthday</b>		<b>Happy Anniversary</b>
January 2	Michaela Johnson	January 8	Ken & Barbara Buntrock
January 3	Cathy Martin	January 14	Kristin & Bob Golden
January 6	Ursula Hackemer		
January 12	Donna Hudson-Bryant		
January 18	Gene Lancaster		
January 20	Glen Olsson		
January 24	Dee Davidson		
January 21	Camden Vassallo		
January 25	Tim Linscott		
January 28	Linda Vassallo		

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

January 2019

Saturday	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26
Usher				
Communion Asst		Ann Moegle		
Reader				

Worship coordinator

Phoebe

Sandy

Sunday	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27
Ushers	Barbara & Ken Buntrock	Barbara & Ken Buntrock	Barbara & Ken Buntrock	Barbara & Ken Buntrock
Acolyte	Jordan Lipner			
Communion Asst/ Cross Bearer	1.Kathleen Almand 2.Kim Boyd 3.Phoebie Morad 4.Janet/Sandy	1. Sue Bose 2. 3. 4.	1. 2. 3. 4.	1. 2. 3. 4.
Reader	Ken Buntrock	Ken Buntrock	Naomi Just	Ken Buntrock
Coffee	1. 2.	1.Linda Lundin 2.	1.Ann Rasmussen 2.Sandy Swanson	1.Kim Boyd 2.
Kids snack				

Altar Guild – Barbara Buntrock

**\*\*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

*"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:18*

Armstrong, Sophie (Bergman's granddaughter)  
Badger, Tim  
Bernard, Jamie (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Bryson, Caitlin (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Burmeister, Lois (friend of Gloria Schmid)  
Carlson, Joanne (Linda Lundin's sister)  
Carroll, Virginia (friend of Dorothy Flett)  
Clifford, Kathy (friend of Kim Boyd)  
Cricket, Jack & Josie (friends of Millie Hill)  
Daley, Kate (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Dallamora, Paula & Joe (Jen M's parents)  
Dara (granddaughter of Vicar Mac)  
Dauber, Lynda (friend of Parsekians)  
Dexter, Maria (friend of Rae & Gerda Hall)  
DiTommaso, Eric (friend of Emily Badger)  
Ferdinand, George (friend of MaryJane)  
Fields, Leisel (friend of Jen McCready)  
Fox family (friends of the Linares)  
Gifford, Bill (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Gilarde, Vinny (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Gilmore, Lois (sister of Vicki Haukom)  
Glennon, Tom (neighbor of Parsekians)  
Hackemer family  
Harmon, Rose (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Higginbottom, Sophia (friend of Rita LaPlante)  
Holleran, Ann (friend of the Hayes)  
Husted, Susan (friend of Diezemanns)  
Isles, Andrea (sister of Katie Linscott)  
Johnson, Paul (Dorothy Flett's brother)  
Just, Christian (relative of Ginny & Naomi)  
Kalla, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)  
Kelleher, Elaine (friend of Kristen Croke)  
Koertje, Christian  
Kroll, Gertrude (friend of Ursula Hackemer)  
Lawless, Pat (friend of Joan Philipon)  
Leary, Erin (Millie's granddaughter)  
Leary, Kris (daughter of Millie Hill)  
Lundin, Kurt  
MacKennon, Linnie (friend of Lundins)  
Meslo, Lisa (Hayes' sister-in-law)  
Michaels, Marcia (friend of Victoria Warneck)  
Mitchell, Marcia  
Mulcahy, Jennifer (niece of Diezemanns)  
Mulkern, Carol (friend of many at HOP)  
Murray, Peg & Jack (friend of Millie Hill)  
Myers, Chuck (friend of Lundins)  
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)  
Paresky, David (friend of Parsekians)  
Parker, Marilyn (friend of Dorothy Flett)  
Parsekian, David  
Patterson, Betty  
Pelissier, Arthur (friend of Crokes & C. Martin)  
Petrasek, Ruth (friend of Gerda Hall)  
Pitman family (friends of the congregation)  
Pyor, Mark (friend of Leah McGaughey)  
Rawlins, Betty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)  
Rawlins, Patty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)  
Richardson, Al (friend of Kristen Croke)  
Richardson, David (Victoria's uncle)  
S., Peter (friend of Grays)  
Santacroce, Linda (friend of Sue Bose)  
Schmid, Erwin (father of Gloria)  
Scott-Rawlins, Cherese (friend of Myrtle Hickman)  
Smith, Don (friend of Lancasters)  
Stafford, April (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Straughn, Hazel (friend of Lundins)  
Street, Bill  
Street, Dexter  
Street, Marcy  
Sullivan, Elizabeth (daughter of Alice Sheehan)  
Toomey, Skip (brother-in-law of Hayes)  
Trubiano, Norma (friend of Diezemanns)  
Tyner, George (friend of Lundins)  
Vanatta, Jane (friend of David & Kathy Gray)  
von Lange, Hans-Jochen (friend of Ursula Hackemer)  
Wisner, Ed (Lenae's dad)  
Winiewicz, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)  
Wood, Ann (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Wood, Ray (friend of Lundins)  
\*serving in the military