



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

# Tidings

The Monthly Newsletter of  
 House of Prayer Lutheran Church

April 2024

***“I am happy because God is my power...God is my fire!” -Girma, Eritrean refugee in Calais, France.***

March 2024’s edition of *The Christian Century* featured an article by British photographer Alex Holmes, regarding the struggles of young Eritrean men at a refugee camp in Calais, France. These young men have gone through great hardship, not only in their perilous journey from Eritrea to France, but also the hard conditions of life for them in that Calais refugee camp. Seeking a better life has not exempted them from more suffering in the desired lands of opportunity. They are exposed to cold weather, unhygienic living spaces, daily violence and police evictions. At night, they seek the comfort of a firepit to resist the night’s frozen embrace. Holmes captured the following words of one of the refugees named Girma:

“It’s now ten years since I was at home in my village in Eritrea. We always had a fire outside our house. It was beautiful. On one side there were sheep, on the other cows, and children playing everywhere. We drank coffee and chatted around the fire...Calais life is hard. But I am always happy. I am happy because God is my power. [He pauses, his smile widening] **God is my fire!**”

How much we have to learn from our brother Girma! Even while facing such extreme circumstances, his joy in the midst of suffering is rooted in God, it is, as he says, the power that renews him in his difficult journey. This brought to my mind what propels our Easter faith. We have proclaimed with the whole church on Earth and in Heaven, Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! Our faith, born from that Easter morning, calls us to the intimacy and enthusiasm of Girma’s proclamation: “*God is my fire!*” We are to remember and be freed by the power of Christ’s resurrection in our lives, a living flame that enlivens us to love and exist more deeply. During Easter, we claim God as our portion forever, the source of our happiness precisely because He has given His saving help. In Christ, we are forever brought close to God, we have the benefit of a comforting hearth in the midst of life’s challenges.

We mainly gather as a church to receive and be with this One who is all our hope, grace and warmth. When we invite others, we invite them to this principal gathering, to rest in the eternal love present to us in the Risen Christ. He is our true power and fire indeed!

## Weekly Virtual and In-person Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

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

## What’s Inside

**Social Ministry** pg. 5

**Mutual Ministry** pg. 7

**Music Notes** pg. 8

**Christian Education** pg. 9

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** pg. 12

**Prayer List** pg. 13

## Dates to Note

**Father Bill’s Lunch Packing**

April 15

**Confirmation Weekend at Calumet**

April 12 – 14

**Church Council Meeting**

Via Zoom April 18

7 PM

**Weymouth Food Pantry Temple Talk**

April 21

**Social Ministry Meeting**

May 5

**Pentecost/Confirmation**

May 19

**Synod Assembly**

June 6 - 8

In that same spirit that propels all Christ followers, remember to pray for Girma and the Eritrean refugees in Calais, alongside all refugees seeking shelter and a better life for their families.

- Pastor Emmanuel



*Things We Carry on the Sea by Wang Ping*

We carry tears in our eyes: good-bye father, good-bye mother

We carry soil in small bags: may home never fade in our hearts

We carry names, stories, memories of our villages, fields, boats

We carry scars from proxy wars of greed

We carry carnage of mining, droughts, floods, genocides

We carry dust of our families and neighbors incinerated in mushroom clouds

We carry our islands sinking under the sea

We carry our hands, feet, bones, hearts and best minds for a new life

We carry diplomas: medicine, engineer, nurse, education, math, poetry, even if they mean nothing to the other shore

We carry railroads, plantations, laundromats, bodegas, taco trucks, farms, factories, nursing homes, hospitals, schools, temples...built on our ancestors' backs

We carry old homes along the spine, new dreams in our chests

We carry yesterday, today and tomorrow

We're orphans of the wars forced upon us

We're refugees of the sea rising from industrial wastes

And we carry our mother tongues

爱(ai), حب (hubb), ליבנו (libe), amor, love

平安 (ping'an), سلام (salaam), shalom, paz, peace

希望 (xi'wang), أمل (?amal), hofenung, esperanza, hope, hope, hope

As we drift...in our rubber boats...from shore...to shore...to shore...

## Church Staff

The Rev. Emmanuel Josué Correa Vázquez  
Pastor

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**Minister of Music** Lenae Badger  
**Church Administrator** Barb Mullin  
**Financial Secretary** Sandy Swanson  
**Tidings Staff** Dana Abbott, Barb Mullin

Please send all information for the Tidings to:  
[hoptidingseditor@comcast.net](mailto:hoptidingseditor@comcast.net)

## CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

**President** Carla Hill  
**Vice President** Kathleen Almand  
**Treasurer** Kathleen Almand  
**Secretary** Sue Bose

## AT LARGE CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dana Abbott  
Scott Hudson-Bryant  
Naomi Just  
Cathy Martin  
Vicki Oman  
Marci Sutkowski  
Linda Vassallo  
Shawn Wegener  
Thea Morad

## 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"*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<b>Christian Education</b>	Kim Boyd
<b>Evangelism</b>	open
<b>Facilities</b>	Shawn Wegener
<b>Finance</b>	Ed Martin
<b>&amp; Stewardship</b>	
<b>Parish Life</b>	open
<b>Shepherds</b>	Sue Bose
<b>Social Ministry</b>	Cathy Martin
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	Sandy Swanson

## Bulletin Announcements

**Security Update** – To improve the security and safety of the church and staff, the entry door will remain locked unless there is a group meeting in the building. There is a new doorbell that rings in the office. The lockbox code will be changed quarterly. If you need access to the building off hours, please contact the office for the current code.

On **Sunday, April 21** (rescheduled from March) we welcome Pam Denholm, Executive Director of the Weymouth Food Pantry for a brief Temple Talk. She will be available during coffee hour for any questions. We partnered with her organization for this year's GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS project, the famous COOKIE WALK! Please take time to get to know Pam and the good works of her organization!

## HUGE THANK YOU!!!

The "God's Work, Our Hands" committee, along with Social Ministry, would like to send out a big thank you and many hugs to all who participated in the Cookie Walk this year. Thank you to the helpers of the day, the bakers (many yummy cookies indeed!) and those who contributed to the cause which was the Weymouth Food Pantry. We raised a whopping \$539, which will be presented to Pam Denholm, Executive Director, when she visits us on April 21st. Many hungry families will be fed by members of House of Prayer as a result of the Cookie Walk this year. God bless you all!——*Carla & Ernie*

## Another Thank You

Wellspring sends their "thanks" for the wonderful Easter dinner boxes. They picked them up the Monday before Easter and began distributing them that day! As always, they are appreciative of the generosity and support of the House of Prayer members.



## **Social Ministry** *Cathy Martin, Chair*

**God's Work, Our Hands:** The cookie walk was held April 7. Funds raised went to the Weymouth Food Pantry. Pam Denholm, executive director of the Weymouth Food Pantry, is planning to come and speak to the congregation on April 21. This would be a rescheduled event from March 10 when Pam was sick. Thanks to all who baked and purchased cookies, and to the Sunday school children who decorated the bags. Leftovers will be brought to Father Bill's.

**Good Gifts:** The Social Ministry Committee is planning to promote backpacks filled with food from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. The fee for the backpack is \$10.00. For June, Ann is planning to put together envelopes so that members can put their donation in the offering plate. This is to avoid any issues with donations and to make it clear how to proceed with donations.

**Migrant Family Support:** Supporting migrant families in Worcester is not efficient for a church on the South Shore. Carla has been in contact with the Family Welcome Center that is located in Quincy. There is a list of items in high demand for immigrants arriving in this country. The committee is planning to communicate this to the church members in May. We are also planning to invite someone from Eastern Nazarene College, where the immigrants are housed on school property, to come meet our members and discuss the needs of the center.

**Father Bill's Update:** Ann continues to organize monthly bag lunches. We are providing about 35 lunches each time thanks to the generosity of the congregation for donations. Father Bill's has an ongoing list of items including gift certificates needed for their visitors. They are building a new facility in Brockton, where we can try to be a sponsor. They are also looking for donations of breakfast items including cereal and oatmeal and casseroles which they can freeze. We discussed as in the past that we could provide an aluminum pan with a casserole recipe. We will announce this to the congregation in April to collect donations for the month.

**Habitat for Humanity:** In September, Ed and Nancy Martin with Kim Boyd are planning to work on a Habitat project in Kauai, Hawaii. The dates are September 28 through October 6. The cost is about \$1,700 per person excluding airfare. For more details, contact Ed Martin. We are also exploring re-engaging with the local Habitat organization to see how we can support local projects either with food or cookies, etc. or offer some other support. They have started the new build in Cohasset and we may get involved in April with cookie donations.

**Wellspring:** HOP participated in providing 18 Easter dinner boxes in March – much like we do dinner boxes at Christmastime. (see pictures on next page). Gerda Hall donated \$25 toward an Easter box, which Kathleen used to cover part of the cost of an additional box. We are also looking into a bigger container for food donations.

**Ascentria:** School supplies collection for Ascentria will be happening in August.



*No doubt these beautifully wrapped boxes brightened Easter for many of our neighbors in need.*



*House of Prayer Easter dinner boxes filled up the Wellspring Van!*

## Summary of Activities:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Activity</u>
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pam Denholm, Weymouth Food Pantry visit
April	Father Bill's Bag Lunches
April	Breakfast items and casseroles for Father Bill's
May	Migrant Drive
June	ELCA Good Gifts Food Backpack
August	School supplies collection for Ascentria
September	Habitat for Humanity Hawaii

If you would like to join our committee or participate in any of the activities we do, don't hesitate to ask. **Our next meeting is Sunday, May 5, 2024 after church.** Please join us. Our committee is open to anyone. Any questions, contact Cathy Martin at [cathymartin19@verizon.net](mailto:cathymartin19@verizon.net) or 617-645-9636.

### Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee had its first meeting in February. Thank you to Cathy Martin, Steve Bergman, and Kathy Sutkowski for agreeing to join me on this important committee. To help you understand what the committee is about please see below a description of the purpose of the committee from HOP bylaws and excerpts from the ELCA Guidelines.

From our bylaws:

- The Pastor-Congregation Mutual Ministries Committee shall offer support and counsel for the pastor's ministry and provide a channel for communication between the pastor and this congregation concerning both the pastor's and the congregation's ministries. Its members shall serve as a sounding board for the pastor and as a resource for creative planning and conflict resolution.

From the guidelines:

- Affirming and strengthening the mission of the congregation and the ministry of the staff is the primary purpose of a Mutual Ministry Committee. This is done not through programs but through:

- Listening and clarifying
- Sharing and communicating
- Reviewing and reflecting

- Committee members must remember that they are accountable to one another for maintaining discretion or confidentiality when personal information is shared. An important part of mutual ministry is how we handle sensitive information. Reports to the congregation council or the annual congregation

meeting summarize the work of the committee and state formal recommendations but need not disclose confidential items or detailed background information when the matters are personal. Let discretion be an important guide.

- A Mutual Ministry Committee will not change your pastor into “exactly what you want,” but it will provide an arena for the two of you to define your differences and respect each other as partners in ministry. A Mutual Ministry Committee will not solve all personal problems for staff or members, but it will be a “safe place” for mutual conversation and consolation. A place of forgiveness, absolution and renewal.

Please feel free to speak with any committee member about a concern, a suggestion for change or a question. And importantly let us know what you are pleased about and appreciate! We will always recommend you speak with Pastor Emmanuel directly but will gladly bring things to his attention if you are unable or uncomfortable doing so. Please note, per ELCA guidelines, no information can be passed on anonymously.

Thank you and look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Bose Chairperson MMC

## **Music Notes from Lenae**

How wonderful to have 80+ people in church on Palm/Passion Sunday!! I loved hearing the congregation really singing out on all the hymns and liturgy, and people seemed to catch on quickly to the new Palm Sunday hymns "Pave the Way with Branches" and "Blessed is the One" from our new hymnal supplement, "All Creation Sings", which are now in the pews! Yea! Many thanks to the Adult Choir for helping to lead those and lead the Procession with Palms!

By the time you read this, we will have had our somber Maundy Thursday service that commemorated the Last Supper & included a foot-washing, our very meaningful Tenebrae Good Friday service, where the sanctuary gets progressively darker after each reading, our Easter Vigil service, where participants helped to light up the darkened sanctuary with individual candles, then it took us on an abridged trip through the Bible, highlighting some of the major stories, and ending with a brief version of the Resurrection (be glad ours doesn't go on for 9 hrs. and bring the participants into Easter Morning at the sunrise!), and then our joyous Easter service, full of lilies, light and hundreds of sung Alleluia's! (If you haven't noticed, we don't sing Alleluias during Lent!) We'll continue to sing Alleluia's the next few Sundays as well, because they are a continuing of the Easter story.

Music is such an integral part of all of these services. It is amazing that some of the texts and tunes of the hymns have been around for centuries, and yet they still speak to us today! If you haven't ever noticed, at the bottom of the hymns in hymnals you are always given the writer's name and dates and the composer's name and dates, and I include this information in the bulletin as well. Make a note of which hymns have been around since the 9th century or earlier -- all the way up until hymns written in 2020! We have such a rich tradition of congregational singing in the Lutheran church! So now maybe you can sing them with even more knowledge of their origins! Take a look!

Happy Easter to all!  
Lenae





## Christian Education Committee *Kim Boyd, Chair*

Hello spring and Alleluia! He is Risen! While we didn't have much Sunday School in the way of lessons this past month, we did have an opportunity to really get to know Pastor Emmanuel (and have him get to know us better, too.) On March 17 & 24 the youth of our congregation had the opportunity to meet with Pastor during Sunday School in an informal setting to just share stories of how their weeks went and to know a bit more about each other. It seemed like all were on board and happy to get to know one another! See the picture from the first Sunday. While we were waiting for Pastor to come join us and a bit while we were talking with him, we decorated lunch bags for the Cookie walk that will be supporting the Weymouth food pantry and for Father Bill's.

Palm Sunday we passed out "palm branches" after the children's sermon so the kids could have their own to take home to remind them of how Jesus was waved into the city. They were bigger and looked like a fan, even said "Hosanna" on them. We hope that all children who were there got one. If your child wasn't there and would like one, we've got a few extras, just ask Kim Boyd.

Easter dinner boxes were due on Palm Sunday, and as a church we collected 18 boxes to give to Wellspring. The Sunday School kids got in on the action too, as the students pooled together to fill a box. Thanks to all the families who participated to make someone's Easter a joyous occasion! You can see all the boxes that were collected in the pictures on page 6, including a photo taken when they were picked up by Wellspring.

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter celebration with your families whether it was here at House of Prayer or somewhere else. Alleluia!

In the month of April, the confirmation class will be having a confo weekend at Camp Calumet in New Hampshire April 12-14. People are meeting at church at 4 pm Friday to get up there with Phoebe and Pastor driving. They'll be stopping for dinner along the way. Wish them safe travels and to have a good time learning and sharing the good news with other youth during their meals and Sunday worship together.

As a reminder, there will be NO Sunday School around school vacation weekends, so that means no Sunday School April 14 or 21.

Upcoming events are Pentecost, and that means CONFIRMATION! This is May 19. Look for more information to come on that. We will hopefully be having a planting/clean up session for our flower beds after the service, so prepare to get a little dirty and have fun!

See you all in Sunday School! If you have any thoughts or concerns about the Sunday School program, please reach out to Kim Boyd. We'd love to hear any input on how we as a congregation wish to proceed with our Christian Education program!



*Pastor Emmanuel and the young members of our Congregation getting to know each other after service.*



# Calumet Lutheran Camp & Conference Center

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March 12, 2024

Lenae Badger, Minister of Music  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
916 Main St  
Hingham, MA 02043

Dear Lenae and Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful gift of a beautiful Marshall & Wendell baby grand piano from the congregation of House of Prayer in Hingham. The additional information you provided regarding the damp chaser installed on the piano has been very helpful. The piano looks beautiful in the Oasis and has already been enjoyed by so many! Your gift will bring many hours of enjoyment for Calumet guests for years to come.

Gifts such as this make it possible for us to continue to provide the best quality program and facilities at the least possible cost. We are blessed to have so many folks give generously to Calumet through donations like yours, monetary gifts and donations of their time and services.



We sincerely appreciate your generosity. Thank you again.



Best Regards,

Knute Ogren  
Director of Development

*Thank you, Friends at House of Prayer!  
Blessings to you  
Boom Chicka Boom!*

*So that you may fully deduct this gift when you file your tax return, we wish to confirm that Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of New England, Inc., which owns and operates Calumet Lutheran Ministries, has provided no goods or services in return for your contribution.*

	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
April 02	Lynda Watt	April 03	Brad & Marina Johnson
April 04	Katherine Bartolotti	April 15	Sal & Katherine Bartolotti
April 05	George Ohlson	April 16	Doug & Donna Hudson-Bryant
April 08	Nancy Martin		
	Hannah Macdonald		
April 21	Christopher Warneck		
April 24	Steve Hall		

	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
May 03	Jennie Hudson-Bryant	May 09	Ingrid & Gene Lancaster
May 07	Brad Johnson	May 27	Kim & Matthew Boyd
May 08	Caitlyn Folino		
	Paul Folino		
May 19	Heather Folino		
May 21	Lisa Rydin		
May 22	Scott Hudson-Bryant		

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

## 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  
Brett, Virginia (friend of Martha)  
Bryson, Caitlin (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Carlson, Joanne (Linda Lundin's sister)  
Clifford, Kathy (friend of Kim Boyd)  
Dallamora, Joe (Jen M's father)  
Dauber, Lynda (friend of Parsekians)  
Davis, Elise (neighbor of the Hayes)  
Derderian, Craig (nephew of Parsekian's)  
Derderian, Glenn and Sue (nephew of Parsekian's nephew and his wife)  
Derderian, Gloria (sister-in-law of Parsekian's)  
Ericson, Mabel  
Ericson, Pochinart (daughter-in-law of Mabel)  
Errichiello, David (Carla's brother)  
Fields, Leisel (friend of Jen McCready)  
Gall Family (friends of Lenae)  
Galotti, Debbie (friend of Rita LaPlante)  
Gifford, Bill (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Gitungano, Alex (friend of HoP)  
Glynn, Mary (friend of Sue Bose)  
Graham, Ellis (granddaughter of Rob Lacy)  
Grankewicz family (Lenae's friends)  
Hall, Gerda  
Hall family  
Hannigan, Mike (friend of Lisa and Rich Rege)  
Hansen, Mark (friend of Jacqui Lyons)  
Hickman, Myrtle  
Higginbottom, Sophia (friend of Rita LaPlante)  
Hilston, Paula (Pastor Hilston's wife)  
Hutchinson, Rick (friend of Lundins)  
Ikoribitangaza, Leo (friend of HoP)  
James L (friend of Martha Willson)  
Jensen, Dee (friend of Lenae's)  
Just, Christian (brother of Ginny & Naomi)  
Just, Ginny (former member)  
Just, Naomi  
Kalla, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)  
Knight, Patty (friend of Linda Vassallo)  
Lacy, Rob  
LaRocca, Debi & family (friends of Warnecks)  
Leary, Erin (Millie's granddaughter)  
Leary, Kris (daughter of Millie Hill)  
MacKennon, Linnie (friend of Lundins)  
McCullough, Lynne (relative of Emily Badger-McCullough)  
McGivney, Marlene  
McGivney, Paul (Dana's brother)  
Meslo, Lisa (Hayes' sister-in-law)  
Michaels, Marcia (friend of Victoria Warneck)  
Mitchell, Marcia  
Murray, Maggie (friend of Mary Jane)  
Myers, Chuck (friend of Lundins)  
Neat, Kathy  
Niendorf, Kris  
Nucifore, Linda Nilsson (sister of Karen Nilsson)  
Nucifore, Alan (brother-in-law of Karen Nilsson)  
O'Donnell, Kathleen (friend of Rita LaPlante)  
\*Olsson, Todd (Doris' grandson)  
Oman, Linda  
Paresky, David (friend of Parsekians)  
Parsekian, Patty (MaryJane's daughter-in-law)  
Phillips, Ed (friend of Lundins)  
Pryor, Mark (friend of Leah McGaughey)  
Rawlins, Betty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)  
Rawlins, Patty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)  
Read, James L (friend of Martha Willson)  
Richardson, David (Victoria's uncle)  
Rodrigues, Mary Ellen (friend of Lenae)  
Rogalski, Roberta (friend of Ursula Hackemer)  
Rush, Jean (friend of Ursula Hackemer)  
Ryan, Austin (friend of Martha Willson)  
Rydin family  
Santacroce, Linda (friend of Sue Bose)  
Schooning, Sonia (friend of Martha)  
Scott-Rawlins, Cherese (friend of Myrtle Hickman)  
Severson, Karen (friend of Ann Moegle)  
Silva, Jeffrey (grandson of Dorothy Flett)  
Sonie (friend of Martha Willson)  
Sullivan, Elisabeth (friend of Ursula Hackemer)  
Toomey, Skip (brother-in-law of Hayes)  
Walsh, Dennis (friend of Chris Hayes)  
Walter, Helmut (Stefanie Wegener's father)  
Watt, George & Lynda  
Weaver, Ryley (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)

\*serving in the military