Welcome to House of Prayer Lutheran Church

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

Isaiah 56:7b

Messier 31, or Andromeda Galaxy

Worship
June 17, 2018

++ Please be sure cell phones and pagers are turned off during the worship service as they may interfere with the sound system. Thank you. ++
Welcome to worship! Whether you are Lutheran or not, if you desire to receive the body and blood of Christ, you are welcome at the Lord’s table. If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to worship again with us and join in our Christian fellowship, education and service activities. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Henry at the conclusion of the service, sign our guest sheet located in the foyer and join us in the Parish Hall for coffee and fellowship following worship. The Church is handicapped accessible and hearing assistance is available. Please see an usher for a receiver. A copy of the sermon is available from the ushers.

Worship Assistants

Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistants & Cross Bearer
Readers
Coffee & Refreshments
Altar Guild

Janet Waters
Scott & Phoebe Morad
Lisa Rege & Janice Sidney

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle burns to the glory of God, given by Ann Moegle, in memory of Betty Yanish and Keith Moegle.

Worship Schedule

Saturday Worship Service 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Coffee Hour 10:50
Sunday School 10:45 a.m. (September – June)

Church Staff

The Rev. Susan C. Henry, Pastor
Lenae W. Badger, Minister of Music
Kristen Croke, Church Administrator
Barbara Hutchinson, Associate Minister of Music

Church Directory

Church Offices are located in the church, 916 Main Street
Office hours are Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9:00 am –1:00 pm. (office is closed on Tuesday)
Telephone (781)749-5533 - FAX (781)740-2649
Office email: hopchurchoffice@comcast.net
Pastor Henry’s email: hoppastorhenry@gmail.com
Web Site: houseofprayeringham.org
Newsletter submissions: hoptidingseditor@comcast.net

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
Worship June 17, 2018
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
(* Indicates Congregation Standing)
Congregation parts are in bold

GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
♫ Your quiet reverence is appreciated as we use the prelude to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. ♫

Prelude “This is My Father’s World/For the Beauty of the Earth” …Arr. Shackley

Welcome

* Call to Worship

Proverbs 8:22-31
[Wisdom speaks, and she says, . . .]
The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
23 Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
24 When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
25 Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth —
26 when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
27 When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
28 when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
29 when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
30 then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
31 rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

Come, let us worship the God of all creation!
Come, let us give thanks for God’s wisdom, power, and love.

* Gathering Song “Cosmic Wisdom” Tune: “Praise, My Soul” 864

Wisdom has a secret message:
Do you know where I am found?
Can you find the deepest myst'ry
In the sky or underground?
Listen to the voice of Wisdom
Calling us to find her place.
Wisdom is the primal blueprint,
There before the world began,
Chosen by a sage Creator
To design the cosmic plan.
Listen to the voice of Wisdom
Call before the first Big Bang.

Wisdom is a silent impulse
Hidden deep in nature’s law,
Guiding wind and cloud and weather
Marking ripples on the shore.
Listen to the voice of Wisdom
Calling us to feel her pulse.

Wisdom fills the world with wonder,
Time and space with wild surprise,
Guiding gentle genes through hist’ry,
Spinning stars across the skies.
Listen to the voice of Wisdom
In and under ev’rything.

I am Wisdom, I am wonder,
I was at creation’s birth.
Now I’m calling you to listen
To the cries of our dear Earth.
Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
Mid-wife of our precious Earth.

* Greeting
The grace of Christ who is the wisdom and the power of God, the love of our glorious Creator, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

* Prayer of the Day
God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the universe, we celebrate the wondrous design of creation and the Wisdom that guides its course. Help us recognize our place in your creation and cherish our connection with living members of your cosmic community. Lead us to know the presence of Christ, who reconciles all forces in creation. Amen.
God speaks to us in scripture, story, and song.

The First Reading: The Ancient World View

This is what the universe seemed like to ancient eyes, to the psalmists, and to the writer who gave voice to Wisdom:

- the earth held up by pillars,
- with water below, welling up in rivers, lakes, and oceans
- with the “firmament” above like a dome
  - that the sun, moon and stars moved across,
  - and with “floodgates” to let in the rain and the snow.

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
  praise him all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
  and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the Lord
  for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
  he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
Praise the Lord!

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.  

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.
The Second Reading: Our Place in Space

Psalm 8:3-4

How differently we have come to understand the nature of the universe and Earth’s place in it. I invite you to close your eyes, listen, and – beginning from this planet we call home -- picture God’s vast created universe as I describe it.

Prior to Earth’s appearing, the universe had been developing for some eight to 10 billion years.

The Earth was “born” nearly five billion years ago.

It is part of a solar system that is itself part of the Milky Way galaxy, and our solar system is in an outer arm of our spiral galaxy.

Our Milky Way galaxy contains about 300 to 400 billion stars, many similar to our sun, with planetary bodies of their own.

Our home galaxy moves in relationship to a group of some 26 other galaxies, known as a cluster. Ours is called the Local Group.

This Local Group cluster of galaxies is itself part of a group of over 1000 clusters, making up what’s called the Virgo Supercluster.

Now try to image a single supercluster as a white dot – and remember that
it contains hundreds if not thousands of galaxies, themselves containing billions of stars. Somewhere on the order of 10 million such “dots,” such superclusters are estimated to be spread across the vast expanse of space.

Now open your eyes and, in awe of our Creator, hear these verses from Psalm 8:

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?


Response: “God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space:
Let’s compare the story of the universe to this set of 28 books. If each volume has 500 pages, each page represents a million years. Each volume, then, reflects half a billion years.

God’s work of creation begins about 14 billion years ago – volume 1, page 1.

Earth in its solar system doesn’t appear until we get all the way to volume 19.

Cellular life on earth begins around volume 21 with single-cell life in the oceans. Many-celled life appears toward the end of volume 27.

Humankind doesn’t show up until we reach the very last page of the very last volume, and organized human civilization is only reflected in the last two words on that very last page.

God has been active for billions of years before we humans were called “to till and to keep” the Earth in partnership with God.

12Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, encased the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?
21Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;
23who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

* Gospel Acclamation  (see River of Life Liturgy booklet for music)
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

* Gospel Reading  
John 1:1-5, 14, 16, 18
The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

* Affirming Our Faith

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation, and filling the universe.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.
We believe that with Christ we will rise, and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.
* The Prayers

Trusting in our gracious Creator, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(a brief silence)

Creator of the cosmos, as Wisdom rejoiced in your creative work and your company, we your people also rejoice in your creation and your presence with us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator of all that is, seen and beyond seeing, we stand in awe, not only of the stars we see in our own Milky Way but also of other galaxies, clusters and superclusters almost beyond our ability to imagine. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator of our planet Earth, we thank you for its waters, lands, and skies and for all the life that fills it. Move us to care deeply for it in partnership with you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator of all time and space, keep us mindful of our place in your long story of life and give all leaders your wisdom so that together all may live justly and peacefully on this “beautiful blue marble” that is our home. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator, healer, and comforter, sustain all who suffer in any way, especially children and parents who are being separated from one another as they seek refuge in our country. Be the hope of all who are tempted to despair, and make us channels of your mercy and grace. We pray especially for Rose Harmon, Sophia Higginbottom, Susan Husted and Vicar Mac and Barbara’s granddaughter, Dara. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator of relationships, your steadfastness and faithfulness sustain us. Bless fathers and all father figures with such love and faithfulness that children flourish and grow in uprightness and joy. Bless those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who serve our country near and far: for our President and Congress, for military personnel, leaders and diplomats, chaplains and caregivers. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have no one else to pray for them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(Leader will complete the prayers.)

For whom and for what else does this community pray?

(The congregation may offer, silently or aloud, any concerns they may have.)

Trusting in your mercy, we pray all this through Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God and the power of God. Amen.

* Sharing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.

(The congregation greets one another with a sign of God’s peace.)

Share the peace but not germs. Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory Solo “God Created Heaven and Earth” (738)
* Offering Prayer
Let us pray.
Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need. The water that sustains life comes from you. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lutherans practice what is called Eucharistic hospitality, and all who desire to receive the body and blood of Christ are welcome at the Lord’s table. After you receive the bread (or a wafer, if you prefer), you may either dip it into the wine or grape juice or you may eat the bread and then drink from the common cup of wine or grape juice. The first two chalices on each side are for intinction - for dipping the bread. The second two chalices are the common cup - for drinking. The silver chalices have wine; the pottery chalices, grape juice. Gluten-free rice wafers are available; simply ask when you come to receive the bread. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward and ask for a blessing instead.

* Great Thanksgiving
The Lord is with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.
The Pastor continues and concludes with: …we praise your name and join their unending hymn.
(Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. (p.144)
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* Words of Institution

* Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

All is ready, and all are welcome. Receive what you are: the body of Christ.
May we become what we receive.

* Lamb of God
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. (Repeat)
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.
Holy Communion

Communion Song

“Let All Things Now Living” 881

* Blessing after Communion

* Prayer after Communion

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

* Blessing

Announcements

* Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth” 879

* Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

“This is My Father’s World” …Arr. Raney

Next week’s readings: Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God’s ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus’ calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life’s turbulence.

Announcements & Events June 16 & 17

Sunday
● Activity packets are available on the back pew. At the end of worship please leave the packet on the back pew with the label facing the back. There is a supervised nursery available for children ages 4 and under.
● Coffee Hour/Adult Forum

This Week
Tuesday, June 19
1:00 p.m. “In Stitches” meets at House of Prayer (see notice below)
7:00 p.m. Church Council meets

Wednesday, June 20
11:30 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday, June 21
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

Friday, June 22 – Confirmands & Leaders depart for Calumet

Saturday, June 23
3:00 p.m. Saturday Musicians Rehearsal
4:30 p.m. Worship Service

Looking Ahead
Sunday, June 24
9:30 a.m. Worship service
10:50 a.m. Fellowship Hour
10:50 a.m. Semi-annual Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, June 26 - Confirmands & Leaders return from Calumet
Thursday, June 28
9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, June 30
3:00 p.m. Saturday Musicians Rehearsal
4:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, July 1
9:30 a.m. Worship service
10:50 a.m. Fellowship Hour

Please Note
● Needed: A chairperson, or co-chairs, for the annual Yard Sale. If you can coordinate the set-up, drop-off, pricing of items and clean up, see Pastor Henry.
● Be sure to see Kim Boyd to have your picture taken for a new photo directory.
● There will be a congregational meeting after worship on June 24th. Report packets are in member mailboxes.
● VBS will be July 30-August 3 at Hingham Congregational Church, 378 Main Street. The cost is $30 per child. To register visit hccucc.com/vacation-bible-school-2018/. Teachers are needed
● Each month Social Ministry will feature specific items for Wellspring’s Food pantry. During June, the focus is condiments. They are always in need of toiletries, personal care, feminine hygiene and cleaning items which are not covered by SNAP benefits (food stamps).
● The 2018 flower and candle sign-up chart is in the hallway outside Pastor’s office. Flowers are $56 ($28 per vase) and can be taken home after Sunday worship. The candle is $20 for the month. Please note the occasion on the chart. Payment can be put in the offering plate (note that it is for the candle or flowers.)
● Anyone who might find it helpful to have someone walk with them in a difficult time, please speak with Pastor Henry about our confidential Called to Care ministry.
● Remember to bring your recyclable items to our recycling dumpsters. Both dumpsters generate income for our programs and mission as well as save space in landfills. The paper dumpster accepts newspaper, magazines, catalogs, office & school papers. NOT accepted in the paper dumpster: cardboard, all brown bags, plastic bags, gift wrap, tissue paper, textbooks and other thick paper (i.e. cereal and tissue boxes). The gray multi-use dumpster accepts a variety of items including textiles not suitable for donating i.e. stained, ripped, etc. See the chart on the bulletin board in the hallway for a listing of acceptable items for the multi-use dumpster.
● Are you looking for the Upper Room or Word in Season devotional book? They can be found in the mailbox grid (far left side). If it is empty, contact Kristen in the office.
Other Events & Announcements

- Friendship Home, 458 Main St., Norwell, will hold its annual Ice Cream Social on June 19th from 6-7:30 p.m.
- The Hammonasset 2018 Youth Gathering will be September 7-9, at Camp Calumet. Registration can be done at nesynod.org, look for the Hammonasset link under the “Faith in Action” tab.
- Visit calumet.org for a full listing of events and to register for summer camp.
- Habitat for Humanity has opened ReStore, at 357 Columbia Rd., Hanover (route 53). ReStore sells gently used furniture, appliances and household items. If you are renovating, moving, or remodeling, consider donating your unwanted items. They offer a free pick up service.
- The Cancer Support Community of the South Shore is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support, free of charge, to people affected by cancer, their families and their caregivers. Visit their website for a full listing of available programs and meetings at www.cancersupportcommunityma.org.