

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN

795 NORTH ROSE STREET, ESCONDIDO, CA 92027



April 2021

Glad Tidings

**Of Jesus' Redemption and Release
A Monthly Publication**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES AND ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**

Sundays 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

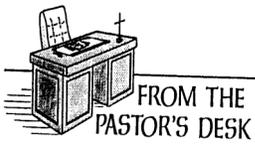
Sundays Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Triple - G Second Sunday of the Month, 11:45 - 1:00 PM

Wednesdays 10:00 AM Bible Study on Zoom

Worship online every Sunday at 9:00 AM

www.hoplutheran.com



When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They saw that the stone had been rolled back from the tomb and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished. They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

This story leaves us wondering and longing for more. Mark's Easter Gospel (Mark 16: 1-8) ends with silence rather than "Alleluia!" That wasn't the word the women said at the end of their long night of waiting. That's not what they said when the Sabbath was over as they made their way to the tomb. They didn't shout "Christ is risen!" That's what we want them to say, but they didn't behave as we would like. They fled from the tomb for "terror and amazement had seized them." The words are even stronger in Greek: *tromos (trauma) and ecstasis (ecstasy)*. *Trauma and ecstasy had seized them. They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark's Gospel ends in silence and Jesus never appears.*

Yet what if? What if Mark wanted to end with silence as unsatisfying as it appear to us? Surely, he knew the story. He had heard the story passed down from those who knew Jesus to those who now gathered in Jesus' name. Mark's silence is also for us.

Of all the Easter Gospels, Mark's story invites us to stand where those first trembling witnesses stood. Those three women didn't see Jesus. Neither do we. They didn't hear Jesus call their names. Neither have we. They weren't invited to touch his wounded hands. We haven't touched Jesus' hands either. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome are our silent sisters. The narrative is left for us, the readers, to complete.

How will we tell this story? Will we leave space for those whose stories are different from ours? Will we insist that we alone are right and others are wrong? Will we invite them or coerce them? Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome stand beside us today. In their silence they remind us that the life of faith is shaped by trauma and ecstasy, trembling and amazement. The silence at the end of Mark's gospel is always waiting to be filled in by people of every generation, waiting now for you and for me.

Happy Easter! May the promise of the resurrection bring you hope.
Pastor Karin



The journey through Holy Week began on Sunday with Palm/Passion Sunday, where Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey while with palm branches, people gave shouts of “Hosanna!” The journey continues with Good Friday when we hear the narrative of Jesus’ crucifixion through the words of John, followed by singing “Were You There?” This meaningful and somber service is actually one of my favorites. It reminds me of the tremendous and undeserved gift that I’ve been given. And finally, the journey moves on to that glorious Easter morning, when we will declare “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” What a miracle! It is overwhelming to know that God gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for us, taking our sins with him to the grave, then to be raised 3 days later, bringing to life God’s grace. He died for ME. He died for YOU. It really hits home when I put my own name in that sentence...He died for me... Carol. Try it.

What is your favorite Easter hymn? One of my favorite hymns to sing on Easter Sunday is #365 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”. The words ring out as a song of victory in a glorious melody...



*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

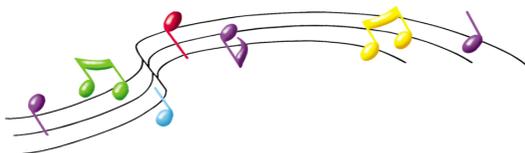
*But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he’s king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*



*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

Happy Easter! I pray you are able to see the beautiful signs of spring and new life around you. I miss you dearly and am thinking about you.

Carol



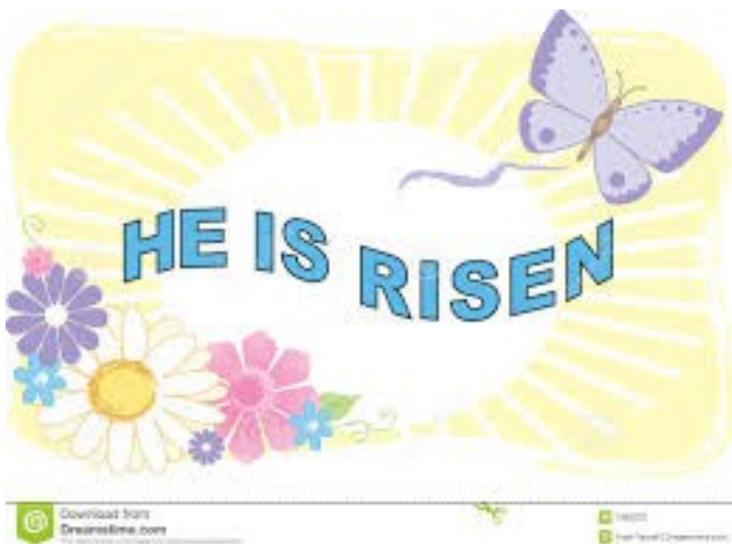


This Easter is an unusual one for me. Easter Sunday is usually a busy time for my family. Traditionally weeks before Tom and I are practicing and preparing music for the service, in Sunday school we are making butterflies, planning and buying supplies for the pancake breakfast. Then during Holy Week, we attend services and sing/play music. On Saturday morning we would be decorating the Social Hall and Sanctuary. Decorating the cross for pictures. Easter Morning, we would get to the church early to begin offering breakfast, attend services, sing, and clean up after everything. Then go home and watch the grandkids hunt for eggs and eat food someone else has prepared because We are just tired. That is our traditional Easter.

I am telling you this, not so you will feel sorry or to get praise. I love doing these things. These are things I do because it helps me to give praise to the Lord. I love Easter morning!! Singing Alleluia! Easter reminds me that even though we are going through hard times, New and Wonderful things will happen!

This last year, I learned that traditions are not important. God's love and our love for our neighbors, that what needs to be celebrated and shared. I can praise God anywhere and not just for Easter, but for the love he gives us all year long. Thank You Lord, for loving us!

Happy Easter!
Kitty



Thank You!

Thank you so much for your well wishes, calls, cards, the quilt and a beer that will be waiting for me once I get to Germany. The Goodbyes are said, and my hope is that you will be notified soon of your Bridge Pastor (serving you and bridging the gap between now and once the newly called pastor of House of Prayer arrives). New life is coming!

Thank you again and God's abundant blessings to all of you.

Pastor Karin

Our Worship Team

Back Row: Henry Doktorski, Mark Worman

Front Row: Becca Gross, Carol Gross,
Pastor Karin Boye, Natalia Marquez



Palm Sunday
Becky Draper and Pastor Karin
with House of Prayer gift quilt

Region 2 Worship Service for the Second Sunday of Easter

House of Prayer will be presenting a recorded worship service for the Second Sunday of Easter - Sunday, April 11 - that is being prepared by the five synods of Region 2 (Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Pacifica, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain) for use in congregations. It is being offered in recognition of and thanks for the faithful and tireless efforts of the pastors, deacons, musicians, worship leaders and all who have been providing worship through the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We are grateful for this service, which will provide a much needed respite for your worship team.

This will be a complete Service of the Word, including greetings from each of the bishops in the five synods along with participation by rostered ministers and lay people from these synods. The Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) will preach for this service. The service will be available as usual on our website www.hoplutheran.com.

Council President

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I realized even though we have attended House of Prayer for over ten years and have been on various committees, not everyone knows who I am. We always attend the second service, so if you only attend the first service it is a big possibility you don't know me. If this is true I would like to change that.

My name is Ramiro Acosta. My wife Mary and I have been married for 33 years. We have lived in Escondido for 32 years and in our present home for 22 years. For the last 16 years we have owned and operated a Heavy Duty Towing company. We just sold our business in February of this year. The plan was for us to have more time together, we are still waiting for that to happen.

I am honored to hold the position of Council President and appreciate all the help I am getting from the current council members and also past council members as well.

This is a job I have never done before, but I will do it to my best ability. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas please feel free to contact me.

I would like to personally thank Pastor Boye for all the hard work with the Call committee and all the other things she did for our congregation while she was with us. Good luck and God's blessing in all you do.

Mike and Sandy Erno graciously volunteered to be the voting members for the Synod Assembly.

We are also looking into the protocol for in person services again. Once that has been determined we will put it into action. The health and safety of our congregation is the most important thing to us. We would never do anything that wasn't safe for everyone.

I believe we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Things are starting to change slowly. We need to stay faithful and support each other.

In Christ name,

Ramiro Acosta
HOP
Council President

FROM THE COUNCIL VEEP

Council met on 21 March. In response to the plea for synod assembly voting members to represent us at HOP, Mike and Sandy Erno graciously volunteered to do this. Sandy also graciously volunteered to serve on the HR committee. We are so grateful.

Now, on the subject of re-opening HOP. We are putting together a plan to move forward with re-opening. It is on everyone's mind and some want it to happen yesterday. Some of us have now been vaccinated but I'm guessing that our number is around 30 – 50 %, based on our age demographics. That is encouraging. That helps those that are vaccinated directly and contributes to herd immunity. We are a long way from that and even longer to get over the pandemic. We must still take extreme care for everyone who is not vaccinated. If we were to re-open now, there would be no singing, no chanting, no communion, sparse seating with clear social distancing, masks required, no touching each other, etc. and the staff would be then forced to work both weekend days to support this. I won't consider asking them to do this. This would be not close to ideal. The sanitization efforts would be cumbersome and imagine no coffee and cookies or potluck anything. What I'm saying is that it is going to still be quite a while before we open for gathered service. When we do it will not be "normal".

Some questions for you to share answers with your council members or the office staff – you may want to pass the info along via your caring and connected calls or mail it to the office:

Do you plan to return to HOP when it is safe to do so?

If you have the urge to return sooner than later is it due to the service ritual that is missing right now or is it more of seeing your friends and socializing?

Personally I miss seeing everyone but I'm very content to do the zoom services for quite a while longer. I can sing and have my own communion. I get absolved of my sins weekly. I still thank God for everything. The ills of the world I don't understand but that's why I have faith. That continues to get reinforced, even on my own couch instead of a pew. I wish I had a crystal ball, but I don't. I wish I had the wisdom of Solomon, but I don't.

Please provide your feedback and let us know if you have been vaccinated. We need to know what's on your mind.

Peace out,
Mike Kendall

Call Committee

Greetings from your Call Committee,

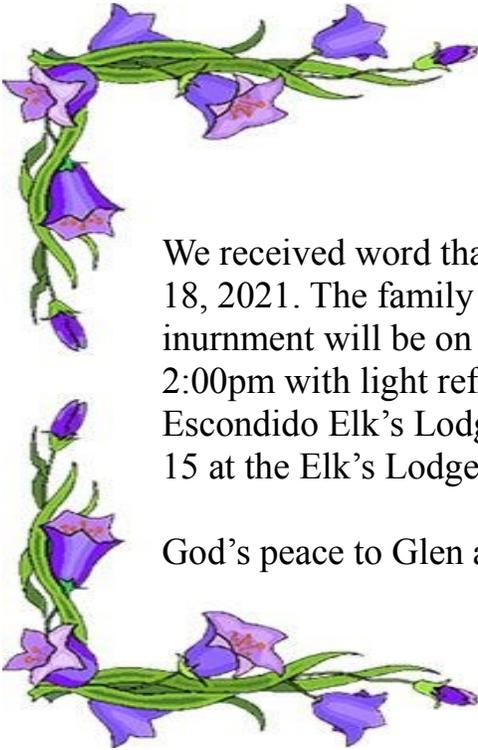
We are still hard at work at House of Prayer, although our pace of weekly meetings has slowed a bit. The Mission Site Profile, or "MSP" was approved by the church council and is now with Bishop Taylor for further review. The next step in the process is releasing the MSP to prospective candidates in our Pacific Synod and beyond.

This Saturday we are conducting our second practice interview with the assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Terry Allen. So pray for us and the Bishop's staff as we move forward in the process.

In His Service,

Dan Engelbrecht, Call Committee Chairperson

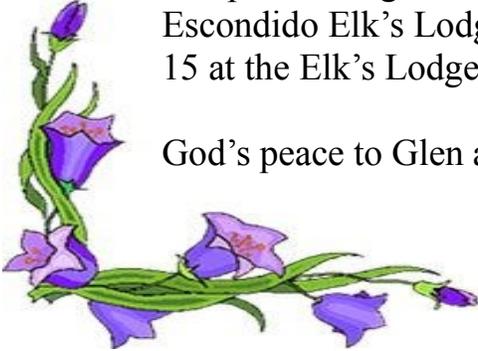
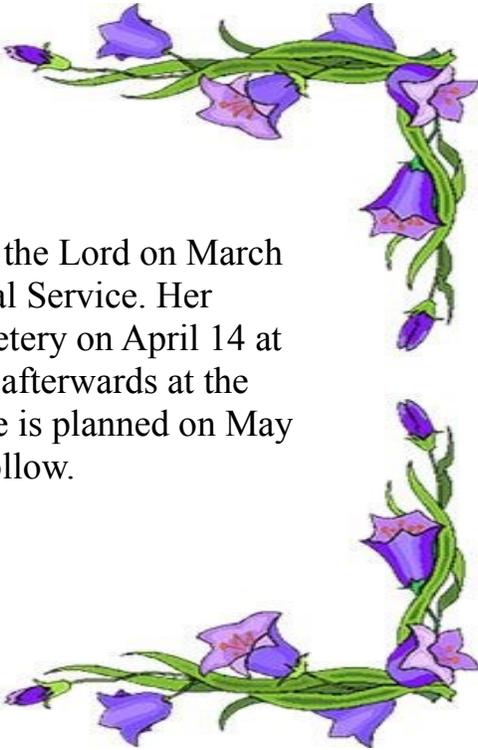
Congregational News



Rosie Foss

We received word that Rosie went to be with the Lord on March 18, 2021. The family is not planning a Funeral Service. Her inurnment will be on Miramar National Cemetery on April 14 at 2:00pm with light refreshments being served afterwards at the Escondido Elk's Lodge. A Celebration of Life is planned on May 15 at the Elk's Lodge, more information to follow.

God's peace to Glen and the family.



Joan Schmidt



We received this email on March 18, and wish to share it with all of you. Please keep Joan and her family in your prayers.

Good afternoon,

I am Dale and Joan Schmidt's nephew in Modesto. After Uncle Dale's passing Aunt Joan sold her home and moved to Gilbert, Arizona to be closer to her daughter Vicki. Aunt Joan had become very ill and we were all very concerned about her health. She sent us an email today and she is in better health, but she has been diagnosed with an untreatable, inoperable bleeding stomach cancer. She has had her radiation and the bleeding stopped. She is feeling a little better, eating better and the food is tasting good once again. Aunt Joan has come to terms with the diagnosis. She has a very personal relationship with God and she is prepared for his call to come home. She is not afraid and knows she has a home in Heaven waiting for her.

My wife Linda and I are very thankful for all that Aunt Joan means to us, as well as Uncle Dale. We have a special place in our hearts for them, and all the family. We were going to try to come to the church, even though we live in Modesto, and personally ask for Aunt Joan to be included in the congregations prayers for their members. However I don't think we can make that trip, but we would very much like for her name to be included in your prayers. We would gratefully appreciate any help you can provide.

Thank you and may the Good Lord Bless You and Keep You.

Respectfully,
Bob Anderson



For The Morning Poets

by Samantha Gross

“That I could be this human at this time
breathing, looking, seeing, smelling
That I could be this moment at this time
resting, calmly moving, feeling
That I could be this excellence at this time
sudden, changed, peaceful, & woke
To all my friends who have been with me in weakness
when water falls rush down my two sides
To all my friends who have felt me in anguish
when this earthen back breaks between the crack of two blades
To all my friends who have held me in rage
when fire tears through swallows behind tight grins
I know you
I see you
I hear you
Although the world is silent around you
I know you
I see you
I hear you”
-May Yang

Each morning I sit at the kitchen table, looking at the green grass in the backyard, listening to the birds who sing at all hours of the day and night, while the sounds of my friends reading words that are not their own settle over my shoulders.

They aren't there with me, of course, both because of the pandemic and because we're scattered across a handful of different states, but it doesn't matter. For those brief minutes in the morning, they are with me, even if it's just their pre-recorded voices. To explain, a few of my friends and I have started a ritual where we read a poem to one another each day. We've found an app that will compile all of our recordings into one and present it to us each morning, like a waiting cup of coffee. It's an eclectic group, both in terms of friends and poetry, but in the several weeks since we've started doing it, I've grown accustomed to hearing their voices each morning. Sometimes we read silly poems about baking a pound cake or video games, sometimes we find poems that make us want to cry just listening to them, but I am always delighted to get that little notification that our morning poetry session is ready.

It is lonely and not all at once, and I cherish this tiny morning ritual of drinking tea and listening to poetry whispered to me from across the country. From Ronnie in Texas and Katherine in Philadelphia and Kayla in San Francisco and sometimes me, from my corner of Escondido, all finding pretty or sad words and sharing them. For the two or so minutes it takes to recite, we are poets reaching for one another from across the country, and I love the sound of my friends' voices sharing pieces of themselves with me. We read each other stanzas from Ocean Vuong and Mary Oliver and Walt Whitman and Rainer Maria Rilke and sometimes poetry fragments we've found pasted to social media sites that are new and just as wonderful. Look at this, we say, listen to this, it made me think of you.

Continue on next page.

Sometimes I scribble down quotes or lines that I want to remember, or write my own tiny poems on post-it notes and paper scraps I find on the kitchen table:

"So what if all I ever made of my life was more of it" (Ocean Vuong)

"Quiet friend who has come so far, feel how your breathing makes more space around you" (Rainer Maria Rilke)

"Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting--over and over announcing your place in the family of things" (Mary Oliver)

They usually just end up in a pile on my desk, or lost in a drawer, or used as a bookmark, but then I'll find one and read my nearly illegible handwriting and smile, thinking of my friends who send me love in the form of pretty words.

I think we are all in need of something pretty to listen to, all in need of friends to reach across the void and tell us they are there, that they hear us. We are a year into this pandemic, and we are craving a closeness that has been denied to us for a very long time. We are lonely and in this together and that is a very weird dichotomy to exist in. We can see a light at the end of a tunnel, but we are still in the tunnel, waiting for our turn to step into the sun.

It's been a while since I've written one of these, mostly because I've been unsure of what to write about. What in my life is interesting enough or relatable enough to take up a page in the newsletter? What can I talk about that isn't the year-long looming universal pandemic, the thing we're all sick to death of hearing about?

The idea for this article came to me while I was listening to Katherine read Walt Whitman. Because my friends and I reading poetry to each other is a lot like these articles, and while my words aren't exactly Emily Dickinson or Leonard Cohen, they are still my attempt at reaching out across the distance. These short articles are my way of saying look at this, listen to this, it made me think of you.

And I have been thinking of you all, especially with Easter coming up, our second long distance quarantine Easter. I am not part of filming the service this year, since I'm back at work, but we will still celebrate, even though we are still distanced, sending each other recorded services and songs. Because this past year has been difficult and dark, because we have spent more than three days waiting for the return of the light, but it is coming. We can feel it. We just have to wait a little bit longer for it to reach across the distance. I am here, it will say, look at me, listen to me, I've been thinking of you.



Zoom Meetings

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Greetings at 9:45am Study at 10am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81848590237?pwd=WTNtdlNGR1hWQi85TmJvUC9oNFVpQT09>

or by phone Dial +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 818 4859 0237
Passcode: 479904

Council Meeting Zoom

Time: April 18 at 11:30 Third Sunday of month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86105853120?pwd=NFVXWXBQQIZHUXpuaFBsUkhZcTNtZz09>

Or by phone Dial +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 861 0585 3120
Passcode: 766380

Caring and Connected Leaders

Time: April 20, 2021 11:30 AM Pacific Time

Third Tuesday of each month

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86361809931?pwd=MndnS2FydmQ5cIFTUURwN1YwVEh5QT09>

Meeting ID: 863 6180 9931

Passcode: 974867

From Home phones.
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 863 6180 9931
Passcode: 97486

4/4	Earl and Cathy Curtis	23 years
4/9	Dan and Patricia Portis	61 years

We **completely started over with the prayer lists** for members, family/friends and protection and safety in the military. If you would like yourself, friend or relative on the prayer list, there is a form that needs to be filled out. (See next page). You can mail or email the request back to the office, or call the office.

This is **separate from the Prayer Chain**. If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please email Kitty Wiebe or call the church office.



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Members of House of Prayer:

For healing: Opal Wieck, Tom Kristensen, Inge Frese, Carl Siek, Ruth Shimansky, Rosalind Mattern, Clementina Lopez, Pat Portis, Charlotte Beutlich, Matt Madsen, Rick Baker, Mike Erno, Lynn Carlson, Don Portis, Bill Carpenter, Annette Gustin, Joan Schmidt

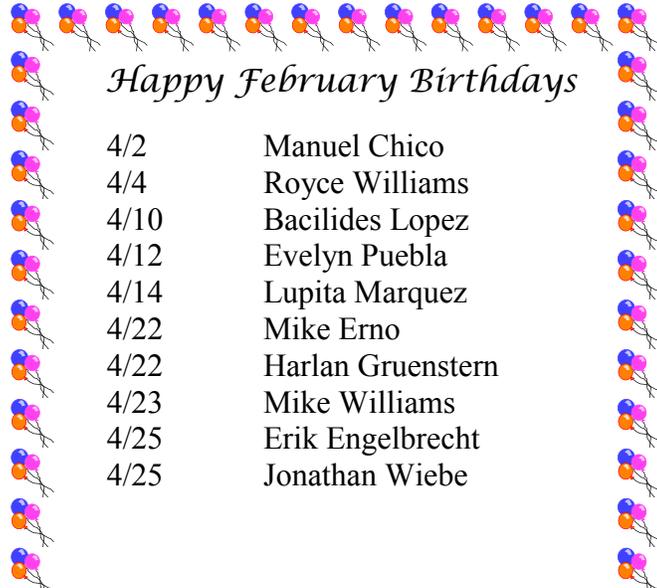
For comfort: Glen Foss

Relatives and Friends of HOP:

For Healing and comfort: Julie Walsh, Michelle Mensen, Martha Bailey, Bethany Barratt, Aiden Beutlich. Angela Carlson, Kelly Gustin Lethem, Gary Johnson

For protection and safety in the military: Vince Erno

Synod News
 Synod assembly will be May 1, 2021. It is online this year. Voting Member from House of Prayer will be **Mike & Sandy Erno and Natalia Marquez**. All congregational member are welcome to view assembly. We will send out more information later.



Happy February Birthdays

- 4/2 Manuel Chico
- 4/4 Royce Williams
- 4/10 Bacilides Lopez
- 4/12 Evelyn Puebla
- 4/14 Lupita Marquez
- 4/22 Mike Erno
- 4/22 Harlan Gruenstern
- 4/23 Mike Williams
- 4/25 Erik Engelbrecht
- 4/25 Jonathan Wiebe

There is a person in the office Monday-Thursday from 8:30 -1:30. If you have an emergency and are in need of pastoral care outside of those hours, please leave a message with your name and number. **Phones are monitored during off hours** and your call will be returned in a timely manner.

Thank you!



Prayer Request Form

Date: _____

I would like to add _____
to the prayer list.

HOP Member: _____

Friend/Relative: _____

Protection in Military: _____

Prayers requested for: _____

Please add to the list for # _____ weeks (If prayers are still needed after this time frame,
please submit

another form)

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Thank you!
House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Prayer Request Form

Date: _____

I would like to add _____
to the prayer list.

HOP Member: _____

Friend/Relative: _____

Protection in Military: _____

Prayers requested for: _____

Please add to the list for # _____ weeks (If prayers are still needed after this time frame,
please submit

another form)

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Thank you!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For Thrivent Members: Please check to see if you have available choice dollars that can be designated to House of Prayer. If you have any questions, contact Harlan Gruenstern

House of Prayer's
Wednesday 10:00am Bible Study
9:45 meet and greet
We are studying the weekly Gospel.
The lesson is emailed on Mondays.



Financial Stewardship

<u>General Fund:</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Revenue	\$16,601	\$33,207
Actual Revenue	\$17,314	\$37,824

Thank you to all who have mailed their offerings to the church during this time of quarantine. Church has not stopped because we are not meeting physically. Our worship services are posted online every Sunday morning at 9:00am. **You can mail in your offerings to the church.**
House of Prayer
795 North Rose St.
Escondido, CA 92027



Carl Siek wishes to **Thank** everyone for the cards and phone calls with well wishes on his 103rd birthday.

If you need pastoral care...

During this time between pastors, arrangements have been made for pastoral care in case of emergencies. If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office (760-745-3738). If it is after hours, please leave a message. Messages are checked every few hours while the office is closed, so someone will get back to you in a timely manner. Thank you for your ongoing support.

for eating...shopping...or filling your tank

Order Scrip Gift Cards!



We will be ordering SCRIP on **April 12** If you are interested please email Kitty at houseofprayeradmn@gmail.com or call the church office and we will fill out the form for you.

Mail your check to the church **so it arrives before April 12.**

Be sure to make you check payable to House of Prayer Youterans and write SCRIP in the memo.

When the SCRIP order comes in you will be notified to pick up your order

Monday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm.

Please call ahead to let us know when you are coming and we will put your order on the mailbox.

Scrip is a way of helping our Youth Fund

You request gift cards (food, restaurants, store cards) in the amount you want through House of Prayer.

We purchase them at a discount and we receive the difference.

So if you buy a \$25 card, we receive a percentage of the \$25. It cost you nothing extra.

We use the money for Youth activities and supplies.



Amazon Smile

Do you have an Amazon account?

If you do, please login to Amazon Smile and add

House of Prayer as your charitable organization.

By doing this, every time you order from Amazon, HOP will receive a donation.

Click on the link below to begin.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-3360279>

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday 5:00pm Worship www.hoplutheran.com	3
4 Easter 9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com	5	6 12:30 Staff Meeting	7 10:00am Bible Study on Zoom	8	9	10
11 9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com	12 8:00am Scrip Orders Due	13 12:30 Staff Meeting	14 10:00am Bible Study on Zoom	15	16	17
18 9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com ◆ 11:30 Council Zoom	19	20 ◆ 11:30 Caring & Connected Zoom 12:30 Staff Meeting	21 10:00am Bible Study on Zoom	22	23	24
25 9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com	26 Tidings Article due	27 12:30 Staff Meeting	28 10:00am Bible Study on Zoom	29	30	1 Online Synod Assembly

- ◆ Region 2 Worship Service on HOP website : April 11
- ◆ **Council Meeting on 3rd Sunday of the month: April 18**
- ◆ **Caring and Connected Leader meeting 3rd Tuesday: April 20**
- ◆ **Synod Assembly: May 1**