

# HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN

795 NORTH ROSE STREET, ESCONDIDO, CA 92027  
(760) 745-3738 FAX (760) 745-4769 [www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org](http://www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org)

*Pastor Christina De La Cruz*



**February 2022**

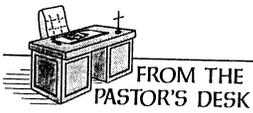
## **Glad Tidings**

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

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES  
10:00AM**

**Wednesdays 10:00 AM Bible Study in-person and on Zoom**

**Worship Services also available at  
[www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org](http://www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org)**



## Pastor Christina De La Cruz

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

- Jeremiah 28:11

Time is pressing on. The seasons of Advent and Christmas are officially done. Epiphany has passed and soon it will be February. Growing up in Ohio, February has always been one of the hardest months of the year. It's cold. It's dark. The trees are still barren, and the world feels gloomy. The snow is melting, so there are muddy, slushy puddles along the roads, adding to the gray atmosphere. But, if you go outside, close your eyes and listen, then you can almost hear the tail end of winter: the trickle of water as the ice melts; the sound of geese and other waterfowl that have already arrived back to the north; the trees creak as they are freed from the blankets of snow. The whole world is taking a deep breath to prepare for the next stage of life.

I feel something similar at House of Prayer, as we move through this new year in the midst of transition. I wonder through the empty sanctuary on a weekday, feel the history in the walls and watch the light filter through the windows. I recall the stories of parishioners, the difficult decisions that have been made by church leadership, and the challenges that the church has faced in the last three years. I wonder if we too are taking a deep breath after a long, still winter. Perhaps we too are just on the precipice of new life.

This month, I am declaring February to be a time of listening and dreaming in the congregation. This month, there will be a few opportunities to share your dreams for the church with one another and myself. I invite you to engage in these conversations fully and to approach them with open ears and hearts. Stay tuned to when those opportunities arise and take hold of them.

Perhaps this isn't the case in California, but in the north, February sometimes feels endless. It feels like Spring is still so far away. And yet, February marks the turning point. Once we get through the middle of February, then we are past the worst of Winter. As a congregation, we will inevitably continue to face challenges as we continue the work of following Jesus. I hope, however, that we are able to find a source of hope, even in the midst of challenge.

As I look to the future, Jeremiah 29:11 comes to mind. It is a very popular passage. It often appears on inspirational posters and bumper stickers. But check out a bit more of the passage:

<sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

When the nation of Israel was invaded by ancient Babylon, there was little hope left. The cities and temples were destroyed. The people were either killed or exiled from their land. God gave them a promise through the prophet Jeremiah, however. God continued to be with the people, even while the nation faced times of trial or hardship. There was hope for a future of prosperity and joy. Most importantly, there was a future with God, who promises restoration.

Although we find ourselves in a much better situation than the Israelites millennia ago, we do have one thing in common: God promises to be with each one of us too, to support, encourage, and guide us in the midst of change. As we move into 2022, let us boldly dream about the future of our community. Let us make goals that reflect the hope that we feel. Let us invest in one another as a community. And let us confidently trust in God, the one who brings about new life, even in the cold of winter.



Thank you to everyone who participated in HOP's musical happenings last month. San Diego Harmony Ringers brought us a fantastic afternoon of hand bell music. It was fun to see and hear the variety of hand bells, chimes, and other percussion instruments used during their concert. I look forward to having them return again. I also really enjoyed hearing our own variety of bells ringing during Bring a Bell Sunday. It made the service music even more joyous.

Out of an abundance of caution and in order to try to lower the spread of COVID, the choir will continue our hiatus for a few more weeks. We hope to be back singing together by Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we try to keep each other safe.

Special thanks to those who continue to work behind the scenes each week to get our worship services online. You are a blessing to this congregation, and I am grateful for you.

In His Service,  
Carol

*"Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today."*

ELW #715 Christ Be Our Light





Here we are almost two years later, and I am back to working from home and isolating ourselves from others. Poor Jonathan (10 years old) has a fever for one day with no other symptoms and tests positive for Covid. Since Grandma was already working from home due to the church closure, Jonny just added to the quarantine time. Back to on-line school, not much fun for him that's for sure.

I do thank technology for making it easier to work at home, but I also find it very distracting at times. I was able to attend a webinar training with Pastor Christina, afterwards becoming distracted with information about ELCA Youth leaders Extravaganza, Souper Bowl, Black History month. I thought I would share some of the things distracting me.

The Webinar was a Faith-Based Mental Health Academy Training. It was offered through Interfaith. The topic included Trauma, Spiritually and Wellness, Suicide prevention and postvention. How to use faith and spirituality to aid in recovery and assist family in finding hope and strength. It offered Cultural consideration for Latino, LGBTQ + community and African American population.

This got me to realize February in Black History Month. While working in schools, I would work with students to study the different contributions of African American. So last week, I started looking up what the ELCA says about Black History Month. This is from the ELCA Website:

February is celebrated across the nation as Black/African-American History Month. It is a time we can engage our youth groups, faith formation participants, small groups, worship and music planning teams, and mission partners around the vibrant and rich Black culture and history. During Black History Month we remember that to love our neighbor and seek justice for them in a way that can genuinely restore the missing pieces or broken places in our Christian community, we must first gain understanding and build healthy relationships. I pray that this February is a season of rich learning and deeper diving into the many contributions of African Descent Lutherans to our Christian family.

As a child growing up in Poway, I wasn't around a lot of African American. I never really learned about their contributions or influences in our society. I encourage you to spend time reading and learning more about African American. One way is the African Descent Ministries of the ELCA is having "**Talks at the Desk**" a new series that will explore diverse expressions of the church. Watch them live on **Facebook**, stream them on **YouTube** or download them from the ELCA website. Listen to hear youth, young adults, rostered leaders, elders, and friends of our communities share their own sacred stories. A new video will premiere each Wednesday in February at 5:30 pm Pacific time. For more updates, follow @ELCAADM on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) or check out [facebook.com/elcaadm](https://facebook.com/elcaadm).

Don't Forget the **Souper Bowl** is coming up. That is when we have a non-perishable food drive on Super Bowl weekend. What if everyone watching the Super Bowl gave on dollar or one can of food to a local food charity? There would be a lot less people hungry. So, on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> bring your can food item or cash donation and drop it in our soup pot to donate to Interfaith.

My last distraction will be that same weekend, I will be on-line for the ELCA Network Extravaganza for Children, Youth and Family Ministry. It is to Connect, Educate and Renew our commitment to our ministries. I am really looking forward to it.

So glad to be back in the office. At least here, my distractions are talking to real people.  
God Bless,

Kitty Wiebe  
Children, Youth and Family Ministry  
Office Administrator

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 email Group**. If you have a prayer request for the email prayer chain, please email Kitty Wiebe (hopyouthesc@gmail.com) or call the church office.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

**Members of House of Prayer:**

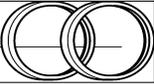
Tom Kristensen, Inge Frese, Carl Siek, Rosalind Mattern, Matt Madsen, Pat Portis, Don Portis, Charlotte Beutlich, Rick Baker, Mike Erno, Lynn Carlson, Joan Schmidt, June Stillwell, Dorothy Keck,

**Relatives and Friends of HOP:**

Michelle Mensen, Lena Pauley, Bethany Barratt, Aiden Beutlich, Gary Johnson, Greg Pauley, April Stark, Doyall Sams

**For protection and safety in the military:** Vince Erno, Justin Wilson



**Celebrating**   
*An Anniversary This Month*

- |      |                                |          |
|------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 2/14 | Loren and MJ Peterson          | 13 years |
| 2/17 | Lawson and Shelli Ellison      | 43 years |
| 2/21 | Bacilides and Clementina Lopez | 35 years |

**Congratulations!!!**



**Happy January Birthdays**

2/1	Trudie Rice
2/5	Laura Cano
2/7	Rick Baker
2/7	Jason Engelbrecht
2/9	Marilyn Mukomela
2/10	Rosalind Mattern
2/12	Dan Engelbrecht
2/13	Carol Gross
2/13	Norma Recendiz
2/17	Leanne Glassett
2/19	Gudron Lowder
2/22	Kassia Rhoades
2/23	Sergio Flores
2/24	Patti Engelbrecht
2/25	Sebastian Mahan
2/25	JoEllen Maus

**There is a person in the office  
 Monday-Thursday from 8:30 -1:30.**

If you have an emergency and you 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

**Church office closed on February 21!**



**Amazon Smile**

Do you have an Amazon account?

If you do, please login to Amazon Smile and add House of Prayer Lutheran Church Escondido as your charitable organization.

By doing this, every time you order from Amazon, House of Prayer will receive a donation.

Click on the link below to begin.

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



## 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

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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,  
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Thank you!  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church

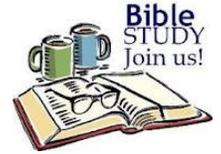
### Thrivent Choice Dollars

**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 Bible Study

**10:00am** meets in-person in the Social Hall with on-line zoom (see page 5 for zoom info)

We are studying the weekly Gospel. The readings are emailed on Mondays.



### Upcoming Dates

Articles For Tidings  
March Newsletter  
Due: February 23

### Financial Stewardship

<u>General Fund:</u>	<u>December 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Revenue	\$18,849	\$214,415
Actual Revenue	\$21,090	\$217,441

**Thank you to all who have mailed their offerings to the church.**

Our worship services are now in-person at 10:00am or can be viewed on-line on our Website: [houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org](http://houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org) by Sunday afternoon  
**You can continue to mail in your offerings to the church or put it in the offering plate.**

House of Prayer  
795 North Rose St.  
Escondido, CA 92027



### Let Tackle Hunger

We are #tacklinghunger now!

**1 in 6 American Children are food insecure.**

You can help!

House of Prayer will be collecting nonperishable food items or cash donations on

**Super Bowl Sunday**

Feb.13, 2022

All Donations go to Interfaith community services

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE FOR JANUARY  
10:00 AM Service

- 2/6 **Ushers:** Dan Engelbrecht, Harlan Gruenster, Mike Erno  
**Reader:** Gretchen Pili  
**Communion Assistants:** Sandy Erno
- 2/13 **Ushers:** Natalia Marquez, Mike Smith, Harlan Gruenster  
**Reader:** Shelli Ellison  
**Communion Assistants:** Shelli Ellison
- 2/20 **Ushers:** Dan Engelbrecht, Patti Engelbrecht, Trina Watson  
**Reader:** Gretchen Pili  
**Communion Assistants:** Doris Badger
- 2/27 **Ushers:** Lawson Ellison, JoEllen Maus, Mike Erno  
**Readers:** Laurie Holtz  
**Communion Assistants:** Laurie Holtz

**Altar Guild:** Marilyn Carlson

***If for any reason you are unable to keep your commitment,  
please contact your scheduler.***

**Flower Donations for February**

- 2/6 Paul and Karen Lanspery  
In Memory of John Lanspery
- 2/13 Jeff Gross  
In Celebration of Carol's Birthday
- 2/20 Bob Whitenak  
In Memory of Father Lloyd E. Whitenak
- 2/27 Darcy Rhoades  
In Celebration of Kassia's Birthday



## Council News– February

The Church Council is devoting its February meeting to an afternoon Planning Workshop on 2/26. Council members will introduce themselves and their interests for the new church year. Agenda items include a review of the Call Committee's - Member Questionnaire and the Ministry Site profile. An ELCA video presentation of the Future Church will be viewed and discussed. The workshop will wrap-up with the setting of Council priorities for 2022. The Council's discussion and results will be promptly shared with the congregation.

### **Congregational Meeting**

Congregational meeting Feb. 6th.  
The meeting is available in person or via zoom  
(zoom information found on page 9)

**All HOP members** are asked to attend to vote on the **2022 budget**.

Copies of the revised annual report and agenda  
will be available via email and in the Narthex .

for eating...shopping...or filling your tank  
**Order Scrip Gift Cards!**



1. Do you go to the grocery store?
2. Do you buy gas for your car?
3. Do you shop at department stores...drug stores...etc?
4. Do you go out to eat? Restaurant's....fast food?
5. Do you go to the movies?

There is so much more you can purchase through the SCRIP program. You can buy gift cards in different monetary amounts and use them anytime!!

Hey...buy Amazon Cards and then use them on Amazon Smile!! Everyone benefits!!

A lot of people purchase SCRIP at Christmas time, but SCRIP is good **ALL YEAR** long.

There are forms in front of Carol's office, in the main office and in the Narthex. Return the form with cash or a **check made out to House of Prayer Youtherans** to the church office. If you've never tried it before, now is the time. You will be amazed how simple it is. Buy them as gifts or use them for yourself.

**SCRIP will be order on Feb. 14.** The office will contact you when it comes in.

A percentage of what you order goes to our Family Ministry.  
If you have any questions, call Kitty in the church office.

# 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

**Time: 11:00 Third Sunday of month**  
**In-person with Zoom participants**

<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

**No Council meeting in February**

## House of Prayer Congregational Zoom Meeting

Time: *Feb. 6th 11:10 AM*  
*In-person with zoom available*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3921069078?pwd=bkwyL0pISkV6ZzNtcWdURzNlBXYxZz09>

Meeting ID: 392 106 9078

Passcode: Ak5RQH

Dial by your location (Landline Phone) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 392 106 9078 Passcode: 1123240

If you have a celebration to share with your HOP family,  
please call or email the church office and it will be in the  
Heavenly Happens and/or Tidings.

Phone # 760-745-3738  
[houseofprayeradmn@gmail.com](mailto:houseofprayeradmn@gmail.com)

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	2 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom	3	4	5
6 10:00am Worship Service	7	8 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	9 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom	10	11	12 9:30am Scroll Saw
13 10:00am Worship Service	14 Valentine's Day 8:00am <b>Scrip Orders Due</b>	15 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	16 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom	17	18	19
20 10:00am Worship Service	21 President's Day Office Closed	22 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	23 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom Tiding Articles due	24	25	26 1:00 Council Retreat
27 10:00am Worship Service	28	1 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	2 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom			

- ◆ In-person services start at 10:00am, On-line service available on Sunday afternoon on the **website: [www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org](http://www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org)**
- ◆ Council Meeting will be in-person with those wishing to attend on Zoom.
- ◆ Wednesday Bible Study is in-person with Zoom available
- ◆ Zoom information can be found on page 9.