

# HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN

795 NORTH ROSE STREET, ESCONDIDO, CA 92027

*Rev. Karin Boye*



**January 2021**

## **Glad Tidings**

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

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

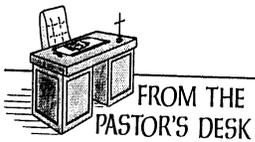
**Sundays 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM**

**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](http://www.hoplutheran.com)**



## Are you dreaming of the future of House of Prayer?

Please do! Now is the time to ask:

Why do we exist? and

How is God's mission alive in our neighborhood because we are here?

The answer to these questions lies in listening for the Holy Spirit moving through us. Not just one person, not just the call committee or the council but the collective, communal listening that is bigger than one person or a particular group, or even one church.

Join others in this discernment! It is so much easier to hear God's voice when we are listening together.

Dreaming of our future church does not mean dumping all that we value from the past. Rather, it means what we think is essential.

The pandemic has made the truth brutally clear: **God's people are the reason we exist.** The buildings are secondary. Yes, it will be so great once we gather again for joint worship in the sanctuary together – but let's be honest: It is more about coming together as a people, the people of House of Prayer, God's people. Yet, coming together is not the end of the story. Coming together has to have a purpose, a reason outside of those who gather. Because ultimately church membership means following Jesus, it means servanthood on behalf of the neighbor - or it means nothing.

In the inspiring words of Pope Frances:

“This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of.

God asks us to dare to create something new. We cannot return to the false securities of the political and economic systems we had before the crisis. We need economies that give to all access to the fruits of creation, to the basic needs of life: to land, lodging and labor. We need a politics that can integrate and dialogue with the poor, the excluded and the vulnerable, that gives people a say in the decisions that affect their lives. We need to slow down, take stock and design better ways of living together on this earth.”

Journeying together with you into God's 2021

Pastor Karin





## Children, Youth and Family

Happy New Year!

Every year in January and August, is when I evaluate, plan, and try to make changes. This year has been quite different. Each month, I keep trying to figure out what this month might entail. What new changes or things will I have this month. Yes, 2020 will be a year to remember.

Here are some of the changes and thoughts I have had for 2020: Retirement from school district, more responsibility and changes at my church, online services and learning, zooming, cancelled trips, no summer programs, learning new technology for church programs, spending Christmas day waiting to hear Covid-19 test results.

This year, we have spent more time at home but less time with extended family members. I have found that I like the sound of people talking but would much rather do it face to face then on the phone. I do not like missing out on our holiday traditions and being able to be there to support family members when they have lost a loved one. This is becoming a whining session, so I will move on.

I have been able to spend more time in prayer and studying the bible. I have seen how my college and work experience has helped me embrace new task at work and overcome obstacles. I find that technology allows me to communicate and see the people I miss. I can watch grandkids open their presents even when I cannot be there in person. There are more youth leader online trainings that cost less to attend. I have a family with jobs that are considered essential, so they continue to have income and health insurance. My positives outweigh all that I have missed out on this year.

I am still working on and wondering how our church ministry will look in 2021, but I know God has a plan for my ministry and House of Prayer!

God's peace,

Kitty Wiebe  
Children, Youth and Family Ministry  
Office Administrator

Upcoming:

Jan. 6 – Annual reports due

Jan 17- 11:30 Triple-G

Jan 24 – 11:30 Congregational Meeting

# House of Prayer Congregational Zoom Meeting

**Time: Jan. 24, 2021 11:30 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3921069078?pwd=bkwyL0pISkV6ZzNtcWdURzNlYXZz09>

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

**When you log into this zoom you are agreeing to follow guidelines listed below.**

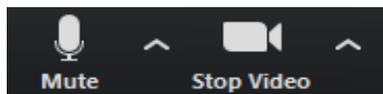
## Zoom Guidelines

**Log in early so we can start on time.**

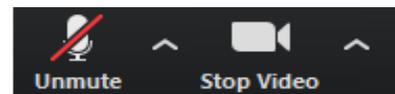
- If you are not familiar or comfortable with zoom, please contact the church office to make arrangements to practice. This needs to be done before January 21.

- [Mute your microphone](#)

To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking. You can mute by finding the mic icon and clicking on mic. To speak unmute. On computer you can hold down space bar.



*Audio is not muted*



*Audio is muted*

- Be mindful of background noise  
When your microphone is not muted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, dogs barking, phone ringing.
- Turn your video on. Position your camera to be placed to show your chest and head.
- If there is more than one person using your camera, do not talk among each other. This separates you as a “small group” from the individual participants.
- Limit distractions  
You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone.
- Look over materials ahead of time. If you have any questions or wish to comment, please contact council president before meeting.
- Be respectful- raise your hand. Do not interrupt others when they are speaking (of speak over them). If you want to speak, raise your hand (or use the “raised hand” feature in the participant panel).



Click on participant button will bring up response options.

# Zoom Meetings

## House of Prayer Zoom Forum Meetings

Every Tuesday at 5:00pm  
Returning Jan 12, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86740955288?pwd=ZENoU2tyQ3U5Q29sUzdmZlVmJWQT09>

Or by phone Dial +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 867 4095 5288  
Passcode: 777115

## 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: Jan. 10 at 11:30**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86105853120?pwd=NFVXWXBQOZHUxpuaFBsUkhZcTNtZz09>

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

## Triple-G Godly, Gathering and Growing

All students K-9th and their families are welcome  
Jan.17 @ 11:30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84298635183?pwd=OW90V2doRTFIV0M5ZnRhY0QwbEtLUT09>

Or by phone Dial +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 842 9863 5183  
Passcode: 392102

## **COUNCIL NEWS – December 2020**

### COUNCIL NEWS – DECEMBER 2020

The Church Council met Dec 13th via Zoom.

The Treasurer's report was accepted for the month ending Nov 30,2020. We anticipate that we will be remarkably close with respect to budgeted vs actual revenues from offerings by the end of the year. Once again, the congregation has done a great job of mailing in offerings to the church office. Let us maintain that momentum. As I have said before, I am proud of this congregation.

Pledges for 2021 are about \$20,000 less than 2020 which is not a good indicator as we contemplate budgeted revenues for 2021. We know that some congregants that give do not pledge and we have lost some congregants this year, so we'll see how 2021 goes financially.

We will be having a council retreat with Bishop Andy Taylor of the Pacifica Synod on February 6, 2021. Hopefully, we can chart a new way ahead to strengthen our ministries and attract new membership.

We need to find a better way to match anticipated revenues with expenses. Continued reliance on the endowment fund to maintain solvency in our operating account is not a healthy way of doing business.

The Call Committee is working on our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and has been meeting weekly to discuss progress and the way ahead. Developing our MSP is an integral part of the process to call a new permanent Pastor. Pastor Karin has been doing an excellent job of working with the call committee.

We may be doing virtual church services for some time. If you have any constructive ideas on how we can improve on these services, please contact the staff. They want to hear from you.

**This article is the last one I will write as your congregation president.** I will be turning over with Ramiro Acosta effective Jan 1, 2021. Ramiro who will bring new energy, leadership, vision, new insights, a sense of direction and fresh ideas to the church. My prayer is that you all stay happy and healthy. Let us continue to remain in God's service. I have enjoyed serving the church and each one of you immensely. I love you all.

Peace, love, strength, and grace as our stewardship of God's house continues,

Mike Erno, Council President

## Something Big and Bright By Samantha Gross

I was working from home the other day, sitting at the far end of the kitchen table and listening to the rain come down outside. As I was slogging through my stack of emails, I heard a loud bang to my left, and when I looked up, it was to see a little whirl of wet feathers. A bird had slammed into our glass backdoor.

Before I could even stand up to see if the bird was okay, a hawk swooped in, the closest I've ever seen one get to our house, and grabbed the bird in its talons. It flew away and was gone by the time I stood up.

So I sat there, listening to the rain, my heart still pounding, trying to process what had just happened. It couldn't have been more than a handful of seconds. The rain washed away the feathers. The screen kept any image of the bird off the glass. There was no proof of what had just happened, beyond my own startled heart. It felt a little bit like the question of whether or not a tree makes sound when it falls in the forest and no one is there to see it.

If your backdoor almost kills a bird for a hawk and you alone are there to see it, did it even really happen?

I think about that sort of thing a lot. Not dead birds, but the idea of events and truth and proof. If you don't take a picture when you're out with your friends, did it even happen? If you don't have tangible evidence of something taking place, was it even real? Memories are fallible. I have almost no pictures with friends in 2020 because I wasn't able to see them beyond a computer or phone screen. My memories of this year are foggy and unreliable, months stretched and compressed until they are nearly indistinguishable from one another.

If you didn't leave your home, if you didn't see your friends and take pictures and live life, are you even real?

Sometimes living in 2020 has felt like being a bird after it has flown into a glass door. I thought things were going fine, I thought the path before me was clear, until I hit something I couldn't see, something I couldn't control. I was dazed and confused, reeling from the unexpected without understanding why everything hurt as much as it did.

Emily Dickinson said that "hope is a thing with feathers," though I can't imagine she had many birds flying into her windows when she wrote that. But still, to fly forward without knowing what will stop you until it already has, feels startlingly like the year we've been living.

Of course, if we follow this metaphor through entirely, then I, as a metaphorical bird, would be eaten by a hawk. I wasn't, but probably only because I don't know what I would call the hawk in this story. The hawk could be anxiety, or any of the plans I made for this year, crumbling in the claws of a feathered predator. It could be the losses faced this year, the funerals we could not attend in person, the friends we couldn't see. It could be another facet of 2020 itself, playing the role of the glass door and hunter all at once.

Or the hawk could just be part of nature, pleased that its lunch was made a little bit easier to catch thanks to the cloudy day and the placement of my house in our neighborhood.

I could be reading into this too much, sitting alone in my home that day, nothing but an unending stream of work emails to keep me company. But it felt like something a little bit bigger.

The rain stopped for a little bit after the hawk was gone. The sky even cleared just enough for the sun to shine through. I knew it was only temporary, that the rain would come back, the clouds would roll through the sky until everything was gray again. But for that sunny moment, I didn't feel like I was the bird hurtling toward the glass door. It felt like I could see what lay before me, just enough to move out of the way. It felt like maybe, with the sunlight reflecting off the glass doors, I could see the road ahead of me was blocked. I could see that things would be different, that things would have to change or I'd just keep bashing into the same glass door, hoping that the world would change itself for me and the path I was flying towards.

We put a lot of pressure on the idea of a new year. We make resolutions, we tell ourselves that this year things will be different, things will be better. We ring in the change with friends and family and cheers for a future we can only hope will be even better. We make plans for what the new year is supposed to be.

2020 was supposed to be a lot of things. But instead, it was a glass door and a hawk and a lonely rainy day.

I'm trying to be a little more open in my expectations for 2021. I will not be able to usher it in with friends, but I will still continue to hope for a future that will be better and brighter. I will continue to hope for sunny days that will guide me away from the things in my path, to show that there are other paths to tread, other ways to live in this great big scary world of ours.

It may not seem like much, the hope for a new path, a new year, but in a year of standing still, it feels like something really big and bright.

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

# Order Scrip Gift Cards!



We will be ordering SCRIP on Jan. 11 If you are interested please email Kitty at [houseofprayeradmn@gmail.com](mailto: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 Jan. 11.**

**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.

There are a wide variety of cards to purchase. Grocery cards (I'm sure most of us are buying more than usual), restaurants (let's support restaurants in our community), gas cards, department stores, drug stores...etc



## 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>

1/4	Danny and Nancey Lowenberg	29 years
1/31	Charles and Carol Kahle	40 years
1/31	Jay and Nancy Nelson	65 years

**In October, 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:**

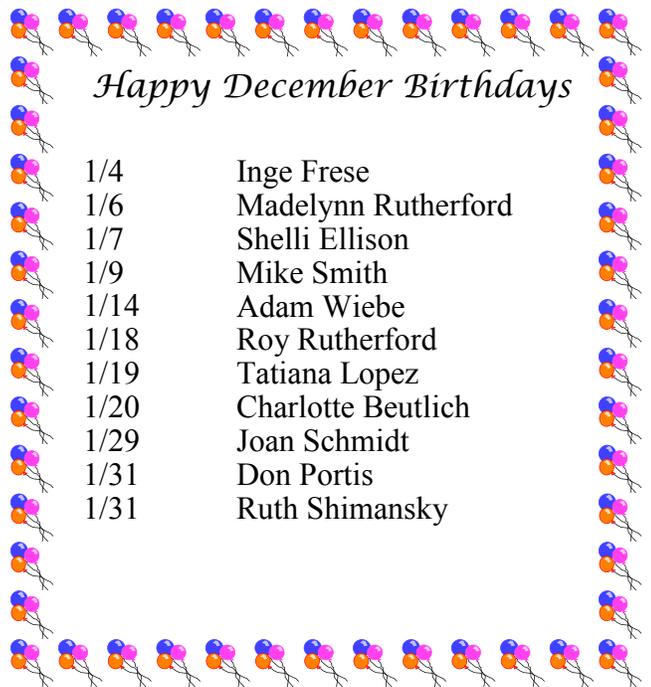
**For healing:** Opal Wieck, Tom Kristensen, Inge Frese, Carl Siek, Ruth Shimansky, Rosalind Mattern, Clementina Lopez, Pat Portis, Charlotte Beutlich, Rosie Foss, Matt Madsen, Rick Baker, Mike Erno, Lynn Carlson, Don Portis, Bill Carpenter, Annette Gustin

**For comfort:**

**Relatives and Friends of HOP:**

**For Healing and comfort:** Julie Walsh, Michelle Mensen

**For protection and safety in the military:** Vince Erno



*Happy December Birthdays*

- 1/4 Inge Frese
- 1/6 Madelynn Rutherford
- 1/7 Shelli Ellison
- 1/9 Mike Smith
- 1/14 Adam Wiebe
- 1/18 Roy Rutherford
- 1/19 Tatiana Lopez
- 1/20 Charlotte Beutlich
- 1/29 Joan Schmidt
- 1/31 Don Portis
- 1/31 Ruth Shimansky

**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!

**The Church Office will be closed on Jan 4th.**



**Upcoming Dates  
 Articles due for  
 Annual Reports by January 6.**

Email to  
[houseofprayeradmn@gmail.com](mailto:houseofprayeradmn@gmail.com)

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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HOP Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend/Relative: \_\_\_\_\_

Protection in Military: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please add to the list for # \_\_\_\_\_ weeks (If prayers are still needed after this time frame,  
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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church

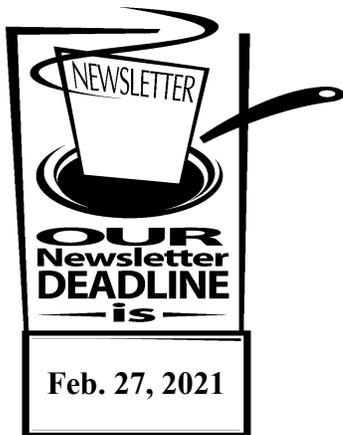


**Thrivent Choice Dollars**

**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 **10:00am Bible Study** is available on line. We are studying the weekly Gospel. The lesson is emailed on Mondays.

**The Bible Study will have begin again on January 6th**



**Financial Stewardship**

<u>General Fund:</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Revenue	\$20,347	\$223,917
Actual Revenue	\$22,464	\$204,045

Offering Envelopes were sent out the middle of November. If you have not received yours please contact the church office.

**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

**If you want your church and staff to know...**

There is a wonderful saying: "Our assumptions and the truth dine at totally separate tables!", meaning that most often our wants and likings determine our expectations and actions - and they are not necessarily connected with reality.

So if you are expecting the office or your pastor to know about something - please, call the office. Messages left on the office's answering machine are checked multiple times during the day! In case of an emergency you may call Pastor Karin directly: (c) 949.705.9966. Thank you for your ongoing support.

# Letter From Lutheran World Relief

## Lutheran World Relief

Dear House of Prayer Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Lutheran World Relief, I want to reach out one last time to update your congregation about the quilts and/or kits that you had in the Beirut port when the blast shook the city on August 4. As you recall, we originally thought all was lost and only later discovered that the LWR supplies were protected.

Thanks to the love of your congregation and other Lutherans across the U.S., over 11,500 people in Lebanon have received these quilts and kits! All 21,433 quilts and kits were distributed to families (many households receiving multiple items).

A video has been created to share with your congregation, accessible either on YouTube or via download.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/JlrXrgGbB5U>

Download: <https://photos.lwr.org/?r=32494&k=932ca74359>

Additionally, thanks to the love of Lutherans and our staff on the ground, we've been able to meet more needs in Beirut:

- We have finished 290 household repairs and another 810 are in progress to be completed by Christmas. We're exceeding our target of 742 households ... and yet there are so many more to whom we could respond.
- We are in discussions with partners on a mental health/psychosocial training for those who are still struggling with the impact of the blast, coupled with the COVID-19 lockdown (much like the US, Lebanon experienced spikes in November and the government has severely limited movement as a result).

Once again, thank you for bringing the light of Christ to our neighbors this Advent. If you ever have any questions about your partnership with Lutheran World Relief, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

In gratitude,

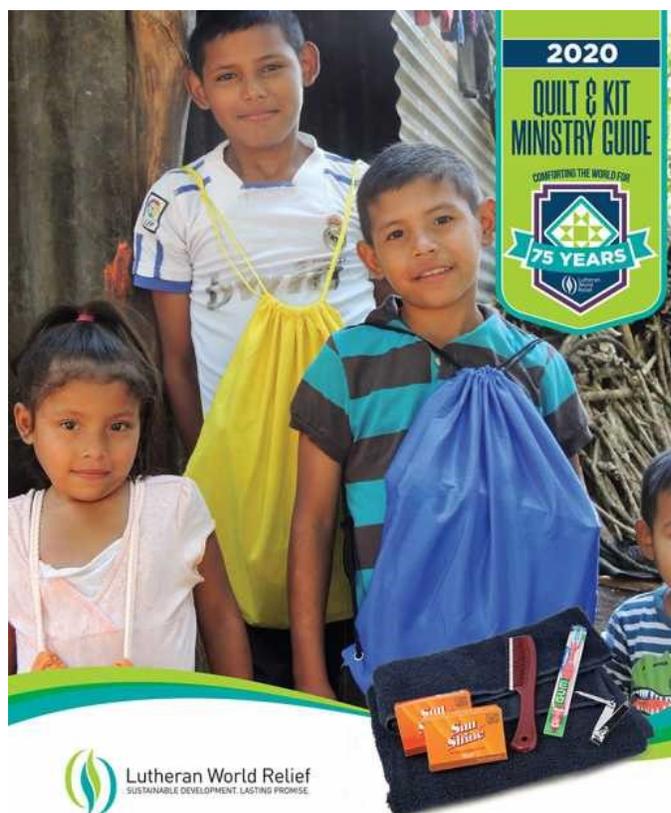
**Emma Wagner (she/her/hers)**

Associate, Congregational Engagement

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

OFFICE [+1 410-230-2749](tel:+14102302749)

[LWR.ORG](http://LWR.ORG)



# Undie Sunday Dec. 13



# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Years	2
3  9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com	4  Office Closed	5	6  10:00am Bible Study on Zoom  <b>Last Day for Annual Reports</b>	7	8	9  1:00 pm Call/Council meeting
10 9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com  11:30am Council Zoom Meeting	11  8:00am Scrip Orders Due	12  5:00pm HOP Forum on Zoom	13  10:00am Bible Study on Zoom	14	15	16  Preordered Annual reports available
17  9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com  11:30 Triple-G Zoom	18	19  11:30am Caring and Connected Zoom  5:00pm HOP Forum on Zoom	20  10:00am Bible Study on Zoom	21	22	23
24 9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com  11:30am Congregational Zoom Meeting	25	26  5:00pm HOP Forum on Zoom	27  10:00am Bible Study on Zoom	28	29	30
31  9:00am Worship www.hoplutheran.com						