

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN

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Pastor Christina De La Cruz



January 2022

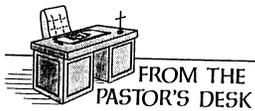
Glad Tidings

**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**



Pastor Christina De La Cruz

Grace, mercy, and peace be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

As I prepare this January newsletter, my mind returns to Carl Siek, a long-time member who passed away last week. Carl was 103 years old, less than three months short of turning 104. To the best of my knowledge, he grew up in a religious household, and remained very Lutheran his entire life. After the pandemic began, Carl continued to participate at House of Prayer by watching our online recordings each week. During my regular visits, Carl would give me his feedback on the services, letting me know what he liked and what he disliked. We would laugh together as he gave his feedback. He let me know, for example, that my sermons were “fine, but a little long.” He noticed when things in the services would change and questioned the pieces of the liturgy intently. I enjoyed these conversations immensely, appreciating the care that he had for the church.

I know that it is not normal for a pastor to write a whole newsletter article dedicated to a single church member. It feels important, however, for us to honor and acknowledge a person who was a Lutheran for almost 104 years. In some ways, Carl represented a lot of things that House of Prayer cares about most: community, tradition, engagement with scriptures, friendship, and history.

A few weeks ago, I went to visit him, and he reflected on his quality of life. He wondered what he should be doing and how he should be living. He reflected that at his age, he struggled to see, hear, and move. He could not engage with the world in the ways that he once had. He could not enjoy his meals or get out of bed. “So,” he asked, “What’s left for me? What’s the point?” I pondered this question and it made me think of an old lesson from Martin Luther. Once, a student asked Luther, “If the world were ending tomorrow, then what would you do today?” Luther’s response was that he would plant a tree.

As I think of my time visiting Carl, I reflect on the lives that he has touched and the relationships that he has built. In my last visit, Carl was in a rehabilitation facility in Escondido, and he was sharing the room with another patient. At the time, he had the curtain barrier pulled back between his bed and the one next to him and the two roommates were chatting away and enjoying the company. Carl made sure to announce to every visitor that it was his new friend’s birthday, which I think made his roommate’s day.

I believe that this is a reminder that we, as humans, are more than our physical selves. We are more than our accomplishments or our objects or even our memories. We are children of God, beloved, and valued. And we are a culmination of countless moments, interactions, and decisions. Carl was not perfect. Like anyone else, had his own way of doing things and his own temper. But still, he chose to invest in the people around him all the way up to his final breath. In this way, his spirit has impacted others around him, and continues to spread, long after his death. In that way, I would say that Carl continued to plant metaphorical trees, living in a hope for tomorrow, even as his physical body failed.

Carl Siek passed away on December 28th, while at home with his son, Dennis, after living an impressive life. As a community of faith, let us give thanks and praise to God, who created Carl, loved him throughout his life, and holds him now, alongside so many loved ones, including his late wife, Rosalind. As for us, House of Prayer Lutheran Church, let us look at this, and all our saints in the faith, as an example. And this year, in 2022, let us set our sights on a hope that never fades, trusting in God’s goodness, and engaging with one another in authentic love.

In God’s Peace,
Pastor Christina De La Cruz



What a wonderful Advent and Christmas season we had! Thank you to Pastor Christina for the weekly Advent study. I enjoyed the meaningful discussions and camaraderie with the other participants. The Christmas Festival of Song was such a fun event! Henry blessed us with music on the piano, organ, and accordion. Cheri Kendall wowed us with a hand bell piece, and we sang along to some of our favorite Christmas carols. Many of us even tried playing the hand chimes.

I am also so grateful for our choir and musicians, and the wonderful way they enhance our worship services. They are such a blessing to me and this congregation. After discussing it, and in care for one another, we have decided to temporarily refrain from singing together in close proximity. Thank you for supporting us during our hiatus. We plan to resume singing together soon.

Let's continue our tradition....**Bring a bell Sunday on January 16.** Please bring a bell to worship service. It can be any kind of bell...kitchen timer, jingle bell, cow bell, or even a bell app on your phone. We'll ring our bells along with the music during the service. It will be fun and festive.

On **Saturday, January 15 at 1:00, House of Prayer will be hosting a handbell concert performed by San Diego Harmony Ringers.** This is an advanced, auditioned community hand bell group, and includes our own Cheri Kendall. Please bring a friend and come enjoy this concert. It will be a fun afternoon of music!

May God's love light your way and lead you into a new year that shines with His special joy.
Happy new year!
Carol

Carl Siek

It is with a sad heart that I must report that Carl F. Siek, 103, passed away at his home in Escondido, CA on Dec. 28th, 2021. He was born in 1918 in Lakewood, Ohio, son of Fred and Maria Siek. Married to Rosalind(Jensen) Siek over 76 years, and a WW2 Army veteran. Survived by sons David (Andree) Hillsborough NB, Canada and Dennis, Escondido, Ca, 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Body donated to Research for Life. Burial will be at Miramar National Cemetery. Member of House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Escondido, Ca.

Prayer for his family at this time.



Concert @ 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 15, 2022

donations welcome

cookie and coffee reception to follow

"The true beauty of music is that it connects people. It carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers." Roy Ayers

Come and listen to the sounds of bells at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in the sanctuary. Artistic Director, Joe Rodriguez, will lead up to 14 ringers from various backgrounds and ages in a variety of musical pieces. San Diego Harmony Ringers is an advanced, auditioned community hand bell group founded in 1999. The group rings both sacred and secular music on five octaves of Schulmerich hand bells and five octaves of Malmark choir chimes, using other percussive instruments to enhance some of the pieces.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the bells and even the chance to try them yourself after the concert. We hope to see you there!

The ringers will be masked and indoor mask usage is strongly encouraged. Any questions, please contact Cheri Kendall.

Dear Family and Friends,

As many of you know, Joan was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer in February 2021. She apparently had it for some time, we just weren't aware of it. She even had a mild case of covid in late December and recovered with no ill effects, one tough lady! Once the cancer was diagnosed, Joan underwent radiation treatment which stopped the bleeding from the tumor, but not the cancer. While she was not a candidate for any other treatments, with the bleeding stopped she felt much better and we were blessed with some quality "bonus" time. The "Southern Family", Vicki & Verne; Melissa & Robert & sons Robbie, Owen & Declan; and Allison & Josh & son Parker, took her on a few more adventures. Joan completed her "Bucket List" by going gliding; we went to northern Arizona and hiked and played games; we went to Tucson and went to the Pima Air & Space Museum and the Kartchner Caverns. The "Northern Family" came to visit in the spring and Joan was so pleased to see Diane & Bob, Brittany and Kellyn. Joan also went to Portland for granddaughter Kellyn and Nicc's wedding; she participated in annual "Turkey Trot" and we saw the Van Gough Immersion Exhibit. Joan said she was going to "Keep living as long as I'm alive". And she did. Also, when she was first diagnosed, Joan had two important desires. One, she would be able to complete some quilts for some of the people at Verena, the independent living facility, who had become special to her. She did complete her quilts and even taught Vicki and Robbie to make their first quilts. Her second desire was that she would not suffer any pain. Through all this, she never suffered any pain. More blessings during a difficult time.

After a fun and eventful year, Joan began to decline in mid-November. We continued to do as much as we could with her, but at a slower and quieter pace. Melissa and Allison and their families continued to visit often and the great-grandsons kept Joan entertained. By December it was harder to leave her alone and Vicki and Verne were spending four to six hours a day with her, though she often told us not to. A very independent and stubborn lady too! On December 15th, they moved her into their home and the decline progressed more quickly. Brittany and Kellyn were able to come and spend some time with her again, which was wonderful for us all. All during this time we were supported and encouraged by Hospice at Home. Joan initially balked the nurse's weekly visits, but gradually warmed up to her and later considered her a friend. Joan also had a special relationship with the chaplain, discussing theology and praying together. Joan was a woman with a strong faith. As a family we feel blessed by the tender care received from Hospice and also by the care and concern from the staff and Joan's friends at Verena.

Early in the morning of December 27, 2021, Joan went home to the welcoming arms of Jesus, her savior. You made it to Christmas, Mom! Vicki and Verne were grateful she allowed us to be with her at the very end. We are confident she is now with her beloved children, Duane and Dina, her much loved and very missed husband, Dale, as well as other loved ones who have gone before her. We are thankful to you, her family and friends, for your love and prayers. We know that each of you have your own special memories of this amazing lady and she touched many lives in many ways.



You have been a Wonderful Daughter, Wife, Mother,
Grandma and Great-Grandma "GiGi".
As well as a Special Sister, Aunt and Friend to many.
We will miss your stories and your quilting,
your joy and your kindness, your light and your love.
You are so loved and so missed!

Joan Edna Schmidt

January 29, 1932 to December 27, 2021

*Thank you from Joan's daughters,
Vicki Latham & family and
Diane Benton & family*

We plan to have a service in the Spring of 2022, in CA.

If you desire, you can contact Vicki at: vickiannL@cox.net
Or 1107 E. Elgin Street, Gilbert, AZ 85295
Or Diane at: dianesbenton@yahoo.com
Or 39235 Ivy Way North, Lincoln, WA 99147

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.

Happy January 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
1/31	Don Portis

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Members of House of Prayer:

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



For comfort: Families of Joan Schmidt and Carl Seik

Relatives and Friends of HOP:

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

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

Tidings

Articles For February
 Tidings Newsletter
 Due: January 25

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 will be closed on Monday, Jan 3.

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

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

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

First meeting of 2022 is Jan. 19 at 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 Events

- 1/3 9:00 am Take down Chrismon Tree
- 1/15 1:00pm SDHR Concert
- 1/16 10:00pm **Big a Bell Sunday**
- 1/16 11:00am Council Meeting
- 1/23 11:00am Congregational Meeting

Financial Stewardship

<u>General Fund:</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Revenue	\$18,451	\$177,115
Actual Revenue	\$15,133	\$175,908

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 Youterans** 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 Jan. 10. 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.

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE FOR JANUARY
10:00 AM Service

- 1/2 **Ushers: Harlan Gruenstern, Mike Smith, Lawson Ellison**
 Reader: Laurie Holtz
 Communion Assistant: Laurie Holtz
- 1/9 **Ushers: Jan Estes, Dan Engelbrecht, Mike Erno**
 Reader: Mike Erno
 Communion Assistant: Sandy Erno
- 1/16 **Ushers: Scott Holtz, Laurie Holtz, Harlan Gruenstern**
 Reader: Jan Estes
 Communion Assistant: Doris Badger
- 1/23 **Ushers: Patrick Graham, David Rice, Phillip Rice**
 Readers: Shelli Ellison
 Communion Assistant: Shelli Ellison
- 1/30 **Ushers: Ramiro Acosta, Alfredo Alvarado, Maria Alvarado**
 Reader: Paul Lanspery
 Communion Assistant: Karen Lanspery

Altar Guild: Laurie Holtz

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

Flower Donations for January

- 1/2 HOP
 To the Glory of God
- 1/9 Lawson Ellison
 In Honor of Shelli's Birthday
- 1/16 HOP
 To the Glory of God
- 1/23 HOP
 To the Glory of God
- 1/30 HOP
 To the Glory of God



Please contact the church office if you would like to sponsor flower this month.

Zoom Meetings

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Greetings at 9:45am Study at 10am

Starting Jan. 19th

<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: Jan. 16 at 11:00 Third Sunday of month
In-person with Zoom participants

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86105853120?pwd=NFVXWXBQOIZHUXpuaFBsUkhZcTNtZz09>

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

House of Prayer Congregational Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan. 23, 2022 11:00 AM

This is an in-person with zoom available

Join with 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

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00am Worship Service	3 Office Closed 9:00am Chrismon tree take-down	4 9:30am Quilters 1:00pm Staff Meeting	5	6 Annual Reports due!	7 Pastor Christina Vacation	8 Pastor Christina Vacation 9:30am Scroll Saw
9 Pastor Christina Vacation 10:00am Worship Service	10 Pastor Christina Vacation 8:00am Scrip Orders Due	11 Pastor Christina Vacation 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	12 Pastor Christina Vacation	13	14	15 1:00pm SDHR Concert
16 Bring a Bell 10:00am Worship Service 11:00 Council Meeting	17	18 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	19 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom	20	21	22
23 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Congregational meeting	24	25 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	26 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom	27	28	29
30 10:00am Worship Service	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In-person services start at 10:00am, On-line service available on Sunday afternoon on the website: 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 . 				