House of Prayer Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Daren Erisman

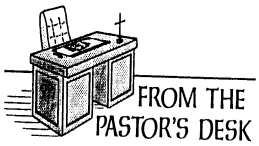
January 2020

Glad Tidings

Of Jesus' Redemption and Release
A Monthly Publication

WORSHIP SERVICES

<u>Sundays</u> 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
<u>Sundays</u> Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Triple - G Second Sunday of the Month, 11:45 - 1:00 PM
<u>Wednesdays</u> 10:00 AM Bible Study
Women Gathering First Wednesday of the Month, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM



Pastor Daren: Epiphany

As we begin this new year, we come together as people of faith, following a star that leads us to the Christ child. Like the wise men, we too are captivated by the one who promises us life and a love we can scarce imagine. There are trials to bear and gifts to find, but our journey persists within us. As Christians, we can do no other, but to follow this Jesus who leads us into places and people that make us grow, who challenge us, who make us reflect on where we have been and where we are to go.

As a church dedicated to following Jesus, we begin this new year amidst the church season of Epiphany—of witnessing the power and love of God through God's only beloved Son. We witness Jesus' baptism and we reflect on our own. We witness Jesus calling his first disciples, and we look back on our journey of faith. We follow Jesus to a hilltop, and we spend a lifetime as disciples learning and living his truth.

If you are hungry, come to worship, and eat. If you wonder about God's Word, come to Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., and learn. If you have a song in your heart for Christ, come join the choir. If you have a ministry that you want to start, let's talk about what God is calling you to do or be.

God bless you in this season of Epiphany!

Pastor Daren

Happy New Year! The Advent season passed so quickly!

I was extremely excited and proud to be a part of the Christmas musical program "Were You There on That Christmas Night?" on December 15th. I definitely felt a spirit of Christmas joy in the church! Doing a presentation like this requires hard work and dedication by many people… singers, bell ringers, readers, and instrumentalists. I truly appreciate each and every one of these amazing people who helped make the program so meaningful. House of Prayer is certainly blessed to have so many awesome people who love to worship through music and want to share it with others. From the bottom of my heart…**THANK YOU!!**

Also, I want to say a big THANK YOU to all those involved in getting our new sound system up and running in time for the cantata. I am grateful!

I also want to extend a special thank you to Mary and Ramiro Acosta for planning the awesome Christmas potluck again. It was such a festive and fun event!

It has become a fun tradition during January that we celebrate "Bring a bell Sunday". **Please plan to bring a bell of any size or variety with you to church on Sunday, January 26th.** We will all make music together, as we ring along with the hymns.

I close with a prayer for the new year...

Dear Lord,
At the beginning of this new year, I offer you my life.
Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness. Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving.
Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within. Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading. Amen.

In His Service,
Carol

"You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail. And there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep, my faith will stand. And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves. When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace - for I am Yours and You are mine."
Hillsong UNITED. "Oceans." Zion 2013

"Bring a Bell" Sunday

Jingle Bells, Cow Bells, Bicycle Bells, Dinner Bells –and more! If you have any bells at home, please bring them to worship on **Sunday, January 26th**. The congregation will be invited to ring their bells at designated times during the service. Soooo….DON'T FORGET!!!

Bring a Bell along to worship on January 26th.

CHURCH NEWS AROUND the CONGREGATION

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

1/4	Danny & Nancey Lowenberg	28 Years
1/31	Charlie & Carol Kahle	39 Years

PLEASE PRAY FOR...
Members of House of Prayer:

Prayer Requests

For healing: Opal Wieck, Tom Kristensen, Wilma Smith, Connie McVay, Kathy Hayden, Inge Frese, Carl Siek, Ruth Shimansky, Rosalind Mattern, Anne Engelbrecht, Clementina Lopez, Pat Portis, Mollie Sacco, Jane Van Dyke, Charlotte Beutlich, Rosie Foss, Matt Madsen, Rick Baker, Herb Moehling, Laila Wiebe, Mike Erno, Lynn Carlson, Doris Badger, Laura Sophia Escalera

For comfort:

Relatives and Friends of HOP:
For Healing : Robert Prentice, Melissa Leach, Alma Hernandez, Laci Richards, Carter Jordan, Monica McLernan, Ron Snow, Ron & Donna Perry, Erica Harris, Barbara Slusser, Gayle Hayden, Carol Cervantes, Vince Marrone, Lorenda Ingersoll, Patricia Kidder, Barbara Walker, John Vermilya, James & Liz Allen, Callen Michael Mullins, Annette Greetis, Mary Turner, Kathleen Turner, Alfonso Rubio, Kiley Jackson-Portocollo, Sarneas Ornelas, Santiago Omelas, David Spahn, Craig Eck, Al Ball, Von Lindsey, Scott Spilane, Alice Dalton, Eileen Stark, Larry & Sandra Clemmons, Kim Fox, Doria Carroll, Charlotte Vega, Laurel Byington, Bina Schaubel, Michelle Mensen, Kevin Zehr, Robin Oquist, Marti Jennings, Ron Stiner, Christopher Snodgrass, Jessica Kahle Walker, Bridget Timken, Herbert Johnson, Shelia Jones, Christine Hutchinson, Karna Davila, Julie Walsh, Mark Walsh, Joe Buller, Tom Phelps

For protection and safety in the military:
Vince Erno, David Jones, Darren Embry, Jazmin Alfaro, Kenn Matthews, Devin Teeter, Justin Wilson, Jacob Lange, Kali Fisher

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
1/29	Joan Schmidt
1/31	Don Portis
	Ruth Shimansky

SCRIP

Will be ordered **Monday, January 6th.** Please give your orders to Carol, **NO LATER** than **Sunday, January 5th.**

*If you have an **emergency** or need Pastor Daren while the office is closed, please leave a message on **Darla's voice mail**. Calls are monitored daily while the office is closed.*

Thank you

House of Prayer Lutheran Church; 2020 Adult Program

One adult program for January 19th.

For the past nine years I have had the honor of leading Adult Study classes at House of Prayer. I will be forever thankful for the opportunity to share the faith with a wonderful group of friends. It is now time to make a slight change in the format while still keeping our friendship and sense of learning intact.

I will be asking others to help shape the Adult Program into a more discussion based format. As a first trial of this new format Sheri Moehling will lead a discussion on **prayer on January 19th**. *This will be our only meeting in January.* From this first new program I hope we can share ideas for future adult discussions.

If you have any ideas for discussion please let me know. I think we can develop an interesting new way of sharing our faith experiences.

Wishing you a joyful 2020,
Pastor Bill Dopp+

Power of H.O.P.E.
Women's Gathering

Our Christmas Project went very well. Our local troops of 15 Marine women who were stationed in Kuwait for the holidays received 11 boxes of snacks, feminine products, chopsticks, hand warmers, and other needed items. You can see the pictures of the volunteers and the Marines on our Facebook and Website.
In **January** we will be meeting on **Wednesday the 8th** after Bible study. Bring your ideas for 2020 and we'll set some goals.

Sheri Moehling, Facilitator

COUNCIL - December 2019

The Church Council met on December 15th after the Cantata and the Christmas Potluck. I would like to start this report by thanking all who participated in making these events such a huge success. The offering of time and talent to support these and other special events is indeed very impressive.

The new audio system in the Sanctuary was used for the first time during the Cantata. What a joy to have such a quality system for all to enjoy. We used all self-help to install this system. I would like to commend Pastor Daren, Tom Wiebe, Adam Wiebe and Mike Kendall whose collective efforts saved House of Prayer about $20,000, that we would have otherwise had to pay for contract labor. Mike Kendall built the cabinetry to house the Audio/Visual components. We also received a designated gift of $20,000 which greatly offset the audio equipment cost.

During the council meeting, the budget for 2020 was presented by Harlan Gruenstern, HOP treasurer. He went through the budget in some detail. The budget was unanimously approved by the council for presentation to the congregation during the January 26th, 2020 congregation meeting. We will have a budget discussion followed by a vote. Please mark your calendar as everyone's attendance is needed at the meeting.

The council started a dialog concerning the ministries of our church and the general health of our outreach programs. It is important that we maintain the proper balance between our community and world outreach programs and our inward focus on our internal modernization and maintenance plans. This topic will be front and center on the agenda for the next council meeting. Between now and then, council members have been asked to focus on areas for improvement so that we may develop an action plan. Please feel free to email me any inputs that you may have at erno_ml@sbcglobal.net.

The Long-Range Planning Committee will meet after the first of the year for the purpose of updating the plan for presentation to the congregation during the January meeting. Calendar year 2019 will drop off the five-year plan and calendar year 2024 will be added.

Wow has 2019 flown by in a flash! It seems like time moves along faster the older I get. Anyway, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

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

Mike Erno, Council President

Living into a Restructured Mutual Ministry of Three Groups: HR, Elders & Mutual Support Ministry

What is Mutual Ministry?
According to the ELCA, there is no specific definition or structure for a Mutual Ministry Committee. The point of mutual ministry is to encourage the health of all ministries within the congregation, hence its "mutual" nature. Mutual Ministry is not intended to take the place of a personnel committee. It is also not a sounding board for anonymous complaints—rather, it should encourage direct communication and reconciliation between Members, Staff, and the Pastor. There needs to be a clear way for the Pastor, Staff, Council, Committees and Members of the congregation to give encouragement and productive feedback to each other. Most importantly, there must be confidentiality.

Why did we restructure the Mutual Ministry Committee?
Essentially, the earlier model of mutual ministry tries to do too many things, some of which are mutually exclusive. An example is its previous responsibility of evaluating staff while trying to be a safe sounding-board for staff concerns—not a realistic expectation. Also, certain folks who are good at encouraging the ministries of the congregation may not be good at dealing with conflict, or vice versa. Finally, HR issues should be handled by people with expertise in this area.

Three groups instead of one.
Instead of one Mutual Ministry Committee, there will be three groups that work in coordination with the Executive Committee and are selected by agreement between the Council President and the Pastor: The Human Relations Committee, the Elders, and the Mutual Support Ministry.

HR—Human Relations Committee
Two people with HR and/or managerial experience will work with the Pastor and Staff to set goals and evaluate how those goals have been accomplished or need to be revised. This includes Continuing Education and Pastoral Sabbaticals as well as working with the Pastor and Staff in refining job descriptions. The HR Committee will make recommendations to the Executive Council regarding raises and the relaying of any concerns.

The point of goal setting, evaluations, raises, and the continual revising of job descriptions and expectations is to bring out the best in each staff member so that the collective gifts and potential of the whole staff are maximized. The HR Committee is not a disciplining committee, nor one that arbitrates between conflicting staff members. A conflictive situation should be addressed by the Elders. If necessary, HR members may be consulted for their particular expertise.

The Elders
This group will consist of 2-4 people who are experienced, wise, have a strong faith, and are able to handle delicate situations—unflappable and neutral. Elders serve as a

consulting group that works with the Pastor to resolve issues within the congregation, mediate conflict, advise on necessary preventative relational maintenance, and assist in visioning. They are to monitor the "pulse" of the congregation and be able to distinguish congregational-wide problems from personal conflicts between individuals. When concerns arise, the priority of the Elders is the restoring of relationship. When complaints are received from members, staff, or the Pastor, direct communication is encouraged between parties. If this is not possible, then Elders may mediate conversation. They are to encourage open, honest, safe conversation—not triangulation. The Elders are to remain as neutral as possible and take the larger view that considers the well-being of the Church as a whole.

The Elders are not a disciplining group. Rather, they assess a situation, seek the necessary outside expertise, bring people together to restore relationship if possible, help set boundaries when necessary, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee if further action is required. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Elders, would carry out any actual acts of discipline regarding the Pastor, Staff, or members of the congregation. A full Council vote may be required in certain circumstances.

Mutual Support Ministry
This group should have 2-4 people but could involve more. These folks are the encouragers of all ministries—the "mutual" work of God's ministry through God's people. It is not for dealing with complaints or for conflict resolution—that is for the Elders.

The Mutual Support Ministry concerns itself with several areas:

- The care and sounding board for the Pastor, the Staff and their families.
- Helping new members assimilate into the congregation and encouraging their own ministries.
- Encouraging all members towards involvement in committees, Council, and the various ministries.
- Lift up the good work of individuals and groups to the attention of the congregation.

In Conclusion…
As we implement these groups, we ask for your prayers, wisdom and patience. This will be a process of learning and refinement knowing that ultimately, our ministry together is God's ministry.

ICS NEEDS FOR JANUARY

- gloves/mittens
- socks
- hand warmers
- knit caps
  - ° Soap
  - ° Shampoo
  - ° Deodorant
  - ° Toothbrush & Toothpaste
  - ° Razors
  - ° Any Non-Perishable Food
  - ° Toilet Paper

As always, any non-perishable food items are always welcome.

House of Prayer's
Wednesday 10:00am Bible Study
continues to grow.
We are studying the book of
Philippians
Please join us and invite a friend.

KEENAGERS

Thursday, January 16, 2019 at 12:00pm
Come early for coffee and fellowship.

We will be serving Sloppy Joe Casserole
And BINGO

Please bring a salad or dessert to share.
Don't forget your own place setting.

If you've never been, be sure to join us.
If you are a regular and know of someone who has never been, be sure to invite them!

Lots of great food and fun!!

There will be a "good will offering" if you are unable to bring anything.

Godly Gathering and Growing

Triple G

Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month from 11:30 - 1:00pm.

ALL kids and their families are invited to join us.

January 12, 2019

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 26th.
There will be only **one worship service at 10:00am.**
The Congregational meeting will immediately follow.

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, see
Harlan Gruenstern

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE FOR JANUARY

1/5 9:00 AM —Ushers: Mike Kendall, Cheri Kendall, Danny Lowenberg, Nancey Lowenberg
{Every Sunday 10:30}—Mike Smith & Deanna Concannon
Greeters: Darrell & JoEllen Maus
Reader: Jan Estes **{10:30** Darcy & Kassia Rhoades**}**
Communion Assistants: JoEllen Maus & Jan Estes **{ 10:30** Laura Cano & Darcy Rhoades**}**
Acolyte: **{10:30** Kassia Rhoades}
1/12 9:00 AM—Ushers: Danny Lowenberg, Nancey Lowenberg, Dan Engelbrecht, Jan Estes
Greeters: Mike & Sandy Erno
Reader: Mike Erno **{10:30** Jeanette O'Hara**}**
Communion Assistants: Laurie Holtz & Sandy Erno **{ 10:30** Laura Cano & Jeanette O'Hara**}**
Acolyte: **{10:30** Sergio Flores Jr.}
1/19 10:00 AM—Ushers: Danny Lowenberg, Scott Holtz, Laurie Holtz
Greeters: Doris Badger & Marilyn Mukomela
Reader: Gwenn Jensen **{10:30** Desiree Hinojose**}**
Communion Assistants: JoEllen Maus & Doris Badger
Acolyte: Kassia Rhoades
1/26 10:00 AM Ushers: Patrick Graham, David Rice, Phillip Rice, Mike Erno
Greeters: Mike & Minnie Williams
Reader: Mike Kendall
Communion Assistants: Mike & Cheri Kendall
Acolyte: Desiree Hinojose
Altar Guild: Doris Badger & Marilyn Mukomela

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Flower Donations for January

1/5 Bob Whitenak
In Loving Memory of Dottie Whitenak

1/12 Gretchen Pili
For All the Saints

1/19 House of Prayer
To the Glory of God

1/26 Charlie & Carol Kahle
In Celebration of Our 39th Wedding Anniversary

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **OFFICE CLOSED**	2 **OFFICE CLOSED**	3	4
5 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	6 8:00am Scrip 6:30pm Hand Bells	7 9:30am Quilting 12:00pm Staff Meeting	8 5:30am ICS 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Women's Gathering 6:45pm Choir	9	10	11 9:30am Scroll Saw
12 9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	13 6:30pm Hand Bells	14 9:30am Quilting 12:00pm Staff Meeting	15 10:00am Bible Study 6:45pm Choir	16 12:00pm Keenagers	17 **PR DAREN VAC**	18 **PR DAREN VAC**
19 **PR DAREN VAC** 9:00am Worship \10:30am Worship	20 **PR DAREN VAC** 6:30pm Hand Bells	21 9:30am Quilting 12:00pm Staff Meeting	22 10:00am Bible Study 6:45pm Choir	23	24	25
26 **BRING A BELL** 10:00am Worship 11:00am Cong Meeting	27 6:30pm Hand Bells	28 9:30am Quilting 12:00pm Staff Meeting	29 10:00am Bible Study 6:45pm Choir	30	31	
11						