



HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN

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

Pastor Christina De La Cruz



May 2022

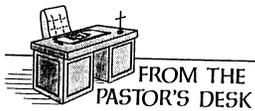
Glad Tidings

**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

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

- John 20:19

Two years ago, I heard a modern version of the above text. It went like this: “When it was the morning of April 12 in the year 2020, and the doors on all of the houses where the people were quarantined were locked, for fear of the Coronavirus, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” This re-imagining reminds me that Jesus truly showed up for us even in our lowest moments. His resurrection entered our homes and spaces just as assuredly as he entered the disciples’ space in the above text.

Jesus has demonstrated over and over again: He will defy walls, locked doors, fear, and even death in order to show up among his people. Throughout the pandemic, Jesus has continued to show up for us, in our homes, in our worship spaces, and even in the virtual spaces online. Now, as things open up in our community, Jesus’ presence remains clearer than ever. Our future is bright, and I feel encouraged as we move forward as a church. This month, there may be two major transitions in the church.

In May, I will be attending the Synod assembly with Sandi Erno and Dan Engelbrecht. Bishop Andy Taylor will officially be retiring from the office of the bishop, which means that our synod will be electing a new bishop. The bishop acts as the pastor for the pastors and as a support for congregations. They also select synod staff who allocate funds, support ministry endeavors, call new pastors to the region, and run the administration for the synod. This is, therefore, a very important transition for the synod as it affects every congregation. Please keep the election process and transition in your prayers.

In addition, House of Prayer is currently searching for a new Office Administrator. As you may know, Kitty Wiebe has done a great job to fill in after Darla’s retirement. It is important that we find someone to fill this role more permanently. We hope to hire this new employee in the next month or two. The ideal candidate will be someone who is not a member of the church or related to a member. We are also hoping to find someone who can read and write in both Spanish and English. The Mutual Ministry committee and the Church Council have worked hard to develop a job description and we are hopeful for the ways that this new employee will bless the congregation.

These transitions may bring their own blessings and challenges, but I am encouraged by the work that God has done in this congregation. Jesus has blessed House of Prayer throughout the years and continues to do so today. I felt so much joy as I looked out on Easter Sunday and saw the sea of Easter colors and smiling faces. 109 people were present at our Easter Service this year. It feels special to gather in person again as a family of faith. I am grateful to the volunteers and staff who were a part of our Holy Week services and made everything so successful. More than anything, however, I am thankful for the hope of the resurrection. Jesus brings hope and life to the disciples in the upper room. He casts out their fear and changes their world. This is Christ’s power in the world and in our church as well. I pray that we each may find a renewal of hope in this Easter Season.



"Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!"

What a wonderful Resurrection Sunday celebration we had! The day was full of life... flowers, butterflies, and joyous music as "Alleluias" rang out. I am grateful for all the musicians that took part in our celebration. Mark, Michael, and George Doering, Henry, our choir, and handbells all made it a very special day. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I also appreciate the hard work of those behind the scenes... altar guild, custodial staff, audio and video operators, and the numerous other volunteers. Thank you for your contributions.

It's so good to have the choir back together again. We are enjoying our time together at rehearsals and singing on Sunday mornings. We only have a few weeks left of this season and it's not too late to join us. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Please consider singing with us; no experience necessary. Come join us for some fellowship and worship.

Blessings!
Carol

*"I believe in the Son, I believe in the risen One, I believe, I overcome
By the power of His blood.
Amen, Amen. I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives.
Amen, Amen. Let my song join the One that never ends.
Because He lives" ~ from "Because He Lives" by Matt Maher*

Easter Musicians



Thank you to
Director Carol Gross and Organist/pianist Henry Doktorski
Mark, George, and Michael Doering, Marilyn Carlson, Kitty Wiebe, Cheri Kendall
Lynn Carlson, Tom Wiebe, Loren Peterson



Thank you to everyone who helped us get through April. It was a busy month, and so many people contributed their time and effort to make things go so smoothly. What a blessing Pastor Christina is to this congregation. She makes every event special and is there smiling through it all.

First, we had our last Lenten Soup Supper with a Jeopardy game. Thank you to every who help prepare and serve during our soup Suppers. Everything was delicious.

We had a work party on April 9th, that was well attend and a lot and things got done. That same day, we had a memorial service for June Stillwell. It was a short notice for the memorial, but it was well attended and beautiful.

The next week, we had services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday. Each of these services were well done and meaningful. Thank you to all the members of the Altar Guild, Ushers, Readers, and Communion Assistants for your help in our services.

Our Easter Sunday celebration was joyful, and full of life. The butterflies, flowers and cross were beautiful. The music was great, and I was singing those songs all day long. Thank you to Carol Gross, Henry Doktorski, Michael, Mark, and George Doering for sharing your talents with us.

On April 23, the facilities were used for a vaccine clinic. This was an all-day event. This was sponsored through the state of California and was a free to everyone. We were even on the news. Pastor and others were interviewed.

Then on April 30th we were the staging area for Escondido Ardor Day tree planting. They planted 100 trees down Mission. It was a beautiful day for this event. The weather was prefect.

Also on April 30th was the Celebration of Life for Don Portis. The family wished to thank everyone from the congregation and the community who participated to make this day special. We really did celebrate Don and he will be missed.

For both those events, we will have photos in next month's newsletter. I also should add that the Council and Mutual ministry met during all of this. They worked hard to develop a job description for an Office Administrator. I am looking forward to seeing who God finds for this position and frees me to do more of the work I was called to do.

As you can see, we were busy, May will be a little slower. So far, we only have Mother's Day, Synod Assembly and the Escondido Street Festival, and Memorial Day. I need to add a thank you to Mark Worman and Clementina Lopez for all their help. They do a great job keeping the place clean and are very flexible about helping.

God's peace to you all,
Kitty



5/21 Scott and Laurie Holtz 39 years

Congratulations!!!

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 April Birthdays

5/2	Rebecca Gross
	Rosita Hetland
5/7	Kitty Wiebe
5/8	Loren Peterson
5/10	Marilyn McLernan
5/12	Robin Wiebe- Giordano
5/13	Roy Levine
5/21	Celena Mahan
5/23	Ramiro Acosta
	Payton Rutherford
5/28	Henrik Harbin

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Members of House of Prayer:

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



Relatives and Friends of HOP:

Michelle Mensen, Lena Pauley, Bethany Barratt, Aiden Beutlich, Gary Johnson, Doyall Sams, Jennifer Harcos, Bruce Buddenhagen, Rob Steiner, Rob Wiebe, Greg Eriksen

For protection and safety in the military:

Vince Erno, Justin Wilson

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 Gruenster

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 Monday, May 30 for observance of Memorial Day.



**Bilingual Pentecost
 Worship Service
 June 5th at 10:00am
 Wear red that day and get
 into the Holy Spirit**

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

Do you have someone in your family who is graduating from High School, College, Graduate School, or Trade School this year? We want to celebrate with you.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

with the information.

DON'T ASSUME WE ALREADY HAVE IT!!



TO ALL GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND RETURNING COLLEGE STUDENTS:

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR ARE DUE JULY 31, 2022.
THEY MUST BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JULY 31ST TO BE
CONSIDERED FOR THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR**

The scholarships are open to any HOP member under the age of 25 who are actively involved in the church and who regularly participates in worship and communion. Applicants may apply for the scholarship to any credited college, University, or trade/arts school at the post secondary undergraduate level. High School graduates must show evidence of graduation, and acceptance at a post secondary school. Continuing undergraduates must provide a transcript showing at least a "C" average for the previous school year, and evidence of enrollment for the new school year.

Applications may be obtained from the church office, or you can download it from the HOP website: www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org
—Scholarship Committee



Receiving new members Easter morning

Welcome Peter Mazzone, Doug Buddenhagen,
Joan Buddenhagen, Mark Worman and granddaughters



Upcoming Dates
 Articles For June
 Tidings Newsletter
 Due: May 25

Council Meeting
Time: 11:00 To be announced
in Social Hall
If you have any ideas, thoughts or concerns
about House of Prayer,
Please contact one of the council members.

Financial Stewardship		
<u>General Fund:</u>	<u>March 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Revenue	\$16,408	\$48,896
Actual Revenue	\$35,998	\$67,281

New Paraments

We give thanks to God for the creation and donation of Paraments by MJ Peterson.
 In MJ's words:

"Gold is a new color for us , used for Easter. The symbols are the empty cross, and the butterfly. Another symbol on the white paraments is the ship. This represents the church (built on the past but sailing in uncharted waters). Also there is an interpretation of a quote from Isaiah: " My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people. " I was inspired by the book Patchwork Pilgrimage, by Jill Liddell. Used are quilting techniques, both hand and machine quilting."



STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE FOR MAY
10:00 AM Sunday Service

- 5/1 **Ushers:** Darrell Maus, JoEllen Maus, Harlan Gruenstern
Reader: Phillip Rice
Communion Assistant: Sandy Erno
- 5/8 **Ushers:** Dan Engelbrecht, Patti Engelbrecht, Glen Foss
Reader: Glen Foss
Communion Assistant: Cheri Kendall
- 5/15 **Ushers:** Scott Holtz, Laurie Holtz, Jeff Gross
Reader: Jan Estes
Communion Assistant: JoEllen Maus
- 5/22 **Ushers:** Patrick Graham, Phillip Rice
Readers: Shelli Ellison
Communion Assistant: Shelli Ellison
- 5/29 **Ushers:** Ramiro Acosta, Alfredo Alvarado, Lawson Ellison
Reader: Laurie Holtz
Communion Assistant: Laurie Holtz

Altar Guild: Marilyn Carlson

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



Flower Donations for May

- 5/1 Jeff and Carol Gross
In Celebration of Becca's Birthday
- 5/8 Jeanette O'Hara
In Memory of Dee Concannon
- 5/15 Loren and MJ Peterson
In Celebration of Family Birthdays
- 5/22 Scott and Laurie Holtz
In Celebration of Anniversary and Sydney's Birthday
- 5/29 Gretchen Pili
For All God's Blessings



CHANGES TO THE HOP CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

These pages are to notify you about changes to the House of Prayer Continuing Resolutions document. The main changes are demonstrated below, but a full copy of the newest Continuing Resolutions may be picked up in the Narthex or requested from the office.

Summary of the Changes:

The HR committee, the group of Elders, and the Mutual Support Ministry Committee have been dissolved and replaced with one, Mutual Ministry Committee. This new committee is in accordance with recommendations from the ELCA, conforms to the ELCA Mutual Ministry Committee Manual, and were developed with the needs of HOP in mind. Thank you to the folks who have helped to make these changes. We believe that this group will be a great blessing to the congregation.

Please reach out to the office with any questions about these changes.

Peace,

Pastor Christina De La Cruz

THE FOLLOWING TEXT (C13.04.A18) WILL BE ADDED TO THE HOP CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS DOCUMENT:

C13.04.A18 Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed jointly by the president and the rostered minister. There shall be five members. This should include the pastor. The term of office shall be two years, with some members to be appointed one year and some the next. They should meet at least once each month. The committee should reflect the age, race, gender, and economic composition of the congregation when possible. Committee members should be persons who are committed to the vision of the whole church, the mission of the congregation, and the ministry of the staff. It is crucial that they possess the capacity to maintain confidentiality. Their main roles are to provide constructive feedback to the pastor and support for the church staff. These responsibilities are accomplished through the following duties:

- A. Work with the Pastor and staff to set committee goals and evaluate how those goals have been accomplished or need to be revised.
- B. Serve as a consulting group that assists the Pastor in visioning and offers constructive feedback to the pastor.
- C. Support the Staff in their various ministries at House of Prayer
- D. Craft and edit job description drafts for new positions when needed

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS DOCUMENT:

- E. Complete an annual review of the various job descriptions and ensure that all job descriptions are up to date and accurate.
- F. Provide a safe and confidential listening space for staff.
- G. Advocate for and support the pastor and staff.
- H. Be the sounding board for the Pastor, staff, and their families.
- I. Meet with each staff member annually to discuss their job description, receive feedback from the staff member, and seek ways to support each staff member.
- J. Provide a written and verbal council report regarding staff following the annual reviews.
- K. Encourage continuing education opportunities.
- L. Initiate, coordinate, and facilitate staff appreciation opportunities.
- M. Advocate for the staff in council meetings and congregational meetings when necessary.
- N. Provide a written annual report for the January Congregational Meeting.
- O. Lift up the good work of individuals and groups—especially staff—to the attention of the congregation.
- P. Use goal setting, evaluations, and the continual revising of job descriptions and expectations to bring out the best in each staff member so that the collective gifts and potential of the whole staff are maximized.
- Q. Encourage all ministries in the ‘mutual’ work of God’s ministry through God’s people.
- R. In consultation with the pastor, support the staff during personal emergencies, transitions, or in preparation for an extended leave.

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS (C13.04.A21, C13.04.B21, & C13.04.C21) WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS:

C13.04.A21 A Human Resources (HR) committee shall have two members appointed jointly by the Pastor and the council president that ideally have HR/management experience. They shall:

- a. Work with Pastor and staff to set goals and evaluate how those goals have been accomplished or need to be revised including continuing education and Pastor sabbaticals.
- b. Work with Pastor and staff in refining job descriptions.
- c. Make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding raises and the relaying of any concerns. Pacifica Synod Guidelines should be consulted. If salary levels fall below guidelines, then it becomes difficult for the congregation to afford similarly experienced Pastors or staff in the future.
- d. Use goal setting, evaluations, raises, and the continual revising of job descriptions and expectations to bring out the best in each staff member so that the collective gifts and potential of the whole staff are maximized.
- e. This 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 expertise.
- f. Maintain confidentiality.

C13.04.B21 A group of Elders shall be comprised of two to four members appointed jointly by the Pastor and the council President who are experienced, wise, have a strong faith, and are able to handle delicate situations – ideally unflappable and neutral. They shall:

- a. 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.
- b. Monitor the ‘pulse’ of the congregation and be able to distinguish congregational-wide problems from personal conflicts between individuals.
- c. Restore relationships when concerns arise as a priority. When complaints are received from members, staff or the Pastor, direct communication is encouraged between parties. If this is not possible, the Elders may mediate conversation. They are to encourage open, honest, safe conversation – not triangulation.
 1. No Pastor, staff member, or member of the congregation may use the Elders to work against or unduly influence someone else. The Elders are to remain as neutral as possible and take the larger view that considers the well-being of this congregation as a whole.
- d. Refrain from being a disciplining group. Assess a situation, seek the necessary outside expertise, bring people together to restore relationships if possible, help set boundaries when necessary, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee if further action is required.
 1. Refer to “A Healthy and Biblical Approach to Conflict” from the South Dakota Synod resources on Mutual Ministry.
- e. Maintain confidentiality.

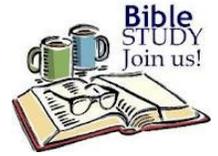
C13.04.C21 A Mutual Support Ministry shall be comprised of two to four people appointed jointly by the Pastor and the council President. They shall:

- a. Encourage 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.
- b. Be the sounding board for the Pastor, staff and their families.
- c. Help new members assimilate into the congregation and encouraging their own ministries.
- d. Encouraging all members towards involvement in committees, council and the various ministries.
 - Would be a good consult for the nominating committee.
- e. Lift the good work of individuals and groups to the attention of the congregation.
- f. Maintain confidentiality.

**House of Prayer's
Wednesday Morning Bible Study**
10:00am meets in-person in the Social Hall
with on-line zoom available

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81848590237?pwd=WTNtdlNGR1hWQj85TmJvUC9oNFVpQT09>

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



Summer break starts June 7.



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

Phone # 760-745-3738
houseofprayeradmn@gmail.com



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>

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 May 9th. 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.

Escondido Street Festival

- Live Bands ● Food, Craft, Retail Vendors ● Beer & Wine Garden ● Art In The Garden ●



Sunday
May 22, 2022

10am-6pm
Grand Avenue Downtown Escondido
Free Festival



For more information: <https://www.downtownescondido.com/escondido-street-festival>

House of Prayer

will have a booth at the **Escondido Street Festival**
Dan Engelbrecht is looking for volunteer to help
set up, man booth, and clean up.

Let help get the word out about our great congregation
Call Dan or the Church office to offer help!

Happy Mother's Day

Mother's Day



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8th

It is hard being a parent, but if you are unable to provide all the basic needs it is harder. For that reason, for the month of May:
we are collecting : **baby items for Interfaith Community Services.**

Baby Items

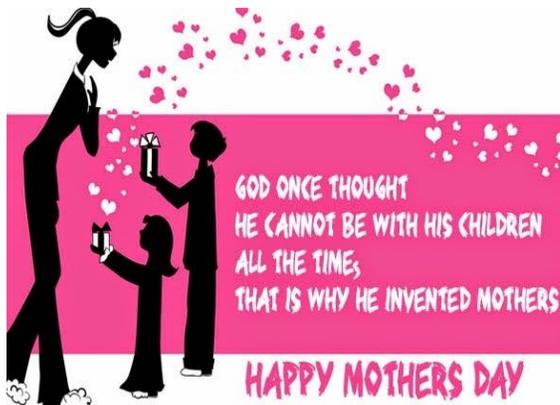
Baby formula

Baby food

Diapers (all sizes)

Pull-up (2T-3T) (4T-5T)

Baby wipes



To all the MOMS,
GRANDMAS,
AUNTS,
SISTERS,
Or COUSINS,
Wishing you a
Happy Mother's
Day, Whether you
are here Or in
HEAVEN now,
We are what we
are Because of
you!!!





May 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship Service	2	3 9:30am Quilters	4 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom 6:30pm Choir Practice	5 5:30pm Interfaith National Day of Prayer	6	7
8 Mother's Day 10:00am Worship Service	9 8:00am Script Orders Due	10 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	11 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom 6:30pm Choir Practice	12	13	14 9:30am Scroll Saw 1:00pm Mutual Ministry
15 10:00am Worship Service	16	17 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	18 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom 6:30 Choir Practice	19 Synod Assembly	20 Synod Assembly	21 Synod Assembly
22 10:00am Worship Service 10am-6pm Escondido Street Festival	23	24 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting	25 10:00am Bible Study w/Zoom	26	27	28
29 10:00am Worship Service	30 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	31 9:30am Quilters 3:30pm Staff Meeting				

- ◆ In-person services start at 10:00am, On-line service available on Sunday afternoon on the **website: www.houseofprayerlutheranchurch.org**
- ◆ Wednesday Bible Study is in-person with Zoom available. Zoom information on page 13
- ◆ Pacifica Synod Assembly is May 19-21
- ◆ June 22 10am-6pm Escondido Street Festival
- ◆ June 1 Last Bible Study before Summer break.
- ◆ June 5 Pentecost Sunday Bilingual Service