

# The Call

A Publication of  
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

April 2010

## Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Pastor

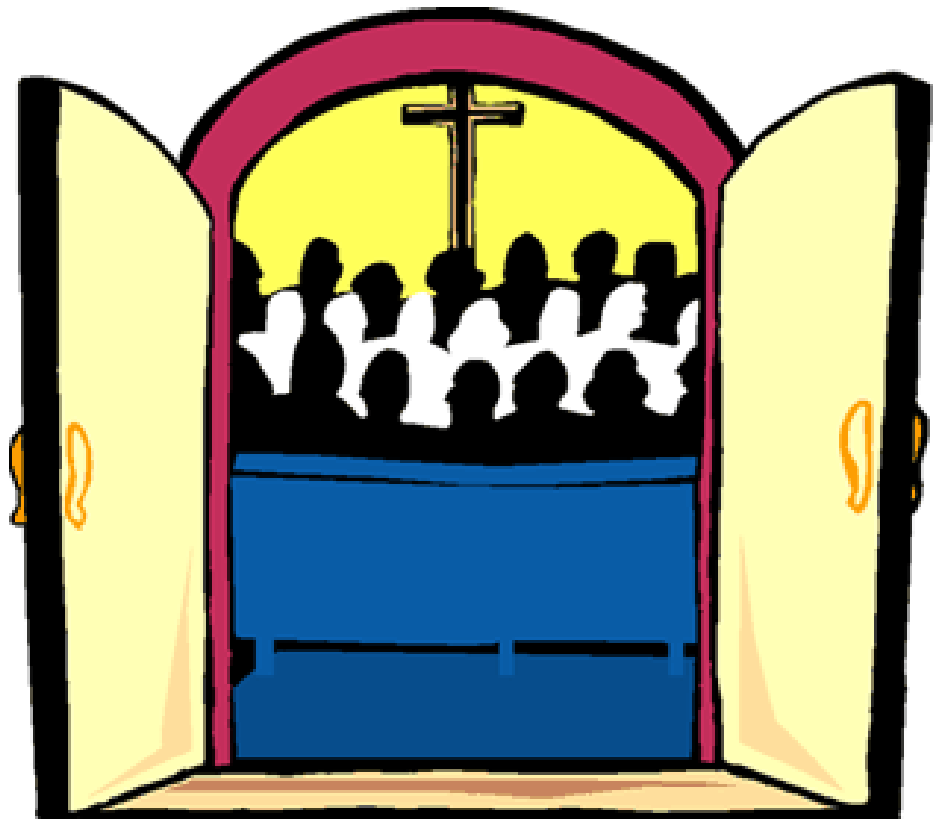
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*Deadline for  
February Newsletter  
April 18, 2010*



# Congregational MEETING

**Sunday, May 2nd  
After worship**

At our Annual Meeting in February, we stepped out in faith and adopted a deficit budget under the agreement that we would carefully check our finances at various intervals throughout the year. This meeting will be our first check point and will look at where we are financially and whether or not any adjustments need to be made at this time to our spending plan.

Please plan to attend.

## From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

Brennan Manning tells the following story of an old man who was dying of cancer.

*The man's daughter had asked the local priest to come and pray with her father. When the priest arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed. The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said.*

*"No, who are you?"*

*"I'm the new associate at your parish," the priest replied. "When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."*

*"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"*

*Puzzled, the priest shut the door.*

*"I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At the Sunday Mass I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head..."*

*"I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because He promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to Him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now."*

*"So, Father, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."*

*The priest was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the rectory.*

*Two nights later the daughter called to tell the*

*priest that her daddy had died that afternoon.*

*"Did he seem to die in peace?" he asked.*

*"Yes, when I left the house around two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me one of his corny jokes, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange, Father. In fact, beyond strange—kinda weird. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside the bed." (From *Abba's Child* by Brennan Manning, Colorado: NavPress, 1994, pg. 126-7)*

John, who was known as the beloved disciple, wrote in his Gospel of the time that he laid his head on Jesus' chest in a moment of intimacy. (John 13:23, 25; 21:20) It was a special memory for John, one that assured him that he was indeed a "disciple whom Jesus loved."

The Christ of faith is no less accessible to us than was the Christ of history in his human flesh to the beloved disciple. We can have the same kind of relationship with Jesus that John did.

Do you have that kind of relationship with Jesus? Are you and Jesus so close that you can converse with Him as you would with a friend? Do you know that He loves you passionately and that He is interested in you and

wants to listen to everything that you have to say? Can you lay your head on His chest and feel His heartbeat? Do you have moments of quietness where you simply allow Jesus to hold you in His arms?

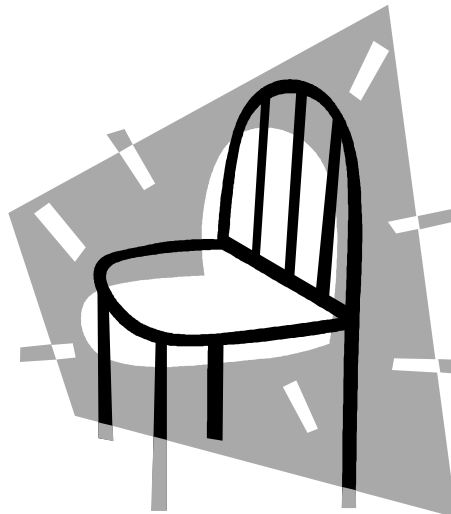
That's the kind of intimacy we can have with Jesus. That's the kind of relationship He invites us to experience. You, along with John, are indeed a disciple whom Jesus loves!

Deep Peace,  
Pastor Tim



“One of the disciples, the one Jesus loved dearly, was reclining against Him, His head on His shoulder...”

John 13:23



# A Service in Memory of...

## A Service of Celebration To Honor the Life of Charlotte Williams Sunday, April 25, 2:30 pm

It was back in December when we lost our dear Char after a long but courageous battle with kidney disease. Char was a charter member and known for her love of studying Scripture as well as her commitment to prayer especially for her

brothers and sisters in Christ. Come, join her husband, Tom, and family as with thanksgiving to God we remember the gift God gave us through her and release that gift back to the Lord. The service will be held at church and will be followed by a dinner reception.

### The Charlotte Williams Memorial Library

Thank you for your book donations to our brand new church library that will be housed for the time being at the church office. Donations are still being accepted. . .books on biblical study, church history, and all areas of spirituality. Please see, Judi Hollander who will act as our church librarian. Very soon we'll announce how you can use this beautiful and lasting memorial in honor of Char. Char was an avid reader and a great learner. She especially loved growing in her relationship with the Lord through what she read and studied. This library is a way her presence will continue among us.



### OUR NEXT CHILDREN'S PROGRAM... Begins the First Tuesday in May

Now that winter has turned to spring, we get going with one of the most exciting ministries we do — our Vacation Bible School. Only we do it differently than other churches. We offer it for 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings instead of during one week. This will be the 4th time we've done this and each time it gets bigger and bigger with more kids!



We need your help to pull it off. Lots of volunteers staff these evenings. . .teachers, craft helpers, those who lead recreation, cooks and more! We guarantee you'll have a great time as we head to Egypt to learn about God through the life of one of the Bible's most fascinating characters: Joseph! Speak to Pastor Tim if you'd like to help and . . .

LET'S GET EGYPTIAN!



**SIGN  
UP  
FOR  
THIS!**

**3 GROUPS  
TO  
CHOOSE  
FROM:  
CONTEXT,  
CARING  
CONNECTION,  
AND  
COMMUNITY**



**WHERE  
MINISTRY  
HAPPENS!**

**SHARE YOUR  
IDEAS. SHARE  
YOUR HEART.  
SHARE YOUR PAS-  
SION!**

A group meets once a month on a Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Context meets the 1st Tuesday. Caring Connection the 2nd Tuesday. Community the 3rd Tuesday. Evenings are full of fellowship, learning, brainstorming and shaping the future of ministry. Won't you join us?

### **IF WE HAD ONE MESSAGE TO SHOUT ON A STREET CORNER TO ALL OF THE BIG BEAR VALLEY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Jesus Saves; Do You Know God Loves You?; You Matter!; Jesus Loves You and wants you to be happy!; Grace; We are all Children of Christ; Love One Another; We Care; Jesus' Love never fails!; God loves you and so do we —come join us!; It's not so hard —John 3:16 is the bottom line. Don't make it so complicated! (*responses from March Groupings*)

### **Welcome New and Associate Members!**

On Easter Sunday, our congregational community was blessed to receive the following who have decided to partner with us in a deeper way by becoming members/associate members:

**Linda Wilson** has been an associate member of our congregation for 3 years and now becomes a full member. We've enjoyed Linda's love of music and musical talents as she sings in the choir and provides special selections for us now and then on her violin. She is a computer programmer down the hill and plays professionally in the Riverside County Philharmonic, San Bernardino Symphony, the Lyric Symphony and others when asked. She and her husband, Lynn are long time residents of this valley and have a wonderful reputation of service among the folks of Big Bear.

**Arline Coyle** is a 12 year resident of Big Bear Lake with Lutheran roots that go back to her childhood in the mid-west. At one time, she was a school teacher, eventually becoming a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and serving as a professional counselor. Arline moved up to Big Bear with her husband before he died. Arline is joining as an associate member.

**Jason Brown and Danessa Barto** come to us as two young adults excited about our ministry. They are both long time residents on the mountain (Danessa is KJ's daughter). Jason and Danessa are planning to get married in September of this year. Both of them were recently employed at Snow Valley. They have jumped into ministry at Spirit of Peace, serving Simple Suppers and being communion assistants. They join us as members

Get to know these wonderful folks and let them know how glad you are they are part of the family at Spirit of Peace!



**Welcome  
Our New  
Members**



## Mystery Minister. . .

*Here's something fun and it comes to us from our very own little Church Mouse (bet you didn't know we even had one!). Each month, the newsletter features a biographical sketch of one of our members/associate members. Your job is to try to guess who it is. . .*

It's 7:30 am. . .and being a nocturnal creature, I'd just brushed my teeth and donned my flannel nighty. As I snuggled under my lovely, warm quilt, I was having a chat with, well, you know Who. I was feeling pretty good when suddenly a 55 pound barking missile launched off the bed to the front room. If I had to, I'd put it at a 5 on the Richter scale. Fully alert now I peeked out the window and saw the top of a head moving toward the gate, turn as if to come back, and then turn again to leave. With all that ruckus coming from the house, I'd leave too.

Satisfied that my alarm system worked, I set about looking for my letter. It wasn't under the welcome mat or under the windshield wipers. I felt terribly sad. I guessed my friend hadn't had time to write me the letter we'd discussed. . .my boss was going to be disappointed. I dragged myself up the steps and there it was —stuck in the screen! I knew she wouldn't let me down. With a fresh, hot cup of coffee I settled down to read.

She was born in Fullerton (St. Jude's Hospital) and has an older sister and younger brother. Before all was said and done this young lady had lived in Yorba Linda, Balboa and Irvine. Even here in Big Bear she's had 13 homes since 1989. Don't worry tho' . . .her wanderlust is being clipped by her hubby who is building their new log cabin. And that's like a movie because he's being assisted by the kids in the family. It's kinda like an old fashion barn raising. Speaking of family, she has a daughter, and together she & hubby have 19 children and grandchildren, 10 of whom live up here.

She's currently a housewife with a custom framing/scrapbooking business on the side. She *loves* scrapbooking!!! Well heck, with a family that large, what else is a woman to do?! She'd already been an executive in advertising and Marketing Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

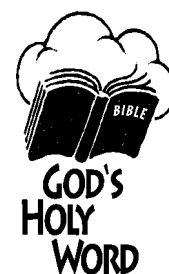
But it seems her life really came together when she moved here. She took over her Dad's business where she met her husband Michael when he brought his photos in for framing.

And she also found her extended family —Spirit of Peace. She said when she sits in church, she's surrounded by memories of her family and her church family who have been with her through joys and sorrows. She has found peace here and intends to stay "forever."

Oh yes! Thanks friend; I wondered if that alarm worked. It's not like you can push a button to check the battery. Hope she didn't alarm you!

**"Who do you think this person is?" asks the Church Mouse. (see p. 7 for the correct answer)**

**Women's Bible Study and Prayer Group:** A new study will begin on Monday, April 26, 2010. We meet every Monday, from 1:00 to 3:00. **Our small group will study the book of Luke** instead of Romans. We usually meet at the home of Sandy Groon but the location often changes depending on personal schedules. All women are invited. Part-timers as well as full-timers are welcome. Please contact Linda Griffith if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions. Big Bear Home (909) 585-602 Cell (562) 884-4477





This Easter season, Spirit of Peace thanks those individuals and families that

**SimplyGiving**

support the church throughout the year with their time, talent and financial contributions. We also extend a warm welcome to many new and returning congregation members and hope that you, too, will be generous with your time and contributions in support of our work here at Spirit of Peace. To assist everyone in making the consistent offerings that are so important to Spirit of Peace, we ask you to consider making automatic electronic donations.

Simply Giving is an automated giving program from Thrivent Financial. It's designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give financial gifts to our congregation's ministry. By participating in *Simply Giving*, you can use electronic funds transfer to give your weekly, semi-monthly or monthly offering. To learn how you can participate, contact Tom Elbert at (909) 866-8325.

## Turning A Simple Choice Into A Generous Response

No enrollment in Thrivent required

## RUMMAGE SALE TO BE HELD ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Remember your trash could be someone's treasure. Pat Elbert is chairing our annual sale on Saturday, May 29 at the home of Mike & Julie Chatham, located at 297 Towhee in Big Bear Lake (Eagle Point are). Please save your items to be donated and bring them on Friday early afternoon to Chatham's residence. Please no mattresses or bedding and no computers or TVs unless you can attest to the fact they are working and will leave your phone number. God used jackets and sweaters are OK but no T-shirts or shorts.

Please offer to help Pat, also, in the set-up and selling of this precious merchandise. This is normally a good fundraiser for the Church, and with everyone's help it can be again this year, as well.



### Church Council Highlites (February 23, 2010 meeting)

New council members were welcomed and two additional council appointments were made: Judi Hollander to Worship & Music; Nancy McCormick to Christian Education. Deposit to the PAC for Spirit of Christmas has been paid. Offerings have fallen behind and need to be made up. Council members went over job descriptions according to the Constitution/By-laws. Cultivation Groupings were discussed and council assignments to each grouping were made.



**The Mystery Minister for the Month...**

is Merrilee Ragsdale. She has been attending SOP for years and has been a member since July of 2009. Merilee is a delightful lady and likes to sit in the front of the church with her grandchildren, Katie, Caeden, and Sophia.



**Healing**

- Elizabeth (granddaughter of Linda Wilson)
- Cliff & Carol Holden (Rick Holden's parents) —recovering from surgery and a broken pelvis
- Barbara Kirklund (Grace Beyer's niece) —undergoing tests for brain tumor
- Georgia Cashman (friend of Warren Wasson's) —breast cancer
- Kay Molina (Carmen McCutcheon's Sis-in-law) —terminal cancer
- Maria Lowe (friend of KJ's) —undergoing tests
- Juanita (friend of Linda Wilson's) —aortic aneurysm
- Penny Coelho —recovering from foot surgery
- Ron Keyson —undergoing another round of chemo
- Marta Upward (friend of Linda and KJ) —fibromyalgia
- Janice Schlieder —several autoimmune disorders
- Pastor Marcia Hartsock —undergoing chemo for lung cancer
- Linda Ward (friend of Kathy Kerr's) —breast cancer
- Louise Walker (friend of Kathy Kerr's) —breast cancer
- Gaelin —cancer
- Dave Pickard —cancer
- Theresa Pickard —lupis
- Virginia Mitchell (Linda Wilson's Mom) —osteoporosis
- Roger Frost (friend of Adams') —cancer
- Fran Palmer (friend of Clarks) —cancer
- Marilyn Vecchio —Leukemia
- Renee Marquez (friend of Cyndi Bauer) —Leukemia
- Betty Owens (friend of Warren's) —Alzheimer's/cancer
- Danny (son of Doris Angerhofer's friend) —Parkinson's
- Marian Bacon (friend of Linda Wilson's) —brain cancer
- Andy Mearse (friend of Bartos) —chronic pain
- Candy Seimers (family member of Sandy Groon) —cancer
- Lori Baltus (Linda Wilson's friend) —severe cancer
- Alma Bauer (Paul's mom)
- Glenn Beyer
- Joe LaMura (friend of Judi Hollander) —cancer
- Anni Ruther (Doris Angerhofer's mother) —chronic pain
- Sue Griffith ("Totsy") (Bill's mother) —Alzheimers; in assisted living

**Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—**

- Christy Goss (Jason Brown's mother)
- Carolyn Dittrick
- Jason Brown & Danessa Barto —guidance & strength
- Devin Ragsdale
- Caregivers
- Christine/Anthony (Janet Webber's daughter/grandson)

**Safety & Protection —**

Those in the military: Nick Caretto (Army); Peter Caretto (Marines); Sam McCullar (Navy); Tim Lauer (Navy Submarine); Scott (Rick Coehlo's friend), LCpl Tyler Craig (Wendy Craig's son in Angola, Africa), Cory Amelsberg (Army), Austin Amelsberg (Army), Sean Parrish; Sgt. William VanSickle, Marc DiConti and Son; Jeff Taylor (Keyson's Son), 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Prvt 1st Class Devin Barto (Basrah, Iraq); Prvt 2nd Class Davin Barto (Colorado Springs), Brian McCoy (basic training/Texas); Tom Hastin (Jr Navy Seal); Travis Hastin (Army Ranger)

**Prayer and Praise Page**

*"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."  
Matthew 21:22*



	4/2	Betty Cummins
	4/4	Robin Gehrke
	4/12	Cary Kerr
	4/15	Glenn Beyer
	4/17	Bary Smedberg
4/18	Grace Beyer	
4/18	Andrew Coelho	
4/21	Janet Webber	
4/30	Garret Turney	



- 4/28 Norb & Patricia Hesch
- 4/28 Jack & Jane Kunz

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Big Bear Lake  
9 am–12 Noon Mon.–Wed.  
9 am–12 pm Fri.

Worship Location:  
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(The Seventh Day Adventist Church)

Weekly Worship  
on Sundays, at 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Study  
at 10:45 a.m.

### A Little About Us:

We are a Christ-centered, Bible-based community of faith that welcomes all people and serves God by serving the needs of those in the Bear Valley.

We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*"The Call" is published monthly by*

**Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 2997  
Big Bear City, California 92314**

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

Mailed on  
April 12

***Christ Is Risen!  
He Is Risen Indeed!  
Alleluia!***