

The Call

A Publication of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

August 2011

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Be joyful always; pray
continually; give thanks in all
circumstances, for this is
God's will....

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18



*Deadline for
September Newsletter
August 28, 2011*

From The Pastor...

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

Sadly, by the time we become adults, most of us have lost our “God hearing.” That’s what Mike Yaconelli calls it in his book, *Dangerous Wonder*. He goes on to say that by the time we are adults, we have decided that listening to God is less important than knowing about God. By the time we are grown and have jobs and children, the noise of our lives has increased to such a level that we couldn’t possibly hear God because God rarely shouts; instead, God whispers.

In *Stories Jesus Still Tells*, John Claypool relates the story of his daughter, Laura, who eventually died of leukemia. When she was four, John was attempting to put her to bed one night, but she was like most four-year olds. To avoid going to bed, Laura took three trips to the bathroom, asked for a drink of water, wanted another story read to her, needed Dad to put the light on, heard a sound, and so on. John finally, after all that, was able to go to his study and do some writing. He was deep into it when he could tell Laura was standing at the door, staring at him. He hadn’t seen her or heard anything, he just knew.

Frustrated, he turned around and said with anger in his voice, “What do you want me to do, Laura?” Laura sauntered up beside her father, grabbed his arm, and said, “Nothing Daddy. I just want to be close to you.”

Laura may have been speaking the voice of God to us: “I don’t want you to do anything. I just want to be close to you.” I wonder how many times a day our Father God tries to get our attention, tries to quiet us long enough so we can hear His whisper.

In one of the Sunday morning Scripture readings this past month, was the story of Elijah. God has sent Elijah on a journey to Mt. Horeb. There, God plans to have with Elijah a little heart-to-heart talk.

There at Horeb, the lightning flashes again and God produces some of the greatest special effects guaranteed to make even Steven Spielberg a bit envious. First up, was a “great and powerful wind which tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks.” Then God sent an earthquake that almost knocks Elijah silly. And then fire. But then there wasn’t so much as a peep out of

Yahweh. And only when the fireworks were finished and a terrible hush fell over the mountain did Elijah hear something, and what he hears was so much like silence that it was only through the ear of faith that he knew it was the voice of God.

That silence is translated in Scripture in a variety of ways. Some Bible versions call it “a still small voice;” others, “a gentle whisper,” or a “sound of a gentle blowing,” “a light murmuring”, or even “a sound of sheer silence.” One Lutheran missionary to Africa translates the phrase, “a thin silence.”

God was not heard in the noise of the earthquake, the wind or the fire, God’s voice was heard in the thin silence.



I wonder. . .could it be that one of the significant problems in the church is noise? Modern faith might be undermined by more activity and noise than by immorality and lack of commitment. Maybe we have become too active and noisy that we have drowned out the thin silence of God. Instead of our trying to do more, maybe we should try to do less, to pay attention to the presence of God.

It’s always the drive, isn’t it, in a young mission congregation like ours, to become bigger and better—to expand and move forward? As a mission developer pastor, those are certainly things that can easily become my priorities. But let us all remember the importance of taking time on this journey we share to stop, look, and listen. God is speaking to us. . .and let not our ministry interfere with our ability to hear Him. Maybe Laura is right—God doesn’t have a whole lot of requirements, expectations—God just wants to be with us!

Ministry isn’t so complicated. All we need to do is listen to the whisper of God. We can find our God hearing again. We can get back what we once had as children, but have lost as adults—our ability to hear the thin silence of God.

A four-year-old girl was overheard whispering into her newborn baby brother’s ear, “Baby,” she whispers, “tell me what God sounds like. I am starting to forget.”

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim

“...But the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.”

1 Kings 19

Parents To Meet Over Sunday School Program

It's exciting to finally have some children in worship on Sunday morning. Now we have to make sure that our Sunday mornings meet their needs as well. There's been talk about a Sunday school program where kids leave worship just before the message, have their own learning experience, and then return to worship for communion with their families. Let's get together and get creative and take care of those who are not only "the Church of tomorrow" but very much a part of the "Church of today!" Please speak to Amy for more information.



A Place For You At The Table

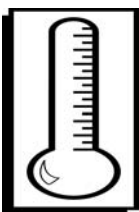
A wonderful group of children are currently preparing for their first Communion. They are learning about the family meal and how Jesus invites them to come to the table to receive the gift of grace and His body and blood in the bread and wine/grape juice. Their first communion will take place on Sunday, September 11th.

Welcome to New/Associate Members

We welcome among us now as an "official" part of our community, Rylan Brown and Shirley Giesking. Rylan is 13 years old and tall for his age. He loves basketball. Shirley is a part-timer up here on the hill and lives in Palm Desert when she isn't in Big Bear. Welcome them and introduce yourself. May God bless our family of faith!

Women's Bible Study

The group meets weekly on Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the home of Sandy Groon (location sometimes varies). The group has just begun studying the book of John and is always excited to receive new participants. Come and grow in your walk with the Lord and enjoy some great fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Contact Linda Griffith for more information (909) 585-6026 or Sandy Groon (909) 584-8023 to confirm location.



"Build Us Up" Building Fund

Be sure to use your building fund envelopes from your offering envelope box for your "Build Us Up" donations. If you don't have offering envelopes, please mark your donations clearly as "Build Us Up". Let's make the thermometer move closer and closer to our \$100K goal!

Adult Forum to Feature Series on "Islam"

With all that's going on in the world today, it's important to know the truth when it comes to the religion of Islam. We're currently looking for a series to present during our Sunday morning Adult Forum that will offer a balanced, scholarly, informative education on the topic. This course is designed not just to teach us about this growing religion but to help us integrate our learning with what we see happening in the world. Look for this learning opportunity coming soon.

Check Out Pastor Margaret's YouTube Video

Pastor Margaret is authoring a book on spiritual guidance entitled *Spiritual Dawn*. Want to know more? Go to youtube.com and in the search box type DUTTERA. Rufus even makes a cameo. . .



We're publishing a new church directory and need your help to keep our information accurate. Please stop by the table in the fellowship hall and proof-read your information. Correct any mistakes and then initial next to your name so we know you've seen it. The directory should be ready for distribution in a couple weeks. Thank you!






Wine Auction Report

Another “Spirited” Event —to God be the glory!!! We did it again. Our event was a great success thanks to all the help of members of the congregation. Results:

Wine Auction \$1785
 Silent Auction \$3655
 50/50 Drawing \$156
 Entry Fees \$225
 Other Donations \$280
Grand Total: \$6115

A special thank you to all who served on the Committee Lyn and Ella Manor (hosts and auctioneer), Pastor Tim and Sharon Edmondson, Merrilee Ragsdale, Sandy Groom, Betty Cummins, Earl Gentry, Sandra Mullins, Tom Williams, Charlie Gehrke, the Bartleys, the McCutcheons, Carol Wood, Skip Shipley, Sandy Hardin, Warren Wasson, Judi Hollander, Judy Keyson, Nancy Hilliard, Linda Wilson, Dick and Loene Witter, the Bartos, and all the rest of you who brought food, made donations, and solicited businesses for our silent auction.

God Bless, Linda Griffith

(And a special thanks from the congregation to Linda for her outstanding leadership on this event!)

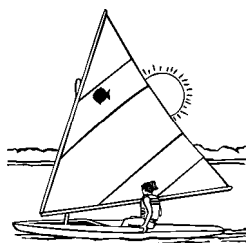
Check out the Auction Pix —Go to pinesnational.com and click on the wine tasting link to see pictures of the event!

Methodists Go Italian with “Pasta Galore”

A fundraiser for our Methodist brothers/sisters will be held on August 27th, 5:00 pm at Big Bear Lake United Methodist Church. Admission is \$10 —all you can eat! Plates at dessert bar are \$2 extra. Support our partners in ministry on this mountain and enjoy some great food while you do. Buon appetito!



**Spaghetti
Dinner**



*Time to
CHILL*

On The Lake . . .

Spirit of Peace hosted the Big Bear Conference pastors for their monthly meeting in August. Pastor Tim thought it would be nice to get them out on the water where they could enjoy the beauty of our surroundings. Special thanks to Neal Hertzmann who was able to secure a donated pontoon boat along with gas from Big Bear Marina (thanks Alan!). Merilee provided a much appreciated, delicious and elaborate breakfast for the pastors to enjoy. The time on the lake included some sightseeing of Pastor Tim’s favorite lake spots, and a “floating” meeting followed by communion. Jesus loved to spend time on the lake as well (see the Bible).



A Tribute to Jane Kunz:

On the front cover of this newsletter are a couple of Jane's favorite Bible verses. Even more than that, it is the way she lived her life. . .and we were all blessed because of it. May the example of her faith continue to live among us!

Jane died peacefully at home on Sunday, July 24th. A month ago, she fell and after surgery developed complications from a previous lung condition. Jane was 85 and was in charge of our prayer chain.



Healing—

- Father Joe Frazier
- Cyndi Bauer —recovery from surgery
- Madison (Neal's Granddaughter) —joy at recovering from staph infection
- Dean Angerhofer —shoulder
- Don Ackerman —bladder cancer surgery
- Daphne Mitchell (family of Linda Wilson) —unexplained seizures
- Keith Adams —upcoming heart surgery, August 17th
- Raymond Reilly (son-in-law of Skip's) —heart transplant
- Diane Forbing (friend of Janice Schlieder) —kidney failure/diabetes
- Dan's 3 year old friend —cancer
- Cory (friend of Matt Hollander's) —lymphoma
- Linda Brady (friend of Kathy Kerr) —breast cancer
- Phyllis (friend of Kathy Kerr) —melanoma
- Hobie (friend of Jim Lyon's) -cancer
- Carole (daughter-in-law of Jane & Jack) —chemo/radiation
- Carlos Noyola (friend of Linda Wilson) —lung cancer
- Dan Ploch —praise for partial remission
- Sue Melchor —brain tumor
- Elizabeth (granddaughter of Linda Wilson) —worsening mental condition
- Marta Upward (friend of Linda and KJ) —fibromyalgia
- Gaelin —cancer
- Virginia Mitchell (Linda Wilson's Mom) —osteoporosis
- Roger Frost (friend of Adams') —cancer
- Fran Palmer (friend of Clarks) —cancer
- Renee Marquez (friend of Cyndi Bauer) —Leukemia
- 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)
- Joe LaMura (friend of Judi Hollander) —cancer
- Anni Ruther (Doris Angerhofer's mother) —chronic pain

Prayer and Praise

Page

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."




Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—

- ELCA Churchwide Assembly August 15-19
- Jack Kunz (and the congregation) at the death of his wife, our dear sister, Jane
- Families of US Troops killed in when their helicopter was shot down
- Ron & Jacquie (KJ's brother/sis-in-law)
- Caregivers
- Christine/Anthony (Janet Webber's daughter/grandson)

Safety & Protection —

- Travel: Bill & Linda Griffith
- Those in the military: Anthony Pierce (going to Marine bootcamp); 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), Austin Amelsberg (Army), Sean Parrish; Sgt. William VanSickle, Marc Di-Conti and Son; 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Prvt 1st Class Devin Barto (back from Iraq); Prvt 2nd Class Davin Barto, Brian McCoy; Tom Hastin (Jr Navy Seal); Travis Hastin (Army Ranger); Chelsea Barto (Afghanistan)

	8/6	Ed Cedergreen
	8/6	Lauren McKinley
	8/8	Merrilee Ragsdale
	8/13	Keith Adams
	8/14	Devin Barto
8/17	Neal Hertzmann	
8/21	Florence Nesland	
8/23	Jack Kunz	
8/29	John Bartley	



8/17	Pastor Tim & Sharon
8/24	Rick & Anita Holden
8/27	Jim & Patty Ryan
8/27	Charlie & Robin Gehrke

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
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Big Bear Lake
9 am–12 Noon Mon.–Wed.
9 am–12 pm Fri.

Worship Location:
349 E. North Shore Dr.
Big Bear City, CA 92314
(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.

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

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Mailed on
August 15

**"A smooth sea
never made a
skilled mariner."
English Proverb**