

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

December 2008

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

Worship Location::
349 E. North Shore Dr.
Big Bear City, Calif. 92315
(Seventh Day
Adventist Church)

Office location:
41619 Big Bear Blvd
Suite 1A
Big Bear Lake, Calif 92315

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2997
Big Bear City, Calif 92314

Phone: (909) 878-2650
Fax: (909) 878-2643

Email:
spiritofpeacelutheran@verizon.net

www.spiritofpeacebigbear.org

STAFF

Timothy Edmondson
Pastor

KJ Barto
Choir Director

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Danessa Barto, Pat Crain, Neal
Hertzmänn, Sandy Groom, Dale &
Janet Webber
Office

Pat Crain
Newsletter Editor

*Deadline for
December Newsletter
January 15, 2009*

Spirit of Peace
Lutheran Church
ELCA
~presents~
The Spirit of Christmas
A Feast for the Senses
Glorious Music ~ Remarkable Living Art
at the PAC ~ Sun, Dec 21 at 2:30 PM
Tickets ~ 878-2650 or PAC Box Office ~ 866-4970
Add \$1 PAC fee
Adults \$12 ~ \$10 Seniors/Students
Directed by KJ Barto
2008

From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

Had you picked up a daily newspaper in 1809, you would have read the big news that Napoleon I, emperor of France, had conquered Austria at Wagram, annexed the Illyrian Provinces (now part of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), and abolished the Papal States.

But in that same year, in France. . .

Louis Braille, who devised a way for the blind to read, was born.

And in Germany. . .

Felix Mendelssohn, the great composer of symphonies, was born.

And in England. . .

William Gladstone, the four-time Prime Minister and the father of public education, was born.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, the poet laureate of Great Britain, was born.

Charles Darwin, the most influential scientist of the nineteenth century, was born.

And in America. . .

Edgar Allen Poe, the master poet and storyteller, was born.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, the writer and physician who developed surgical techniques still in use today, was born.

Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born.

But at the end of the year 1809, the only event anyone thought to be important was Napoleon's conquest of Austria. That was the big news.

Today who remembers the "big news" of 1809? Hardly anyone. Napoleon's conquest is just a tiny blip on the big screen of history. But the world was changed forever by a few seemingly insignificant births which took place that same year.

The year Jesus was born, most people missed it. Only a few shepherds and maybe a couple wise men were aware of the cosmic implications of His presence in

a manger at Bethlehem. But it was the single most significant birth event in all of history. How true this is for a lot of what God does in our world. So much of it is "behind the scenes." It rarely makes headlines. But for those who notice. . . their lives are changed forever!

This Christmas will come and go much like any other Christmas has come and gone. For plenty of people, the birth of the Savior will go unnoticed. The good news of Jesus coming to the world will be hijacked by things far less important—the "big news" of the day.

The question is: Will *we* notice? Or will we get lost in a world that sidetracks the real meaning of Christmas; a world that doesn't understand the significance of what God is doing even now among us? Will we miss the Big News for the "big news?"

*How silently, how silently. . .
the wondrous gift is given!*

*So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.*

*No ear may hear His coming;
but, in this world of sin,*

*Where meek souls will receive Him,
still the dear Christ enters in.*

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim

"For unto
you is born
this day,
a Savior,
which is
Christ
the Lord."

Luke 2:11

God sent the Spirit
of his Son
into our hearts . . .
Galatians 4:6





Christmas Eve
SERVICE
5:00 pm

Service of
Carols and Readings

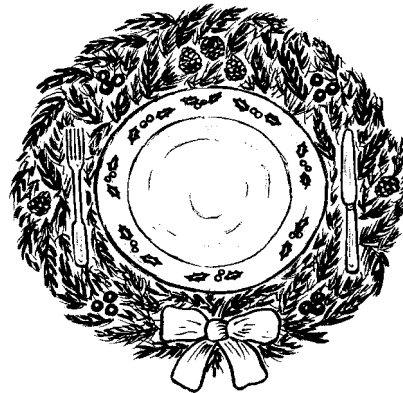
Special
Musical Selections
by our Choir

Communion will also
be celebrated.



Enjoy a Festive Dinner
With your Church Family

Someone has graciously agreed to host our Christmas dinner. It will be held at the church beginning at 3:30 pm. This Christmas Eve buffet will serve ham and dessert will be provided. We need you to provide the side dishes. Please use the sign up sheet on Sunday mornings to let us know how many to plan for. Contact Pat Crain for more info.



Christmas Dinner
3:30 pm



Thursday, December 18th

12:00 Noon at Nottingham's

To say "thank you" to our wonderful volunteer office staff, we'll be celebrating the holidays with a festive lunch.





Council Highlights (November Meeting)

- Information was provided on “Healthy Stewardship” for congregations during economically tough times.
- The Seventh Day Adventist Church approved the “60 day escape clause” and increase of rent to begin in January 2009.
- As a result of Kathy Kerr’s visit to the church council of Faith, Yucaipa, a motion was made and passed to enter into an intentional partnership with that congregation. The nature of the relationship to be worked out over time.
- Still anticipating word from the Synod office in regards to a financial grant.
- The Covenant Players will be featured at our combined Thanksgiving worship with the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Episcopalians..
- Council voted to cover lodging expense for October Pastor’s Retreat.

Council Secretary, Sandy Groom

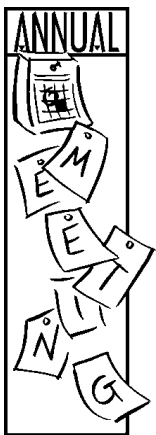
Spirit of Christmas Seeks Your Help...

This program depends on the support of many in order to be successful. First of all, it relies on some financial donations to help cover expenses. If you can give a special offering towards this project, please place your check into the offering plate, marking it plainly, “Spirit of Christmas” or send it to the church office.

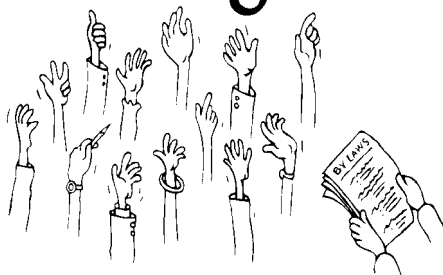


In addition, volunteers are needed to usher (hand out programs) and help with the refreshment table. And if you could bake some cookies —that would be wonderful! To offer your help in these areas, please speak to KJ.

Finally, as Linus once said in a “Peanuts” comic strip when he was reading the Christmas story, “And suddenly, there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.’ And lo. . .they (the shepherds) knew it was a big deal.” Spirit of Christmas is a very big deal —and it shares the joy of the story with many in this community. Come be a part of the big deal that is “Spirit of Christmas!”



Congregational Meeting



Congregational Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 27th, 2009

Immediately following Worship

Agenda to include:

Annual Reports

Election of Council Members

2008 Budget

And a Look at Plans for 2009

SOP Christmas “Wish” List... Need New Front Doors

Spirit of Peace is in need of some new front doors! That’s right! But not the kind that hang on the building we use on Sunday morning that we walk through on our way into worship—a very different kind of front door.

At this point in our ministry together, we must begin to create other “entry points” into the fellowship of our congregation. And why? Because for a non-churched person or a never-churched person or a person who has no idea what “Lutheran liturgy” is all about—our Sunday morning worship experience can seem foreign and strange, “weird” even. It doesn’t to us—we’ve grown up in the church—some of us Lutheran from way back. But if our expectation is that someone will walk into our group on a Sunday morning and understand what’s going on and feel comfortable. . .well, that just ain’t necessarily always going to happen. So we need some new front doors—creative places of entry into our fellowship that will allow people to get to know us and what we’re about, eventually then finding their way into the front door of Sunday morning worship.

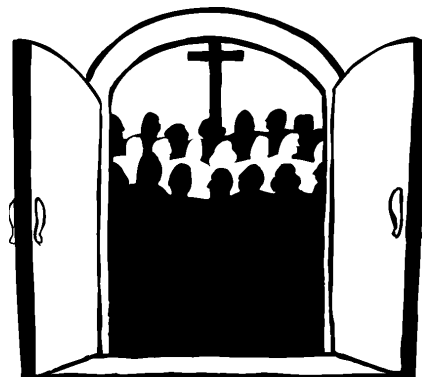
Here are three possible front doors:

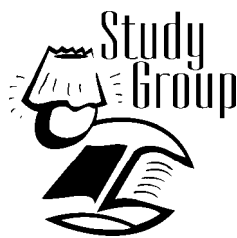
- 1) **A weekly Women’s Bible Study.** This fellowship/spiritual growth opportunity would be a wonderful place for our women to gather. And as they do, friends are invited to these weekly Bible studies and get to know the women of our church. They also discover that we are Christ-centered and dedicated to growing in God’s Word. A few ladies have already offered their homes for this very ministry.
- 2) **A Men’s Monthly Breakfast Group.** This would provide a much needed place for the men of our congregation to get together and get to know each other. This meeting could take place on a Saturday morning at a local restaurant. This monthly meeting could feature a brief and informal presentation by someone in the group who could share a particular interest. This could also be a place where our men could find out about ways to serve—maybe deciding to help Mrs. Jones with her broken garage door or other work projects. Imagine the opportunity to invite other men outside of our congregation into a group like this!
- 3) **A Book Reading Club.** Several of our members love to read. How neat it would be then to have something like a monthly get-together in someone’s home where a “book of the month” is discussed over coffee and dessert. Of course, the range of good literature is huge and how beneficial to be able to share thoughts with someone else who is reading the same book. Imagine how inviting a group like this might be to someone in the community who loves to read and has no church home.

These are just three possible front doors—entry points into Spirit of Peace besides the church door on Sunday mornings. These would be places where two basic things could be discovered especially by those who have never been to church. First, GOD IS GOOD. And second, CHRISTIANS AREN’T WEIRD! Simple lessons, but ones that would make that first Sunday morning in worship among us much more pleasant and inviting. Besides, we have many new folks that are part of our fellowship and we need these small groups for them to get to know us and for us to get to know them!

How do ministries like these begin? When someone says, “I believe God is calling me to start this ministry.” And then armed with some resources that are available, we just give it a go. Any journey worth taking begins with one tiny step. And then we watch and wait to see what God will do with our willing hearts and hands.

This is our Christmas Wish List for 2009. New front doors!





Study on Sexuality

In August 2009, our ELCA Church wide Assembly will consider adopting a broad social statement on sexuality, including, but not limited to, the areas of pre-marital sex and homosexuality. A social statement within our church is not necessarily policy but rather a teaching tool used to explore real life issues in light of our Christian faith. In today's culture we wrestle, as God's people, on all sides of serious topics such as gay marriage and pre-marital sex.

Neal Hertzmann has agreed to serve as discussion leader for this 4 week study to begin on the first Sunday of January. On January 4th we will begin at 11:00 am with a 2 hour session over a pizza lunch. Participants will receive a copy of the sexuality draft to be considered at the ELCA Assembly. Please let Neal or Pastor know if you would like to participate in this effort.

Additional copies of this document are available for those who are unable to participate in the study. To receive a copy, contact the church office of Neal Hertzmann.

The Power of a Simple Gift

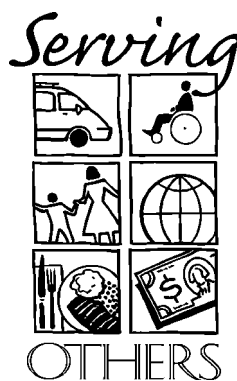
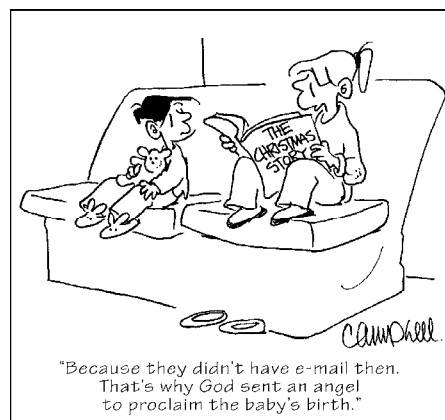
A very special thanks to all who participated in "Operation Shoebox" with our Methodist friends. 246 boxes were assembled full of hygiene items, school supplies, clothing items, and toys and were delivered by the Chatham's and Elbert's to a huge warehouse in Anaheim. Our 246 boxes combine with tens of thousands of boxes there. And those boxes will combine with others all over the country for a goal of 8 million boxes to be sent to the countries of China, Peru, Panama, Guyana, and the Philippines. Children of all ages, for whom Christmas gifts are a rare luxury, will receive these heartfelt gifts of love. Special thanks to Pat and Tom Elbert for their leadership in this ministry and to all who donated items and support.



"Cinderella"

There were about 20 of us that thoroughly enjoyed the Cinderella presentation at the PAC on November 16th. What a great way to put yourself in the Spirit of Christmas with all those children —some we actually knew —and such great performances by all. It puts us back to the time when Lesley Warren was Cinderella on television as we remembered the songs that reminded us of days gone by. I think next year's play is Wizard of Oz. We'll plan to support the PAC by attending that play also.

Janet Webber
Fellowship Chairperson



Partners and Neighbors. . .

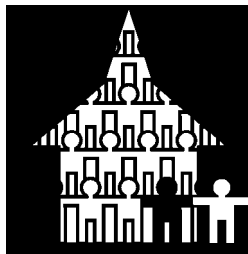
As a result of visiting other Church Councils of Lutheran Churches in our area, we've begun to develop some wonderful relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ that share a common Lutheran understanding and way of ministry. One such church is Faith in Yucaipa. In their December newsletter is an article about our ministry. Here's one about theirs. . .

Faith in Yucaipa is one of the nearest ELCA congregations to Big Bear. Faith was founded in 1949. The pastor of Faith is Rev. Patricia Hoenshell. She has been there for about 3 years. Through the years, choirs have been a major part of their worship ministry. Their sanctuary was dedicated in 1965 and is a sweeping space where music can find a new excellence in sound. Also important in their 59 year history was the intern program, a learning program for women and men becoming ordained pastors. More than 14 interns learned how to minister at Faith. In 1990, the church built a large fellowship hall which seats 700 and features a stage. Since 1993, Faith has been a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation which strives for inclusivity of all races, genders and sexual orientation. The congregation is the sole support of a food pantry which currently provides food for 2000 meals every two weeks to the surrounding neighborhood. The congregation is the home of Faith Preschool which has a more than 35 year history in Yucaipa. Their director of 25 years, Lynda Lawson, is known as the region's best.

We will look forward to continuing this special relationship with the people of Faith Lutheran—encouraging one another, lifting each other up in prayer, and seeing how we can do more together. Faith will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2009; we'll be celebrating our 5th. Kind of like the special relationship between a grandparent and child!

If you're down the hill on a Sunday morning, worship with them at either 8:15 or 10:45 am. Let them know you're from Spirit of Peace and that you're excited to see how our relationship with them will grow!

***New Member
Associate Member
Reception***



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Sunday, January 25, 2008 at 9:30 Worship

Orientation Session the Tuesday before
January 20, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Contact Pastor Tim or call the church office if you're interested in knowing more about becoming a Member or an Associate Member of Spirit of Peace.

As part of
their
New Concert
Series,
Faith is
hosting
The Mesa
Grande
Academy,
Monday,
December 15,
7:30 pm.

Take a trip
down the hill to
join them for
this delightful
evening!



December

12/05 *Richard Craig*

12/17 *Joe Hammond*

12/22 *Charlie Gehrke*

12/23 *Lorene Carlson*

12/23 *Alan Leutloff*

12/23 *Matt Hollander*

12/25 *Pastor David Babcock*



Our Church Family



Healing

- Linda Griffith —healing after surgery
- Geri Bray (friend of Jane Kunz) —undergoing chemo therapy/slight stroke
- Jered (friend of Danessa Barto) —healing after hand surgery
- Danny (son of Doris Angerhoffer's friend) — Parkinson's
- Lynn Buele —undergoing tests
- Jane Grimson —acute leukemia
- Marian Bacon (friend of Linda Wilson's) —brain cancer
- Lynn Thompson (friend of Kathy Kerr's) —brain tumors
- Andy Mearse (friend of Bartos) —chronic pain
- Candy Seimers (family member of Sandy Groon) — cancer
- Lori Baltus (Linda Wilson's friend) —blood cancer
- Ken Root (inlaw of Leon & Terry Baudot) —severe heart condition
- Janice Schlieder —lupus and knee problems
- Kelly Pflieger (Rick & Penny Coehlo's daughter) — cancer
- Jill Barto
- Merrilee Seidel —sever back problems, car accident
- Steven Adams —undergoing cancer treatment
- Christine Race (Janet Webber's daughter) —stability of health
- Alma Bauer (Paul's mom)
- Glenn Beyer
- Betty Adams —cancer & Alzheimers
- Sierra Meadows —Crohn's disease
- Michelle (Neal Hertzmann's niece) —breast cancer
- Bruce Wilson —(Linda Wilson's brother-in-law) prostate cancer
- Joe LaMura (friend of Judy Hollander) —cancer
- Herb Bauer (Paul's father) —Parkinson's disease
- Anni Ruther (Doris Angerhofer's mother) —chronic pain
- Norb Hesch —Parkinson's disease
- Sue Griffith (Bill's mother) —Alzheimers; in assisted living



Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—

- Victims of recent wildfires and mudslides
- Victims of terrorist attacks in Mumbai
- Ceara Gehrke
- Caregivers
- Vonnie Lassen (83 year old neighbor of Janet Webber's)

Safety & Protection

Those in the military: Sam McCullar (Navy); Tim Lauer (Navy Submarine); Scott (Rick Coehlo's friend), LCpl Tyler Craig (Wendy Craig's son in Angola, Africa), Cory Amelsberg (Iraq), Sean Parrish (deployed); Sgt. William Van-Sickle (Iraq), Marc DiConti and Son; Jeff Taylor (Keyson's Son serving in Iraq), 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Devin Barto (AIT training, Alabama)

Those who travel up and down the hill during the holiday season.

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

www.spiritofpeacebigbear.org

Email: spiritofpeacelutheran@verizon.net

Office: (909) 878-2650

FAX: (909) 878-2643

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2997

Big Bear City, 92314

Office Location and Hours:

41619 Big Bear Blvd. Suite 1A

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)

Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm

SOP Family Dinner

3:30 pm

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
December 8

**SOP needs new
front doors for
Christmas...
see inside!**