

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

January 2012

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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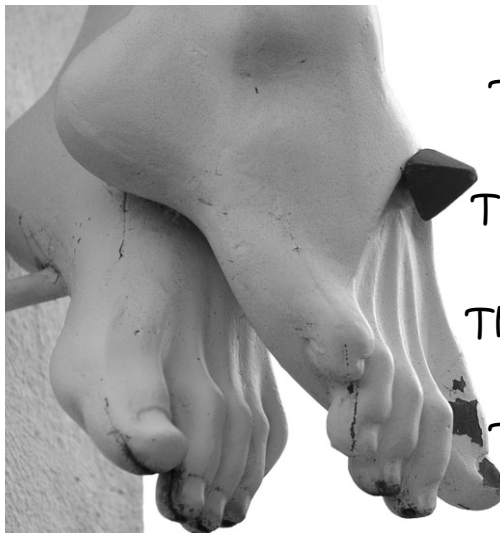
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The Body of Christ



The Feet of Christ

The Eyes of Christ

The Hands of Christ

The Mouth of Christ

The Ears of Christ

The Heart of Christ

This year's Lenten series takes time to consider seriously our Lord's humanity, the human body in which He brought our salvation. Week by week, we'll consider a different part of Christ's Body and behold the beauty of a God who was clothed in human flesh for our sake.

*Deadline for
March Newsletter
February 26, 2012*

From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

Here's a beautiful story I think you'll enjoy—

Bobby was a special-education boy. He was just bright enough to remain in a regular classroom but was still noticeably different. He was the constant butt of jokes by his classmates, but he never seemed to mind. Every day, as the neighborhood kids walked home from school, Bobby's mother would look out the window to see them all laughing and joking together—all except Bobby. He was always walking behind the others, all alone. It was obvious that the other children felt uncomfortable around Bobby and shunned him.

One day Bobby burst into the kitchen after school. "Mom, guess what?" he said. "Valentine's Day is two weeks away, and our teacher said we could make valentines and give them to the other kids in our class!"

His mother's heart sank as she pictured yet another opportunity for Bobby to be excluded. "Mom," Bobby continued, "I'm going to make valentines for every person in my class!"

"That's very nice, Bobby," his mother answered, fighting back the tears.

Over the next two weeks, Bobby worked every afternoon on those valentines. They were truly labors of love. When the big day finally came, he was so excited about taking his valentines to school that he couldn't eat breakfast. But he was also a little worried.

"I hope I didn't forget anybody," he said as he dashed off to school.

Bobby's mother made a fresh batch of his favorite cookies and prepared herself to comfort her son when he returned home broken-

hearted from the valentine's exchange. She knew how disappointed he would be with the response he got from the other children.

That afternoon she saw the same cluster of neighborhood kids walking home together. A half block behind them, all alone, was Bobby. Bobby's mother turned away and placed a plate of cookies on the table.

Much to her surprise, Bobby came through the door with a huge smile on his face. "What is it, Bobby?" she asked. "How did it go?"

With a shout of pure joy, Bobby said, "Guess what, Mom! I didn't forget a single kid!"

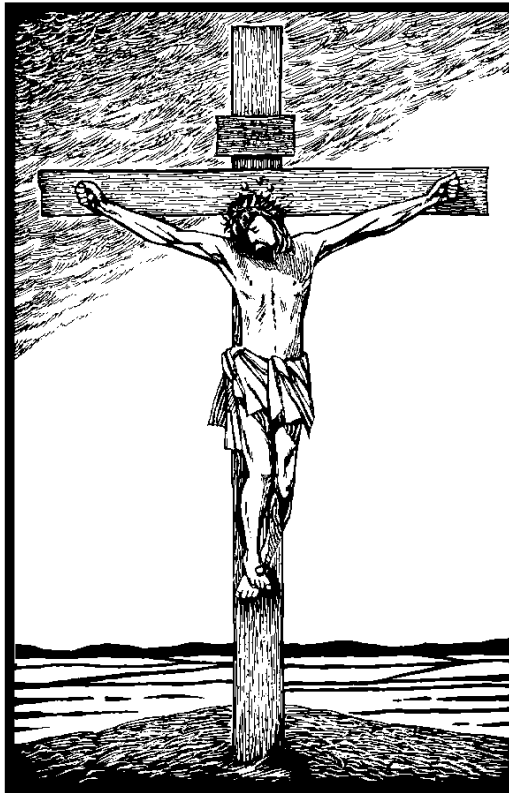
Bobby was so focused on giving that he didn't consider the response he would get. He was so concerned about others that he was blind to the fact that he was being slighted.

Jesus gave His life for us knowing that we would not receive Him. John chapter 1 says, "He was in the world, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to His own people, but they didn't want Him."

That's God's love for you. It is unconditional, unselfish, and given with no strings attached.

As we journey together this Lent, let us be intentional about growing in our faith so that at the end of this journey, as we stand face to face with Jesus on a cross, we will understand, perhaps just a little bit more, a love that seeks not for its own reward but for the sake of others. "For God so loved the world that He gave." (John 3:16). And you know what. . .He didn't forget a single one of us!

Deep Peace on the Journey!
Pastor Tim



“He was in the world, and yet the world didn’t even notice. He came to His own people, but they didn’t want Him.”

John 1

The story comes from *Hot Illustrations, Youth Specialties*.

Ash Tuesday Observance With Imposition of Ashes

Tuesday, February 21st, 7:15 p.m.

The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.



History of Lent

For Lutherans the 40-day season of Lent is an important one. But what is Lent? Do the Scriptures mention it? Why do we observe it?

Though the Scriptures do not mention Lent, it has a longstanding tradition in the Church. It began as a time of preparation for Easter. From the earliest times it was customary for Christians in most places to fast before Easter. At first this was a 2-day fast (Friday and Saturday). As time passed, this fast was extended here and there to a week. Though we are not certain how it developed, by 350 A.D. the 40-day fast that we now have was already in vogue in most places. The earliest reference to a 40 day fast leading up to Easter is the Second Festal letter of Athanasius in 330 A.D. Today Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Ash Tuesday for us) and ends on Holy Saturday (Sundays are excluded to preserve the number 40).

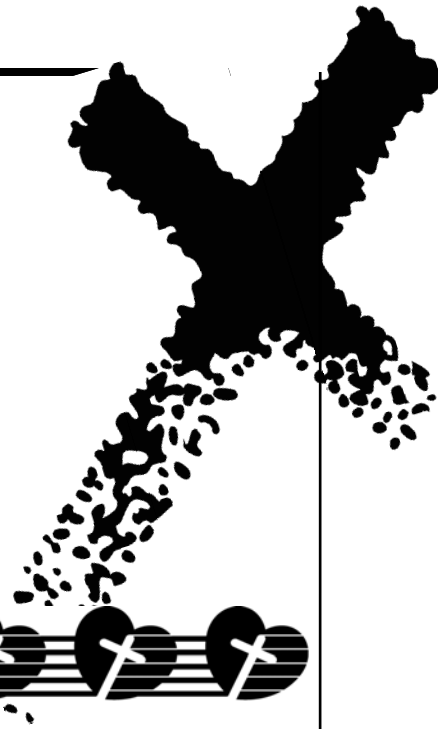
For Christians living in the 4th Century Lent had two major emphases: (1) It was seen as a time of repentance and denial of self. All Christians were to examine their lives according to the Ten Commandments and other Christian ethical precepts and repent where necessary. They were to remember what it cost their Savior to save them, (2) It was a time of instruction and preparation for catechumens who wanted to become members of the Christian Church. During Lent they learned the Christian doctrine by studying the Creed. They were led step by step through prayer and special rites toward baptism. If they "passed" they were baptized and received the Lord's Supper in a joyous service either on Easter Eve (the Easter Vigil) or Easter itself.

At the time of the Reformation, some Christians wanted to eliminate Lent since Scripture didn't command it. Luther urged that it be kept, for he saw Lent as an opportunity for the strengthening of faith. "Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week shall be retained, not to force anyone to fast, but to preserve the Passion history and the Gospels appointed for that season" (LW 53:90).

So we also retain Lent to this day, because we see it as a discipline that gives Christians a wonderful opportunity for spiritual renewal. Our observance of Lent combines many of the above features. Through our midweek and Sunday services, our Bible studies, and other learning opportunities, we come face to face with whatever sin may be hindering our walk with Christ. But most profoundly, we come face to face with the Gospel of Jesus which forgives and removes that sin and gives us the power to live anew.

Are you satisfied with your walk with Christ? Or do you long for more: to know Him better, to be more like Him, to experience His love more profoundly? Then submit yourself to the discipline of Lent. There is nothing like it to bring you face to face with Jesus and His Gospel. There is nothing like it to find spiritual renewal.

(written by Dr. Richard P. Bucher, Lutheran Pastor)



Guest Preacher to Join Us on February 19th —

Pastor Derek Fossey, Associate Pastor at Hope Lutheran in Palm Desert, will be preaching at Spirit of Peace and Pastor Tim will be preaching at Hope. This “pulpit exchange” is a sign of the special relationship we have with the folks at Hope. Many of our own people (snowbirds) attend that church when they are down the hill. Hope is also very supportive of our ministry on the hill.

Annual Report



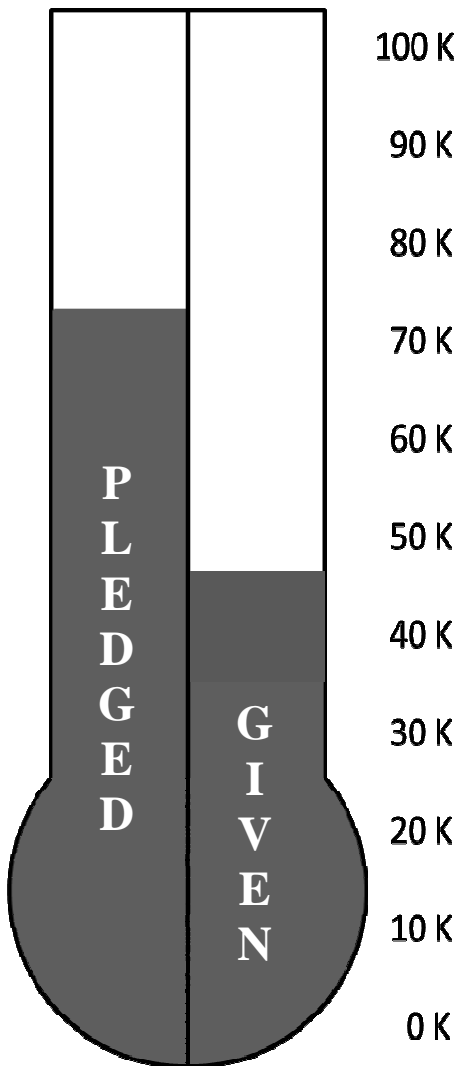
Not Able to Attend the Congregational Meeting?

Copies of the annual report are available in the office. Find out what’s going on in your church!

Special thanks to Merrilee and all who brought food. It made our meeting not only productive, but delicious!



2012 Wine Auction
Sunday, June 23rd
 Reserve the date on your calendar and attend THE social event on the mountain!



“Build Us Up!”
Getting Ready for the Future
God Has Planned
Goal: Raise the Building Fund Balance to \$100,000

This will enable us to enter into a lease option, loan process, or other space possibilities that might become available down the road of ministry. When we reach our goal we will be better prepared to move forward with a strong financial foundation. This is the next step of faith we take together as a young mission congregation. “Build us up, Lord!” Amen!

Still Time to Get on Board

Gifts are matched dollar for dollar so every gift counts! Give a few dollars if that’s all you can afford or more if you are able. The goal is to have everyone participate in this moving forward step of ministry.

All gifts given are placed in the building fund which is a restricted fund. Your contributions will only be used for the specific purpose of securing property or a building of our own.

Make a pledge by contacting the church office. Pledges are paid over a period of time —between now and Easter.



Remember Our Angel Fund...

This special fund assists families and individuals who are in special need. Currently, this fund is being used to help with transportation for the Turney family as Garret goes up and down the hill for his chemotherapy.

Gifts to this fund may be placed in the offering plate and marked "Angel Fund."



Healing

- Ron Barto
- Ed Cedergreen —upcoming heart surgery
- Janice Schlieder —back injury
- Rae (family member of Pr Margaret)
- Pete (father of Kathryn Dickerson) —recovering from heart surgery
- JT —neighbor recovering from cancer surgery
- Frances (Warren's sister) —healing after surgery
- Garret Turney —undergoing chemotherapy
- Bary Schlieder —recovering from brain aneurysms
- Skip (friend of Linda Griffith's) —colon cancer (strength for Keith and Bea)
- Kathryn Dickerson —relief of pain/discomfort
- Richard Johnston (Warren's brother-in-law) —healing cancer surgery
- Daphne Mitchell (family of Linda Wilson) —brain stem cancer
- 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
- Elizabeth (granddaughter of Linda Wilson)
- 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 Groom) —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

Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—

- Chris (Betty Cummin's daughter)
- Kelly (daughter of Bill & Linda Griffith)
- Dianne Finnecey —seminary student
- Ron & Jacquie (KJ's brother/sis-in-law)
- Caregivers
- Christine/Anthony (Janet Webber's daughter/grandson)

Safety & Protection—

—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 DiConti 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)

Prayer and Praise Page

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



	2/3	Emily Turney
	2/3	Jim Ryan
	2/7	Anna Hilliard
	2/9	Danessa Brown
	2/9	Diane Clark
2/10	MaKayla Andrade	
2/10	Joanne Woolley	
2/15	Ernie Szabo	
2/28	Pastor Tim	



- 2/23 Rick & Penny Coelho
- 2/26 Eric & Emily Turney

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church
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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)

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

A warm and inviting blend
of liturgical and contemporary
styles.

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
February 6th**

**"I have found the
paradox, that if you
love until it hurts,
there can be no more
hurt, only love."
Mother Teresa**