

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

February 2009

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

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349 E. North Shore Dr.
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(Seventh Day
Adventist Church)

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Director of Music

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Danessa Barto, Judi Hollander, Pat
Crain, Neal Hertzmann, Sandy
Groon, Dale & Janet Webber
Office

Pat Crain
Newsletter Editor

**Ash Wednesday Worship
With Imposition of Ashes**
Tuesday, February 24th, 7:15 pm

Weekly Lent Worship
Tuesdays, 7:15 pm

**Book Study with St. Columba's
At Spirit of Peace**
Tuesdays in Lent beginning March 3rd, 6:00 pm
Henri Nouwen's "With This Cup"
Led by Father Joe and Stephen Caldwell

Stations of the Cross
At St. Columba's
Fridays in Lent beginning March 27, 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday Observance
Combined Worship at Methodist Church



LENT

**Deadline for
March Newsletter
February 22, 2009**

From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

The following letter appears in a book by Dan Taylor called *Letters to My Children* (InterVarsity Press, 1989). Dan is writing to his son Matthew.

Dear Matthew,

When I was in the sixth grade I was an all-American. I was smart, athletic, witty, handsome, and incredibly nice. Things went downhill fast in junior high, but for this one year at least, I had everything.

Unfortunately, I also had Miss Owens for an assistant teacher. She helped Mr. Jenkins, our regular teacher. She knew that even though I was smart and incredibly nice, there was still a thing or two I could work on.

One of the things you were expected to do in grade school was learn to dance. My parents may have had some reservations at first, but since this was square dancing, it was okay.

Every time we went to work on our dancing, we did this terrible thing. The boys would all line up at the door of our classroom. Then, one at a time, each boy would pick a girl to be his partner. The girls all sat at their desks. As they were chosen, they left their desks and joined the snot-nosed kids who had honored them with their favor.

Believe me, the boys did not like doing this—at least I didn't. But think about being one of those girls. Think about waiting to get picked. Think about seeing who was going to get picked before you. Think about worrying that you'd get picked by someone you couldn't stand. Think about worrying whether you were going to get picked at all!

Think if you were Mary. Mary sat near the front of the classroom on the right side. She wasn't pretty. She wasn't real smart. She wasn't witty. She was nice, but that wasn't enough in those days. And Mary certainly wasn't athletic. In fact, she'd had polio or something when she was younger; one of her arms was drawn up, and she had a bad leg, and to finish it off, she was kind of fat.

Here's where Miss Owens comes in. Miss Owens took me aside one day and said, "Dan, next time we have square dancing, I want you to choose Mary."

She may as well have told me to fly to Mars. It was an idea that was so new and inconceivable that I could barely hold it in my head. You mean pick someone other than the best, the most pretty, the most popular, when my turn came? That seemed like breaking a law of nature or something.

And then Miss Owens did a really rotten thing. She told me it was what a Christian should do. I knew

immediately that I was doomed. I was doomed because I knew she was right. It was exactly the kind of thing Jesus would have done. I was surprised, in fact, that I hadn't seen it on a Sunday school flannel board yet: "Jesus choosing the lame girl for the Yeshiva dance." It was bound to be somewhere in the Bible.

I agonized. Choosing Mary would go against all the coolness I had accumulated.

The day came when we were to square dance again. If God really loved me, I thought, he will make me last. Then picking Mary will cause no stir. I will have done the right thing, and it won't have cost me anything.

You can guess where I was instead. For whatever reason, Mr. Jenkins made me first in line. There I was, my heart pounding—now I knew how some of the girls must have felt.

The faces of the girls were turned toward me, some smiling. I looked at Mary and saw that she was half-turned to the back of the room, her face staring down at her desk. Mr. Jenkins said, "Okay, Dan—choose your partner."

I remember feeling very far away. I heard my voice say, "I choose Mary."

Never has reluctant virtue been so rewarded. I still see her face undimmed in my memory. She lifted her head, and on her face, reddened with pleasure and surprise and embarrassment all at the same time, was the most genuine look of delight and even pride that I have ever seen, before or since. It was so pure that I had to look away because I knew I didn't deserve it.

Mary came and took my arm, as we had been instructed, and she walked beside me, bad leg and all, just like a princess.

Mary is my age now. I never saw her after that year. I don't know what her life's been like or what she's doing. But I'd like to think she has a fond memory of at least one day in sixth grade. I know I do.

The good news of the Gospel is that we have been chosen by God. You are someone special in the eyes of God. God looked out over all the world and for some crazy reason saw you and me and said, "I choose Tim; I choose Charlie; I choose Anna; I choose insert your own name here." The greatest day of your life was the day when God chose you. "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last" (John 15:16). Happy Valentine's Day and remember. . . you ARE loved!

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim

"You
did not
choose
me, but
I chose
you. . ."
John
15:16



We Welcome Our New Partners in Ministry. . .

On Sunday, January 25th,
in joyful thanksgiving,
we received 4 new members:

Earl Gentry

P.O. Box 1001, Sugarloaf, 92386

Friend of Betty Cummins, Earl has lived in Sugarloaf for a couple of years now. He was part of the beginnings of JC Penny, served in the Navy (Guam) and became a vocational teacher. At one time, Earl owned an RV park. Earl grew up as a Baptist.

John and Carmen McCutcheon

P.O. Box 1555, Big Bear City, 92314

John and Carmen have lived on the mountain for about 6 years. They met at a swap meet. Carmen sold jewelry and John was a full Colonel in the Army and played football at Stanford.

Daniel Ploch (Dan)

P.O. Box 132235, Big Bear Lake, 92315

Dan has been Lutheran all his life and served in law enforcement as an LA Sheriff and detective. He now volunteers for the US Forest Service and is a Field Ranger for part of the year. He is married to Setsuko and has two adult children.



A new Church Directory is on its way! Please see the master copy available soon on Sunday morning and double check your info. A special thanks to Neal Hertzmann, office volunteer, who keeps our database current!



Mystery Minister. . .

Here's something new and 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 will feature a biographical sketch of one of members/associate members. Your job is to try to guess who it is.

From Union Creek, South Dakota:

It's a Currier and Ives vignette. Outside the snow is silently painting the farms and houses pristine white. Here and there an evergreen peaks through its mantle of snow. The little creatures have taken refuge in their burrows.

Inside the child clears the steam from the window with her fist as she watches and waits. When Grandma has finished setting up the meal and baking the cookies she joins her grandchild in the next room. Here they will share their love of creating, a snip of this and snip of that. . . Maybe this evening they'll use paint and brushes. Comfortable in their warm house, they'll prepare a blueprint for the future. Here the little girl learns the secrets of crafting that she'll use and enjoy for a lifetime.

When the time comes and she graduates from high school, she'll pack her suitcase for the trip that will change her life. But under her hat she has all of Grandma's ideas and many more of her own. She's on her way to sunny California.

“Who do you think this Person is?” asks the Church Mouse. (see p. 5 at the bottom for the correct answer)





Lutheran/Episcopal Meetings. . .

Is God calling us to consider a building program with St. Columba's? Our Church Council has approved a feasibility study to determine whether or not there is a level of interest to proceed. We will keep you posted as things develop.

Study on Sexuality

Special thanks to all who participated in the Sunday morning study. Neal Hertzmann managed the discussions leading us to consider several key points in the ELCA Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality. Discussions were open and informative and helpful to us all as we wrestle as a culture, as a Church and as individuals with these critical issues. Copies are still available in the office for those who weren't able to attend.

Soon to be released will be the final draft that will go on to our ELCA's Convention this summer where it will be considered for adoption. In the meantime, there will be forums throughout our Pacifica Synod where more dialogue can take place. We'll keep you posted. Thank you again for being faithful members of a larger Church and participating in this churchwide process. The ELCA seeks to be faithful to God, to Scripture, and to the needs of people.

Serving Faithfully . . .

as our Deacon for many years has been Tom Williams. As Deacon, Tom has made sure that every Sunday morning we have readers, ushers, and communion assistants as well as worship supplies (wafers, wine, etc). We thank Tom for his faithfulness as his council position comes to a conclusion and he steps down from this ministry.



Needed immediately is someone to fill this position. This is a well organized ministry (thanks to Tom) with names of those already willing to serve. Please consider whether God may be calling you to this very important ministry of our congregation. Let Charlie or Pastor Tim know that you are willing and able to cover this area of ministry!

Didn't get to the Annual Meeting. . .

but would still like to know what's going on? Call the office or stop by and get your copy of the 2008 Annual Report. Included are committee reports and reports from your pastor and lay leaders. Also included, is a year-end financial statement.



Our Children's Program

We've had to postpone Discovery Canyon for a later time this Spring but meanwhile, we are busy getting ready for it. Many helpers are needed to staff Discovery Canyon —teachers, helpers, cooks, craft persons, music person, recreation person. This is a unique program in the valley that uses VBS material, only it is offered on Tuesday evenings for 5 weeks. What a great response we had from kids and parents for our last session! Let's build on that excitement and make Discovery Canyon a wonderful learning experience for kids!

**Planning Meeting February 10th, 7:00 pm
at church**



Our Church Family



February

- 2/3 James Ryan
- 2/3 Emily Turney
- 2/7 Anna Hilliard
- 2/9 Diane Clark
- 2/23 Angela McClune
- 2/25 Danessa Barto
- 2/28 Pastor Tim



- 2/23/74 Rick & Penny Coelho
- 2/26/05 Eric & Emily Turney



We Celebrate 5 Years of Ministry...

in 2009. The major celebration event will be held on Sunday, April 19th—the week after Easter! Special guests and a luncheon will mark the occasion. Let Doris Angerhofer, Anniversary Chair, know if you can help with the festivities!



Healing

- KJ
- Anna—Vertigo
- Geri Bray (friend of Jane Kunz)—undergoing chemotherapy/ slight stroke
- Danny (son of Doris Angerhoffer's friend) -Parkinson's
- 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—upcoming back surgery
- 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—

- Death of Jane Grimson who had leukemia for whom we'd been praying
- Chatham Family—death of son, David
- Ceara Gehrke
- Caregivers
- Vonnie Lassen (83 year old neighbor of Janet Webber's)
- Newly elected President and Government Officials

Safety & Protection

- Those who Travel: Bill & Pat Crain
- 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 VanSickle (Iraq), Marc DiConti and Son; Jeff Taylor (Keyson's Son serving in Iraq), 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Devin Barto (AIT Training, Kentucky); Davin Barto (basic training at Fort Knox)



The Mystery Minister for this month is: Sandy Groon. Sandy knew there was an ELCA church up here, but she just couldn't find it! Yet she (and friend Anna) kept looking and at a local garage sale happened to ask and someone told them where we worship. Sandy is active in two community Bible studies and serves as our Friday office volunteer as well as Council Secretary. With her love of crafts, Sandy has helped as one of our artists for the Living Art in Spirit of Christmas and has been in charge of arts and crafts for our children's program.

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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)

Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 a.m.

Education Hour

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
February 9**

**"We are not yet
what we shall be
but we are growing
toward it." Luther**