

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

January 2010

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Email:
spiritofpeacelutheran@verizon.net
www.spiritofpeacebigbear.org

STAFF

Timothy Edmondson
Pastor

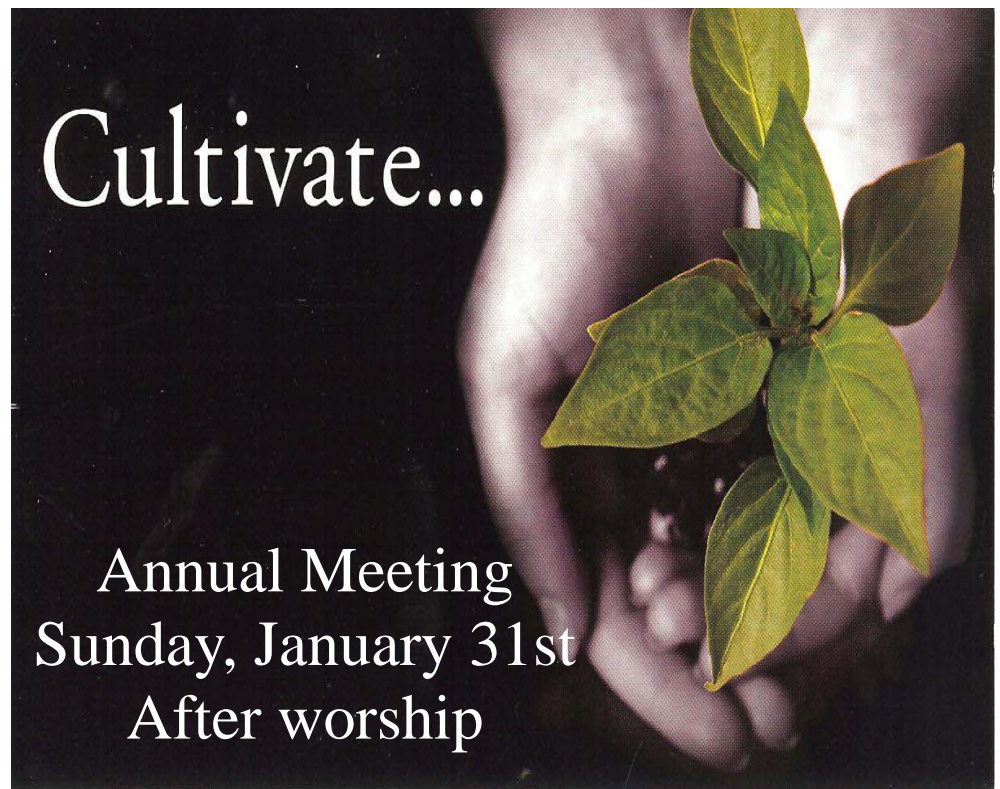
KJ Barto
Director of Music

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Linda Griffith, Judi Hollander, Neal
Hertzmann, Sandy Groon,
Office

Copy Editor
Jack Kunz

Some plant, others water,
but God gives the growth . . .



Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 31st
After worship

(Lite Lunch to be Served)

**Agenda to include Annual Reports,
Election of Officers,
and Approval of 2010 Budget**

All Members, Associate Members and others of our
church family are urged to attend.

*Deadline for
February Newsletter
January 24, 2010*

From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

Once there was an emperor in the Far East who was growing old and knew it was coming time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or one of his own children, he decided to do something different.

He called all the young people in the kingdom together one day. He said, "It has come time for me to step down and to choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you." The kids were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today. One seed. It is a very special seed. I want you to go home, plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plant that you bring to me, and the one I choose will be the next emperor of the kingdom!"

There was one boy named Ling who was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the whole story. She helped him get a pot and some plant soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Ling kept going home and checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by. Still nothing. By now all the others were talking about their plants but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by—still nothing in Ling's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends, however. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she encouraged him to go, and to take his pot, and to be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by all the other youths. They were beautiful—in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other kids laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey, nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you

have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!"

When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name. "My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quiet down. He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!"

Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor?

Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

Our job is the same as Ling's—all we can do is bring the Lord our pots with the seed God has given us. In our case, the seed is not boiled but full of great

potential; but nonetheless, it is not our responsibility to make the seed grow. Ling did his best but knew that the power of the seed to sprout was not his to make happen. And while he considered himself a "failure," his faithfulness proved him in the end to be the hero.

The others? They gave up on the seed of the emperor and substituted their own plans for growth. While they produced results, the results were not worthy of the emperor's admiration.

God has planted a seed within the ministry of this congregation. Fortunately, it is not our responsibility to make that seed do anything. But it is our job to water it, to nurture it, to provide fertile soil for it. And by God's grace, and God's grace alone, that seed just may sprout and grow.

2010 launches a brand new exciting theme for our ministry together: CULTIVATE. Can't wait to do some digging in the dirt with you!

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim



"Some plant, others water, but God gives the growth!"

1 Cor. 3:6



Thanks to All Who Made Christmas So Special. . .

Our Christmas Eve service was beautiful thanks to so many hard workers. Our choir sounded great! The instrumental quartet was wonderful! Our readers did a terrific job! The sanctuary looked awesome thanks to Pat Elbert who made sure we had brand new Christmas banners and to Sharon Edmondson who provided from her school, dozens of festive poinsettias. Attendance was strong and the Spirit of the Christ-Child present. And what a blessing to end the evening gathered around the altar singing in candlelight "Silent Night." The evening began with a time of fellowship. . wonderful appetizers and delicious holiday drinks! Thanks to all who coordinated the fellowship time and to all who brought goodies. The entire evening made for one giant Christmas gift for all who attended!



Dear People of Spirit of Peace—

Ron and I would like to thank the congregation for the gift given to us on Christmas Eve. Your generosity is much appreciated. We are honored to be part of this lovely church and deeply appreciate the friendships and relationships with everyone at Spirit of Peace. We are looking forward to a great 2010.

Blessings to all,

KJ & Ron

PS Thanks to all of my ever-faithful choir. You are great! I doubt you fully realize just how much of a blessing you are to the Spirit of Peace congregation....but you are!

Dear Friends—

Once again, our Christmas joy overflowed because of you! Sharon and I were moved and blessed by your kind and generous Christmas spirit. The cards, the gifts and the congregational financial gift were so appreciated and received with such gratitude. Erin and Bryan also say "thanks" for the ways you remembered them as well. More than anything though, we value your affection and love—a great gift to us! Know of our love for you as well.

It continues to be a rich blessing to serve the Lord among you. May God continue to smile on our relationship as we move forward in ministry. Happy New Year!

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim



With Gratitude to You for Your Faithfulness. . .

Thank you to all who have returned their financial commitment cards for 2010. This is a tremendous help in planning ministry for the coming year. For a variety of reasons perhaps, the economy notwithstanding, pledges did not show a marked increase for the coming year; however, the pledged total remains consistent with current giving patterns and is a clear and fierce indication that we will not go backwards in ministry. We are determined to continue the course that God has set before us! May God bless your generous hearts and add His blessing to the work we do in the name of Christ!



Linda & Bill Griffith
Stewardship



Annual Report



Annual Reports Due by January 17th

If you serve as a Church Council officer or are a member of Church Council that leads a particular ministry, or if you lead any other ministry at Spirit of Peace, you are asked to submit a written report for the congregational meeting in January. The report need not be long and should include names of those who participated and what was accomplished in the year 2009. Plans for 2010 can also be included in your report. Please submit your reports to the church office by Sunday, January 17th. Thank you and thanks for the way you serve as a leader of this congregation!

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 our members/associate members. Your job is to try to guess who it is. . .



No "Sturm und Drang" here. Wow, I always wanted to throw that expression in somewhere ever since I discovered it 30 years ago. (*editor's note: might our church mouse be a bit German?*) Pardon me if I do a little celebratory solo 2 step here. It sounds impressive, but it just means no "storm and stress" for which our mystery minister and lovely lady is extremely apologetic.

No, what we have here is a peaceful and romantic story—a couple of swans floating along wing to wing. It'll never make it to the scandal magazines or the supermarket tabloids. But hey, do we care? We get enough of that from the celebrities in the media.

Let's digress. After High School there was college: Cal Poly, Pomona and then Cal State, Long Beach. With her teaching credential under her belt (so to speak) she set out to make her mark in the field of education, specifically in the Long Beach Unified District in the area of Child Development. She was 18 years in the nursery and 19 years in K-5. While she was usually site director or lead teacher, her preference was to be in the classroom—singing, dancing, teaching, and playing with the little ones.

Somewhere along the way she met this gorgeous guy. They married, lived on the beach, and then Naples. They enjoyed camping, fishing, and traveling in their camper truck. They were thrilled to discover the firefly in Terre Haute, Indiana and are looking forward to visiting Mt. Rushmore and the Civil War sites. Who would believe she loved and raised pigeons in Jr. High? Now that she's grown up she's into poodles, 2 children, and 8 grandchildren.

While this couple was originally Methodist, one day they decided to join a Lutheran Church situated only one block from their home. They've been happily involved in Lutheranism ever since.

However, and there is a however, she says, "I never felt more a part of any church than here at SOP—so much love, support and belonging to a real church family. And Pastor Tim is a real inspiration. His message is one of God speaking to us."

"Who do you think these persons are?" asks the Church Mouse.
(see p. 5 for the correct answer)



Our Dear Sister, Charlotte Williams. . .

. . . was lovingly swept up into the arms of her Lord and taken to heaven just a few days before Christmas. Char was a charter member of this congregation and well-loved. A faithful believer, a fierce prayer warrior, and friend to us all. . . we will miss her terribly. A memorial service is being planned for the spring to be held at church.



**This month's
Mystery
Minister is . . .**

Linda Griffith, a fireball of activity at SOP! Linda is spending more time up here these days with hubbie, Bill. When they are not on the hill, they reside in Palm Dessert. Linda volunteers in the office, serves as Co-Stewardship Chairperson, and was responsible for running this past year's very successful wine auction. She is an important player in the women's Bible Study too. Her faith and spirit are an inspiration to many.



Healing

- Janice Schlieder —several autoimmune disorders
- Kathy Wild —heart problems
- Anna —tests
- Gavin Doll (friend of Sandra Mullins) —newborn awaiting heart transplant
- 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
- Germaine (Anna's daughter) —diagnosed with cancer
- 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) —blood cancer
- Alma Bauer (Paul's mom)
- Glenn Beyer
- Betty Adams —cancer & Alzheimers
- Sierra Meadows —Crohn's disease
- Joe LaMura (friend of Judy 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—

- Tom Williams & Family —death of Char
- Martha McKinley, Ivan, & Lauren —death of her father, Keith
- Devin —guidance
- Bary & Janice Schlieder —death of Bary's Mom
- Paula Fashempour (owner of "Little Green House") & family —death of her husband
- Caregivers
- Christine/Anthony (Janet Webber's daughter/grandson)

Safety & Protection —Those who travel: Warren Wasson, Linda Wilson, John & Sharen Bartley

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 (Iraq), Marc Di-Conti and Son; Jeff Taylor (Keyson's Son serving in Iraq), 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Prvt 1st Class Devin Barto (Colorado Springs); Prvt 2nd Class Davin Barto (Colorado Springs), Brian McCoy (basic training/Texas); Tom Hastin (Jr Navy Seal); Travis Hastin (Army Ranger)

Prayer & Praise Page

Prayer and Praise Page

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



- 1/2 Sharen Bartley
- 1/3 Norbert Hesch
- 1/5 Bary Schlieder
- 1/7 William Elbert
- 1/7 Judith Hollander
- 1/9 Warren Wasson
- 1/12 Terry Baudot
- 1/13 John Allen
- 1/16 Dale Wooley
- 1/17 Pr. Margaret Duttera
- 1/22 Rick Coelho
- 1/26 KJ Barto
- 1/29 Addam Hammond
- 1/31 Sandra Mullins

*Prayer concerns are usually submitted through the prayer cards in the pew notebook on Sunday morning. You may also call the church office as well.
Prayer is powerful!*

We are currently updating our birthday/ anniversary list. Should we inadvertently omit someone important, please bring it to our attention! Thank you.

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
www.spiritofpeacebigbear.org
Email: spiritofpeaceclutheran@verizon.net

Office: (909) 878-2650

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)

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

A warm and inviting blend
of liturgical and contemporary

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
January 11th

**New Year's
Resolution:
"Let us love,
not in word
or speech but
in truth and
action."
(The Bible)**