

# The Call

A Publication Of  
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

January 2011

## Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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# A Blessed and Happy New Year to All!

*Deadline for  
February Newsletter  
January 23, 2011*

## From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

A man injured on the job filed an insurance claim. The insurance company requested more information, so the man wrote the insurance company the following letter of explanation:

*Dear Sirs:*

*I am writing in response to your request concerning clarification of the information I supplied in block #11 on the insurance form, which asked for the cause of the injury. I answered, "Trying to do the job alone." I trust that the following explanation will be sufficient.*

*I am a bricklayer by trade. On the date of the injury, I was working alone, laying brick around the top of a three-story building. When I finished the job, I had about five hundred pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to put them into a barrel and lower them by a pulley that was fastened to the top of the building.*

*I secured the end of the rope at ground level, went back up to the top of the building, loaded the bricks into the barrel, and pushed it over the side. I then went back down to the ground and untied the rope, holding it securely to insure the slow descent of the barrel. As you will note in block #6 of the insurance form, I weigh 145 pounds. At the shock of being jerked off the ground so swiftly by the five hundred pounds of bricks in the barrel, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.*

*Between the second and third floors I met the barrel. This accounts for the bruises and lacerations on my upper body. Fortunately, I retained enough presence of mind to maintain my tight hold on the rope and proceeded rapidly up the side of the building, not stopping until my right hand was jammed in the pulley. This accounts for my broken thumb (see block #4). Despite the pain, I continued to hold tightly to the rope. Unfortunately, at approximately the same time, the barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighed about fifty pounds. I again refer you to block #6, where my weight is listed. I began a rapid descent.*

*In the vicinity of the second floor, I met the barrel coming up. This explains the injury to my legs and*

*lower body. Slowed only slightly, I continued my descent, landing on the pile of bricks. Fortunately, my back was only sprained. I am sorry to report, however, that at this point I again lost my presence of mind—and let go of the rope.*

*I trust that this answers your concern. Please note that I am finished trying to do the job alone.*

The Christian life is not easy to live “on your own.” We all need people who stand beside us to support us and to help us succeed. That’s one benefit of being part of a church. There are no Lone Rangers in the family of God. We really do need each other. We are a community, a family of faith.

This togetherness is more than just support for the individual though. . . it is the very means by which God chooses to accomplish His purpose and plan. (See 1 Corinthians 12).

The Bible says in another place, “Where two or three gather in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” There is nothing magical about two or three that suddenly conjures up the presence of God; nor does this verse imply that when I am alone, God is not with me. It simply says, that God likes it when we get together. Our God is a “groupie” —

large groups or small groups, doesn’t matter. According to God’s design something mysteriously powerful happens when we get together. Not only does God show up (according to the Bible) but ideas are exchanged; joys are multiplied; burdens are shared; sparks fly; things happen; lives are changed; the world is renewed; the universe is altered. Amazing what happens when we’re in the presence of God!

Alone the job cannot be done —the tough lesson learned by the bricklayer. In the joining of hands is the very presence of God and in God’s presence, the miracle takes place.

It seems in every January newsletter my words to you are about the challenges that lie ahead. This year’s challenges are very similar to challenges that we met quite well in the year behind. Let us walk into the future, knowing that our strength is not in what we accomplish, but that we accomplish it together in the name of Jesus.

Deep Peace,  
Pastor Tim



### The Year Ahead

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

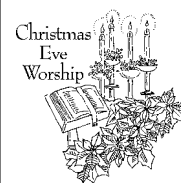
1 Cor.  
12:26

The story in the article comes from *Youth Specialties: Hot Illustrations.*



## 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 Judi Hollander who brought a Christmas tree and decorated it with angels, Pat Elbert who made sure our candles were in place (including the high-tech hand held ones), and 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 at-



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 2011. 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



**Thanks from  
the Staff**





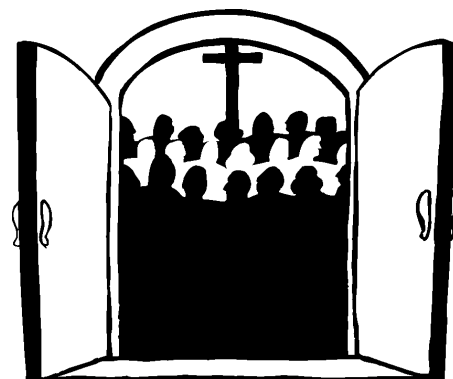
### Annual Reports Due by January 16th

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 2010. Plans for 2011 can also be included in your report. Thank you and thanks for the way you serve as a leader of this congregation!

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 30th Immediately following Worship



The Agenda will include:  
annual reports, election of council members/nominating and audit committees, adoption of 2011 budget, and a report from our "Moving Forward"



### Congregational MEETING



*"First be reconciled to your brother or sister. . ." (Matthew 5:24)*

For some people, the moments in the liturgy following the prayers of the church are awkward ones. The pastor offers these words: "The peace of Christ be with you always." The congregation responds "And also with you." The members of the congregation are then invited to "share the peace" with one another. What does that really mean?

Sharing God's peace is not simply offering a friendly hello to those sitting around you. Sharing God's peace is not a time for catching up on news with your neighbor or for reminding someone about an upcoming meeting. Sharing God's peace does not require each worshiper to offer a sign of God's peace to every other worshiper present.

Sharing God's peace with one another is an act of reconciliation. It is an opportunity for God's people to be reconciled with one another as they offer their gifts to God and before they receive the gift of Holy Communion. Over centuries, the exchange of peace sometimes came later in the service, after the Lord's Prayer and before the distribution of Communion. Some congregations still exchange the peace at this point, though the preferred placement in Evangelical Lutheran Worship is following the intercessory prayers and before the offering (quite likely the more ancient pattern).

That the sharing of the peace follows the prayers of the church is not accidental. Having been forged into a common people in Holy Baptism, the congregation prays for peace in the Church, peace in the world, and peace for all those in need. Then the congregation follows through with the people offering peace and reconciliation to one another. This is not human peace alone, but the peace which is possible only through Christ. Then, after the exchange of peace, material gifts are offered to God, for the well-being and peace of the Church, the world, and its people. Finally, having prayed for and enacted the peace, we receive the Holy Communion. Seen in context, it is clear why the exchange of Christ's peace is not a time for saying "Good morning," or for commenting on a neighbor's new outfit, or for reminding someone about next week's potluck supper. It is, rather, a time to set aside our human differences and to recognize and enact our baptismal unity as children of God.

What can the exchange of peace teach us for daily living? Christians are a people who seek reconciliation with one another. Making peace is a daily action in our lives. We do not need to wait to come to church on Sunday morning in order to make peace with our neighbors and our family members. Sharing God's peace is a daily opportunity.

(From Van Loon, Ralph R. and S. Anita Stauffer. *Worship Wordbook*.)

*God's  
Peace*



**Healing—**

- Jim (Judi Hollander's brother) —doing well after heart attack
- Cory (friend of Matt Hollander's) —lymphoma
- Linda Brady (friend of Kathy Kerr) —breast cancer
- Glenn Beyer —on hospice care
- Phyllis (friend of Kathy Kerr) —melanoma
- Hobie (friend of Jim Lyon's) -cancer
- Carole (daughter-in-law of Jane & Jack) —brain tumor
- Carlos Noyola (friend of Linda Wilson) —lung cancer
- Dennis (friend of Leon Baudot) —tumor
- Doug Laube —4th stage Leukemia
- Devin Ragsdale —undergoing tests
- Dan Ploch —stomach cancer
- Sue Melchor —brain tumor
- Bill (Earl's nephew) —prostate cancer
- Elizabeth (granddaughter of Linda Wilson) —worsening mental condition
- Georgia Cashman (friend of Warren Wasson's) —breast cancer
- Marta Upward (friend of Linda and KJ) —fibromyalgia
- Pastor Marcia Hartsock —undergoing chemo for lung cancer
- Gaelin —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
- 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

**Joys & Thanksgivings—**

- Linda Ward (friend of Kathy Kerr's) —clear of cancer
- Louise Walker (friend of Kathy Kerr's) —clear of cancer

**Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—**

- Presbyterian Brothers/Sisters undergoing transition
- Pr Margaret at the death of a close friend
- Christy & Mark Goss (Jason's parents) —find a house soon
- Ron & Jacquie (KJ's brother/sis-in-law)
- Caregivers
- Christine/Anthony (Janet Webber's daughter/grandson)

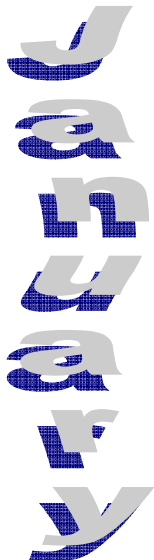
**Safety & Protection—**

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), Austin Amelsberg (Army), Sean Parrish; Sgt. William VanSickle, Marc DiConti and Son; 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Prvt 1st Class Devin Barto (Basrah, Iraq); Prvt 2nd Class Davin Barto (Afghanistan), Brian McCoy; Tom Hastin (Jr Navy Seal); Travis Hastin (Army Ranger); Chelsea Liuzzo (Afghanistan)

**Prayer and Praise Page**

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

*Matthew 21:22*



	1/2	Sharen Bartley	1/13	John Allen
	1/3	Norbert Hesch	1/16	Dale Wooley
	1/5	Bary Schlieder	1/17	Pr. Margaret Duttera
	1/7	William Elbert	1/22	Rick Coelho
1/7	Judith Hollander	1/24	Lance Fowler	
1/9	Warren Wasson	1/26	KJ Barto	
1/12	Terry Baudot	1/31	Sandra Mullins	

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church  
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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 10th

**An optimist stays up  
until midnight to see  
the New Year in.  
A pessimist stays up  
to make sure the  
old year leaves.**