The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

March 2009

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

Email:
spiritofpeacelutheran@verizon.net

www.spiritofpeacebigbear.org

STAFF

Timothy Edmondson
Pastor

KJ Barto
Director of Music

VOLUNTEER STAFF

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

Pat Crain
Newsletter Editor

Deadline for April Newsletter March 23, 2009

Festival Worship 9:30 a.m.

(See Page 3 for Holy Week Schedule)

Easter

"For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
1 Corinthians 1:18

From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

There once was a man who worked in a small town as the operator of a drawbridge on a river. A train track ran across the bridge, and the operator's job was to keep the bridge up when no train was coming so that the boats could pass underneath. When a train approached, he was to blow the whistle and let down the bridge.

One sunny Saturday morning, the man brought his seven-year-old son along to work with him. The boy could frolic along the river, skip rocks on the water, chase butterflies, or even try to catch a fish.

Shortly before noon, a passenger train was due to come through the area. The man began to make preparations to let the bridge down so the train could pass safely across the river. As he examined the bridge, he noticed that someone —a small child —had somehow climbed over the guardrail next to the bridge, and was playing at the very spot where the bridge would come down. As he looked closer, he realized with horror that the child was his son. In desperation, he yelled out his son's name, but the sound of the approaching train drowned out his screams. He knew he had to make a quick decision. If he lowered the bridge now his son would die. But it he didn't, all the people on the train would die as the train plunged into the river. He barely had time to think.

As he screamed in agony, the man thrust forward the lever to lower the bridge just as the train arrived. His son died instantly. And as the train passed by, the people just smiled and waved as they passed by the man in the control booth, with his head bowed low, oblivious to what had just taken place. (Taken from Youth Specialties Hot Illustrations and adapted from "To Sacrifice a Son" by Dennis Hensley.)

There is an obvious point to this story. It is of course, an illustration of what God did for us —sacrificing His only Son so that train of humanity would not plummet into the river of sin. God lowered the drawbridge of the cross, offering (perhaps in agony) the life of His Son.

But beside the main point of this story, is a more subtle tragedy. As the train passed by the man in the control booth, people just waved and smiled. . .oblivious to what had taken place.

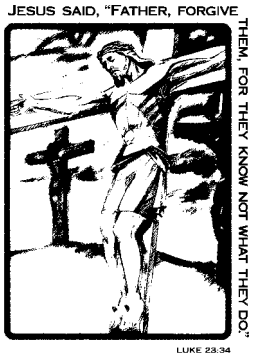
The Bible says, "For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness." A contemporary translation puts it this way: "The Message that points to the Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hell-bent on destruction."

In other words, there is no comprehension of the cross for many, it doesn't make sense — they don't get it. And some are completely oblivious to the cross to the point where the greatest sacrifice the world has ever known is never even considered.

Even those who drove the nails into the flesh of Christ didn't know, couldn't know, what they were doing. Even Jesus' followers, those who stood at the foot of the cross, didn't fully understand what was taking place until much later. As He hung from that cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. . .they know not what they do."

And we are all indicted —all passengers of that train bound for destruction, saved from derailment because the man in the control booth lowered the bridge at great cost. Some of us move through life oblivious to the fact and wave casually at the man in the booth. Others of us, even in the blur of passing by that booth so quickly, see His head bowed low, His hand to His face as He sobs. Still others of us, after long having passed over that bridge, hear the story and recognizing later the gift are stunned and amazed and grateful.

Another walk with Christ to the cross. Will we pass over the bridge oblivious to what has taken place, or will we have, even 2000 years after the fact, a greater awareness of a decision that was made on our behalf —a decision that required God to sacrifice His Son so that we might be saved?



Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim

PALM SUNDAY
April 5, 9:30 a.m.

This day begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death.

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 9, 7:15 p.m.

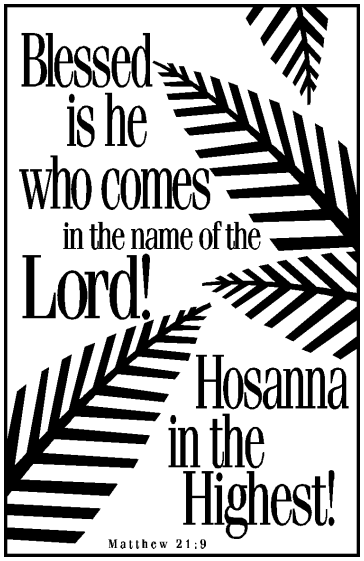
Go with Christ to the Upper Room. There, He washes His disciples' feet. Receive the gift of His body and blood through communion. At the end of this service, the altar is stripped, symbolic of Christ's humiliation at the hand of Roman soldiers. Will you deny Him like Peter did? Will you betray Him as did Judas?

GOOD FRIDAY
April 10, 7:15 p.m.

This Tenebrae service centers around the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross. Special music will move you as you stand beneath His cross and know that it was for you that He died. The sanctuary will darken little by little until that moment of total darkness when Christ breathes His last.

Palm Sunday
Combined Worship
April 5, evening
Methodist Church

We'll begin the evening with a meal, gathered with our Methodist, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Christ. The meal will be followed by a moving worship experience that will prepare us all for the events of Holy Week.



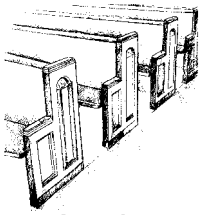
A Day Full of Grace And Gladness!

May 17th 2009

Our 5th Anniversary Celebration has been rescheduled for May 17th. The committee's main concern that lead to the rescheduling was the completion of the kitchen remodeling at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The committee felt some more preparation time would also be helpful.

The day will include a festival worship experience with gratitude to God for His faithfulness as we continue to say "Yes" to the call of the Spirit. Special guests will be present —Interim Pastors that have served this congregation, including Pastor David Babcock, Founding Pastor, and his wife, Julie. Reverend Gordon Peterson will preach as a representative of the Bishop and our Pacifica Synod. Following worship will be a fellowship meal and program.

Formal invitations will be mailed out soon. . .in the meantime, place the date on your calendar! It will be an exciting day in the life of our congregation.



View from the Pews

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.

"CALIFORNIA GIRL"

Here's a gal who grew up in North Hollywood, moved to Newport Beach, then to San Jose and Santa Ana, on to Julianne and then Big Bear. She gets around!

In. . .well let's not use dates and date ourselves. . .suffice it to say she has a BS in Home Economics and has her own business, "Mountain Top Creations." In addition, she is a veterinarian assistant. (My dog loves her.) Somewhere along the way she managed to marry and raise a family of 4 children.

Because of my own "Heinz 57" background in religion, I'm always interested in the experiences of others. When I questioned hers, she said she'd attended a Lutheran church, a Nazarene church, a Congregational church, a Presbyterian church, and finally home again to a Lutheran church.

Personally I'm delighted to know her. She's always smiling, always upbeat and always helpful. She also gives some pretty neat hugs.

When I asked her if she'd like to says something, she said, "Yes." Here's her message and it's every bit as special as she is: "I'm thankful for the very warm and inviting atmosphere our church body has. I'm pleased to be a part of a church that reaches out to the community. Our service is shared by all."

"Who do you think this Person is?"
asks the Church Mouse.
(see p. 7 for the correct answer)

Our Children's Program
To Begin Tuesday, April 21st

We've had to postpone Discovery Canyon for a later time this spring. The program is fully staffed by excited volunteers! This is a unique program in the valley that uses VBS material, only it is offered on Tuesday evenings for 5 weeks. We are more than likely the first ELCA congregation to use this material since other congregations won't use it until the summer. 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! Flyers will be available for you to distribute to your neighbors and friends.

Planning Meeting, March 15th, Noon at church

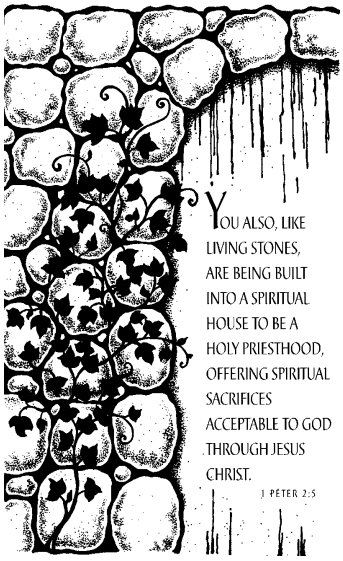
Lent means "spring". . .

and is the forty-day season that precedes the great Three Days of Holy Week and the fifty days of Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent occurs at the transition from winter to spring and functions as the time of preparation for the Easter festival. From its earliest beginnings, Lent has been a time of baptismal renewal. Lent then is not a season of applied sorrow or forced sadness, but a time of growth as we continually uncover the mysteries born to us at baptism. These opportunities are designed to help you grow spiritually. . .

"With This Cup" 6:00 pm Tuesdays at Spirit of Peace

A book study on Henri Nouwen's *Can You Drink the Cup?* This is the last book published by the author before his untimely death in 1996. *Can You Drink the Cup?* Explores the deep spiritual impact of the question Jesus asked his friends James and John. Reflecting upon the metaphor of the cup, Nouwen uses the images of holding, lifting, and drinking to articulate the basics of the spiritual life. The cup, a symbol used to celebrate a wide range of human endeavors, becomes for him an image to illustrate spiritual potential. *Can You Drink the Cup?* has the power to pierce your heart, expand your spiritual horizons, and racially change your life.

The study is a combined experience of our congregation and St. Columba's and is led by Father Joe Frazier and Stephen Caldwell. It takes place on Tuesday evenings during Lent from 6:00 to 7:00 and is held at our church. Cost of the book is $10.



"Stones" 7:15 pm Tuesdays at Spirit of Peace

Our Tuesday evening Lent worship centers on the theme of stones —a repeated image of Scripture (The Ten Commandments written on tablets of stones, Jesus as the Corner-Stone, Christians as Living Stones, etc). The worship is Evening Prayer and is designed to bring our busy day to a peaceful conclusion. Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:15.

"Stations of the Cross" 7:00 pm on Fridays at St. Columba's

Weekly, a small group of folks observe the Lenten piety known as "Stations of the Cross" —a journey that stops along the road Christ walked on His way to Calvary to help us focus on the beautiful and ultimate sacrifice that was to be paid by our Savior. These evenings are quiet ways to reflect and prepare for the events of Holy Week.

Highlights of Meetings

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

- Nominations for Council positions were still being sought.
- A feasibility study will be undertaken with St. Columba's to determine the level of interest in moving forward with a combined building program.
- A budget was approved to be presented at the congregational meeting.
- The Financial Audit for 2008 has yet to be done and will be scheduled soon.
- Pastor Tim will present at the annual meeting "2009 —A Year When We Begin To Look at Space" —considerations of other options than renting a facility.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING

- Spirit of Christmas was evaluated and all felt that the program was excellent. Still some concerns about the date. The program is affirmed again for 2009.
- An addendum to the December 2008 minutes was approved in regards to 2009 housing figures for Pastor Tim.
- 5th Anniversary date changed to May 17, 2009 allowing more time for planning and completion of kitchen remodeling at the Adventist Church.
- Financial Report indicated that while January was low in giving, we are on track with the giving trend of last year. January attendance levels are lower due to weather conditions. Folks have been very good about making up their offerings.
- Pastor Tim's vacation time changed from 3 weeks to 4 weeks which is line with synod guidelines.
- A potential project with the Methodist church was discussed in which we would host once a month at their church, a soup supper for low income families in the community. They would also host once a month.
- Dale and Janet Webber were approved as congregational delegates to the synod assembly in May to be held in Riverside. Pastor Tim is an automatic delegate.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Groon,
Council Secretary

(Highlights from the Annual Meeting to be presented in April Newsletter)

Sunday Morning Ministry Forums

Ministry Forums focus on different and critical areas of ministry formation. Currently we are looking at the broad topic of "Evangelism and Outreach." We're exploring what's happening in the larger church in this area and are being challenged to ask ourselves, "What is God calling us to do on this mountain?" and more personally, "How can I be an evangelist and share the good news of Jesus Christ with others through the things I say and way I live?" This also involves our own personal understanding of evangelism — how did the "Good News" first come to us? Where are areas of our individual lives today where we need to hear the Good News? And what is our motivation for sharing that Good News with others?

The forum takes place Sunday morning at 11 a.m. during our education hour.

Brand New Church Directory Available

Get your copy on Sunday mornings or at the Church Office. This directory includes all members, associate members and friends that are part of our worshipping community. Special thanks to Neal Hertzmann who keeps our database up-to-date!

Prayer and Praise Page

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

Healing

Debbie Hutchins (Barley's daughter) —surgery
Grace Beyer —recovering from bad fall
Christine Race (Janet Webber's daughter) —MS health concerns
Geri Bray (friend of Jane Kunz) —undergoing chemo therapy/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, emergency surgery
Ken Root (inlaw of Leon & Terry Baudot) —severe heart condition
Janice Schlieder —lupus and knee problems
Kelly Pfleger (Rick & Penny Coehlo's daughter) — cancer
Jill Barto
Merrilee Seidel —recovering from back surgery
Steven Adams —undergoing cancer treatment
Alma Bauer (Paul's mom)
Glenn Beyer
Betty Adams —cancer & Alzheimers
Sierra Meadows —Crohn's disease
Michelle (Neal Hertzmann's niece) —breast 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—

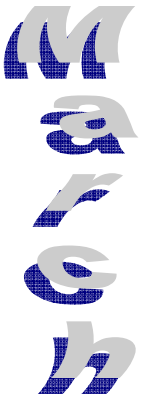
Family of Bruce Wilson (Linda's brother-in-law) at his death
Ceara Gehrke
Caregivers
Vonnie Lassen (83 year old neighbor of Janet Webber's)

Safety & Protection

Those who Travel: Bill & Pat Crain, Ron & Judi Keyson
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 (Training in North Carolina), 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), Brian McCoy (basic training/Texas); Tom Hastin (Jr Navy Seal); Travis Hastin (Army Ranger)

The Mystery Minister is Nancy Hilliard —a busy Mom with 2 jobs. She sings in the choir and offers help wherever and whenever she can. As someone once said, "Who could ask for anything more?"

Nancy lives with her husband, Doc, and son, Owen. Her three daughters (in college) are Kate, Emma, and Anna.



3/01	*Kate Hilliard*
3/06	*Dean Angerhofer*
3/08	*Ivan McKinley*
3/11	*Pat Hesch*
3/12	*Jill Tilford*
3/18	*Leon Baudot*
3/19	*Nancy Hilliard*
3/21	*Steve Kischell*
3/22	*Gil Gerdes*
3/29	*Don Carlson*

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church
www.spiritofpeacebigbear.org
Email: spiritofpeacelutheran@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)

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, 7:15 pm

Good Friday, 7:15 pm

EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP

9:30 am

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
March 9th

A Day Full of Grace and Gladness! May 17th (see inside for details)