

The Call

A Publication of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

March 2011

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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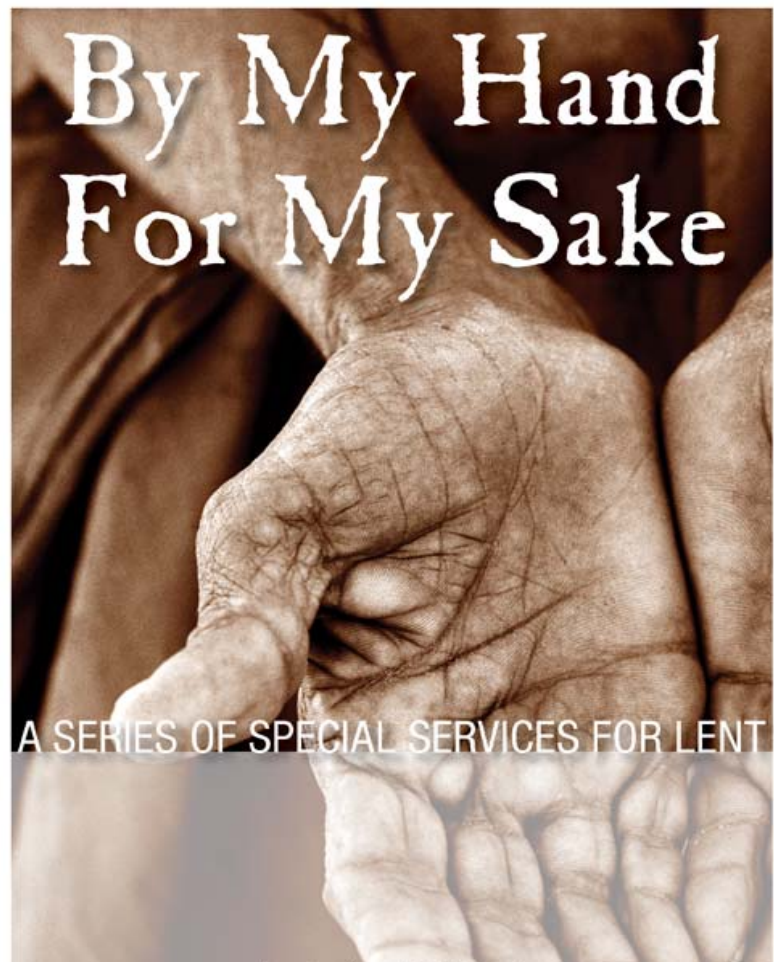
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For the six weeks of Lent, this Lent worship series asks, "What is your role in the suffering and death of Christ? Week by week, this question is addressed-- through homilies and monologs by Biblical characters who actually did have a hand in the crucifixion of Christ.

*Deadline for
April Newsletter
March 20, 2011*

**Tuesdays at 7:00 pm
Beginning March 8th with Ash Tuesday**

From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

John
12:24

Several of the ideas expressed in this article come from William Bridges book, “*The Way of Transition: embracing life’s most difficult moments.*”

Dear Friends—

Think of Lent as a journey. It is symbolic of more than just the 40 days the season of Lent encompasses for it reminds us that all of life is a sort of pilgrimage. But this journey is not a linear one, and is hardly neat and orderly. Chart the most efficient distance and it will be a straight line between two points. Chart a person’s life and it will be rather circular or even meandering. You look at your past and it stretches back behind you like those big, looping rivers that you see when you fly over the American Midwest. Everyone’s life looks like that, in retrospect, an apparently random and wandering course of a pathway they have followed. But rather than view such lives as evidence of chance or confusion, we ought to recognize that they are as natural to the flow of a life as the curving watercourse way is natural to the river.

The journey metaphor tells us about many important things. It reminds us that every time in life has its baggage and that our attempts to become something new often require us to pay a fare. Journeys, like portions of our lifetimes, have their announced destinations, but it is also common to discover that whatever the purported destination, the journey was its own justification.

That journeys carry us along to *their* destinations, not ours, helps to make sense out of the experience that we have already discovered that often in life we end up in a very different place than we could ever have planned or imagined.

A journey may take us to Canterbury or to Mecca, but really all journeys are pilgrimages. A journey may be a business trip, but again they all are. . .for on any journey there is *business* to attend to. And they are ultimately homecomings —and often when we return home, my, oh my, hasn’t home changed quite a bit in our absence! Every spiritual journey takes us inward, takes us closer to the bone of our existence. It is a “homing in” or a “coming to.” We are always getting away, away from the old life. It

is always a New World we sail toward and often when we arrive at that new world, it looks strangely like the old, only we see it in a completely different light.

Wherever the journey starts and whatever its destination may be, the real direction of journeying is toward a deeper realism —a greater awareness of something we’ve always possessed but have never really known. We get closer to the hidden truth of our own life. Every step along the way can become a little awakening, a momentary glimpse behind the veil, a temporary experience of looking through a suddenly transparent world. Perhaps the journey is the natural process by which one dies in order to discover a deeper life, a more authentic life. For without releasing the fruits of one season, we cannot blossom into the next. We have to let go of who we have been to clear the ground for the growth of who we are becoming. And we do so with only this encouragement: to do one’s best and then to let outcomes be what they will; for outcomes are often beyond our control and trying to “predetermine” where the journey will take us may abort the very gift the journey has to offer.

It is worth noting that the word “success” originally had nothing to do with “good” results, much less with what our culture considers success to be in regards to accumulation of wealth or honors. Originally, it meant simply whatever follows after something. Success was a neutral work, like outcome. Living “successfully” has little to do with what we achieve or attain, but rather simply having one stage of development lead us to another stage of development.

So do Lent this year “successfully.” Let the soul do what it knows to do. Listen to it. Attend to it. Let it take you where it will. Do your best to let go and let God’s Spirit shape you and form you. Trust God. Trust what God has placed within you. Trust yourself.

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim

PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE

As we again enjoy the shared experience of shoveling snow, enduring the berms deposited by our friendly-enemies at Cal Trans, and perhaps some chills and sniffles, let me call your attention to an accompanying problem. For some reason our deepest deposits of snow seem to be arriving on the weekend, and we still have March to get through. This, quite understandably, has resulted in a quantum drop in attendance at our Sunday services. I totally understand how nice it is to either throw another log on the fire or to simply roll over in bed during these stormy days.

But there is an added effect that concerns our Financial Secretary, Betty and her faithful assistant, me. The quantum drop in attendance mentioned above is accompanied by an equally steep drop in our offerings. While this makes the job of counting, posting and depositing the offerings each week much easier, it causes much concern to our Treasurer, Tom who is reaching a time in his life when hair loss can become a serious issue. And, by the way, a number of us have taken advantage of the VANCO program which is a simple way of arranging for them to transfer your offering from your bank account to the church's account on a monthly basis. See any of us if you're interested.

And here is my humble request: When you are unable to make it to church on Sunday, please make an effort to even out your offering pledges by making up the lost amount. If it will help, you may picture my making this plea on behalf of your money counters on bended knee. I only ask that you refrain from picturing me trying to rise to my feet afterward.

Yours in Christ,
Warren Wasson
Congregational President

Simple Suppers. . .

A "hands on" opportunity to serve those of our Bear Valley community who are in need. Takes place the 2nd Thursday of the month. Currently need people to help set up and do preparation and then clean-up. Sandy Groon is chairing this ongoing project.

Can't Help By Being At Simple Suppers?

There's still another way to be part of this important ministry. Each monthly meal we serve to our guests costs between \$50 and \$70. How about sponsoring a meal for a month? Or give any amount in support of the expenses of this wonderful outreach to those in need on this mountain. Make checks payable to Spirit of Peace and mark them plainly: Simple Suppers. Thank you!



Your Moving Forward Task Force. . .

. . .continues to meet on a regular basis, planning our next stage of development. Their work covers a large spectrum of possible directions for our ministry: looking at existing available properties in the valley, potential shared ministries with other churches, and getting us ready financially for the future. They will have plenty to share at our first quarterly meeting with you. If you'd like to serve on this task force, contact Neal Hertzmann, chairperson.





What happens when a pack of fun-loving panda bears invades your church?

A wild celebration of God's unconditional love! At PandaMania VBS, kids will discover that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone and that He crafted each of us with His own loving hands.

Begins the Tuesday after Easter, April 26th (6 week program on Tuesday Evenings)

Planning Meeting on Sunday, March 13th after Worship



Travel Opportunity

Hosting a Holy Land Tour is Rev. Lara Janssen, Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross, Rialto and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Fontana. Pastor Lara is colleague and friend to Pastor Tim. The tour takes place November 12-19, 2011. If you may be interested, contact Alpha2OmegaTravel at (760) 843-1110 or visit the website at: www.alpha2omegatravel.org/israelnovember2011.

Thrivent Charitable Giving Opportunity...

If you are a Thrivent member, you may have charitable dollars available that may be donated to the ministry of Spirit of Peace.

Log onto to thrivent.com and under "Thrivent Community" click on "Thrivent Choice" to find out how to transfer your dollars to SOP (we are a designated charity on their list.) You'll need your User ID and password. Or simply contact your Thrivent rep who will be happy to assist you.



Women's Bible Study

The women are currently finishing up their study on Luke's Gospel and will then be taking a brief break until spring. Contact Linda Griffith for more information (909) 585-6026 or (562) 884-4477.



Lent is a season of spiritual growth. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent.



Healing

- Ron Seymore (friend of Jim Lyon's) —heart and death of son-in-law
- Pat (Joy's Mom) —bad fall
- Cassie —healthy pregnancy
- 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) —recovering from brain surgery
- 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
- 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
- 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

Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—

- Presbyterian Brothers/Sisters undergoing transition
- Elizabeth (Kathryn's Grandmother) —dying
- Celine Maurice (friend of Kathy Kerr's) —protection
- 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 (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



3/1	Kate Hilliard	3/18	Leon Baudot
3/6	Dean Angerhofer	3/19	Nancy Hilliard
3/8	Ivan McKinley	3/21	Stephen Kischell
3/11	Patricia Hesck	3/29	Donald Carlson

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

Lent Worship

7:00 pm on Tuesdays

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 7th

**Life is like
a blanket of
snow. Every
step will show.
Be careful how
you step in it!**