

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

March 2008

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

Worship Location::
349 E. North Shore Dr.
Big Bear City, Calif. 92315
(Seventh Day
Adventist Church)

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Timothy Edmondson
Pastor

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Grace Beyer, Florence Nesland, Pat
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Sandy Groon
Office

Pat Crain
Newsletter Editor

*Deadline for
April Newsletter
March 15, 2008*

GOT JOY?

We do!
Come share
it with us
as we meet
the Risen
Christ.

Easter Festival

Worship

9:30 a.m.

Special Music & Message

Holy Communion

Bring a Friend!

From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

Hold a color photograph right in front of your nose. All you see is a blur of colors. As you move the picture away, however, you can distinguish the people in the picture, the buildings, and the background.

You perceive events in life the same way. As time passes and the event is further away from your present, your understanding of the experience becomes clearer. Perspective is severely limited when you're too close to an event. All you see is a blur.

I'm sure that's something of what the disciples saw on the first Easter morning. How could they possibly comprehend all that had gone on in the weeks before? Jesus was dead and now alive? What had happened? They were stunned, numb and no doubt, emotional basket cases.

Of course we have the perspective of several centuries between the events of the first Easter and now. And besides that, we've got four different Gospel writers that tell us the story and St. Paul who spends plenty of his letters interpreting the events of what happened.

We see everything about Jesus and about Christian faith through the lens of the resurrection. That's a disadvantage when we approach Scripture and try to figure out what the heck was wrong with those disciples that didn't understand all that was going on *while* it was going on. Eventually it made sense to them, but in the midst of it, they were clueless.

Driving up the hill the other day I was passing through that section of highway 330 coming into Running Springs. There along the roadside stand reminders of the devastating fires of months past: trees, not sure what kind—they weren't tall pines, maybe Pinyon Pines, or Juniper, or Mesquite or something—and they were charred and quite apparently dead. But the winter had layered on each branch of these trees several coats of ice. And when that ice caught the sunlight just right, the trees appeared as if they were covered in crystal. Like chandeliers, they sparkled in the sunlight. Stunningly beautiful.

The perspective of a few months and the season of an icy cold winter had changed the scarred ugliness of nature's fury into a thing of beauty. I know. . .it doesn't erase the difficulty some families still face as they try to rebuild. . .but I couldn't help but sense a promise of God somewhere in it all.

It's hard to imagine a future when today your house is on fire. It was hard for the disciples to hope in a tomorrow when Jesus had just died. When resurrection came, could they comprehend it, or were they still in a state of shock? It's hard for you or for me to see possibilities down the road when the part of the road we're on has just been washed out. It's hard to see the sunlight on the horizon when you're caught in the storm. In the midst of it we don't get it, it doesn't make sense, we can't understand—like looking at that photograph up close. But with the proper distance of time, things come into focus and begin to make some sort of sense.

I'm sure it was that way for the disciples. It probably took them a long time to even begin to figure out what had just happened with Jesus' death and resurrection.

Is it that way for us too? Do we see our present too close up and therefore we find so much of our understanding of self, others and our world, blurry? Are we confused at what God may be doing in our lives? Maybe with time we'll get it. In the meantime, we can trust that from the perspective we have on what happened to Jesus, that light follows darkness, life follows death, and resurrection follows crucifixion.

According to perspective then, what follows winter? Spring. Hmm. . .I wonder what those trees along highway 330 will look like in April.

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim

A
Matter
Of
Perspective
...Light
follows
darkness,
Life follows
death,
Resurrection
follows
crucifixion





HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY MARCH 16, 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 MARCH 20, 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?

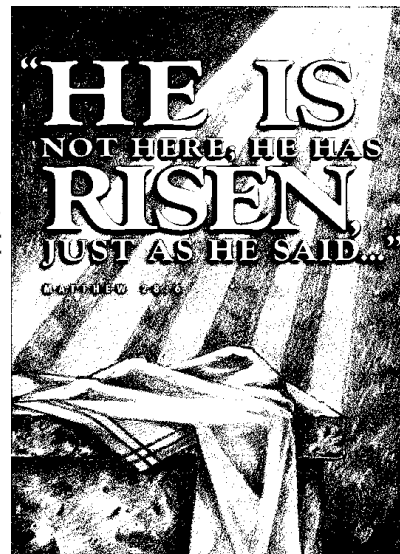
GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 21, 7:15 P.M.

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.



EASTER MARCH 23, 9:30 A.M.

HAVING WALKED WITH JESUS TO THE CROSS AND BEYOND, WE ARE NOW READY TO SHARE IN HIS RESURRECTION! FESTIVAL MUSIC AND MESSAGE WILL HIGHLIGHT THIS GREAT DAY OF JOY! COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED! COME READY TO RECEIVE THE GOOD NEWS!





This concert will be a wonderful way to conclude our Lenten Journey Together with our partnership churches in the Bear Valley. Tom and Carole (the leaders of Woven Image) have been with us before. This concert will feature the entire group, including Pastor Tim and Sharon.

Bear Valley Partnership of Mainline Ministries Presents
WOVEN IMAGE

In a Benefit Concert for the
 Woven Image Sewing Institute, Hyderabad, India

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH, 4:30PM

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Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church
 349 E. North Shore Drive (at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church)
 Big Bear City, CA 92315

Free-will Offering

Children Welcome



**Become
 Part of
 Our
 Church
 Family**

**New Member/
 Associate Member
 Reception
 March 9th**

If you're interested in becoming a Member or an Associate Member, please speak to pastor Tim or Grace. An orientation session will be held on Tuesday, March 4th at 6:00 pm.

BEAR VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Big Bear Valley Habitat For Humanity Affiliate of HFH International would like to acknowledge your 2007 monetary donation of \$1474.26. These funds are dedicated to the building of affordable homes for God's people in need here in the Big Bear Valley. With gifts from caring people like you, we continue to provide affordable housing for those in need. We are in the process of acquiring a lot to start our 4th home. We plan to initiate construction efforts as soon as the weather permits. In the meantime we will complete our family selection process and other preliminary building efforts. Your support of God's work is greatly appreciated. You are helping to make a difference in the lives of families here in the Valley.

Blessings in 2008 and Beyond
 Rick From, President

A Gentle Reminder

As your new Financial Secretary in concert with Betty Cummins it seemed a good idea to take advantage of this month's newsletter to pass on a plea for assistance to those of you who have made offering commitments to SOP. In truth, the very low level of offerings for January have caused some concern and I am holding the winter weather directly responsible for this.

Blaming the weather situation occurred to me the other evening when I took an Olympic quality flop on the ice in back of the church. I suspect that a number of us have risen on Sunday morning, looked at the snow and ice outside and wisely decided to throw another log on the fire while conducting our devotions in the safety of our home. WE UNDERSTAND!

And now for the plea: Just as snow is a fact of life, so is our need for continuing financial support at our church. If you have opted not to join me in my free-style ice falling program on Sunday, could you please at your first opportunity mail in your offering. In addition, it would be enormously helpful if you could make up any offerings you weren't able to give because you weren't in church. It would help when you do this if you would place the offering in the offering envelope. I promise you that both me and my counting buddy, Betty, will not mind being "snowed under" with this kind of mail. And I also promise to continue praying for you that God will keep you toasty-warm and safe.

Yours in Christ,
Warren



SPECIAL TIES BETWEEN UMC AND ELCA

(This article appeared in the newsletter of Big Bear United Methodist Church and was written by one of their members.)

Big Bear's Methodist and Evangelical Lutherans may become more closely related. Both Churches' denominations have been talking together about a closer relationship called a "full communion" between the two bodies. The United Methodists will vote on approval at the upcoming General Conference and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will do the same thing in 2009. What is "full communion?" According to the Rev. W. Douglas Mills, an executive with the United Methodist Commission on Christian Inter-religious Concerns, full communion essentially means 'acknowledging one another's ministries as valid, 'as well as wanting to be involved in mutual decision-making.

(Quoted from the United Methodist News-In Brief). To some degree the Big Bear United Methodist Church and Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church in America have been doing "full communion" already.

By Rev. Lyman Ellis





“Sitt’n & Knitt’n”

Alan and Diane Clark have been teaching the “Youth Act” Club at Big Bear Middle School how to knit. (Vicki Lehtonen is the main instructor.)

So far 27 knitted caps are completed and ready to be sent to the overseas military.

Thank you to Anna Weiner who is now joining the group of contributors!

Congratulations to Diane, Alan, Anna, and the students for making a difference in the world!

Our Very Own Celebrity

Once again, the Bear Valley has honored one of its own long-time residents and local historian, Mac McAlister. The article features Mac’s well-known gift of story telling and honors his family history. Plenty of pics too are included —Mac in the military and a football team photo.

If you didn’t get a chance to read the article, go to www.bigbeargrizzly.net and type in “McAlister” in the search box.

We’re proud of you Mac!

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Here are two new learning opportunities that will take place on Sunday mornings immediately following worship, during our education/Spring Praise hour, 10:45 to 11:45:

Passion Narrative Study —

Did you ever wonder the exact sequence of the events of Holy Week? How does it all fit together? Why were Jesus and the disciples celebrating Passover on Thursday instead of on the traditional Friday? Why do we call Jesus the “Lamb of God”? What happened between Jesus’ death and Easter morning? We’ll take a look at all four Gospels and construct a timeline in which we’ll discover some new and fascinating meaning behind the journey Jesus took to the cross and beyond. March 9th & 16th.



“It’s Great to Be a Lutheran” Class —

After Easter, this “Lutheranism as a Way of Life” course will explore what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. For many, this is a refresher course on a style of faith they’ve known since childhood; for others it will be a first opportunity to understand further this unique way of living as Christians which is part of the beautiful diversity of the whole Christian Church. Being Lutheran isn’t primarily a system of doctrines that separate us from the rest of Christianity; rather it’s our unique way of seeing, hearing, teaching, and following that gives us a special voice and identity within the larger family of all believers.



Summary of Meetings

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

- The Council met on January 15, 2008 with 10 members in attendance. Betty Cummins, Nominating Committee Chair, gave the slate of candidates for 2008.
- Review of our financial reports for 2007 show that we have a deficit of about \$1,000 per month.
- Bishop Finck has affirmed the project of going to larger churches in our area to request mission support.
- Kay Cedergreen has completed her term as Evangelism Chair, but will continue to oversee all advertising for SOP including the "Tribute" in July and "The Spirit of Christmas" in December.
- The Worship and Music Committee has been working on getting name tags made for members to wear each Sunday.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

- A special meeting was called on January 27, 2008 to approve amendments to the constitution which has been recommended by the Council.
- The rationale for the amendments is to eliminate certain inconsistencies regarding the election of officers and to provide for the consistent treatment of officers and council members with respect to term lengths and limitations. It also specifies what the non-officer board council positions are and provides for designated odd and even year elections for the various council positions to insure appropriate continuity within the council membership. As such it conforms to and confirms the practices of our church as the amendments passed unanimously.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

- The meeting was held on January 27, 2008 immediately following the special voters' meeting. It was attended by 19 members and 2 guests. The Constitutional amendments which were approved at the special meeting were ratified.
- Officers elected for 2008 were: Treasurer; Tom Elbert, Stewardship; Bill and Linda Griffith, Trustee; Ed Cedergreen, Fellowship; Janet Webber, and Nominating Committee; Alan Clark, Martha McKinley, and Dale Webber.
- A motion to extend a permanent call to Pastor Tim passed.
- The 2008 budget which had been approved by the Council was presented. Charlie Gehrke stated that we were being asked to take another leap of faith.
- Pastor Tim noted that we would be dipping into our reserve funds again in 2008, but that at times it is wise to spend more than income for the long term effect.
- The proposed budget passed with 14 votes in favor and 5 votes against.

Florence Nesland, Secretary



03/01	Kate Hilliard
03/06	Dean Angerhofer
03/08	Ivan McKinley
03/11	Pat Hesch
03/12	Jill Tilford
03/19	Nancy Hilliard
03/21	Steve Kischell
03/22	Gil Gerdes
03/29	Don Carlson

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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 3rd

**We may not
have walls;
but we do
have a
Foundation!**