

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

October 2008

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

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Adventist Church)

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**Deadline for
October Newsletter
October 19, 2008**



Stewardship has been kidnapped
and is being held hostage by a sinister villain
named "paying the Bills."

In too many congregations, the goal of asking people to give to the church is to get enough money to pay the church's bills for the coming year. The Bible talks a lot about stewardship, and it talks very little about the need for an institution to get its bills paid. Rather, when the Bible talks about stewardship it almost always talks about the intimate connection between how a person handles financial matters and that person's relationship with God. (from *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles Lane)

Ask the Right Question

The questions we ask shape the way we think. When it comes to stewardship, the questions God's people ask shape the way they think about money and possessions.

Each Sunday in October, our stewardship theme is based on a question:

October 5th: Response or Requirement?

October 12th: Members or Disciples?

October 19th: Dollars or Sense?

October 26th: Tithers or Strivers?

Pledge Sunday: November 2nd

Dear Friends —

Here's one of the funniest stories I've ever heard. If you have a simple mind like mine, you'll have to read it carefully for it to make sense. . .

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.

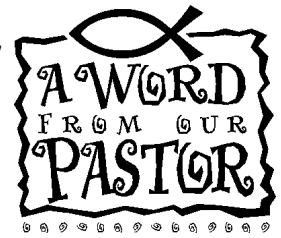
I secured the end of the rope at ground level, went back up to the top of the building, loaded the bricks into the barrel, and pushed it over the side. I then went back down to the ground and untied the rope, holding it securely to insure the slow descent of the barrel. As you will note in block #6 of 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 to stand beside us and support us and help us succeed. That's why God created the Church. There are no Lone Rangers in this family of God. We really do need each other. We are a community, a family of faith, and when we all work together, we can accomplish amazing things!

I Corinthians 12 says, "God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God Himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. . . The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a Church: every part dependent on every other part. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance!"

I love the month of October because we focus on our partnership in ministry. We talk about stewardship which is simply the way we take care of one another as well as the ministry that God has called us to be about. We commit in several ways to hold hands and not let go. We offer the time that God lets us borrow, the talents that He's entrusted to us, and the financial resources He lets us take care of and enjoy, that always have and will belong to Him.

It's a time in our church year when we are reminded that the ministry of Spirit of Peace is a shared ministry, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, we are nothing. Without the partnership with each other, we are nothing.

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim



Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits!"

(I Corinthians 12)



Wine Auction

-A Very
Spirited
Evening!

What a wonderful evening was shared by the 40 or so folks that gathered on Charlie's patio deck. Linda Wilson set the mood with some fine fiddling on the violin and our Sommeliers poured wine and talked of its bouquet and flavor. An array of elegant of fine hors d'oeuvres satisfied even the finickiest of palettes. Lyn Manor, Auctioneer Extraordinaire, encouraged the bidding process, receiving up to \$100 for some wine varieties. Owen Hilliard kept the bidding exciting

for the non-alcoholic selections. Casa Cassara Vineyards (www.casacassarawinery.com for online ordering information) provided several cases of its excellent vintages for the auction and various vendors/restaurants in the Bear Valley supplied gifts and certificates for the silent auction basket items. Janet and her crew pulled off an amazing event that raised over \$2100 for our ministry!

Halloween Party A Fall Tradition

Halloween Pot-luck Party at the home of Sharon and John Bartley (39607 Forest, Big Bear Lake) at 6 p.m. on Halloween night (October 31st). Costumes are optional but clothing is not. Prizes for best costume. Remember our dear Mac who won first prize last year for his crazy costume? Please sign up on Sundays at church or call them at 866-6262 with what you can bring. We will be indoors and outdoors hopefully and enjoy some fun games too. Plan to be there and enjoy fellowship with your church family.



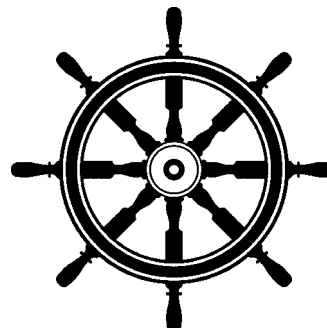
"Cinderella" at the PAC

The afternoon November 16th — We'll go as a group and enjoy our local talent. Note that this year's event does not conflict with the ecumenical Thanksgiving Day Service which will be the following Sunday.

A Calm and Beautiful Fall Day on Big Bear Lake

Thirty people from our church family enjoyed the relaxing boat cruise a few weekends ago on our beautiful Big Bear Lake. The weather co-operated nicely and the spirit was alive with us as we viewed the majestic scenery with beginning of fall showing in all its splendor.

These special times, along with upcoming fellowship events, grow relationships and unite our church family. Not only do we pray together, but we play together!



SEE PICS OF
RECENT
FELLOWSHIP
EVENTS

Go to Pinesnational.com and click on the Spirit of Peace link to see pictures from both the Wine Auction as well as the Boat Trip. These pics are taken by Lyn Manor and graciously displayed on his and Ella's own personal website.





Did You Know You Can Read This Newsletter Online?

A new feature of our website includes a link to our newsletters. This link will feature the current month's newsletter as well an archive of past newsletters. For those who like to surf the web, there's a possibility in the future of saving some postage and not snail-mailing a newsletter. We'll see how that one goes; but for the meantime. . .this is a great resource and an awesome way to share our ministry with others. Tell your friends and neighbors about Spirit of Peace and direct them to our website where they can find out all about us! spiritofpeacebigbear.org.



Church Council Formally Affirms Memorial Fund

In a resolution adopted August 27th, 2008:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church establish a Memorial Gift Fund to receive gifts in memory of church members, friends, and family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such gifts be held in said fund and then be used at such times and for such purposes as the Church Council shall deem appropriate.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Church Council shall make reasonable efforts to contact the donor(s) to advise them and seek their blessing regarding the planned expenditure, but that donor approval shall not be required to proceed with the expenditure.

Other Council Highlights. . . (from August Meeting. . .yes. . .we know, we're a month behind. . .but we're still working out the transition with our new Council Secretary, Sandy Groon, who is doing a wonderful job!)

- Council considering a study on the ELCA Sexuality Statement to be presented at ELCA church wide assembly in 2009.
- Financial assistance proposal is being worked on and will be sent to the Pacifica Synod.
- Further discussion of Mission Partnership Program —asking churches for prayer and financial support.
- Congregational Meeting to be held on September 21st and to include discussion of current financial position as well as Lutheran/Episcopalian joint venture.
- Memorial Fund formally established.
- Pictorial Directory to be considered for 5th anniversary.
- Liability/Medical Release form approved for use in new children's ministry.
- Grace retiring from office work. Appreciation Reception to be September 21st.
- Bishop's Gathering, September 20th, Redlands. We will send several representatives.
- Pastor Tim to take final week of vacation.
- Fundraising event, Wine Auction soliciting donations.
- Fellowship Events (Miss Liberty, Halloween Party) scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Groon



October



- 10/03 Simone Harrison
- 10/05 Dale Webber
- 10/08 Erin Edmondson
- 10/09 Eric Turney
- 10/12 Char Williams
- 10/14 Rebecca Kischell
- 10/17 Jordan Bauer
- 10/19 Julie Babcock
- 10/19 Karsten Lundring
- 10/21 Anita Holden
- 10/24 Penny Coelho
- 10/26 Ron Barto
- 10/28 Doc Hilliard



- October 3, 1993
Bob & Sheila Wenzel
- October 18, 1986
Paul & Cyndi Bauer
- October 22
Barry & Betty Jane Smedberg

If we've missed a birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and we'll correct our mistake.

Help keep our prayer list up-to-date. Use the Sunday morning prayer card to add or remove someone from the list; or call the church office.



Healing

- Father Joe Frazier —surgery
- Nancy Hilliard —recovering from knee surgery
- Julius' Father —Alzheimers
- Janice Schlieder —lupus and knee problems
- Kelly Pflieger (Rick & Penny Coelho's daughter) —cancer
- Linda Griffith —recovering from surgery
- Jill Barto
- Patti Ryan
- Merrilee Seidel
- Steven Adams —undergoing cancer treatment
- Christine Race (Janet Webber's daughter) —stability of health
- Alma Bauer (Paul's mom)
- Glenn Beyer
- Betty Adams —cancer & Alzheimers
- Sierra Meadows —Crohn's disease
- Michelle (Neal Hertzmann's niece) —breast cancer
- Bruce Wilson —(Linda Wilson's brother-in-law) prostate 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
- Jim Ryan —ongoing back pain
- Sue Griffith (Bill's mother) —Alzheimers; in assisted living

Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—

- Danessa
- Andy
- Rev. Kent Tuohino —seeking call
- Ceara Gehrke
- Caregivers
- Vonnie Lassen (83 year old neighbor of Janet Webber's)
- Central Lutheran/Van Nuys —as they call a new pastor
- Christ Lutheran/Orange —as they call a new pastor

Safety & Protection

- Doris Angerhofer —safe travel in Germany
- Jim Lyon —Hurricane relief efforts in Texas with Red Cross
- Those in the military: Sam McCullar (Navy); Tim Lauer (Navy Submarine); Scott (Rick Coelho's friend), LCpl Tyler Craig (Wendy Craig's son in Angola, Africa), Cory Amelsberg (Iraq), Sean Parrish (deployed); Sgt. William VanSickle (Iraq), Marc DiConti and Son; Jeff Taylor (Keyson's Son serving in Iraq), 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Devin Barto (AIT training, Alabama)

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

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9 am–12 pm Fri.

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Big Bear City, CA 92314

(The Seventh Day Adventist Church)

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P.O. Box 2997

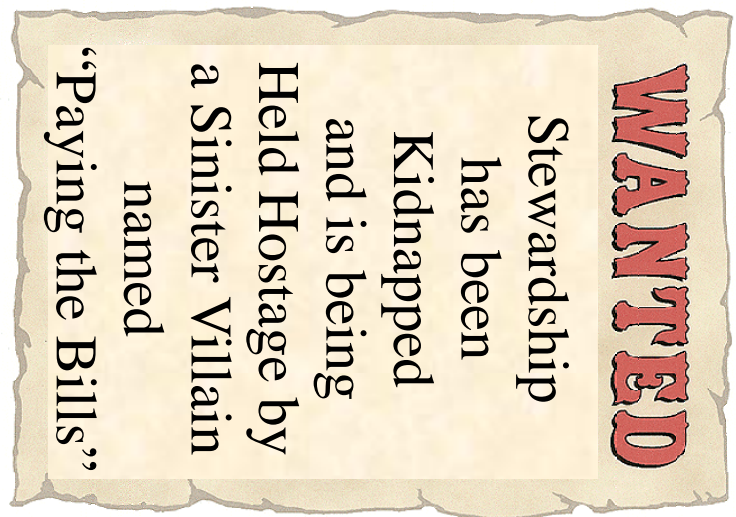
Big Bear City, California 92314

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Mailed:

Tuesday, Oct. 6th

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



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.