

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

September 2008

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

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

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Pat Crain
Newsletter Editor

**Deadline for
October Newsletter
September 21, 2008**



Sunday, September 28th Ship Sails at Noon

**Come join us aboard the Miss Liberty leaving
from Pineknot Landing for an afternoon of fun
and sailing on beautiful Big Bear Lake.**

**Cost is \$10.00 per person when you sign up after
church. No parking fees. OK to bring snacks
and water. Could be cool so bring sweaters and
jackets.**

**Any Associate Members from down the hill want
to join us?**

“If only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me. . . the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”

(Acts 20:24)

Dear Friends —

The Barcelona Olympics of 1992 provided one of track and field’s most incredible moments. It was a moment recalled and replayed during the Beijing track and field events.

Britain’s Derek Redmond had dreamed all his life of winning a gold medal in the 400-meter race, and his dream was in sight as the gun sounded in the semifinals at Barcelona. He was running the race of his life and could see the finish line as he rounded the turn into the backstretch. Suddenly he felt a sharp pain go up the back of his leg. He fell face first onto the track with a torn right hamstring.

Sports Illustrated recorded the dramatic events:

As the medical attendants were approaching, Redmond fought to his feet. “It was animal instinct,” he would say later. He set out hopping, in a crazed attempt to finish the race. When he reached the stretch, a large man in a T-shirt came out of the stands, hurled aside a security guard and ran to Redmond, embracing him. It was Jim Redmond, Derek’s father. “You don’t have to do this,” he told his weeping son. “Yes, I do,” said Derek. “Well, then,” said Jim, “we’re going to finish this together.”

And they did. Fighting off security men, the son’s head sometimes buried in his father’s shoulder, they stayed in Derek’s lane all the way to the end, as the crowd gasped, then rose and howled and wept.

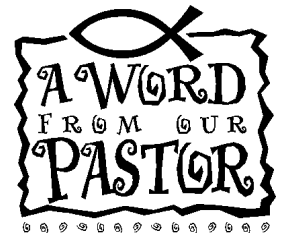
Derek didn’t walk away with the gold medal, but he walked away with an incredible memory of a father who, when he saw his son in pain, left his seat in the stands to help him finish the race.

The Beijing Olympics have left their mark on the world —stories of triumph and defeat, amazing victories and disappointing losses —most of which are powerful not because of medals won, but because behind every race, every match, is a human spirit that persevered and never gave up.

St. Paul says this about the Christian journey: “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me —the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”

It’s not about crossing the finish line first, second, third or last. . .it’s about crossing the finish line. For Mike Phelps that meant reaching the wall 1/100th of a second before his competitor . . .amazing! In Ryan’s case, he came in tenth . . .amazing! In Derek’s case, he crossed it last. . .amazing!

“If only I may finish the race.” “If only” St. Paul says. You see, our task as a mission congregation is not to create the best children’s program in the valley; or to reach a certain attendance figure, or to build a building, or to meet a budget. Our goal is to do the one thing we’ve been called to do: in Paul’s words, “the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.” And these programs, these ministries, these projects, these objectives are means to an end. Our goal is to run this race, finish this race, and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to us.



Sometimes we run this race with energy and sometimes we hobble along with a torn right hamstring. But we keep going. Mr. Redmond said to his son, “You don’t have to do this.” “Yes, I do,” said Derek. “Well, then,” said Jim, “we’re going to finish this together.”

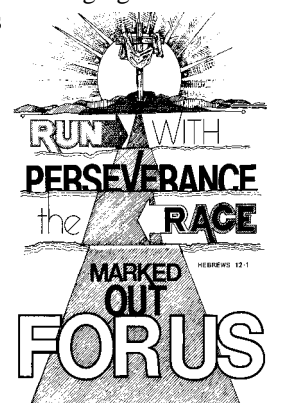
So. . .why start a new children’s program? Why send people out to other churches to tell them about our mission? Why put all the energy into a stewardship drive? Hek. . .why take the time to publish a newsletter? It’s all just more work and we’ve all got way too much on our plates already. “You don’t have to do this,” said Derek’s father.

But Derek said, “Yes, I do. If only I may finish the race and complete the task. . .” And that is our response as well. We have a race to run and a task to complete —the task the Lord Jesus has given us —the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace —on this mountain, in this place, right here, right now.

God does not call us to be successful, there is no requirement that we cross the finish line first, second, or third. God calls us to be faithful. There is much to do in this ministry and it seems at times there are too few runners on the track. You don’t have to run fast (some of us run at a very slow pace), you just have to run. And someday, far off in the future, the congregation of Spirit of Peace will cross that finish line and will have completed the task Jesus has given us.

Get your running shoes on folks and I’ll meet you on the track! We’re going to finish this together!

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim





Wine Auction
Saturday,
September 6th
4:00 to 7:00 pm

780 Raleigh Dr., Big Bear City
For more info: (909) 585-5813

Attending our wine auction is only one of the ways you can support our church family's fund-raising effort. Some people were able to donate gift baskets and yet others who knew they were not able to attend have written checks earmarked for this event. Others were able to bake or donate a appetizer. Home-bound friends have pledged their prayer support. Still others will be there to enjoy the "spirit" of the evening and have invited friends and neighbors to join in our fun and make it all happen. A gigantic THANK YOU to all. . .here's to you!

**FUND
RAISER**

They Were Sent Out 2 x 2

We plan to send out missionaries from our congregation to other churches within/without of our Synod. The purpose of this effort is to recruit mission partners to assist in the growth of Spirit of Peace and our mission in Big Bear Valley. We will supply a DVD and training. Do you know of any congregations that are candidates for this kind of partnership? If you would be interested in participating in this missionary effort please plan to come to the meeting. It will be held on Sunday, September 14th during the education hour. We would like to start sending out our missionaries in October.

Interested? Contact Bill and Linda Griffith
Home phone (909) 585-6026. Cell phone (562) 884-4477.
E-mail: griffi55@aol.com



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 21st,
After Worship

Agenda:

Report on Current Financial Position

Financial Planning for the Remainder of the Year

Report on Lutheran/Episcopal Dialogue
including possible joint building project



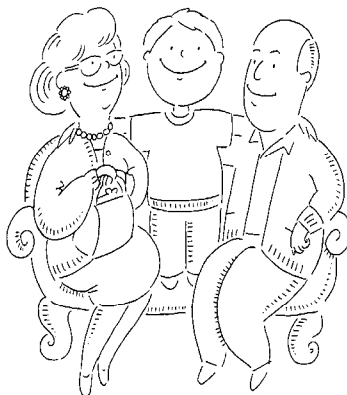


Did You Know You Can Read This Newsletter Online?

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.

Don't forget!
 Sunday September 7th
 is Grandparent's Day!

We are blessed to have so many special grandparents in our church family.



Grandparents Day

A Memorial Fund in Honor of Our Dear Friend, Mac McAlister



has been established. Collection of funds will be held and used for some future project at SOP. Honor his life by making checks payable to "Spirit of Peace" and marking the memo line as "Mac." Checks may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate.

The 5th Annual Christian Women's Gathering. . .

. . . and weekend respite is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, September 12 through 14th at Cedar Lake Christian Camp located in Big Bear Lake. This inter-denominational Gathering plays an integral part in the unifying of our area churches, while providing an excellent outreach opportunity to those who are seeking the Lord.

The ONE-DAY Gathering is scheduled for Saturday, September 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The theme is "Pathway to God's Presence. . .In Every Season of Life!" Carol Hopson, national and international speaker, author and counselor, will share personal insights and Biblical truths on developing and maintaining a true relationship with God in all seasons of life. The day-fee which includes a full lunch is \$49 per person if registration is received by July 1st; \$59 if received by August 1st, and \$69 at the door.

The Christian Women's Gathering has expanded to include the "Weekend Respite". Gathering attendees can enjoy two nights lodging, a total of five meals, and additional special activities for the low fee of: \$149 per person if received by June 10th, \$170 if received by August 1st, and \$190 if received by Sept. 1st. (No registrations can be received after that date.) This includes the day fee for the Gathering! **For further information, please call Jen McGeehan at 584-7615.**



September



- 2 *Alan Clark*
- 2 *Laura Harrison*
- 9 *Martha McKinley*
- 10 *Mary Craig*
- 14 *Cyndi Bauer*
- 14 *John Hamilton*
- 23 *Patricia Ryan*



September 14, 1952
Don & Lorene
Carlson

September 21, 1991
Ivan & Martha
McKinley



Healing

- Janice Schlieder —lupus and knee problems
- Kelly Pflieger (Rick & Penny Coehlo's daughter)—cancer
- Linda Griffith —pending surgery
- Lacy Shaffer —difficult pregnancy
- Juanita Cummins —heart problems/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—

- Kim, Connie, Kasey —Mac's daughters
- Don & Lorene Carlson at the death of Don's brother, Bob
- Linda & Bill Griffith at the death of Linda's mother, Marjorie
- *Kathy —involved in 12 step program
- 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

- 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 (Iraq), Marc DiConti and Son; Jeff Taylor (Keyson's Son serving in Iraq), 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Devin Barto (basic training in South Carolina)
- *Garrick —Peace Corp in Georgia/Russia

* denotes community needs received through our Door-to-Door Ministry.

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.

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

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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)

9:30 a.m. Worship

A Unique and Wonderful Blend of
Liturgical and Praise Styles.

10:45 a.m. Education Hour
for Adults and Children

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:

Tuesday, Sept 2nd

**Direction first,
then speed.
Foundation first,
then height.**