

The Echo

No. 8-2014 August Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Page

Psalm 10:17 "Lord you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them."

What impresses me about this Psalm is not only that God is sensitive to the needs of the "helpless" but that God comforts them by hearing their cries. There is no promise in this Psalm to give the helpless more power or resources or attention, but the promise is to hear their cries and comfort them.

We are called to do the same.

I think one of the reasons we may not want to hear the cries of the helpless is that we think we do not have the resources to help. We have a hard time getting by ourselves and meeting our own needs. But what the Psalm promises is just to listen to the cries of the helpless.

We can do the same. We all have what it takes to listen to the cries of the helpless. And through simple listening we can provide comfort.

Someone once shared with me that wisdom. They said, "You don't have to solve the problem you just have to listen".

We want to be problem solvers but that is often not possible. But we can all be listeners. We have two ears and that is all the resources required.

It has been brought to my attention that maybe we can accomplish that listening as a church.

Mary Thomas, Laura Vaughan and Kris Francis have been considering how we can be better at listening to the difficulties of our members. Mary noticed that there are times when people are not in worship and that absence may be a sign of problems or difficulties we can listen to as a church.

I met with Laura and Kris on several occasions and we have decided to propose a new group of listeners called: "Christ Bearers". This is a group dedicated to be the eyes and ears of caring in our church for those who have not been seen for a time. As we discussed the people who have not been in worship and we came up with the possible circumstances for their absence.

1) There are those who are not able to worship because they are uncomfortable with the struggles of having small children in their care. This group may desire a nursery with at least two adults willing to care for young children. We felt a youth could be one of the caregivers but it would be good to also have an

adult. Perhaps a stipend could be budgeted for this service.

2) There are those who are sick or are incapable of getting to church on their own. This may be a temporary or permanent condition. These people would just need someone to visit to let them know that their church cares for them when they cannot come to church on their own.

3) There are those who would come to church if they had transportation. Providing transportation would be a great blessing for some who are not capable of driving.

On Saturday, August 16 at 10:00am I am proposing a meeting of the Christ Bearers. I love the title because we are asked to bring Christ to others and often we do not realize those we can bring Christ to may be those within our own church. "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." We can do this!

I also talked with Ellie Timan who is one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, as to how our Christ Bearers would complement our Stephen Ministry and not be a competition. Stephen Ministry is a second step in the kind of care that Christ Bearers offer. Stephen Ministry is a continual relationship of caring where trained Stephen Ministers offer weekly visits over a long period of time. Christ Bearers are for the initial needs of those with needs that prevent them from coming to church. Stephen Ministers are not going to provide child care nor are they providing transportation to church. Stephen Ministers may provide care for the chronically sick, but they do so much more. Stephen Ministers help people who are suffering loss or difficulties over a much greater period of time. The Stephen Ministry Care Receiver may or may not be able to come to church, but that is not the defining concern. For Christ Bearers the issue is "Why have we not seen this or that person for a time?" "Are there issues we can listen to and possibly address if we knew what those issues are?" It may be that a Christ Bearer comes across someone who could need an in depth relationship with a Stephen Minister and that would be a perfect opportunity for a referral and a complementing opportunity for both ministries.

I see 23 people in our church on a regular basis. Some are sick, some are elderly and some have some great loss in their life. I see some weekly, others bi-weekly and others monthly. I see some for a few minutes and others for an hour. For me to do more, I will need help.

Christ Bearers will be a great opportunity for our church to care for the needs of our growing church and offer me the help I need to care for our people.

Consider this your calling to be a Christ Bearer at our church. Come to the meeting August 16th or let me know your interest to help.

Pastor Rick

Finances And Attendance For June

Attendance:

	9:00a.m.	Tue	Total
6/1	114	14	128
6/8	108	15	123
6/15	117	14	131
6/22	96	16	112
6/29	111	14	125

June Finances:

Income	\$11,594
Expenses	\$14,900

Senior Lunch

The second Tuesday of the month when you are invited to the Senior Lunch at a local restaurant beginning at 11:30am. on August 12th at Weevil Burger at 9104 Fletcher Pky. La Mesa.

Thursday Bible Studies

Thursdays in July Pastor Rick is offering a Bible Study. The study is at the Schowalter home at 1630 Whitsett Drive in El Cajon at 6:00am to 6:30am.

Come and join us!

Church E-mail Mailings

Would you like to be included on the church e-mail list? Do you want some bit of news e-mailed to the congregation? An e-mail list is being compiled by the church office and you can add yourself to the group list by just dropping a note into the offering plate or calling the church office at 448-1888. If you would like to e-mail something please submit the request in writing after checking with Pastor Rick. All e-mails sent will be sent without listing the e-mail addresses of the others who are receiving the information. This is called a "blind" e-mailing and is meant to protect these addresses from reaching someone who is not

authorized to send e-mail to our church members without permission.

Daily Devotions

Would you like to be a part of our church's daily devotions? Just let Pastor Rick or the Church Office know your e-mail address and you can received the daily devotions via e-mail or stop by the table in the back of the church and pick up last week's list of daily devotions. Most of the devotions are written by Pastor Rick but some are shared by members on the list. If you want to submit a devotion to the list that has now grown to over 120 participants just write to Pastor Rick at SYMCN1@aol.com. What a great way to have Bible study a part of your everyday life a little Scripture at a time.

Feed the Homeless Monday, August 4th

TACO (Third Ave Charitable Organization) Feed the Homeless at First Lutheran Church, SD.

Let Pastor Rick know if you want to help. We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:30p.m.

Bible Studies for the Summer

We will have Bible study on the book of Acts on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month

August 9th and 23rd

At the Kaffee Meister in Santee

At 4:30pm

Everyone Welcome!!

Flowers Each Sunday

Would you like to recognize a special event, such as a birthday or anniversary, or honor a loved one by having flowers placed on the altar of the church on Sundays? There is a sign-up calendar in the back of the church. Pick the Sunday or Sundays on which you would like flowers placed and print your name and phone number on the calendar. Call Jean Setzer at 619-449-0785 and tell her if you would like to have an arrangement for \$20.00 or if you will bring your own arrangement. The bulletin will indicate that you have provided flowers for the occasion.

Pre-School Planning

Saturday, August 30th at 9:00am

Family Movie Nights – Summer 2014

Meet for a family-friendly feature and relaxed fellowship on select Friday evenings in August. Showtime is 6:30pm in the Acts Center, we're popping fresh popcorn and designating space for the 2 & under crowd too =0).

August 1 – Winnie the Pooh
August 15 – Frozen
August – 29 Monsters Inc.
Any questions call Keri Hyles.

Sunday School: Songs and Crafts in August

The last month of summer is here and it's time for Songs & Crafts. The children will sing and have fun doing crafts during the month of August and the first week of September. All children ages 3 years old up through 6th grade are welcome to attend. During the month of August and the first week of September we will only have Sunday School during the 9:00 service.

Week 1 * 8.3.14: The B-I-B-L-E / Decorating Song Book Covers

Week 2 * 8.10.14: The B-I-B-L-E / Making Jewelry

Week 3 * 8.17.14: He's got the Whole World in His Hands / Decorating Flowers & Bookmarks

Week 4 * 8.24.14: He's got the Whole World in His Hands / Decorating Crosses

Week 5 * 8.31.14: This Little Light of Mine / Decorating Picture Frames

Week 6 * 9.7.14: This Little Light of Mine / The B-I-B-L-E / He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Be sure to come to church on 9/14/14 to hear the children sing the songs they learned. This is also the day Sunday School begins for the school year.

Be Sure to Register for Sunday School

It's that time of year again. Time to register your children for Sunday School! Registration is open to children 3 years old up through 6th grade and every family will need to fill out a form. The registration forms are located inside the church on the information table. Once your form is completed please drop it off in the Sunday School box marked Completed Sunday School Registration. For more information on registration please see Amanda Botzer.

Why Sunday School? Children become more familiar with Bible stories that tell the story of God's love for the world and the Savior he sent us. Children also enjoy learning these stories in a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere with other children.

Needed - Sunday School Volunteers and Helpers

Our Sunday School program is made up of volunteers; the director, teachers and helpers, and we are always on the look-out for those who would like to join the team. No experience is required and you are given all of the tools to be successful. One teacher and helper are needed every Sunday to teach the Bible lesson. It is encouraged to teach/help at least once a month, but we will work with your availability. The volunteer form for teachers/helpers can be found inside the church on the information table. Once your form is completed please drop it off in the Sunday School box marked Completed Sunday School Volunteer Form. If you have questions or need more information please see Amanda Botzer.

Prayerfully consider if Sunday School is a ministry you are being called to teach or assist. Thank you for sharing your faith with the children of Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Summer Sunday Morning Bible Study

Led by Pastor Rick
In the Library from 10:30am – 11:00am
On the book of Genesis

Christ Bearers

Saturday, August 16th at 10:00am
The eyes and ears of caring!

Visiting Painting Handyman Offers services

Hello to the Congregation. Thank you all for being so nice and welcoming to me and Louise. In Georgia I was a contractor doing painting and other various business and residential repairs. I am looking forward to starting another business of the same type here in the Santee area. Thank you for your consideration. Any referrals would be appreciated.

Ron Johnson 619-334-2685

Make a Joyful Noise Art and Music Camp July 7 to July 25 – was a huge success

This summer we moved around the world and visited 15 countries in 15 days! Each day there was a bible verse attached to the country information sharing as well as an arts and crafts activity. Five groups of 9-10 campers each rotated between media, creative arts, arts and crafts, chimes, minute to win it, around the world knowledge, group time and Godly cooking and dance. There was worship every morning and afternoon and lunch with the seniors. The performance on July 24th was one of the best ever! Thanks to all who donated their time and money to support our camp ministry.



Painting is always a camp favorite!



Campers creating and designing totes to carry items back and forth.



Campers painted flags from the different countries.



These campers are cutting out hands for our Irish rainbow bulletin board.



Every Friday the campers had fun with splash day activities.

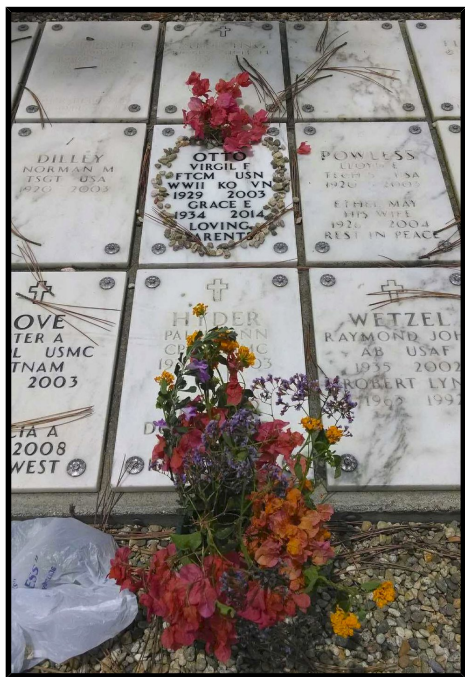
So many children were blessed this summer. Five college students returned to work camp. These five along with several high schoolers, and eight Counselors in Training supported by Selina Weber and Belinda Karge serving as co-administrators and Pastor Rick made for a strong team. What an awesome ministry!

CPR training

Camp staff participated in CPR and first aide training on July 2nd In the photo below the staff are learning to save a life by breathing into a “dummy”



A special thank you to the Grace Otto Memorial fund for providing the church with a Defibrillator. The camp and Salvation Army staff learned to use it during the first aide training.



Remembering Grace

Western States

June 27-July 1, 2014 Pastor Rick, Belinda Karge, Alissa Perna, Bryce Taylor and Danny Timan attended the Western States Youth Leadership event at California Lutheran University. The event was a gathering of 600 high schoolers from across the nine western states. There were many small group gatherings as well as nightly worship with the large group.

August Ministers

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick,
Lector: 3, 10- Ellie Timan, 17- Nathan Wentz,
 24- Rob Koch 31- Danil Koch
Greeter: 3, 10- Ellie Timan & Ruth Schowalter
 17,24- Cary Meriwether & Donna Dudley
Communion Assist.: Steve Schmidtke & Sara Paulsen
 17,24- Kris Francis & Sara Paulsen
Communion Care: Laura Vaughan
Stephen Minister of the Week:
S. M., Communion Prayer Loft
 3- Kathy Darland Diedra Zeller
 10-Carol Davidson Heather Gasner
 17-Elle Timan Carol Davidson
 24-Heather Gasner Kathy Darland
 31-Diedra Zeller Ellie Timan

August Birthdays

1	Jack Hustad	19	Cindy Ryan
1	Keri Hyles	20	Gary Berglund
2	Carol Benson	20	Hailey Usher
3	Cody Catron	20	Nicholas Bloeman
3	Vincent Coletti	21	Charles Carlson
4	Chris Myers	22	David Lipscomb
4	Edgar Rodriguez	22	Hailey Rones
5	Drew Bjorson	22	Susanne Rettig
6	Brian Quackenbush	24	Amanda Cofrancesco
10	Brandon Avendano	25	Timothy Hustad
10	Sydney Brown	25	Dale Benson
11	Jesse Lipscomb	25	Katie Wentz
12	Elizabeth Hyles	26	Darrel Timan
13	Steve Campbell	27	Deborah Schowalter
14	Corinne Strand	28	Danielle Davidson
16	Katelyn Kelchner	30	Betty Maxa
17	Alandra Gomes	30	Elliana Cousins
18	Maria Tilton	30	Glen Teichner
19	Sherise Stark	30	Wendy Avendano

If anyone was missed, please call the church office, 448-1888

August Anniversaries

1	Tim & Jennifer Brown
2	Diana & Vance Coletti
4	Joanne & Michael Huber
10	Jean & John Sevcik
11	Jack & Florence Hustad
14	Caroline & Nicholas Holicky
14	Dale & Carol Benson
15	Lee & Corinne Strand
15	Tom & Carol Davidson
17	Skip & Kimberly Taylor
30	Tim & May Hustad

Sharp Sword, Polished Arrow

God equipped prophets—and continues with us—to bring hope to God’s people

BY PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH A. EATON

Picture this: Surrounded by an alien culture; worried about keeping young people engaged; a nonfunctioning government; a religious establishment in disarray; the economy is a mess; competing and beguiling demands on people’s attention, time and loyalty; a worship facility in serious need of repair; a dizzying rate of change; and people either tempted to throw out all forms of the past or to cling mindlessly to tradition for fear of change.

Sound familiar? This describes the people of God in exile in Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem.

This was the world to which the prophet Isaiah was called to speak God’s word of judgment, promise and hope. Isaiah 49:1-7 is the Old Testament reading for Tuesday of Holy Week. It’s the day when our pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers are invited to renew the vows they made when consecrated, commissioned or ordained. It is the day when the oil for baptism or healing is blessed. It’s a time for these dear servants of the gospel to come to be fed with word and sacrament. It’s also a time to be encouraged to continue their ministry and the ministry entrusted to God’s servants throughout the ages.

The world in Isaiah’s time was in turmoil. It’s clear he doubted anything was being accomplished: “I have labored in vain, I spent my strength for nothing and vanity” (Isaiah 49:4).

We feel that way sometimes—the “parking lot meetings” that take place after church council, years of preaching and teaching about the death and resurrection of Jesus and yet we still argue about which group gets to use the church parlor (I once had two committees arguing over the use of a slotted spoon), or worship wars over styles of music, contention between parishioners while wearing WWJD bracelets.

But it is to this wonderful, often frustrating, ever-changing mission that we have been called and have been equipped. Like Isaiah, God has given us God’s word that has the power of life. And, equipped with God’s word, we are armed with a sharp sword and a polished arrow (Isaiah 49:2).

It is likely Isaiah might have felt a little underequipped when contending with kings. After all, in a world that decides the rise and fall of nations with

real swords and arrows (or guns, money or political power), the metaphorical weapon of God’s word might seem like a feeble piece of equipment. In difficult, conflicted, intractable situations I sometimes feel a little naked armed only with the word of God. But time and time again God has sent prophets into the breach equipped only with God’s word of life.

One can imagine the reaction of opponents armed with real weapons when faced with the Lord’s servants armed with God’s word.

Think: Pharaoh when he saw Moses. The Canaanite kings when they saw Deborah. The lions when they saw Daniel. Really? Haman when he saw Esther. Goliath when he saw David. An ossified and compromised church when it saw an Augustinian monk. Really? Institutional racism when it saw Martin Luther King Jr. The Montgomery Transit Authority when it saw Rosa Parks. The Salvadoran generals when they saw Oscar Romero. The Liberian warlords when they saw Laymah Gbowee. Death when it saw Jesus hanging on the cross. Really? A culture of cynicism and materialism. A culture gripped by anxiety. The indifferent and the hostile. The angry and the desperate ... when they see you. Really!

“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart’ ” (1 Corinthians 1:18-19).

In his commentary on Second Isaiah, Harvard Divinity School Old Testament professor Paul D. Hanson wrote, “For the human servant called to serve the world-embracing purposes of God, one of the chief temptations is to scale back the assignment to human dimensions.” We all do that from time to time. We lose sight of the cross. We are distracted by threatening forces around us. But it is to us, we earthen vessels, and for such a time as this that God’s mission has been entrusted. We may not see the fruits of our labor, but through us God will bring hope to God’s people.

It is likely Isaiah might have felt a little underequipped when contending with kings.

This column originally appeared in the May issue of *The Lutheran*. Reprinted with permission.