

The Echo

No. 12-2004 December Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“Spiritual Growth For Everyone at Carlton Hills”

I have been reading a good book entitled “Messy Spirituality”. I am so excited about the book that I bought a copy for our whole church council so we can read and discuss the book together.

What I like best about the book is that it is so contrary to the way we naturally think, but it is so Biblical and so true. Who would want to have “messy” spirituality?

For example, the author says that we who are “spiritual” need to admit that we are “unfinished, incompetent, desperate and unqualified.” People with these qualities are exactly the kind of people that Jesus called to be his disciples. Don’t believe me? Look it up in the Bible.

Fisherman “catching people” is like a fish out of water. Yet Jesus called fishermen to be his first disciples. What social skills do fishermen have with all those lonely hours in a boat? They were unqualified. Jesus’ disciples were constantly lost and frantic for what Jesus asks of them. They were desperate. Jesus’ disciples betrayed and denied him when they said they would die for him. They were unfinished. The disciples fell asleep when Jesus needed them most and ran away when the going got tough. Most often the disciples seem clueless and mistake prone throughout the Bible. They were incompetent.

The good news in all of this is that we are JUST LIKE the disciples of old. We are “unfinished, incompetent, desperate and unqualified.” That’s exactly why Jesus called the first 12 and that’s exactly why Jesus calls you and me to be His disciples. Doesn’t that make you feel better?

Mike Yaconelli in “Messy Spirituality” tells the story of a youth track meet he attended. During the last lap the audience stood to cheer the winners. Mike noticed that far back of the winners was a young boy struggling to finish the race. Mike described this boy as “portly”. As the

boy came into view his mother bolted from the stands to yell, “Johnny, Run faster!” The boy had an incredulous look on his face as if to say, “Mom, I am running as fast as I can.”

Mike goes on to say that the great sin of today is that we live life at too fast a pace and everyone around us is encouraging that pace. Mike writes: “We are going as fast as we can, living life at a dizzying speed, and God is nowhere to be found. We’re not rejecting God; we just don’t have time for him.”

We need to take time for God. We are so incapable of living up to the demands that life is placing on us. We are spiritually “portly” and we can’t keep up. We need encouragement not to “run faster” but to stop. We need to be renewed in the truth of who we are and how much God loves us just that way we are. We need spiritual renewal.

The answer is not to be better, do more and run faster. The answer is to stop, listen, and admit our weaknesses. We need to be renewed in the love and faith that God has for all of us, but many of us do not slow down long enough to receive it. If you are willing to admit that you are “unfinished, incompetent, desperate and unqualified” you become qualified to be one of Jesus’ disciples. Jesus is sending you an invitation to come follow Him.

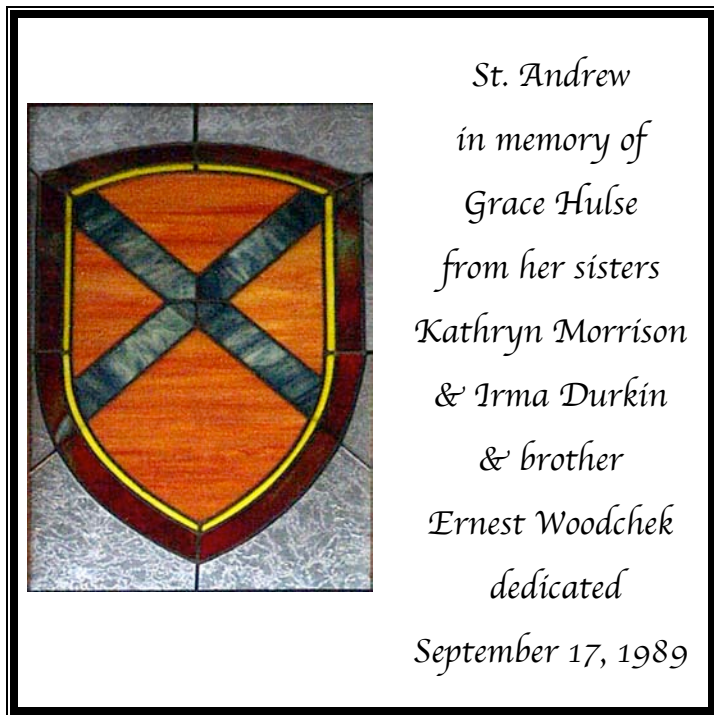
On Saturday, December 11th at 10:00am I have asked all who are interested to attend a summit on “Spiritual Growth and Maturity”. I would like every organization of the church represented. I want to work with all of you to plan opportunities for spiritual enrichment for the coming year. There are an infinite number of ways to grow.



To Our Dear Friends, Members of Carlton Hills Lutheran Church.

Thank you for a most memorable Sunday filled with warm, good wishes and so many gifts of love. Your love gift will be put to good use, mostly to replace some plants and shrubs in our back yard which died when we replaced our back fence. Something living and beautiful as a forever reminder of the beautiful and joyful faith of God's wonderful people at Carlton Hills Lutheran Church. We thank you all for the time and faith we shared together, and look forward to seeing you from time to time as we worship with you. You remain in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Pastor Frank & Jane



The Colors of the Church Year

On Christ the King Sunday last month (November 21) the children of our congregation joined the choir in the cross processional, raising high colored ribbons to celebrate the end of another church year. In anticipation of the beginning of Advent (November 28), colors of

Advent were left behind at the end of the service while the other colors were removed.

The stoles that the choir wears signify the seasons of the church. A resounding question echoing in front of the choir closet in the Acts Center on any given Sunday is "What color are we today?" A quick glance at the paraments adorning the altar gives us the answer. So, you see, this IS a system.

In the Christian tradition colors are used for vestments, the distinctive clothing worn by those who lead worship, and paraments, the ornamental altar cloth and pulpit decorations. A unified system of colors developed gradually and haphazardly until and throughout the Middle Ages. Today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provides a system of colors for use by its congregations; for the most part, the same system is also used by Roman and Anglican churches, at least in the United States; and by many churches around the world.

The colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated. Here is a brief summary of their usage, as defined by the ELCA, according to the church year. Here at CHELC, we have taken a few liberties and sometimes use the suggested alternative color.

Advent: Blue is used for its references to hope. It originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use. The alternate color for Advent is purple, the royal color of the coming King (note that this is a different meaning than when it is used in Lent; see below).

Christmas: White is used, as a reference to the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him. We use the alternate color gold where white is indicated, mainly because gold goes more nicely with our off-white choir robes.

Epiphany of Our Lord: White (see Christmas).

Baptism of Our Lord: White (see Christmas).

Sundays after the Epiphany: Green is used for its symbolism of our growth in Christ. Green, in a sense, is a "neutral color," used when more festive or more somber color is not appointed.

Transfiguration of Our Lord: White (see Christmas).

Ash Wednesday: Black is the preferred color, since it is the color of the ashes to which we will all return. Purple is the alternate color for this first day of Lent.

Lent: Purple is indicated, as the stark color of repentance and solemnity.

Sunday of the Passion: Scarlet is the preferred color of this first day of Holy Week, as it suggests the deep color of blood. (Scarlet is to be distinguished from the brighter color of red, which is appointed for the Day of Pentecost, martyrs' days, and certain church celebrations). If a parish does not have scarlet vestments, purple may be used.

Days of Holy Week: Scarlet or purple may be used for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday: For this fourth day of Holy Week, celebrated as the institution of the Lord's Supper, scarlet or white is used.

Good Friday: No vestments or paraments are used on this day, after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday night.

Vigil of Easter: White as the color of joy in the Resurrection is used on this night.

Easter Day: On this one day of the church year, gold may be used. White is the alternate, perhaps with gold running through it. The gold color indicates that this day is the "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year.

Sundays of Easter: White (see Vigil of Easter).

Day of Pentecost: Red as the color of fire is used on this day when we remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem. In contrast to the color of scarlet, Pentecost's red is a bright color.

The Holy Trinity: White is appointed, the expression of joy in the mystery of the Triune God.

Other Sundays after Pentecost: Green is used, to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.

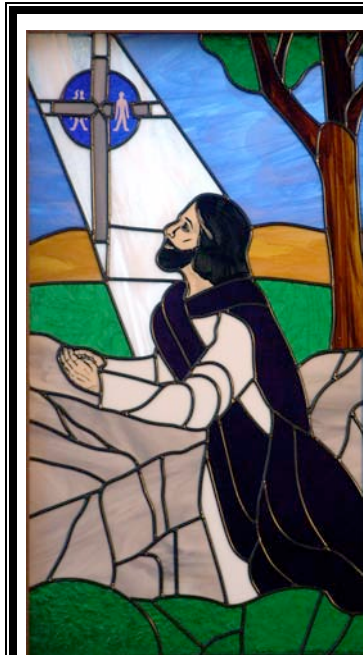
Christ the King: The final day of the church year uses white, a festive color of light, joy, and the celebration of our Lord.

Lesser festivals and commemorations are white, unless a martyr is celebrated, in which case bright red is used.

Source: <http://www.elce.org>

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Submitted by Leslie Atkins



*In loving memory
of Randall Davis
from his family
and in honor of all
Stephen Ministers
Past, Present
and Future
dedicated
June 2, 2002*

Spotlight on Hymns

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” LBW #30

Author: Charles Wesley, 1727-1788

Composer: W. Walker, 1835

Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.

Charles Wesley was the eighteenth and last child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley. He was born December 18, 1707, in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England. He was first educated at home by his parents and later enrolled in the Westminster School in 1716 where his brother

Samuel paid his room and board. He went on to Christ College in Oxford with a Westminster scholarship; he received his B.A. in 1730 and his M.A. in 1732. While there, he, along with his brother John and George Whitefield, formed the Oxford Holy Club for the purposes of worship, Bible study, frequent Holy Communion and visiting the sick and imprisoned in their pursuits they became known as the first "Methodists." After graduation he became a college tutor.

In 1735, Charles was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England; shortly thereafter he sailed for Georgia as a missionary to the new colony. Although secretary to General James Oglethorpe, he became disillusioned and in 1736 returned to London by way of Boston, in the process preaching in what is now the Old South Church. Upon return to London in 1737, he fell in with William Law, Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians and Peter Böhler and was converted on Whitsunday, May 21, 1738, Charles is said to have found "rest to his soul." The day is marked by his writing the hymn, "Where Shall My Wondering Soul Begin."



Charles moved to Bristol in 1749 where he married Sarah Gwynne on April 18th; of the eight children they had, three survived. They returned to London in 1771 where he renewed his prison ministry to Newgate.

Charles was just as involved and instrumental in spreading and sustaining the Methodist movement as his brother, John Wesley. The myth holding Charles as the poet and John as the organizer and preacher is not true. John was one of the organizers of Methodism, but Charles was the one who developed its practical theology with his hymns. Throughout, Charles maintained his ties and allegiance to the Church of England and at times reprimanded his brother for his increasing distance from the church. In his hymns, all but four books of the Bible are cited, and he used over 45 different meters. His 6,500+ hymns are contained in 64 collections published during his lifetime. Charles died in Marylebone, London on March 29, 1788. He was buried in the churchyard at Marlebone, against his brother's wishes, with eight clergymen of the Church of England as pallbearers. "I have lived,

and I die, in the Communion of the Church of England, and I will be buried in the yard of my parish church." Wesley's hymns were very good in every respect. They seem to have flowed from his pen, and it was only death that stopped the course of the stream. He considered himself to have lived and died as a member of the Church of England.

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" will be our sending hymn for the Third Sunday in Advent, December 12.

Source: <http://hymnuts.luthersem.edu/>
Submitted by Leslie Atkins

Dancing with God

Like many people in today's society, I often find my life ruled by an unending barrage of email. Not only letters from people I know and love, but also constant free offers, jokes from well-meaning friends, SPAM, and chain letters. My inbox overflows with hundreds of emails, and I keep hitting delete, delete, delete...

But every once in a while, one email touches my heart and gets filed in my "Keepers" folder. The following email made such an impression on me that I have to share it with you.

"When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing 'dance' at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw 'G', I thought of God, followed by 'u' and 'I'. 'God', 'u', and 'I' 'dance'. God, you,

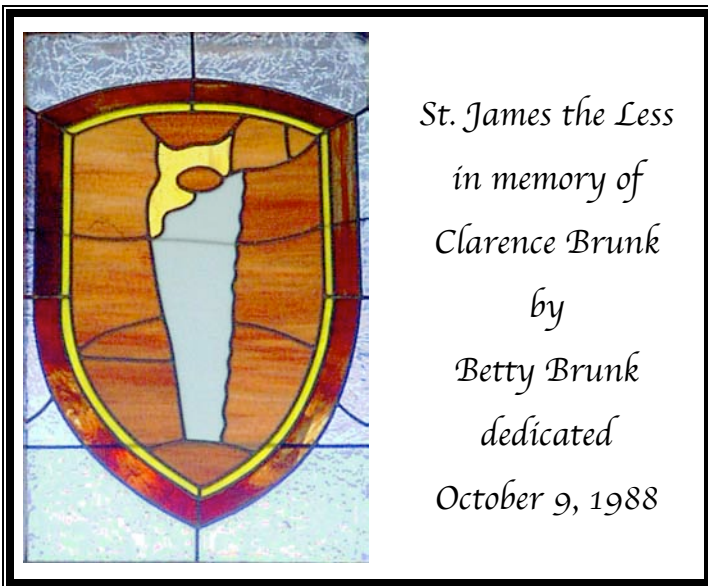
and I dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies be upon you on this day and everyday. May you abide in God as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

This prayer is powerful and there is nothing attached. If God has done anything for you in your life, please share this message with someone else, for prayer is one of the best gifts we can receive. There is no cost but a lot of reward; so let's continue to pray for one another.

And I Hope You Dance!!!!!!!"

Submitted by Leslie Atkins



November Council Highlights

Randy Catron gave us a report on the school building. The school board is no longer meeting, and Randy is the representative to the church council for the remainder of the closure. The school furnished the "seed money" (\$25,000.00) for the application for the grant for the new music school. We should receive the decision on the grant around the 15th of December. The school has pledged \$25,000.00 when we have to have the school demolished.

Randy will go out for bid for the demolition, as well as having Roel Construction check the termite damage around the stained windows, and check out the roof. The balance of any money in the school account will be placed in a restricted clearing fund until June 2007 (two full school years) at which time we will meet and make a decision as to where this money will be used. We agreed the first priority is the music school.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

The Budget and Election meeting will be held Sunday, December 5th, after church service. There are six positions open and someone has been approached to accept each:

President	Sue Lisowsky
Financial Secretary	Anna Wall
Trustee	Tom Davidson
Parish Education	Kim Naour
Outreach	Hank Schneider
Worship	Leslie Atkins.

The floor will be open for further nominations at the meeting.

We reviewed the proposed budget for 2005 and a copy is posted for the congregation's review. You will receive a copy at the meeting.

The council will hold a retreat January 21st and 22nd. We have also changed our meetings to the first Wednesday of the month. We will be changing the structure of our council meetings after the retreat to better use the time we have.

This restructuring will include bible study and visioning, and will help us to assist members in doing the same.

Pastor Rick's installation will be held on Sunday, January 30th at 3 p.m. All Lutheran clergy in the area will be invited, as well as synod officers and other honored guests. There will be a dinner following the service. Deanna Sampson will chair a committee to plan the dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie E. Freeman
Council Secretary

Make a Joyful Noise School Update

The \$100,000 grant was submitted to Thrivent and we are waiting to hear if we have been funded. However, with the \$25,000 from the current school budget and approximately \$5,000 in congregation donations we have \$30,000 and will be able to run our summer music school this summer. Praise the Lord!

Make a Joyful Noise School will reopen in the summer 2005 for a 8 week program for children ages three to fourteen from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be a variety of activities including private music lessons for children first grade and older. Parents pay a flat fee of \$ 80.00 per week per child (non refundable-scholarships will be available). If the child is enrolled in private music lessons, the parent pays \$50.00 per week per child and \$10.00 per music lesson. If the grant is funded there will be a reduced rate for children who are from families of Charlton Hills Lutheran Church. At the end of the 8 weeks, the children will participate in a closing celebration including a performance opportunity for all involved.

The program will pay a stipend to 8-10 high school and/or college youth to help run the program. The Youth will be expected to be onsite one hour prior to the beginning of school and will be given a stipend of \$150.00 per week for their time. (If you know someone who might be interested, let Pastor Rick know!).

Rotation: There will be five rotation "class" times during the day. Parents will sign individual children up for age appropriate group lessons including, reading sheet music, bells, guitar, other instrumental, voice, choir, music appreciation, crafts/arts, reading tutor, math tutor, circle time (for preschool and K), science exploration or other gifted and talented programs, (and other options, depending on the gifts and talents of the staff) and/or individual music lessons (individual music lessons are a separate payment for the family).

Daily Schedule for the 8 week summer program:

- 8:30 a.m. Youth meet with Program Coordinator to go over daily recreation, bible study and craft events
- 9:30 a.m. children arrive – recreation activity
- 9:50 a.m. group singing
- 10:00 a.m. morning worship – group bible verse memorization
- 10:15 a.m. break and transition to classes
- 10:30 a.m. break into age appropriate groups for rotation one
- 11:00 a.m. rotation two
- 11:30 a.m. rotation three
- 12:00 noon lunch time
- 12:30 p.m. recreation activity
- 1:00 p.m. rotation four
- 1:30 p.m. rotation five
- 2:00 p.m. brief break
- 2:15 p.m. snack time
- 2:30 p.m. group meeting
- 3:00 p.m. bible story/reading as whole group
- 3:15 p.m. singing and closing worship



These plans look great on paper, but we need congregation support and help to make the school a reality. We need lots of behind the scenes people to help plan the snacks, the meals, the crafts etc. And we need persons who might be available during the day in the summer to work with the program for as little as 30 minutes a day to the entire day. We will need people to teach the music lessons, volunteer to read with a student (if the parent chooses this academic option) and we will need persons to help with class sessions, opening etc. Please pray about the possibility of supporting this endeavor. We need your ideas, come join us at the next school meeting, Monday, December 6th 7:00 p.m. in the Acts Center.

Belinda Dunnick Karge, Ph.D.

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meets at Red Lobster in La Mesa at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 14th. Join in for some good food and wonderful fellowship. For more information call either Grace Otto, 440-2456 or Nancy Funick, 561-7823.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Carlton Hills Sunday School will present a Christmas program on Sunday, December 19th at 6:00pm. Would your child like to participate? Practices will be either Wednesdays at 6:00pm or Sundays after church. Let Pastor Rick know which works best for your schedule. Please plan on supporting our children on the 19th at 6:00pm.

Texts for the Sundays in December

December 5 -- Second Sunday In Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12 - Color: Blue or Purple

December 12 -- Third Sunday In Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11 - Color: Blue or Purple

December 19 -- Fourth Sunday In Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25 - Color: Blue or Purple

December 26 -- First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23 - Color: White

December Ministers

Acolyte: 5- Krissy Naour 12- Cara Henson

19- Anna Bloeman 26- Danielle Davidson

Coffee Fellowship: 5, 12, 19, 26- Nancy Funick,

Laura Vaughan, Janice Davis

Communion Assist.: 5, 12- Bob & Marcy Metz

19, 26- Grace Otto & Jennifer Brown

Communion Care: Sue Lisowsky

Edgemoor Hospital Worship: 26- Jim Thomas

Greeters: 5, 12- Laura & Mandy Vaughan

19, 26- Marcy & Laura Metz

Lector: 5, 12- Mandy Vaughan

19, 26- Sylvia Smith

Stephen Minister of the Day: 5- Carol Davidson

12- Ed Teichner 19- Jim Thomas 26- Bill Blue

Ushers: Pam Meyers & Hi-Youth

Assist. Minister, Sound: TBA

Christmas Tree Trim & Decorating Party

Time to "Deck the Hall" and decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. December 18th @ 11:00 a.m. Refreshments following. Everyone welcome.

December Anniversaries

4 Steven & Arlean Lane

6 Thomas & Kimberly Insel

14 Ronald & Carole Dixon

18 Michael & Robin Judd

19 Jeffrey & Mary Arndt

20 Jim & Marilyn Thomas

Ronald & Jacqueline Tonini

December Birthdays

3 Roy Monroe	18 Diana Coletti
Linda Schloegel	19 May Hustad
4 Royce Privett	20 Fred Borgeson
8 Susan Ellison	21 Robert Webb
Patricia Maches	Nathan Comstock
9 David Huber	Dylan Grant
10 Janet Shuey	26 Jan Neuhaus
11 C.J. Reid	27 Kourtnee Henson
12 James Maches	Elisa Insel
14 Beverly Sanchez	
Ariana Quintanilla	

Reel Theology

Reel Theology meets December 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Rich and Jean Setzer for dinner and to celebrate Christmas by watching "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" together. This movie is a 1983 made-for-TV adaptation of a children's classic Christmas book. Dinner will be baked potatoes, and everyone can bring a plate of Christmas goodies to share!

Christmas Poinsettias

A Carlton Hills Lutheran tradition---placing poinsettias in memory or recognition of loved ones to beautify the chancel for Christmas. The plants this year will be the famous Ecke poinsettias from Carlsbad. The cost is \$10.00 and the orders must be placed by December 9th. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the narthex on November 28th and December 5th. Please make your check out to CHLC and mark it for poinsettias. Cash contributions can be given to Laura Vaughn.

