

The Echo

No. 12-2005 December Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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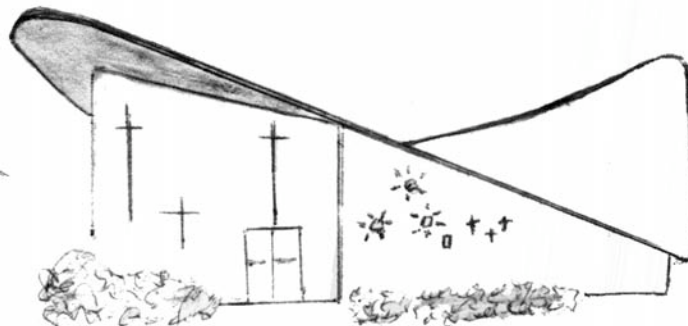
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Pastor's Page

I am trying something new for Christmas.

I have sent a letter to everyone who I can think of who will probably be giving me a gift for Christmas and asking them to consider giving me an "Alternative Gift". If you have seen the new display board near the kitchen in the Acts Center there are several "Alternative Giving Ideas" catalogs. The idea is simple. Instead of receiving a gift for myself, I am asking those who would give me a gift for Christmas or my birthday to give a gift in my honor to one of the ELCA's designated appeals listed in the catalog.

- \$30.00 can provide care for a child abandoned in the streets.
- \$25.00 can buy a goat for a family from Uganda.
- \$150 can supply a gravity pump to supply water to a mountainous area.
- \$3.00 can provide 1 kilogram of beans and pea seeds for planting
- \$16,000 can build a school at a refugee camp

How exciting is that?! And all these gifts will be given in my name. Sounds like I will be having a VERY Merry Christmas.

In my letter to my children, my parents, my in-laws and my friends I wrote the following:

"Dear Family and Friends...Did you ever feel like you do not really need anything for Christmas? The closets are full and anything you really want you can buy for yourself. Beyond having everything you could possibly want or need, there are so many in the world without the basic necessities of life. In response to this dilemma I ask you to consider giving me a gift for Christmas or my birthday in March from our church's "Alternative Giving Ideas" catalog."

Then I go on to give directions as to how the catalogue works.

The most exciting result of this effort so far, has been that my parents have told me that they feel the same way and they want me to pick them a gift from the catalog for them this Christmas. My Mom mentioned that she has several outfits she has never worn in her closet. I wonder if I gave her something she has never worn?

If any of you decide to give the alternative gift giving a try let me know how it turns out. This idea could catch on!

Actually the idea has caught on. Our church is proposing a budget for the coming year that has as its major increase \$10,000 for a designated fund called "The God Account". This fund is based on taking 10% of our income and funding our benevolence contributions to our synod of over \$5,000 plus this \$10,000 for the God Account. This will be our church's alternative gift giving. Instead of spending this money on a huge list of needed improvements to our property, we are giving the money to the needs we discover outside our church. A task force will be formed who will make disbursements from this account and report the disbursements to the church council.

'Tis the season for giving. Let's make this Christmas a real gift giving experience to those who need our gifts the most. Let's not just exchange gifts with those we love. Let's give our gifts to those we do not even know. This is the kind of love God shows us and now God can show this love through us to the world.

Pastor Rick

Come to the Schowalter's for Christmas Treats
Sunday, December 11th from 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Pastor Rick and Deby would like to invite the congregation to a Christmas open house at their home on Sunday, December 11th from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Come for a few minutes or a few hours. Deby has promised to bake an array of goodies and there will be lots of time to sit and enjoy each other's company. There will be the singing of Christmas carols and lots of time to relax. The Schowalters live at 1630 Whitsett Drive which parallels Fanita between Mission Gorge Road and Grossmont College Drive. From Santee take Mission Gorge Road to Fanita(south) to Valley Lake(left) to Windmill View(right) to Liddiard(right) to Whitsett(left). 1630 Whitsett is a half block on the right.

Christmas Eve Worship
7:00pm

We will have just one worship service on Christmas Eve and that will be at 7:00pm. There will be NO 11:00pm worship service. There will be a Christmas

Day worship service that happens to be a Sunday, at our regular worship time of 9:00am.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18th at 6:30pm

How exciting it will be to see our children perform the Christmas story with faithful simplicity. The audience will set the mood by singing the first verse of all your favorite Christmas carols. Children have been memorizing their parts and almost 30 children will be in costume. CHROS will sing a moving song of Mary and the little ones will be animals in the stable. Last year was the beginning of this Christmas program which is a simple retelling of the Christmas story and this year will be even better.

Genesis Expeditions and Washing Machines

During December the church council has approved a special offering be taken for Genesis Expeditions. Genesis is the organization that will receive our school buildings. Last summer several of our youth and Pastor Rick and Liz went to a Genesis Expeditions retreat where we met the children in the orphanage we are sponsoring. The ministry of Genesis Expeditions is to bring orphan children in Mexico together with Christians from churches in the United States. Genesis has received a \$10,000 grant from "Las Ventanas" a ministry of Josh McDowell ministries a Christian author, PLUS another \$10,000 if the \$10,000 can be matched by other contributions. That's a total of \$30,000 to resurrect our school buildings on the Genesis ranch. It is estimated that it will cost Genesis \$50,000 to put all three of the donated domes together on their property. These domes from our school will add 4500 square feet of living space for children and staff at the Genesis Ranch on the Baja.

On our end it is the remarkable efforts of the "Three Amigos" from Genesis who have worked for weeks taking the buildings apart, that is making this process move quickly that at one time was bogged down and now is building momentum. Two of these workers have had their washing machines break down while working here and they have asked if anyone from our congregation has a washing machine they could have? Maybe someone wants a good excuse to buy themselves a new washing machine for Christmas. Support our fund raiser for Genesis

and let Pastor Rick know if you have a washing machine to donate to the cause.

Worship Helpers for December

For December 4 and 11

Greeters: Grace Otto and Jim Thomas

Communion Care: Marcy Metz and Robert Metz

Lector Vince Colletti

For December 18 and 25

Greeters: Penny Sallay and Dee Ryden

Communion Assistants: Jim Thomas and Sara Paulsen

Lector : Marie Freeman

For all of December

Communion Care: Vaughans

Acolytes for December:

4th Selina Weber

11th Michelle Gilliam

18th Jessica Stewart

24th Ben Timan

25th Josh Weber

Sunday School for December

December 4th: Katie Timan, Robin Diorio, Marie Weber, Carol Davidson and Norma Borgeson

December 11th: Anna Bloeman, Kristin Naour, Steven Gomory, Jennifer Brown, Neil Johnson and Jennifer Myette-Ashworth

December 18th: Jeanna Timan, Kim Naour and CHROS with Norma Borgeson

December 25th No Sunday School

Do You Want To Learn Spanish?

Come Wednesdays at 6:00pm. This is intergenerational Spanish for the whole family. Jesse Lipscomb will be teaching the class and his family will help with perfect pronunciation. What a treat! We will be ordering pizza to munch on as we learn.

Feed the Homeless

Friday Morning December 30th

We have been asked to help feed the poor and homeless at First Lutheran in San Diego on 3rd and Ash on Friday morning December 30th. We will leave at 8:00am and be back by 11:30am. Our youth will be on vacation that week and we have never helped with the

breakfast meal served at First Lutheran. We always help with the Monday dinner. So this may be our best opportunity to help with this meal. This ministry is open to anyone from our church, just let Pastor Rick know that you would like to help. What a great way to do something special for the Christmas season.

Lutheran Student Movement
100-200 Coming to Carlton Hills

On Friday, December 30th from 2:30pm to 5:30pm there will be 100-200 college students helping with our school building project. Wow! The Lutheran Student Movement is having their convention at the Marriot at the bay and they want to bus participants to our church for a service project. We need your help!!

Please let us use your hammers, crow bars, sledge hammers, work gloves and wheel barrows to put these young adults to work. Clearly mark your name on the tools or gloves and they will be returned. The students will be taking nails out of boards, using sledge hammers to knock down walls and filling up huge dumpsters with stucco, waste boards and blocks.

We are looking for 10 people from our church to coordinate work groups for these three hours. Imagine all the work that can be accomplished. Let Pastor Rick know if you can help by either allowing us to use your tools or by helping to lead a work group.

Christmas Happenings

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY: The sign-up sheets for Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas will be in the back of the church starting on November 20th through December 11th. A beautiful and meaningful way to remember a special Christmas and loved ones.

Work Parties



DECORATION DAY for Christmas: The Altar Guild and Worship Committee will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday December 17th. Starting at 9:30 a.m.

You are invited to help decorate our new 12' Christmas tree with 2500 lights already on the tree with our beautiful Chrismons. It's going to be beautiful!!

**Roses Are Red.
Advent Candles Are Blue
Why?**

As a member of the worship committee, I would like to share with you, from time to time, thoughts on the customs, history, liturgy and worship of our Lutheran faith.

November 27th is the 1st Sunday in the Advent Season (the 4 Sundays before Christmas.) Advent Sunday is also the “Happy New Year” day as it is the beginning of a new Church calendar year. The word Advent is from the Latin meaning, “to come”.

For hundreds of years, the liturgical color for both Advent and Lent has been purple--the color for penitence, and the Advent Wreath, which probably began in Germany after the Reformation, had 3 purple and 1 pink candle. The pink candle was lighted on the 3rd Sunday (Gaudete Sunday). The author of the Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook now writes that “ the former practice of lighting the Gaudete candle on the 3rd Sunday no longer reflects the current lectionary and calendar”, and the preferred color for the Advent Season is now royal blue for all four candles—the color of hope which is the principal theme of Advent. The candles in their succession are the Prophecy Candle, Bethlehem Candle, Shepherds Candle and the Angels Candle.

During Advent, when you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship, notice that that the altar and baptismal paraments, the choir “collars”, Advent candles and Pastor Rick’s stole are all royal blue—the color of hope. Your spirit will be prepared to focus on the celebration of Christ’s coming in the incarnation, and his second coming, when he will make all things new and judge the world in righteousness.

Submitted by Joanne Schneider
Worship Committee

Roses:

De Ryden for providing a Thanksgiving dinner for everyone at God's Gifts. Our Mexican workers, Rudy, Frank, and Jared were especially grateful. Rudy said it was the first turkey dinner he had had in five years!

Thank you to Rudy, Frank, and Jared for all the hard work they are doing on the domes. They've made our work lighter.

Christian High School for turning out en mass (over 50 of these kids and adults) on a recent Saturday, to pull nail, salvage boards, and do whatever was needed.

To everyone involved with God's Gifts on Wednesday nights. The energy level, enthusiasm, and fun radiates!

To the ladies of Dorcas. Warm blankets for each child at the orphanage for Christmas. What a blessing you are. May you be blessed!

To Neil and all those who work with the sound system on Sundays.

For Michael Childers adding his Amens with genuine joy.

Bouquets:

Boy Scout Troop 384 and their leaders. Once again they were there to work and clean up our grounds. This time they helped plant the new ground cover on the banks. The troop turns out regularly for work parties on Saturday mornings. Thanks Scouts.

Jim Albright and Jim Thomas accompanied Pastor Rick in November to First Lutheran downtown San Diego to feed the homeless. Pastor Rick will be inviting everyone to help again on December 30th.

Dorcas Circle for another very successful bazaar. To all those who contributed, helped, participated in some way, or did some shopping, thank you. Dorcas will put the monies to very good use as they always do.

Tom Pendergast for his delicious fudge!

Dorothy and Roy Monroe, just because!

Changes in Our Lives

Why is it that we all cringe when we hear that something is going to change? Is it because we are just too comfortable, and settled? Yet, everyday brings a new change in something. Thank God for that! Can you imagine everyday of your life being exactly the same? Which day would you choose? It's mind boggling for me. Now we have a new change in our choir, and guess what, again we've accepted it. When Jan, along with several choir members, transferred to College Lutheran, there were loud moans and groans. Our choir was marvelous, it sounded great, and brought us such joy. Some felt that with our loss, our choir was a thing of the past, the beginning of the end. I am sad that our former choir members felt the need to leave, but I wish each of them well. They will be an asset to any choir in which they choose to share their

talents. But now for the change in the choir at CHELC. Listen closely on Sunday morning. What do you hear? Yes, it is a choir! Wonderful voices blending together to sing beautiful music in praise of our Lord. We have had several choir directors over the past 40 some years, along with many different choir members. God has blessed us immeasurably with each change He has made in our church, and in our lives. Let us learn to thank God for his gifts, and learn to look forward to what more He has in store for us!

Offered By Stephen Ministry In January

Speaking the Truth in Love: How to Be an Assertive Christian

By Ruth N. Koch and Kenneth C. Haugk

Assertiveness is about living your faith. God deeply desires that people of God be whole, complete and fully integrated.

God is willing to supply, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the wholeness you need.

Discover how as a more assertive Christian, you can make deliberate, prayerful choices about how and when you should serve in your faith; enhance your skills for communication in relationships; and how to deal with difficult people and troubling feelings.

Join us **January 9th at 6:30 p.m.** for a weekly book study and discussion. Contact Ellie Timan or Carol Davidson for more details. A sign up sheet will be on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meets at Home Town Buffet in Santee, 256 Town Center Parkway at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 13th. Join in for some good food and wonderful fellowship. For more information call either Grace Otto, 440-2456 or Nancy Funick, 561-7823.

Texts for the Sundays in December

- 4 Second Sunday In Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8 - Color: Blue or Purple
- 11 Third Sunday In Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28 - Color: Blue or Purple
- 18 Fourth Sunday In Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38 - Color: Blue or Purple
- 24 The Nativity Of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] - Color: White
- 25 The Nativity Of Our Lord
Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
John 1:1-14 - Color: White

December Ministers

- Acolyte: 4- Selina Weber 11- Michelle Gilliam
18- Jessica Stewart 24- Ben Timan
25- Josh Weber
- Assist. Minister: TBA
- Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan,
Janice Davis
- Communion Assist.: 4, 11- Marcy & Robert Metz
18, 25- Jim Thomas & Sara Paulsen
- Communion Care: Vaughans
- Edgemoor Hospital Worship: 25- Jim Thomas
- Greeters: 4, 11- Grace Otto & Jim Thomas
18, 25- Penny Sallay & Dee Ryden
- Lector: 4, 11- Vince Colletti 18, 25- Marie Freeman
- Stephen Minister of the Day: 4- Ellie Timan
11- Bill Blue 18- Carol Davidson 25- Ed Teichner
- Ushers: Tom & Susan Ellison, Tom Davidson, Kim
Naour, Ed Teichner

December Anniversaries

- 4 Arlean & Steven Lane
- 6 Kimberly & Thomas Insel
- 14 Carole & Ronald Dixon
- 18 Michael & Robin Judd
- 19 Jeffrey & Mary Arndt
- 20 Jim & Marilyn Thomas

December Birthdays

3 Roy Monroe
Linda Schloegel
4 Royce Privett
8 Susan Ellison
Patricia Maches
9 David Huber
10 Janet Shuey
11 Caleb Reid
Conrad Reid
12 James Maches

14 Ariana Quintanilla
Beverly Sanchez
18 Diana Coletti
19 May Hustad
20 Fred Borgeson
21 Nathan Comstock
Dylan Grant
Robert Webb
27 Kourtnee Henson
Elisa Insel

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



Sunday School making pumpkin bread

