

The Echo

No. 12-2007 December Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Spirituality of Money

”Those who love money will never have enough.”
- Ecclesiastes 5:10-11

How meaningless it is to think that wealth brings true happiness! The more we have, the more others will help us spend it. So what good is wealth, except, perhaps, to watch it slip through our fingers?”

What wisdom!

On September 3rd, I read the devotion from “Christ in Our Home.” It was about the millionaire, Millard Fuller, who by the time he was 29, had bought his wife every luxury imaginable, only to discover one day that she had left him. Feeling desperate, he searched everywhere he thought she might be and finally found her in a New York hotel. They talked for hours. She poured out her heart to him, and said that she was not interested in material things. Her heart was empty, her spirit was bruised. She felt dead inside. In the early hours of the morning, in that hotel room, they got down on their knees and asked God for guidance. The answer came – not to lavish gifts on themselves, but to help the poor. Out of that dramatic moment, Habitat for Humanity was born.

Thoreau said that we are rich in proportion to the things we can afford to give to others. Whatever our material blessings may be, they are gifts from a loving God, entrusted to us for the good of all. Recognizing this, and being thankful, is a very special kind of wealth.

My father died less than a year ago, on February 17, 2007. Adjusting to his death has been difficult for my mother. She lives alone in the home they shared, in the middle of 500 acres of woods in northern Minnesota, and is pretty much separated from the rest of the world. On November 14th, she turned 80 years old.

One day I was talking with her as she recounted her many blessings. She had only thankfulness in her heart for the years she spent with my father. Her health is excellent, even though my brother and I joke that she has been dying for the last 30 years because she has high blood pressure and a bad heart.

My mother was unable to graduate from high school because she had to drop out and go to work to help support her nine brothers and sisters. She is so proud of her grandchildren, most of whom have advanced college degrees. Her family was very poor because her father was an alcoholic, who could never hold down a job.

My mother wondered how she could repay God for His many blessings, and decided that He would not want her to do anything other than help others to know Him and hear His word. She asked me if she could sponsor some of our confirmands so that they could go on the November retreat. She sent me a check for \$680.00 to sponsor not one, but four confirmands.

In December, we consider how much of our income we will commit to God’s work, through our church. Though we will not have pledges this year, we can still make that commitment, after prayerful consideration, of the many blessings God has showered upon us.

How thankful are you for God’s blessings in your life?

Are you willing to make a commitment to the finances of the church so that we can continue help others know God and have faith in Jesus?

Please take the time to ask God what your financial commitment to the church should be for the coming year. I am confident that we will meet our church’s financial needs if we all do our part, as God directs us. We cherish every contribution, from the smallest gift to the largest.

I pray that you will have a blessed Christmas as you celebrate God’s most precious gift - his Son. May your life of faith continue to grow and blossom in the New Year?

Pastor Rick

Finances and Attendance for October

Attendance:

	9:00a.m.	5:00p.m.	Total
10/7	94	24	118
10/14	92	15	107
10/21	93	23	116
10/28	116	28	144

Oct. Offerings:	\$10,797.97
Oct. Expenses:	\$10,830.21
YTD Income:	\$120,951.79
YTD Expenses:	\$127,020.57
Operating Surplus:	\$2,195.78
Fall Festival Profit	\$3,844.32

NEW Christmas Eve Worship Time!! Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 p.m. Nursery Provided

Mark your calendars! To accommodate our Chargers fans who will be glued to the TV with a 5:00 p.m. game against Denver on Christmas Eve we are moving our Christmas Eve worship to 9:00 p.m.

This worship service will feature Marilyn Thomas on the violin and Lynn Nichol on the harp. How exciting to have that beautiful combination for our Christmas Eve worship. Children will receive a special gift during the Children's Message. Following our worship there will be a reception in the Acts Center and a fire for roasting marshmallows on the patio. Bring guests. It will be a night to remember!

Couples Bible Study

Pastor Rick and Deby continues to offer a couples Bible study at their home most Thursday evenings at 7:00p.m. The study does not meet the second Thursday of each month when the church council is scheduled to meet. This is a discussion study on the Book of Romans called "Becoming New In Christ". Talk with Deby or Pastor Rick if you are interested.

News Notes for the Near Future

- Saturday, December 1st: Deborah Liv Johnson Concert at College Lutheran at 6:00p.m. benefiting Lutheran Campus Ministry at SDSU
- Sunday, December 2nd: Budget and Elections Annual Mt. at 10:30a.m.
- Sunday, December 2nd and 9th: Sunday School Christmas Play Practice at 9:15a.m. in the back of the Acts Center
- Saturday, December 15th Christmas Dinner, Decorating and Sunday School Program
- Sunday, December 16th: Choir Christmas program at 9:00a.m. and Christmas at the Schowalter's from 2:00p.m. to 4:30p.m.
- Monday, December 17th: Feed the Homeless at 2:30p.m.
- Sunday, December 23rd: Confirmation Youth Christmas Drama at 9:00a.m.
- Monday, December 24th Candle Light Christmas Eve worship at 9:00p.m. with reception to follow with cookies and roasting marshmallows. The 5:00p.m. worship will feature the singing of Christmas Carols during the sermon
- Sunday, December 30th Youth Led Worship with Christmas Carols

Healing Service and Prayer Shawl Dedication the first Sunday of each month

Our prayer team will be leading a healing service the first Sunday of every month following the 9:00a.m. worship service. Please come whether you want to ask God for healing of either yourself or a loved one. Prayer Shawls will be distributed at this time. The prayer team offers prayer every Sunday during the communion distribution at either the back of the church or the "prayer loft" opposite the choir loft. The prayer team will also pray for the prayer requests handed in each Sunday on the prayer cards found in the pews and prayed for in the worship service. Each Sunday the prayer team will also pray with anyone who wishes to pray after the worship service by staying in their seat.

During the first 9:00a.m. worship service of every month we will also dedicate prayer shawls that are hand-knitted by our members for the comfort and assistance of prayer that those shawls represent. How blessed we are and how blessed others will be to have these offerings of prayer.

Sponsor a Confirmand Thank you!!

We had 12 of the 16 confirmands at the Middle School Youth Gathering November 16-18 and each of the 12 were sponsored for \$100 to \$170 each. The “Gathering” included lively worship, inspirational speakers and a trip to Universal Studios. Our thanks to our adult leaders who spent 24/7 with the confirmands gaining their trust and support:

Stephanie and Chris Myers and Kim Naour

And special thanks to our sponsors:

Tom and Betty Pendergast
Hank and Joanne Schneider
Dusty and Florence Hustad
Ellie Timan
Pat (Helen) Guttzeit
Beth and Avery Hall (The Schowalter’s daughter)
Ruth Schowalter (Pastor’s Mother)

We have one of the most dedicated confirmation classes of Pastor Rick’s ministry. Thank you for your support.

Don’t miss the Confirmation class drama on Sunday, December 23rd at the 9:00am worship service. It is a fun and exciting way to celebrate Christmas through the faith of our youth.

Christmas at the Schowalter’s EVERYONE IS INVITED!!

Please come to Pastor Rick and Deby’s home on Sunday, December 16th at 1630 Whisett Drive to enjoy good food and a time to relax in the company of your church family. Come at any time and stay as long as you would like between 2:00p.m. and 4:30p.m. To get to the Schowalter’s from church go to the intersection of Mission Gorge and Fanita and take Fanita south to the stoplight at Valley Lake. Turn left on Valley Lake to the first right at

Windmill View and take the next right on Liddiard. Then turn left at the bottom of the hill on Whisett. The Schowalter’s home is on the right about three houses from the corner.

Scripture Wreath

You will notice a new wreath in the sanctuary this year. It is a “Scripture Wreath” and contains the following:

Cedar

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Psalm 92:12

Pine

The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box tree together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary. Isaiah 60:13

Boxwood

I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittab tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree together; That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. Isaiah 41:19-20

Pomegranate

I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished and the pomegranates budded. Song of Solomon 6:11

Apple

The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languishes; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field are withered; because joy is withered away from the sons of men. Joel 1:12

Cinnamon

Moreover the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Take three principal spices of pure myrrh, 500 shekels and of sweet cinnamon half so much...And you will anoint the tabernacle of the congregation with it. Exodus 30: 22-23,26

Consider this wreath our Christmas anointing from the Lord as we celebrate the riches of this

world and the greatest riches to be found in the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Echo Advertising

Please read the advertising on the back of the Echo and consider supporting these businesses who are paying for the cost of the printing of this news letter each month.

Deborah Liv Johnson Concert Saturday, December 1st

College Lutheran is supporting the above concert to raise support for the Lutheran Campus Ministry at SDSU.

Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. Admission includes:

6:00p.m. Wine, sparkling cider, appetizers and silent auction

7:00p.m. Concert

8:00p.m. Desserts, Coffee and Glog

Ministry for Soldiers Coordinated by Rebecca Owens

On October 6, 2007 my husband, Jason Owens left for Baghdad, Iraq with the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade. Through the communications of the spouses, we discovered there are 10 soldiers who do not receive mail on a regular basis. We are looking for those who would be willing to "adopt" one of these soldiers and send regular communications.

Their names are:

MSgt Wayne Tucker

TSgt Jared Sams

SSgt Jeremy Sharp

IT2 Toupe

IT2 Brandt

SSgt Vanoosbree

Sgt Verhagen

YN3 Perry

Sgt Pauli

Having regular contact from home is invaluable in helping our heroes to feel connected and appreciated. If you choose to "adopt" a soldier, please contact Pastor Rick.

The mailing address for the above soldiers is:

Soldier's Name

360th Civil Affairs Brigade

APO AE 09342

Another Note:

For those who send out Christmas cards how about adding another card to your list:

A recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

For information about sending packages contact Pastor Rick or Rebecca.

Christmas Celebration

Support High-Up [High School and College Youth Group] for a Christmas Celebration. It will be held at the church on Saturday, December 15th. From 4:00 until 6:15, we will have a dinner and center piece auction. At 6:30, we will meet in the decorated church and watch our Sunday School Christmas Program. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. You may purchase tickets from High-Up members. Please make checks payable to Carlton Hills Lutheran Church. We hope to see you all there. ☺

Glad Tidings for Stephen Ministry and CHELC

For a little over a year, our Stephen Minister's have been praying for people to step forth to be trained as Stephen Minister's. We decided to ask God for 7 new Stephen Minister's, a nice realistic number we felt. And so we have prayed. And we have prayed. In that time, Kathy Darland decided to become active again, and she has been such a blessing! Then this fall, Russ Sarnecki, a member of St. Columbas' who had also been one of our inactive Stephen Minister's, felt the nudge to join us again. Russ brings us so much, and we are so grateful to have him. He also gave us the name of a gentleman from St. Columbas' who was interested in our ministry!

On Tuesday, November 20th Stephen Ministry training will begin for four candidates. They will have 50 hours of training over the next 6 months! In this time, they will attend 2 retreats, read 3 books, make new friends, and do lots of studying. Did I also tell you they will also have fun, do role playing, and have refreshments?

We welcome from CHELC Vicki Haas, Marian Privett and Amanda Vaughn. Joining us from St. Columbas's Episcopal Church is Bill Bixby. God has answered our prayers, and mightily blessed us. Thank you, gracious Father.

We are still praying, and praying, for more care receiver's. We know that our Lord would not have given us more Stephen Minister's if He did not intend to bless our endeavor's. Please join us in our prayers, and in our thanks.

Depressed?
Want To Talk About It?
Job Got You Down?
School Got You Concerned?
Struggling In Your Relationship
With Your Spouse?
With God?
Physically And Mentally Drained?

Call For A Stephen Minister

Share with someone who cares and will keep it just between the two of you.....and usually God! Call one of the following Stephen Minister's: Carol Davidson 258-1511; Ed Teichner 562-4561; Ellie Timan 448-2495; or Pastor Rick 448-1888 or on his cell phone at 249-3352.

You can even fill out a referral form on the information table in the back of the sanctuary.....give it to one of us, drop it in the box there, or mail it to the church office.

Remember this can be for someone you are concerned about, too. And you, or they, needn't be members of our congregation.

Call!
It Will Help To Share It.....Confidentially

December Ministers

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan, Grace Otto
Communion Assist.: 2, 9- Laura & Amanda Vaughan 16, 23- Marcy & Bob Metz 30- Youth
Communion Care: Laura Vaughan
Greeters: 2, 9- Vaughan family 16, 23- Metz family 30- Youth
Lector: 2, 9- Tom Davidson 16, 23- Vicki Haas 30- Youth
Stephen Minister of the Day: 2- Ellie Timan 9- Jim Thomas 16- Carol Davidson 23- Kathleen Darland 24- Ed Teichner 30- Jim Thomas
Ushers: Jeremy Hustad & High-Up

December Anniversaries

6	Thomas & Kimberly Insel	21
14	Ronald & Carole Dixon	34
20	Jim & Marilyn Thomas	32
31	Marilyn & Gary Stewart	27

December Birthdays

3	Linda Schloegel
4	Royce Privett
4	Marshal Force
6	Curtis Stark
8	Patricia Maches
9	David Huber
10	Janet Shuey
11	Conrad Reid
11	John Sevcik
11	Caleb Reid
12	James Maches
14	Ariana Quintanilla
14	Emily Byrd
18	Diana Coletti
19	May Hustad
20	Fred Borgeson
21	Robert Webb
21	Dylan Grant
26	Mike Diorio
27	Elisa Insel
29	Zackary Stark
30	Kathryn Francis
30	Martin Myette-Ashworth

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

Council Page

Council Meeting:

The Council Meeting was called to order on Nov 8th by President Darrel Timan at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Rick led us in devotions and prayer - Romans 8:26

Visioning: The Parish Paper – December 2006

Attending were: Penny Sallay, Vicki Haas, Dee Ryden, Pastor Rick Schowalter, Misty Thompson, Jesse Lipscomb, Darrel Timan and Linda Gulliver, Diana Coletti and Sara Paulsen.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation of Worship Chair – Diana Coletti was accepted.

Resignation of Stewardship Chair – Robert Reid was accepted.

Sara motioned to accept the Agenda with Vicki seconding. All approved, motion passed.

Sara motioned to accept the Minutes with Penny seconding. All approved, motion passed.

Misty motioned to accept the reports with Sara seconding. All approved, motion passed.

Linda asked why the Treasurer’s Report doesn’t show a breakdown for the month to match her records. Sara said that it is added at the top of the page and it is not broken down. Penny suggested that it should be broken down, to show the checks and balances between the Financial Secretary’s Report and the Treasurer’s Report.

Dee motioned to accept the Financial Reports for Sep (Revised), Oct and Treasurer’s Report for Oct with Vicki seconding. All approved, motion passed.

Diana Coletti made a proposal to modify the Treasurer’s Report to make it easier to read. Penny briefly explained that Quick Books can do this for you. It will allow you to request the Report and Export it over to Excel, format it the way you want it and print it.

Pastor suggested that this be tabled for the next meeting for the Visioning Discussion. This is tabled for December’s Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jesse gave an update on the Travel Site, and he is ready to proceed.

Jesse gave a brief on the Elections coming up.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13th.

Motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. was made by Misty with Diana seconding. All approved, motion passed.

Closed with Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Penny Sallay
Council Secretary

You are now able to communicate directly with your Council through E-mail. Your suggestions or concerns will be discussed at the Council Meeting and your reply will be sent back to you. If you wish for your name to remain silent or confidential, please state this in your

E-mail. If you require more information on this please see Penny

Sallay. councilsecretary@carltonhillslutheran.org.

Penny Sallay
Council Secretary

Directory Updates

Please send all Directory Updates to directory@carltonhillslutheran.org. If you do not have E-mail, you may write these updates down and give them to Penny Sallay. The next update is scheduled for Dec 2007.

It is not too late to have a new picture taken for the Directory Update and the Members Board. See Penny or Jeff Sallay to arrange a date and time.

Penny Sallay
Directory Coordinator

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a Flower Coordinator for the church. If interested please see Penny Sallay.

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meet Jimmy's in Santee, 9635 Mission Gorge Rd, at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 11th. Join in for some good food and wonderful fellowship. For more information call either Grace Otto, 448-8202 or Nancy Funick, 562-9969.

Texts for the Sundays in December

2nd First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122 (1)

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Show us your steadfast | love, O LORD, and grant us | your salvation. Alleluia. (Ps. 85:7)

Color: Blue

9th Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 (7)

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Prepare the way | of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)

Color: Blue

16th Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10 (8) or Luke 1:46b-55 (47)

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. I am sending my messen- | ger before you, who will prepare your | way before you. Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)

Color: Blue

23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The virgin shall conceive and | bear a son, and they shall name | him Emmanuel. Alleluia. (Matt. 1:23)

Color: Blue

24th Christmas Eve

Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96 (11)

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. I am bringing you good news of great joy for | all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messi- | ah, the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:10-11)

Color: White



**Amy & Bob Sigler
Eric, Wendy & Garret**

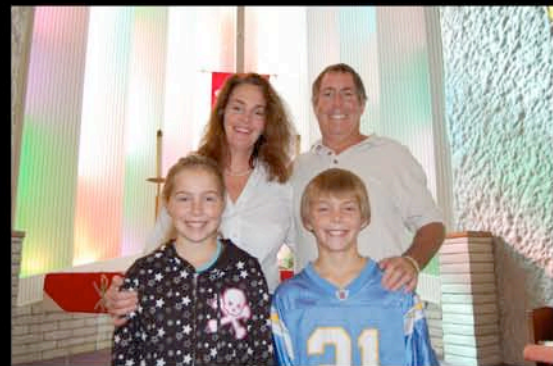


**Gail & Brian Force
Marshall and Camryn**

New Members!



Heather & Cloe Caya



**Tom & Jane Reaney
Betty and Thomas**



Eugene & Sally Bankston



**Sydney Fitzgerald
Zaden, Micah**



Olivia Campbell



Carrie Muehlenpfort



Jim Carlie



**Rudy and Terri Flores
Rachel and Sarah**



Donna Dudley