

The Echo

No. 12-2009 December Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Prayer Chain, 449-1645

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Pastor's Page

Christmas is the time of year that we celebrate welcoming our Lord and Savior into the world as a baby born in Bethlehem. It is a time of new beginnings and new birth. This baby born in Bethlehem will mark the beginning of salvation for a world doomed by evil. This birth will set in motion the life of Jesus that will become the perfect sacrifice for sin and offer the world forgiveness. Through this frail and humble birth we will be given life that will last literally forever. Beginnings and birth can be such important times in our lives.

Our church is experiencing several new beginnings. Who knows what new life these births will offer us and where this new life will lead us?

I am so excited to see the senior lunch program do so well in such a short period of time. In partnership with the Salvation Army we serve a hot and delicious meal to 20 to 30 seniors each day of the week and every week there seems to be more new faces taking advantage of the meals. The meals are only \$3.00 for the suggested donation but if that is an issue, seniors can eat for free. At each meal the participant is given a small envelope and the seniors can place \$3.00 in the envelope or leave it empty. Beyond this great offer is the opportunity to call in and be picked up at your home for the lunch. I have been so excited to see 8 to 12 members of our church come and participate in the lunch. I come whenever possible to greet people and pray the opening prayer. We sing a table prayer and I say a prayer. Our Sunday School children have made place mats with the words to the table prayer. It seems we continue to find ways to include new ways to have these visitors be an important part of our ministry and outreach. I am planning to invite visiting seniors to our Advent Fair where they can make their own Advent Log and receive a daily devotion during Lent.

In one of my visits I sat across from a man sitting alone whose name is Vick. We share the same birthday month. I will be 58 years old in March and Vick will be 90 years old. Vick said he

is married but his wife cannot attend the lunch because she broke her pelvis. I ask Vick who takes care of her and he said, "I do." I asked him how old she is and he said, "92".

What a wonderful new beginning for our church ministering to the seniors of our church and community.

Another new beginning is the "Caring Neighbors" program through the Lutheran Social Ministry. Suzanne runs the program and is in our church office on Friday mornings. "Caring Neighbors" coordinates help in the form of minor repairs or other helping needs for the seniors of our community. Suzanne is looking for volunteers to help with these needs and she is coordinating the effort. Many of our youth groups have already been approached to help.

We are also looking forward to having our Stephen Ministers be available to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the seniors with whom we come in contact.

We are also being blessed by a wonderful lady named "Sammy" who is the job coach for several mentally challenged young adults. They are volunteering to work around our church doing odd jobs in large part coordinated by Lyn Arthurton.

We are becoming more in tune with the needs of "Refugio" in Tijuana which is a home for abandoned and homeless seniors in Mexico. These seniors often sleep on the floor in the "Refugio" and are served only one meal a day. Doesn't your heart go out to them just to hear of their plight?

We have started taking an offering for "the poor" at our communion services and we received over \$85.00 with the first invitation to give to the poor in response to the gift of Holy Communion.

The new life around us is snowballing.

Consider this Christmas season how you can also be a part of the newness our church is experiencing around us. It will make the Christmas season so much more meaningful if you do.

Pastor Rick

Finances And Attendance For October

Attendance:

	9:00a.m.	11:00a.m.	Total
10/4	85	32	117
10/11	70	26	96
10/18	75	25	100
10/25	82	18	100

October Finances:

Expenses	\$11,995
Income	\$12,030
Operating Surplus YTD	\$18,039

Bagels And Senior Lunch

Something each Tuesday of the month

Meet at Einstein Bagels at the Santee Trolley each Tuesday between 9:30am and 11:00am for fellowship

Except...

The second Tuesday of the month when you are invited to the Senior Lunch at a local restaurant beginning at 11:30am. Senior Lunch for December 8th is at Mimi's in Santee.

Feed The Homeless December 7th

Meet at church at 2:30pm and return by 6:00pm

Let Pastor Rick Know if you would like to attend and need a ride.

Church Travel Site

Did you know that we have a church travel site where you can book airline tickets, hotel accommodations and rental cars and for the very best rates available and have a percentage of the dollars you spend come back as a donation to the church.

Go online to benefit yourself and your church:

www.ytbtravel.com/chelc

Adult Studies

Pastor Rick offers two adult Bible studies.

One study will be between services from 10:25a.m. to 10:55a.m.

The other study is at the home of Pastor Rick and Deby at 1630 Whitsett Drive in El Cajon at 7:00p.m. on Thursdays

Both studies will be using the Lutheran Study Bible

Sewing Needs?

She's a wizard with a needle and thread

Can produce any garment that pops into your head
She mends, darns, and sews 'til work is completed
Call Nancy Funick at 619-270-7187 to do your sewing chores

Her prices are right and satisfaction is yours!

Budget And Elections Annual Meeting

Between services on Sunday, December 6th

Church Council Will Meet Sunday, December 13th At 4:00p.m.

Special Music Every Second Sunday At 9:00a.m.

We are excited at all the talent at our church to praise the living Lord. We have set up a schedule to allow you to invite friends who may wish to receive a special blessing by these gifted musicians and vocalists. Each musician will be asked to provide special music for the 9:00a.m. worship service during the offering. Here is the last special music offering of the year. If you would like to be included on this list for 2010 let Gary Berglund our worship representative to the church council know of your desire to share your musical gifts with us all.

December 13th - Lynn Nichols playing her Harp
Mark your calendars!!

50th Anniversary Planning Task Force

The invitations for this special 50th anniversary celebration for Sunday, January 17th have been sent in the mail and distributed on Sunday morning. Our many thanks to Penny Sallay who has coordinated our efforts to create a wall "Celebrating the Saints" as a major fund raiser, to Marvin Hamilton who is crafting the anniversary worship service, to May and Tim Hustad who are printing invitations and working on the program for the anniversary, to Marie Freeman and many member of Dorcas who are raising funds and coordinating the banquet buffet and, to Deanna Sampson who is coordinating communications with our schools and to Dick Maxa, Betty Maxa and Dee Ryden who have helped to put our history together. We are all in debt to their efforts.

The anniversary schedule on January 17th is:

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Reception & Refreshments

11:00a.m. Program

Noon Banquet Buffet

Please RSVP your intentions to eat with us. It will be a day of wonder, celebration and thanksgiving.

Please plan on buying all your Christmas gifts at the Bazaar sponsored by our crafting ladies who have met every Monday for months. The Bazaar will be Saturday, December 5th beginning at 7:00 a.m. and Sunday morning December 6th. All profits will help to pay for the anniversary banquet.

4-5-6 Club

This new ministry is for children in 4th through 6th grade. They will meet Thursday, December 3rd and December 17th from 6:00p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Contact Stephanie Myers for more information.

Confirmation And Youth Retreats

- High School Retreat at Camp Yolijiwa February 13-15 \$125/person The previously published date was incorrect. This retreat is

Saturday through Monday of President's weekend

- Peer Ministry Retreat at Yolijiwa March 19-20 \$35.00

Dorothy Monroe

Dorothy has moved to Washington State and she now has her own place. She can be reached at 509-524-4122 or mail can be sent to 1500 Katherine Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

Church Member Spotlight

The church council during their September meeting gave approval to start a "Church Member Spotlight" insert in the weekly bulletins. With the growth of the 11:00a.m. Service we are increasingly becoming two churches. In the interest of getting to know each other better we will randomly select one of our members to "get to know" with a photo and information published in a bulletin insert. Those from the pervious month will also be featured in the echo. Donna Dudley who is the council representative to the Outreach Committee will contact these selected members and ask a series of questions like:

- Describe your relationship with our church.
- Describe what attracted you to our church.
- Tell us about your family and friends.
- What is your occupation and what things do you like to do in your spare time?
- How would you describe your faith history and your church history?

There are so many wonderful people in our church and it will be so wonderful to find out some of the details that make us who we are.

Please welcome Donna when she contacts you if you are selected and share with us the blessing you are to us all.

Christmas Eve

Worship on Christmas Eve will be at 7:00 p.m. and will be concluded with a feast of sweets that Deby Schowalter will provide from her own kitchen.

Plan to spend time in worship and enjoying refreshments on the church patio. The fire on the patio will also be available for roasting marshmallows.

Choir Presentation For Christmas

Sunday, December 20th at 9:00 a.m.

Come and enjoy the inspiration of our wonderful choir



Member Profile Donna Dudley

Hi! I am Donna Dudley and have decided to write about myself first. This should tell you a little about me and remove any qualms anyone might have about an interview.

I moved to Santee in 1998 and once settled in my home, I looked in the yellow pages to find a Lutheran Church near me. And I found Carlton Hills Lutheran Church. And so I began attending services (yes, sporadically due to other life requirements) but hardly ever miss a Wednesday

Lenten Service. When the 5:00 service began, I seldom missed a Sunday. It was during this time Pastor Rick approached me and asked if I would like to become a member. This tickled me to no end and I did! I like the feel of Carlton Hills as it isn't so large you become lost in the crowd.

I grew up in Bremerton, WA and attended Emmanuel Lutheran Church as a child. I attended confirmation classes and was confirmed there. When I got my drivers' license, I was able to drive to church each Sunday. Later, as an adult, my family moved to West Bremerton and we transferred to Our Saviors Lutheran Church. My three sons attended confirmation classes and were confirmed here.

My sons are now adults with their own families and I am lucky enough to have four grandchildren! Michael, oldest, lives with his 2 yr old daughter in Boise, ID; Matthew, middle, lives with his wife Janet and two children (ages 8 and 11) in San Antonio, TX; and Marcus, youngest, also lives in Boise, ID with his wife Jessica and 2 yr old son. I also have two cats and 1 ½ horses. Now how do you have half a horse? No, she isn't funny looking...I lease her so I can ride as my mare is not physically sound.

I work for the Navy at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command. My goal, of course, is to retire! I have less than three years to go to be fully eligible. I recently completed my 25th year. What will I do when I retire? Not sure but part of it will be making up for lost "grandma" time!

This is a Readers Digest version of me! And when your phone rings...it may be me!

Santee Caring Neighbors - An Update

Caring Neighbors, a program of Lutheran Social Services, through a grant from the City of Santee, hooks up those needing repairs with dedicated volunteers who will make the repair.

The program now has more seniors needing repairs than we have volunteers. So

do you consider yourself a bit of a handy person? Do you want to help your neighbor? Can you do light housekeeping or yard work? Are you a member of a group looking for community projects? Then we could use you! Make a difference in your community.

A sample of the projects needing volunteers:

- Cleaning out gutters on a single-story home.
- Watering garden and trimming plants
- Repairing wooden steps
- Removing tree stump
- Installing window blinds
- Calking around windows
- Weed abatement

For additional information contact Suzanne Stephens Phone: 619.488.1888 or email at sstephens@lsssc.org

News From Taco

December Blessings to you from TACO! Five months ago, we started our fifth annual Christmas in July push. It's taken five months, but we have reached our goal! We are now able to purchase 250 sleeping bags to distribute to our patio guests at Christmas. Because of your donations, 250 people will have a gift to unwrap and enjoy. You may be wondering...who will wrap the sleeping bags? YOU! We need volunteers to help at our Wrapping Party on Wednesday, December 9. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and stop when they are all wrapped. If you can, please bring a roll of wrapping paper! To thank you all for all your work throughout the year, TACO will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12, at noon, at First Lutheran Church. Please bring a dish to share. You can bring a main

dish, side dish, or dessert. Bring your specialty! RSVP to Rachel at 619-235-9445, ext. 2 or at rachel.taco@firstlutheransd.org so we know you're coming!

In this season of Advent, we anticipate the birth of Jesus. We remember his birth in a manger because there was no room in the inn. We keep in our prayers those who still cannot find room in an inn. We remember that even in Jesus' ministry he often had no place to lay his head. We keep in our prayers those who have no place to lay their heads without fear of others. We remember Jesus' death on a cross where he felt the agony of being alone. We keep in our prayers those who may die alone on the streets with no one to remember them.

Thank you for your continued support of TACO. We are blessed to have support from congregations like yours.

Rachel Line
Volunteer Coordinator

December Ministers

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan,
Grace Otto

Communion Assist.: 6, 13- Jeanna & Darrel
Timan 20, 27- JSarah Paulsen & Laura Vaughan

Communion Care: Laura Vaughan

Greeters: 6, 13- Vaughan Family
20, 27- Frances Family

Lector: 6, 13- Sylvia Smith 20, 27- Laura Vaughan

Stephen Minister of the Week: 6-Mandy Vaughan
13- Kathy Darland 20- Ed Teichner
27- Marian Privitt

Ushers: Penny Sallay and Confirmands

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meets at Mimi's Cafe in Santee,
at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 8th. Join in for
some good food and wonderful fellowship. For
more information call Grace Otto, 448-8202 or
Nancy Funick, 270-7187.

December Anniversaries

6 Thomas & Kimberly Insel
14 Ronald & Carole Dixon
20 Jim & Marilyn Thomas
31 Gary & Marilyn Stewart

December Birthdays

1 Abbey Hess
4 Royce Privett
4 Jack Hyles
4 Marshal Force
6 Curtis Stark
9 David Huber
10 Janet Shuey
11 Conrad Reid
11 John Sevcik
11 Caleb Reid
14 Emily Byrd
18 Diana Coletti
19 William Gomes II
19 May Hustad
20 Fred Borgeson
21 Dylan Grant
21 Robert Webb
27 Elisa Insel
28 Gail Orton
29 Zackary Stark
30 Kathryn Francis

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