

The Echo

No. 12-2011 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

“Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

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 offering many opportunities for new beginnings. Who knows what new life these births will offer you and where this new life will lead you? Often these beginnings seem insignificant but within them the power of God is unleashed. The test of a saint is not success as the world would define that word. Rather the test of the saint is faithfulness and accomplishing God's purposes in the common place occurrences of our every day lives.

Would you like to help with worship? The schedule for worship helpers will soon be set for 2012 and Becky Byrd who is the church council representative for worship and I would love to include your name on this list. There are seven areas of help needed and you are invited to consider this an invitation to get involved. There is no better way to feel a part of our church than to become involved with worship.

Here are the areas of possible involvement:

Lectors: A lector is someone who reads the first and second lessons at the 9:00am worship service but I would also like to have someone read the lesson for the 11:00am service. The lessons are preprinted and sent to you prior to the worship service. Often the lessons are sent months in advance. If some words seem difficult to pronounce I would be happy to help with that.

Otherwise it is best to follow the advice of a professor Deby had in Chiropractic College when she ask for help pronouncing a long scientific word and the Professor said to pronounce the word “quickly and with confidence”.

Greeters: Here is an easy job. Just come to worship 15 minutes prior to its start (9:00 or 11:00a.m.) and greet those who walk through the door with “Good morning. Thank you for worshipping with us.” Or share whatever greeting you feel comfortable expressing.

Communion Assistants: Communion Assistants are two individuals at 9:00a.m. or one individual at 11:00a.m. that offer the wine or grape juice to each communicant with the words, “The blood of Christ shed for you.”

Communion Care: This job will require a little training and often requires that those who set up for communion at the two worship services come either very early on Sunday (an hour before the worship times) or on Saturday. These volunteers will fill cups, prepare the bread or wafers and set everything out.

Usher: We do not have ushers at the 11:00a.m. worship service but ushers are very important to the 9:00a.m. worship service. This will require training but there are usher captains that will provide on-the-job training and you will be nurtured every step of the way. You will not be asked to usher more than two or three months of the year.

Counter: We often have enough counters but if you are interested and would like to be put on a list let me know. Counters do what the label implies. Counters count the offerings.

There are other ways to serve a church but these are the ways you can serve in our worship services. Please consider helping. It could represent your Christmas gift to the church.

Pastor Rick

Finances And Attendance For October

Attendance:

	9:00a.m.	11:00a.m.	Tue	Total
10/2	75	51	21	147
10/9	126	39	31	196
10/16	81	30	34	145
10/23	81	42	29	152
10/30	75	64	27	166

October Finances:

Income	\$14,063
Expenses	\$15,040
Operating Surplus	\$13,609

Senior Lunch

The second Tuesday of the month you are invited to the Senior Lunch at a local restaurant beginning at 11:30am. On December 13th the lunch will be held at Anthony's at 9530 Murray Drive in La Mesa.

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

She's a wizard with a needle and thread,
Can produce any garment that pops into your head.

She will assist when alteration or
construction are needed.

She mends, darns, and sews 'til work is completed.

Call Nancy Funick to do your sewing chores.

Her prices are right and satisfaction is your!

(619) 270-7187

Massage Anyone?

Matthew Kassahn from our congregation is looking for clients

Call 619-672-5981 or ask for Matt at
619-741-4164

Stardust Rejuvenating Spa

8209 La Mesa Blvd.

La Mesa, CA 91941

A massage is a great way to let the weight of the world roll off your shoulders

Sunday School

Every Sunday within the 9:00am worship service and following the 11:00am worship service

Church Council Meeting

At Noon, Sunday December 18th

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.

Thursday Bible Studies Something for everyone!!

Thursdays in November we will have Bible study from the "One Year Bible" in the church office from 6:00am (Yes! A.M.) until 6:30am. Many of our church council leaders are at this study but it is open to the whole congregation.

Also Thursdays in November we are combining the regular Thursday evening Bible Study and the ABC Bible Study in the Acts Center at 7:00pm. Child care is provided. We are studying the Gospel of Mark.

Come and join us!

Budget and Elections Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 4th

Between Worship Services in the Acts Center

Come and hear about our budget plans for 2012 and elect 5 members to our church council and various standing committees such as the nominating and the audit committee.

December 1-3 Youth Workers Retreat

At Luther Glen

Pastor Rick is a presenter at this retreat.

TACO (Third Ave Charitable Organization) Feed the Homeless

Monday, December 5th

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

Christmas Eve Worship

7:00p.m. Candlelight Service

With Cookie feast provided by Deby Schowalter following

Christmas Day Worship (Sunday)

9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m.

Blue Christmas Service Thursday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

As the Advent and Christmas seasons are fast approaching we recognize that not everyone is as eager to celebrate this joyous time of year. For some it can bring back memories of past pain and sorrow, highlight or heighten new suffering, or deepen anxiety which fills the holiday season with difficult times, humps to get over, gatherings to endure instead of enjoy, a variety of pressures and a flood of memories that darken and dampen the days. It is hard to smile and celebrate when we are filled with pain, depression, or despair. That is the time we most need someone who understands, hugs, and wish for a chance to be with others who are also experiencing "the blues." To welcome those who need a quiet space amidst the season CHELC is hosting a Blue Christmas Service on Thursday evening December 15th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

In this service we will pray and sing and remember hope. We invite you to offer up any pain, loneliness, anxiety or fear, the dark memories or the sadness that taints good memories to the one whose birth we eagerly await...Jesus Christ. Stephen Ministers will be available to anyone who wants to pray or talk privately. After the service, refreshments will be served and there will be time for fellowship. We pray that you will find hope and peace in this service as you find comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

Upcoming Youth and Young Adult Events

One Salvation Youth Led Service

One Salvation, our youth led worship includes interactive time to share what God is doing in our lives, and how all we do is centered on his word. The message is scripture based with audio-visuals. There is fellowship time around the campfire after the worship. This worship opportunity is open to anyone in the congregation. We meet on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. For more information contact Belinda Karge at bkarge@fullerton.edu.

Preparing for the All Lutheran Youth Gathering

Pastor, Stephanie and Belinda attended a youth minister training to prepare them to lead our youth in the trip to New Orleans. There is a series of bible studies that youth across the country will be participating in prior to the gathering. We will be having a fundraiser a month to earn our trip. Thank you for your support of the Dudley's Bread fundraiser! Our December fundraiser is the annual Christmas dinner combined with the children's program. Save the date – Saturday December 17, 2011 – Program at 5:30 p.m with dinner immediately following. We will also host a raffle that evening. A donation will be taken.

Bible Study opportunities:

Come join us for a morning bible study Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. in the ACTS center. This study is open to anyone in the congregation. The study book is from the Women of Faith Series and costs \$10.00. During this study, attendees pray specifically for the youth of our congregation. Belinda Karge and Stephanie Myers are the organizers of this study.

If you work during the day, come by the church office at 6:00 a.m. Thursday morning for a bible study with Pastor Rick. Or join the Thursday night study at Pastor and Deby's home at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Cookie Swap

Christmas Cookies and happy hearts, this is where the season starts! You're invited to join in a Christmas Cookie Swap this Christmas. Please bring a sweet treat to exchange for another. The Cookie Swap will take place between services in the Acts center on Dec, 25th. Take your goodies with you to a holiday party or back home with you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Candy Greenlee at 619)806-1115

2011 Christmas Program

If you would like your child to participate in this year's Christmas program, please contact our Youth and Family Minister Stephanie Myers at 619) 971-1606. We will begin practice Tues Nov, 29th. Please see Stephanie for the times. The program will be held on Dec, 17th at 5:30pm. We would like for your children to arrive at 5:00pm. We would love for all our congregation members to come and support our little ones on this very special night.

Tots 4 Christ and Souled Out

Our youngest groups will have a Christmas break from Dec, 19th through Dec 26th and will resume on Jan 3rd at normal times. This allows our youth to enjoy a holiday break. If you have any questions, please contact our Youth and Family Minister Stephanie Myers at 619)971-1606.

Council Meeting Minutes October 30th, 2011

Pastor Rick opened the meeting with devotions from Jeremiah. The lesson was telling us we need to have hope, and to hope in God.

Reports were read and approved, and committee updates were given. Pastor thanked Terry Flores and the Fall Festival committee for all of their work. We had a great turn out and everyone seemed to have a good time. Jane Reaney is going to work with Terry to assist with the Fall Festival in 2012, and suggested a similar event to take place in the spring of 2012. Keri Hyles is working on putting a cookbook together that will be available by Mothers Day. Submissions for recipes will go out in the next Echo.

The budget for 2012 was discussed and will be reviewed by Laura Vaughan and Pastor Rick prior to the annual meeting in December.

Under new business, Betty Reaney and Nicole Sevcik presented a proposal that would give the youth a seat on the council. The purpose of this seat will be to bring a youth perspective and voice to the council. This proposal is supported by Pastor Rick and the council, and was presented at the Synod meeting earlier this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 with a motion by Laura and a second by Deanna. The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, November 20th at 12:00

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Meyers
Council Secretary

December Anniversaries

- 6 Tom & Kimberly Insel
- 22 Pamela & David Blyth

December Birthdays

- 1 Abbey Hess
- 4 Jack Blue Hyles
- 4 Royce Privett
- 6 Curtis Stark
- 9 David Huber
- 10 Grace Taylor
- 11 Conrad Reid
- 11 John Sevcik
- 11 Caleb Reid
- 14 Emily Byrd
- 18 Diana Coletti
- 19 William Gomes II
- 19 Ron Williams
- 19 Esmeralda Chan
- 19 May Hustad
- 20 Fred Borgeson
- 21 Dylan Grant
- 21 Robert Webb
- 25 Jesus Cervantes
- 27 Elisa Insel
- 29 Zackary Stark
- 30 Kathryn Francis

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

December Ministers

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Host: Candy Greenlee
Refreshments: 4- (cake), 11- Becky Byrd, 18- Belinda & Marian, 25- Greenlee Family
Communion Assist.: 4, 11- Grace Otto & Gary Berglund 18, 25- Sarah Paulson & Laura Vaughan
Communion Care: Marian Privett
Greeters: 4, 11- Koch Family 18, 25- Sevcik Family
Lector: 4, 11- Jane Reaney 18, 25- Stephanie Meyers
Stephen Minister of the Week: 4- Carol Davidson
11- Marian Privett 18- Heather Gasner
25- Ellie Timan
Ushers: Laura Vaughan, Kathleen Darland, Marie Freeman, Randy Greenlee, Betty Maxa, Skip & Kim Taylor

News From Taco

Happy December to you all!

We start with exciting news! TACO has received a \$5,000 “Lutheran Community Economic Outreach Bridge Grant” from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans foundation. This also makes TACO eligible to participate in an additional \$10,000 challenge grant-in which funds raised by TACO will be matched by Thrivent dollar for dollar. Your entire donation will be matched up to a total of \$10,000- money that goes towards TACO’s mission of serving the homeless and working poor of downtown San Diego.

With the countdown to Christmas beginning, we also count down the days left of TACO’s Christmas in July fundraiser. As of the writing of this article, only \$1,600.00 has been raised since July. To reach our goal of 250 gifts (sleeping bags) at \$25.00 each, we still need \$4,650.00. Checks can be made to “TACO” with “Christmas in July” in the memo line.

Once the gifts are purchased, we will need help to wrap them all! The Wrapping Party will happen on Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. at TACO/First Lutheran Church (1420 Third Avenue, San Diego, 92101). We will need wrapping paper, tape, and scissors to get the job done! Then stick around for our always famous Volunteer Appreciation Party on the same day at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share if you are able. Come to either one, or come to both! RSVP with Rachel at 619-235-9445, ext 2 or Rachel.taco@firstlutheransd.org.

Winter is at our doorstep. Rain and near freezing temperatures at night are common. When the streets are your home, it’s difficult to stay warm. TACO is in need of men’s jackets and sweatshirts to give to our guests to help survive the cold nights. We also are always in need of socks.

In this season of Christmas, keep in prayer those people for whom there is still no room in the inn.

Christmas Blessings,
Rachel Line
TACO Volunteer Coordinator