

# The Echo

**No. 02-2006      February      Santee, CA**

*The Monthly Newsletter of:*

**Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church**

9735 Halberns Blvd., Santee, CA 92071

Voice/Fax: (619) 448-1888

E-Mail: [chlc@CarltonHillsLutheran.org](mailto:chlc@CarltonHillsLutheran.org)

Web: [www.CarltonHillsLutheran.org](http://www.CarltonHillsLutheran.org)

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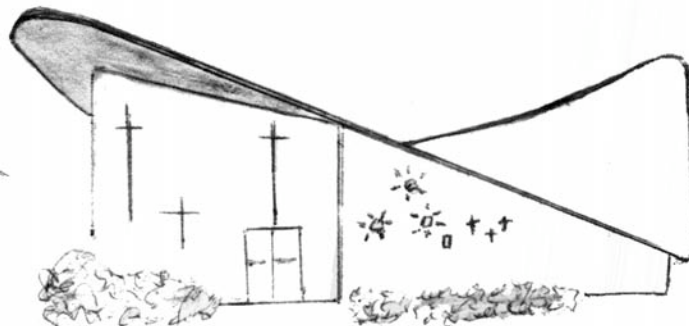
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Prayer Chain, 334-6457

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***Marsha Hamilton***  
Organist

## Pastor's Page

The big news in my life is that I have cancer.

I have often wondered how I would react to this kind of news. Would I feel rejected or cheated? Would I doubt my faith? Would I live the time I have left without being self-absorbed? I wondered how I would feel if something like this happened to me because these are normal human reactions. I would not blame anyone who felt this way. But I don't feel anything like that!

I feel so overwhelmingly blessed that I have a hard time praying for my health. I have asked people who know of my cancer to pray for God to have His way in my life, and not necessarily for my recovery. I want God to decide if I should live a long time or a short time because I trust in God's wonderful love for my life.

Deby has had a hard time adjusting to my cancer. She has cried in my office, not wanting to stay another minute in church, feeling the pain, but not wanting to leave me. When she hears me cough at night, she wonders if the cancer has spread to my lungs, and she cannot go back to sleep for several hours. She is better now, but it has been difficult for her.

The more Deby has cried, the more I feel blessed. We are closer now perhaps than ever before. This May, we will celebrate thirty years of marriage. Now that we have an "empty nest," it is just the two of us. I love it! Deby's tears mean a lot to me. They are like cleansing waters that wash away the years of our missing each other and those times when we were less than loving to each other. I appreciate Deby so much today. I would honestly say to my shame that I have taken her for granted. I will never take her for granted again. I will make sure we never miss each other again.

The greatest pain in my life is that my daughters have fallen away from the faith. I blame myself for that. I failed to let them know that they were the biggest priority in my life when I was so involved with other children and youth. This illness has started to break down those walls. My oldest daughter prays for me daily. My second daughter is most attentive to my illness. She asks for updates and sends me literature about the latest treatment

options. My youngest daughter seems less negative towards me, which is a big step for our relationship. My cancer has begun to heal my relationships with them and their relationships with God. I am blessed.

I have never been one to think "Why me?" Rather, I am one who would say, "Why not me?" Now I am beginning to see the love and mercy of God in His allowing me to have cancer. I believe that this disease will be a gift of faith.

After I announced on Sunday morning that I had cancer, Carol Davidson said that she felt that the purpose of this cancer was to increase the faith of us all. Amen to that!

Penny Sallay has been wonderful to help out in the office after Betty Pendergast retired from that role. She told me that her son Michael has been praying for me—that I have made his "every day" prayer list.

How wonderful our children are! I was reminded of my daughter Naomi's "every day" prayer list when we were at a church in Bloomington, Minnesota. Naomi prayed for a little girl named Kristie who had had ten open-heart surgeries during her first ten years of life. Few believed that Kristie would make it out of infancy; however, she recently graduated from high school. Even when Naomi forgot why she was praying for Kristie years later, she continued to pray for her.

In a similar way, according to medical standards, I have a slow-moving cancer. I should have many years with you. I still hope to retire from this church in ten years or so. I should make it that long according to the odds with this type of cancer. But even if I don't, I am certain of God's faithfulness and love. I am convinced that this cloud of cancer over my head will lead us all through the wilderness to a greater and greater witness of faith, love and goodness. We will be better for all of this because our Lord is with us every step of the way.

Pastor Rick

## Betty Pendergast's Retirement

Betty Pendergast, a cherished volunteer, submitted a letter of resignation to the church council at their January meeting. For many years, Betty served as church secretary, manager, and receptionist. Most importantly, she got Pastor Rick off to a great start in a new setting. Beyond this, every week Betty enjoyed sending cards of congratulations and/or encouragement

to church members. Before resigning, she asked Penny Sallay to take over her duties in the office.

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> has been declared Betty Pendergast Sunday. Please come and express your appreciation to Betty for her years of service to Carlton Hills. That Sunday, after the service, there will be a potato luncheon sponsored by the Dorcas fellowship.

### **Tutoring, Family Dinners, and God's Gifts**

It is what you all have been waiting for. God's Gifts, tutoring, and family dinners will begin Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Here is the schedule:

- 5:00pm Tutoring for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders
- 6:00pm Family Dinners
- 6:15pm God's Gifts for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders

God's Gifts is a program that provides our children with Bible lessons to be done at home with parents or an adult friend. These lessons, which are tailored to the age of the children, include a Bible story, a lesson, questions to be answered and verses to memorize. We have two classes: one for children in the lower elementary grades and one for children in the higher elementary grades. Prizes and rewards are given for doing the lessons. Boys and girls who consistently attend and do their lessons are eligible to attend a party or take a trip after the ten-week session.

Come and join us February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Joyful Noise Planning Meetings**

It is time to look ahead to summer. Would you like to help us plan our summer music camp? Last year 40 children and 15 youth participated in the camp. It was a huge success. This year, we want to grow. Join us Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm for our first meeting.

### **Hi Youth!**

The youth will meet in the Acts Center every Thursday evening at 6:30pm for fellowship and the wonderful Alpha study. This will be a great spiritual preparation for those who want to be on staff for this summer's camp.

Please come and see all the fun events being planned.

Call Pam Meyers at 619-258-1127 or Carol Davidson at 619-258-1511 for further information.

### **Annual Meeting**

The church's annual meeting will take place Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. Come and hear about the plans our church is undertaking for the coming year. At the worship service the new church council will be installed. Laura Vaughan and Marie Freeman will be honored for their years of service to the church council.

### **Centering Prayer**

Centering Prayer will meet every Monday in February from 6:00 pm to 6:20 pm but NOT on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Come for prayer in the sanctuary. Pastor Rick is often there. It is a wonderful time of silence—to listen to the voice of God in your life.

### **Stephen Ministry Book Study**

Join us every Monday in February at 6:30pm for a lively Stephen Ministry book study. "Speaking The Truth In Love" is an exciting book about being an assertive Christian. Contact Ellie Timan or Carol Davidson for more information concerning this enriching study and discussion.

### **Orphanage Trip to Mexico**

We are planning a trip to "Siempre Para Los Ninos," the orphanage we support in Mexico, Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. The children at the orphanage want to share a little program with us. We will stay for lunch and then head back to the USA. If you want to come, you may want to purchase Mexican car insurance ahead of time, or if you want to come but do not want to drive, ask Pastor Rick if there is room for you in another car.

### **Potato Lunch, Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Dorcas Circle is sponsoring a potato lunch Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> after the worship service to honor Betty Pendergast. Please plan on eating with us this Sunday.

### **Youth Need a Power Point Projector**

The youth are looking for a power point projector for the summer music camp. Does anyone have one they

would like to give the youth or would anyone like to purchase a projector for the youth? Contact Pastor Rick if you know how this need could be filled.

### **New Prayer Chain Number**

Mary Thomas is the faithful leader of our prayer chain. Her new number is (619) 312-1395. For quick reference, please record this number in a place where you keep all of your emergency numbers. We are so blessed to have so many involved in our prayer ministry.

### **Santee Food Bank**

We take a food offering for the Santee Food Bank the first Sunday of every month. Please bring your canned or packaged non-perishable food items on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Buildings Work Camp**

Please come Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am to finish removing the school buildings and prepare the foundation for a patio. What a great place to enjoy each other's company after church and during the week. It has a beautiful view of the valley, and is right across from a playground.

We need to break apart several downed walls, place the walls in the dumpster, and pull about a million nails from salvaged wooden boards and beams. Bring your tools.

### **30 Hour Famine Retreat for Confirmands**

The confirmands are planning to attend a free retreat at Camp Olijiwa to learn about hunger. They will experience what it is like to go hungry by not eating for 30 hours. On Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, we will take an offering for ELCA World Hunger Appeal in recognition of their efforts. The confirmands will leave for their retreat at 3:00pm Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and return Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **CHROS**

The only Saturday practice for CHROS vocalists and instrumentalists will be Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 11:00am. Come to get our new music.

## **OneYear Bible Adult Study And Children's Sunday School**

The after church adult study and Sunday School will meet February 19 and 26, but NOT on February 5 or 12. Beginning Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, a new study for all ages will take place following the worship service about discovering and investing our spiritual gifts.

### **Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Come and celebrate Lent with us! We are planning to give each worshiper a wooden cross, made from the school's salvaged lumber and decorated with items that remind us of Jesus' sacrifice for us all. Each worship service during Lent will be at 7:00pm with a soup supper preceding the service at 6:00pm.

### **Reel Theology**

Jan Neuhaus would like to invite those interested to her home for "Reel Theology" on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Jan lives at 9540 Hinton in Santee and her telephone number is 448-6888. The movie "Admissions," starring Lauren Ambrose and Christopher Lloyd will be discussed. What a great way to connect with Jan and see how she is doing at her new church.

### **Dorcas Circle**

The ladies of Dorcas Circle are looking forward to a very busy year.

We're going to kick off the year by holding a Baked Potato Party for the congregation on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> after Sunday Service.

We will serve baked potatoes with all the fixings =, salad and dessert. There will be a Party Light Candle demonstration hosted by Jeanna Timan.

You will also have the opportunity to buy red carnations for your loved ones. You will need to order them ahead of time and they will be distributed to you on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the potato party.

Be sure to watch for all the particulars on these happenings.

Plan on joining us for our next meeting on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Acts Center. We had 18 attending our last meeting.

We are making plans for lots of fun-filled activities.



January 11, 2006

Dear Pastor Rick and Council:

As most of you know, I have been a volunteer in our church office for 5 years. For personal reasons, I find it necessary to reduce the time devoted to my church office activities. Upon your receipt of this letter, I give notice that I will work one day a week in our church office, and other days on an "as needed" basis. I will continue to stuff and mail out the Echo newsletter, and continue to do the greeting cards. I will do the Worship assistant schedule papers, as I can do this from my home. I will also continue to pick up and deliver the food to the Santee food bank, the first Sunday of each month.

In other circumstances, I would regret having to cut back my time in the office, but with Penny Sallay now working there, I feel certain that all matters can and will be handled efficiently without much volunteer help.

Please feel free to call on me for any special projects or simply when extra assistance is needed.

Very truly yours,

Betty M. Pendergast



Pacifica Synod—ELCA  
Office of the Bishop

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January 9, 2006

Keri Hyles  
61 Seminary Ridge  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Dear Keri;

It is my pleasure to send official notification that the Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee voted on January 4, 2006, to grant endorsement for you as a candidate for ordination. This, of course, means you are ready for internship.

We very much enjoyed our conversation with you in the fall, and truly believe you are a wonderful gift to the church. It's been some time since your interview and we trust that the time since the panel met with you has been filled with delight and meaning, as well as all the heavy stuff that comes from being a seminary student. Hi to Jake – it was fun to have the opportunity to get a little bit more acquainted with him too!

The statements that were read to you at the close of the interview are enclosed and we wish you God's richest blessings as you continue to follow where Christ leads.

May God's love and grace surround you as you share those gifts with others.

Peace and joy,

The Rev. Karen Parker  
Assistant to the Bishop

Cc: Pr. Joe Irvine; Margy Schmitt Ajer; Cynthia Zamora – Vocation & Education; Pr. Rick Schowalter;  
LTSG



**Describe readiness for endorsement:**

Keri is a candidate of substantial wisdom, commitment and grace. She is poised, winsome, open and self-reflective, qualities that will be highly beneficial in ministry. Keri is faithful, joyful, respectful, and thoughtful – as being a deep thinker.

**State developmental needs or other criteria to be addressed:**

Given the realities of being married to a commissioned officer, Keri is open and flexible regarding the dual demands of the military and the ELCA's candidacy process.

**Specific issues/recommendations for internship:**

She is an extraordinary and special candidate and we wish her a long and healthy ministry.



## Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meets at Coco's in El Cajon, 1324 E. Main St. at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 February

- 1 The Name of Jesus  
(Lesser Festival)  
Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7 or  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 2:15-21 - Color: White
- 5 Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany  
Isaiah 40:21-31, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39 - Color: Green
- 12 Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany  
2 Kings 5:1-14, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27  
Mark 1:40-45 - Color: Green
- 19 Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany  
Isaiah 43:18-25, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22  
Mark 2:1-12 - Color: Green
- 26 The Transfiguration Of Our Lord  
Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9 - Color: White

## February Ministers

Acolyte: 1- Ben Timan 8- Michelle 15- Tyler  
22- Cara 29- Selina

Assist. Minister: TBA

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan,  
Grace Otto, Janice Davis

Communion Assist.: 5, 12- Lyn & Charlotte  
Arthurton 19, 26- Darrel & Ellie Timan

Communion Care: Arthurtons

Edgemoor Hospital Worship:

Greeters: 5, 12- Darrel & Ellie Timan  
19, 26- Kim & Kristin Naour

Lector: 5, 12- Janet Shuey 19, 26- Jim Thomas

Stephen Minister of the Day: 5- Ellie Timan  
12- Bill Blue 19- Carol Davidson 26- Ed Teichner

Ushers: Laura Vaughan, Norma Borgeson, Kathleen  
Darland, Marie Freeman, Molly Lisowsky, Betty  
Maxa, Bill Thomas

## February Birthdays

- 4 Cole Freeman  
6 Trudy Hanley  
7 Carole Dixon  
8 Brian Meyers  
10 David Francis  
12 Selina Weber  
13 Wendy Woody  
14 Shawna Bagalini  
14 Mark Jones  
14 Thomas Coletti  
16 Frank Steirer  
17 Norma Borgeson  
18 Caroline Do  
19 Oscar Silva-Olmedo  
21 Michael Huber  
22 Grace Otto  
22 Vernetta Berger  
22 Lorraine Beyer  
25 Steven Lane  
25 Brendan McGinley  
26 Kristin Naour
- (If anyone was missed, please call the church office,  
448-1888)

## February Anniversaries

- 12 Cindy & Ken Ryan

## New Address

Grace Otto has moved! Her new address and phone number are:

10122 Buena Vista Ave Apt 206  
Santee, CA 92071  
619-448-8202

Keri & Jake Hyles have a new address too! While their old one will still get to them it would be faster to send it to their new address.

210 White Pine Circle Apt 102  
Stafford, VA 22554