

The Echo

No. 2-2007 February Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Worship - Traditional

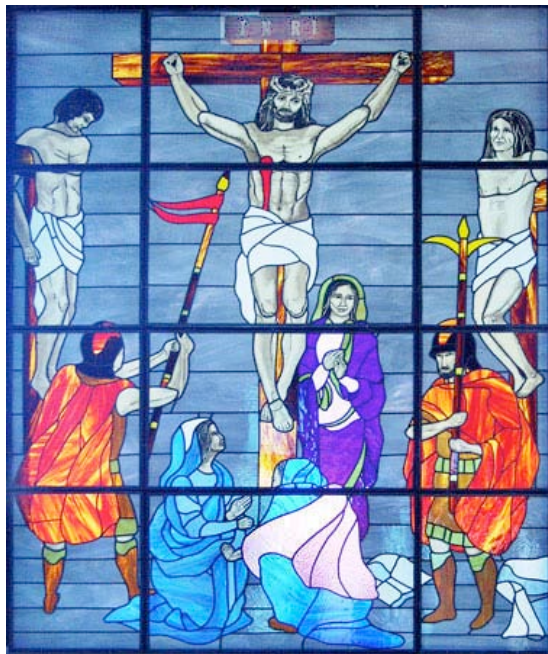
Stephanie Myers

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Delores Ryden

Mutual Support
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Pastor

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Parish Education

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Coordinator-Stephens Ministry

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Stewardship

Vicki Haas

Outreach

Mary Thomas

Prayer Chain, 449-1645

Marvin Hamilton

Choir Director

Marsha Hamilton

Organist

Pastor's Page

Judges 6:14-16:

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

"But Lord," Gideon replied, "How can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh and I am the least in my entire family."

The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Isn't God amazing?

God chooses the weakest and the least to do His greatest works because God values humility and faithfulness. God wants us to rely, not on ourselves, but upon Him alone. He wants to work through us. It is always easier to see God at work when we know that what is taking place could not occur apart from the grace of God.

The irony is that we are strongest when we are weakest. We are capable of doing the most good when we feel incapable of doing anything because it is in that weakness that we rely solely on the strength of God. We often create the biggest mess when we are prideful, when we feel righteous, capable, and strong, apart from God—when we fail to put our lives into God's hands.

This goes against human nature, but it is the key to faith. How can we live that way? How can we rejoice in our weaknesses so that the power of God may rest upon us? How can we slow ourselves down and ask for God's guidance and direction when we feel so capable and right on our own?

We must seek the wisdom of God when we feel we are doing just fine without His help. We must question our answers when they seem so right. We must question whether our view of what God wants for us is a creation of our own sinful desires or God's true revelation for us. How do we do that?

First, take every opportunity to pray before acting. God cannot direct us when we are not seeking His direction.

Second, ask yourself if love is the motivating force behind your decisions. Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruit." Love is the fruit that Jesus wants us to bear.

Third, let faith lead you. The way of God is often below the surface and cannot be seen clearly. What seems obvious is often deceptive. Remember that when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit it was pleasing to the sight. God wants us to see life deeply, through the eyes of faith.

This is not easy. I sincerely pray that you will take advantage of the Lutheran Lay Renewal at our church March 2-4. We will have many wonderful opportunities to explore the voice of God in our lives. Our love for each other and for God will blossom as we renew and strengthen our faith.

One of the biggest difficulties I face as a pastor is when we hurt and harm each other. I know the people involved are good people but often pride and self-righteousness has pulled them into conflict and criticism. There is no greater evil that we must face than the evil we find within ourselves. Only we can confront that evil, powered by the Holy Spirit and led by the loving example of Jesus our Lord. He will create us anew through His grace.



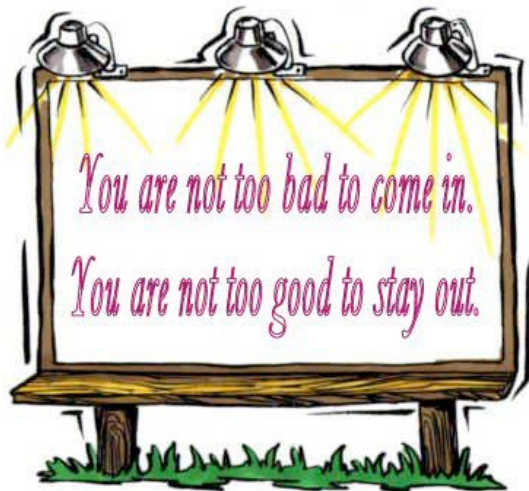
Annual Meeting

Carlton Hills will have its second annual meeting on Sunday, February 4th after the 9:00am worship service. The first annual meeting was on the first Sunday in December which is a budget and elections meeting. We need the budget approved and our new council elected before the new year. The second annual meeting which is February 4th is a ministry annual meeting. It will look back on the previous year and forward to the next year. The church council will be on retreat January 26 and 27 to set the ministry direction for the church for 2007 and it is at this meeting that the you will hear first hand these plans.

Joyful Noise Camp Dates

The big change in store for our Joyful Noise Summer Camp for children K-6th grade will be the length of the camp. Camp will be one 4 week session rather than 2 three week sessions. The reason for this change is the difficulty of having two separate sessions with a program after each session. We need to pull our camp together. The time we spend in teaching our children how to read music, how to play musical instruments, how to create art in its various forms, how to make great Christian friends, how to become better students through our adult tutoring program and mostly how to become closer to their Lord and Savior through daily worship and Scripture study needs to be a unified time and not separated into two sessions.

Camp will take place the last two weeks in June and first two weeks in July. June 18th to July 13th, Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm with child care available before and after camp.



Lutheran Lay Renewal Retreat SHARE HIS LOVE - RENEW YOUR FAITH March 2 - 4, 2007

Many of you are asking "What is Lutheran Lay Renewal?" In a nutshell, it's learning to share God's love.

What does that mean? It means bringing people together to share what Christ has done in their lives, and is still doing. It can help those of us who are searching for a way to live a Christian life in today's society. It means taking time to listen to others. Sharing fellowship, prayer and the Holy Spirit, and a way to enrich, enliven and support our congregation in it's ministry.

How does this happen and what can you do to help? Visiting teams of Christians, just like you and I, from congregations within California, and even some from outside California, will come to visit and lead us in groups here at church, and at coffee hours set up in our homes. There will be groups and activities for all ages, childcare will be provided and meals will be shared. This is meant to be a family weekend of love, joy and renewal.

The visiting teams bring their joy and sharing to us and it's our job to provide and prepare ourselves and a place to share and accept these gifts of God's love. You will all be receiving calls from our committee members asking for you to provide housing for one or two of the visiting team or asking for your willingness to host a coffee in your home for an hour or two on Saturday morning. We are praying for 100% participation in this weekend and ask for your help in making this one of the most fulfilling weekends in our church's year.

If you still have questions or would like to help on a committee, please give me a call at 473-8717 or call Ellie Timan at 448-2495.

Pastor Rick Schowalter

2006 Annual Report to Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

2006 marks my second full year as your pastor. 2006 proved to be a difficult year but one that saw us meet some very difficult challenges. We are a better instrument of God's grace and love for all that we have been through.

My personal struggle was having been diagnosed with follicular lymphoma and needing to take chemo therapy as a result. At the beginning of the year I went through 6 sessions of chemo therapy 3 weeks apart. I lost what little hair I had left and I even lost my eyebrows. I looked sicker than I felt. I felt I had little energy and often I took afternoon naps. This period of time was a struggle but with lots of prayer and support from everyone in the congregation I am now in the 7th month of being cancer free.

No sooner did I recover from the effects of chemo therapy that I developed a blood clot in my right leg and I had to start taking a blood thinner which I just recently ended. As I write this report I am in a sling having just gone through rotator cuff surgery on my right shoulder. I am also facing the likelihood of having my father die with cancer through much of his body. They say that any difficulties that don't kill you will make you stronger and I can say that with all my health problems I do feel stronger and better able to meet the challenges of 2007.

Not only did I struggle personally at the beginning of the year but so did the church. A financial crisis was quickly unfolding with a \$40,000 deficit being projected for our actual giving to meet the projected budget expenses. There was no way to cut our fixed costs in the budget. The only possible cuts would have to come in our giving to benevolences or my salary. I refused to cut our benevolence contributions so I proposed cutting my salary and the time I spent at the church. However, when faced with the alternatives the congregation gave with wonderful generosity and came within \$2,000 of meeting expenses for the year.

There were also many wonderful indications of hope and health for our congregation. Jeff and Penny Sallay made a wonderful contribution in memory of Jeff's uncle Paul Sallay to build an exterior wall around our property. What a beautiful

addition to our property along with the ground cover that blankets the hill.

Many worked on our rose garden that sits at the heart of our patio with a beautiful arbor in the middle. Ellie Timan and Cindy Ryan worked so hard to make this effort a source of beauty for years to come.

The school buildings were taken down and the materials sent to Mexico to help Genesis Expeditions in their ministry to the orphans of Mexico. Dusty Hustad worked tirelessly to see that huge undertaking come to completion.

Dorcas continues to do monumental efforts in fund raising and bringing a heart to our ministry at the Siempre Para Los Ninos orphanage in Mexico.

Our Ushers, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Lectors and Sunday School teachers have been faithful in every way.

Sue Lisowsky steps down as council president this year but how in debt are we all for her faithful service.

Penny Sallay has worked long hours in our church office and completed a wonderful pictorial directory.

Marvin and Marsha Hamilton have done everything possible to enrich the music ministry of our church. Our love and prayers go with Marsha as she battles cancer. Our thanks to Lynn Nickels who has become a regular substitute organist.

Our Joyful Noise Camp was another great success thanks to the efforts of Belinda Karge and Misty Thompson along with our wonderful youth who served as counselors for the camp. From the camp has come the added blessing of having our children play instruments and singing in CHROS.

I have the best confirmation class ever with 11 new confirmands and the wonderful work of Steve Salaz in putting the talents of our confirmands to use in multiple dramas at Easter and Christmas.

Our second worship service is now a reality with electric guitars and drums and power point projection of the service and lyrics. The second service takes place on Sunday afternoons at 5:00pm on the church patio with a bonfire where we roast marshmallows after the service. What fun!

The challenges for 2006 were great but so were the accomplishments.

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. -- Pastor Rick

Youth Christmas Play





From Siempre Para Los Niños: Working For The Future



Moises was raised in a very rough neighborhood. When one of his brothers was facing a crisis I drove over and met his remaining family members. The community is on a

little hill outside of TJ and the "home" he grew up in faces the only paved road. The walls had been constructed of junk and there was no front door. Little wonder that when Moises first came to Siempre he lived like someone had dropped him into

Disneyland. He's a natural athlete and a huge risk taker. Given time on anything from a bike to the swingset, he not only mastered it but was soon better than all the other kids at whatever came along. But he struggled with school and the disciplines of going each day and working at his classes. A great kid suddenly free to have a good time in what had been a short, hard life. Who could blame him for shining on school? It wasn't like he had a family history to lean back on or some grand vision of a future filled with prosperity and hope. Why bother with more than enjoying today?

Then it happened. Sometime in the last two years Moises found a hope worth working towards. He was always a good kid, but now he was willing to help out with all of the children. Always a bright young man,

but now he began to apply himself at school and to faithfully work on his homework. It's like that with most of the kids. They come to us and wonder how long this good thing could last. Then, through the love of our fantastic workers and the routine of waking up to find a meal each day and the basics of life met. They begin to believe that life might hold something greater for them than they'd ever imagined. It's happened with Moises. He still likes to play hard and it would be great if we could get him into little league, a soccer camp or on a surfboard. The kid's going to shine. But he's also discovered that life holds promises that he's just beginning to discover and now he's working towards them as well. Pray for Moises and all the kids. Pray for our workers who frame their days around the kids needs. Pray that God would open horizons greater than they ever imagined and they would believe that all things are possible. Siempre's kids are going to be part of the solution to the problems that we face as a society today. Each one carries a promise of hope and deliverance from The Father. He's trusting us to protect them and help them find their way.

(From www.siemprekids.org/updates/1_10_07.htm)

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meets at Sizzler's in El Cajon, 1030 Fletcher Pkwy, at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 13th. Join in for some good food and wonderful fellowship. For more information call either Grace Otto, 448-8202 or Nancy Funick, 561-7823.

February Ministers

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan, Grace Otto

Communion Assist.: 4- Metz 11- Marie Freeman/Jim Thomas 18- Grace Otto/Darrel Timan 25- Vaughan

Communion Care: 4- Vaughan 11- Schneider 18- Grace Otto 25- Dixons

Edgemoor Hospital Worship:

Greeters: 4- Davidson 11- Metz 18- Vaughan 25- Katie Timan/Nicole Davidson

Lector: 4- Laura Vaughan 11- Jim Thomas 18- Ellie Timan 25- Sylvia Smith

Stephen Minister of the Day: 4- Bill Blue 11- Carol Davidson 18- Ed Teichner 25- Ellie Timan

Ushers: Bob & Marcy Metz, Gary Berglund, Grace Otto, Nancy Ripple

February Anniversaries

12 Cindy & Ken Ryan

February Birthdays

4	Cole Freeman	17	Norma Borgeson
6	Trudy Hanley	19	Oscar Silva-Olmedo
7	Carole Dixon	21	Michael Huber
8	Brian Meyers	22	Grace Otto
9	Trevor Thompson	22	Vernette Berger
10	David Francis	22	Lorraine Beyer
12	Selina Weber	25	Brendan McGinley
13	Wendy Woody	26	Kristin Naour
14	Shawna Bagalini	26	Richard Haas
14	Mark Jones	26	Kenny Myette-Ashworth Jr.
14	Thomas Coletti		
16	Frank Steirer	28	Judy Johnston

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

Texts for the Sundays in February

4th Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138 (Ps. 138:2)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

11th Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1 (Ps. 1:3)
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

18th Transfiguration Of Our Lord

Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99 (Ps. 99:9)
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

25th FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (Ps. 91:11)
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13