

The Echo

No. 2-2011 February Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

9735 Halberns Blvd., Santee, CA 92071

Voice/Fax: (619) 448-1888

chlc@CarltonHillsLutheran.org

www.CarltonHillsLutheran.org

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Mark 4:34

“When they were alone, Jesus explained all things to His disciples.”

I am always amazed that we can so easily deceive ourselves. We can talk ourselves into almost anything.

My brother called me last week and told me that he transferred some money of my Mom's into a better interest rate account. For the first time he got a glimpse at her check book and he was amazed at how much she spends gambling. He said every time she goes to the casino she writes a \$300 check and once she wrote two \$300 checks on the same day. She gambles once or twice a week and over the last several months she has spent several thousand dollars.

This is a woman who eats at McDonalds because she can get a senior rate on the coffee. She loves shopping at the store that is 15 miles further because she saves pennies and sometimes even dimes on a purchase. She is upset when I forget to turn off a light because electricity is expensive. Or she instructs, “Clean your plate we don't want to waste food.”

How does the saying go? “Penny wise and pound foolish.”

But when I quiz her about her gambling she says, “It is the only time I can get my mind off Dad.” “Dad” is what my Mom calls my Father who died 4 years ago this month. Or she says, “It is the only enjoyment I have and I deserve to have some fun once in a while.” Or she talks about the “comps” she gets with which she can take a neighbor to lunch occasionally.

My brother and I talked it over and we agreed that my Mom can spend her money any way she chooses, but we decided at least to let her know that we are concerned. We want her to know that she may have a problem.

But who am I to talk?

I can sometimes talk myself into eating something I should not or making comments that I know are

harsh or spending time watching a TV show with absolutely no redeeming qualities. I can talk myself into what I want rather than listen to common sense on what is best for me. I can slip down that path of addictive behavior and that behavior can become a big problem for me and especially for those around me.

The only hope we have in dealing with all this is Jesus. Only when I look to Jesus will I be convinced that destructive behavior is destructive. Only when I look to Jesus can I find the strength to do what is best and not compromise those values.

I agree with the Apostle Paul that “I can will what is right but I cannot do it. Who will deliver me from this body of death? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I have asked our church council to join with me in reading the “One Year Bible”. I know that just because I give them the Bible does not mean they will use it but at least that is the first step.

There are lots of things that will make us better people. And there are lots of things that will increase our spiritual maturity. We can worship more often, pray more, read the Bible more, do good things for others with our time, we can invest our time and effort in the ministry of the church. But will we do any of these things?

The key is listening to Jesus. The key is not listening to our sinful selves. The key is realizing that we have a sinful self that is powerfully self deceptive.

My prayer for us all is that we will find the time to sit and listen to Jesus. That we will recognize that God's way is the best way. My prayer is that we will recognize how powerfully we can lie to ourselves and pretend that we have good reasons to do what is bad for us and those around us.

God will not love us any less if we fail. But God will not be sad for us knowing that not listening to Him will create pain and suffering that could have been avoided.

Pastor Rick

Finances And Attendance For December

Attendance:

	9:00a.m.	11:00a.m.	Tue	Total
12/5	117	37	13	167
12/12	93	46	28	167
12/19	110	43	14	167
12/26	61	18	16	95
Christmas Eve				205

December Finances:

Income	\$18,977
Expenses	\$16,108
Operating Surplus YTD	\$22,559

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

The second Tuesday of the month you are invited to the Senior Lunch at a local restaurant beginning at 11:30am. On February 8th at the lunch will be held at Weevil Burger 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

Outfit for a special night?

Broken zipper?

Waist too tight?

Button lost?

It's Nancy you call,

Sewing, she does it all!

Nancy Funick, seamstress

(619) 270-7187 (619) 933-7823

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

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.

“Come One Come All” Between Sunday Services Meetings

Beginning at 10:15a.m.

Sunday, February 6th

Property and Capital Improvements

We would like to have a church-wide meeting where we will list all the possible improvements we can think of for our church property, put down a time and cost estimate and then prioritize the list. Come and let your ideas be shared about how we can best improve our property and facilitate our ministry.

Sunday, February 13th

Ministry Annual Meeting

Would you like to hear what our church is doing and what we have accomplished for the past year? We want to have as many of you come as possible so you can share in knowing what your church has done, what it is doing and our plans for the coming year. Our church council will be installed at both the Sunday morning worship services. Come and be introduced to our church leadership.

Sunday, February 27th

Volunteer Fair

Come and volunteer for all the volunteer positions that our church can offer and get information about what is required of the volunteer positions.

Events for Children and Youth of the congregation:

Pre-K to third grade:

The first and third Tuesday of every month we host a Pre-K to third grade children's bible study. TOT's for CHRIST is from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm.

Grades four through six:

The first and third Wednesday of every month we will continue the 456 group. This group will meet from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the ACTS center.

Confirmation:

Confirmation meets every Wednesday night

Upcoming Youth and Young Adult Events:

One Salvation, our new 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. For more information contact Belinda Karge at bkarge@fullerton.edu.

Morning Bible Study

Come join us for a morning bible study Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. This study is open to anyone in the congregation. The study book we are using focuses on balancing our lives 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.

Women's Retreat

Last May, Pastor and 21 women attended an amazing women's retreat at Luther Glen. We are looking forward to the second annual Luther Glen retreat March 25-27, 2011. The cost is \$160.00 and is due March 1st. Young adult women age 15 and older are encouraged to attend with their moms. A retreat registration form will be available in early January. Please turn in your payment with the registration form to Belinda Karge or Ellie Timan.



Baked Goodies

Grace and Nancy our “Coffee Ladies” could sure use your help in baking goodies to be served at the social time after the first service each Sunday. Can you Help?? Talk to the ladies and schedule a Sunday to bring your special treats.



Volunteer Faire February 27, 2011

So many ways to volunteer your time!! We need you!

Watch for more information about our upcoming Volunteer Faire on February 27, 2011.

We have many opportunities for you to pledge your time and talents to the glory of God here at Carlton Hill Lutheran! Have you thought you might volunteer for a position or committee, but didn't know enough about it to commit your time? Here is your opportunity to talk to one of the existing volunteers and find out all you want to know.

See Keri Hyles or Charlotte Arthurton for more information

February Ministers

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan, Grace Otto

Communion Assist.: 6, 13- Stephanie Myers & Laura Vaughn 20, 27- Mandy Vaughn & Gary Berglund

Communion Care: Gary Berglund

Greeters: 6, 13- Sallay Family
20, 27- Laura Vaughn

Lector: 6, 13- Mandy Vaughn 20, 27- Danil Koch

Stephen Minister of the Week:

6- Carol Davidson 13- Heather Gasner

20- Marian Privitt 27- Ellie Timan

Ushers: Laura Vaughan, Norma Borgeson, Kathleen Darland, Marie Freeman, Matt Kassahn, Betty Maxa, Skip Taylor, Kim Taylor

February Anniversaries

12 Cindy & Ken Ryan

February Birthdays

- 1 Mia Schrader
- 1 Kenneth Suess
- 4 Cole Freeman
- 8 Brian Meyers
- 9 Bryce Taylor
- 9 Trevor Thompson
- 10 David Francis
- 12 Selina Weber
- 13 Michelle Gilliam
- 14 Heather Bjorson
- 14 Shawna Bagalini
- 14 Thomas Coletti
- 16 Frank Steirer
- 17 Norma Borgeson
- 19 Oscar Avendano
- 19 Jane Reaney
- 22 Grace Otto
- 22 Lorraine Beyer
- 23 Bryan Force
- 26 Kristin Naour
- 26 Robert Koch
- 26 Richard Haas
- 28 Judy Johnston

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



