

# The Echo

**No. 2-2012      February      Santee, CA**

*The Monthly Newsletter of:*

**Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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## Pastor's Page

“No, listen to me. I will buy it from you. Let me pay full price for the field so I can bury my dead there.”

Genesis 23:13

The above words are the words of Abraham whose wife Sarah had recently died. Abraham has been promised by God that he will be the father of many nations. God also promised Abraham that he will give Abraham the entire land of Canaan. (Genesis 17:1-8) But when Abraham's beloved wife dies Abraham is wealthy but he has no land. Abraham must buy land to bury his wife for 400 pieces of silver.

God promises Abraham that he will be the Father of many nations but he has only one son, Isaac. God promises Abraham the land of Canaan, but he has to buy land to bury his wife. It gets worse.

Abraham has only one son when he is promised to be the Father of many nations and then God asks Abraham to sacrifice that son. Only at the last possible moment does Abraham receive an animal sacrifice that spares his only son's life.

Abraham has to buy land to bury his wife even though God promises that he will receive the entire land of Canaan. What's worse is that Abraham never receives any more land from God during his lifetime. The “promised” land does not become a reality for Abraham until many generations later Joshua fights to conquer that land and hundreds of years later the promise of the land of Canaan is realized.

Why?

Abraham is known as a man of faith. When the Apostle Paul describes people of faith in the Bible Abraham is at the top of the list. According to Paul Abraham's faith is best exemplified by his willingness to sacrifice his only son Isaac, even after Abraham was promised that he would be the Father of many nations. Paul says that Abraham knew God could still fulfill his promise because

Abraham believed that God could raise the dead. Now that is a belief that is thousands of years before Jesus lives. Abraham would be a man of fantastic faith if that is what he was thinking.

It is almost like God is playing with Abraham.

Why would God promise that Abraham would be the Father of many nations, then not give Abraham a son until he was so old that the thought of having a son was laughable? Why would God ask Abraham to sacrifice that son and then at the last possible moment spare that son's life?

Why did God promise the entire land of Canaan and then not give Abraham any portion of that land, except the portion Abraham himself had to buy to bury his wife? Why would it take multiple generations and hundreds of years for this promise to be realized?

There are many questions like these that are a mystery to me. I often do not understand the ways of God. I do not think God is playing with us but I do think God is molding us to be people of faith.

And I want to be like Abraham!!

I want to be a man of faith. I do not need to understand the ways of God. I want to hear the voice of God in my life and when it appears that God is failing to live up to the revelations of that voice I want to be sure that God still is faithful and what God has promised will take place. I want to dedicate my life to the promises of God. I want to know that God is fulfilling those promises he has made to all of us, even when it appears God is letting us down. I want to stand on the other side of eternity and know that my faith was justified and that God was faithful. Sure I may not know the ways of God and it may appear that God is slow in keeping His promises but God has a plan and a purpose for it all. God's ways are higher and better than my ways. I can only access God's blessings through faith and that seems to be the key to being a child of Abraham.

Pastor Rick

## Finances And Attendance For December

### Attendance:

	9:00a.m.	11:00a.m.	Tue	Total
12/4	98	29	27	154
12/11	99	22	29	150
12/18	113	42	8	163
12/25	79	28	12	119
12/15	Blue Christmas			21
12/24	Christmas Eve			198

### December Finances:

Income	<b>\$14,917</b>
Expenses	<b>\$13,001</b>
Operating Surplus	<b>\$14,535</b>

## Senior Lunch

The second Tuesday of the month you are invited to the Senior Lunch at a local restaurant beginning at 11:30am. On February 14th the lunch will be held at Weevil Burger at 9104 Fletcher Pkwy in LaMesa.

## 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](http://www.ytbtravel.com/chelc)

## Special Music

Pete Calloway will be playing his trumpet for special music on Sunday, February 12 at the 9:00am and the 11:00am services of worship.

Don't miss it!!

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

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## Church Council Meeting At Noon, Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>

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## 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.

## Church Cook Book

Submit recipes to Keri ([keri.hyles@gmail.com](mailto:keri.hyles@gmail.com)) or to the church office no later than Feb 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Thursday Bible Studies**

Something for everyone!!

Thursdays in February we will have Bible study from the "One Year Bible" in the church office from 6:00am (Yes! A.M.) until 6:30am.

Also Thursdays in February we are continuing a new Bible Study at the Schowalter home at 1630 Whitsett Drive in El Cajon at 7:00pm until 8:00pm. Refreshments are provided. We are studying the Book of Isaiah.

Come and join us!

## **Program Annual Meeting Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

This meeting is usually the second Sunday of February but it will take place this third Sunday in February because Pastor Rick is out of town the previous Sunday

The meeting will take place between Worship Services in the Acts Center

Come and hear about our ministries for the past year and our hopes and plans for the coming year.

## **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> TACO (Third Ave Charitable Organization) Feed the Homeless**

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

## **Pastor Gone**

Pastor Rick will be gone February 8-13 to the national youth ministers convention in New Orleans. Keri Hyles will be preaching and leading worship on Sunday, February 12th. You can reach Pastor Rick on his cell at 619-249-3352 or for immediate care you can reach Keri at 619-402-7190 or 619-449-2314.

## **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday February 22nd we will observe Ash Wednesday with a worship service at 7:00pm

The service will include the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes.

## **Happy February from TACO!**

With 2011 just behind us, there has been a lot of reflection on this past year. Food banks and other organizations gathering statistics ask us about our numbers. How many people did you serve? How many meals did you give out? How many people did the clinics see? The numbers are astonishing. In 2011, TACO served 24,988 meals. That's almost 25,000 meals being made, served, and consumed. Among 9 clinics hosted at TACO and First Lutheran Church, 125 people were seen each week. TACO is truly grateful for the volunteers and supporters who make this all possible. Without the help of 400 new volunteers each year and over 8,000 volunteer hours, TACO would not be able to serve almost 25,000 meals.

The highlight of 2011 for this writer is a new haircut. I traded in curls and waves for a buzz cut that tells quite a story. Back in November, TACO was very much behind in raising funds for "Christmas in July." With about a month left and a goal of \$6,250, we had \$1,600. The staff began talks of alternate (ie: cheaper) gifts to distribute at Christmas. With a strange surge of courage, and dozens of volunteers within earshot, I exclaimed that if we hit \$10,000 (above and beyond the goal) for Christmas in July, I would shave my head! Within four weeks, we had reached \$6,000. Thinking this was close enough and that I was in the clear, I was completely shocked when a check for \$4,400 was handed to me two days before the deadline. So on Friday morning on December 30, I received a hair-cut that gives me an uncanny resemblance of First Lutheran's pastor, Wilk Miller.

Thank you to you all for your support throughout 2011. May your 2012 be filled with great joy and peace.

Rachel Line  
Volunteer Coordinator

## 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](mailto:bkarge@fullerton.edu).

### Winter retreat

Fourteen youth joined Stephanie and Belinda for a weekend retreat at the Karge's cabin in Twin Peaks. The theme of the weekend was working together based on Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. We had a great team building weekend complete with snow!

### Preparing for the All Lutheran Youth Gathering

We have three amazing events planned to provide fellowship and to serve as fundraisers for our youth. Please invite your neighbors and family to attend the following:

#### February 2, 2012

CCC event – Carlton Hills Creative Memories, Crafts and Cooking night. Bring your craft projects, purchase supplies for the crafts, and come and see samples of great scrapbooking and cooking ideas. There will be something for all ages. Stop by the ACTS center between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

#### February 14, 2012

Pastor will be having a ceremony at 6:30 p.m. for couples to renew their vows. The youth will sponsor a St. Valentine's Café after the event; complete with finger foods, sweets, flowers and photos. Come share a romantic night with your spouse and let the youth serve you!

#### February 25, 2012

Tastefully Simple Party 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Come hungry and sample yummy foods

#### 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.

### Summer camp

Make a Joyful Noise Art and Music Camp will take place from June 27 to July 13th this year. Plan now to send children preschool to seventh grade. Applications will be available in March. Price has not changed in seven years - \$100 per week and sibling discount is half price.

## February Anniversaries

12 Ken & Cindy Ryan

## February Birthdays

1	Jason Usher	16	Frank Steirer
1	Mia Schrader	17	Norma Borgeson
1	Kenneth Suess	18	Nancy Kern
4	Cole Freeman	19	Oscar Avendano
8	Brian Meyers	19	Jane Reaney
9	Bryce Taylor	21	Michael Huber
10	David Francis	22	Lorraine Beyer
12	Jeffery White	22	Grace Otto
12	Selina Weber	26	Robert Koch
14	Shawna Bagalini	26	Adam Byrd
14	Thomas Coletti	28	Judy Johnston
14	Heather Bjorson		

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

## February Ministers

**Coffee Fellowship:** Nancy Funick,

**Communion Assist.:** TBA

**Communion Care:** TBA

**Greeters:** TBA

**Lector:** TBA

**Stephen Minister of the Week:** 5- Carol Davidson

12- Marian Privett 19- Heather Gasner

26- Ellie Timan

**Ushers:** Laura Vaughan, Kathleen Darland, Marie Freeman, Randy Greenlee, Betty Maxa, Skip & Kim Taylor

