

The Echo

No. 01-2009 January Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Page

"No one can come to Me, except the Father who has sent Me, draws him."

These words of Jesus from John 6:44 remind us that faith comes as a gift from God. The question from this verse is how God "draws" us to Himself? How can we hear what God is saying? How can we identify the voice of God in such a noisy world?

I believe there are two things we must do to allow God to "draw" us to Himself. We must pray and we must listen to God's Word. When we do these essential preparations, God will speak to us and we can know that our decisions and our circumstances will reveal God's will to our lives.

That is the main reason why worship is so important to the Christian. The main purpose of worship is to listen to God's Word and to pray. Even the other things we do in worship point us to God's Word and prayer. Yes, we sing. But I am told that "He who sings prays twice." Singing is another form of prayer and hearing God's Word.

We have communion and on occasion we celebrate a baptism, but communion is not communion without pointing to the words in the Bible which gave us the first communion from Jesus' own lips and baptism has a similar setting.

In worship we have a sermon and a Children's Message. I will promise you that both of these parts of worship will always point us to the Bible lessons we read each worship service.

Is weekly worship enough? The short answer is "No!" The Bible says we must be a "living sacrifice" which is our "spiritual worship". That means every moment of our lives is meant to be worship and a communication with God.

I find it necessary to my spiritual health to also have daily devotions. This is a time where personally I read three different books that lead me into the Scriptures and that comment on the Scriptures. I have one book I read called "The One Year Bible" where I read portions of the Old Testament and the New Testament and by following the assigned daily readings I will read the entire Bible in one year. I love it!! The adult Bible studies on Thursdays at

Deby and my home at 1630 Whitsett Drive in El Cajon at 7:00p.m. use these readings as the theme of the study. Consider this an open invitation to join us!

I also have started an e-mail list for those of you that would like to read "My Utmost for His Highest" a daily devotion written by Oswald Chambers. This devotion may be the best devotion of its kind ever written. It contains a single Bible verse and comments on the Bible verse. I offer my own reflections on the devotion to my e-mail list. Consider this an open invitation to also join us. Just e-mail me your e-mail address to SYMCN1@aol.com.

The third devotion I read is free on the back table in our sanctuary. It is called "Christ In Our Home" and takes 1 to 2 minutes to read but often brings wonderful insights to a single Bible verse which we often will also hear on Sunday morning.

While I was in Minnesota Deby and I bought "My Utmost For His Highest" for my father-in-law who recently lost his beloved wife. We bought it because after reading just one of the daily devotions for him, it helped him see the hand of God working in His life in such a way that it was an immediate comfort to him.

A new year often brings people to reconsider how to add quality, health and value to their lives. Please consider how you can best allow God to "draw" you to Himself. God is speaking. The real question we must ask is "Are we listening?"

Pastor Rick

Attendance:

	9:00a.m.	11:00a.m.	Total
11/2	86	23	109
11/9	101	18	119
11/16	90	20	110
11/23	79	28	107
11/30	83	12	95
Thanksgiving Eve			60

November Finances:

Expenses	\$13,665
Income	\$14,967
Operating Surplus YTD	\$11,792

Bagels and Senior Lunch

Something each Tuesday of the month

Meet at Einstein Bagels at the Santee Trolley each Tuesday between 9:30am and 11:00am for fellowship

Except...

The second Tuesday of the month when you are invited to the Senior Lunch at a local restaurant beginning at 11:30am. Senior Lunch for January will be on the 13th at Filippi's Pizza at 10767 Woodside Ave, Santee (formerly Valley House).

Adult Studies

Pastor Rick offers two adult studies.

On Sunday mornings between services he will offer a study from a book called "The Book of Faith" which explains in detail the Lutheran perspective on Bible Study along with several actual Bible studies.

On Thursday evenings from 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. Pastor Rick and Deby will open their home at 1630 Whitsett Drive in El Cajon to study the New Testament readings from the "One Year Bible". This is open to any adult. Please let Pastor Rick know if you are interested in attending.

CHROS Practice moved to Saturdays

CHROS the music group for children, youth and adults has moved to a Saturday practice at 8:30am. CHROS meets every other Saturday and the guitars

meet every Saturday. Talk to Pastor Rick if you are interested in joining the group.

CHROS will meet just one Saturday in January and that will be Saturday, January 10th. The next Youth Led service is Sunday, March 29th

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

Wednesdays are Church Night

There is a big advantage to having almost all of our weekday church activities be on the same evening. This allows whole families to participate because there is something for everyone and with one night a week when the church has most of its activities it is easier to remember.

We would like to make Wednesdays:

"Church Night"

Here is the schedule:

5:30p.m. to 6:30p.m. Confirmation

7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m. High Up

6:30p.m. to 7:30p.m. Dinner and Confirmation/
Jr. High Youth Group

7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. Adult Choir

High Up Going to National Gathering

Check out the envelope board at the back of the church. The envelopes are marked 1-125 and our High School and College age youth are looking for your support to attend the National Gathering in New Orleans next summer. Simply pick a numbered envelop and place that amount of dollars in the envelope to support this effort. Let's see if we can use all the envelopes!

Feed the Homeless January 12th

Meet at church at 2:30pm and return by 5:30pm

Let Pastor Rick Know if you would like to attend and need a ride.

Sewing Needs?

She's a wizard with a needle and thread

Can produce any garment that pops into your head

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

Call Nancy Funick at 619-270-7187

Her prices are right and satisfaction is yours!

Christmas Season "Thank you!"

Christmas is full of energy and there is so much that is offered. Let's thank those who made it all possible:

- Betty Pendergast, Marian Privett and Gail Orton our volunteer office staff
- Steve Salaz and Stephanie Myers who coordinated the best youth drama ever
- For the hard work of the choir and Marvin Hamilton and Lynn Nichols for leading the choir Christmas presentation
- For Marvin singing and Lynn playing her harp, the choir singing, the brass trio of Hank Schneider, Pete Callaway and Bill Orton and for Marilyn Thomas on the violin for making the Christmas Eve worship exceptionally beautiful
- For Deby Schowalter supplying homemade cookies, Laura Vaughan organizing refreshments and Mike Weber building a bon fire for the Christmas Eve reception
- For Belinda Karge and the High Up putting on a great Christmas program dinner



- For Vicki and Dick Haas organizing our angel Tree to Tecate, Mexico along with all the others who supplied gifts and the ladies who made blankets
- For Jeanna Timan and Kim Taylor for an inspiring and so cute SS Christmas program and for Lynn Nichols playing songs and Neil Johnson running the sound
- For Joanne and Hank Schneider, Marie Freeman, Dee Ryden and many others who made the sanctuary beautiful

Wow! So many to be thankful for and what Christmas joy was shared because of them.

Church Council

The Church Council has moved its monthly meeting to the second Sunday of the month from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. The reason for the change is that our council president Jesse Lipscomb will be doing a live radio broadcast M-F during the evening for his financial planning business. How exciting! We have a celebrity among us.

Fiesta Navidad A Huge Success

Vicki Haas, Council Member for Outreach

On Saturday, December 20th, 17 members of CHELC went down to Iglesia de Cristo in Tecate, Mexico for a Christmas Party (Fiesta Navidad) with

the children of this tiny church. Dick and Vicki Haas, Pastor Rick, Marsha Browne, Bethany Timan, Mike and Josh Weber, Sara, Lucas and Robin Paulsen, Jesse and Juliana Lipscomb and "Jesse's Gang,"

as Dick refers to Jesse and Juliana's kids.

Upon our arrival, everyone helped unload the truck. We had brought 3 bookcases donated by the Timan's, many bags of clothing donated by our

church members and even a number of bags of clothing donated by the Scouts. After that was done, everyone kind of wandered over the property and up on top of the hill where there is a nice area for camping or picnicking. Pastors Rick and Jose talked about things that were needed and how the church all came about.

We had 14 children in attendance from Tecate and a couple of Mom's with toddlers in tow. Pastor Rick and Bethany taught some of our songs to the kids and a couple of us said a few words of explanation as to who we were and why we have taken them under our wings.

Lucas acted as the "elf" passing gifts to "Santa" Robin who called out the names of the children as their gifts came up and Pastor Jose opened the gifts for the littler ones and all were thrilled and said either "thank you" or "gracias."

After the gifts were open, everyone had snacks of sausage, cheese, fruit, chips, pop, milk or egg nog. Cindy Ryan made and decorated giant gingerbread people for dessert and there were chocolate covered marshmallow snowmen to go with them.

The little girls all congregated on the floor to play with their gifts and chat and most of the boys went outside and sat on top of a big boulder with Grethel and Josh and visited. At one point, there were about 7 kids on top of the boulder and Dick tells everyone that they reminded him of a bunch of little billy goats crawling all over. There were "kids" running and climbing all over everything, laughing and

playing with our kids like they've known each other forever.



All of the CHELC members who went said they had a really great time. Lucas wants to know how soon we can go back and Robin, who was frightened to go at first, has now conquered her fear and is ready to join the group again and again.

Ideally, we would like to go down one Saturday a month and just help with little things around the property and in the church. Pastor Jose would like to do a BBQ come spring before it gets too hot up on the hill. And, if Dick ever puts the blade on my riding mower, I could plow and smooth out the road up to the church!

Promises

Bible
Study/Prayer/Discussion
Group

Economy got you down?
Are you grieving? Is your
faith waning? Are you
losing control? Are you
trying to take control? Are

you sick in heart or body? All of these things have answers and Promises in the Holy Bible.

I'm very concerned about how our troubled economy is affecting us. How some of us are not handling the worries and stresses it has presented.

So many people out there who aren't handling it well. Losing faith, giving up their lives to it.

Relationships are hurting, we seem to be taking it all on ourselves instead of giving it up Christ for answers and guidance.

I'd like to start a Bible Study/Prayer/Discussion group based on the Bible Promises book. This little book lists verses pertaining to all our pain, health, relationship, faith, financial, love, hate, jealousy, and every other concern us mortal men/women feel.

I'd like to set aside the second and fourth Tuesday evenings to meet and discuss, pray and study some of these things using the Bible Promises book as a guide and our Bibles for definition and explanation.

He so loved us, let us learn to love ourselves and each other.

Vicki Haas
Council Member for Outreach

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meets at Filippi's Pizza at 10767 Woodside Ave, Santee, at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 13th. Join in for some good food and wonderful fellowship. For more information call Grace Otto, 448-8202 or Nancy Funick, 270-7187.

January Anniversaries

- 21 Gilbert & Trudy Hanley
- 29 Mavis & Richard Rones
- 30 Jerold & Sherry Henson

January Ministers

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan,
Grace Otto
Communion Assist.: Jennifer Brown & Marie
Freeman
Communion Care: Ellie Timan
Greeters: Bob & Marcy Metz
Lector: 4, 11- Vicki Haas 18, 25- Sylvia Smith
Stephen Minister of the Week: 4- Kathleen Darland
11- Carol Davidson 18- Marian Privett 25-
Mandy Vaughan
Ushers: Laura Vaughan, Norma Borgeson, Kathleen
Darland, Marie Freeman, Betty Maxa

January Birthdays

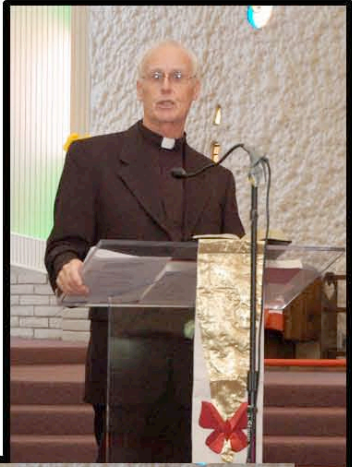
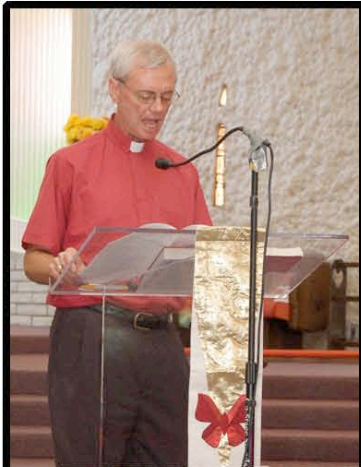
1	Louie Quintanilla	16	Marian Privett
2	Amanda Schloegel	19	Kimberly Insel
3	Gail Force	19	Jeffrey Sallay
4	Jennifer Jones	20	Naomi Schowalter
5	Jim Carile	23	Charlotte Arthurton
6	Bethany Timan	24	Kassidy Caya
7	Geoffrey Bradley	24	Shaina Webb
9	Helen Guttzeit	30	Marcy Metz
10	William Orton	30	Olivia Campbell
12	Betty Reaney	30	Daniel Timan
16	Herbert Ryden		

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

Texts for the Sundays in January

- 4th **Second Sunday Of Christmas**
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 (12) or Wisdom 10:51-21 (20)
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18
Color: White
- 11th **Baptism Of Our Lord**
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29 (3)
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11
Color: White
- 18th **Second Sunday After Epiphany**
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (1)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51
Color: Green
- 25th **Third Sunday After Epiphany**
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12 (6)
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20
Color: Green

Pastor Mark Neuhaus' Memorial Dedication



Photos by Michel Weber