

The Echo

No. 3-2004 MARCH Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Our Mission Statement:

Strengthen Faith in Christ

Enlarge our Hearts

Energize for Mission

Stretch our Minds

Being The Discipling Congregation

...an abundant and ever-growing life in Christ is God's gracious will for all people...

Growing new members in a congregation is a by-product of much praying, creating an hospitable environment, and patiently and deliberately developing relationships with friends and neighbors who are unchurched and inviting them to worship. To that end, let us be about the business of making Christ known in 2004.

BECAUSE....

...We believe that an abundant and ever-growing life in Christ is God's will for all people...

...In most areas of our communities fewer than half of the people are members of a church...

...We believe that God has given us a rich heritage of faith and a strong hope in the Gospel...

LET US

...Strive to obey Jesus' command to go and make of all who are not yet in Christ.

...Pray that we will experience a net growth of 50 new baptized members during 2004 with a worship attendance on Sundays of 150 persons by year's end!

I believe this is possible for any congregation that is alive in Christ.

NO, this is not just a numbers game. Growth or the lack of it is an indication of the faith and commitment of our members and our ability to proclaim the Gospel to all.

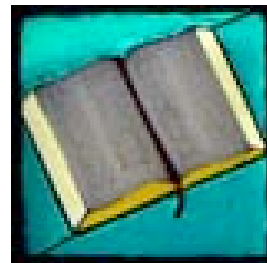
LET OURS BE KNOWN AS
THE DISCIPLING CONGREGATION

Pastor Frank

Stewardship-Consecration-Sunday

Faith, Hope, Love

Thanks to so many, many persons who worked long and hard to make our Consecration Sunday such a wonderful event. To Charlotte and Lyn Arthurton for providing the Mardi Gras theme, decorations and ideas for our brunch, to Leslie Atkins whose Mardi Gras article in last months Echo triggered the whole theme idea, to Marie Freeman and the Dorcas Circle for providing meat, coffee, punch and getting settings and kitchen help in place, to Rich Setzer, George Montague, Jeanna Timan, Linda Conklin, Janice Davis, Sue Lisowsky, who along with Deanna



Sampson, our Stewardship Chairperson, all worked tirelessly organizing the entire event. Also to Tom Insel our Trustee for the set up and clean up of tables and chairs, thanks to you all for your tireless commitment to the life and ministry of Carlton Hills Lutheran Church. Also great appreciation to Pastor Tom Dudley, Synod Stewardship Director for meeting with our committee and helping to provide leadership for the entire event. There may well have been others whose names were overlooked who also worked behind the scenes to help make this day so memorable. Thanks to all our unrecognized angels. And thanks to Pastor Rick and the Hi Youth for decorating the sanctuary with balloons and special appreciation to Pastor Karen Parker, assistant to our Bishop for being Consecration Sunday Preacher.

Of course the constant and ever present help of Tim Hustad behind the computer generating articles, letters, newsletters and Betty Pendergast and Dee Ryden our faithful volunteers in the office who make calls, get mailings ready and do great service also for the life of our church. Certainly Faith, Hope and Love are alive and well at Carlton Hills Lutheran Church. Thanks to all.

Our Bag Lady

Two Hundred—that's what Pastor Frank was looking for. How can we get 200 bags for each to hold thirty pieces of silver for a special ingathering of sacrificial giving during Lent? I made one phone call! To Nancy Funick. "Nancy, I heard you sew." "Yes, that's right." "I need 200 bags in four weeks," I said. "No problem," she said. "We don't have any money to pay you." "No problem, I have plenty of left over pieces." I then called her back in a week and said, "Nancy, we need the bags in two more weeks." "No problem." Well, let me tell you miracles happen here at Carlton Hills Lutheran Church. When Nancy ran out of material for the draw strings to close each bag, Bill Thomas came up with a coupon. Nancy was firm. "Can't spend any money." "That's o.k.," said Bill. Amazing, simply Amazing...Thank you Nancy—Thank you. And as they say the rest is history. By now those bags should be in your hands waiting your sacrificial gift of thirty pieces of silver. Turning the price of betrayal into the Ministry of Jesus. We are counting on every adult and every child to turn in a bag on Palm Sunday. Not one bag per family, but per person. Each bag given already has a dollar coin—so we look for 29 more coins in each bag. Did Jesus say it would be returned 100 fold. Indeed miracles do happen. And I still believe in Miracles, do You?



Pastor Frank To Be Away On Vacation

Pastor Frank will be away from March 4th through March 14th, returning to the office on Tuesday March 16th. This is vacation time that had been planned some eight months earlier. Pastor Rick will conduct worship on March 7th and 14th as well as lead Lenten Mid Week worship on Wednesday March 10th. Please contact Pastor Rick for any Pastoral needs during this time.



Lenten Mid Week Wednesday Worship

Our worship theme during four Wednesdays will focus on Walking the Emmaus Way and looking at the question Jesus asked the Disciples, "Can You Drink This Cup." Pastor Rick will, as noted above, be leading worship on March 10th and you will be invited to walk the Lenten Way with Him on that evening. Our evening will begin with traditional Soup and Salad dinner at 6:15 p.m. with worship at 7:00 p.m. Worship this year will be in the Sanctuary rather than Acts Center. Our organist will not be available during Wednesday evenings, so we will need to use the piano in the sanctuary to assist our worship time. Make this a time for renewal in your spiritual life by being present at each Lenten Wednesday.



Box Score For February 2004

Needed for Budget	\$23,423
	(thru 2-21)
<u>Received to Date</u>	<u>18,255</u>
Behind	\$ 5,168

Average Attendance: February	
(2003)	129
(2004)	110



First Communion Instruction

Do you have children who would like to receive communion but they have not had First Communion Instruction? How do you know when a child is ready to receive Communion? Is my child ready to receive Communion?

These are important questions. The answers are vital to the spiritual development of your child. The Lutheran church has guidelines but not hard and fast rules concerning first communion.

The national Lutheran Assembly has said that Communion should not be withheld from those who desire it regardless of age. The Assembly further stated that communion should be offered

in consultation with the local church, the pastor and the parents of children making this decision.

What are the issues included in the decision of whether a child is ready to receive communion? Here is my understanding of the issues.

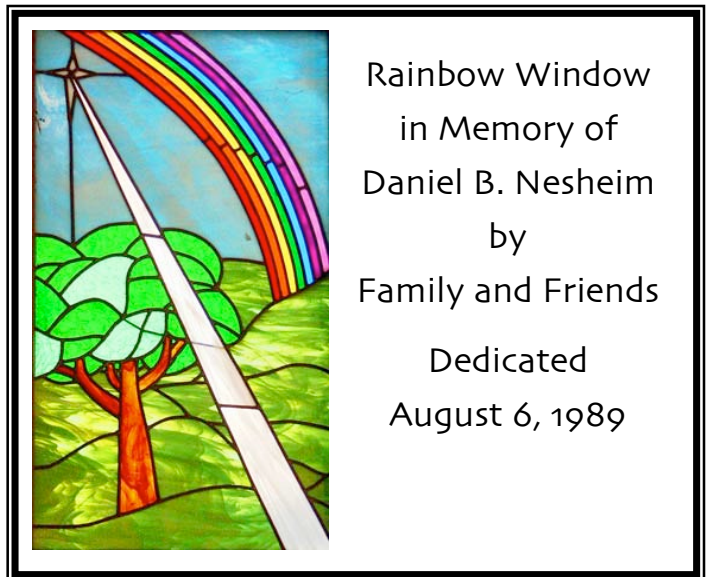
Communion is for “the forgiveness of sins” and therefore a child receiving communion should be aware of doing what is wrong. A young child does not have an awareness of sin. I once told my daughter that in communion we receive forgiveness for the things we do wrong and her comment was, “I never do anything wrong.” My comment was, “You are not ready to receive communion.”

Communion is a means of God’s grace. God’s gift comes to those who desire to receive that gift. I believe that the child who asks to receive communion should be given the opportunity to receive it.

Communion can be received in “an unworthy manner” according to the apostle Paul and therefore a child and a parent needs to receive instruction as to the meaning of communion and its context in the Christian life. However, this instruction is secondary to a simple desire to receive what God has to offer. We cannot know fully how God comes to us in communion. This issue divides great church bodies. There will always be some sense of mystery in receiving communion. However, we as God’s people desire God’s Word and we should come to know as best we can what God’s Word says about communion.

First Communion Instruction will be held on Saturday, March 13th from 9:00am-11:00am at Carlton Hills. I have invited children and parents from Hope to also attend. First Communion Sunday will be Sunday, March 14th at the worship service and special recognition will be given to the children receiving First Communion.

Please call Pastor Rick at 258-8775 if you want to register and receive the instruction booklet. I want everyone who comes to the March 13th meeting to have studied the booklet as a parent with their child prior to attending the instruction.



Renewing Worship

In the October 2003 Echo, I contributed an article about the ELCA’s five-year project entitled *Renewing Worship*. This is the third year of the project which will lead to a comprehensive proposal for new primary worship resources to be presented to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In January, three members of our worship committee—Marsha Hamilton, Jan Neuhaus and I—attended “Renewing Worship Days”, one of many one-day workshops held in more than 30 locations nationwide.

While music is certainly an important part of *Renewing Worship*, it is certainly not all about music. One of the main components of this multi-year process is to help congregations think about the basic principles of worship as well as the primary patterns of worship. The first phase included the development of “Principles for Worship,” a document that features core elements based on the outcome of a series of 2001-2002 consultations on four topics: music, preaching, language and worship space.

Renewal does not always mean “new”; it is also about “dusting off” and reclaiming old traditions, which may have become obscured over the past few centuries. A primary goal of the *Renewing Worship* process is to balance and connect the church's rich traditions with its constantly evolving present and future. This is really



nothing new. In the past century, most U.S. churches found it necessary to renew worship materials every generation or so in order to keep a balance between old and new. This happened for Lutherans in North America in the 1880s, the 1910s, the 1930s, the 1950s, and the 1970s. The ELCA is currently at one of these points of transition. Renewing worship requires a vigorous embrace of both old and new for the sake of participating in God's mission to the world.

The underlying assumption of the Renewing Worship process is that we must retain and emphasize the things central to our Lutheran worship—the Gathering, hearing/interpreting God's Word, celebrating the Meal, and the sending forth of God's people to do God's work. The intention is to build on the tremendous legacy of LBW, which was considered to be a forward-thinking resource at the time it was published. The goal is to achieve a blended worship, worship that unifies the congregation rather than worship that divides it.

Trial-use worship resources are being published for congregations to review. We each received a copy of the Renewing Worship Songbook at the workshop. This volume contains some new music, but much of it is not new. The intention is that LBW's successor will contain music selections from all previous resources plus some new pieces. In some cases, original texts and meanings have been recovered or older hymns that were not included in LBW have been brought back. There is an emphasis on global offerings that present new musical possibilities that offer a broader witness to the church's rich musical traditions. There is an ecumenical approach, which examines cross-denominational traditions. Finally, there are new selections for review. Gifted poets, writers, and composers are constantly creating new materials for worship. Not everything will stand the test of time, but unless we try new things, our worship will grow stagnant. Just 25 years ago, who had heard of Marty Haugen?¹


One obstacle to our participation in the evaluation process is monetary. We would have to purchase the trial-use materials. This is

prohibitive considering we would also want to purchase the final resource product when it is published in a couple of years. However, much of the music in the Renewing Worship Songbook is public domain and we can freely reprint it. In addition, Augsburg Press has granted limited permission for congregations to reproduce all selected hymns for which they hold the copyright for use between July 1, 2003 and December 31, 2005. All other songs in the songbook for which a third party holds the copyright require permission in order for us to reproduce them. There is an overwhelming abundance of music for the worship committee to review and choose from.

In addition, there is a survey posted on the Renewing Worship website, as part of the analysis of hymns in LBW and WOV. Every hymn in these two resources is listed and the following question is asked for each: How important is it that this hymn be included in future ELCA primary worship resources? If you have the time, feel free to participate in the survey process. This is our chance to have a voice in choosing music to be included (or not included) in the next hymnal.

¹<http://www.elca.org/lp/grplat.html>

Stoldt, Frank W. "Green, Red, or Platinum? The Process of Renewing Worship in the ELCA" <http://www.renewingworship.org>
<http://www.elca.org/news> ELCA News Service
Submitted by Leslie Atkins

	<p>In Memory Of Mary Gooch (1912 – 2001) By Ellie Timan Dedicated June 29, 2003</p>
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Spotlight on Hymns

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” LBW #294

Text: Edward Mote, 1787-1874

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” LBW #467

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878

Tune: “Melita” John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

Although my usual practice is to highlight the text of an upcoming hymn, this month I would like to change gears and focus on the melody for this article. It is as common among church hymnals for a given text to have alternate tunes as much as for a given tune to have alternate texts. The Cyberhymnal (www.cyberhymnal.org) lists at least seven different sets of lyrics for the tune “Melita” by John B. Dykes. Dykes fittingly named the tune after a locale associated with a Biblical shipwreck. Melita was the island the Apostle Paul reached after his ship went down (Acts 28:1). Today we know it as the isle of Malta.

While we will be singing this melody with the lyrics of LBW #294, “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”, it is perhaps more popularly associated with the lyrics of LBW #467:

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who biddest the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

In America, “Eternal Father” is often called the “Navy Hymn,” because it is sung at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. As a civilian working for the Navy, I have often heard it performed at retirement ceremonies for officers I have worked with and other official functions. It is also sung on ships of the British Royal Navy and has been translated into French. It was the favorite hymn of President Franklin Roosevelt and was sung at his funeral in Hyde Park, New York, April 1945. The Navy Band played it in 1963 as President John Kennedy’s body was carried up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to lie in

state. Movie aficionados will recognize this melody from the soundtrack of the 1995 movie “Crimson Tide” starring Denzel Washington and Gene Hackman, played as the disabled nuclear submarine, U.S.S. Alabama sinks to the bottom of the ocean.

Throughout the years, numerous additional stanzas have been composed for this hymn by various authors. The Navy Chaplain’s website (www.chaplain.navy.mil) lists 101 verses not only honoring the men and women of various branches of our armed forces, but also covering a wide variety of topics, such as aviation, space travel, marriage, birth, thanksgiving, prejudice, and the Holocaust. Amusingly, the following verse is also listed:

*Lord, close and stop the mouths of those
Who’d on the Navy Hymn more words impose.
Bring to them always, everywhere
Great darkening storms and sunlight rare.
Oh hear us when we cry to Thee,
From all those words now set us free!
---Chaplain Joseph N. Sestito. 1968*

Submitted by Leslie Atkins



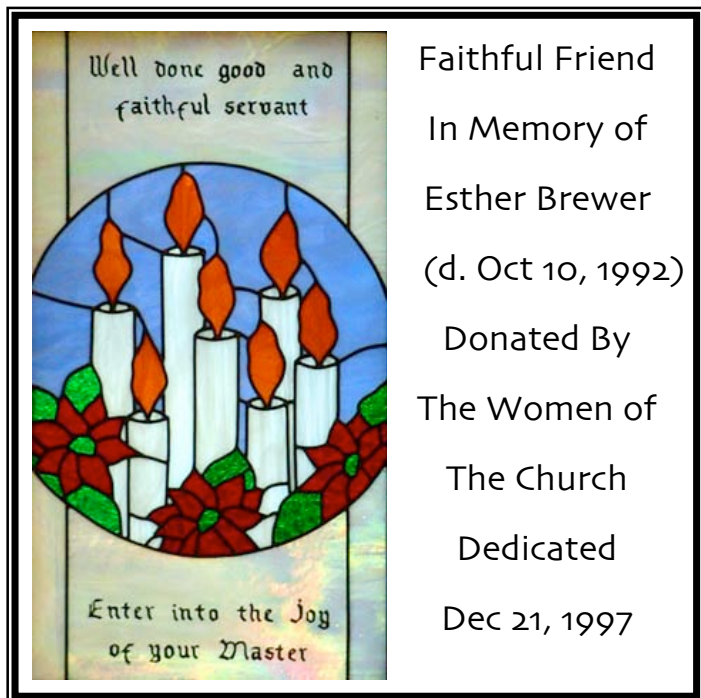
When Money Talks

There was this \$20 dollar bill and a \$1 dollar bill on the conveyor belt at the downtown Federal Reserve Building. As they were lying there side by side the \$1 dollar bill said to the \$20 dollar bill, "Hey mannnnnn, where have you been. I haven't seen you in a long time ?" The \$20 dollar bill replied, "Man I have been having a ball! I been traveling to distant countries, going to the finest restaurants, to the biggest and best casinos, numerous boutiques, the mall uptown, the mall downtown, the mall across town and even a mall that I just newly built. "In fact, just this week I've been to Europe, a professional NBA game, Rodeo Drive, the all-day retreat spa, the top-notch hair salon and the new casino! I have done it all!!!"

After describing his great travels, the \$20 dollar bill asked the \$1 dollar bill, "What about you? Where have you been?" The \$1 dollar replied, "Well, I've been to the Baptist church, the

Methodist church, the Presbyterian church, the Episcopalian church, the Church of God in Christ, the Catholic church, the Mormon church, the church of the Latter Day Saints, the A.M.E. church, the Disciple of Christ church, the..."

"WAIT A MINUTE! WAIT A MINUTE!!" shouted the \$20 dollar bill to the \$1 dollar bill. "What's a church?"



Dorcas Circle Mission

Dorcas Circle's mission for 2004, is to assist the church with its deficit, and help the Santee Food Bank as much as possible.

In January 2004, we donated \$350.00 to the Santee Food Bank, which almost matches the congregation's donations for the past three months of \$331.00. The Santee Food Bank received a check at the beginning of February for a total of \$681.00. We will continue this throughout the year with our monthly contributions on the first Sunday of each month.

Also, in the month of January, we donated \$650.00, to the church's General Fund to be applied to the church deficit. Of this amount,

\$500.00 was raised at the Barnes & Noble gift wrapping.

Our goal for the year is to raise at least \$2500.00 towards the deficit and hopefully half this amount for the food bank.

Look for lots of fun things to happen this year for fundraising.

We wish to thank all those who take part in these events and those that donate to them.



Dorcas Circle Highlights

At the January meeting, we assisted Nancy Funick in making the bags for the special Lenten offerings. We wish to thank Nancy for all her hard work.

We also made small gifts that were donated to the shut-ins of the church.

On February 15th, we held a bake sale and raised \$150.00. Thanks to all who baked those luscious desserts, and to those who bought them. The ladies made sure the calories were removed prior to the sale.

Look forward to our "Potato Party" on March 14th. Ellie Timan will be committee chairman for this event.

We planned and served the brunch for the congregation for Consecration Sunday on February 22nd. We want to thank Lyn Arthurton, Bill Thomas, Tim and Jeremy Hustad for preparing pancakes for all of us. They did such a good job, that we volunteered them to do the same at a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to be held on Saturday, May 8th. We will include the community at this, distributing flyers, posters, etc.

Our next meeting in on Saturday, March 5th, at 9:30 a.m., due to Lenten Services being held on Wednesday nights.

Again, we invite all ladies and friends to come and join us.

Starlight Theater

Wanted: Men to help fix up seats for Starlight to get ready for summer season.

Call Bill Thomas if interested. Starlight will donate tickets for our dinner theater for the work.

Thank you,
Bill Thomas
619-334-6457



Reflections on Pastor Mark's Pastoral Ministry at Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church by Jan Neuhaus

A few weeks ago I was asked to write about Mark's almost 20 year ministry at Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church. Since I don't consider myself a writer (that was Mark's gift) I have labored with this in my mind until almost the last minute. But as I have thought about what to write, the difficulty of "capsulizing" someone's life work to a few words has sometimes been overwhelming - especially about someone who was, and still is as important to me and so many as Mark was. So, I will attempt to share with you what I remember. Please know there are certain aspects of his ministry that I knew only a little about, and other parts I knew well.

In the winter of 1984 our family traveled to San Diego, California for a family vacation, but also to interview at a Lutheran church in Santee. I remember being impressed by the church building with its unique design, but also impressed by the careful interview conducted by the call committee. It was obvious they were looking for the "right match" for their congregation. The call was issued, accepted, and we moved in May from South Dakota to California. It felt good to be "home." Our lives together had begun.

Some of the concerns in 1984 were the same concerns shared in 2004 - finances, slow church growth, declining Sunday School participation.



January Tuesday Fellowship at Einstein Brothers Bagels. Long time members may notice a person from the past that joined us (previously known as Nita Dunn).

Congregational Meeting Highlights

Pastor Frank led us in a remembrance of Pastor Mark. Jan wrote a letter about Pastor Mark's service to the church and Joi Comstock read the letter in Jan's absence. Pastor Frank also read a letter of encouragement and support, sent to us by Bishop Murray Finck. We had a discussion about our grief, and we also individually completed a "Dimension of Congregational Healing" chart, which will be assessed by the church council.

We then discussed financial matters and the fact that we owe ourselves over \$17,000.00. We actually have a weekly deficit of approximately \$800.00. We separated into groups to discuss how we could reduce our budget. This is a very serious problem, and we need to do everything possible to clear this deficit. The suggestions will be submitted to church council.

It was suggested that we keep the congregation more aware of our financial condition and expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Freeman

But together the storms were weathered and the church persevered. Mark continued throughout his ministry to preach and teach the gospel of a risen savior, shared how that gospel affected each believer into action, encouraged personal study, devotion and prayer to strengthen that faith, and lived a life of humble serving.

Reaching across denominational lines was a strength of Mark's. In 1988, a joint partnership with St. Columba Episcopal Church was begun. They shared our facilities and brought a new life to our campus. A covenant was signed with them in 1997 to continue shared ministries and resources. Mark continued that ecumenical spirit by actively participating in the Santee Ministerial Council. That participation brought us community Thanksgiving Eve worship services held at Carlton Hills Lutheran, Easter Sunrise services at Santee Lakes, and community Advent service at Guardian Angels Catholic Church. It also shared the ministry of the Santee Food Bank and services at Edgemore Hospital. That ecumenical spirit also looked beyond church lines as well. Mark sought and received council permission to host community forums on political issues involving the city of Santee. He had a gift for presenting all sides of an issue to enable educated and informed decision making. Reaching beyond our borders was also encouraged. Mark organized tours and work groups to Tecate, Mexico, also helped Lutheran Border Concerns with food and clothing drives, and led the congregation to support Lutheran World Relief, specifically feeding the hungry.

Mark was never satisfied with the status quo and led us to try new worship ideas. He requested and received council permission to hold communion 4 Sundays per month. Sometime in 1988 we purchased and then learned the Communion Setting by Gary Cornell - we continue to use it as part of our liturgy rotation. We also were able to purchase With One Voice with memorial money from the family of Dorothy Smylie. It has been another important addition to our worship life.

Recognizing that the youth are the future of the church led Mark to be active in both the campus

ministry at San Diego State University and California Lutheran University. He was an area advocate for CLU and held many youth retreats at SDSU Lutheran/Episcopal Center.

The day of the Santana shooting, Mark was a calming presence in the parking lot where students and families were united. He wrote, and had published in the Lutheran, a very thoughtful piece about how God's light continues to shine, even in our darkest moments. That was, and is, a true reflection of Mark's gentle faith.

He was a helpful resource and advisor as the council led the congregation in their capital improvement project. Without his gentle persuasion I wonder if we wouldn't still be talking about doing it rather than seeing it completed.

You generously allowed him to take a 6 week sabbatical in 2000. He was able to take a trip to Greece and Turkey, tracing some of the steps Paul took in his ministry. I know how special that trip was to both Mark and Andrew and we are thankful they were able to go.

Throughout his ministry at Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mark gently and faithfully shared his call with all of you. Some dreams and wishes he saw fulfilled, like the variety in worship settings, increased support for benevolence, improved relationship and partnership with the schools. Some dreams and desires remain unmet, like more secure finances, stronger commitment to congregational life and improved landscaping (especially to the bank).

Mark's ministry was one of love, faith, hope, and sacrifice. He set a tremendous example of what a good steward of God's gifts can do - an example I will strive to continue to follow. My prayer is that each of us will "step up to the plate" and be not only, as James describes, hearers of God's word, but doers as well. That would be the greatest honor to Mark's ministry we could provide - to continue doing God's work among God's people, never forgetting who we are and whose we are.



**Pacifica Synod—ELCA
Office of the Bishop**

Dear Members of Carlton Hills Lutheran Church,

God's grace and peace continue to surround you and keep you in these days. You have been in my thoughts and in my heart often these days since Pastor Mark's illness and death. As you gather for a congregational meeting now in this New Year, I continue to express my care for you and offer the support of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As some of you know, various staff members of our congregation have stayed connected during these interim days. I am thankful for Pastor Gearhart's willing heart and capable ministry during this transitional time.

As I write this letter, I give thanks for the many years of service Mark gave as a child of God and as a called and ordained minister of Christ's Church. I am especially thankful for his long pastoral ministry here within the Pacifica Synod at Carlton Hills. His was a long ministry with you and he led you with faithful devotion to God, with a consistent style of leadership that made him always reliable and trustworthy, and with grace and love. Along with you, we are thankful for pastoral leadership that keeps in mind the mission of Christ and what is always best for the congregation as a whole. Along with you, we continue to miss our colleague, friend and pastor, Mark Neuhaus. Along with you, we have entrusted him to the mercy and eternal rest of God, and we pray for his family and those whose hearts continue to be broken.

In this New Year 2004, as I look back to 2003, I offer prayers for what has happened in the past. As I write this, I am thankful for Mark. He was a good friend and a strong support for the work of the whole church, with a special passion for our ecumenical relationships with Christians of other denominations. He was one of our synod's leaders in this work in the San Diego area. I know he helped to build those bridges with your congregation and other ministries in Santee. I am thankful for Mark's family, who made such difficult decisions in times that try the human

heart to the limit. They did so with unwavering faith and strength that only comes from God. I am thankful for the leadership of the congregation, as they gathered for quickly-called emergency meetings, as they gave direction to the congregation and provided sound and God-pleasing leadership under great stress and pain. I am thankful for the pastors and people from other congregations in Santee and the San Diego area, as they stood by you and prayed with you in full support. I am thankful for your interim pastor and his spouse, as he makes the journey often to lead you with Christ-centered preaching and teaching, with the Holy Word and Holy Sacraments, with hope, and with great pastoral care. Most of all, I am thankful to God, who was with Mark through his entire ordeal and now gives him the gift of life without end. I give God thanks for the care and comfort that God's Spirit pours out upon this congregation these days.

As Christians, we best say thanks to God and to those servants of God who lead us faithfully through our worship, devotion, witness, and service as we continue to participate in the life of our church. In our lives and commitments to be faithful, we honor our God, who promises to all who are baptized and who believe in eternal life with God. With our ongoing work in Christ's Church, we honor the memories of a pastor who led us to only follow Christ, not the pastor. In our own sacrificial living, we follow Jesus, whose journey led to the cross, and then continued on in resurrection and beyond. Finally, we honor each other as the communion of saints, as we are called in our baptisms and in our faith to witness to each other and the world that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God. May we all strive together to proclaim Christ's Good News and keep the ministry at Carlton Hills alive and vibrant and faithful!

God be with you as you chart your future as the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. We will continue to be with you in heart and in presence in the days ahead.

In the light of Christ,
The Rev. Murray D. Finckt
Bishop

Texts for the Sundays in March:

Mar 7th 2nd Sunday in Lent
Gen 15:1-12, 17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Luke
13:31-35
Mar 14th 3rd Sunday in Lent
Isa 55:1-9, 1 Cor 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9
Mar 21st 4th Sunday in Lent
Josh 5:9-12, 2 Cor 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-
32
Mar 28th 5th Sunday in Lent
Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry at Carlton Hills Lutheran Church began officially in June of 1995 when Pastor Mark Neuhaus, Virginia Neel, and Eleanor Timan were commissioned as Stephen Leaders. A year later, Ed Teichner also went through training, and was commissioned a Stephen Leader. Each had gone thru 63 hours of training, and then went on to have an additional 50 hours of training to be Stephen Ministers. In the 8 and a half years of a very active Stephen Ministry at CHLC we have trained and commissioned 10 additional Stephen Ministers. Eight from CHLC and 2 from St. Columba's Episcopal Church. We also have had one transferred member from another Lutheran Church. In that time, we have lost two beloved Leaders, Virginia Neel and Pastor Mark Neuhaus, and our Episcopal friend, Don Ryer, to death. Currently, we have two Leaders serving along with four members from CHLC and one from St. Columba's. Pastor Frank has become our Pastoral advisor, with Pastor Rick planning to join in on meetings in the spring of 2004.

In 2003, our Stephen Minister's worked with nine care receivers. Each Care Receiver is assigned a Stephen Minister, and everything is kept in a confidential manner under supervision of the Stephen Leaders. Our goal is to give Christian care giving in a loving, supportive, non-judgmental manner. There is no cost involved to the care receiver, no pat answers, no dictates. We are there to listen, to help, and to do so in

Christian love. We are free with our time, our efforts, and our hugs. Friendships are made, and even after closure, many care receivers continue to call on their Stephen Ministers. Our meetings are twice monthly with further training, supervision, and support for one another.

A new Stephen Minister training will be held in April. We are hoping that if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, you will contact Pastor Frank, Pastor Rick, Ed Teichner, or Ellie Timan. If you desire a Stephen Minister, please do not hesitate to contact one of us, or one of the Stephen Ministers: Bill Blue, Carol Davidson, Nancy Funick, or Jim Thomas. We are only a phone call away. Our ministry here at CHLC has been successful because of our congregation's support and participation. Thank you. As Stephen Ministers, we have each personally answered yes when asking, "Is it I, Lord?"

We invite you to do the same.

In Christ's Service,

Ed Teichner
Ellie Timan



February Council Meeting

February bills have been paid with the exception of the mortgage. Council decided to pay interest only on the mortgage starting with January, which was paid in February.

Consecration Sunday is ready to go. Pledge cards and Time & Talent sheets will be distributed.

Choir to perform Cantata on Palm Sunday 4/4. Maundy Thursday 4/8 we'll have Foot Washing and service at 7:00. Good Friday service will also be at 7:00. Easter Sunday 4/11 will include brunch and egg hunt.

Kim Naour is considering the position of Parish Education Chairman. We still need Board of Out Reach.

Pastor Frank on vacation 3/4-3/14. Pastor Rick will fill in.



Easter Cantata

The choir is starting to practice for this year's Easter Cantata, "Risen this Day." This special music will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 4th, 2004 at 9am.



SR. FELLOWSHIP meets at Michael's (Chic & Pig) at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 9th. Join in for some good food and wonderful fellowship. For more information call either Grace Otto, 440-2456 or Nancy Funick, 561-7823.



+++REMEMBER IN PRAYER those who are affected by anxiety, depression, guilt, grief, loneliness, poverty, illness and in need of God's healing and loving touch:

Friends: Arnold, Glen, Kathy, Patty, Fred, Helen

Members: Crystal & Rod Boisvert, Arlean Lane, Laura Kramer, Norie Feltner, Ralph Beyer, Joseph & Gertrude Geiler, Gunda Richardson, Grace Otto, Judy Johnston, Ed & Marge Whitehead, Elsie Erion, Linda Tomsick, Cole & Marie Freeman, Betty Keehn, Charlotte Kimbrough, Marty Freer, Arnold Flurry, Jan, Erin, Andrew Neuhaus & family.

NOTE: We currently have two prayer chains that can be easily activated by calling Mary Thomas, Prayer Chain Coordinator, 334-6457 (note this is her new number).



March Ministers

Acolyte: 7- Ericka Davis 14- Anna Bloeman 21- Louie Quintanilla 28- Kristin Naour

Assist. Minister: Leslie Atkins

Coffee Fellowship: 7- Stephen Ministers 14, 21, 28- Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan, Janice Davis

Communion Assist.: 7, 14- Tom Davidson & Grace Otto 21, 28- Lyn & Charlotte Arthurton

Communion Care: Laura Vaughan
Edgemoor Hospital Worship: 28- Jim Thomas
Greeters: 7, 14- Christine Goforth & Molly Lisowsky 21, 28- Tom & Susan Ellison
Lector: 7, 14- Molly Lisowsky 21, 28- Darrel Timan

Nursery: TBA

Sound: 7- Jeremy Hustad 14- Neil Johnson 21- Randy Catron 28- Neil Johnson

Stephen Minister of the Day: 7- Ed Teichner 14- Jim Thomas 21- Bill Blue 28- Carol Davidson

Ushers: Lyn & Charlotte Arthurton, Jenny Brown, Grace Otto, Nancy Ripple, Marjorie Whitehead



March Anniversaries

13- Fred & Norma Borgeson

16- Darrel & Jeanna Timan

20- Tom & Betty Pendergast

26- Alan & Joi Comstock

Linda & William Conklin

March Birthdays

1- Peter Callaway

2- Lyle Swanson

6- Wade Vickery

7- Elsie Erion

9- Betty Pendergast

10- Ronald Dixon

Steven Kramer

Jennifer Brown

12- Marilyn Thomas

16- Florence Hustad

Lee Strand

Mary Helen Arndt

20- Gertrude Geiler

Deanna Sampson

21- Fern Gates

23- Leslie Atkins

24- Stephen Paulsen

Michael Childers

26- Steven Atkins

27- Sherrill Nelson

29- Brett Boisvert

30- Joanne Huber