

The Echo

No. 11-2005 November Santee, CA

The Monthly Newsletter of:

Carlton Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

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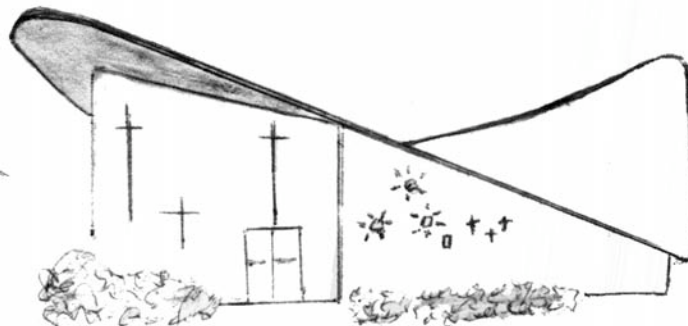
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Pastor's Page

“Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest that He will send laborers into His harvest.”

Matthew 9:38

November is stewardship month at our church. What is “stewardship?” It is the awareness that who we are and all that we have are God’s gifts to us. Therefore, we are stewards or caretakers of these resources. These resources are not our possessions. They are God’s gifts to us, however, He entrusts us with the responsibility for how these gifts will be used.

Stewardship comes in three categories:

1. Time
2. Talent
3. Finances

The knowledge that our many gifts come from God compels us to take responsibility for investing these precious resources wisely—in ways that benefit all of God’s creation and not merely for our personal enjoyment.

The greater we are blessed, the greater is our responsibility for making wise, God-directed investments of time, talent, and finances.

“To Whom much is given, of him much will be required.”

-Jesus

The Gospel of Luke

The goal is to use our resources for the benefit of God’s kingdom. That does not mean, however, that we are to live lives of deprivation unless God has specifically called us to that life. I believe that taking care of one’s self is wise stewardship. We need times of relaxation. We need to pay our financial commitments, and we cannot give our dollars to others without considering our other financial commitments. We need to be aware of our talents so that if someone, like the pastor, asks us to do something we have no talent for, we can simply say, “I can’t do that. It is not my gift.”

As a church, we must lead our stewardship commitment by example. The budget committee has agreed to recommend to the church council and the congregation that our church set aside ten

percent of our income for the benefit of God’s work in the world. Four percent will go to our synod. Almost fifty percent of what we give to our synod goes to the national church and to the work that the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) does throughout the world. This ten percent will be above the designated dollars we give to specific appeals through special offerings such as the World Hunger Appeal or Lutheran Disaster Relief for hurricane or earthquake victims. The remaining six percent or about \$10,000 will be set aside in a “God Account.” A special task force will be in charge of the disbursement of these dollars.

There are many ways we, as good stewards, can decide how to use our gifts:

- Fund the orphanage in Mexico.
- Help a member of our church or the community who is in need because of a crisis.
- Fund the homeless feeding program at First Lutheran.
- Give more to our synod or the national church.
- Fund a missionary.

Maybe God will lead us to support something that we have no knowledge of at the present time. Won’t it be fun to see what God will do?

Our budget for next year will show an increase of about ten percent, maybe a bit more. We should meet our budget this year or come very close to doing so. I have turned down a three percent cost of living raise (several thousand dollars) because I believe strongly in this commitment. It will be difficult for us to meet the ten percent increase in our budget. Most of the projected increase will be for this adventure of faith. In dollars, we will need \$15,000 or \$1,250 per month. This is the church’s investment of stewardship for the coming year. We know that God will see our efforts as a commitment of joy and thanksgiving. Thanks be to God for His overflowing blessings to us!

On a personal note: Several Saturdays ago, I visited the orphanage in Mexico that we are supporting through the donations of playground equipment and blankets, made by our wonderful Dorcas Circle, together with gifts for the children at Christmas. I was amazed that the orphanage cares for twenty-two

children for only \$2,000 a month—such a commitment to the development of Christian faith. Half of the \$2,000 a month goes toward feeding the children and the four staff members. Each staff member makes \$35.00—Yes, only \$35.00 per week, plus room and board. Our church is asking to pass a budget, for the coming year, of about \$150,000 or about \$2,900 per week. We could fund five orphanages with the dollars we give to our church!

I was ashamed. I felt so greedy. But then I thought we need to be about investing in Christian stewardship. Our church needs to witness to our membership and to our community the importance of being good stewards of the many blessings we have. When we give to God to support those in need in the world, we can feel justified that our budget is a way of bringing our church's resources and our members' stewardship into line with God's love for the world. From my perspective, it is only when we can turn our people into giving agents to benefit others that we can justify our own expenditures as a church. That is what stewardship is all about.

Consider your gifts from God: time, talent, and finances. Please respond with compassion to the needs of the world and support our church in investing our wealth in ministry beyond our walls.

Always in Christ,
Pastor Rick

Do You Want to Learn to Speak Spanish?

Ten weeks of God's Gifts are almost over, but something new and exciting is coming to take their place.

Our Wednesday schedule has been:

5:15pm - Tutoring

6:00pm - Family Dinner

6:15pm - God's Gifts

Wednesday, November 16th will be the last week of God's Gifts. Sixteen boys and girls have attended our tutoring sessions—twenty-four have participated in God's Gifts.

Our new Wednesday schedule:

5:15pm - Tutoring

6:00pm - Spanish language instruction with Jesse Lipscomb

What fun! Let's learn Spanish together. Jesse has agreed to teach a beginning Spanish class for anyone interested. This will be an intergenerational adventure.

We will probably chip in for pizza and have the Spanish class from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

The first class will be November 23rd, followed by a Thanksgiving Eve worship service.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:00pm

Come and express your "thanksgiving" to God through worship. We will have a short communion service. Remember, "Thankful people are happy people." Come share the joy.

Youth and Confirmands

Our youth and confirmands will attend a middle school gathering November 11-13, featuring one of the best youth speakers in the southwest, Mark Oestreicher, of Youth Specialties. The gathering will include the following: two nights at the Coast Hotel in Anaheim, a half day at Disneyland, wonderful electives, worship services, spiritual enrichment, and group building.

Please pray for them!

Feed the Homeless

Monday, November 14th

Our church travels to First Lutheran Church every month to help serve a hot meal to 200-250 homeless from downtown San Diego. Those who attend find it inspirational. Our confirmation class always attends, but it is open to anyone who would like to come. Meet at the church at 2:30pm. We will return by 6:00pm.

School Work Day

Saturday, November 19th

Thanks to three workers from Genesis Expeditions, progress on the school buildings is moving along much faster. But we still need help! Please come Saturday, November 19th at 8:00am and give us a hand. We need to remove nails from a pile of wood so that the wood can be salvaged. There is much to do—a job for everyone. How exciting it will be when the buildings are rebuilt for Genesis. Our gift will benefit thousands of orphans, over the years, who will receive free Christian retreats. The cause is inspiring. The need for help is great.

Church Work Day

Saturday, November 5th

We are almost ready to begin planting the exterior bank with ground cover, flowers, and plants. The water is on, thanks in large measure to Tom Davidson, Ron Dixon, and Dee Ryden. How inspiring it will be to drive by the bank that once was so ugly and see it transformed into a thing of beauty, in part, thanks to your efforts. Come Saturday, November 5th at 8:00am and help us with the planting.

Church Council Looking for Volunteers

The following positions on the church council will be available in the upcoming year:

Vice President: Coordinates the activities of the council along with the President.

Treasurer: Pays all the bills for the church.

Secretary: Maintains records and writes the minutes for all council and congregational meetings.

Christian Educator: Oversees the transition of our school buildings.

If you feel that you can serve in one of the above-mentioned capacities and would enjoy serving on the church council, please contact Sue Lisowsky or

Pastor Rick. These are elected positions; however, often multiple candidates do not apply. The only requirement for serving on the church council is that the candidate is a confirmed member of the church.

Sermons and Bible Studies Available

Did you know that our Sunday sermons and the Bible studies led by Pastor Rick are being recorded? These recordings are available from several sources. The sermons, both audio and video, are on the church website: www.carltonhillslutheran.org. The sermons and Bible studies are available on CDs in the church office. The sermons are on DVDs. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Tim Hustad, we now have this tremendous resource. What a great way to share our faith—give a sermon or Bible study that may speak, in a special way, to someone we know.

Flower Bulbs for Sale

In an effort to raise money for the summer music camp, we are selling flower bulbs. Pick up a colorful brochure at the back of the church, fill out the order form, and make your checks payable to CHELC—support a great ministry and beautify your yard for many years.

Dorcas Fall Bazaar

Don't buy those Christmas presents just yet!

Dorcas makes beautiful gifts that will be on sale Saturday, November 19th and Sunday, November 20th from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Don't miss this annual event that will include: Thanksgiving and Christmas wreaths, stockings, candles, and many decorations for the holidays—raffles and prizes—fun for all! My spare bedroom is filled with treasures galore!

The profits from this fund raiser will be matched with funds, up to \$1200, by Thrivent and used to purchase the plants and necessary preparation items needed to beautify the exterior bank—dollars well spent that keep on giving!

Please support the countless hours that went into making these fine crafted items.

Note from Carol Davidson

What a beautiful commissioning service I had last Sunday, October 16th! Thanks to Ellie and Ed for the inspiring words and extra touches. I couldn't have asked for more if I had tried to plan it myself. The biggest blessing to me, and to Stephen Ministry itself is that Pastor Rick really gets it! As I listened to his sermon, I realized that he has a full understanding of what this ministry can mean for our church. We are all commissioned to love our neighbors, and this ministry is all about that.

I personally have been so blessed by touching the lives, and living the hurt and pain of those I've cared for as a Stephen Minister. God has given me bountiful grace and love, not only to sustain me, but to pour out on to those in my care. I believe that Stephen Ministry will continue to grow at C.H.L.C., and that each member of our congregation will be personally blessed by it.

I would like to especially thank my family for their 15 plus years of support since I was first commissioned a Stephen Minister, in spite of the countless hours spent caring for others. Thank you also to my fellow Stephen Ministers who have been an endless source of love and encouragement.

Carol Davidson

Altar Guild Meeting

November 15 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Getting ready for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Please come early if you can as we will be responsible for cleaning the chancel area on that Saturday "work day". Joanne

Attention Dorcas Ladies

That means all ladies of the congregation. All hands on deck Saturday November 5th.. This is the 1st Saturday of the month "work day", so while the men are working outside, this would be a good time to do a semi-annual "sprucing up" of the sanctuary getting ready for Advent and Christmas just like we do at home...chasing cobwebs, polishing furniture, enjoying a break for coffee and doughnuts. Cleaning supplies will be supplied, coffee and doughnuts too. Work Day begins at 8:00 a.m. Come when you can, stay as long as you can. "Many hands make light work"

Tuesday Morning Fellows

Our outing in October was a trolley ride to Seaport Village where we enjoyed lunch at the Harbor House, and did a lot of window shopping. We were enticed to have ice cream cones at Ben and Jerry's for dessert. I couldn't talk anyone into taking a ride on the carousel, but there is always another time!

Tuesday, November 7th we will carpool to Canterbury Gardens near Escondido. They are decorated for Thanksgiving and for Christmas, so everyone will get lots of ideas, do some oohs and ahhs, and get their "eyes full". It will be a great chance to get started on your Christmas shopping, or "just because you can't live without it" shopping. Don't know where we'll have lunch, but will definitely eat somewhere good. Please contact De Ryden if you plan to go. One or two drivers will be needed, with everyone sharing the gas expense.

In December on the 6th, we are going to the outlet stores at Veijas. Again drivers will be needed and we'll share the gasoline cost. De or Ellie will be the contact persons for this activity.

Remember, all of the Tuesday Fellowships are open to everyone. Church member, senior, middler, youth, family member, guest, or whomever. Just show up at Einstein Bros. around 9:30 a.m. or so, and pull up a chair. Ideas are

needed for activities next year. Where we go and what we do are group decisions, and just about everything interests us.

Texts for the Sundays in November

- 6 Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
(Proper 27)
Amos 5:18-24, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13 - Color: Green
- 13 Twenty Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
(Proper 28)
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18,
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30 – Color: Green
- 20 Christ the King (Proper 29)
Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24, Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46 – Color: White
- 27 First Sunday In Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37 - Color: Blue or Purple
-

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

Sr. Fellowship meets at Sizzler in El Cajon, 1030 Fletcher Pkwy at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 8th. Join in for some good food and wonderful fellowship. For more information call either Grace Otto, 440-2456 or Nancy Funick, 561-7823.

November Ministers

Acolyte: TBA
Assist. Minister: TBA
Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Funick, Laura Vaughan,
Janice Davis
Communion Assist.: 6,13- Marie Freeman & Grace Otto
20, 27- Jennifer Brown & Tom Davidson
Communion Care: Lyn & Charlotte Arthurton
Edgemoor Hospital Worship: 27- Florence Hustad
Greeters: 6,13- Kathleen Darland & Kris Francis
20, 27- Florence Hustad & Marcy Metz
Lector: 6, 13- Jeff Salay 20, 27- Linda Schloegel
Stephen Minister of the Day: 6- Carol Davidson
13- Bill Blue 20- Jim Thomas 27- Ed Teichner

Ushers: Bob & Marcy Metz, Grace Otto, Nancy Ripple, Jeff Arndt

November Anniversaries

- 2 Cameron & Sally Brooks
7 Ed & Marge Whitehead
21 Bob & Marcy Metz
23 Frank & Marge Steirer
28 William & Tammy Geiler
-

November Birthdays

- 1 Mavis Rones
Marge Whitehead
Erin Neuhaus
4 Marie Freeman
6 Jeremy Hustad
7 Candice Gilrane
8 Nicole Vaughan
10 Ashlynn Campbell
12 Corinne Reid
13 Arnold Flury
14 Alan Comstock
Tanya Hildebrand
15 Richard Maxa
Tom Davidson
Belinda Karge
Kendra Martin
17 Michaele Cobb
June Webb
Betty Keehn
Laura Metz
Brian Bloeman
18 Dorothy Monroe
Joseph Callaway
David Callaway
19 Eric Johnson
24 Ericka Davis
27 Nancy Ripple
Bill Blue
Sarah Flores
Heather Campbell
Josh Weber
28 Robert Watson
29 Gary Johnson

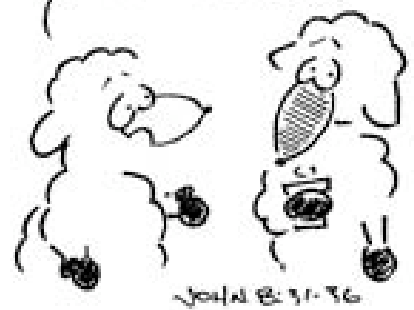
Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THESE PEOPLE DON'T REMEMBER THEIR OWN HISTORY! OF COURSE THEY'VE BEEN SLAVES.

YEAH.

THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE CONFRONTED BY THE TRUTH OF OUR SIN AND BY THE FREEDOM JESUS BRINGS. 'CAUSE IT'S EASY FOR US TO GROW COMFORTABLE IN OUR CAPTIVITY.

ARE YOU KIDDING? DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SHACKLES CHAFE ???



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Agnus Day by James Wetzstein

EVERY TIME I SING THE KYRIE, I THINK OF MY MOM.

BECAUSE SHE TAUGHT YOU TO DEPEND ON GOD'S GRACE & MERCY?

NO - BECAUSE WHENEVER SHE'D SEE ME, SHE'D SAY...

LORD HAVE MERCY!



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