

TLC

Trumpet



Keeping you informed and sharing our experience, strength & hope in the love of Christ

Volume 11 No. 8

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

August 2014

Words from Pastor Brie

Hunger is not a seasonal thing. So often the big push for helping the hungry starts in November and lasts through December. It's wonderful that at least the problem is recognized. But we need to be aware of and do something about the problem every month, every week, every day.

Here's what I have done (and got other church members to do over the years of my ministry). Each time I go to the market, even to buy one item of food, I buy an item for the food pantry. There are always items on sale, especially canned items. This simple act helps me remember how

fortunate I am that any time I need an item I can go to the store and get it. I, like many folks, am on a fixed income (unless I should win the Publisher's Clearing House contest!), but I can always afford a can of beans or corn or box of spaghetti or macaroni, sometimes even peanut butter. It makes me keep hungry folks in mind. They are so vulnerable and there are so many

children who go to bed hungry. AND they are so easily forgotten because we don't see them.

The barrel in the narthex of the church would be FILLED by the end of each month if everyone brought an item every week. We so often hear about

and see pictures of children who are mal-nourished in other countries. But they are right here, too, right in our own backyard.

There are 9,762 children living in poverty in Sonoma County. 50.1 million people in America struggle to put food on the table. 1 in 5 children go to bed hungry every night.

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Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be **Thursday, August 21**. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words. Please email submissions to:

tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

If you do not have email, place submissions (along with your name in case any clarification is needed) in Dorothy's inbox.

Pastor Jean Lebbert: 707-327-6292

Church office: 707-544-0241

Worship:

Sunday morning at 9:30 with Holy Communion

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church

1225 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

email: tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

August hours for our administrative assistant

Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-1. The office will be closed August 25-28.



Birthday Blessings to these TLC members

Ingrid Feiertag	8/1
Jim Lehman	8/4
Lorenz Flak	8/8
Jim Harrison	8/12
Gloria Feiertag	8/13
Phina Borgeson	8/15
Mark Netherda	8/19
Bill Baggett	8/26
Alex Netherda	8/26
Griffin Becker	8/26
Mary Weber	8/29

Action Alert from ELCA Advocacy's Action Center

Today, the House of Representatives plans to bring legislation to the floor that fails to address the thousands of unaccompanied migrant children fleeing violence in Central America and threatens to roll back laws already in place that ensure the wellbeing of these vulnerable children.

Congress adjourns for August recess this week. Before they leave, the House of Representatives will vote on supplemental funding ([H.R. 5230](#)) that is intended to address the unaccompanied migrant children crisis. (From our Lutheran partner, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) "If passed, this bill would have devastating effects on vulnerable children, asylum-seekers, families, refugees and other vulnerable migrants."

Action is needed now before Congress adjourns! Urge your Representative to address this issue with dignity and compassion by opposing H.R. 5230.

Call *(202) 224-3121* now and ask to be connected to the office of your Representative or visit [ELCA Advocacy's Action Center](#) to send a message to Congress.

Please also be on the lookout for future action alerts this week as the Senate plans to also take up legislation addressing this crisis. We are at a critical time where Lutherans have an opportunity to make sure our voices of faith and compassion for all of God's children are heard.

Visit [ELCA Advocacy's Action Center](#) or [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) to learn more about the unaccompanied migrant children crisis.

TLC Group News



Mortgage Payment Campaign

Beginning last June, you will find an envelope stamped "Mortgage Payment" in your bulletin on the first Sunday of every month. If you can afford to give a little something extra it is greatly appreciated. Gifts received in this manner will be set aside to help pay the mortgage when there is a deficit month. This is not money towards paying down the principal. This is in addition to your regular pledge or giving.

Annual Luau

The Annual Luau usually held in August at the Harrison's is moving to a date in September.

Pastor Sabbatical

Pastor continues her two-month sabbatical followed by her 3-week vacation. If you have a need for pastoral care while she is gone, Rev. Tim Carnahan from Faith is covering for her. You may reach his cell phone at 707-490-5340

Think Ink

Remember to recycle your ink cartridges by placing in box under mailboxes. These are taken into Office Depot for a credit toward office supplies. Thank you for your help.

Bible Study

What has lots more depth than your average romance novel and is more uplifting than the best date movie? The Book of Ruth! And it's in the Bible! In September the focal texts for the narrative lectionary are from Ruth. When Bible study resumes on September 2, Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m., we'll be taking a deeper look at this wonderful story, and seeing how it resonates with our lives today. All are welcome to join in!

The Bishop is Coming!

Bishop Holmerud, Fourth Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod is coming to preach at TLC on September 21. This will also be Pastor Jean's first day back from her sabbatical and vacation, so let's be sure to give them both a warm welcome.

Worship at TLC in August

Pastor's Sabbatical continues. Over the next four Sundays, we will be hearing from the chapters of the book *Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to be Church Again* by Kelly Fryer.



August 3 7th Sunday after Pentecost:
Rev. Pastor Jean presiding;
Prayer and Meditation Stations
Music Leader: Leilani Wicklund

August 10 8th Sunday after Pentecost :
Rev. Nicholas Brie presiding;
Cindy Bagley preaching
Scriptures: N/A
Chapter Five: Daring to Take Action
Music Leader: Classic Band

August 17 9th Sunday after Pentecost:
Rev. Nicholas Brie presiding;
Keith Becker preaching
Scriptures: N/A
Chapter Six: Daring to Set People Free
Music Leader: New Band

August 24 10th Sunday after Pentecost:
Rev. Nicholas Brie presiding;
Rob Boyd preaching
Scriptures: N/A
Chapter Seven: Daring to Expect Surprises
Music Leader: New Band

August 24 10th Sunday after Pentecost:
Rev. Nicholas Brie presiding;
Rob Boyd preaching
Scriptures: Acts 17:19, Philippians 1:12-20, 4:4-7
Chapter Eight: Daring to Be Hopeful
Music Leader: Leilani Wicklund

Finance News

Unfortunately TLC continues to run deficits. In June our deficit was \$1,191.27 which is \$238.26 a week. Expenses ran \$13,768.27 while income was only \$12,577.00. There were some once a year bills paid in June. This brings the year to date deficit to \$7,460.83 which is on average \$1,243.47 a month or \$310.87 a week. We are doing better than we had forecast in the adopted budget. Totals expenses have been \$74,757.37 while total income has been \$67,296.54. Roca de Savacion Church also notified us that they were leaving, something that happened early in July and will affect our income by \$1,000 a month. Response to the mortgage payment envelope campaign has been good and has helped. Thank you for your response to this need.

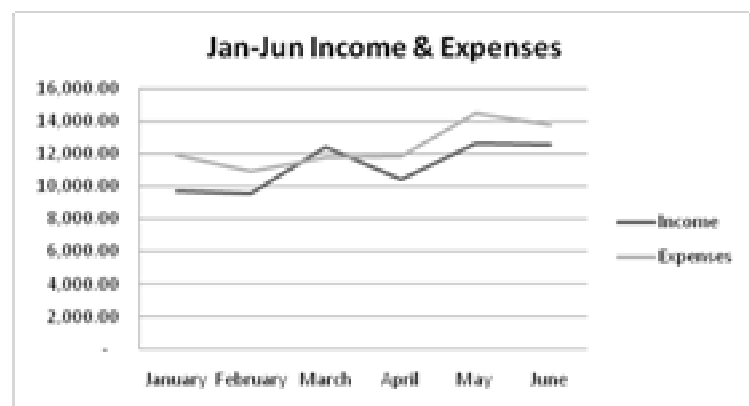
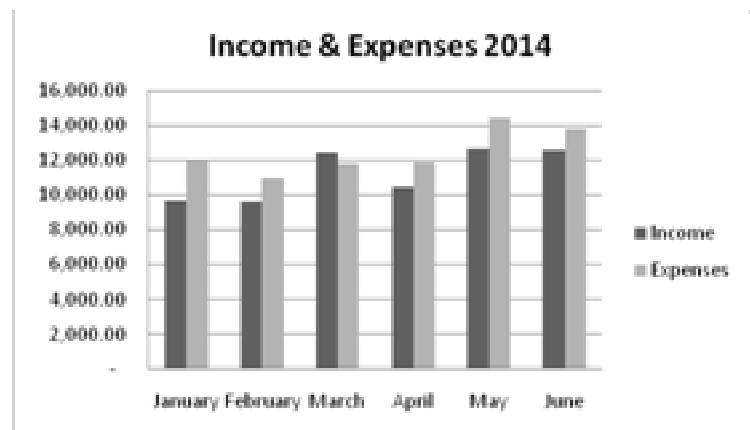
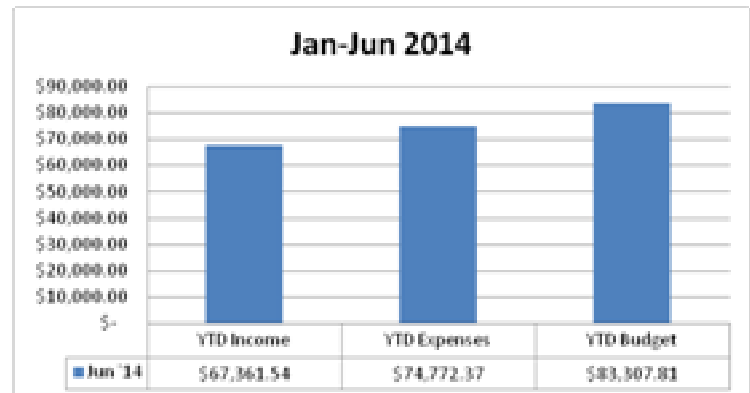
Gifts to Others

In addition to taking care of ourselves, TLCers also take care of others. This year individual gifts have been channeled through TLC up to July 20th for the following causes:

ELCA Malaria Fund	\$60
ELCA Disaster Relief Fund	\$25
ELCA World Hunger	\$5
FISH	\$749
Second Mile projects	\$435
Rwanda School Project	\$514

We have also been generous in giving gifts of non perishable food to FISH through the blue barrel in the narthex and socks during the Lenten "Sock It To Me" campaign.

It feels great to help others. God Bless Us All.



TLC treasurer Jean Harrison is in Louisiana for the summer. If you need to reach her call 707-545-6042 her home phone which will be on call forward. You may fax any receipts and requests for a check to her at 985-645-9206 or email to ecosave@sonic.net. She will mail checks as needed from Louisiana. Please do not put them in her box or office folder as she will not be here to check those spots. Thank you.

Life in Community

Congregations are individuals living in community as people of God. I recently came across an interesting article by Jean Vanier, a Canadian Catholic philosopher turned theologian, and humanitarian who founded L'Arche, an international federation of communities for people with developmental disabilities and those who assist them. It is titled "On Community." I'd like to share parts of his article with you.

Community and Freedom

Community is the place where we ideally learn to be ourselves without fear or constraint. It is when the members of a community realize that they are not there simply for themselves or their own sanctification, but to welcome the gift of God, to hasten His Kingdom, and to quench the thirst of others, that they truly live as community. The process of becoming a community happens when the majority of its members make the transition from 'the community for myself' to 'myself for the community.'

Community and Forgiveness

Community is the place of forgiveness. There are always words that wound, self-promoting attitudes, situations where susceptibilities clash. Living together implies a constant effort and an acceptance that comes from daily and mutual forgiveness. We must start by recognizing our own blocks, jealousies, prejudices and hatreds. Our antipathy towards others is a thorn in the flesh that perhaps the Holy Spirit may someday liberate us from. But perhaps He will let us go on walking with this thorn which humiliates us and forces us to renew our efforts each day, careful not to offend again.

Community and Idealism

We shouldn't seek the ideal community. It is a question of loving those whom God has set beside us today. They are signs from God. We

might have chosen different people, people who were more cheerful or intelligent. But these are the ones God has given us, the ones He has chosen for us. It is with them that we are called to create unity and live in covenant.

Community and Purpose

A community is there not only for the growth of its members, but for the growth of the people for whom it is destined. When we know these people, and our responsibility towards them, then we are able to go beyond ourselves.

Community and Growth

Community is always in a state of growth. The growth of a community depends on the growth of each of its members. Communities need tensions if they are to grow and deepen. There are a thousand reasons for tension. and each of them brings the whole community, as well as each individual member, face to face with its own poverty, its inability to cope, its weariness, aggression and despair.

Tensions in a community should neither be hidden nor be brought prematurely to a head. They should be taken on with a great deal of sensitivity, trust and hope. They should be approached with deep understanding and patience, with neither panic nor naive optimism, but with a realism born of a willingness to listen and a desire for truth.

An individual's growth towards love and wisdom is slow. A community's growth is even slower. Members of a community need to be great friends of time. They have to learn that many things will resolve themselves if they are given enough time. It can be a great mistake to want, in the name of clarity and truth, to push things too quickly to a resolution.

Each member of a community who grows in love and wisdom helps the growth of the whole

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We shouldn't seek the ideal community. It is a question of loving those whom God has set beside us today.

Live in Community

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community. Each person who refuses to grow, or is afraid to go forward, inhibits the community's growth. All the members of a community are responsible for their own growth and that of the community as a whole.

Community and Relationships

One of the signs of life in a community is the creation of links with others. An inward-looking community will die of suffocation. Living communities are linked to others, making up a huge web of inter-relationships for the world.

The first sin of a community is to turn its eyes from the One who called it to life, to look at itself instead. The second sin is to find itself beautiful and to believe itself to be a source of life.

Some communities should stay small, poor and prophetic, signs of the presence of God in a world which is becoming more and more materialistic. But other communities are called to grow in order to show the world that it is possible to create structures which are sensitive to people and to exercise authority in a way that is both humane and Christian.

Community and Prayer

If we do not pray, if we do not evaluate our activities and find rest in the secret part of our heart, it will be hard to live in community. We will not be open to others. We will live only from the stimuli of the present moment and we will lose sight of our priorities and of the essential.

A community which prays together, which enters into silence and adoration, is bound together by the action of the Holy Spirit. God listens in a special way to the cry which rises from a community.

May your community of faith be one of freedom, forgiveness, "non" idealism, purpose, growth, relationships, and prayer!

In Christ,

Pastor Cindy Beck

Pastor's Page

Continued from page 1

Besides buying an item for the food pantry every time you go to the market to buy something for yourself, for those of you who have internet there is also a wonderful way to help EVERY DAY and it doesn't cost you a cent. Only costs you the time to go on line and click. The site is: THEHUNGERSITE. For every click, a certain amount of food is given. Sponsors of the site pay for the food. When you go to the site, at the top of the page you will see several other sites that you can click on to help. If you clicked them all, it takes less than one minute!! There is a site for literacy, for veterans, for animals, for diabetes, for autism, for rainforests, for breast cancer. You can click on once each day. Again, it's a daily reminder so that even though these folks may be out of sight, they WON'T be out of our mind.

PEACE and BLESSINGS,

Pastor Nicholas Brie

Volunteer in a Public School!

Volunteer in a public school and impact student achievement in Sonoma County! Volunteer Center of Sonoma County is hosting orientations for two school volunteer programs, Volunteers in Public Schools and United Way's Schools of Hope. Attend an orientation to learn how you can tutor a child one-to-one or work in small groups in the classroom to support K-12 public schools across Sonoma County.

Register for an upcoming orientation at volunteernow.org or contact Anne Bartlett at (707) 573-3399 x134 or abartlett@volunteernow.org for more information

GTO Focus Groups a Huge Success!

By Jordan Eberly

The GTO Team has been very busy this past season. We have held successful focus group meetings both at church and at members' homes to discuss and discover what our congregation is all about—specifically, what they do when they are not at church or sleeping. In small groups, Sandy Koppen, as facilitator, and Jan Loewen, as notetaker, asked each member to list what an average day, week or month included in reference to activities and interests.

The purpose of the Focus Groups was to:

- 1. Have the congregation learn more about each other,
- 2. Help participants to solidify their thoughts around WHY they came to TLC and WHY they stay. This is to help us gather testimonials for our web site, and
- 3. Learn what activities the congregation participates in so we can identify GTO Event Coordinators and Facilitators.

An unintended benefit of the Focus Groups was that people got to know their fellow members better. Almost everyone said they enjoyed the groups and learned something about the people in their group.

Thirty-five (35) people participated. We generally worship between 40-50, so this was a very good turn-out. The following are some statistics compiled.

Number of People who work: 12 This means 68% of our congregation is retired.

Why People Came to TLC:

Former Lutheran:	24
Prior churchd	8
Welcoming	23
RIC	13
Invited by friend/ Family:	14

Why People Stay at TLC:

Welcoming:	26
RIC:	13
Feels like family/community:	33

Activities: (number of instances, not people. Person could have multiple responses)

Movies/Theater/Music Performances:	21	Gardening:	9
Book group or reading:	20	Home Projects:	9
Animals:	18	Activities in/with a retirement community:	8
Taking care of someone:	13	Learning/Teaching:	7
Quilting/Sewing/Art:	13		
TV or newspaper:	10		

Several things jumped out for the GTO Executive Committee. Some were as follows: Nearly everyone who participated in the Focus groups grew up in the church or were active in a church before coming to TLC. There were only FOUR people out of 35 who did not have a prior church affiliation. Also, people come and stay because they feel welcomed and because they feel that the congregation is their FAMILY. There is a deep sense of community.

Please keep posted on the continuing developments of the GTO. It is an exciting time to be a member of TLC! If you have a question or comment, please seek out one of our GTO members: Jan Loewen, Sandy Koppen, Joan Hax or Jordan Eberly.

TLC Executive Committee:

Jordan Eberly, President
 Barbara Kling, Vice-president
 Keith Becker, Secretary
 Jean Harrison, Treasurer
 Astrid Anderson, Financial Secretary

Council Liaisons to Committees:

Christian Education	hiatus
Congregation and Community Care	Marilyn Schuler
Finance	Lisa Bartlett
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Cindy Heiller
Property	Keith Becker
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Barbara Kling

**Please Support Those
who Support Us**



At the Mission Investment Fund, we use the money you invest to fund building and renovation loans for ELCA congregations and related ministries. Give us a call at 877.886.3522.

Committee Chairs

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Jordan Eberly
Finance	Jean Harrison
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Jan Thomas
Property	Karen Lehman
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Mary Thompson
Youth (in hiatus)	

Who's Who In Worship


Altar Guild Coordinator:	Mary Dawson
Greeters Coordinator:	Jan Thomas
Asst. Ministers Coordinator:	Ingrid Feiertag
Offering Teller Coordinator:	Paul Feiertag
Readers Coordinator:	Ingrid Feiertag
Ushers Coordinator:	George Land

Who's Who In Special Taskforces

Community Garden Coordinator:	Karen Lehman
Landscaping Coordinator:	Jean Harrison
Quilters Coordinator:	Gloria Feiertag
Women's Retreat Coordinator:	Karen Lehman

TLC is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, which means we believe that God celebrates diversity in all of creation, loves us all unconditionally, and intends that all persons be valued. We welcome and accept all people regardless of their cultural or ethnic background, physical or mental abilities, socio-economic, sexual orientation, or marital status, gender, or age. God loves us exactly as we are.

TLC August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship 11:00 AM Council Meeting	28	29 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon	30	31	1	2 10:00 AM AA Meeting 1130 AM CCC
3  8:00 AM Parking Lot Sale 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship	4 5:30 PM Mutual Ministry	5 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	6	7	8	9 10:00 AM AA Meeting
10 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship	11	12 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon	13 6:30 PM Property Meeting	14	15	16 10:00 AM AA Meeting
17 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship	18	19 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	20 6:30 PM ELCA	21	22	23 10:00 AM AA Meeting
24 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship 11:00 AM Council Meeting	25 6:30 PM ELCA	26 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	27	28	29	30 10:00 AM AA Meeting
31 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship	1 5:30 PM Mutual Ministry	2 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	3	4	5	6 10:00 AM AA Meeting