

TLC

Trumpet



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

Volume 11 No. 12

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

December 2014

Pastor's Page

T's that time of the year when we get quite obsessed with gifts.

Gift giving is interesting. Well, not gift giving, but what we have done with the concept.

It is so exciting for young ones: pretty packages, surprises and met desires. Receiving is so much more fun than giving. No, giving is fun too -- especially growing into the ability to give great gifts.

Gift giving is in a lot of ways a measurement of relationships.

The more you know someone, the easier it is to find or make the perfect gifts for them. The less you know someone, the harder it is to find or make something you think they might like -- and the searching can become tedious and even oppressive.

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The cost can, in some way, reveal your relationship to money in relationship to the person you are purchasing a gift for. The deeper your affection for the person, the less you consider the price of the gift. And whoever started the practice of putting a limit on the price of gifts when purchasing for a group of people?

And how did we get to the pressure of "having" to give a gift? Doesn't that rip the whole concept of gift out of gift giving?

It's so complicated now that we "solve" the issue by giving gift cards, conveniently located in some stores with the impulse items you stare at and give into while waiting in line.

And some folks prefer to receive gift cards! What does that say about their relationship to you?

I wonder what people who are new to churchese think about all the gift terms we use in talking about Christ and grace and life? Are they disappointed that they don't get what they want, they get what they are given (I give you life or death)? Do they hear that the price is outrageously high (greater love has no one than they give their life for another)? Do they hear that they are enormously loved (God so loved the world)?

Let us make sure that the message in every gift is love.

Love,
Pastor Jean

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be **Friday, December 19**. 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

Hours for our administrative assistant:

Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-1.



Happy Birthday to These TLC Members

Barbara Kling	12/3
Jean Flak	12/4
Jean Lebbert	12/9
Jean Harrison	12/12
Kim Lehman	12/24
Jesus of Nazareth	12/25
Karen Lehman	12/27



Christmas Gifts for “The Living Room” and ELCA Good Gifts

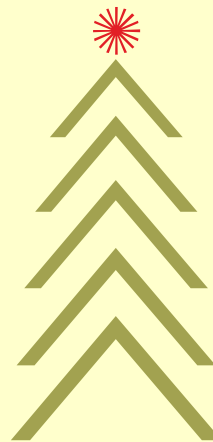
Starting Sunday, November 30th, the Advent Tree in the church will abound with ornaments. Here's a chance to be a 'Secret Christmas Angel'. Some of these ornaments will be from a list of needed gifts the Outreach Committee got from The Living Room, (the only place in Sonoma County that serves homeless and at-risk mothers and children.) Other ornaments will be from the ELCA Good Gifts project. If you take one of the ornament tags from The Living Room, purchase the gift, **don't wrap it, and put it under the tree Sunday Dec. 7th or by Sunday Dec. 14th the latest.**

Gifts will be delivered to The Living Room on the 8th and 15th. If you choose to take a 'gift card' ornament tag from The Living Room, put it in a small box or large envelope (so it doesn't get lost). If you take an ornament for ELCA Good Gifts, follow the instructions with the ornament. Deadlines for returning The Living Room gifts will be printed on the ornament tag. Have fun! God loves and blesses a cheerful giver! (That's Biblical!) TLC loves you, too...but you already know that!

Worship in December

Sundays in Advent

Dec. 7: **2nd Sunday in Advent**
 Scriptures: Esther 4:1-17;
 Matthew 5:13-16
 Sermon title: For Such a Time as
 This



Christmas Worship SCHEDULE

Dec 14 **3rd Sunday in Advent**
 Scriptures: Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 12:15-21
 Sermon title: In Whom or What Do You Put Your Hope?

Dec 21 **4th Sunday in Advent**
 Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25; Psalm 23:1-4
 Sermon title: A Dream Come True

Blue Christmas

Thursday, Dec 18, 7 p.m. A more contemplative worship, especially for those who are journeying through tough times, for whom the gaiety of Christmas grates on a grieving heart. Bethlehem and Faith join TLC for this special observance.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Eve for the Whole Family, 7 p.m.

Come hear the beloved story of Jesus' birth from the Gospel According to Luke. We will begin in the silent darkness of expectation and come to the brilliant joy of the birth of the Savior of the world. Bring the whole family, neighbors, and friends. Let us give the birthday present of a glorious worship to our Creator.

Christmas Day

For the fourth year, all three Santa Rosa ELCA congregations join together for worship on Christmas morning. This year we gather at Faith; Rev. Tim Carnahan will be the preacher.

Dec. 28 **First Sunday in Christmas**
 Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-21; Psalm 96:10-13
 Sermon title: We Three Magi

Finance Update

Money Talk

October was not a good month financially for us. Our expenses were \$12,082.61 while income was only \$9,455.14. That is a \$2,627.14 deficit. Since the beginning of the year we have had deficits seven out of the ten months for a total of \$11,745.43 or on average \$1,174.54/month or \$293.64/week. We adopted a budget showing a deficit of \$38,580.62 thankfully it is only \$1,174.54 so far. As of the end of October expenses were \$121,549.77 and income was only \$109,804.334. This is eating away at our savings. Prayerfully consider this situation as I know we all have over the years.

As you may realize we are making available envelopes for gifts towards the mortgage payment, our largest single monthly expense. Since the start of this campaign \$1,758 has been given.

Thanksgiving Offering

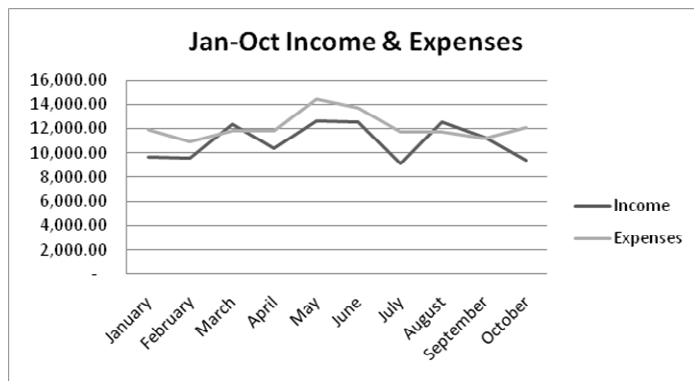
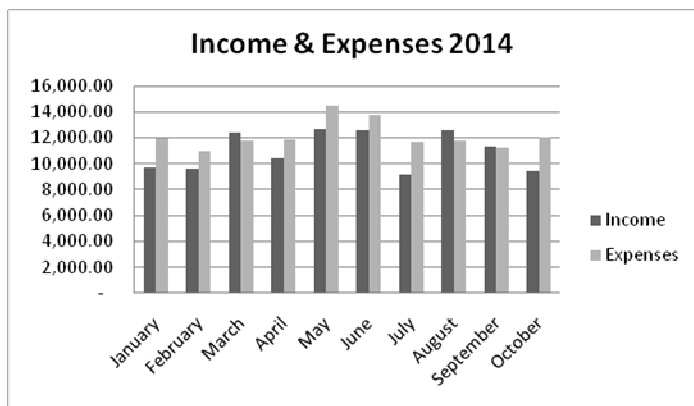
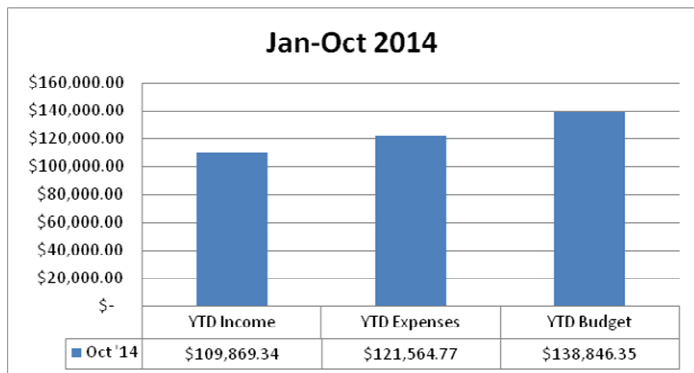
As has been the case for a number of years now the Thanksgiving offering collected in the Fall and at the Thanksgiving Eve service goes directly towards paying down the mortgage principal. As of the end of October we owe \$675,275.92. Whatever you are able to give as your Thanksgiving offering will directly lower that amount.



We Are Givers

Although we have our own financial woes as a congregation we still help others. As of the 15th of November the following gifts have gone to these various groups:

Second Mile Giving	\$645
Rwanda School Project	\$884
ELCA Malaria fund	\$60
ELCA Disaster Relief \$	25
ELCA Hunger Relief	\$5
FISH	\$749
Reconciling Works	\$20



These were all gifts from individuals above and beyond their regular giving to TLC. As a Congregation we also donated \$500 to Reconciling Works.

This is all in addition to the countless socks collected at Lent, food and such donations for the fish barrel in the narthex for the hungry, the soup labels and box top coupons and many other individual acts of help and assistance given by members to those in need. We are truly a blessed and giving community.

2014: Our Year (so far) in Review

January

We celebrated the resurrection for our dear sister, Donna Phillips.

Pastor and her sister, Janet, led the program for the women's retreat.

At the congregational meeting, Evangelism and Outreach Committee reported survey results showed strongest interest in participating in Santa Rosa's Rose Parade and holding a garage/book/bake sale. Barbara Kling was elected TLC's voting member for the 2015 Synod Assembly in Burlingame.

Jordan Eberly delivered the sermon for RIC Sunday.

February

First focus group, consisting of newest TLC members, was conducted

Valentine's Day Progressive Dinner made use of the whole building.

Received new members Cindy and Leslie Bagley

March

Rev. Jim Hytjan, Director of Evangelical Missions, kicked off Lenten emphasis on transforming TLC ministries into outreach to neighbors

We began a sock drive to bring warm blessings to the feet of neighbors

Carol Roberts enlightened us about the good work of Lutheran Social Services

First conference call with Mission Investment Fund

April

Cheryl Parkinson informed us of the good work of the Living Room in Santa Rosa

Karl Smith updated us on the Rwanda School Project

Pastor Jean presented a children's version of the Torah at our Maundy Thursday gathering

Seventy-five celebrated the Resurrection of Christ on Easter.

May

TLC takes 3rd place for Best Float for Non-Profit: a trophy and \$300!

Leilani Wickland joins TLC musicians as pianist

May (cont.)

Bishop Mark Holmerud elected for 2nd term as Bishop of Sierra Pacific Synod

June

TLC hosts Sonoma County Gay Pride Interfaith Worship

We celebrated the resurrection of our dear sister Grace Israelson

We welcome new member Rev. Nicholas Brie
GTO Focus Groups for TLC members

July

Pastor Jean begins two-month sabbatical. TLC members take over the pulpit using Kelly A. Fryer's book *Reclaiming the C Word: Daring to Be Church Again* as main focus. Rev. Brie serves as presider in Pastor's place.

CCC hosts baby shower for the Bagleys

Roca de Salvacion terminates agreement

August

Cindy Heiller coordinates successful parking lot/book/bake sale

Pastor Jean leaves the country for France vacation

September

Bishop Holmerud preaches at TLC for the first time. We celebrate Holy Sacrament of Baptism for Gloria Bagley. Pastor Jean is back.

October

Pledge Packets for 2015 TLC budget distributed in worship.

Our Synod launches first-ever on-line Assembly to consider 2015 budget. Marilyn Schuler attended as replacement voting member.

Karl Smith returns as TLC celebrates Global Church Sunday.

November

First GTO event: showing of documentary "A Symphony of Soil."

Roca de Salvacion returns.

Congregation passed budget balanced by faith.

20th Annual Women's Retreat

The 20th TLC Women's Retreat is Friday evening, January 9th through lunch on Sunday, January 11th, 2015! Please plan to take this time out for yourself! It's an opportunity to get to know your sisters in Christ a little more, and will be a weekend filled with laughter, learning, sharing (as you are comfortable doing so), and beautiful scenery. Plus - you don't have to cook all weekend! Our leader will be Debbie McAllister, a PLTS graduate waiting for a call. She has led many retreats and we look forward to getting to know her better!

We will be at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg and the cost is \$225 per person for the full weekend. That's 2 nights and 5 meals in the gorgeous Sonoma County wine country! You can't beat the price! Feel free to pay incrementally as you are able - just put it in the offering plate on Sundays and make sure you mark the memo on your check 'Women's Retreat'. If you have any questions or have not yet received your letter of invitation with the registration form (or you need more so your friends can register), please contact Karen Lehman at 887-9348.



*At Christmas play and make good cheer, for
Christmas comes but once a year.*



*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
from Dorothy Fast and
Pastor Jean Lebbert*

Who's Who at TLC?

Officers

President, Jordan Eberly
Vice President, (currently vacant)
Secretary, Keith Becker
Treasurer, Jean Harrison
Financial Secretary, Astrid Anderson

Council Members

Lisa Bartlett
Keith Becker
Jordan Eberly
Cindy Heiller
Pastor Jean Lebbert
Marilyn Schuler

Committee Chairs

Jordan Eberly, Congregational Community (CCC)
Jan Thomas, Evangelism and Outreach
Jean Harrison, Finance
Pastor Jean Lebbert, Mutual Ministry
Karen Lehman, Property
Mary Thompson, Worship and Spiritual Formation

Coordinators

Mary Dawson, Altar Guild
Ingrid and Paul Feiertag, Worship Stewards
Quilters, Gloria Feiertag
Jean Harrison, Patio Landscaping
George Land, Ushers
Jim Lehman, Website
Jim Lehman, Sound
Karen Lehman, Community Garden
Karen Lehman, Women's Retreat
Jan Loewen and Sandy Koppen, Growth Through Outreach (GTO)
Jan Loewen and Sandy Koppen, Worship Music

**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.

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 December Calendar

Thanksgiving Lutheran, Offsite Meetings, Roca de Salvacion, Special Events, Support Groups, Contacts' birthdays and events, Holidays in United States Dec 2014 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am - Sunday 11am - Adult Forum 7pm - Roca de	5:30pm - Mutual	1pm - Bible Study @ 6pm - NA Meeting @ 8pm - NA Meeting @	5pm - Roca de		5pm - Roca de	10am - Saturday AA 11:30am - CCC 2pm - Roca de
Special Mortgage 9:30am - Sunday 1pm - Caroling @ 7pm - Roca de		1pm - Bible Study @ 6pm - NA Meeting @ 8pm - NA Meeting @	5pm - Roca de 6:30pm - Property		5pm - Roca de	10am - Saturday AA
9:30am - Sunday 7pm - Roca de		1pm - Bible Study @ 6pm - NA Meeting @ 8pm - NA Meeting @	5pm - Roca de		5pm - Roca de	10am - Saturday AA
Rwanda Sunday 9:30am - Sunday 7pm - Roca de		1pm - Bible Study @ 6pm - NA Meeting @ 8pm - NA Meeting @	Christmas Eve 7pm - Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	5pm - Roca de	10am - Saturday AA
Cent-sational 9:30am - Sunday 11am - Council 7pm - Roca de		1pm - Bible Study @ 6pm - NA Meeting @ 8pm - NA Meeting @	New Year's Eve 5pm - Roca de	New Year's Day	5pm - Roca de	10am - Saturday AA 11:30am - CCC