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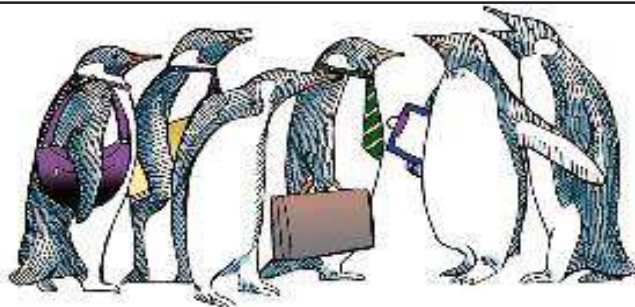
TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 5 No. 1

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

January 2008



TLC Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the “Second half” of our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 27, 2008, 11:00 am** (following worship and fellowship time.) While the details and agenda for this meeting are still “under construction” as of press time, here are a few of the things we hope to discuss:

- Review and consideration of TLC’s 2007 Annual Report, with special emphasis on the work of our committees. The Council invites you to be in discernment about your own spiritual gifts this month—where would you most like to share your time and talents this year?
- Update on our negotiations with the Mission Investment Fund regarding our mortgage payments for 2008, as well as discussion of how best to focus our attention toward lowering our mortgage balance prior to the refinancing that will be required of us in 2009. The Council plans to ask the congregation to create and commit to the formation of a special Mortgage Challenge Task Force as our primary “stewardship” vehicle for the next two years, and your best creative financial thinking is needed!
- Formation of the Nominating Committee for 2008. The Nominating Committee’s primary task is to develop a slate of candidates for Council positions which will open up in 2009 (Council members serve two-year terms, with 3 positions open for election each year.)
- Elect a delegate to represent Thanksgiving Lutheran at the 2008 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly, to be held April 25-27, 2008 at the Oakland Marriott Hotel. Please speak with Pastor Jean or a Council member if you think you might be interested in serving as our delegate this year.
- How are we progressing with the Awareness-Trial-Commitment aspects of our Mission Plan? We will review these concepts and take a look at our balance of “Awareness”, “Trial”, and “Commitment” activities, compare them to where we were a year ago, and look at goals for 2008.

Your attendance is SO important as we review 2007 and look ahead to 2008—without the commitment and energy of our members, the work of the church can’t get done!

A Plea from Pastor Jean Regarding our Mortgage

At the December Council meeting, it was decided that we would continue with our plans with ELCA's Mission Investment Fund. Therefore, in 2008, our monthly mortgage payment will be \$3,100.00. Last year, while you were still in transition, the mortgage payment was reduced to Interest Only. We did pretty good meeting those payments, but now we are on an upswing, and it is to our benefit to start chipping away at the Premium now. As your spiritual leader, I urge you to make choices to your benefit!

Here are a few insights to inspire:

We have 30 active giving units, and here is their monthly giving breakdown:

3 units give \$0 - \$25.00
3 units give \$25.00 - \$30.00
2 units give \$50.00 - \$75.00
2 units give \$75.00 - \$100.00
8 units give \$100.00 - \$200.00
3 units give \$200.00 - \$300.00
5 units give \$300.00 - \$400.00
0 units give \$400.00 - \$500.00
2 units give \$500.00 - \$600.00
1 unit gives \$700.00 - \$800.00
1 unit gives \$1000.00 - \$2000.00

As I mentioned in last month's Trumpet, if those 30 giving units could give **FIVE DOLLARS** more a week—we could make this payment. The Council honed it down to about \$3.50 per week, but some will be able to meet it and some won't. So, I'm going with the five buck mark.

Chipping away at our premium for a year will help us a lot when we have to face refinancing in 2009.

Please consider intentionally and thankfully increasing your giving to TLC. Working together, we will be able to rejoice in the truth that "Every little bit helps."

This is a wonderful place where people encounter the warmth of Christian fellowship and the joy of worship and ministry. This is your place.

And I am sure thankful for you.

Love,

Pastor Jean

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Facing the New Year with courage!

When you try something for the first time, or something you've already failed at, you need courage. Remember learning to walk? First you tried standing on shaky limbs, smiled in short lived triumph, fell down, cried in frustration, and kept getting back up until you mastered the art of standing. Something inside you told you that you were meant for more than just lying in a crib. Then came the next stage – walking. Sounds simple enough, but it wasn't. That's because wobbling always precedes walking. And that's the difference between adults and infants. As an infant you weren't image-conscious. You just saw arms outstretched toward you and heard a loving voice saying, "Come on, you can do it!" And you've walking ever since!

That's why God says to anyone stepping into unknown territory, "Be strong and courageous." The word "be" really means "become". Courage is a quality you grow into, like filling bigger shoes. The more you walk in them the more comfortable they get. It's not like a software program where you simply enter your password and 'hey presto' you're courageous! Courage comes from spending time with God, seeing His arms outstretched toward you and hearing Him say, "Come on, you can do it, I'm with you!"

On New Year's Eve the late King George read these wonderful words to the British people. "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown' and he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'"

From the K-Love devotional series, submitted by Judy Sawyer

Special Event at TLC: "Let's Get our Ducks in a Row for the New Year"

On Saturday, January 19, Thrivent for Lutherans is hosting a seminar at TLC to help people get their final arrangements in order. Yvonne Madsen from Thrivent, who visited us on Reformation Sunday is lining up a catered luncheon and local experts to give advice and answer questions. They are:

Roy Johnston, Attorney at Law, who will be addressing Living Trusts and Wills
Dr. Michael Gospe, talking about Health Directives
Darrell Shideler, from Thrivent, who will help with Charitable Giving
Pastor Jean Lebbert, helping folks plan their funeral

Peace of mind comes with getting final things in order. You will be blessed by the details that this seminar will help you take care of according to your wishes.

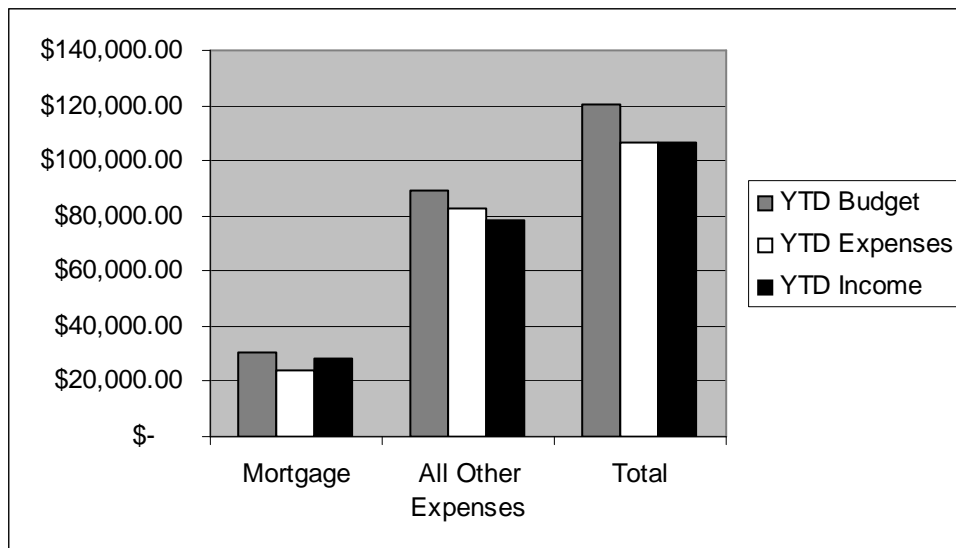
Please plan to attend this special event and **invite others** too—you will be helping to give them that same peace of mind.

Where: Thanksgiving Lutheran Church

When: Saturday, January 19, 2008

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Take a Look at The Big Picture...



Finances remain at the forefront of everyone's mind, especially mine as Treasurer. You will note that we have taken in a bit more in our building fund than was needed thus far. However, you should also note that our mortgage will be increasing next year and that cushion will quickly vanish if we do not increase our giving in this area. Related to all other expenses, we have spent more than we took in. If you look at the combined amount, we are just even. I encourage all to consider our giving in 2008 so that we can meet the challenge of an increased mortgage and the responsibility of caring for our pastor.

Jan Loewen, TLC Treasurer

The Progressive Dinner - WOW!

Forty-three people ushered in the Christmas season with a gala Progressive Dinner on December 1. For years the CCC Committee had talked about doing this . . . and finally, we did!

Betty Hiebel got us into the right spirit with hors d'oeuvres at her holiday-decorated home. She offered us hot, cold, hard, soft, oozing, and what-not; everything you might imagine, and all delicious!

With host designations and maps in hand, we scattered across the city for our dinner destinations. Dinner was served at the homes of: Alexander, Bartlett, Dawson, Feiertag, Harrison, and Thomas. Each meal was prepared from the same menu, provided by Pastor Jean from her days at Sunset Magazine.

Our final stop was at the Church for dessert. Marilyn Schuler coordinated the desserts while the Koppens and their crew set up the church and the Christmas tree. As tree decorations were being applied, Jack Lundin sat down at the ivories and treated us to Christmas music with his own piano-lounge stylings. He did a great job, especially when George forgot to bring the music for him. Group singing was aided by a new set of song books created for the occasion. Of special interest was the reunion of our three favorite pastors, Jean, plus our two interims, Jack and Flak.

The entire CCC Committee worked hard on this project. Our thanks to Judy Sawyer for coordinating the dinner hosts and to her and Betty Hiebel who did the grocery shopping. Also to the host-husbands. I am sure they spent their day cleaning house.

Amazingly, the maps were accurate, but we discovered that the yellow route-markings did not show up well. Back to the cartographic lab for next year. And speaking of next year . . . the CCC Committee is looking for a volunteer to chair the Second Annual Progressive Dinner.

CCC Committee

Getting to Know...

Lola Burmahl

Have you heard the one about the farmer's daughter? That would be Lola, who is also Kathy Alexander's mother. Lola was born on a typical Corn Belt farm in Iowa, 30 miles west of the Mississippi River, near Maquoketa.

She grew up in a Lutheran home, attending a country ALC church. She taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and sang in the choir. Being her parent's only child, she was plenty busy with farm work right on through her teen years.

While attending a country dance she met Lyle, also a farm boy from the area. Four years later they were married in Lola's church in Lost Nation. (These Iowa towns are real; I checked the map.)

Lyle was in the electric repair business and had his own shop for awhile. They left Iowa in 1959 when he took a job as Electronics Technician at Lockheed. After six years in Sunnyvale, they bought a trailer park and moved to Clear Lake. The area was nice but business was slow and they finally landed in Santa Rosa with Lyle's job.

Lyle retired in 1987. To supplement his income he began Zaptron Electric doing electrical jobs and maintenance repairs. Nothing much changed for Lola. She had been doing child care for many years, including her own grandchildren. Now they became Caregivers for a number of years, helping elderly folks.

Four of Lola's five children were born in Iowa and four now live in Santa Rosa. Only the youngest, Kathy, is a California native. These kids could tell our current youth something about growing up in the 1960's. This is when most homes had only one bathroom. Can you picture all five kids fighting for their time in the bathroom?

Through the years Lola has been active at home with cooking, baking, gardening, and reading. Her home was a den of activity while the kids were growing up. She loved the atmosphere with all of the kids and their friends, including the Youth Group pizza parties. Other good times were spent on driving trips around the United States.

The family lived in Rohnert Park when Cross and Crown was started up as a mission church and Lola became a charter member. She plunged right in, teaching Sunday School and ultimately sharing duties with daughter Kathy. Later, she was in the Women's group led by Kathy. Church kept Lola busy. She taught most of her grandchildren in VBS, plus being a Greeter, Coffee Hostess, and Church Cleaner. After all these years and activities at Cross and Crown, can you imagine how difficult it was for Lola (and the Alexanders) to leave their church and change membership to TLC? We hope their second forty years . . . at TLC, will be just as fulfilling.

George Land

Editors note: Lola had a stroke on December 23 and spent 8 days in the hospital. She is at home now and making good progress with physical therapy and lots of TLC from her family and other caregivers. She thanks you for your prayers, and please, keep 'em coming! Visitors are welcome – Lola can be reached at 546-0491.



Living Our Covenant: Communicating in 2008

"We each take responsibility to share and seek out information regarding the life and work of our church. The channels for communication and decision making are continually updated and publicized."

-TLC Relational Covenant #8

In the interest of helping all of us live out the call suggested by our congregation's 8th covenant, the new year seems like the perfect time to review guidelines and suggestions for publicizing meetings, events, and activities of TLC: If you want to SHARE information about an activity, try to make use of ALL of the following channels to build awareness of your event! If everyone gets in the habit of using all these avenues of publicity, it will make it so much easier for people who SEEK information or involvement to know where and how they can participate!

- **Weekly Announcement Sheet:** To include an item in the weekly announcement sheet (handed out with the bulletins on Sunday mornings), submit your information to Sandi Leithe in the office by Wednesday evening; you can call the office at 544-0241, leave a written message on Sandi's desk, or send an email to tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net. Be sure to include a contact person (name and phone or email address are helpful) as well as the usual date and time info. Diligent use of the announcement sheet will help us cut down on the number and length of verbal announcements on Sunday mornings!
- **Website:** To have information posted on TLC's website (www.thanksgivinglutheran.org) submit information to our Webmaster, Jim Lehman. It is most helpful if you can send Jim the info via email to tluther@thanksgivinglutheran.org —Jim can even include digital photos or graphics if you have them!
- **The Trumpet Monthly Newsletter:** The Trumpet is distributed monthly, and aims for publication on or before the first Sunday of each month. Trumpet items can be emailed to Editor Karen Lehman at editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org or placed in the "Lehman" mailbox in the church hallway. Trumpet deadlines are typically the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of the month, and are published in the Trumpet each month. Karen requests that articles be no longer than 500 words, and it is helpful if emailed items use 12 point Arial font. When writing your article, be sure to include date, time, and contact info for your event!
- **The Press Democrat Saturday Religion Calendar:** The Santa Rosa Press Democrat publishes a calendar of events on the Religion page every Saturday, and there is no cost for submitting announcements! Information on your event needs to be submitted two weeks before the desired publication date; submissions need to include time, date, description of the event, cost, place, address, sponsor (usually Thanksgiving Lutheran Church), and a phone number for information as well as the name and phone number of a contact person. Ways to submit: E-mail assts@pressdemocrat.com (include "calendar" in the subject line); fax to 521-5330; mail to Calendar, The Press Democrat, P.O. Box 910, Santa Rosa 95402.



My Radio Broke In My Pickup Truck

Slide out of bed
Get the dogs fed
Hop in the shower
Need more water power
Jump into my jeans
Wish I were more lean
No time to pray
Gotta start my day

Fly through the gate
Don't want to be late
Load my little lunch box
Run a comb through my locks
Stick my key in the truck
It will start with any luck
Got to start my day
No time to pray

Pull out the driveway
 Onto the highway
Turn on the news
Listen to some blues
Race through the lights
I'm on time! All right!
No time to pray
Got to start my day

And then, one morning, it happened
My radio broke in my pickup truck
 No news No tunes
A new one costs a lot of bucks

What to do on that ride to work
Tried groovin' with the traffic
 But there are too many jerks
Tried some singing, but ran out of words
Then tried praying, and that really works

Since my radio broke in my pickup truck
I been a whole lot more prayed up.

Plenty time to pray
Thank the Lord for the day

Thank the Lord for the sun
That my job is so fun
Thank the Lord for my friends
My family is my friends
Thank the Lord for my truck
 I do love that old truck.

I been just a whole lot more prayed up
Since my radio broke in my pick-em up truck

Thank the Lord for the rain
Pray for those in pain
Thank the Lord for my home
From there it's hard to roam
Thank the Lord for my warm bed
And that He keeps us critters fed
Thank the Lord for my dogs
Backwards dog is God

Well, I'm just a whole lot more prayed up
Since my radio broke in my old pick-em up.

Thank you Lord for your Hand in my life
Through thick and thin and joy and strife.
Thank you for taking my radio away
With praise and peace I begin each day

Yes! I'm a whole lot more prayed up
Since my radio broke in my pick-em up truck
So if you're blue and down on your luck
Turn your radio down
 In your pick-up truck

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Pastor Jean says Thanks!

My wonderful congregation, it is enough that you called me. And then, you gave me a Christmas basket! You rock!

Special thanks to Jan Thomas for coordinating the fabulous basket with so many contributions of little goodies from members & friends of TLC. Also thanks to Jim Lehman for carrying the basket (which weighed in around 40lbs) from Jan's car to the rear classroom, to the front of the church, and back out to the parking lot to Jean's car!

A Final Thought...
From Pastor Jean

I don't do resolutions anymore. Used to and always failed. Then I took a class on how to live in thankfulness, and one bit of advice hit home. The advice was for folks who make "to do" lists. I thrive on "to do" lists and make tons and tons of them. Anyway, this little bit of advice was, at the end of the day, to make a list of everything I had done during the day and then cross everything off, so that I could slip into sleep thankful for all I had done instead of regretting all that I had not done.

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church, let us together slip into 2008 with a list of "dones" and a heart filled with hopes and joy and thankfulness. Let's live up to our name!

2008 is an election year. With gusto, let's embrace the opportunities ahead. I encourage every one of you to attend our January Congregational Meeting (on Sunday the 27th) and to be opened to new and existing ways you can participate in the ministries that the Spirit calls us to here. I totally acknowledge that all of you have every day obligations and that your life is filled. I pray that you would embrace your church's ministries as opportunities too and that the Spirit has called YOU here for specific purposes.

And, like, this is the thing: We are experiencing a good time, so now would be a good time to participate.

Okay, okay, okay, there's the money thing. The past few months we haven't been meeting our expenses and our expenses are going to increase, especially the mortgage payment. At the Congregational meeting on the 27th, I am going to ask you to get behind one of two options: Over the next 2 years, would you stand behind a Task Force specifically organized to help TLC overcome the fear of the mortgage or would you rather stand behind revitalizing your Stewardship Board? It is YOUR CHOICE, YOUR ELECTION.

I expect that every one of you who cares about Thanksgiving Lutheran Church will attend this January meeting. Your absence will be your testament.

There's pressure. It's from your pastor. It's on you. Be there.

Love,

Pastor Jean

Pastor Jean Lebbert 707-327-6292

Church office: 707-544-0241

Worship:

Sunday morning at 9:30 with Children's Sermon, Holy Communion, and education hour for all ages

**Thanksgiving Lutheran Church
1225 Fulton Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

email: tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

On the web: www.thanksgivinglutheran.org



Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, January 23. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words, and using 12 point Arial font is a plus!

Please email submissions to:

editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org

If you do not have email, place submissions (along with your name in case any clarification is needed) in the "Lehman" mailbox at TLC by Sunday, January 20.

Thank you for keeping the Trumpet interesting and informative! *editor*