

The

TLC Trumpet

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

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www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

January 2009

Notes from Pastor Jean...

I'm looking forward to this month as a great kick-off for a new year at TLC.

On January 4, we will install our new Council. They are: Sharon Boschen, Deb Ferronato, Jean Flak, Jean Harrison, Joan Hax, and Jan Thomas. A council comprised of all women.

Later in the month, the Council and Committee Chairs will meet in retreat to deepen their relationships, work on a calendar, improve communication, and work on unifying committee activities so that they help us meet some specific goals for 2009.

What are the goals? They are two goals that I will be presenting for endorsement to the congregation at the second half of our annual Congregational meeting, which will be on Sunday, February 8. The first is to grow our active worship membership by at least 20 in 2009. The second is to improve and expand our outreach to our neighborhood. These are doable and basic goals; I am excited to see how we will reach them.

It was the Council's decision to renegotiate with Casa al Farero so Saturday afternoons and evenings would be available for TLC events. Casa al Farero will be worshipping at TLC on Wednesday and Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons, and holding their 7 – midnight prayer vigil on the 4th Saturday evening of each month.

I have high hopes for a dazzling display of offerings on Saturdays at TLC. We can have support groups, special speakers from and for the community, mission events, fellowship gatherings, Bible studies – oh, the possibilities!

On January 18, our Stewardship Committee will be conducting a congregational survey of talents. It will be your opportunity to let our Committee Chairs know what tasks you prefer they would contact you about doing when they are manning events. Please participate!

May the Holy Spirit bless and prosper the ministries and the members of TLC in 2009!

*Love,
Pastor Jean*



A NEW
YEAR
&
NEW
OPPORTUNITIES



Let's Welcome in 2009 Together!
 Music! Games! Party Food Potluck!

We'll gather at 7pm for a brief prayer service, and then set up some tables, gather some chairs and spend the evening playing games and noshing.

Bring: A favorite game, a CD or 2 (Christmas music is still okay), a New Year's Eve decoration, a favorite beverage and a party food dish to share.

Stay as long as you like!

What's New?

by Natalie Koppen

- New year
- New start
- New life
- New beginning
- New attitude
- New approach
- New lifestyle
- New things
- New friends
- New news
- New year!



Joan Hax	1/19
Lucy Arpi	1/21
Christine Willsey	1/21

A Little Bit of Catechism: A Few Words from Luther*

The latest installment in an ongoing series, brought to you by the Christian Education committee

“You are to hallow the day of rest”—more familiar to most of us when translated as “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy”: The start of a new year is the perfect time to recommit ourselves to keeping this “Third Commandment,” and a brief look at Luther’s explanation of what exactly this means might be just the thing to help us get started on the right track!

Luther begins his *Large Catechism* commentary on the third commandment by pointing out that the German word for “holy day” or “holiday” is drawn from the Hebrew word “Sabbath,” meaning “to rest, that is, to cease from work”—the German word is *Feiertag* (!), and literally means “day of celebration,” or “holiday.” Luther acknowledges that in the Old Testament, “God set apart the seventh day, appointed it for rest, and commanded it to be kept holy above all other days,” but as far as Luther was concerned, fulfillment of this commandment wasn’t about “refraining from work of any kind,” but about “sanctifying” the holy day of rest: “Therefore, according to its outward meaning, this commandment does not concern us Christians. It is an entirely external matter, like the other regulations of the Old Testament associated with particular customs, persons, times and places, from all of which we are now set free in Christ.” So in what sense *does* this commandment apply to Christians? Why should we observe it? Luther gives two reasons: First of all, because nature teaches us that our bodies need the rest! Second, and most importantly for Luther, because people need to have time and opportunity to attend worship services, “to assemble to hear and discuss God’s Word and then to offer praise, song, and prayer to God.” Luther instructs that this day of rest need not be restricted to any certain day or time—“for in itself no one day is better than another. Actually, worship ought to take place daily. However, because this is more than the common people can do, at least one day a week ought to be set apart for it.”

What exactly does it mean to keep a day holy? For Luther, “keeping it holy” means “Nothing else than devoting it to holy words, holy works, and holy living. The day itself does not need to be made holy, for it was created holy. But God wants it to be holy **for you**. So it becomes holy or unholy on your account, depending on whether you spend it doing something holy or unholy....At whatever time God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.” [Emphasis added]

Everyone involved in worship or education planning at TLC hopes that you will want to make it a practice to observe *your* Sabbath by “hearing, reading, and pondering” the Word in community with us!

Sandy Koppen

*Source for Luther quotes and info: *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, editors. Augsburg Fortress, 2000.



Doing Good Together: Thrivent and TLC!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans makes it possible for its members to “make a difference” in their congregations and in their communities through two different “Chapter Care” programs, and TLC has been pleased to participate in both programs in 2008!

- **Care In Congregations Program:** Each year, Thrivent makes funds available to teams of congregational volunteers for service projects or fundraising activities of direct benefit to their individual congregations. During 2008, these TLC fundraising efforts were supplemented with \$1300 in additional funds from Thrivent:
 - Easter Offering Fundraiser: Congregation raised \$1442; Thrivent added \$300, making a total of \$1742 available for much-needed furnishings for Pastor Jean’s office.
 - Holiday Craft Fair: Event raised \$178; Thrivent matched these funds, making a total of \$356 available for general benefit to the congregation.
 - Thanksgiving Offering Fundraiser: Congregation raised \$891; Thrivent added \$822, making a total of \$1713 available for paying down our mortgage principle balance.
- **Care Abounds in Communities Program:** Teams of Thrivent members apply to our local Thrivent Chapter Board for supplementary funds for projects that benefit individuals/families or charitable, educational, religious or other non-profit organizations outside of their individual congregations. Thrivent can match fundraising-activity dollars on a 3:1 basis, or can help pay for supplies for “hands-on” projects. During 2008, TLC received Care in Communities funds for these projects:
 - Lutheran World Relief Kit Project: Thrivent provided \$400 for purchase of towels and washcloths for TLC’s Health Kit project.
 - TLC received \$500 for food aid to members in need and purchase of food items for F.I.S.H food pantry.
 - The Living Room/Human Race: TLC members who participated in the Human Race to benefit The Living Room had their pledges matched by Thrivent on a 3:1 basis.

The primary requirement for eligibility for Thrivent Care Program funds is that at least 6 Thrivent members (from 6 different households) participate in the planning and execution of the activity—both “regular” members (who hold Thrivent products, such as insurance policies or investment accounts) and associate members (who pay small yearly fee for membership) are eligible to participate. For more information on these Thrivent programs or on becoming a Thrivent member or associate member, contact Lead Congregational Coordinator Sandy Koppen.



Special Dates

January

1	New Year's Day
6	Epiphany
11	Baptism of the Lord
19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20	Inauguration Day
18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Scripture Readings for January 2008

Jan. 4 **Second Sunday after Christmas** White

Sirach 24:1-12 Wisdom's Song
Psalm 147: 13-21 Song of God's power
Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 Song about Wisdom
John 1:1-18 Hymn of Incarnation

Jan. 11 **Baptism of Our Lord** White

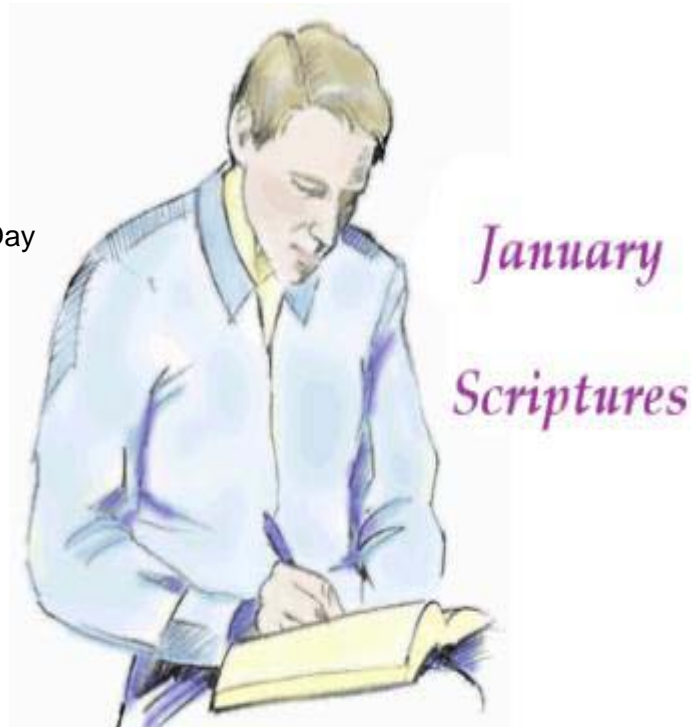
Genesis 1:1-5 Priestly telling of Creation and First Day
Psalm 29 Glory to God of Thunder
Acts 19:1-7 Paul Baptizes 12 at Ephesus
Mark 1:4-13 Jesus' Baptism and Temptation

Jan. 18 **Second Sunday after Epiphany** Green

1 Samuel 3:1-20 The call of Samuel
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 The LORD knows me
1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Pauline teaching sexual immorality
John 1:43-51 The call of Philip and Nathaniel

Jan. 25 **Third Sunday after Epiphany** Green

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Ninevah repents
Psalm 62:6-14 God is my rock and my salvation
1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Live as if the time were short
Mark 1:14-20 The call of Simon, Andrew, James, and John



Rave Reviews for TLC Holiday Mixer

As usual, the CCC Committee outdid themselves with this year's holiday social event. Thirty-eight people gathered at the Church on December 6 for a variation on last year's Progressive Dinner. This time we remained on site while progressing from one room to another.

The dinner was catered so that attendees had only to bring themselves. Each course was in a different room and each room featured a different mix of people. Following dinner, we all met in the sanctuary for a relaxing evening of recorder and harp music from Windhorse Consort.

The event theme was "Getting Acquainted." The Committee reasoned that there is much more to know about our members than can be learned during Sunday morning coffee.

Each room featured a poster listing various topics for conversation. Some examples: My favorite class in school; How I met my spouse; My first full-time job; The best prize I have ever won; *etc., etc.* Couples were purposely split so that stories could be suitably exaggerated without some intruder "correcting" the details. A room Hostess kept the topics moving and many interesting stories were heard. I think the best one I heard was when Jean Flak was telling about her honeymoon. She stated at some point that Flak "ran out of gas." I'm still not sure if that had special meaning, but the room immediately erupted in loud, uproarious laughter. There must have been good stories in other rooms too, because I heard frequent outbursts of wild, raucous behavior elsewhere.

Not only did we have a successful event, but the CCC Committee performed a useful task by cleaning up all the classrooms. And our thanks goes out to all those who lingered after the party and helped restore the Church to readiness for Sunday worship service.

George Land

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church
is a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation...

In faithfulness to the Gospel, we respond to God's compassionate love with openness of heart and spirit. Thanksgiving Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. We welcome and accept gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their families as full participating members of the congregation. We welcome and accept all people regardless of their cultural or ethnic background, physical or mental abilities, socio-economic or marital status, gender, or age. God loves us exactly as we are. This congregation welcomes you, exactly as you are.

Pastor Jean Lebbert 707-327-6292
Church office: 707-544-0241

Worship:
Sunday morning at 9:30 with
Children's Sermon, Holy Communion

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On the web:
www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

TLC Council:

Deb Ferronato, Congregation President
Jan Thomas
Jean Harrison
Jean Flak
Joan Hax
Sharon Boschen

How to Keep Warm in Church

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn — and then watch the sparks fly!

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, Jan. 29. 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, Jan. 25.