

The **TLC Trumpet** 

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

Volume 4 No. 5

[www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)

May 2007

## **TLC Votes to Call Reverend Jean Lebbert as our Next Pastor!**

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness!

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness!

-refrain, ELW #535

The TLC Council and Call Committee are pleased, excited, and thankful to announce that at the congregational meeting held on Sunday, April 29, 2007, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to extend to **Reverend Jean Lebbert** the call to serve as the next pastor of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church! Those of you who heard Pastor Jean's storytelling on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> or experienced her reading style and children's sermon during worship on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, got a taste of the excitement and playful spirit Jean will bring to her ministry here. We feel blessed and thankful that the Lord has led Jean into ministry with us, and look forward to beginning this new chapter in the life of TLC!

**When will Pastor Jean begin her call at TLC?** Pastor Jean will begin her ministry with us (a 2/3 time position) on or about June 1<sup>st</sup>, and her first Sunday presiding at worship will be **Sunday, June 3, 2007**—plan now to be at worship on June 3 to welcome her to TLC! **Pastor Jean's official Installation is tentatively being planned for Saturday afternoon, June 23, 2007.** (We hope to make this quite a celebration—if you would like to help with this event, please let Deb Ferronato or a member of the Council know; an Installation planning meeting will be held on June 3, after worship.)

TLC is also fortunate to have been blessed by the service of our Interim Pastors Jack and Flak (and Marti and Jean too!) **To honor and thank the Lundins and the Flaks, a Barbeque is being planned, following worship, on Sunday, May 20, 2007.** If you would like to help with planning of this farewell BBQ, please contact Jan Thomas or Deb Ferronato!

### **Important dates:**

Sunday, May 20, 2007: Farewell and Thank you BBQ for Lundins and Flaks

Sunday, June 3, 2007: First worship service with Pastor Jean Lebbert presiding

Sunday, June 3, 2007 (after worship): Installation Service Planning

Saturday, June 23, 2007 (tentative): Installation Celebration for Pastor Jean Lebbert

# Synod Assembly Report

## THEY WENT TO RENO and never took time to gamble...

Betty Hiebel, Ingrid and Paul drove through snow to attend the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly April 19 - 21. As with any gathering of the church, almost immediately they met old friends and acquaintances—thus fulfilling the theme: *Living in God's Amazing Grace*. Ask Betty about Pastor Moses from south India, her new friend. Betty's room was right next to the elevator; Paul and Ingrid's was 100 yards from the elevator, which suited Paul fine. Pastor Jack and Marti Lundin joined them Friday. Betty and Pastor Jack received white voter's name badges. As visitors Ingrid, Paul and Marti's name badges were red.

Assembly time was divided into many categories of church business, worship and interesting speakers. The conditions in our three companion synods—Taiwan, Rwanda and Guatemala—shocked and inspired. Betty attended a workshop on stirring people's hearts to return to church. The Lutheran Youth delegation served as pages and gave a positive outlook for our future with a Julia Childs skit. The keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Allen Powell, a New Testament Professor from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, captivated all 600+ people there with his fresh and humorous look at a topic all church members have heard at least every year that they have held church membership—giving money to the church. Betty brought the DVD of his presentations back with her in gleeful anticipation of sharing them with everyone who wants to see TLC grow.

Paul and Ingrid were there to help pass the resolution asking the ELCA to remove the two discriminatory policy statements that bar gay clergy in committed, loving, same-gender relationships from serving as ELCA clergy. All the printed resources Paul put out on the Lutherans Concerned/Reconciling in Christ table were snatched up. Paul saw a huge positive change in the attitude of the many people he

talked to. After successfully achieving a 2/3 majority vote to put the resolution on the agenda, that change was reflected in the many who spoke in favor of the resolution, telling personal stories that dispelled fear of gay people and relating the blessings that the church has received in the form of our gay and lesbian clergy and family members. Pastor Jack Lundin spoke about the welcome that TLC extends to all as an RIC church. When the vote was counted, it had passed by well over 70%! This does not change anything at the present time; it means that the Churchwide Assembly in Chicago in August will have to consider changing the ELCA's bad policy.

Betty and Pastor Jack Lundin participated in all the elections (all good people they said) and the discussions about the Synod's budget. Betty let out a loud cheer when Paul's name was called out as one of the recipients of a certificate for 35 years of church service. That entitled Paul and Ingrid to a fancy catered lunch with Bishop Mullens.

The Assembly closed with an inspiring communion service to send them back over the mountain.



## Goodbye - But Not Farewell

Just a brief note to thank the good folks at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church for their faithfulness in attending to the things that needed attending during this pastoral vacancy. Also, to say "thank you" for your acceptance of Jack and I during our short ministry at Thanksgiving. I am especially appreciative of the ministry of Sandi L., the Secretary, who is in the office tending to the daily needs of Thanksgiving Lutheran. Sandi and I have a 20 plus year history of "Church work", and, it shows. If you treat your new pastor as well as you have treated Jack & I, that pastor will be surely blessed!

God bless you in your continued ministry at College and Fulton.

Sincerely,

Lorents J. Flak,

Former Interim Pastor at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church

# SOME HAPPY THINGS LAITY CAN DO FOR THE PASTOR

by Pr. Jack Lundin

(originally written for the Sierra Pacific Synod)

Believe it or not, stress is a dominant factor in the life of many a parish pastor. There's been plenty written about clergy burnout, ennui, discouragement and the like, but this article is not the place to dwell on the many reasons for such stress. This article is dedicated to both serious and playful things you, as lay leaders, can do to keep your pastor happy and healthy.

Maybe you only see your pastor on Sunday morning, and more than once you've entertained the impish notion of wondering how "all that free time" from Monday to Saturday is spent. Joking aside, you know better, don't you?

The best word I know to describe pastoral ministry is "interruption!", which is to say that the needs of "the people" come first; at hospital bedsides, at the myriad of both formal visits and informal gatherings when deep listening is crucial, at times when there are "healing moments" in peoples lives, and even at all those durnb 'ol meetings which seem to command so much energy and so many evenings away from home.

But stress has a way of stretching itself in and around the lives of those "close to home." You've probably noticed this in your own life.

It has been said that quite often the pastor's wife/husband/kids (as the case may be) come *last!* Ouch! That, you'll agree, ought not be.

To keep your pastor healthy as well as sensitive to her/his own need for time out, for family, for fun, and for a keen receptivity to his/her own healing, here are a few playful things you might want to consider doing for your pastor in 2007.

1. Train yourself and others in your parish to be aware that clergy are mostly like other people - that is, susceptible to stress. Be particularly aware that being a care-giver to others requires

care *for* the care giver as well. Pastors need pastors too.

2. Pray for your pastor. My wife and I will not forget that Sunday when Joan spoke up during a pre-liturgy announcement time and said: "Pastor Jack has had a rough week as many of you know caring for lots of hurting people. Pray for him and his family and give them some extra hugs." It was very much appreciated.

3. Be sure that continuing education is written into the Call. Most all pastors dearly want to pick classes, conferences, workshops, and the like - according to their needs and desires - but are more than likely to forego such opportunities because of either time pressures or, more often, budget constraints. As one teacher put it: "Y'can't keep on giving of your mind and spirit if that mind and spirit can't find intellectual and soulful watering holes." Yep.

4. At least every quarter, give your pastor and his/her partner a fun week-end - with hotel and other expenses paid, as you can - at a cozy spot in, say, Mendocino, or Sonoma. Don't worry, there are plenty of pastoral fill-in's available. Besides, it'll give your parish a double blessing, to wit: a) a different voice in the pulpit on that week-end, and b) a familiar and very happy voice for plenty of weekends afterward.

5. As you're going through "the line", you know, the slow meet-the-pastor-first-before-getting-to-the-coffee-line! Tell him/her how much you like the whole atmosphere of the church (or something akin to that kind of sentiment), instead of "I liked your sermon", (when, in fact, you were supposed to be challenged by it, or worse!

6. Excuse your pastor from the next council meeting and suggest he/she go play! Tell the pastor that you promise *not* to vote on anything, but that you'll be discussing - at length - how to make the parish more hospitable. Wow! What a gift all around. (Please don't misunderstand

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me. Most all pastors love council meetings and consider it downright desertion if they should miss one, but... . . .)

7. Volunteer for something! Most anything that you think you can have some fun doing, even for a short time, will do. And, you, my friend, will become the celebrity of the year. Trust me.

8. Gather up an informal little gang of “plus people” (definition: people who like to laugh and are tonic for others around them). Then make a date for the whole little bunch to meet with you and the pastor at some genteel but exciting public place late one afternoon or early evening, for a sip or two of whatever you like to sip together. Guaranteed to become contagious (Don’t linger too long or it all tends to backfire in other important arenas of your common life).

9. Slip your pastor a ten or a twenty and say that it’s for one of those frustrating “contingencies” that has never been remotely thought of as a budget item, but keep popping up anyway. Or, if you really want to see a twinkle of the ol pastoral eye, just say “it’s for whatever.....”

10. I know that hugging is not as much in vogue these days as it maybe ought to be, but you and I know very well that all God’s children need good healthy therapeutic touch. Even a squeezed hand in genuine affection is healthy for healthy people. So, I’m going to be bold to suggest that you get around to giving out gentle hugs beyond the “expected” kiss of peace before the Eucharist. Somehow, it makes the worship more honest. Know what I mean??

11, 12, etc. Make up your own stuff, fer heavin’s sake - and please, have fun!



## **“WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7**

Limited by our senses

The reason many of us aren’t growing spiritually is because our faith doesn’t reach beyond our sight. Real faith begins where our senses end. When we can see something, we usually don’t feel the need to trust God for it. And since we can’t see very far, living by sight keeps us living small.

Think of the African impala, a marvelous animal that can soar 10 feet high and 30 feet out with just one jump. But did you know that you can put the impala in a 3-foot cage with no roof and it will not attempt to escape, even though it has more than enough power to clear the cage. That’s because the impala won’t jump if it cannot see where its feet are going to land. The impala lives by sight, so it’s easy to keep it caged. The same goes for you!

But let’s add an all-important truth here. Some children believe in the Tooth Fairy. The problem with that is, their faith is ineffective because the object of their faith isn’t real. Scriptural faith says, “God, I know that whenever You speak You’re telling the truth, and that I can stake my life on it”. Faith establishes what we believe about God. Too many of us act like we’ve more confidence in ourselves than we do in Him. If faith is the action by which we lay hold of the power and promises of God, then if our faith is lacking we won’t see the supernatural work of God in our lives – and we’ll live in the natural with all its limitations.

### **On Giving and Loving**

The truth comes so often in simple sentences. For example, isn’t it true that a person can give without real love or sympathy (maybe to impress others, for example) but one simply cannot love without giving? In fact, one of the clues to how much a person loves is how much he or she gives in terms of time, talent, friendship, service, encouragement and prayers on behalf of others.

The following is a press release from Lynn Mickelson, LLGM (Lutheran Lesbian Gay Ministries) Communications:

**On March 25, 2007, St. Francis Lutheran Church** <<http://www.st-francis-lutheran.org>> of San Francisco voted to call Dawn Roginski to serve as its Pastor of Parish Programs. Dawn will become the third ECP roster member to be called and ordained in less than one year.

"I've been looking forward to this day for a long time", said Roginski from her home in Lenexa, KS.

Dr. Margaret Moreland, LLGM's Call Process Coordinator praised St. Francis' decision.

"The ECP roster is filled with gifted individuals wanting to serve congregations. LLGM is delighted that St. Francis once again recognized these gifts for ministry when seeking a pastor for this exciting new opportunity." She adds, "We intensely hope that more congregations will open their call processes to the ECP roster so that they too can be blessed by the ministry of these talented pastors. LLGM is here to help both congregations and pastors."

Roginski will be in charge of managing the congregation's programs along with developing and coordinating a Deaconate Program, a first-time initiative at St. Francis. She joins a staff led by Rev. Dr. Robert Goldstein, who is in his second year as Lead Pastor at this urban parish located in the Castro district of San Francisco. "Dawn brings a broad range of experience in working with persons of all ages. We look forward to her ministry with us and the Castro community", Goldstein observed.

"What is exciting to me about St. Francis is that it is a congregation involved in the community, a congregation that cares about doing things in the community", said Roginski.

Roginski expects to join the St. Francis staff in early June. Details regarding her Ordination and Installation will be released at a later date.

"For more information about this call, St. Francis, and Dawn please see [llgm.org](http://llgm.org) <<http://llgm.org>>

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Dawn's ordination will take place Saturday, June 16, in the afternoon. She will be installed the next day during regular Sunday worship. TLC will be

installing Jean Lebbert the following Saturday. Paul and Ingrid Feiertag will be going to Dawn's ordination (Saturday) and would be happy to lead a caravan of TLC members to experience this extraordinary ordination in a congregation known throughout the ELCA as a leader in inclusive ministry.

LLGM was formed to support Jeff Johnson, called by First United Lutheran Church and Ruth Frost and Phyllis Zillhart called by St Francis Lutheran Church, all three openly gay seminary graduates denied certification for ordination by the ELCA in 1990. The Extraordinary Candidacy Project (ECP) was created to guide gay seminarians through the three stages of certification and find churches to call and ordain them outside of the ELCA bureaucracy.

When Paul and Ingrid (and any other TLC members) attend St Francis' ordination, they will invite clergy and members of St. Francis to Jean's installation at TLC, in support of another RIC congregation!

## On Change...

Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.

*King Whitney Jr.*

Change your thoughts and you change your world.

*Norman Vincent Peale (1898 - 1993)*

It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory.

*W. Edwards Deming*

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.

*Maya Angelou*

# Continuing education is for everyone!

## What are YOU doing this summer?

Here are just three of the offerings during SUMMER SESSION 2007 at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS)

### The Beatitudes: Compass for Christian Discipleship

July 9-13, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*MARTHA ELLEN STORTZ, Professor, Historical Theology and Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley CA*

In Matthew's gospel, the Sermon on the Mount inaugurates Jesus' public ministry, and the first word out of Jesus' mouth is the word "blessed." The Beatitudes function as a compass for the journey of Christian discipleship-and the first mark and center of Christian disciples is blessing. Jesus' call of blessing echoes the Genesis stories of blessing in creation and the call of Abraham, and anticipates the last words of his public ministry (Matthew 25:31-46). In the Beatitudes, Jesus helps us recognize him as the blessed one who blesses-but he also introduces us as disciples to ourselves, giving us a character sketch of who we will become if we follow him. In this course, students will explore the Beatitudes as a guide for prayer, discipleship, and public ministry, as they evaluate their own lives and communities of faith as contexts of blessing and invitation to a new way of life.

Recommended reading in advance: Glen H. Stassen, *Living the Sermon On The Mount: A Practical Hope for Grace and Deliverance* (Jossey-Bass, 2006) and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship* (Augsburg Fortress, 2003).

### "Who Is Jesus Christ for Us Today?" The Spirituality of Bonhoeffer

July 9-13, 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

*LISA DAHILL, Assistant Professor of Worship and Christian Spirituality, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus OH*

Since his death in 1945, Bonhoeffer's legacy has continued to bear fruit in many places-Christian responses to the Holocaust; post-Christendom concepts of God; spiritualities of discernment and political resistance; and the powerful witness of a life rooted in Christian practices of confession, intentional Christian community, and immersion in music and the Word in prayer. Students are invited to work out for themselves in their own contexts of ministry, resistance, prayer, and discipleship their own responses to his lifelong question, "Who is Jesus Christ for us today?"

Required text: *The Cost of Moral Leadership*, by Geoffrey B. Kelly and F. Burton Nelson (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002), Ch. 1-4 should be read in advance.

### Helping Families and Congregations Become Incubators for Faith

July 16-20, 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

*DEBORAH STREICHER, Director, Generations in Faith Together, INKubators, Stillwater, MN*

Growing in faith is like learning a language: to become fluent, you must be immersed and surrounded by the language everyday. Faith INKubators, a pioneering Christian education organization, aims to help families develop practices of faith immersion with children "every night in every home." Students will have a "hands-on" opportunity to experience four different systems that connected together provide a holistic approach to living, learning, and growing in faith-every day and every week.

Required texts and advance reading, *Frogs without Legs Can't Hear* by David Anderson and Paul Hill (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2003) and *The Fifth Church* by Richard Melheim, available at <http://www.faithink.com/Inkubators/7churches.asp>  
<<https://owa.plts.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.faithink.com/Inkubators/7churches.asp>>

## Getting to Know...

### Pam Mahan

Along with her mother, the late Evelyn Mahan, Pam is a charter member of TLC. The Mahans attended Bethlehem until Bob Willse began TLC, then moved to the new church. Bob and Joan were great favorites of Evelyn and Pam.

Pam is a Santa Rosa native and has never strayed. She attended Mark West Union School, Santa Rosa Junior High, then on to Piner High School. Her high school diploma is actually from Santa Rosa Junior College where she continued for two years taking business courses.

With her business-course background she landed a job at the California Human Development Corporation which was a private, non-profit organization. Their mission was job training and assistance for migrant workers and others in need. She did general office work for 13 years until funding ceased and she was laid off.

So Pam went back to school at Adult Education where she updated her computer and office skills. Joan Willse helped her get a job at Empire Door Company, again working in the office. This is her current job and she has been there for 11 years.

Music is number one on her list of leisure-time pursuits. She likes reggae, rock, and country-western. On TV, she clicks to MTV plus movies on Lifetime.

Pam is responsible for preparing the sacraments each week. She brings the bread and sets out the wine and juice. This is something she assisted her mother with years ago. (The Willseys perform the clean-up task after each service.) Then, when Evelyn passed away, Pam took it over and has had sole responsibility ever since.

Another service she performed for many years was to bring Leonard Gunderson to church each Sunday. Our oldest living member (age 96), Leonard attended regularly until a couple years ago. But he was having trouble hearing

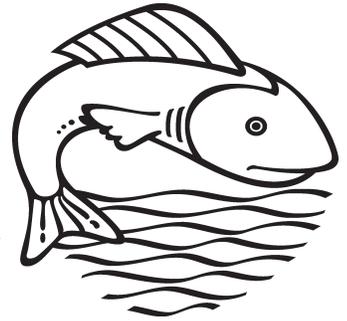
and now accompanies his daughter to another church with superior sound.

Along with "getting to know Pam," this might also help you "get to know" a little more of TLC history.

*George Land*

## F.I.S.H.\*

\*Friends In Service Here  
1055 Benton Street (Corner of  
Benton and North Streets),  
Santa Rosa



Our March volunteers were Mary Dawson and niece Alicia Basham, Kim Lehman and Betty Speakes. April brought Keir Skinner, Ashley Loewen, Kim Lehman and Nicholas Schuler. Along with these enthusiastic young people were Jan Loewen, Betty Speakes and Mary Dawson. Thanks ever so much all of you.

During May the Santa Rosa postal employees conduct a food collection drive. This gives a much needed boost to the supplies at the FISH facility.

Thanks everybody for your gifts to the TLC BLUE BARREL. I know it's hard to keep up with everything in summer. There are vacations and weekend camping trips and kids home from school to be concerned about. Unfortunately some of our neighbors run out of Social Security income before their month ends. Others lose their jobs and there are many one-parent families struggling to keep up with their financial obligations. All of these people are so grateful for the gifts you bring.

Don't forget when your gardens and fruit trees begin to produce! FISH can use everything you can bring. Call us to pick it up or you can drop it off at FISH Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. and Saturdays 10 A.M. to noon.

*Stan & Marilyn Schuler*

## The Numbers in the Easter Lessons

We are now celebrating the 49 days of Easter in the church year. That is a week of weeks— $7 \times 7 = 49$ . On the Third Sunday of Easter we heard the Gospel from John 21. Jesus appeared to the disciples who had gone fishing again thinking that Jesus was no longer with them after dying on the cross. With nothing to show for fishing all night, Jesus from the shore hollered to them to throw the net over the right side of the boat. They did and caught 153 large fish. Why count the fish? What could that number mean? The Second Lesson each Sunday of the Easter Season is a reading from The Revelation to John. There are also so many numbers in The Revelation. What do they mean? How would understanding their meaning help us to appreciate today what was written in code language 80 to 100 years after the resurrection of Jesus?

Think of the pins at the end of the bowling alley. How many pins are there? One + two + three + four + five = fifteen. Keep on adding rows of pins: + six + seven + eight (etc. until you reach seventeen) and lo and behold, your total will be 153. What is significant about a triangle with seventeen on each side? Seventeen is  $7 + 10$ . In The Revelation (as with all apocalyptic literature—a written code language in times of government sponsored persecution) 7 is a number for perfection, and 10 is a number of completion. So gathering 153 (called the triangular of 17) large fish into the disciples' net is a code for Jesus' mission to include the totality of humanity within the sphere of God's loving realm. The number tells us that we are totally and perfectly assured that we are included.

People of Jesus and John's time saw the universe in terms of earth and the heavens/spiritual realm. The four directions/corners/winds of earth (Rev. 7:1) are probable sources of 4 being the earth number, with 3 being the spirit world number. In Rev. 7:9 all the people on earth are described as "from every race, tribe, nation and language"—4. In Rev. 7:11 we look into

heaven where "[a]ll the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures"—a set of 3. Heaven and earth make up God's perfect creation, so 7 is the number of perfection. In Rev. 7:12 "Amen!" brackets seven-fold perfect acclamation of worship to God: "Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God"—7.

From the number of tribes in the Hebrew nation and the number of disciples chosen by Jesus comes 12 as the church number. This number can be squared (144) and multiplied by the square of the completion number (10) to get 144,000. No one will be left out or left behind. In the church with Jesus the Lamb who was slain but now lives and sits on the throne, who washes us clean with his blood, we are safe and secure. It is Good News for everyone.



### Nifty Fifties Plus

On April 26, nine Fifty-Plusers car-pooled to Sausalito for their monthly social. It was a beautiful day for a picnic on the waterfront where they enjoyed the boat activities on the bay. The scene nicely lent itself to impromptu sea stories and sailing lore spun by Marilyn and Stan Schuler.

Pastor Flak and Jean led everyone into the huge building that houses the Corps of Engineers' Bay Model. This is a fantastic, scale model of the Bay(s) and delta waterways. We could walk amongst the waterways and see the waterflow in relationship to the whole. Emerging from the restroom, Flak was disappointed that flushing did not cause a tidal bore to come roaring through the model.

The ladies especially, like the historical display about the Liberty Ships built by women (and men) in Sausalito during WW2. Our thanks to the Flaks for an interesting, enjoyable, and free afternoon. What can be greater than to be a Christian and retired?

*George Land*

## Stewardship Corner

*Thanksgiving Lutheran strives to encourage all members to view their offerings of time, talent, and treasure as acts of discipleship in response to God's gracious gifts to us, and our members have historically taken this message to heart, often going the "extra mile" in response to financial difficulties of the congregation as well as contributing generously to causes outside of the congregation! The following is brought to you by the Finance team as part of an ongoing series, "10 Stewardship Principles," adapted from ELCA Stewardship materials available online; we hope that you will recognize yourself in these principles!*

"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means...." (2 Cor 8: 1-3) By lifting up the Macedonian churches as an example of generosity, Paul hopes to inspire the well-to-do, urban, largely Gentile churches of Corinth to contribute generously to the collection for the Jerusalem church—a collection, *according to the New Oxford Annotated Bible*, meant not only for economic relief but also as a show of unity between the Jerusalem church and the churches of the Diaspora. Paul's letter to the Corinthians puts no dollar figure on the Macedonian collection—and given that the Macedonians have recently endured "a severe ordeal of affliction" and "extreme poverty," we might imagine that even their great generosity may not have added up to a whole lot—but what Paul *does* tell us leads us to **Stewardship Principle #3: Sacrifice proportionately** so others may share in God's word and blessings, and **Stewardship Principle #4: Give willingly** as you are moved by the Holy Spirit. We walk together as stewards in God's church, and

following the example of the Macedonians, we are encouraged to give *voluntarily* and *according to our means*—in response to God's grace toward us!



## 2nd Mile Help for Mt. Cross Outdoor Ministries

By now you've heard that the Sierra Pacific Synod has cut funding to many of our Lutheran outreach programs. Amongst the funding that is cut is the budget for Mt. Cross Outdoor Ministries in Felton. This year, Mt. Cross gets ZERO! (zilch. nada) dollars from the synod to keep its summer camp and day camp programs running. It also gets NOTHING to keep its year-long retreat programs running. It gets ABSOLUTELY NO DOLLARS to pay staff or provide upkeep of the property. I don't know how you feel about it, but it makes no sense (or cents for that matter) to me. This is a ministry that is supposed to serve all of Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii! Hundreds of children attend this camp each summer to learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** Mt. Cross is the designee for the "Second Mile" giving program for the month of May. Every little bit that you can give will help Mt. Cross continue its ministry. All you need to do is put your donation in an envelope and drop it in the offering plate at church; make sure you mark it "2nd mile or Mt. Cross." You can add it into your weekly offering and just designate what the extra contribution is for. How about saving all your change for the

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month of May? Or giving up one “non-fat double shot venti mocha with whip” once a week and donating that money? ANYTHING you can do to help will be greatly appreciated by all the people who love Mt. Cross and work hard to fulfill its ministry.

Please, please take the time to make a donation. If you have questions, feel free to call or talk to Keith Becker or Zoe Zuest-Becker (or Fiona, Casey or Griffin for that matter.) Many other members of our congregation can also attest to the beauty, holiness, and uniqueness of Mt. Cross. Thank you.

*Zoe Zuest-Becker, Mt. Cross Ranger*



**Worship:**

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

**Pastor Flak at home: 707-545-1467**

**Pastor Lundin at home: 707-996-8602**

**Church office: 707-544-0241**

**Sandi Leithe, church secretary**

**Karen Lehman, Trumpet editor**

**Council Officers:**

**Sandy Koppen, President**

**Jim Lehman, Vice President**

**Colleen Sass, Secretary**

**Thanksgiving Lutheran Church**

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**On the web: [www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)**

## Thanksgiving Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) 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.

### Editorial Guidelines/Next Deadline

The TLC Trumpet is published on or near the 1st day of the month. The next Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, May 30. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words, using 12 point Arial font. Please email submissions to:

[editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org](mailto: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.

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