

The

TLC Trumpet



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

Volume 5 No. 10

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

October 2008

Let's Jabble for Jesus

On Sunday afternoons, I almost religiously like to listen to "Says You," a word game show on National Public Radio. It gives intrigue and color to my vocabulary.

From this show, I learned the word "jabble" which means "a disturbance or agitation on a small pond." It's the word for the concentric circles of waves made when something – a water spider, fish lips, a pebble, a drop of rain – disturbs the smooth surface of the pond.

Nowadays, the small pond of our country is agitated with much change, but we worship the One who turns things topsy-turvy out of grace and mercy: "Love your enemies. Lose your life to gain your life. Forgive as you have been forgiven. Regard others as better than yourselves. It is better to give than to receive. There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God." And on and on. The Bible is packed with jabble that disturbs the disturbance and brings peace into the world.

One small thing can disturb. So, let's jabble for Jesus and bring forth the peace that passes all understanding.

Continue to give God a few hours on Sunday mornings and participate in your faith community. Receive the peace of the Holy Spirit and spread peace by the power and mystery of faith and worship. The unchurched still notice that people attend worship faithfully. Being noticed brings peace.

Pray for our country's "enemies," those without and within.

Practice first fruits giving in a time of economic turmoil. Take charge of your spending.

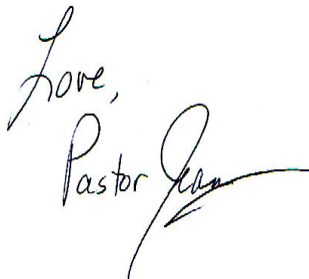
Unconditionally give a word of affirmation to someone you are having trouble getting along with. Surprise their day with a good word.

Accept the place where you are now, believing that it's where you are supposed to be. Open your mind and heart to discovering why you are supposed to be there.

Remember the Sabbath. The word sabbath means "intermission." You are sent out by the Spirit to do mission in the world, and you are commanded to take a break and do mission for your heart and soul too. Bringing yourself peace creates jabble for Jesus.

And may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Love,
Pastor Jan



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

If you've spent any amount of time hanging around Lutheran churches, you are likely familiar with (and perhaps have even studied!) Luther's *Small Catechism*, with its famous "What does this mean?" approach to the "basics" of our faith—the 10 Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confession (yes, Lutheran theology does encompass an understanding of confession—but more on that another time!) As noted last month, Luther's intention with the *Small Catechism* was to make basic instruction in the faith accessible to (and teachable by!) all "heads of households." Less well known to us "laypeople" is Luther's *German Catechism*, commonly called the *Large Catechism*, in which Luther expands on the teachings of the *Small Catechism* for the further benefit of pastors and teachers—who, according to Luther, really needed it: "Everything that they are to teach and preach is now so very clearly and easily presented in so many salutary books... Yet, they are not upright and honest enough to buy such books, or, if they have them already, to consult or read them. Oh, these shameful gluttons and servants of their bellies are better suited to be swineherds and keepers of dogs than guardians of souls and pastors." Once again mincing no words, Luther wonders why anyone would pass up the benefits and advantages that study of the catechism and God's Word accomplishes, and goes so far as to say that if we "flippantly despise such might, benefits, power, and fruit... we deserve not only to be given no food to eat but also to have the dogs set upon us and to be pelted with horse manure." Yikes!

Luther appeals to all Christians not to fall victim to the "horrible vice and secret, evil plague" of boredom and security, and also to not try to become "doctors" too soon, imagining that they know everything there is to know about their faith and assuming that catechism study is only for babies—as Luther says, "vain imaginations, like new cloth, suffer shrinkage!" Despite his vast education and experience as doctor of theology and preacher, Luther himself remained a "child and pupil of the catechism," continuing to read, study, and recite the catechism daily—and yet he never considered himself to have mastered it as he wished.

While the TLC Christian Education committee has no plans to start stocking up on vicious dogs or raiding the Community Garden for horse manure (although if we detect any "flippant despising" all bets are off!), we DO think that all members and friends of TLC will benefit from exposure to "a little bit of catechism" once a month in the Trumpet (and maybe some will get curious and want go a little deeper!) Luther's closing words in the 1530 preface to the *Large Catechism* say it well:

"If [Christians] show such diligence, then I promise them—and their experience will bear me out—that they will gain much fruit and God will make excellent people out of them. Then in due time they will make the noble confession that the longer they work with the catechism, the less they know of it, and the more they have to learn. Only then, hungry and thirsty, will they for the first time truly taste what now they cannot bear to smell because they are so bloated and surfeited. To this end may God grant his grace! Amen"

*Source for Luther quotes and info: *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Augsburg Fortress, 2000.



Thanksgiving and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches

are joining together for a Blessing of the Pets (and Plush Pals) to be held on Saturday, November 11 at Thanksgiving, beginning at 1:00. Highlights will include stories about St. Francis and individual blessings for pets and owners. There will be an information table with brochures from the Humane Society and treats for humans and pets.

It is a blessing that our Creator gives us relationship with animals. Pets are soothing, healing, a source of joy, and models of unconditional love. It is a long-standing tradition in some churches that, in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis, people bring their pets for a blessing. If you have a pet or a stuffed animal that blesses you, you are invited to bring it to the Blessing of the Pets to receive a blessing too!

If you have an elderly pet that would not be able to come to the service and would like, call Pastor Jean. She would love to come to your home and provide a prayer and a blessing just for your pet and you!

PS – If you would like to be a part of the planning of this special event, there will be a planning meeting taking place at TLC on Monday, September 29 at 5:30.



Date Changes for October Women's Group Gathering!

All TLC women and friends are encouraged to gather on **October 8th** for an evening of Card making, society, and of course, goodies. All you need to bring is a creative spirit. All card making materials will be provided. If you have stamps, paper, ink, accessories that you would like to contribute please bring them. The more variety we have the more fun it will be. We are hoping to put up a supply of blank greeting cards for Pastor Jean and Sandi L. to have available at the church.

Please plan to join us at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 8th at the church.

The 14th Annual TLC Women's Retreat is scheduled for Friday, November 21 through Sunday, November 23 at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg. Pastor Jean will be leading us this year, so you know it will be a good time of reflection, storytelling, learning, and fun – and if you've been on one of these retreats to Bishop's Ranch, you know the food is delicious and plentiful (and we don't have to do any of the cooking!), and the setting – beautiful!

If you have made a deposit for the retreat, you will be receiving more information soon. There are no more overnight spaces available at the time of this printing, but if you would like to come without spending the nights, this is an option. If you would like to know more, please contact Karen Lehman as soon as possible.

Join Our Book Group for Reading Support and Lively Discussions

Our Book Group is starting up again after a summer hiatus. If you have a desire to read, but need a group to encourage and support you, this group's for you!

For our first read, we will be journeying together through The Shack by William P. Young. It is a spiritual novel about a man who endures a heart-breaking loss and then encounters the Trinity that challenges his notions of the Divine. It might challenge our notions as well! The Shack is currently on the N.Y. Times Bestseller list.

For our second read, we will walk through National Bestseller Just Who Will You Be? By Maria Shriver. It is her personal sharing of her identity struggle she has been through growing up in the ambitious Kennedy family, holding a career as a successful reporter, and having to give up her career when her husband became governor of California.

The first meeting of the Book Group will be on Monday, October 13, at 7 p.m. at Mahalo Manor (Pastor Jean's home, 608 Middle Rincon Road). You are asked to have read the first four chapters of The Shack before you come.

Any one is invited to come. Any questions? Call Pastor Jean, 327-6292.



Synodical Hearing on the Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality

A listening post to hear member feedback on the text of the draft statement

The synod office invites you to participate in the next step of the development of the ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality.

WHEN: Tuesday October 21st., 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa

WHY: The ELCA is writing a social statement on human sexuality. We need your input on the draft. How can it be strengthened? What is missing that should be said? A representative of the task force will be present and a written record of comments will be prepared.

How You Can Participate in the Hearing

Read a copy of the draft statement.

Come to the hearing. Speak and listen.

How to Get a Copy of the Draft Statement

Download it at www.elca.org/faithfuljourney.

A single complimentary copy can be ordered by calling 800-638-3522 ext. 2996.

For multiple copies call Augsburg Fortress (800-328-4648) and ask for Draft of a Social Statement on Human Sexuality, item number 978-6-0002-2079-2, cost is \$0.25 per copy.

Pastor Jean has a copy in her office if you'd like to make a photocopy at the church for five cents per page.

For additional information about the synodical hearings please visit:

www.elca.org/faithfuljourney

Or call the synod office at 800.275.3522

Getting to Know...

Karen Lehman

(Updated from December 2004)

Our future Trumpet Editor was born in Seattle and bounced around the northwest part of the country for awhile, eventually landing in the Los Angeles suburb of Tujunga. Upon graduating from high school, she faced the eternal question: "What do I want to be if I grow up?"

From the age of 15 until her mid-20s, she held a flurry of jobs in various shopping mall stores, as a receptionist in a hoity-toity office building in the Brentwood area of West LA, plus the usual waitress chores, a stint as a Directory Assistance operator, and was a licensed real estate agent – when she was 19. While working a "cubicle job" in LA, Karen heard a radio commercial advertising a school for . . . radio broadcasting. Yep, she went . . . and finished 16 months later.

Karen and Jim were married in 1981 and knowing that southern California is better to be a place you're FROM, rather than a place to BE, they were so anxious to leave that Jim blazed the trail to a job in Petaluma. Karen followed ten months later after finishing broadcasting school, blanketing northern California with her resume and tapes, and landed a radio gig within about three weeks of her arrival in Sonoma County. After doing time at numerous local stations, she landed morning drive at KKSF in The City.

In late 1988 the Lehmans bought their home in Forestville and soon Kim was born. Karen did some freelance voice work while Kim was little, and in 1998 she went with smoooooth jazz, KJZY. She spent time doing middays, then afternoon drive. In the summer of 2006, Karen left the radio station after a six-month hiring process with the Santa Rosa Police Department to be a dispatcher. If you are thinking about making a similar transition, you might talk to Karen about her experience with the department, which she decided to leave after a short time. She is now self employed from a nifty studio located in her back yard, recording shows daily for two radio stations – KJZY in Santa Rosa and KRVR in Modesto. She does voiceover, and is involved with a local video production company as a voice talent, script writer and video producer. While enjoying all of it, Karen finds she seems to have less and less time for all the other things that make life even more worthwhile, like church activities, camping, reading, lunch with friends, and her poor yard!

Jim has been in transition as well. He was in the printing industry for over 25 years, then went to work for DirecTV in late 2003. He left DirecTV after almost 3 years and went back to the printing industry for about a year, leaving for a position as a tech for a small company in the Napa Valley that provides wireless internet, a job he greatly enjoyed, until he was laid off at the end of July. He is working again for DirecTV, a company that seems to have improved conditions for workers since he left, except for the 6-day work week. So much for mowing the TLC lawn on Saturdays – any volunteers?

Jim completed his electronics certification at SRJC this last June – it takes a while when you're working full-time!

Karen began attending TLC before its charter, at the invitation of her Grandmother, a former resident of Sequoia Mobile Home Park. With Pentecostal roots, Jim resisted for awhile but finally gave in. Since then, he's been Financial Secretary, served on church council, mows the lawn and maintains the church's computers and the websites for TLC and KarenLehman.com. He also plays bass in the TLC band, and serves as a reader.

What does Karen do in church? An easier question . . . what does she not do? Are there any committees she has not been a member of? She has spent eight years on Church Council, serving two terms as President, hosted a home Bible Study with Jim, and plays flute in the band. She also serves in worship as an assisting minister or reader.

Daughter Kimberly also participates in worship as a reader, plays piano, and is learning her way around SRJC, having graduated from El Molino High in June.

One of Karen's finest moments involved Jim, but at a time well before they were married. Their initial romance was short-lived, and during the off-time Jim arrived at Karen's parent's home, supposedly visiting her brother. The timing could not have been better . . . for Karen. He arrived just in time to watch her leaving the house on a date with another suitor. Soon after, Jim was on his bloody knees, crawling back!

George Land

(Editor's note: Jim isn't crazy about this last paragraph, and has threatened to delete it asserting that it is rather overstated. His knees were *not* bloody)

Something New in Christian Education at TLC

The goal of the Christian Education Committee for the 2008-2009 year is to develop something that will foster new relationships within TLC.

The challenge is that we need to find a way to inspire ourselves to want to further our spiritual education.

For our prereaders, we have ordered some colorful booklets from Augsburg Fortress. When these wonderful little ones come to worship, the ushers will give them a booklet to look at during the service and to take home with them.

On Sunday, September 14, our Rally Day, we took a congregational assessment to see where we are in members' experience with the Bible. The assessment came from Opening The Book of Faith, which our voting members to the Synod Assembly received. It is part of a church-wide emphasis that the ELCA is giving to the importance of our sacred scriptures having meaning in our daily lives.

Jan Loewen will continue with her wonderful work with our older youth. There are plans to attend a Christian concert on October 4, and they might be planning another youth-led worship at TLC. If this is something you enjoy, an encouraging word to Jan might be a good thing!

Sandy Koppen is giving us all "Lessons from Luther" in The Trumpet, and she will be checking our Synod Resource Center, Augsburg Fortress, and other Christian publishing houses for a Christmas play.

In January, we will hold a meeting of the Christian Education Committee to evaluate and determine our next steps. It is a challenge of smaller congregations to keep all of our committees filled out with people; just right now, this Committee is one that is too understaffed to be able to offer a fuller education program.

I encourage all of you to consider prayerfully your personal spiritual journey. The wise know that we never stop learning. Our amazing brains and hearts can hold an awesome amount of knowledge, dreams, concepts, newness – all to enliven and deepen our relationship with the Divine and our choice to live divinely.

Bless you as you grow closer to our gracious, loving God.

*Love,
Pastor Jan*



Casey Becker	10/5
Ashley Loewen	10/11
Martin Sass	10/22
Erin Netherda	10/24

Please amend your directory to reflect a new address for:

Clint Berg
Friends House RCFE
684 Benecia Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Stewardship Thoughts

As part of our work for the stewardship committee and thinking ahead to our campaign this year, I looked back at some of the things we had done with our last financial campaign, back in the spring of 2005. I came across something I had written on Psalm 1, which was the basis for that campaign, and specifically verse 6: "The Lord watches over the way of the righteous."

Now, as we know, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have all been made righteous (Romans 5:19), so this verse is talking about us. This is a great promise that God has made to us. This was a bit hard to see in early 2005, with no pastor and great challenges (including a big mortgage) ahead of us, and perhaps we, like the Israelites of Exodus out in the wilderness, had wished we stayed back in Egypt (on Airway drive). But, as with the Israelites, God has provided us with quail and manna – we have a terrific pastor, we have met our mortgage requirements via some answered prayers and concessions made by the MIF, and the Spirit has led a great number of new people to our congregation since that time. We truly have had our way watched over by God.

In a crazy year like this one, it may be easy to get nervous and worry – we all do sometimes. In this year's campaign we are asking that everyone consider whether they can increase their giving for 2009, even if it's only a small amount or percent. This is no doubt kind of a scary thing for many of us to contemplate – and yet, we have this great assurance that God will watch over our way as we step forward in faith. We have great challenges next year in meeting our mortgage payment increase, and in continuing to enhance our ministry here. Blessings to you as we move through this process – the proposed budget, pledge cards and further information will be given to all on October 5.

God WILL watch over our way as a congregation, and your way as you consider your response for giving in 2009.

Mark Koppen, on behalf of the Stewardship Team

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

TLC Council:

Deb Ferronato, Congregation President

Dave Flanagan, Vice President

Thomas, Secretary

Sandy Koppen

Jean Harrison

Jean Flak



Interfaith Service Supports All Families

On Sunday, November 2nd, the Sonoma County Pride Planning Committee brings together leaders and musicians from diverse religious traditions within Sonoma County to participate in an Interfaith Service titled "Live Equally, Love Equally." The service is designed to be an ecumenical response in support of all families, including those made by same-sex marriage. It will be held at 7:00 pm at the Center for Spiritual Living.

Speakers Include:

Rev. Kimberly Willis, Christ Church United Methodist
Rabbi George Gittleman, Congregation Shomrei Torah
Rev. Elizabeth Middelberg, Metropolitan Community Church of the Redwood Empire
Rev. Blythe Sawyer, Petaluma United Church of Christ
Rev. Joyce Duffala, Center For Spiritual Living

A Children's Sermon will be provided for kids by Rev. Jean Lebbert of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church.

Other participants include:

Rev. Chris Bell, Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Rev. Carol Carter, Forestville United Methodist Church
Rev. Leanna Hamilton, New Hope Metropolitan Community Church
Rev. Amy Seymour Haney, Windsor Presbyterian Church
Rev. Susan Fleenor, Knox Presbyterian Church
Rev. David Parks Ramage, First Congregational United Church of Christ .

This is the second Interfaith Service hosted by the Sonoma County Pride Planning Committee. The first one took place in June 2008 as part of the County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersexed Pride celebration, and was attended by over 300 people.

7:00 pm
Sunday, November 2, 2008
Center for Spiritual Living
1075 Occidental Road , Santa Rosa , CA

Free to the public. Children warmly welcomed.

Submitted by Pastor Jean



Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, October 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, October 19.