

# TLC

# Trumpet



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

Volume 11 No. 9

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

September 2014

## STEWARDSHIP:

Thoughts about my own personal journey  
from Pastor Nicholas Brie

**F**IRST, this is NOT about giving the church more money and SECOND, this is NOT about tithing. This IS about my relationship with God and your relationship with God.

After I was ordained as a pastor, I thought it was time for me to look at my stewardship since I was now pastor of a congregation and as a leader I was an example. No one would know of my personal stewardship, but it seemed hypocritical for me to talk about Stewardship until I was clear in my mind about my own.

My stewardship was messed up. I wasn't consistent in what I was giving. I made a decision each week as to what my offering would be at worship; if I didn't go to worship---no offering for that week. If I gave to a charity that week, my offering was less. Plus I gave a certain percent of

my income for offerings and charity, but only up to a certain income limit. That is, if I was giving five percent, I found that easy to do when I was making less money. But the more income I had, I found it was harder to keep that same percentage, and the percentage went down. Very strange thinking on my part: God gives me more, I give God less.

What I recognized was that all that thinking had nothing to do with my relationship with God. I began to realize that all my income, everything I had, all of it, belonged to God and not to me. I was, as we all are, just stewards of all that is given to us to manage and take care of. We are caretakers/stewards of everything we have and everything we use; not only stewards of material things, but stewards of the environment, nature and animals as well.

I was mixed up about to whom I was giving my offerings and my charitable contributions. At worship, in my mind I was giving my offering to the church. Big mistake. In charitable giving I was giving to an organization. Another mistake. That was limited thinking and limited use of my offerings.

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## Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be **Monday, September 22**. 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

## August hours for our administrative assistant

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



## Birthday Blessings to these TLC members

Jan Thomas	9/2
Astrid Anderson	9/4
Paul Feiertag	9/8
Julie Schoepp	9/24
Kathy Alexander	9/28
Mary Thompson	9/29

## The Bishop is Coming!

Bishop Holmerud, Fourth Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod is coming to preach at TLC on September 21. This will also be Pastor Jean's first day back from her sabbatical and vacation, so let's be sure to give them both a warm welcome!

## The Bishop's Visit



## TLC Group News



### Aloha Luau

Alas, circumstances beyond the control of the Harrison's necessitate there be no HHR Hawaiian Luau this year on their lanai. We apologize for this and will do our up most to renew the event next August. Who knows it might even be better than ever before!



### Mortgage Payment Campaign

Beginning last June, you will find an envelope stamped "Mortgage Payment" in your bulletin on the first Sunday of every month. If you can afford to give a little something extra it is greatly appreciated. Gifts received in this manner will be set aside to help pay the mortgage when there is a deficit month. This is not money towards paying down the principal. This is in addition to your regular pledge or giving.

### Adult Forums Return

It is our wonderful fortune to have our Bishop lead our Christian Education Forum on September 21st after Fellowship Time. He will explain what a Jesus story is and share his own with us. What a privilege that will be. Plan to stay after the service for this blessed time.



### Rummage Sale

Thank you for all your support for the rummage sale, with special thanks to Diane and Francis Marsh, Scott Heiller, Melanie Canepa, and Craig, Stephan, and Anthony Cost. Tons of items and baked goods were donated, signs made, tables organized, etc. With everybody's help, plus a donation from Jon Riewe, we added over \$1400 to the church fund.

### Bible Study

What has lots more depth than your average romance novel and is more uplifting than the best date movie? The Book of Ruth! And it's in the Bible! In September the focal texts for the narrative lectionary are from Ruth. When Bible study resumes on September 2, Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m., we'll be taking a deeper look at this wonderful story, and seeing how it resonates with our lives today. All are welcome to join in!



### Pastor Sabbatical

Pastor continues her two-month sabbatical followed by her 3-week vacation. If you have a need for pastoral care while she is gone, Rev. Tim Carnahan from Faith is covering for her. You

## Worship at TLC in September

Pastor's vacation starts and we celebrate her return on September 21. We return to the lectionary on September 7th.

- Sep 7**      **12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scriptures: Ruth 1:1-22; Luke 6:36-38  
Sermon title: God's Work, Our Hands  
Music Leader: New Band
- Sep 14**     **13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scriptures: Ruth 4:9-17; Luke 1:46-55  
Sermon title: All In This Together  
Music Leader: Leilani Wicklund
- Sep 21**     **14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scriptures: Genesis 39:1-23; Matthew 5:11-12  
Sermon title: Unjustly Imprisoned  
Music Leader: Classic Band
- Our Bishop preaches and Pastor presides. Will she have a slight French accent?*
- Sep 28**     **15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scriptures: Exodus 14:10-14, 21-29; Matthew 21:3-15  
Sermon title: Egyptian Escapes  
Music Leader: New Band

FALL SCHEDULE



## Reconciling Works Annual Meeting and Seminary Film Screening

September 14, 2014 - 2:00 PM

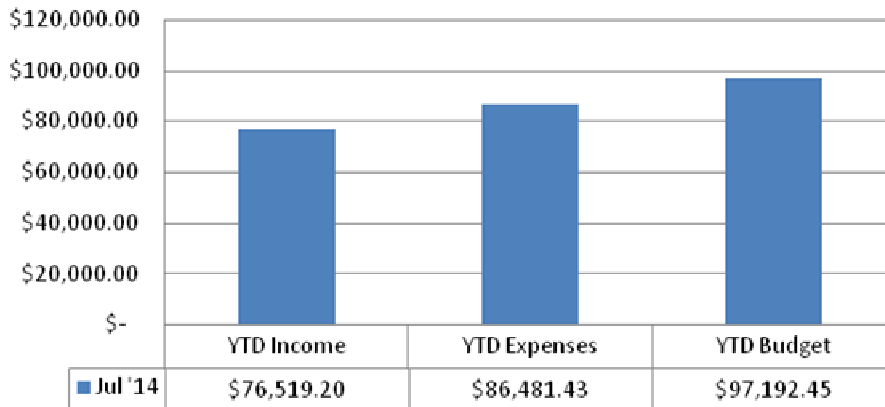
Sawyer Hall, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Meeting: 2:00 PM - Learn about becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation! Volunteer for the fun of Castro Street Fair! Followed by a screening of Lewd and Lascivious with talkback featuring Rev. Chuck Lewis and Ms. Jo Chadwick - learn about Lutherans' 50-year involvement in promoting LGBT civil rights in the Bay Area!

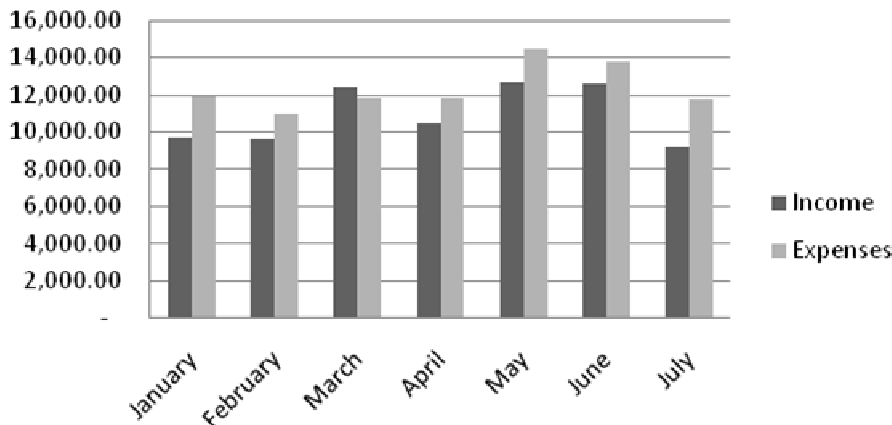
Questions? [rose@stmark-sf.org](mailto:rose@stmark-sf.org)



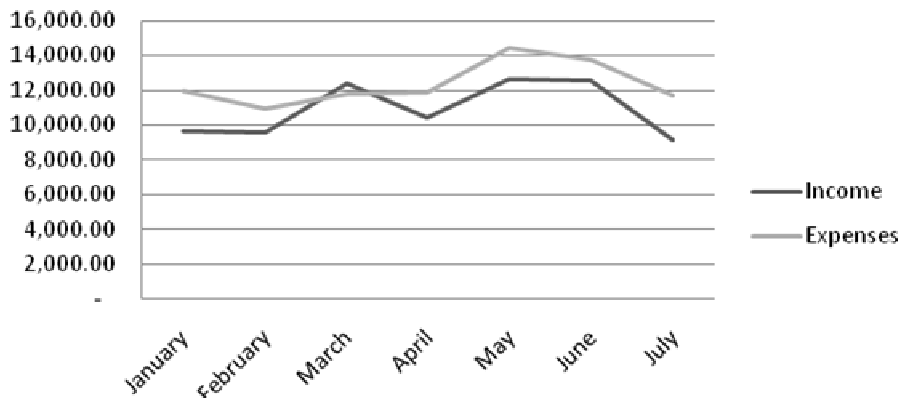
### Jan-Jul 2014



### Income & Expenses 2014



### Jan-Jul Income & Expenses



## Finance Update

As we continue in a deficit mode. July's was \$2,551.40. This brings the deficit for the year to \$10,012.23 which on average is \$1,430.32 a month or \$357.58 per week. This is far better than the projected budget but still cause for concern. The extra gifts received for the mortgage payment while not enough to cover the deficit are a help in keeping us afloat financially. Please continue to keep TLC in your thoughts and prayers.

### Our Gifts to Others

As of August 26th TLCers have given the following amounts of their own money this year to others:

- ELCA Malaria Fund-\$40
- ELCA Disaster Relief Fund-\$25
- ELCA Hunger-\$5
- Fish Easter offering - \$749
- FISH - \$10
- Rwanda School Project - \$569
- Second Mile Giving - \$525

This is in addition to the food items placed in the FISH blue barrel in the Narthex and the Sock It To Me gifts. It is good to share and we are good at it.

TLC treasurer Jean Harrison is in Louisiana for the summer. If you need to reach her call 707-545-6042 her home phone which will be on call forward. You may fax any receipts and requests for a check to her at 985-645-9206 or email to [ecosave@sonic.net](mailto:ecosave@sonic.net). She will mail checks as needed from Louisiana. Please do not put them in her box or office folder as she will not be here to check those spots. Thank you.



## G.T.O. – ON THE ROAD!

Vroom, vroommm, vroommm. Rev up your engines for G.T.O. (Growth Through Outreach). Perhaps you've heard about our new outreach program that promises to be fun, challenging, and educational, just like Driver's Education!

The road map is simple. Jan Loewen and Sandy Koppen have met with you in focus group sessions to find out what other interests we each have. From this information, we will choose members who have ideas for an event at T.L.C. to which they can invite their friends with similar interests.

But wait...these members don't have to do everything themselves. For each event, there will also be a GPS (continuing metaphor warning!) This will be another member who knows how to publicize, coordinate and facilitate the sponsor/member in organizing the event.

And don't forget... A few members will act as Pit Crew (yet another car reference!) during the event to make contact with our guests and show them what a great place TLC is. Here's the Growth part in G.T.O. By setting up events of interest to people outside our congregation, we can bring them inside to experience our special brand of hospitality and welcoming.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more specific details on our first event. In the meantime: FOOT ON THE PEDAL AND EYES ON THE ROAD!



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## Spend Money and Help TLC

Please think of us before you shop online - it's free to you and valuable for us. Sign in to your eScrip account or shop anonymously. We earn contributions automatically.

It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3 :

1. **Enroll** with [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
2. **Click** on the Online Mall logo at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
3. **Shop** at your favorite brand name stores and automatically donate to TLC.

**Make your holiday shopping count for TLC.**

Also, don't forget every time you use Good Search as your search engine online you earn money for TLC. Every little bit helps!



## Pastor's Page

*Continued from page 1*

I came to understand a couple things: One, that at worship I was giving my offerings to GOD. Because it was God's money to begin with, I was offering a portion back to God. At worship, always offer a prayer of blessing before you place your gift in the offering plate (especially if there is no prayer before or after the offering.) This is a sacred moment in our relationship with God. Two, in my charitable giving, I was SHARING what I had been given to share with others because God wants me to spread God's money around. God can do a much better job of getting money to where it's needed when you give it to God to handle through any church or any organization.

The next thing I realized is that I was putting God last on my list. After I paid all my bills and other obligations, only then did I consider what I would give to God through offerings and charities. Again, mistake. And what I'm about to say is the "God's honest truth" as strange as it may seem. I found that when I set aside what I was going to give in offerings FIRST, I always had enough money to pay my bills and obligations. And I was consistent in what I gave each week. AND, if I missed a week at worship, I didn't skip that offering. I gave that missed week the next week along with my offering for that week. You see, IT'S MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD that makes the difference. If I skip a week, I'm not just skipping a week with my offering to the church; I'm skipping a week in my offerings to GOD. God didn't skip that week in giving me an income.



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**...it's important to recognize your relationship with GOD. Whatever your circumstances, you make your decisions based on your relationship with God. And whether your circumstances are difficult or not, always PRAY about your decision as to what to give back to God.**

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There are lots of variations of course (unemployed, sickness etc.) but that's why it's important to recognize your relationship with GOD. Whatever your circumstances, you make your decisions based on your relationship with God. And whether your circumstances are difficult or not, always PRAY about your decision as to what to give back to God. And whether you are making an offering at church or making a charitable gift, always do it happily and offer a prayer of blessing as you are giving it to God to make the very best use of it. God is able to multiply our gifts beyond our imagining.

Lastly, when you are paying bills, if sending them in the mail, put a couple words of blessing on the envelope so that any who come in contact with it will be blessed. Bless the check as you are writing it. Be happy that you have enough money to write it. If you pay bills on line, or if they are automatically taken out of your checking account, find a way that there is a blessing involved; find a way to make sure those bill payments are blessed.

I hope my story has helped in some way for you to build upon your present stewardship and relationship with God.

Peace,

***Pastor Nicholas Brie***

### TLC Executive Committee:

Jordan Eberly, President  
 Barbara Kling, Vice-president  
 Keith Becker, Secretary  
 Jean Harrison, Treasurer  
 Astrid Anderson, Financial Secretary

### Council Liaisons to Committees:

Christian Education	hiatus
Congregation and Community Care	Marilyn Schuler
Finance	Lisa Bartlett
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Cindy Heiller
Property	Keith Becker
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Barbara Kling

### Committee Chairs

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Jordan Eberly
Finance	Jean Harrison
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Jan Thomas
Property	Karen Lehman
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Mary Thompson
Youth (in hiatus)	

## Who's Who In Worship

<b>Altar Guild Coordinator:</b>	Mary Dawson
<b>Greeters Coordinator:</b>	Jan Thomas
<b>Asst. Ministers Coordinator:</b>	Ingrid Feiertag
<b>Offering Teller Coordinator:</b>	Paul Feiertag
<b>Readers Coordinator:</b>	Ingrid Feiertag
<b>Ushers Coordinator:</b>	George Land

## Who's Who In Special Taskforces

<b>Community Garden Coordinator:</b>	Karen Lehman
<b>Landscaping Coordinator:</b>	Jean Harrison
<b>Quilters Coordinator:</b>	Gloria Feiertag
<b>Women's Retreat Coordinator:</b>	Karen Lehman

**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.**


**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 September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship	<b>1</b>  <b>5:30 PM</b> Mutual Ministry	<b>2</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> AA Meeting <b>11:30 AM</b> CCC Meeting
<b>7</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Property Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> AA Meeting
<b>14</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> AA Meeting
<b>21</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> AA Meeting
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Council Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anon	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> AA Meeting