

The

# TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 5 No. 4

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

April 2008

## *Greetings and Peace to You...*

I love this story:

During a time when Christianity was sweeping through the churches in Cameroon, a visiting speaker addressed a packed church building whose crowd overflowed into the churchyard. When the preacher gave the invitation to discipleship, everyone in the sanctuary stood up. Thinking they had misunderstood, he repeated the invitation. Still everyone stood. After a third attempt at correcting his miscommunication, he asked the elder leading the service whether the people had understood him. The elder assured him that they had – all three times. “But, why are they all standing?” the preacher asked. “Surely, there are some church members present!” The elder replied that the believers were all outside in the churchyard. They had put the visitors on the inside. (from Mission: Commitment to God’s Hopeful Vision by Bruce E. Gannaway, Louisville: Presbyterian Church U.S.A, 1992, p. 43)

I just love those kinds of stories, images of lots of folks coming to worship and images of church members ushering visitors to the good seats.

I also love the way that TLC members greet visitors that cross our threshold. Just wanted to tell you that. It’s wonderful that our narthex bustles with conversation and joy as our call to worship begins and that there is genuine sharing of peace and love as we prepare to give our offerings of money and prayers.

Sandi does a good job of greeting visitors who come during the week. Most of the time, she gives them her name first (small gesture, huge significance) then asks how she can help them.

It makes me think about how I greet the stranger. I hardly ever think to give them my name first. I wonder if it’s my darned low self-esteem.

I read somewhere recently (sorry I can’t give you the source), that Christ calls us to “Love our neighbor as we love ourselves,” and that if we don’t love ourselves, it will reflect poorly on how well we will love our neighbor. The better we love and respect ourselves, the better we will love and respect our neighbor and the stranger too!

Come to think of it, most of my neighbors are strangers. Especially the ones on the west side of my house in Lodi who hacked up my lemon tree last year without asking and who, this year, built a fence smack up against the tree. I’m having a hard time with that, can you tell? I’d better work on this.

What a gift! Just watchin’ my congregation greet the strangers (some of whom are angels), I learnin’ ways to love better, to be Christ better.

Thanks, TLC.

*Love,*

*Pastor Jean*

# TLC Women's News



If you are interested in participating in a **Women's Group** here at TLC, come to church on Saturday, April 5 at 2:00. We'll talk about the kind of group you want to have, how often you'd like to meet, what sorts of activities you'd like to attend, how structured you'd like the group to be, and more! Bring your ideas and be ready to brainstorm!

The next **Annual TLC Women's Retreat** is scheduled for November 21-23 at Bishop's Ranch, and in order to hold our spot, they need us to send our deposit as soon as possible. If you would like to attend, please reserve your space now by submitting your deposit of just \$41.00. Make your check payable to TLC with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line and turn it in to Karen Lehman as soon as possible! There is overnight space for just 21, so you are urged to reserve as early as possible! Your deposit may be mailed to Karen, put in her church mailbox, or handed directly to her. Questions? See, call, or email [momvoice@comcast.net](mailto:momvoice@comcast.net)

The next **Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study** will be Monday, April 21 at 7:00 at church.

## Scripture Readings for April 2008

**April 6**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Road to Emmaus**  
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35



**April 13**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Christ the Good Shepherd**  
Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

**April 20**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Many Resting Places**  
Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

**April 27**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Christ Does Not Leave Us Orphaned**  
Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:7-18  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

"I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it."  
Pablo Picasso

"Diamonds are nothing more than chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs."  
Malcolm Forbes

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Getting to Know...

### Bobbi Adams

Soon, both Bobbi and Pastor Jean will be celebrating anniversaries. For Jean it will be one year since becoming Pastor at TLC. For Bobbi it will be one year since her arrival at TLC. Bobbi's first Sunday was also the first service conducted by Pastor Jean.

Bobbi had been going to the Baptist Church in Graton. Having been baptized and raised Lutheran by her parents, she was looking around. She saw our listing in the newspaper and liked what she saw in person. She was impressed by the openness of TLC and the respect shown to all people regardless of their background.

A native Ohioan, Bobbi was born in Zanesville and raised in Olmsted Falls, south of Cleveland. After graduation she attended Ohio State and graduated with a B.A. and M.A. in Education. She taught Health Education at Valley Forge High School in Parma, OH. She moved to California in 1964.

She taught Peace Corps volunteers health, hygiene, sanitation and community outreach at UC Davis. She received a scholarship to attend UC Berkeley and received an MA in Public Health Administration. She worked at Sacramento and Sonoma County Public Health Departments for 10 years. Her own health became an issue in 1998. She is a breast cancer survivor and is happy to mentor anyone going through the process.

In 1979 she opened her own maintenance business. With the help of a devoted staff she held numerous city and county contracts as well as private and commercial shopping centers and business and medical facilities throughout Sonoma County. The business was sold in December, 2007. She stays on in an advisory capacity only.

With her friend, Ilene Friend they run Adams and Friend Farm – a member of Sonoma County Farm Trails. They sell fresh eggs, fresh fruit in season, and clean feather and down pillows as well as down comforters.

They are located at 3022 Trenton Road – the site of the Old Trenton General store, once considered the town of Trenton. The front rooms of the store contain the Pillow shop room and a craft room. The craft room is a scene of wonder and amazement. Floor to ceiling, the room and walls are replete with weaving looms, spinning wheels, spools of yarn, yarn samples, animal hides, and other assorted this and that. She sets up weaving patterns with a computer loom and spins fleece from her own Jacob sheep. Indian and Andean weaving is her specialty. Their private residence is located behind the store and is filled with hand-woven rugs.

At TLC, Bobbi contributes Dutch Crunch bread for Communion. She participates in set-up and refreshments. She recently helped with the cleaning of church chairs.

One of her biggest thrills came last year when she and Ilene drove their RV back to Ohio for her 50 Year High School Reunion. Her class had 69 grads and all but 5 were there. They went through all 12 grades together. It was a perfect example of love for one another and long-lasting friendships.

*George Land*

#### **Please add the following new members to your TLC directory:**

Lorentz and Jean Flak 545-1467  
1950 Neotomas Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
email: LJMJFlak@pacbell.net

Bob and Joan Hax 838-2457  
40 Darcy Drive  
Santa Rosa 95403  
email: BOJD2@aol.com

Clint Berg  
2375 Range Ave #155  
Santa Rosa 95403

Joshiwa Sanders and Shannon Loberg  
Kain Vandenhof  
5365 Marigold Lane  
Santa Rosa 95403

## **Awareness-Trial-Commitment: What does this mean? (Part 3: Focus on Commitment)**

In this 4-part series, we're considering each element, Awareness, Trial, and Commitment, as it applies to TLC's "outreach" activities—the "big picture" things we do to reach out to those in the greater community who don't yet know about Thanksgiving Lutheran—and we are also taking a look at how each element applies "internally," to *everything* we do or plan at TLC. Our goal? To make Awareness-Trial-Commitment thinking a way of life at TLC! Last month we looked at the Trial experience; this month, our focus is on **Commitment**.

**"Commitment" happens when new people who "try" TLC find opportunities here that deepen, strengthen, and/or help them live out their faith. Commitment activities are spiritually enriching for existing members as well as those new to the congregation.** Without opportunities for Commitment, successful Awareness and Trial activities are wasted! Some examples of Commitment opportunities at TLC are:

- Adult forum and Sunday School offerings
- Quilting Group
- Women's Retreat
- Monthly Women's Bible Study
- Involvement with the Community Garden—taking on a garden plot or serving on the Community Garden board.
- Participation on one of TLC's ministry teams or committees

Committees and others who plan activities at TLC should think about commitment opportunities *within* their groups as well—after someone has decided that their gifts are leading them to help with a committee activity or they decide to try joining a group, will they continue to find meaningful activities and regularly held meetings that will encourage them to continue their commitment and participation? Will they be encouraged and supported for their contributions of time, talent, and ideas?

If you are thinking about a program or ministry idea, ask yourself (or your committee) these questions to see if it might be a **COMMITMENT** opportunity:

- Will this activity offer newcomers a way to "plug in" to the congregation and help them strengthen, deepen, or live out their faith and their relationship with God? How will this activity enrich participants' faith?
- After someone has helped with this activity or joined my group for the first time, will they have further opportunities to continue their commitment? Can we make this activity so enjoyable and/or rewarding that people will want to commit further?

Next month: Bringing it all together...planning for Balance.

## **Apples to Apples**

The next Prime Timers (Nifty Fifties Plus) meeting will be Thursday, April 24. Meet at the Church at 6 PM for another fantastic pot-luck dinner as only the Prime Timers can create. Then sound General Quarters and man the tables for a wild evening of APPLES TO APPLES, the award-winning party game that will have you rolling in the aisles! Each round is filled with surprising and outrageous comparisons from a wide range of people, places, and events.

Marilyn Schuler has played this before and she offers this testimonial: "I haven't had so much fun since the night I first met Stan at a dance in Kennewick, WA!"

*Diane Land*

# Easy Fundraising YOU Can Do!

## E Scrip

Use the ATM or credit card you've registered with EScrip and TLC receives a portion of your purchase.

Safeway (register your savings card) – up to 4%

Fircrest Market in Sebastopol – up to 3%

Office Max – 2%

Baja Fresh – 5%

SF Chronicle (new subscriptions and conversion to EZ Pay) 10%

Pacific Dental Group 5%

Pep Boys 4%

Carrows 3%

Macy's 1%

Whole Foods – up to 4%

Petaluma Market – up to 3%

Round Table Pizza – up to 6%

Coco's Bakery Restaurant 3%

Big O Tires 2%

Plus many online shopping places like Land's End and Eddie Bauer. Get complete lists at [EScrip.com](http://EScrip.com) – and if you have any questions, be sure and talk to Lisa!

## Good Search.com

What if Thanksgiving Lutheran Church earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support TLC? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting TLC.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Thanksgiving Lutheran Church as the charity you want to support. We're already registered, just type it in the space provided – you'll see it when you get there. It's SO EASY!!! You can make Good Search your homepage, or add it as a bookmark to your toolbar to help you remember to use it. So far we've raised just \$95.82 – imagine what will come our way for this year's efforts if we all get diligent about using GoodSearch on every first search query, and Good Shop.com when we want to shop online!

## How About a Book Group?

Have you heard about Eckhart Tolle's latest work, [A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose](#)? It's the Oprah Winfrey's book of the month, plus she and Tolle are giving a web-course on the book and over 700,000 people are signed up for the course!

If you are interested in being in a group to read and discuss the book together, please talk to Pastor Jean. She is considering starting such a group on Monday evenings in April at Mahalo Manor.

Participants will be expected to obtain their own copy of the book and to do specific reading assignments in between the meetings.

# “O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you.”

## PSALM 63:1

Your quiet time with God

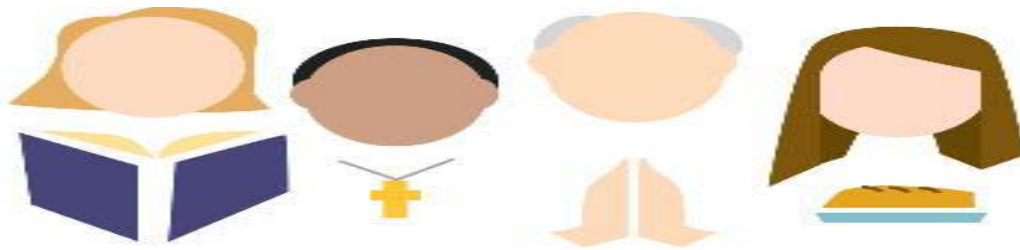
You say you're not getting much out of your quiet time? Rick Warren refers to this as “the battle of the blahs”. He writes: “You can never judge your quiet time by your emotions. Emotions may lie, feelings may come and go. If you only have a quiet time when you ‘feel’ like it, the devil will make sure you never feel like it. Some days will seem bland. On other days you’ll think heaven has opened up to you. So don’t expect a glorious ‘experience’ every morning. Not having goose-bumps doesn’t mean God is not present”. Dry spells can be caused by: (a) Disobedience. God won’t bless you beyond your last act of disobedience. And He won’t reveal step two until you’ve taken step one. (b) Being in a hurry. Samuel Chadwick said, “Hurry is the death of prayer”. So go for quality and content, not mileage! (c) Being in a rut. When your quiet time becomes a ritual instead of a relationship, it dies. So be flexible; change your routine, keep it interesting – for you and the Lord. (d) Not sharing your insights with others. When we give out, we get back more in return. Share your quiet-time thoughts with others and see what happens. If you’re still not getting anything out of it, tell God about it. It takes time to develop a relationship. You must learn to see God in all kinds of circumstances in order to get to know Him well. So don’t give up. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Gal 6:9)

Blessings on this day, may I make it special in some way.

Blessings on all people, may I see the goodness in everyone.

Blessings on nature, may I notice its beauty and wonder.

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



## Liturgical Deacons Needed

### One Body, Many Parts

**Thank you** to everyone who takes part in shaping the wonderful worship experience we get to have here at Thanksgiving! Reading the lessons, bringing the flowers, setting and cleaning up the communion, playing music, decorating the worship space, straightening up the chairs, planning the actual worship – these and other tasks all make worship complete. One of the elements this body is short on is Liturgical Deacons. An LD assists with worship – if there is a Psalm, the LD may read or sing the leader parts. The LD reads the prayers of the people, assists with communion, reads the post-communion prayer, and the dismissal. Sometimes the LD finds it necessary to help Pastor Jean straighten her stole!

**A Liturgical Deacon can be any confirmed member of the church.**

If you are interested, or are feeling called to assist with worship, please talk to Pastor Jean as soon as possible.

## Married in God's Sight

The Reverend Doctor Jane Adams Spahr is facing a trial at the Presbyterian Church USA headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky this month. She was tried and acquitted last year in the local Presbytery of the Redwoods. Her opponents, who are opposed to full inclusion of LGBT people in the life and ministry of the church, have appealed this case all the way to the "supreme court" of the church even though Janie has reached age 65 and has officially retired. She was charged with officiating at the marriages of two same-gender couples. (The PCUSA allows pastors to officiate at these "unions" if the word "marriage" is not used. Janie asked the couples what word they wanted to use. These two couples chose to be married.) She was acquitted because she and her lawyers convinced all but one of the jury members that the "scruples" clause in the Presbyterian Church's constitution allows a pastor to follow the guidance of informed conscience when doctrine is not violated. Since Janie's trial a judicial ruling has been issued that removes the "scruples" clause from being used as a defense. Janie's family will be traveling to Kentucky to surround her with support.

Janie was a pastor in San Rafael, married and mother of two sons, when she realized and admitted to her husband Jim and their boys that she was lesbian. They divorced, but she remains Jim's "wife emeriti" and the mother of the boys. The church fired her, but she found a position in which she could serve. She started the gay and lesbian youth support group in Marin County—Spectrum. Through an organization called That All May Freely Serve, she became the prophetic voice of acceptance and full inclusion for gays and lesbians in the PCUSA. The Downtown Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, called her as Lesbian Evangelist to go everywhere across the USA to work for change and offer hope to LGBT Presbyterians. As part of that calling she was invited to be a guest speaker at a Lutherans Concerned/North America assembly in Baltimore.

We at TLC are working for the same kind of changes. These justice issues are our issues. It is a justice issue that Janie has to defend herself again. It costs tens of thousands of dollars to go through a church trial. I have not kept track of the number of same-gender marriages I have officiated at. I knew the couples and approved of their commitment to each other. I had no doubt that even though the State of California did not recognize their marriages; they were married in God's sight. I dressed in all my clergy vestments and gave my blessings and pronounced God's blessing on the couples and asked parents, families and friends to honor their commitment and support them as a married couple. I did not ask permission from anyone. I did it because it was a justice issue.

This month the ELCA released the *Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality*. This was called for at the Churchwide Assembly in 2001 when Anita Hill, a partnered lesbian, was called to be Pastor of St. Paul/Reformation Lutheran Church. Rather than approve her for ordination, the Churchwide Assembly called for a study that will take eight years. And it does not recommend one way or the other on the issue of partnered gay clergy or on the blessing of same-gender relationships. Every ELCA congregation is, however, invited to study the document and make recommendations. It will be discussed at our Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly this month. You will be hearing more about it.

*Rev. Paul Feiertag, ret.*

### **Prime Real Estate!**

How about those spiffy new "visitor" spaces in the TLC parking lot?  
Please be sure and save those for first-time worshippers!  
It's just another part of good hospitality at TLC!



## TLC Community Garden News

The TLC Community Garden Project has been busy. There were two consecutive Saturday workdays – on March 15 the south section of the garden got weed whacked with two weed-whackers running! Some other areas got the treatment, too – the south and west sides of the parking lot. While the whackers whacked, the rest of us did some hand weeding along the north side of the parking lot in the landscaped area. We also met with Shannon, an irrigation expert, who is putting together a list of materials for the system that will be managing the garden.

On Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> after some more weed whacking with the rented whacker (a free day since we rented it on the Saturday), we were on our way home and spotted a little treasure in a yard. The sign said, “Free – Runs” – how could we resist? We turned around and ended up spending the next hour getting to know a very nice family – The Parrs – who just happen to attend Bethlehem Lutheran, across town from TLC, and the little tractor they were giving away. Dallas Parr taught Jim how to run the little guy and use the rototiller(!) attachment on the back. They warned us that it would need a new starter before long, so we weren’t too surprised when we went to load it on the trailer to take it home – and it wouldn’t start! Oh well – the starter is on order and we’ll be picking it up after the 1<sup>st</sup> of April – and the garden has a tractor!

On The 22<sup>nd</sup>, we used two pickup trucks and spent most of the time moving mulch to make north/south paths on either side of the plot being shared by Phina and TLC, and touching up the east end of the main east/west pathway.

The next two tasks are to make a trench about the width of a shovel and 12”-18” deep for the pipes that will carry the water for the irrigation system, and then to rototill the south section of the garden area. We’ll be sure and let you know when the next workdays are! Even if you don’t plan to garden, your help is definitely needed to develop the garden! Coming to one workday doesn’t mean you’ve committed to come to every workday!

TLC as a whole is still in need of a garden shed – a *secure* place to keep the lawnmower (it’s being transported back and forth for each mowing), tools, supplies, and the little tractor! If you have any resources in this direction, please let it be known!

*Karen Lehman*

**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](mailto:tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net)**

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

### Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, April 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](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 by Sunday, April 20.