

TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 8 No. 4

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

April 2011

Pastor's Page

Here's a checklist for some Spring Cleaning of the Soul! You don't need broom and dust mop, but faith, prayer, and a Bible are worthy tools.

30 Things that are Okay to Throw Away

1. The times you messed up. Throw away the regret and be open to seeing what you learned.
2. Pieties you don't want to pass on anymore. Give thanks for how they helped in the past.
3. Fear of sinning. You have forgiveness in Christ Jesus.
4. Waiting for the perfect moment. Now is the ONLY moment.
5. Waiting until you are perfect. Accept and give thanks for the perfect you of today.
6. Doing the same thing and expecting different results. Throw at least one new thing into the gears and observe the difference.
7. The belief that the best days are behind you. Don't dis now.
8. Thinking you have to be right. Enjoy the adventure of a whole different right.
9. Being afraid to say "No." If you really can't, you won't give your best.

Continued on page 3



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Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Friday, April 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. Submissions may be edited for space.

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

On the web: www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

April hours for our administrative assistant

The office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-12:30; and Friday from 11-2



Blessings to these TLCers who celebrate birthdays in April:

Sharon Kaye (Fruehling)	
Boschen	4/1
Margrit Buchmann	4/3
Katarene McPherson	4/14
Greg Bartlett	4/15
Spencer Flanagan	4/17
Lorraine Larson	4/20
Lola Bumahl	4/27

TLC Highlights for April ~ Holy Week 2011

Palm/Passion Sunday – Sunday, April 17, 9:30 AM worship

With palms, proclamation, pomp, procession, and penultimate passion, we remember and celebrate the path Jesus walked to the cross. During Lent, we have well prepared our hearts to once again ponder this sacred story of love and redemption. This year, we hear Matthew's account. Come, let us adore Him.

Maundy Thursday – Worship at 7:00 PM

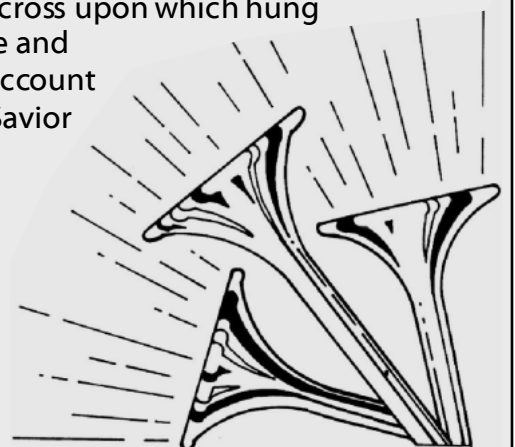
This Thursday, you are there, at the table with Jesus. Take and eat, as Jesus, Lamb of God, gives you a new meaning to the Passover tradition. Hear and receive, as Jesus, Son of God, gives you a new commandment to fulfill the divine Law for eternal living.

Good Friday – Worship at 7:00 PM

Originally called God's Friday, this most holy day lifts high the cross upon which hung the One sent to show us God's heart, God's love, Jesus Christ. Come and worship. In worship, we offer The Bidding Prayers, we hear John's account of Jesus' passion, and we Adore the Cross on which was hung the Savior of the World.

The Day of Resurrection! Earth Tell It Out Abroad!

The tomb is empty! The Cross is Glorified! Christ has risen! Join with all the faithful for a joy-filled worship of victorious scriptures, jubilant Easter hymns, and unifying Eucharist. Following worship, we continue the celebration with Brunch on the Patio, an Easter Egg Hunt, and a silent art auction to support Lutheran World Hunger. This is our Faith Community in feasting! Worship starts at 9:30 AM.



Pastor's Page

Continued from page 1

10. Never saying "Yes." Experience the rush.
11. Feeling you are the only one who feels this way. Misery loves company.
12. Wondering who will roll the stone away. Go and see.
13. The need to know how it will all turn out. Stop along the way and picnic.
14. Derision of church divisions. Angels stir waters.
15. Waiting for someone else to do it. Jump in and help them.
16. Beliefs you've outgrown. Try on a brand new doubt.
17. Fear that you don't have enough money. There's never enough money and plenty of alternatives.
18. Regret over friendships that have ended. Give thanks that you had them while you did.
19. Being frustrated that others don't participate. Love the ones you're with.
20. Wishing the church would be what it was. Would you go out in public wearing something that doesn't fit anymore?
21. Coveting what other congregations have and do. See what Spirit is doing here and now.
22. Waiting for Pastor to read your mind. She has a hard enough time in her own.
23. Trying to keep traditions that don't work anymore. Create space and energy for new ones to hold spiritual meaning.
24. Jumping to negative conclusions. Stop. Turn around. Look again.
25. Planning to read your Bible. This is a hard one. What do you need to do it?
26. Being bored. Wake up to the adventure of loving one unlovable person you know.
27. Resenting panhandlers. Look them in the eye; acknowledge them; just say, "Hello."
28. Not knowing the names of everyone you worship with. Acknowledge them; just say "Hello."
29. Not praying with those you live with. Try some new prayer forms. Enjoy your faith together.
30. Feeling unworthy. You are deceiving yourself if you think that Christ dying and rising out of love for you isn't enough and that the Holy Gospel doesn't hold spiritual truths for you.

*Love,
Pastor Jean*

Midweek in Lent – If You Were There...

Come Thursdays, starting at 6:30 PM with homemade soup, bread, and dessert. Afterward, we gather in the sanctuary for worship spotlighting various players in Christ's Passion.

April 7 ... And Were Pontius Pilate

April 14 ... And Were the Roman Soldier



Prayer Ventures

April 2011

1 Pray for local, state, and federal elected officials, as they consider budget decisions that will affect our communities and all of God's people.

2 World Autism Awareness Day

Pray for all who live with autism spectrum disorders and celebrate their unique talents and skills. Pray for those who diagnose, treat, advocate and care for those living with autism.

3 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lord of the nations, we pray for the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines as they struggle with religious and political diversity. Grant that they may receive your peace and a sense of the richness of life that comes through your abundant gifts.

4 Pray for the participants in the Leadership Conference at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago April 4–5 as they reflect on the theme, "Experiencing God through Preaching and Worship."

5 Pray for the Rev. Justin and Kari Eller, who serve in La Paz, Bolivia. They work in the Office of Mission in the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana (Bolivian Lutheran Church).

6 Pray for the Lutheran Summer Music Program and the young people who are applying to participate in this four-week music program that focuses on community, faith and Lutheran musical heritage.

7 World Health Day

Pray for those who research antimicrobial resistance and its global spread that threatens the continued effectiveness of many medicines used to treat the sick.

8 Pray for the ELCA Church Council as they meet April 8–11 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago.

9 Pray for Nancy Stevenson, an English teacher at Makumira University College of Tumaini University, the senior seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and for the educational ministry of the church in Tanzania.

10 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Blessed God, in the midst of serious political and economic challenges in the region, we pray for the people of Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan, that your abundant grace may be showered upon them.

11 Pray for the Lutheran AIDS Network Biennial Conference, which meets at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, April 11–12.

12 Pray for missionaries serving as English teachers as part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church: Douglas Foster, John Hoyle, Susan Wironen, Dana Dutcher and Carolyn Stypka.

13 Pray for the ELCA public policy directors and the advocacy ministry shared by ELCA members as they speak out for families struggling in tough economic times, for internationally recognized human rights and for the good stewardship of God's creation.

14 Pray for Kristopher and Rebecca Hartwig. Kristopher serves with the Palliative Health Care program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania exploring hospice care with people living with HIV and AIDS. Rebecca is involved in a music and nursing ministry.

15 Pray for the Rev. Phillip Baker, ELCA regional representative for theological education and church relations in Asia, as he works with institutions and churches throughout Asia.

16 Pray for those who grieve because of war or natural disasters throughout the world.

17 Sunday of the Passion
God of mercy, send the gentle rains upon the lands of Djibouti and Somalia. May the fields bear fruit and the people be renewed in the midst of their constant living with drought and hunger.

18 Pray for the ministry of the Leadership Program for Musicians and all church musicians during this week of many worship services.

19 Pray for displaced people and refugees so that they may receive what they need: shelter, food, clothing, blankets, education and security.

20 Give thanks for the Rev. Richard Young's ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. He has just returned from service in a parish of four congregations where, as a medical doctor, he coordinated and developed health programs for the church in Guyana.

21 Pray for Linnae Stole who teaches English at the Lutheran High School in Cieszyn, Poland. Bless her continued ministry as she completes her first year of service.

22 Pray for ELCA Global Mission volunteer Dana Olson who serves as a tutor at Springboard for Children in London, a faith-based organization committed to serving at-risk children in the United Kingdom.

23 Pray for those who must adapt to an increasingly unpredictable environment and for those who speak out and educate about climate change.

24 Resurrection of our Lord
God of hope, we praise you for the witness of the growing churches in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Continue to strengthen and comfort these churches as they reach out with compassion to their neighbors.

25 World Malaria Day
Give thanks for the progress in controlling and treating malaria throughout the world. Pray for continued progress in preventing and treating the disease and for greater access to health care for those at risk.

26 Pray for Anna Rudberg, intern pastor in Slovakia, as she assists the Bratislava International Church and teaches religion in the local high school.

27 Pray for the Rev. Tim and Mari McKenzie who serve with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Tim teaches church history at the Japan Lutheran College and Seminary and Mari assists with orientation for new ELCA personnel who teach English at Lutheran schools in Japan.

28 Pray for the Alaska Synod of the ELCA as they meet in assembly April 28–30.






29 Pray for the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northeastern Minnesota, and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synods of the ELCA as they meet in assembly April 29–May 1.

30 Pray for the participants of the 2011 Book of Faith Jubilee: Inspiring Everyday People to Engage the Bible as they meet at Luther Seminary, April 29–May 1.

Prayer petitions for Sundays follow the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and can be incorporated into the prayers at weekly worship. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

April 2011 at Thanksgiving Lutheran



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	28 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anon	29 1:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon	30 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	31 6:30 PM Soup and Lenten Service	1 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	2 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon 11:00 AM CCC
3 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	4 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anon	5 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship Committee	6 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	7 6:30 PM Soup and Lenten Service	8 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	9  10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon 12:00 PM Work Day
10 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	11 11:00 AM Outreach Meeting 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anon	12 1:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters Meeting 4:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg 6:30 PM Property Meeting	13 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	14 10:00 AM Gateway Conference Clergy 6:30 PM Soup and Lenten Service	15 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	16 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon 10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting
17  9:30 AM Palm Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	18 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anon	19 1:00 PM Bible Study	20 6:00 PM Council 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	21 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday 	22  7:00 PM Good Friday	23 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon
24  9:30 AM Easter Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	25 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anon	26 1:00 PM Bible Study	27 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	28 12:00 PM HHR Trip to Hopland	29 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro	30 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon 7:00 PM Casa del al Farerro

TLC Group News

Christian Education News

In April Christ Sunday is the third not the fourth Sunday due to Easter. On April 17th Jordan Eberly leads the adults through the Passion Labyrinth while the young people dye Easter eggs for an Adult Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. No one will want to miss these events. See you there.

Upcoming Adult Forum topics include an Update on the Rwanda School Project, Friendship and the Lord's Prayer. Youth will stay busy painting patriotic rocks for the July 3rd Joint Worship Service and Picnic at Faith Lutheran and practicing Bible skit presentations for the summer months.

Generosity Abounds at TLC

As of March 24th \$264 has been given to the Rwanda School Project this year and \$120 has been given to Second Mile Giving. The Blue Barrel in the narthex continues to receive food offerings. The wheelbarrow in the church is half full of cans of soup and Lenten offerings pour in. The cans of soup will go to FISH as do the Blue Barrel offerings. The Lenten offerings are designated for our general fund. The Buck-A-Chick silent art auction on Easter is for ELCA World Hunger Relief. The Easter offering will go to FISH.



Council Highlights

At February and March Council meetings members reviewed and discussed all Committee minutes and the Financial reports. Work continues on revising the Constitution.

The annual audit was accepted. Thank you Kathy Alexander, Lucy Arpi and Lisa Bartlett for doing a great job. The Quilting Group was granted permission to hold a quilt raffle and choose the recipient of the proceeds. A reminder letter has gone out to all groups using our facilities on the proper care and use of TLC. The Council members stay busy seeing to the business of TLC. All congregation members are welcome to attend any Council meeting. The April meeting is the 27th at 6:30 pm.

Men's Group

Men's group and the monthly potlucks are on hiatus until after Easter. See you at Lenten Soup Suppers!

Church Work Day

There will be a church-wide work day on April 9th from 12noon to 2pm. Come help make TLC shine!

Evangelism and Outreach

A dozen people participated in a wonderful Day of prayer and meditation on Saturday, March 26, at TLC. Thanks to Jan Thomas who coordinated and hosted the event.

My Faith Works recommences in May, and Gloria Feiertag is first up to share her Spiritual story. If you would like to share yours, talk to Jim Lehman.

From Our Quilters

On Sunday, April 10, we will dedicate to God another batch of quilts and then send them into the community to bring the warmth of Christ's love to neighbors in need.

Keep our Prayer Quilt Ministry in mind. If you know of someone who needs healing prayers, talk to Diane Land.

Easter Lilies: Please sign up on the kiosk to donate an Easter Lily for Easter Sunday. Bring them to Church on or before April 17th. Thank you, The Altar Guild

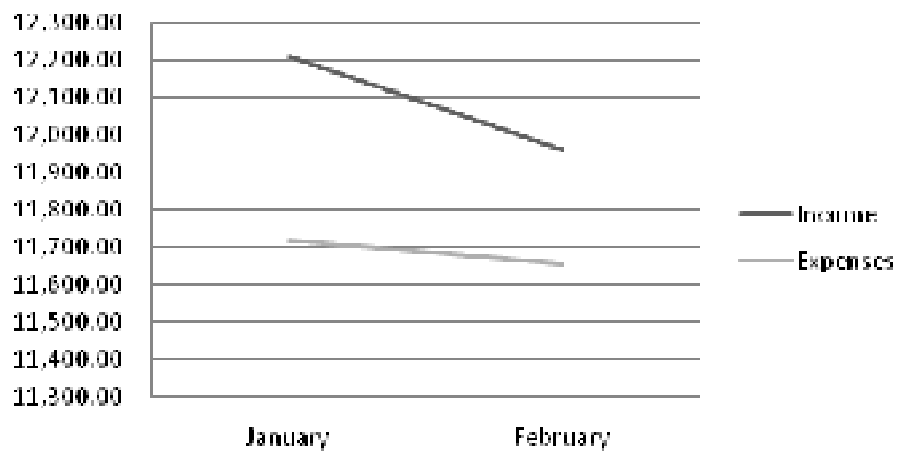




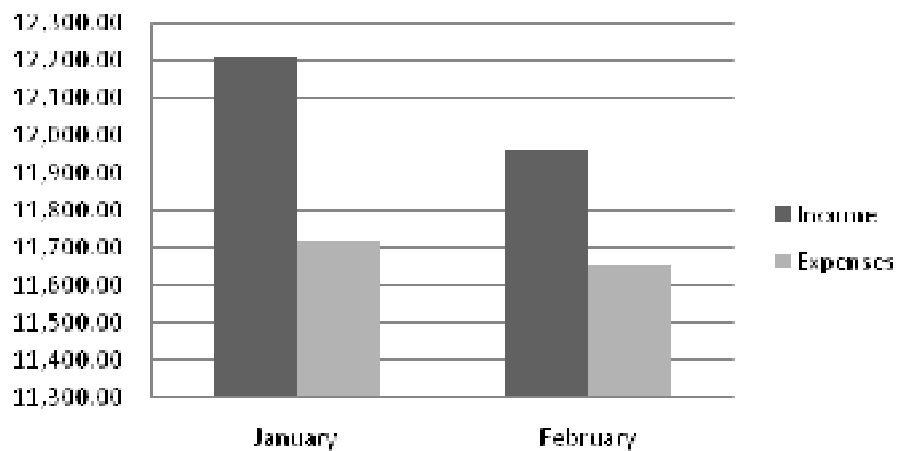
FINANCE REPORT

February continued the trend of being in the black so to speak. We were \$395.94 ahead of the budget. Good job. Please keep in mind though that we adopted a deficit budget this year. Each month there is an average deficit figure of \$1,661.29. In January we were \$489.27 ahead of the budget and in February we were \$395.94 ahead of the budget. That is nice but neither month was \$1,661.29 ahead. By action of the Council the Lenten offerings will go towards the general fund. We are still dipping into savings each month. Please keep this situation in your prayers and thoughts.

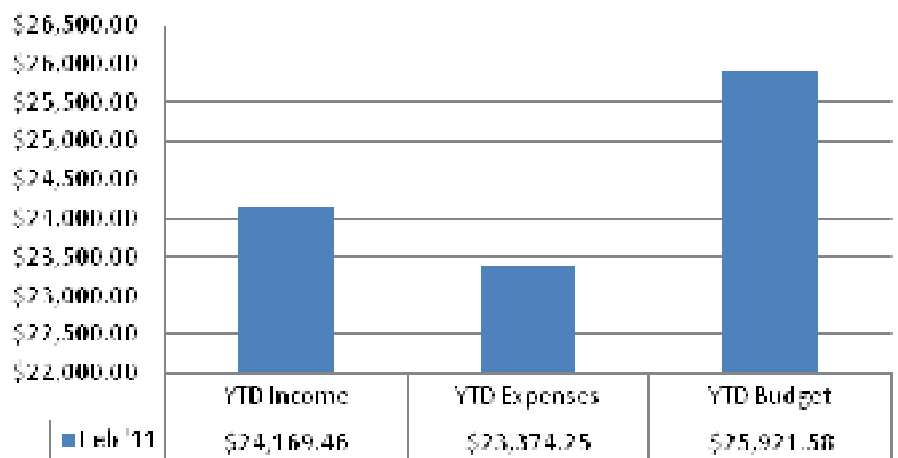
Jan-Feb Income & Expenses



February 2011 Income & Expenses



February 2011



Remembering a Hero

by Paul Feiertag

The Rev. Dr. Peter John Gomes died on February 28 at age 68 in Boston from complications of a stroke. He became a hero to the gay community when in 1991 antigay articles printed in a Harvard University student periodical led to harassment of gay and lesbian students. Angered by the homophobia, a crowd of students, faculty and administrators gathered in support of the gay students and were totally overwhelmed when one of their own esteemed professors put his reputation and career on the line with the words: "I am a Christian who happens as well to be gay." Of course the calls for his resignation were ignored. In a later interview, he shared with the world: "I now have an unambiguous vocation--a mission--to address the religious causes and roots of homophobia. I will devote the rest of my life to addressing the 'religious case' against gays."

Peter Gomes' father had emigrated from an island off Africa's west coast and was a cranberry bog worker. His mother was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, so Peter grew up with books, music, and religion. He was only 12 when he started preaching at his American Baptist Church. His higher education began at Bates College, a liberal arts institution in Maine that was founded in 1855 by abolitionists. Yes, he also happened to be Black. He went to Harvard to earn his Divinity Degree and was ordained in 1968. After teaching for two years, Rev. Gomes returned to Harvard as the Pastor of the non-denominational Memorial Church on the campus and professor of Christian morals on the faculty.

The following quotes influenced me greatly:

"Religious fundamentalism is dangerous because it cannot accept ambiguity and diversity and is therefore inherently intolerant," he declared in an Op-Ed article in *The New York Times* in 1992. "Such intolerance, in the name of virtue, is ruthless and uses political power to destroy what it cannot convert."

"The Bible alone is the most dangerous thing I can think of," he told *The Los Angeles Times*. "You need an ongoing context and a community of interpretation to keep the Bible current and to keep yourself honest. Forget the thought that the Bible is an absolute pronouncement."

But Mr. Gomes also defended the Bible in *The Seattle Gay News* in 1996. Critics on the left called it corrupt because passages had been used to oppress people. "The Bible isn't a single book, it isn't a single historical or philosophical or theological treatise," he told "It has 66 books in it. It is a library."

I took his *The Good Book* off my shelf and reread parts of it. He wrote it just after the so-called Defense of Marriage Act was adopted. His remarks are especially timely this month when our President stated it is unconstitutional and our California senators are pushing a bill to repeal DOMA. Just about at the center of the book he writes from his personal knowledge of racism that fear is at the center of antigay activity, too: ". . . religion--particularly the Protestant evangelical kind that had nourished me--was the moral fig leaf that covered naked prejudice." Thank you, Peter John Gomes. We have seen Jesus in your great legacy.

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.

Brush Up on Faith Basics

Pastor Jean will begin offering this class for anyone who is interested. It's a class for our new members. It's an adult confirmation class. It's a great brush up if it's been a while since you've looked at the basics of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. It's a good way to deepen relationships with others in the class.

The first 45-minute session will be on Sunday, May 8, at 8:00 a.m.. The day and time of subsequent sessions will be determined by members taking the class. If this sounds like something you need, please talk to Pastor or come to the first class.

- SESSION 1 Basic Concept of Means of Grace
- SESSION 2 The Bible as Means of Grace
- SESSION 3 Jesus as Means of Grace
- SESSION 4 The Shape of Jesus' Teachings
- SESSION 5 Baptism and Spiritual Gifts
- SESSION 6 Holy Communion
- SESSION 7 The Reformation, Martin Luther, the ELCA, etc., etc.
- SESSION 8 Disciplines of Faith for Daily Living
- SESSION 9 Thanksgiving Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa, California
- SESSION 10 The Great Commission of Christ and Me



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TLC Executive Committee:

Jean Flak, President
Keith Becker, Vice-president
Mark Koppen, Secretary
Jean Harrison, Treasurer

Council Liaisons to Committees:

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Karen Lehman
Finance	Astrid Anderson
Outreach and Evangelism	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Property	Keith Becker
Stewardship	Jean Flak
Worship and Music	Mark Koppen
Youth (in hiatus)	

Committee Chairs

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Marilyn Schuler
Finance	Jean Harrison
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Jim Lehman
Property	Jan Loewen
Stewardship	Jean Flak
Worship and Music	Mary Thompson
Youth (in hiatus)	

Who's Who In Worship

Altar Guild Coordinator:

Diane Land

Greeters Coordinator:

Jan Thomas

Asst. Ministers Coordinator:

Ingrid Feiertag

Musicians Coordinator:

Mark Koppen

Offering Teller Coordinator:

Paul Feiertag

Readers Coordinator:

Ingrid Feiertag

Ushers Coordinator:

George Land

Who's Who In Special Taskforces

Community Garden Coordinator:

Karen Lehman

Landscaping Coordinator:

Jean Harrison

Quilters Coordinator:

Lorraine Larson

Sanctuary Task Force Coordinators:

Diane Land and Jan Thomas

Women's Groups Coordinator:

Karen Lehman

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.

"April hath put a spirit of
youth in everything."
w.m. shakespeare



Thanksgiving Lutheran Church
1225 Fulton Road
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