

The

TLC Trumpet



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

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www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

August 2007

A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a “Healthy Start!”

On Sunday, July 21, Pastor Jean, the congregational Council (including our Treasurer), and the Call Committee spent ALL DAY in retreat with Healthy Start facilitator Lyle Beckman at Mahalo Manor! Our goals for participating in the Healthy Start program: To give Pastor Jean (and each other!) a chance to get to know one another a little better and establish good communication patterns, to examine our leadership roles and mutual expectations (past, current, and future—“how we’d like to be doing things” as well as “how we’ve been doing things”), and to set some goals for our leadership that will help our congregational leaders, pastor, and congregation to work together effectively. A few of the things that caught our attention:

- We realized that even though we have had only one called pastor in our history, our ministry has had at least 4 different “phases” over the years. When we are talking about “how we’ve been doing something” or “how we did it in the past” it is important to be aware of and identify which time period we are using as our reference point.
- We acknowledged that it is currently often difficult to determine “who is the contact person” in many areas of our congregational life. This makes it difficult for Pastor Jean, as well as congregation members (especially newer ones!), to know who to approach for suggestions, complaints, ideas, or information. A clearer definition of committee roles, for example, will help us insure that Pastor Jean doesn’t become the “dumping ground” for ALL issues, and will help us acknowledge suggestions in a more consistent manner.
- We were happy to discover that our “lay leaders” and our new pastor have generally similar expectations about “who should do what” when it comes to setting a vision, developing and implementing action plans, managing tensions, and meeting spiritual needs of the congregation—and in most areas our goal is shared responsibility between Pastor, Council, staff, committees, and congregation.

What happens next? As we go forward through the next year with our goals in mind, the Council and other interested leaders will check in with Lyle Beckman on a quarterly basis. This will help us stay on track and continue to practice healthy ways of relating to Pastor Jean and each other—because we do indeed hope to have a spirit-filled “journey of a thousand miles” with our new Pastor!

Sandy Koppen, Council President





YOUTH NEWS

We've had a fairly quiet summer - we've had just enough activities to keep us busy. And we've got some great things planned! On July 1st, we had a pseudo-resurrection of ROASTED and showed The Pirates of the Caribbean for kids of all ages. Several kids came in costume and a life-sized cut-out of Johnny Depp graced the front of the sanctuary. It was quite fun.

This month, we have our quarterly mission project. We helped at FISH last quarter, but have been asked to help with our newly-forming community garden. All ages are welcome to participate. We will meet at the church at 9am and work till 11am on Saturday, August 4th. Make sure to wear grubby clothes!

Sunday, August 5 is our next and final pseudo-ROASTED of the summer. We will watch another movie. We haven't determined the movie yet, so if you have suggestions, let me know. We will gather at 5pm at the church for pizza and goodies. The movie will start at 6pm.

Also, we will make our annual trek to the Rock of Ages Concert in Calistoga. It is on October 6th. Mark your calendar and let me know if you can make it! It should be a rockin' time, as usual!

Finally, keep the date of September 9th open as we will have our annual out door service that day. More details to follow!

I'm looking forward to a great rest of the summer!

Jan Loewen

Wanted!! Bakers!

If you are a baker and in desperate need of a reason to share your talents, you have found it! Thanksgiving Lutheran Church is looking someone who wants to be our Baker Extraordinaire! Or maybe several someones! If you are that special person, please contact someone on the Alter Committee, we would like homemade bread for our weekly communion!

Mary Dawson, One of many Altar Committe Members!

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, August 22. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words, using 12 point Arial font.

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.

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



Getting to Know...

Bob & Joan Hax

Were you here in May when Bob and Joan presented Jack and Flak with a pictorial memento of their Going-Away Party?* If so, then you have seen a sample of the Hax' handiwork. Bob is a retired professional photographer and Joan is his office-savvy wife of 51 years.

But start at the beginning. Bob grew up in Fairfax and graduated from Tamalpais High School. His interests were band and photography. He played alto sax but found his real niche in photography. He took pictures for the yearbook and the school newspaper.

After a year in college, he took a job with the local newspaper, Marin Independent Journal. This became his only lifetime job . . . for 36 years, until he retired in 1988. (He also did free-lance photography through the years.

As Chief Photographer-Department Head, he photographed a myriad of people, events, and sports. Pope Paul, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, George Bush, Sr., Christos Fence, *etc.* But most memorable was being at Travis Air Force Base. Remember when the POW's came home from Viet Nam? We watched on TV but Bob was there with his camera and still feels the emotion from the day.

Joan was born in Canada on a wheat farm in Edmonton. She went to Vancouver with her parents and graduated from King George High School. Following an aunt to San Francisco, she became a key-punch operator at a bank.

Seeking fun and excitement that summer, she found both at Hoberg's Resort near Clear Lake. She also found Bob there. He was doing a summer job as the Resort Photographer. Mutual attraction led to marriage the following year in 1956. That year also found Bob drafted into the Army. His career never missed a beat as he became the Base Newspaper Photographer at Fort Lewis, WA.

Following Army service, the children began arriving. Gary was born in 1958, Carol in 1960, then David in 1964. Joan was a housewife until the mid-1970's when she ventured into real estate. Some ten years later she landed a job in the Santa Rosa office of PG&E. There she stayed, from 1988 until just last month.

Both now retired, they find action online as Referring Travel Agents. Via computer, they arrange travel for clients they rarely ever see. But also for themselves. As agents, they score special deals for their own travel. They have enjoyed many destinations around the U.S. and Canada.

Their travel was not always high end. Many years were spent moving up the camping ladder from tents to R.V.'s. They were long-time members of RV and camping clubs. Bob was also Assistant Scoutmaster in Novato, where they were both in the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Joan was born into a Lutheran family in Canada and brought Bob along with her. They belonged to Good Shepherd in Novato. After buying a home in Bennett Valley, they joined Flak's Flock at Faith. They loved Flak and were distressed when he retired. Their own attendance fell off. Then, on seeing that Flak and Jack were at TLC, they came back . . . reborn. Chalk up another one for Flak!

*Described in the June *Trumpet*
George Land.



F.I.S.H.* of Santa Rosa

NEWSLETTER

July 2007

Dear Friends of F.I.S.H.

We greatly appreciate our donors. We have a relatively small donor list yet your donations help make it possible for us to provide emergency food to over 50,000 people each year. We have been fortunate this year as we have received a special gift from the Harry Cookson Estate Trust and several memorial gifts in honor of one of our original volunteers, Josephine Thorpe. Each gift is so important and has helped us serve the County's needy for more than 30 years.

We take seriously our responsibility to spend all donations wisely. Because our day to day office expenses are paid by some of our Board members, we are still able to spend 100% of all your cash donations to purchase food. A member of our Board provides even the cost of this mailing.

We purchase all of our food at the Redwood Empire Food Bank, except for our Holiday meats. We take advantage of many items that sell at .18 cents a pound although this is not always possible as many items in our basic bag such as tuna, canned vegetables and pasta cost more. One of our Managers shops at least weekly at the Food Bank for any bargains and often obtains items at no cost. Many days we are able to give more than just our basic bag of food as we receive food donations from Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Pacific Market and Safeway. Thanks to all of our food and cash donors.

We continue to have a great need for more volunteers to work at F.I.S.H. during the week. There are three interesting positions you can choose from if you can work just one day a month for 5 hours. Please call Nancy Stephan at 542-8737 to make arrangements.

Thank you for your faithful support of F.I.S.H.

F.I.S.H. Board of Directors,
Jeanne-Marie Jones, Director
*Friends In Service Here

Looking for an Opportunity to Volunteer ?

We can help you with that!

Stan and Marilyn Schuler have been co-ordinating our F.I.S.H. program for the past 2 years and find it's time to let someone else have the chance to serve. We are looking for someone who would like to step into their shoes. They have things in place through September and would like to retire after that. If you have any questions concerning the program Marilyn has graciously volunteered to explain the duties associated with it. We have been of service to this organization for many years and would like to see it continued. Marilyn can be reached at 869-8148.

Some Thoughts About the Holy Spirit

In 1997, I had the privilege of attending a retreat at which Marty Haugan was one of the featured presenters. Haugan is one of the current gifted music ministers; you may have worshipped using one of his liturgies and undoubtedly have praised God by singing his hymns. He shared this anecdote that, fortunately, I recorded in my journal so that, a decade later, I get to share it with you.

“There was a visitor to a well-respected congregation with a well-ordered liturgy and wonderful preaching. The service was stunning, and the visitor was so impressed that they spontaneously shouted out, “Praise God!” The person sitting to their right said, “Yes, but not for three more pages.”

I wonder what would happen to that visitor were they to worship with us. What would happen if you were sitting to their right?

Holy Spirit, breath of Life, wind hovering over chaos, is a mystery and a magnificence, moving and molding us from being clay to being the light of the world. I like to think of the Spirit in terms of the Beaufort Scale; helps me understand why a display of spirit causes discomfort.

NUMBER	NAME	MPH	DESCRIPTION
0	Calm	Less than 1	Calm; smoke rises vertically
1	Light air	1-3	Direction of wind shown by smoke but not by wind vanes
2	Light breeze	4-7	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vane moved by wind
3	Gentle breeze	8-12	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag
4	Moderate breeze	13-18	Raises dust and loose paper small branches are moved
5	Fresh breeze	19-24	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on water
6	Strong breeze	25-31	Large branches in motion; telegraph wires whistle; umbrellas hard to control
7	Moderate gale	32-38	Whole trees in motion; inconvenient to walk against the wind
8	Fresh gale	39-46	Breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress
9	Strong gale	47-54	Slight structural damage occurs; chimney pots and slates removed
10	Whole gale	55-63	Trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs
11	Storm	64-72	Very rarely experienced; accompanied by wide-spread damage
12-17	Hurricane	73-136	Devastation occurs

Hold on to your hats and hearts as Spirit increases among and through us. The Healthy Start training will strengthen our vision and direction; you and I will grow deeper in our love of God and of each other. The thing we will get to experience is that the devastation of Holy Spirit brings new creation, new life, holy and whole life. Let's get ourselves on the same page and Praise God!

Love, Pastor Jean

	Jun-07	Year To Date	2007 Budget
<u>Received</u>			
Building Fund (Mortgage)	2,091.00	12,356.65	
General Fund (envelopes + loose)	6,016.75	35,905.40	
All Other	<u>775.00</u>	<u>8,317.64</u>	
TOTAL RECEIVED	8,882.75	56,579.69	
<u>Expenses</u>			
Mission Support	666.88	4,302.55	9,500.00
Staff	3,686.58	25,566.58	43,486.33
Mortgage	2,029.82	13,563.97	33,600.00
All Other	<u>3,991.98</u>	<u>15,610.55</u>	<u>35,677.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,375.26	59,043.65	122,263.33

- Our expenses this year have generally exceeded our income. However, since we began the year with a general fund balance of \$3053.72, our cash flow has been adequate—we are close to breaking even.
- Building fund income has covered our mortgage expenses to date (remember, however, that this year's mortgage payments are "interest only.")
- We are current on our Mission Support commitment!
- If you would like further details about income and/or expenses, please see the monthly Finance Report posted on the bulletin board in the hallway or speak to a member of the Finance Team (Jan Loewen, Sandy Koppen, or Mary Thompson.)

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 article is the LAST of an ongoing series, "10 Stewardship Principles," inspired by ELCA Stewardship materials available online and adapted for TLC by the Finance team; we hope that you have recognized yourself in these principles!

If you've followed these "Stewardship Corner" pieces over the past 6 months (a writer can dream, can't she?) or read 2 Corinthians 8-9, you will hopefully have noticed how many of the themes of "modern" stewardship campaigns really are scripturally based! The story of Paul's appeal for the Jerusalem collection has highlighted many dimensions of our role as God's stewards: as stewards we respond from a place of gratitude (#1), demonstrate responsible active listening for God's direction (#2), give willingly (#4) and sacrifice proportionately according to their means (#3 and #6)), share abundantly as they are able (#5), are intentional in their commitment (#7) and try to make giving a lifestyle by contributing regularly (#8) to the mission of the church. All of these qualities and desires contribute to our ability to live out **Stewardship Principle #9: Live genuinely**—this means putting our faith into tangible action, or "putting our money where our mouth is!" Finally, **Stewardship Principle #10: Accept a challenge** urges us to recognize that our faith is constantly changing, and that as our faith grows so will our blessings! Most of us are probably familiar with Jesus' words in Matthew 6.21—"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Most of the time, we probably hear this as judgment rather than good news (ever felt a little guilty hearing a sermon on how your checkbook will show what's most important to you?) but theologian Mark Allen Powell sees it a bit differently—he hears Jesus saying "Where you put your treasure is where your heart will go!" If we are struggling with our stewardship, remember that with practice we can help train our hearts and we can discover for ourselves the joy of giving generously in Christ. Thank you for reading!

Your Stewardship Corner author, *Sandy Koppen*

Real People, Real Discrimination, Real Hope for Real Change

Dear Friends and Family,

We just wanted to announce that Megan Coffey and Jen Owen are now officially Registered Domestic Partners (RDP) in California. All we had to do to achieve RDP status was mail in a form with our notarized signatures and a check, so it's not exciting or romantic like getting married, but it helps us by giving us access to virtually all of the 400-some state rights granted to married couples in California.

For example, we now have the right to be covered under each other's health insurance policies, to visit each other in the hospital, to make medical decisions for each other, to hold real estate as community property, to take sick leave to care for each other, and to adopt each other's children (not applicable in our case!).

However, if we take a trip outside of California, as soon as we cross state lines all of these rights are nullified and we become legal strangers. Moreover, no matter where we are, we are denied access to the 1,138 federal rights that all American married couples enjoy. These include the right to sponsor a foreign partner for a green card, access to social security survivor benefits and military pensions, protection from being forced to testify against each other in court, and the right to live together in a nursing home.

As some of you may know, the US Supreme Court didn't force all the states to legalize interracial marriage until 1967 (at which time over 70% of the country was opposed to allowing such unions). Up until that ruling (*Loving v. Virginia*), politicians and judges all over the US decried interracial marriages as "abominable," "unnatural," "against God's will," and "a blow to the sacred institution of marriage." Sound familiar?....

More recently (in 1987), the US Supreme Court declared that marriage is a "fundamental human right," in a ruling that secured the right to marry for all prison inmates (*Turner v. Safley*). In other words, convicted mass murderers are entitled to 1,138 more federal rights than we are, just because we're gay.

And even more than getting all those rights, mass murderers (as long as they are HETEROSEXUAL mass murderers) get the dignity, respect and equality that adhere to the socially sanctioned concept of "Marriage," whereas mild-mannered, law-abiding (more or less) Megan and Jen can only aspire to the second-class-citizen designations of "Domestic Partnership" or "Civil Union." It's not enough to win some (or even all) of the same rights as the straight people, if we still have to drink from the "Queers Only" water fountain....

So, while we feel that domestic partnership rights are an important step forward (after all, in 30 states it is still legal to fire or evict someone just for being gay), we won't be satisfied until we achieve full legal equality for all Americans.

Okay, we're getting off the soapbox now! If you would like more information, here are a few websites you might find helpful:

On marriage equality:

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/>

<http://www.marriageequality.org/meusa/index.shtml>

On rights for black gay people:

<http://nbjcoalition.org/>

On the right to serve openly in the military:

<http://www.sldn.org/templates/index.html>

On gay rights in general, including marriage equality

<http://thetaskforce.org/>

<http://hrc.org/>

Love to you all,
Megan and Jen



Megan and Jen are friends of Paul and Ingrid Feiertag, and have given us permission to reprint their letter. ed.

“Ask...in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

When severe drought hit a small farming community in the Midwest, a local church called a prayer meeting and everybody showed up. Crisis has a way of getting our attention! As the pastor stood before his packed church he noticed an 11-year-old girl sitting in the front row, beaming with excitement. Lying next to her was her bright red umbrella poised for use. The beauty and innocence of this sight made him smile as he compared the faith of this child with that of the rest of the people in the room. You see, the rest of them had just come to pray for rain - she had come to see God answer!

One of the dangers of praying, is praying, yet not really expecting anything: “Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that...he rewards those who earnestly seek Him”. You say, “So how do I get more faith?” By filling your mind with the Scriptures! “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”. When you immerse yourself in God’s Word an amazing thing happens; faith takes root and begins to grow. And faith is what makes your praying effective.

But what if your prayer lines up with God’s Word, yet the answer is delayed? Keep praying and believing! “Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised”. So when you pray for rain, bring your “red umbrella!”

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



Calling all women!

Would you be interested in participating with me in a **one-meeting-a-month**, September-May, Bible Study? I am interested in leading this year’s *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study on the Beatitudes; the study is entitled “Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a compass for Discipleship,” and was written by Dr. Martha Stortz, a professor at PLTS and author of the excellent book, *A World According to God*. (I’ve also taken two PLTS classes taught by Dr. Stortz, and can personally vouch for her wisdom!) The participant materials for the study will appear each month in *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, and a subscription costs only \$12/year—it would be a good idea to subscribe NOW if you are interested!

Please talk to Sandy Koppen if you would like to participate! (Subscription info is also posted on the kiosk in the narthex.)

Help Spread God’s Inclusive Love

I hope you will join me and many others in an exciting grassroots movement in the ELCA: Visit goodsoil.org today. With your help the ELCA can become a more faithful witness to God’s inclusive love. *Paul Feiertag*

Some might want to help Ingrid and Paul Feiertag with their expenses to the Chicago Churchwide Assembly. It is costing about \$2000. Ask them why their attendance at this assembly is so important for all of us!

Ministers, Every One

If we truly believe that the message of Jesus has life-changing implications for the world, and if we recognize that the world has not yet actualized what we've come to call the Kingdom of God, then the church finds itself at a crossroads. To the problems that the world faces, problems such as environmental disaster, under-education, under-employment, social stratification, economic divide, and cross-cultural strife, the church offers the good news of God's unconditional love for all of creation. The Gospel drives us to bring this news to areas that are currently largely unchurched, congregations that are in need of a vision, and programs that need a theological aspect. The need for this message to be brought to all corners of the world is acute.

The challenge, though, is that the harvest is plenty but the laborers are few. The ELCA is facing a crisis of leadership as baby boomer pastors prepare to retire. The church has a need not only to tell the message of Jesus, but also to encourage its members to do the same. To think "vocation" is to recognize that God calls each of us into the task of living and speaking the Gospel. For many, this means being "little Christs" to one another, to use Luther's term. For some, this means occupations that specifically reflect the vocation of Gospel living. And for a few, this means taking up public leadership in the church. It is through these three channels that the message of Jesus reaches out into the world.

Pastor Greg Schaefer, Director of the Admissions Center at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and friend of TLC

Let a man so account of us,
as of the ministers of Christ,
and stewards of the
mysteries of God.



"I don't think anyone can grow unless he's loved exactly as he is now, appreciated for what he is rather than what he will be."
- from *Life's Journeys According to Mr. Rogers*

What would life be like if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to our kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

And never a dropped call!

We don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected - Jesus paid the bill in advance!

Do you know where your bible is?

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.

Worship:

Sunday morning at 9:30 with Children's Sermon, Holy Communion, and education hour for all ages (Sept-May)

Pastor Jean Lebbert 707-327-6292
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Sandi Leithe, church secretary
Karen Lehman, Trumpet editor

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Jim Lehman, Vice President
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A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress.

She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! in. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

*I ask the Lord to bless you,
as I pray for you today;
to guide you and protect you,
as you go along your way.
God's love is always with you,
God's promises are true.
And when you give God all your cares,
you know God will see you through!*

These three items submitted by Mary Dawson - Thank you Mary!

Three Things

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back

1. Time 2. Words 3. Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person —

1. Anger 2. Pride 3. Unforgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose—

1. Hope 2. Peace 3. Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable —

1. Love 2. Family & Friends 3. Kindness

Three things in life that are never certain —

1. Fortune 2. Success 3. Dreams

Three things that make a person —

1. Commitment 2. Sincerity 3. Hard work

Three things that are truly constant —

Father — Son — Holy Spirit