Pastor’s Page

One of my favorite pastimes is seeing God in the everyday, bringing the extraordinary out in the ordinary. So, the other day, I purchased “Totally Awesome” in the Value Size. I mean, come on.

It was the most inexpensive all-purpose cleaning product on the shelf (on the bottom shelf, of course – you savvy shoppers know that the bargains are always kept in the least-convenient-to-reach places). I went for the cheapest because, well, at the risk of broaching a subject unsuitable for a church newsletter, Dane Disney’s abandonment issues give him incontinence. Some days, I call him Liberace, because of all the dogs I know, he is the peein’ist (LOL).

I got Dane from the Silky Terrier Rescue folks seven or eight years ago and have been for him a loving, loving master, but whatever abandonment he experienced before I got him is a brokenness that he cannot cast off, a fear that controls even his bladder!

Or, it could be his Terrier-ness. Some days, I tell him that he is made of cuteness and will and that’s all. Cuteness and will.

This makes me rejoice in our Totally Awesome God, who not inexpensively but freely, came as Christ to clean up the messes we get ourselves into.

Whenever I have to leave him alone in the house—which is most often every day of the week—I have to shut him in the kitchen because his fear of abandonment spills out, if you know what I mean. I’m on my third mop since Ani passed away last October.

I can’t help it. This makes me rejoice in our Totally Awesome God, who not inexpensively but freely, came as Christ to clean up the messes we get ourselves into because we let fear (aka lack of faith in God) or stubborn will (aka self-righteousness) control us.

It’s not convenient to hold onto that notion—that God would mercifully give up Almightyness for a gruesome death for me, that I have no part in cleaning up my messes, that it’s a gift of grace.

Continued next page
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

**New hours for our administrative assistant**
The office hours are Monday from 8:30-11:30, and Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11-2.

**Pastor’s Page, continued**
Every time I come back home, a wiggly bundle of cuteness and will whimper for me to remove the confinement of the baby gate and set him free. I move the gate and then have to bend over for him to give kisses and then stand aside while he lopes and leaps for joy out into the living room, so amazingly happy that we are together again.

Every time I am privileged to see that joy of freedom and love, it removes any resentment or reluctance I have to go and clean up his messes.

God in Christ sets us free, so that we can lope and leap for joy (Acts 3:8). Isn’t that truly totally awesome in the value size?

Love,  
Pastor Jean

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**Next Trumpet Deadline!**
The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, August 25. 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.

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**Many, many blessings to the many, many TLC birthdays this month!**

- Ingrid Feiertag 8/1
- Nathan McPherson 8/2
- Colleen Sass 8/3
- Jim Lehman 8/4
- Lorenz Flak 8/8
- Jim Harrison 8/12
- Gloria Feiertag 8/13
- Phina Borgeson 8/15
- Mark Netherda 8/19
- Natasha McKenney 8/20
- Alex Netherda 8/26
- Griffin Becker 8/26
- Mary Weber 8/29
- Dave Flanagan 8/31

Every time I am privileged to see that joy of freedom and love, it removes any resentment or reluctance I have to go and clean up his messes.

We will be honoring Flak on the occasion of his 80th birthday and the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination.

There will be a brunch following worship at 10:45 a.m.

Please no gifts
It’s time to haul out the wheelbarrow again!

One of TLC’s summer projects is to collect canned fruit for the food bank called F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service Here). It costs more for FISH to buy canned fruit from the Redwood Food Distribution center than other items. We thought this might be a good way to help.

This drive will be conducted during the month of July and August on the Thursday “Salad Supper” nights as well as Sunday Mornings.

So remember the Blue Barrel remains in the narthex awaiting all manner of packaged or canned food items as well as the occasional housekeeping or hygiene products. The wheelbarrow will be looking for canned fruit only. Sometimes at the height of fruit harvesting season canned fruits can be found on sale.

Successful Hunting—the Happy Little Wheelbarrow awaits you!

Wanted: Trumpet Reporter

Pastor Jean is seeking someone who is willing and able to work with her on researching and creating substantial articles about TLC members, ELCA activities, and theological insights for our monthly newsletter. Fantastic opportunity with eternal benefits and no monetary remuneration. Must be able to be edited.

A note from Betty Hiebel

Thank you, friends and members of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church. What a wonderful party. The singing, tasty food that CCC group made, the Mary and Marilyn show. My kitchen did look pretty messy after a bake, but I didn’t have a Grace to do my clean up.

I love the quilt Diane, Donna and all of you had a part in making. It will keep me nice and warm in the Minnesota winter nights. It’s one big hug from you all.

I have looked over the scrap book, put together by Jordan and Mary, several times. What special times and memories, of days gone by. The evening was one of the most special nights I have had. Thank you for your kind words.

God bless you all.
Love, Betty Hiebel
1810 Darling Ave. E. apt. 101
Alexandria, MN 56308
## August 2011 at Thanksgiving Lutheran

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Outdoor Movies at TLC!
Mark your calendar and invite your friends for family-friendly fun at TLC! Plan to gather on the TLC patio on August 20 at 8pm. As soon as it's dark enough we'll begin with a cartoon followed by the main feature. Bring your own chair and perhaps a blanket in case the evening is chilly. Just $2 admission ($8 max per family). The funds raised will go to the TLC general fund.

Calling all Crafters and Bakers.
The time has arrived to start planning for the Holiday Craft Bazaar. The date of this fabulous affair is November 10th and 11th from 12pm to 8pm both days.

Reserve a table for both days for the small sum of $25 and start accumulating the items you desire to sell for the holidays. Bakers are needed to bake items such as cookies, cakes, etc. to donate for sale. These baked goods will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the baked goods sale and table reservation fees go to Thanksgiving Lutheran Church.

For further information contact Kathy Flanagan, 707-526-5582 or see her at TLC on Sunday mornings.

2nd Annual Luau
Aloha from the lovely Harrison islands. Heavenly Hell Raisers invite everyone 50 and over, anyone partnered to someone 50 or over, or even very close to 50 to paddle on over to the Harrison’s patio for a wonderful evening of Hawaiian cuisine and drinks. Rumor has it that a lovely Hawaiian dancer is to appear. The date is August 27th and time is 4 pm to enjoy the luscious Hawaiian weather. Dress is Hawaiian but don’t forget a sweater or wrap in case it chills off.

Fun, Food, Fellowship and Communion
Enjoy fellowship, salad, communion and our lovely Santa Rosa weather three more Thursdays in August. Join fellow TLCers at 7 pm on the patio. Our themes are:
- August 4th-Polynesian
- August 11th-Moroccan
- August 18th-BBQ

A big bowl of greens, bread and beverages, including wine are provided, you bring salad toppings to match the theme.

Giving to the Rwanda School Project reached a total of $652 through July 22nd. Way to go TLCers!

Chris Ed Corner
The young people will present a Bible skit on August 21st highlighting the birth of Moses.

There will not be an Adult Forum in August. Our young people will lead us all in worship on August 28th and then treat the congregation to a barbeque afterwards. You need not bring anything but yourselves. In September we return to our normal Chris Ed Sunday schedule the fourth Sunday of each month.
The good news is our bills are all paid. The bad news is our savings are being depleted rather rapidly. The June deficit was $2,198.97. The deficit for the first half of the year was $9,173.91, just slightly under what was projected when we adopted our current deficit budget last November. Thank you so very much for all who keep their pledges current, for those who go that extra mile and for those who designated their Thrivent Choice dollars to TLC. That has helped a great deal. Please keep our financial situation in your prayers and thoughts.

Finance Records

By now you should have your half year financial report in your mailbox at church. If there are any problems with the report please contact Mary Thompson, Financial Secretary.

2012 Budgeting

It hardly seems possible but it's time to start the budgeting process for 2012. All committees and staff have been asked for their input. Input from all members is most welcome also. Contact Jean Harrison, Sandy Koppen, Astrid Anderson or Mary Thompson with any concerns or input. Pledge Sunday is set for October 16th. The first part of the Annual meeting is set for November 13th after church. The budget will be presented for adoption at that time.
Worship in the Month of August

Summer Worship, it’s an Apocryph-Full Adventure!

Martin Luther declared the books of the Apocrypha “while not equal to the sacred Scriptures, are nevertheless useful and good to read.” (Only, he said it in German). This summer at TLC, we are dusting off a few of these useful and good reads as the focus of Sunday morning worship. We will ponder how easy it is to create a false idol and eavesdrop on Ezra’s conversation with an angel. We’ll thrill to the prayer uttered in Nebuchadnezzar’s fiery furnace and the bloody victory of a bold woman in the story of Judith.

Besides faith stories of God’s ancient peoples, we also have two “My Faith Works” sharings this summer – Ranee Sass and Jean Flak – and Jean Harrison will help our young people dramatically retell a couple of Bible stories. We conclude August with a Youth-led Worship and congregational barbecue on our patio.

Don’t miss out on the fun and faith of TLC’s Apocryph-Full Summer!

8/7  Sometimes It’s Sink or Swim
Scriptures: Matthew 14:22-33 and the story of Judith

8/14  My Faith Works: Jean Flak
Scriptures: Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

8/21  Guest Preacher Ella Rozett, plus a Bible skit
Scriptures: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

8/28  Youth-Led Worship and Barbeque on the Patio
Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-5; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

2011 Churchwide Assembly

On August 15-19, the twelfth Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA will be held in Orlando, Florida. This year, the Assembly will be considering a number of changes to the organizational structure of the ELCA, including 1) switching from a two- to a three-year cycle for Churchwide Assemblies, 2) the optional addition of up to twelve at-large seats on the national Church Council, 3) the deletion of “program committees” attached to churchwide units, and 4) the addition of the Chair of the Conference of Bishops as a voting member of the Church Council. The decisions made on these proposals will shape the future of our denomination in complex and important ways. Please keep the Churchwide Assembly in your prayers this summer as we learn how to live together into the future.
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

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Phone 707-585-5955
Fax 707-585-1505

What if you, as a member of the ELCA, could grow your personal finances while helping to grow the church?

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.