

The

# TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 4 No. 12

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

December 2007

PEACE STARTS AT HOME  
PEACE STARTS IN SCHOOLS  
PEACE STARTS ON OUR CITY STREETS  
IF WE HAVE PEACE IN OUR HOMES - AND  
IN OUR SCHOOLS - AND  
ON OUR STREETS - THEN  
OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUR NATIONS  
WILL FOLLOW - AND  
WE WILL HAVE WORLD PEACE  
TO SUSTAIN THE PEACE  
WE MUST CONTINUE TO WRITE ABOUT IT  
WE WILL NEED TO READ ABOUT IT  
WE WILL HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT TO OUR  
FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
AND WHEN OUR PEACE BELL RINGS,  
THE WORLD WILL LISTEN.

"Wayne E. Carlisle"

Chairman of World Peace Bell Foundation



WORLD PEACE  
OUR DREAM  
INNER PEACE  
OUR SEARCH  
NEITHER IS ACHIEVED NOR  
VALUED  
WITHOUT EACH OTHER.

The Peace Bell is the largest bell in the world that actually rings - it is twelve feet across. It is in Newport, Kentucky and is rung once a year. These words are part of the exhibit.



The first service on Christmas Eve will be at 6:00 p.m. and will feature our Children's Christmas Play, which is entitled:

**"Myrtle, Frank, and a few Wise Guys  
or**

**The Misunderstood Christmas"**

The TLC Band will be leading the music, and there will be lots of special music and Christmas carols, plus a visit from The Grinch! It is definitely a don't miss family gathering.

The Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service will be at 10:00 p.m. and will be an observance of the Light breaking into our darkness, the awesome thrill of hope fulfilled.



## **Youth to Lead Epiphany Worship**

Sunday, January 6, is Epiphany Day, the day we remember when the Magi (possibly Zoroastrian astrologers, people who worshipped the stars) followed a star that led them to the Christ child. The Youth of TLC will be planning and leading this festive observance. They did such a beautiful job last fall at the park; we are pleased that they are taking on another service.

## **Scriptures for December**

**December 2** First Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;  
Matthew 24:36-44

**December 9** Second Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;  
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**December 16** Third Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:4-9; James 5:7-10;  
Matthew 11:2-11

**December 23** Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18;  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**December 24** Christmas Eve  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-20

**December 30** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas  
Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18;  
Matthew 2:13-23

## **An Exhortation from Pastor Jean: Mark Your Calendars!**

Our second congregational meeting will be the final Sunday of January, the 27<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship. We had a sensational turnout for the first congregational meeting, and I am expecting even more of you to be at this next one, to show your support and be involved in the ministries of TLC.

2008 promises to be so wonderful for this congregation. I want all of you to be a part of what Spirit will bring and to experience the thrill of embodying the Gospel of Christ's light and love in the world. We are going to take part in Global Heart Warming!

**So: Sunday, January 27, Congregational Meeting. Be there!**

## Youth Alert! Christmas Play Rehearsal!

Please join the youth of TLC for the annual Christmas play, "Myrtle, Frank, and a few Wise Guys or The Misunderstood Christmas". This will be part of the earlier Christmas Eve service at 6:00. Any youth who play music are invited to share their talent. Anyone interested in participating should contact Zoe Zuest-Becker at 542-7550 ASAP! Rehearsal will be Sunday, December 23rd at 4pm. A pizza dinner and dessert will be provided.

WANTED :



Mt. Cross Ministries is in need of a pickup truck. If you know of anyone who would like to donate a used, full-size pickup that is still in good working condition, and would like a nice tax write-off, please contact your Mt. Cross Rangers, Zoe Zuest-Becker or Keith Becker at 542-7550.

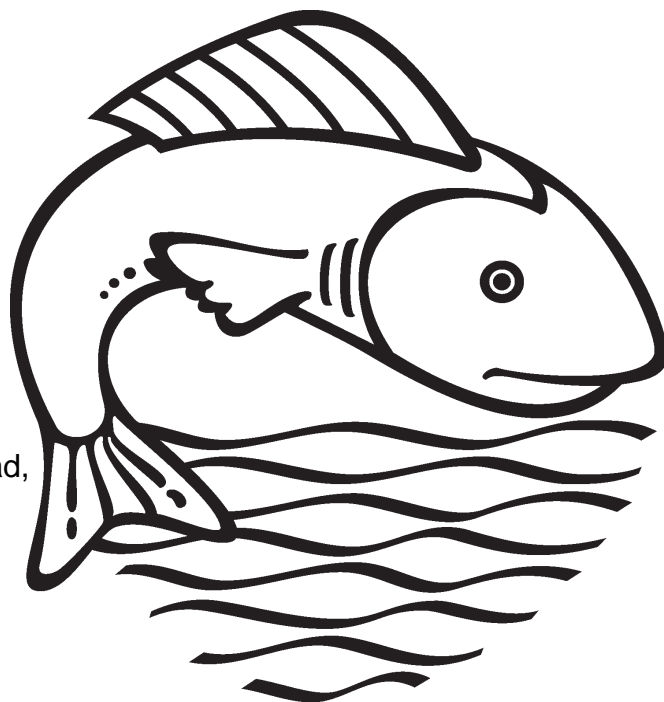


Following are the contents of a "basic bag", including quantities and cost, given to a family of 4 to 6 members. **F.I.S.H.**\* regularly purchases these items from the Redwood Empire Food Bank. (So TLC members: if you are thinking of donating to the Redwood Empire Food Bank consider putting the items directly into the F.I.S.H. barrel instead?)

Food Item	Quantity	Cost
Tuna	2 cans at .57 ea.	\$1.14
Cereal	large package	.36
Mac. & Cheese	3 boxes at .31 ea.	.93
Spaghetti	1 pound	.42
Tomato Sauce	2 cans at .20 ea.	.40
Vegetables	3 cans at .45 ea.	1.35
Fruit	1 can at .20 ea.	.20
Refried Beans	2 cans at .20 ea.	.40
Total		\$5.20

This family would also receive 2 loaves of donated bread, and may also choose 3 optional items such as:

Peanut Butter	1 jar at	\$1.08
Rice	1 pound bag	.42
Frozen Ground Chicken	1 pound "chub"	.50
Grand Total		\$7.20



On Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, Trader Joe's, Pacific Market, Whole Foods and Safeway donate other items we are able to give to our clients. This includes fresh fruit and vegetables, and some dairy and meat. Food drives by churches, service and other organizations, the U.S. Postal Service and private food donations make up most of the remaining free food given to clients. Purchased items above are replaced by donated items as available.

\*Friends In Service Here

# Feeling Close to God

by Paul Feiertag

Our former interim pastor Dr. Jack Lundin facilitates a monthly gathering of progressive, mostly retired Lutheran clergy, that he named TASC (Thinking Active Senior Clergy). I was privileged to be invited to join their group and usually ride to the meetings with Flak. At our November 15 meeting Dr. John Frykman from San Francisco brought along a framed and matted page of a Guttenberg Bible that he had received at his 75th birthday celebration. John and his wife had requested that the ten invited guests bring no gifts other than a story to share. However, Murray Korngold, Ph.D., an 87 year old Psychologist, who is still practicing, brought not only a poem but the framed page of a German Bible which he thought was probably from the 16th century. Months later, when it was announced that appraisals would be conducted free, John took his framed page to a manuscript specialist who declared that it could not be later than 1520.

John then took it to be properly reframed and discovered that it was dated 1489 and that it was two-sided. The framers put glass on both sides so that both sides of the page could be read. You can only imagine what this 518 year old page of the Gospel relating Jesus' birth, King Herod's vengeful killing wrath and the flight to Egypt means to John Frykman. He had to share it with his TASC friends at the meeting.

While he told the story of his friendship with Dr. Murray Korngold and how Dr. Korngold, who is a Jew, had come to possess this treasure, John passed it around to us to see and to hold. When it came my turn, and it was in my hands, I felt a sense of closeness to God. Perhaps some of that feeling was going back more than half a thousand years in time to a time when the church was barely in the business of proclaiming the love of God in Jesus. (After all, one of the first documents printed on Guttenberg's press was indulgences for the Roman church to sell.) My proximity to God was the story of the deep friendship and love between John Frykman and Murray Korngold. Murray express the framed page speaking to him saying, "You've had me for fifty years during which you've been transformed, and it's time I went home to a minister of the gospel who, on matters of principle, says like one of his teachers: Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen." It did not feel like a birthday present to Dr. Korngold. He told John that he felt more like a spiritual FedEx in the guise of a birthday gift. "God grant that John Frykman may benefit from its grace for fifty years at which time he could pass it on to the next place it belongs!" (The quotes are from Dr. Murray Korngold's written explanation to John Frykman about how he acquired the gift and why he decided to place it into John's hands.)

"Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. . . . Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and [God's] love is made perfect in us." 1 John 4:7-12 GNB

## Community Forum at TLC

On Saturday, January 19, 2008, Thrivent for Lutherans will be hosting a community forum at TLC. The forum will feature local experts who can advise people who have questions about issues dealing with trusts, wills, memorials, health directives, long-term care, and charitable giving. A brunch, hosted by Thrivent for Lutheran, will also be offered. **This is an event to which you can invite family and friends and neighbors and co-workers, as these issues touch all lives.**

More details will be published on our website, in Sunday's announcement sheets, and in the next issue of The Trumpet. For now, ***start inviting folks to come.***

## “Grace wherein we stand, and...tribulation (that) worketh patience” Romans 5:2-3

We're too impatient! If God doesn't speak to us in the first 5 minutes of our prayer time we get up, shrug it off and decide "He isn't talking today." Where's the tenacity of our spiritual forefathers who would take hold of God in prayer and refuse to let go until received "a sure word" from Him? (See 2 Pe 1:19)

There are 2 things you can count on as you walk with God: trouble that works for you, and grace to stand while you're going through it. Have you been praying for patience? Get ready for trouble! There's no other way to get it. Patience grows in the soil of adversity. How do you test the strength of an anchor? Expose it to the fury of a storm. Understand this: some of the people you can't stand right now are the very ones who'll mature you! Our problem is – we pray for things but don't recognize the answer when it comes. God has a purpose in all things, He also has a process. As you get to know Him better you begin to recognize both.

Here's how it works: you ask God for strength and He allows you to go through times of testing. You ask for wisdom and you get to deal with problems that require solutions. You ask for success and He gives you the ability to work – not necessarily harder, but smarter. You ask for favor and He gives you responsibility. Salvation is a gift, but patience is a reward for overcoming. So stay where God has you today and learn the lessons He wants to teach you; tomorrow you'll be glad you did!

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



	Oct-07	Year To Date	2007 Budget
<b>Received</b>			
Building Fund (Mortgage)	2,071.00	26,251.25	
General Fund (envelopes + loose)	5,614.80	63,938.86	
All Other	1,025.00	8,436.05	
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>8,710.80</b>	<b>98,626.16</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Mission Support	505.76	6,774.36	9,500.00
Staff	4,619.66	43,236.25	52,200.00
Mortgage	1,964.33	21,552.28	33,600.00
All Other	2,557.35	25,645.66	35,677.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>9,647.10</b>	<b>97,208.55</b>	<b>130,977.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (936.30)</b>	<b>\$ 1,417.61</b>	

- 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.)



## Important Dates for your 2008 Calendar

## Let's Generate Some TLC Dollars – the EASY Way!

### JANUARY

- 6 Youth-led Epiphany Worship
- 12 Council Retreat
- 18 Healthy Start Follow Up
- 27 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Meeting

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Ash Wednesday

### MARCH

- 16 Palm Sunday
- 20 Maundy Thursday, spring begins
- 21 Good Friday
- 22 Silent Saturday
- 23 Easter Sunday
- 30 Doubting Thomas play during worship

### APRIL

- 25, 26, 27 Synod Assembly

### MAY

- 1 Ascension Day
- 11 Pentecost – Mother's Day
- 26 Memorial Day – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mt. Cross BBQ
- 30 Schools End

### JUNE

- 1 End of Sunday School – Outdoor Worship – P.J.'s 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary
- 15 Father's Day

### SEPTEMBER

- 14 Rally Day – Outdoor Worship

### OCTOBER

- 4 Blessing of the pets

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Congregational Meeting
- 22,23, 24 TLC Women's Retreat
- 27 Thanksgiving Eve Worship

**What if** each time you did an online search TLC received a cash benefit? **What if** when you shopped online a percentage of the sale went to TLC? This is the idea behind GoodSearch and GoodShop!

A penny per search can truly add up and make a difference, and there's no easier way to generate much needed funding for TLC.

Hundreds of top merchants including Target, BestBuy, Zappos, ebay, Staples, Macy's, Apple, Nike, Wal-Mart, Home Shopping Network, Kohls and Barnes & Noble are on-board, and new stores are being added all the time.

Just go to GoodSearch.com, click on the "shopping" tab (just above the search box), then click on the logo of the store where you want to shop, and then shop as you normally would. No username or password is required. Yes, it really is that easy!

You'll get the exact same prices as if you went to the store's website directly except now a percentage of the sales price will be donated to TLC. The donations average around 3%, but can go as high as 37%!

#### HERE'S WHAT YOU DO:

Go to GoodSearch.com and follow the easy instructions to make GoodSearch your homepage or just add GoodSearch to your homepage toolbar. Making one of these easy changes will help you remember to use GoodSearch! If computer things make you uncomfortable, ask Jim or Karen Lehman – they'll be happy to help you!

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A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman.

"Well, give me 50 Catholic and 50 Baptist ones."



## TLC's Top Priority for 2008 & 2009: Overcoming the Dread of Paying Our Mortgage!

Nothing like dread to take away breath and confidence and paralyze us. It was a relief in 2007 to just have to make the interest payments. However, some months early in the year, we didn't even make that, and our monthly obligation is going to increase by a few hundred dollars, maybe by \$800. What'll we do?

The first step we will take toward dispelling this dread is to pray. I have formed a prayer group whose sole purpose will be to pray for TLC's prosperity. This group will begin its ministry this month. If you would like to be a part of this group, talk to me, okay?

The second step I am asking you to take is to increase your money offering to TLC and to make giving to TLC your first priority for the next two years. **If 40 people give \$5.00 more each week, our income will increase by \$800.00!** Here are some ideas to inspire you:

For just the next two years, say "No" to other causes you contribute to and give that money instead to TLC. If you cannot give them nothing, then decrease what you give them, just for two years.

Make a pledge to yourself to intentionally save by changing the way you spend your money and to give that savings to TLC.

- If you frequent coffee shops, order the smallest size instead of the biggest. In two or three trips, you will probably save close to five bucks.
- Switch to generic brands.
- When driving, turn off the engine if you will be idling for more than 30 seconds. It'll save gas.
- Discipline yourself to make fewer trips to the grocery store and save on gas. Put a magnetized list on your refrigerator and keep a running list of what you need and run out of. Try to put off shopping until the list is full. Plan three or four days of meals and shop for all of them at once.
- If you impulse buy, hold that tempting item for a minute and then put it back. Ask yourself, "What do I need more, this or my church?"
- If you are not sure what your spending habit is, start keeping a ledger of every purchase and expense. I've been doing this for seven years now, so I know where I can tackle saving money; it has also made me a much more savvy steward and it makes preparing taxes immensely easier.

*Pastor Jean*



If you would like to place a poinsettia near the altar this month, please contact Mary Dawson - she'll have all the details you need to help decorate our worship space in this way...

## Getting to Know...

### Bruce, Kathy, and Kyle Alexander

The Alexander family, plus Kathy's mother Lola, first came to TLC last Easter. They liked the people. In Kathy's words, "everyone was so warm and friendly." They came back again when Pastor Jean began as our worship leader. They liked her also. The circle closed on Reformation Sunday when all were welcomed into membership.

Kathy lived in Rohnert Park for awhile before moving to Santa Rosa. She grew up at Cross and Crown in Rohnert Park where she was a member for 39 years. Bruce was a member there for the past 25 years. Now living in Santa Rosa, they made the hard decision to end their Sunday commute and join TLC. A decision we heartily support.

Both are 1980 high school graduates, Bruce from Montgomery and Kathy from Santa Rosa. Bruce's favorite class was Wood Shop. He immediately went to work at Pacific Hardwood Cabinetry. He is a Cabinetmaker there, now in his 28th year . . . his only full-time job. This guy is steady! He also does custom work for other people. You can see samples of his work at his home. He has done all the cabinets and woodwork throughout the house.

Kathy played on her school Badminton team and was a member of Future Business Leaders of America. She won 5th place in the state competition for Business Law. After high school she worked for a chiropractor for 14 years and was his office manager. She spent another 4 years in the Cross and Crown office as Church Secretary. Currently, she is at SAFE-BIDCO, a state-created non-profit corporation, making small business loans. Not quite as steady as Bruce . . . but good enough.

They were married in 1984 and Kyle joined them in 1988. He was in the Art Quest Program at Santa Rosa High, graduating last year. Now in his 2nd year at SRJC, his interests center on Psychology and Art. Kyle has already had more jobs than his dad. He worked for the City during the summer, painting various public structures. Currently, he works part-time as an assistant to a local artist. On weekends he goes up to River Rock Casino and does valet parking.

Bruce has two interests which occupy his spare time. One is woodworking and various construction tasks around the house. The other is cars. He loves the races and often can be seen at the track. Since high school he has been a member of a car club, Crusin' North. Some years back, he and Kyle bought a derelict Mercury Cougar and together, they restored it. He may be steady on the job, but not with cars. To date, he has owned 28 different cars.

Kathy is happy cooking and gardening and admiring the ocean. She reads a lot, notably fiction, plus spiritual and personal growth. She stayed busy during her years at Cross and Crown. She taught children's Sunday School for 15 years. She was co-leader of the Women's Christian Spiritual group for 5 years. She was on the Board of Education and helped at VBS. Both Kathy and Bruce were members of the Adult Married group.

I wonder if the movie, American Graffiti might give us some insights into the teen years of Bruce and Kathy? While in high school, a friend brought Kathy to downtown Santa Rosa for Friday "cruising night," specifically to meet Bruce. In those years, kids cruised down 4th Street and back up 3rd Street. As expected, Bruce was there . . . cruising. Kathy liked his car . . . and the guy inside was even better!

*George Land*





## So What Happened?

A big THANK YOU from the TLC Council for the wonderful turn-out for November's Congregational Meeting! The 38 voting members in attendance represent just over 45% of the "confirmed" members of the congregation who have "communed and contributed" in the past year (our Constitution specifies that 25% of such members constitute a quorum)—it is so encouraging (and so important!) to have an increasing number of members taking an active interest in the affairs of TLC! For those readers who were unable to attend the November 4 meeting (or for those who were there but want a reminder!), here's what you missed:



- The **2008 Budget** proposal was passed unanimously. This budget included a proposed mortgage payment of \$2800/month for 2008, which may require revision based on current ongoing negotiations with the Mission Investment Fund (holders of our mortgage.) If necessary, we will bring this matter before the congregation again at the "second half" of our congregational meeting which happens in January.
- Three excellent candidates, **Debbie Ferronato**, **Jean Harrison**, and **Jan Thomas**, were unanimously elected to serve on the TLC Council for 2008-2009.
- **Betty Hiebel** volunteered for appointment to the Audit Committee for 2008-2009.
- The Council invited discussion about the possibility of a longer-term building use agreement with the **Casa al Farero** (House of the Potter) group which has been worshipping at TLC on Friday and Saturday evenings since losing the use of their previous meeting place in August. A number of TLC folks pointed out that the members of Casa al Farero have been very good stewards in their use of TLC facilities, and that their members have donated many hours to helping TLC with landscaping and property maintenance tasks; the Council was encouraged to work out the details of an appropriate agreement with this group.
- In her "**State of the Congregation**" address, Pastor Jean shared a compilation of "Who's Who at TLC," acknowledging everyone from acolytes to Council members who play a part in the ongoing ministry at TLC; when she asked all of those mentioned in the "Who's Who" to stand, it was encouraging to see that nearly everyone present was on their feet! Pastor Jean also encouraged us to open ourselves to help from others with ministry tasks, and suggested that this might mean opening ourselves to different ways of doing things: Not "If you want something done *right*," but rather "If you want something done *your way*," do it yourself!" She also urged us to be spreading the word about the jewel that is Thanksgiving Lutheran Church. Finally, as we look ahead to the challenge of our mortgage and the balloon payment/refinancing that will be due in 2009, Pastor encouraged us to find ways to strengthen our individual giving, to tap our best "financial minds" to tackle the financial issue of the mortgage, and to be in prayer.

*Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the "second half" of our congregational meeting, being planned for*  
**Sunday, January 27, 2008!**

## **A Final Thought... From Pastor Jean...**

I am looking forward to learning how Advent and Christmas get celebrated at TLC and to creating new traditions too.

The first event will be December 1<sup>st</sup>—the Progressive Dinner being planned by CCC (Congregation and Community Care committee). Members actually going to members' homes for a meal—so Acts 2. And then everybody coming to the church to decorate the tree.

When I was little, the tree was a two-night delight. The night before, it was a family outing to the Boy Scout tree lot in Piedmont. Seemed to little me that we had to look at every single tree in the lot before we could settle on the perfect one. One year, when I was in college, Mom and Dad and I went out to dinner—I don't remember where Judy and Janet were. After dinner, we stopped at the PayLess store nearby, picked out the first tree we looked at, and drove home. I remember how hard Mom and Dad laughed when I remarked, "You mean all those years we could have just picked out the first tree and been done with it?"

Year after year, not one of us was ever intelligent enough to put the tree lights away by wrapping them around something so that they wouldn't be the tangled mess that would get everybody in a grumpy mood at the start of the decorating process. We had those big lights—'twas the years before the teeny twinkly ones came out. And one of the sockets caused the light to buzz all the time. We didn't want to fix it because the buzz was a beloved tradition. Isn't it amazing what we make into tradition?

Mom and Dad are gone now. One of the prized treasures of the many that we divided from their house was the ornaments. Judy, Janet, and I took turns choosing from the Christmasy incarnations of love and memory. Every year comes back every time each ornament is lifted out of tissue and hung on a bough. Mom and Dad's faces are reflected in each one.

I know that a church tree isn't like family trees. I guess we feel like we have to hang symbols on the boughs on accounta it's church. But, when we turn down the lights on Christmas Eve, light the little candles we each get to hold (and let hot wax harden on our hands—shh, don't tell) and sing "Silent Night", take a look at the ornaments on the tree and see if you see the faces of Holy Parents and Holy Child reflected in them, looking out at us—the prized treasures of their hearts.

*Love,  
Pastor Jean*

**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 7pm Wednesday, December 26. 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, December 23.

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