

# TLC Trumpet



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

Volume 10 No. 12

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

December 2013

## Pastor's Page

**G**race to you and peace. May I talk frankly as your pastor this month?

"Everything old is being made new again" is the theme for Advent at TLC this year.

Truly, we are at a threshold of transition. To what, we do not know yet. It's being made new.

We have different music leaders in worship now. For Advent, we'll have a different configuration of seating in the sanctuary. We'll have a different kind of Advent wreath. We are using a different lectionary than TLC has used over her twenty-five years. We are working with staff from the Bishop's office to help us transform our ministries so that we can be a stronger presence in Santa Rosa. This is scary for me because I am being coached to delegate what I like to do to others and to spend the majority of my time

doing things I am uncomfortable doing. As I shared with you on Christ the King Sunday, 7 out of 10 of the pastors in our Conference are in a discernment process about changing calls.

I know. This is all happening when 'tis the season when folks long to be home. Being made new and going home conflict. Know that I am aware of that. I lost "home" in 1996 when my mom died. I can never "be home for Christmas" anymore. So, most times I can't wait for these holidays to be over with AND at exactly the same time I work hard to figure out how to make every worship gathering at TLC meaningful and a blessing. I long to make TLC your home.

I can only do some of what's needed to make TLC gatherings meaningful and a blessing; the rest is up to every member. Very likely, over the next few months, you will be asked to step into the uncomfortable. Please take a deep breath and go for it.

Advent is the season of preparation and expectation. This is promising to be an Advent unlike any other. May Spirit be our light and our guide.

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*Love,  
Pastor Jean*

## Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Monday, **December 23**. 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.

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

### December hours for our administrative assistant

Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 10-2.



# Happy Birthday!



Happy Birthday to these TLC folks:

Barbara Kling	12/3
Jean Flak	12/4
Jean Lebbert	12/9
Jean Harrison	12/12
Kim Lehman	12/24
Karen Lehman	12/27
Jesus of Nazareth	12/25

Blessings to you for  
a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy and  
Prosperous New Year

*Dorothy Fast*

*Pastor Jean*



## TLC Group News



### Hearing Loop System Update

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and generous donations at the Council meeting from individual members enough money has been raised for the Hearing Loop System. It will be installed as soon as possible. It might even be in as you read this!! Thank you everyone.



### Christmas Traditions

Not everyone celebrates Christmas the same. Different countries celebrate in different ways. The Adult Forum on December 22nd will explore some of the different customs. Plan to stay after Fellowship time for this fun sharing.

### Let Us Break Bread Together Night

Our monthly supper get together is cancelled this month, due to a conflict with the Blue Christmas service. We hope to see you in January for food and fellowship.



### TLC Congregational Meeting, Part 2

Sunday, Jan. 19, we will gather again following worship to conclude our annual Congregational Meeting. One important order of business at this meeting is the selection of TLC Voting Member to the 2014 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly. We are electing a new bishop this year, so it promises to be an exciting gathering of a wider expression of the church. Please give prayerful thought to whether or not Spirit may be calling you to step forward and be our Voting Member. The Assembly occurs May 29-31 in Burlingame

### Save the Date!

TLC "Be My Valentine" Progressive Dinner will be held Saturday, February 15, at 5:30pm at TLC. \$10 per person includes food and beverages. See Verda, Barbara, Joan, Marilyn, Ingrid, Gloria, George, or Jordan for more information.



### Labels and Box tops for Education

Please continue to cut them from your cans and cereal boxes, etc. There is a small container on the ledge of the pass-through to the kitchen where you can deposit them.

For those who are new to the congregation, we send these to Mosaic at Bethphage Village, which is a home in Axtell, NE, for people with developmental disabilities. It is an affiliate ministry organization of the ELCA.

## Holiday Events in 2013

### Third Annual Blue Christmas

*(but first time as a joint ministry event)*

Christmas is a difficult time for those who are in mourning or making a difficult transition. Our Blue Christmas worship offers a solemn sacred space, stillness for your heart and soul in the midst of frantic holiday preparations, permission to stop and receive Spirit's consolation. Pastor Tim Carnahan from Faith will be the preacher this year. The worship event will be held on Thursday, December 19, at 7 p.m. at TLC



Christmas Eve  
SERVICE

### Christmas Eve 7 p.m. Family Service

This service is always a highlight at TLC. Families gather for beloved Carols and to hear again the Christmas story. Scriptures are Luke 2:1-20 and Psalm 96: 7-10. Music will be led by Jan, Sandy, Karen, and Jordan. Rob, Pastor Jean, and her sister, Janet Venerella will also bring special music. Sermon title is a good one to tuck into your Christmas observance: "Make Room for Christ"

### Christmas Eve 11 p.m. Carols and Candles at Faith Lutheran Church

A few of us cherish this traditional late service that concludes at the stroke of Christmas Day. This year, we join with the folks over at Faith. Pastor Tim Carnahan will be the preacher and presider. Maryellen Birkland will lead the singing of Christmas Carols. Come, let us adore him.

### Christmas Day Worship and Holy Communion

This year, this worship event will take place at TLC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Jean will be the preacher. Come and worship the newborn king.



Christmas Day Worship

# Sunday Worship in December

## Dec. 1 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

Fiery furnace Scriptures: Daniel 3:1, 8-30; John 18:36-37

Sermon title: How We Wish Faith Would  
Get Us Out of Hot Water

Music: Griffin Becker



## Holiday Worship Schedule

## Dec. 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Valley of Bones Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:25-26

Sermon title: Breath and Bones

Music: New Band

## Dec. 15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent; Guest Preacher Cary Bass-Deschenes

Return from Exile Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-11; John 4:13-14

Sermon title: TBA

Music: Griffin Becker

## Dec. 22 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

Word made Flesh Scriptures: John 1:1-18

Sermon title: Full of Grace and Truth

Music: Original Band

## Dec. 29 John the Baptist questioned

A Voice in the Wilderness Scriptures: John 1:19-34; Ps. 32:1-2

Sermon title: A Voice in the Wilderness

Wilderness Liturgical color: white

Music: New Band



A Benefit for the San Francisco Night Ministry

# Amahl and the Night Visitors

by Gian Carlo Menotti

## Musical Offering

Sunday, December 8 – 10:00am

Faith Lutheran Church

20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA

## Christmas Vespers

Sunday, December 8 - 7:00 pm

Pre-Service Hymn Sing starts at 6:30 pm

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

2770 Marin Avenue, Berkeley, CA

Free and open to the public. Freewill offerings appreciated.

Space is limited. Please rsvp by November 22, 2013 at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChristmasProgram2013rsvp>



## Spend Money and Help TLC

Please think of us before you shop online - it's free to you and valuable for us. Sign in to your eScrip account or shop anonymously. We earn contributions automatically.

It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3 :

1. **Enroll** with [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
2. **Click** on the Online Mall logo at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
3. **Shop** at your favorite brand name stores and automatically donate to TLC.

**Make your holiday shopping count for TLC.**

Also, don't forget every time you use Good Search as your search engine online you earn money for TLC. Every little bit helps!



## Meet Cary Bass-Deschenes

On December 15th, we have the opportunity to hear an inspiring story of faith and a man's passion for evangelism and mission development when Cary Bass-Deschenes takes the pulpit at TLC.

Cary is a 46 year old second career seminarian and 4th year student. He grew up Lutheran and began receiving a feeling that he should enter ministry. However, he also realized a clear same-sex attraction, so he determined that it would be much easier living the person he thought he should live, instead of going into the closet to be what he thought God wanted him to be. He stopped attending church altogether except for the occasional family gathering.

He's been living with his current spouse, Michael, for over 7 years and began to return to church with him after they moved to San Francisco in 2008. During the lead-up to the ELCA Human Sexuality Statement and decisions of 2009, it became increasingly apparent that even though he had abandoned his call, God had not

forgotten him, and circumstances in his life led him to enter Seminary in 2010. Nothing since he's been at PLTS has done anything except to affirm that decision.

Michael and he legally married in June of this year, the very day the court removed the ban on same sex marriage.

He has a strong affiliation toward evangelism (in our Lutheran sense of this word) and mission development is a strong call. He's currently involved in Prison Ministry, visiting San Quentin regularly, and also a "renegade" Christian community start-up in Emeryville (with backing from the ELCA).

We hope you will join us after church for a Q & A with Cary. His visit is perfectly timed as we are stepping-up our own mission development and outreach activities. Please come with your questions, concerns and interests...and grab a cookie or two on your way!

*Outreach & Evangelism*

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### 2014 Advent Theme: Everything Old Is New Again

Re-forming doesn't necessarily mean we throw out the old. It also means what we value most we let move and evolve and remain valuable in new ways. We will explore this part of "Committed to Being Re-formed" during Advent. One movement you'll notice on the first Sunday of Advent is a reconfiguration of the seating for worship! Come and see!

### Like Us on Facebook?

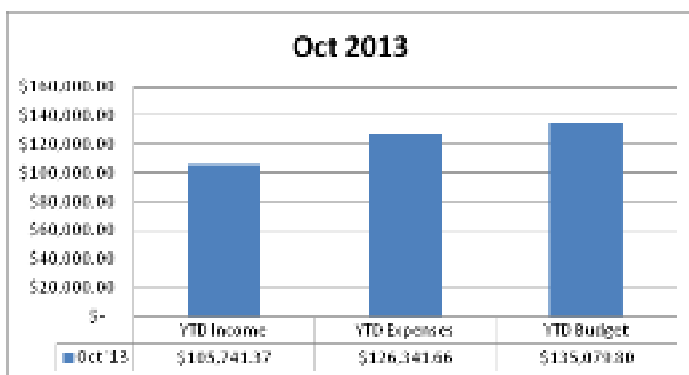
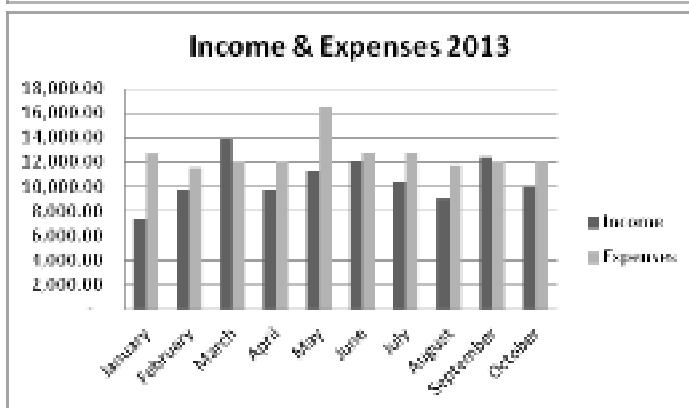
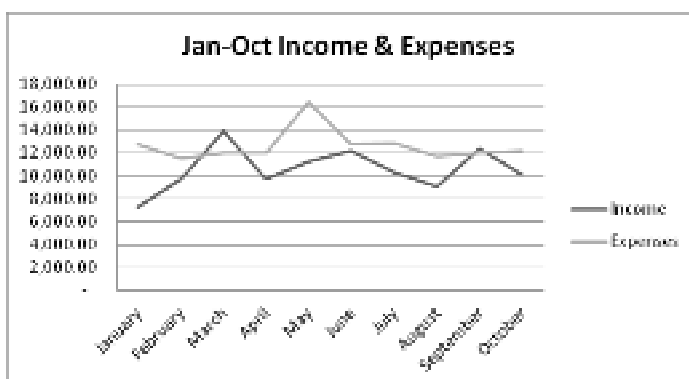


Recently, Councilmember Mary Weber took over administering TLC's Facebook page. If you are "friends" with either Pastor Jean or Mary, you may have noticed a significant increase in postings. Way to make us more conspicuous, Mary!

On February 8, 2014, the Congregational Life Discipling Team of the Sierra Pacific Synod is offering a workshop entitled "Using Media in Your Congregation." Topics to be discussed include Projectors, Twitter, Websites, Screens, Podcasts, and Facebook. What do all of these have to do with ministry? Pastor and Mary are planning on attending. If you would like to join them, you are most welcome. Talk to Pastor.

## OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

Sadly October was another deficit month for TLC. Expenses were \$2,095.55 more than income. This brings the deficit to \$20,570.92 for the first ten months of the year. On average this is \$2,057.09 per month or \$514.72 per week.



### Gifts to Others in Need

Gifts to those beyond our local church continue to grow. As of 11/17 \$20 has gone to FISH (plus all of the donated food items placed in the blue barrel), \$1,147 to the ELCA Malaria Eradication project, \$90 to the ELCA Disaster Fund, \$75 to the ELCA Hunger Fund, \$640 to various 2nd mile groups, \$545 to the Rwanda School Project and \$215 to the ELCA for Typhoon Haiyan relief. If you have given your \$10 towards the Malaria fund don't forget to add your name on a mosquito and "splat" it!

The Christmas offering this year goes to Lutheran Social Services of Northern California as it has for a number of years. Here is another chance to help those in need in our own area. This group does outstanding work in meeting the needs of many groups of people. Be a part of this good work. Note on your check or envelope if your gift is intended for this use.

### Thanks for the Pledges

At part one of the congregational meeting on November 17th the Operating Budget for 2014 was passed. It is once again a deficit budget. Since the meeting more pledges were received which is great news. As of 11/19 \$90,956 has been pledged for 2014. We always receive more than is pledged so we are hopefully optimistic that there will be enough to cover all of our expenses. With this new pledges in the budget the budget deficit for 2014 is at \$50,269.62.

Mission Investment Fund and the Synod continue to work with us on ways to grow our ministry and income. This is a challenging but exciting time for TLC.



**TLC Executive Committee:**

Jordan Eberly, President  
Keith Becker, Vice-president  
Lisa Bartlett, Secretary  
Jean Harrison, Treasurer  
Astrid Anderson, Financial Secretary

**Council Liaisons to Committees:**

Christian Education	Cindy Heiller
Congregation and Community Care	Barbara Kling
Finance	Lisa Bartlett
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Mary Weber
Property	Keith Becker
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Jordan Eberly

**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.

**Committee Chairs**

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Jordan Eberly
Finance	Jean Harrison
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Jan Thomas
Property	Jan Loewen
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Mary Thompson
Youth (in hiatus)	

**Who's Who In Worship**

**Altar Guild Coordinator:**

Mary Dawson

**Greeters Coordinator:**

Jan Thomas

**Asst. Ministers Coordinator:**

Ingrid Feiertag

**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:**

Gloria Feiertag

**Women's Retreat Coordinator:**

Karen Lehman

## TLC December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> Caroling Party <b>3:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>2</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Mutual Ministry <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion Practice	<b>3</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>7</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>12:00 PM</b> CCC Meeting
<b>8</b>  <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>10:45 AM</b> Focus Group Training <b>3:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion Practice	<b>10</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Property Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>14</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>15</b>  <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>3:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion Practice	<b>17</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>18</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>19</b>  <b>Blue Christmas</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Blue Christmas	<b>20</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>21</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Finance Committee <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>22</b>  <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>3:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion Practice	 <b>Christmas Eve WORSHIP</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve	 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Christmas Morning Service <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>28</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>6:00 PM</b> After Christmas Potluck and White Elephant Exchange
<b>29</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Council Meeting <b>3:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Roca de Salvacion Practice	<b>31</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous small group <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous