

The

# TLC Trumpet

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

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www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

February 2008

## *Grace and Peace be with You,*

Honestly, I realize, with a tender heart, that it is difficult to “cram” more church into your schedule. However, Lent is upon us. **Ash Wednesday is February 6<sup>th</sup>!**

I have devoted much of my time off in January to creating Lenten Wednesday worship services that will be worth your re-prioritizing all those other demands so that you can have a deeply spiritual journey to Holy Week. Lent is not about rending your garments and smearing ashes on your poor, worthless self. Lent is more like doing your best to prepare the garden of your precious heart for the seed of faith to take root and flourish.

**On Ash Wednesday, we will gather at 7:00 p.m.** for a time of cleansing our hearts in confession and restoring our perspectives so that we can forgive, love, and serve as people who are forgiven, loved, and served. We will be imposing ashes as a sign of confession and repentance.

On the Wednesdays of Lent, I encourage you to come for the nourishment of fellowship, homemade soup, and the Word. CCC will be coordinating the soup suppers; if you have a hankering to make a pot of soup, get in touch with Judy Sawyer right away so she can get you on the schedule. At worship, I'll be doing some Bible storytelling and reading some great prayers in the Bible:



us

Feb 13 – Elijah’s prayer on Mt. Horeb

Feb 20 – The prayer of Queen Esther

Feb 27 – King Manasseh’s prayer and confession

Mar 5 – The prayer of Abednigo while he was IN the fiery furnace!

Mar 12 – Jesus’ prayer for his disciples and for

**Hot soup, faith fellowship, sacred stories, amazing prayers.  
Honestly, WHAT could be more important than that?**

If you have to work on Wednesday nights, breathe. I will put the stories and prayers on our website. Heat up a can of soup and enjoy some holy perusing when you can.

I also expect to see you on Sundays at our regular worship at 9:30 a.m.. As a part of your Lenten discipline, consider joining the Adult Forum. We are reading through the Gospel According to Matthew, and I have to tell you, the discussions are great! Honestly,

*Love,*

*Pastor Jean*

*Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at 6:00  
Worship at 7:00  
Wednesday Lenten services at 7:00*



## Easter is March 23!

It's hard to believe, but Easter is just around the corner - March 23 this year! In celebration, we will have a soup supper on Ash Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> to start the Lenten season. If you will be attending and would like to make your favorite soup for the evening, please let Betty Hiebel know. We will also be having the **TLC Annual Easter Brunch** so look for the poster sign-up on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Let's make these events a blessed and joyous time for our congregation!

*Your CCC Committee*


## Lilies and Bonnets!

Easter is closing in on us! Yep, it is! March the 23rd this year, so now is the time to start thinking about how many Easter lilies you would like to see at TLC on Easter morning!! And the number depends on everyone! In the very near future I will have a sign up sheet and reservation slips like we did for the Christmas

flowers! So start thinking about how many each of you would like to order!

And Ladies, keep in mind you only have a little over six weeks to decide on your Easter bonnet! I promise I will be wearing mine this year.

*Mary Dawson*



From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all your prayers, love, caring, cards, calls, visits, and food following my stroke. Your warm welcome when I returned to worship gave my heart a big smile! Special thanks to Pastor Jean for her visits, love, and care.

God's love is truly put into action at TLC. Your love and caring is greatly appreciated – I am blessed and grateful to be a part of the TLC family!

Love in Christ,

*Lola Burmahl*

## Getting to Know...

### Grace Israelson...

Are you ready for another mother-daughter story, like we had in last month's *Trumpet*? Grace is Mary Dawson's mother. (See the *Trumpet*, Dec. '06 for Mary's "life.")

Grace knows she was "born well" at her parent's home in Welborn, FL (near Jacksonville), but she has no birth certificate to prove it. None was ever filed . . . life was a little different in those days.

At age 13 during the Depression, her father died from an accident while working for the WPA. At that point

Grace grew up quickly as she became her mother's chief assistant in the raising of her four siblings.

At age 17 Grace was working in a restaurant, A young man named Leo liked to eat there. But I suspect that food was only a secondary interest. A year later Grace and Leo were married. They moved to Cleveland where Leo worked on the big ships called "lakers" that carried ore and grains across the Great Lakes.\*

When WW2 broke out, they came to California for Leo's work in the shipyards. Grace was busy also. She became the mother of four children in five years. Mary was the family "baby," born in Long Beach.

After the War, Leo went back to work on the Lakers. The family moved into his ancestral home in Hartfield on Lake Chautauqua in northwest New York state. Soon, Leo took his final job, making powdered milk for the Chautauqua Malted Milk Company. From here he retired in 1981.

Again, Grace was busy. She was a Deputy Matron in the Sheriff's Department for 21 years. For ten of those years she wore two hats. Some times she would be cooking meals for "guests" detained by the sheriff. Other times she would travel to various locations to escort ladies who were to become "guests" of the sheriff.

Since her retirement in 1985 and Leo's passing in 1986, Grace has been on the move. She divides her time between her home in Hartfield, Mary's home in Santa Rosa, and other relatives in Florida. Other travels have take her to Hawaii and Alaska.

Back home, she has been a member of Rebekah Lodge in Mayville for 60 years. She is a past New York state officer. Grace is also a life member of VFW Auxiliary. She loves to read and is an avid baker. Sometimes we are treated to her baked goods when she brings after-church refreshments.

Grace might qualify as TLC's only part-time Lutheran. Back home in New York during the summer she attends the Methodist Church in Dewittville. She has been a member for 60 years and counts many long-time friends in the congregation. While at Mary's home during the winter she transforms into a Lutheran. Grace says, "I don't see that much difference. Anyway, we're all Christians."

*George Land*

*\*Trivia question: Why is the basketball team in Los Angeles called the "Lakers" even though there are no lakes in L.A.? Because the team began in Minneapolis and were named after the ships. When the team moved to L.A. in 1961 they kept the name.*

# **For we are...created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.** Ephesians 2:10

*Stay in step with God!*

Our fixed attitude must always be "Lord, show me Your plan." Then when we know what God desires, to do it! When we say yes to God, He imparts the ability we lack to perform His will. Note, the Lord doesn't impart His ability first, then call us. No, He calls us, and as we step out in faith and obey Him, He imparts His ability.

The Bible says, "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Eph4:1). This word "walk" does not refer to some sort of meandering stroll. It means to stay in step with the Lord, to catch the beat of the Holy Spirit, and to move precisely as He moves. When God acts, we act. When God pauses, we pause. We must never think we can compartmentalize our life to the point where we say, "In this category, in this season, in this circumstance, I am operating on my own. In this other category, or season, or circumstance, I am operating according to the power of the Holy Spirit within me." The Holy Spirit does not come and go from our lives. He is always with us! "In Him we live, and move, and have our being"(Ac 17:28). Once you begin to walk to the rhythm of the Holy Spirit, nothing is going to matter as much to you as keeping pace with Him. You will find that the direction He takes you in is always the right direction, His timing is always the right timing, and the results you get are always the right results.

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

**You  
might be  
a Lutheran if...**

**.....your congregation's first two operating rules are "Don't change"and "Don't spend."**

**.....Commandment # 11 — If it's never been done that way before, don't do it!**

**.....you can't have a meeting without having a meal**

**.....you hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can**

**.....your house is a mess because you are "saved by Grace," not by works**

**....at the close of a memo it states "Peace be with you" and you respond "and also with you."**

*submitted by Mary Dawson*



**Activities for the**

## **50+ Crowd**

What do you know about George Washington? First President . . . "Father of Our Country" . . . cut down a cherry tree . . . but wait, there is more . . . a lot more. If you attend the next Nifty Fifties, you may learn many interesting things about George. You will also see photographic slides of the actual sites that were important in George's life.

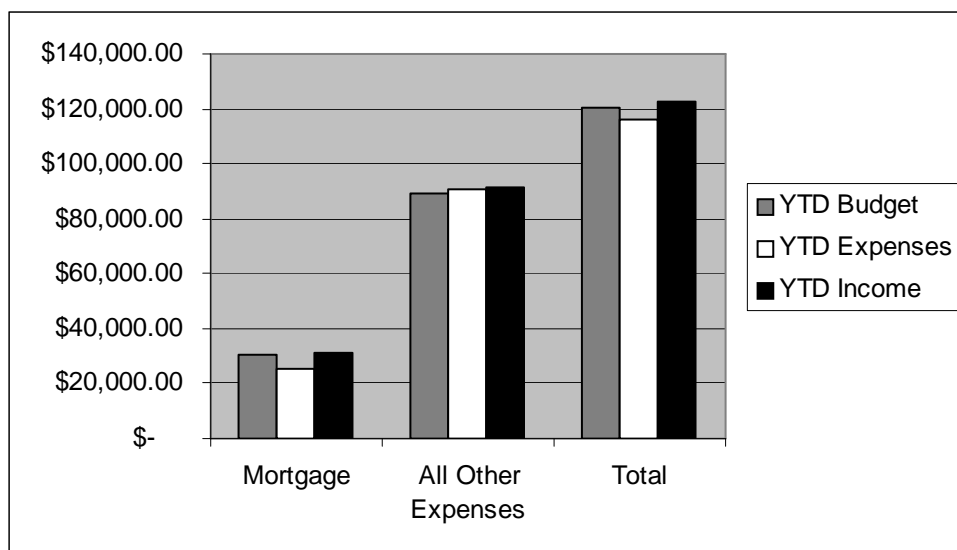
We will gather at 6 PM at the Church for a pot-luck dinner on Thursday, February 28 (just a week after Washington's birthday). Then we are off to Mt. Vernon . . . and many other places.

*George Land*

## TLC Income & Expenses - December 2007

	December	Year to Date	Budget
<b>Received</b>			
Building Fund (Mortgage)	\$ 2,966.25	\$ 31,503.25	
General Fund (envelopes + loose)	\$11,815.72	\$ 81,071.82	
All Other	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 10,061.05	
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$15,806.97</b>	<b>\$122,636.12</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Mission Support	\$1,126.49	\$ 8,484.85	\$ 9,500.00
Staff	\$4,415.07	\$ 51,657.68	\$ 52,200.00
Mortgage	\$1,964.34	\$ 25,546.43	\$ 33,600.00
All Other	\$2,452.90	\$ 30,506.98	\$ 35,677.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9,958.80</b>	<b>\$116,195.94</b>	<b>\$130,977.00</b>
Net Income	\$5,848.17	\$ 6,440.18	

	YTD Budget	YTD Expenses	YTD Income
Mortgage	\$ 30,800.00	\$ 25,546.43	\$ 31,503.25
All Other Expenses	\$ 89,262.00	\$ 90,649.51	\$ 91,132.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$120,062.00</b>	<b>\$116,195.94</b>	<b>\$122,636.12</b>



An offertory prayer:

O God, who has given us the earth, filled it with every good thing and set us on it as caretakers and stewards, we raise our prayer of thanksgiving to you for life and beauty and grace.

Teach us to pause each day to see what you have made and how it reveals your graciousness to us. Help us live with thankful attitudes. Help us make each day a new beginning full of promise. Give us the courage to leave behind our pessimism, gloom and self-despising and to recognize every good gift you're waiting to give us.

Make us into your triumphant people, whose gift back to you is the love and respect we give to ourselves and our neighbor. And let your kingdom come through us today and forever. Amen.

# Awareness-Trial-Commitment: What does this mean?

(Part 1: Focus on Awareness)

Perhaps you've seen the charts in the Annual Report and posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, but you're still not sure exactly what it all means or what difference it makes—what does it mean to *plan* activities using the Awareness-Trial-Commitment model? How do we determine *which* category a given activity falls under? Are there questions we can ask ourselves when we are planning church activities to help us make sure we are taking into account the ideas behind Awareness, Trial, and Commitment? In this 4-part series, we'll consider each element as it applies to our "outreach" activities—the "big picture" things we do to reach out to those in the greater community who don't yet know about Thanksgiving Lutheran. We'll also take a look at how each element applies "internally," to *everything* we do or plan at TLC. Our goal? To make Awareness-Trial-Commitment thinking a way of life at TLC! This month, our focus is on **Awareness**.

"Awareness" activities are important for **outreach** as they are initial contact points between the congregation and the community. **Building Awareness means doing things and holding events that let people know about the mission and ministry of TLC. Successful awareness-building actions lead to the desire/opportunity for people to "try out" Thanksgiving Lutheran!** Here are some examples of current or recent activities that have generated "Awareness" of TLC in the wider community:

- Newspaper ads in the Press Democrat, weekly as well as at holidays
- Periodic postcard mailings to TLC neighbors
- Our "seasonal" banners and signs outside
- Word of Mouth—members telling friends about TLC!
- Fliers for the Community Garden distributed in the community
- Representation with a table at the Santa Rosa Gay Pride Festival
- The Holiday Craft Fair held last November.

Awareness activities are also important for every activity **within the congregation**, providing contact points between the congregation-at-large and those who are planning or developing a particular activity—people can't participate in your activity or tell others about it if they don't know about it! Some examples of vehicles for building "Awareness" for programs within the congregation at TLC:

- Use of the Trumpet, weekly announcements (written and/or verbal as appropriate), and the website to publicize activities.
- Personal invitations to new members and friends.
- Youth-led worship services (while "Awareness" was probably not a recognized planning goal for Jan, pastor and the kids, the participation of our youth in worship did an excellent job of helping folks be aware that we DO have youth activities we can build on!)

If you are thinking about a new program or ministry idea, ask yourself (or your committee) these questions to take **AWARENESS** into account:

- Will this activity help the greater Santa Rosa community become more aware of the mission and ministry of TLC? How? What else could we do to help the community find out about TLC? About this particular activity?
- How can I make sure as many people as possible find out about this activity and know how they can participate in it? Will this activity help the congregation become more aware of our mission and ministry?

# Happy Valentine's Day

Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was  
made:  
Our times are in his hand Who saith,  
"A whole I planned, Youth shows but half;  
trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"  
**Robert Browning**

## Elizabeth's reply:

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and  
height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need; by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's  
faith  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints,—I love thee with the  
breath.  
Smiles, tears, of all my life!—and, if God  
choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.  
**Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

Success in marriage is more  
than finding the right person,  
it is becoming the right person.

So...

"Pursue righteousness, godliness,  
faith,  
love,  
perseverance and gentleness..."  
(1 Timothy 6:11)

**Just for KIDS**

# LOVE

In the Bible, Jesus says there are two greatest commandments. Below is a heart with continuous words around it. With your pencil, draw lines between the words. Then copy the words onto the lines below to complete Luke 10:27, NIV.

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself."

2008 Council Officers

President: Deb Ferronato  
VP: Dave Flanagan  
Secretary: Jan Thomas

Committee Liaison Assignments:

Education: Deb Ferronato  
Facilities: Dave Flanagan  
Outreach: Jan Thomas  
Finance: Jean Harrison  
Cong & Community Care: Sandy Koppen  
Worship: Pastor Jean

*I've given it a lot of thought, and in 2008 I'd like to be involved in TLC in the following way(s):*

*I'm really excited about 2008 at TLC!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cut out or make a copy and put this information in the offering plate, or an appropriate liason's church mailbox...*

**Next Trumpet Deadline!**

**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)**

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, February 20. 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, February 17.