

The

TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 6 No. 2

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

February 2009

It's Not Just a Patio: It's a MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!!!

You can't miss it! 1500 square feet of increased living space on the north side of the building – plus the sidewalk and poured-in-place benches. This exciting improvement was made possible by the generosity of one of TLC's charter members, the late Margaret Heckathorn, who passed away in 2008.

As Tuesday, January 27 dawned with clear skies and frosty temperatures, the crew from Miller Concrete began pouring the concrete for the patio area, spreading and smoothing, scoring, and then broom-finishing the surface. 3+ loads of concrete were poured for this project (not counting the benches, which were poured the week before). Caution tape was strung around the perimeter and across the doors leading to the new surfaces (mostly to keep the TOPS members who were having their meeting that morning, from etching their names into the wet substance), and left in place for a couple of days.

The patio is level with the church slab, so no steps or ramps are necessary for handicapped access, and there is now a permanent sidewalk from the northwest exit from the worship space to the nursery room door (we're working on a bid to get the sidewalk the rest of the way around the building).

While they were at it, the Miller crew took care of a few other small items: They finished the pipe on the outside of the kitchen wall, removing the small piece of plywood; filled in and smoothed the area around the drain (near the refrigerator) in the kitchen floor; and chipped out the slab in front of the west door (end of the classroom wing hallway) and refinished it with a slight pitch away from the building, which will keep rainwater away from the building and door. They are working on obtaining the correct size drain pipe connections, so the roof drains will connect to the pipes that were laid under the patio. No concrete was poured where the pipes connect so we will always have easy access if we need it.

Pastor will dedicate the patio today (Feb 1) after church, and *our* first big celebration using the patio will be on Easter, when we have the TLC Easter Brunch on the new surface, but that isn't to say it won't be used between now and then! Pastor will be marrying a couple on February 7th, and the area will probably be utilized on that day weather permitting, and all of the groups that meet at TLC will no doubt be pleased with the improvement as well.

Looking ahead - maybe we should talk about some landscaping possibilities to further beautify this area and perhaps screen it a bit from the hustle and bustle of Fulton Road...And how do you envision using this improvement? After all:

It's not just a patio – it's a MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!!!

Scripture Readings for February 2009

February 1 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

February 8 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 15 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1-14

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

February 22 Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 25 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-18 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



Lent and Easter at TLC

A time of spiritual introspection, renewal, hope and celebration

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion - February 25th at 7pm

Lent Soup Suppers and Services - Thursdays, beginning March 5

We will gather at 6pm for soup supper and fellowship. Bring an ingredient for next week's soup and see what Pastor Jean cooks up! Worship begins at 7:00. The theme for this year is "Great Confessions from the Scriptures".

Palm Sunday Holy Communion - April 5 at 9:30am

We remember Christ's Passion, from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his suffering and crucifixion outside the city walls.

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion - April 9 at 7pm

On his last night with his disciples, Jesus gave a new command, to serve in unconditional love.

Good Friday - April 10 at 7pm

A rugged cross becomes our symbol of victory.

Easter Celebration Holy Communion - Sunday, April 12 at 9:30am

The tomb is empty. "Christ is Risen!" breaks into a new day and a new life in Christ. Stay after worship for the annual Easter Brunch potluck on our new patio! (weather permitting)

Stewardship Gift of GAB

Presented as a Temple Talk on January 18, 2009

Here we are starting out the New Year with the Stewardship Gift of GAB. Remember that GAB stands for God's Abundant Blessings. The difference is that this time and for the next 2 times at least we will be talking about another part of Stewardship - Time and Talent. It is our hope that we can talk about Stewardship without causing anyone to feel guilty or uncomfortable, and I think we have done a pretty good job of that. Talking about Time and Talent is harder, but we are going to give it a try.

Most or maybe all of us will say, I don't have time for anymore, I can't do that, I've done my share and I'm done now. I guess that we have all said something like that at one time or another. We feel overwhelmed, and if someone asks us to do one more thing, we just won't be able to handle it. I'd like to tell a story and then come back to that.

There were these little green frogs, lots and lots of them. They decided one day to climb to the top of a tree. So they all started up the tree. However, there were those who wouldn't even try and they stayed behind and kept yelling at those who were trying - "you'll never make it" - "it's too hard" - "it's too high". And little by little some of the little green frogs quit, but there was one green frog that just kept going. The other frogs kept yelling, and little by little more and more frogs quit, but the one little green frog kept going. Finally all the little green frogs had quit, but the one little green frog made it! Hooray for the little green frog that made it. Maybe you wonder why the one little green frog made it to the top of the tree - that little green frog was deaf and so he didn't hear all the other frogs yelling that he couldn't make it.

I wonder what voices we hear when we are asked to do something at home, at work, at church, at school and in our world. Are the words we hear, I'm too busy, I can't do that I have no talent, it's someone else's turn, and sometimes we hear I don't feel like it.

Each of us have the same amount of time each day, how do we use our time to make our world a better place? How do we choose our priorities? Maybe we have talents we don't know about yet! Maybe we can let go of some of the things we do in order to try on other ventures. We can seek out new ways to use our talents and in doing so make the time spent more interesting.. Let's not wring our hands and say that we just can't do any more. We can take some time to evaluate our time, how we are using it, and what we can do better and wiser. Perhaps we can make a list of things that we are doing now and then decide what we need to keep, what we need to reevaluate, and what new venture we can try on.

To that end we made up a list of every now and then tasks that can be done. Thirty-six people filled out the forms that were handed out. These are tasks that can be done once or twice in the next 6 months. You are not lashed to the oar for the rest of your life! As we work together with others we can develop new friendships and we can find joy in what we do and know that each day God is saying to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



"Don't tell God how big your storm is...Tell your storm how big God is."

author unknown

submitted by Mary Weber

Favorite Hymns Redux

Do you have some favorite hymns/songs that we haven't used in worship lately? We figured as much - there are so many across all the books we have, that some are bound to get overlooked. The Worship Committee would like to hear from you what these songs may be. We can work them in over the year as appropriate for the church season. Let someone on the worship committee know, or drop an email to Mark Koppen at koppen4709@yahoo.com.



I want to thank the congregation for the opportunity to serve as Administrative Assistant during the past few years. My respect and affections have increased as I've gotten to know and love so many of you. The financial challenges of the current budget rightly call for prudent fiscal management. I wish to say farewell and depart from the position I held with sincere thanks for all I have gained from your support.

In peace,
Sandi Leithe

“Wow! There’s a lot going on here...”

(Overheard during fellowship-time recently.)

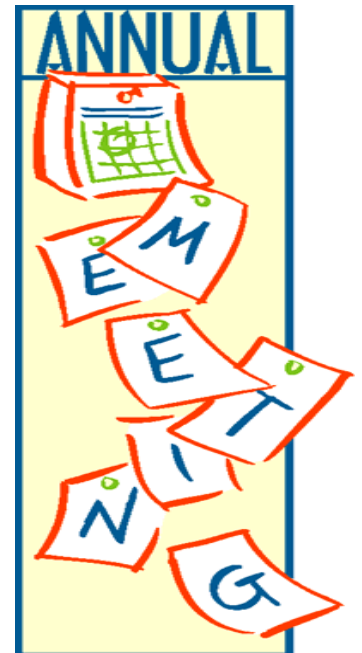
Yes, there is a lot going on at TLC! We'll hear all about it during the second half of our annual meeting on February 8th. You'll find out what all our committees accomplished in 2008 and what they want to do in '09. You'll learn about Pastor Jean's vision for us in the coming year and the two goals she has for our congregation. It's a chance to listen, ask questions and reconsider your own participation, too. Perhaps you're ready to help out on a committee or volunteer for a task or two, or change your committee affiliation in favor of another that appeals to new interests. This gathering is about the *life* of our congregation; You are part of that life. See you there!

Who: YOU!

What: Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2

When: Sunday, February 8th, following fellowship time at 11:00, lasting about an hour.

Where: TLC



A Little Bit of Catechism: A Few Words from Luther*

(...because the *Catechism* isn't just for kids!)

In the *Large Catechism*, Luther observes that while the first three commandments are directed toward *God*, the remaining seven relate to our *neighbor*, and “among these the first and greatest is: “You are to honor your father and mother.” In fact, Luther gives significantly more *Large Catechism* space to commentary on this commandment than to any of the other ten!

Luther begins with comments that ring as music to a parent's ears: “It must be impressed on young people that they revere their parents as God's representatives, and to remember that, however lowly, poor, feeble, and eccentric they may be, they are still their mother and father, given by God.” Honoring one's parents is no small task, either: “You are to esteem [your parents] above all things and to value them as the most precious treasure on earth....you are also to behave respectfully toward them and are not to speak discourteously to them, to criticize them, or to take them to task, but rather to submit to them and hold your tongue, even if they go too far....you are also to honor them by your actions...serving them, helping them, and caring for them when they are old, sick, feeble, or poor....” And to top things off, all this is to be done cheerfully, humbly, and reverently, “doing it as if for God.” It's hard to imagine a child who wouldn't have some serious questions about what God is asking them to do here!

But wait! Luther isn't about to let parents off the hook, and he ends his commentary on the fourth commandment with some pretty strong words for parents too:

“Do not imagine that the parental office is a matter of your pleasure and whim. It is a strict commandment and injunction of God, who holds you accountable for it....Everyone acts as if God gave us children for our pleasure and amusement, gave us servants merely to put them to work like cows or donkeys, and gave us subjects to treat as we please, as if it were no concern of ours what they learn or how they live....We must not think only of amassing money and property for [our children]. God can provide for them and make them rich without our help....But he has given us children and entrusted them to us precisely so that we may raise and govern them according to his will; otherwise, God would have no need of fathers and mothers.”

So parents—don't let the fourth commandment go to your head! And kids—don't let the fourth commandment get you down! Recognize each other—parents AND kids—for the gifts from God that you are, and treat each other accordingly!

*Source for Luther quotes and info: *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, editors. Augsburg Fortress, 2000.

Submitted by Sandy Koppen



Film Noir Group Forms at TLC

A new group has started up. It consists of people who are interested in Film Noir. These are movies from the 1940's and 50's, mostly black and white. The usual plots involve crooks and their evil women who use and abuse them. If you are interested . . . or want to learn more . . . speak to George Land. He can usually be found in the company of the lovely Diane, who is NOT an evil woman.

George Land

A Love Note...

From Pastor Jean...

In his second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul writes that God keeps the glorious treasure of Divine light and power in clay jars, that is, in us, in our temporal, human, flawed, humble bodies, as a means of revelation. (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Why put glorious treasure in clay pots?

Well, let's think about this. If you keep a marvelous possession in a mundane vessel, you will more likely be able to discern which is the more valuable. If you keep a treasure in a costly and comely container, it could become difficult to distinguish. We have a knack for making the wrong thing holy. In Jesus' time, people refused to do God's work on the Sabbath, to keep the day holy.

Another thing, thieves and enemies will go for the gold and silver and overlook the ordinary. You know, like a key hidden under a plain garden rock or jewelry stashed in a soup can in the pantry. Apply this idea to the church: someone could burn a church building, but they never think to try to destroy the light and power of the relationships of a spiritual community, the treasure of caring phone calls, prayer requests, handshakes and hugs, hospital visits, just sitting nearby. God's people know the treasure that is contained in these "ordinary" acts of love and fellowship.

This is the most astonishing of all: the most humble object can become the most useful, because one is not afraid to use it. Every day, several times a day, I use the kitchen sponge. I haven't yet even once used the antique teapot that I found that matches the two antique tea cups from occupied Japan – that, come to think of it, I've only ever used ONCE!

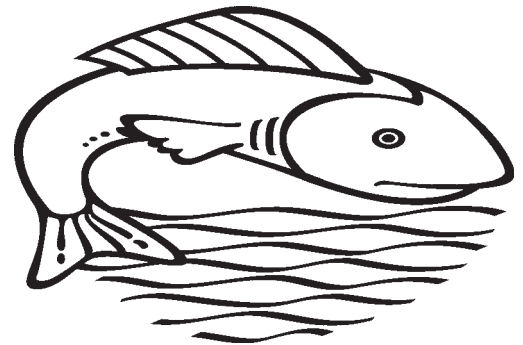
Those great and marvelous acts of God – you know, theophanies, angel sightings, miracle healings, exorcisms – they happen once in a while. Christians caring about each other and coming together to create a caring ministry for others in need – why that happens so often that we run the risk of burning out the really active members and are constantly campaigning for funds to do caring ministries. Plus, like Paul wrote, what others notice about our God is what they see in how we act toward self and neighbor, not in how many miraculous acts of God happen in our midst.

So, be aware that your simple acts of love are you containing Divine light and love, and be conspicuous when you care. Let others notice.

*Love,
Pastor Jean*

F.I.S.H.

F.I.S.H. is one of the smaller nonprofit groups in the county working hard to provide services to the needy. It provides free food and sometimes other small items for household and personal care. Yes, and sometimes even a bit of pet food finds its way across the counter. This program has been operating in Santa Rosa with donations of food, money and volunteers for 35 years. In 2008 F.I.S.H. experienced a 20 percent increase in clients (40 percent are children) and struggles to keep up. We at TLC are a small group with big hearts who will continue to do our best each month filling up the Blue Barrel for our friends at F.I.S.H. If you would like more information regarding donating money, time or what's most needed please call Marilyn at 869-8148.





Hearts and Flowers = Chocolate and ?

The TLC Women's Group will be meeting this month on its new day - the second Thursday of even-numbered months. Since it's February, there has to be chocolate and talk of love (or even talk about how much you love chocolate – what brand, milk or dark, nuts or no nuts, whether it should have fruit in it, what you like to pour it on, does it belong in a cheesecake crust, etc) – which isn't really any different from any other women's group gathering, now that I think about it...hmmm...

The important thing is that we get together and have some fun – and hey - remember that time when you thought, "I'm just too tired tonight – it's been a long day...but, oh well, I guess I'll go – show some support...whatever". And so you came, you talked, you listened and you laughed – you laughed a lot, actually; and when it came time to go home you didn't feel so tired and you were glad you came...

So come this month – you can bring a snack to share if you like, but you don't have to – I don't think there's ever been a shortage of anything to munch on...

Thursday, February 12, 7:00, at church – all women 18 years and up are welcome...maybe we'll play a game...or watch a movie...or make valentines...but there WILL be chocolate...no matter what!

Any questions, suggestions and/or silliness should be addressed to Karen at 887-9348 or momvoice@comcast.net

Do the "Supper Shuffle"

The CCC Committee is at it again. We are still promoting more fellowship opportunities to get TLC'ers better acquainted with each other. The latest implement in our bag of tricks is the supper club idea. We call it "Supper Shuffle." The club is open to all adults and their guests as couples, singles, multiples, *etc.* You are free to enter or exit the club at anytime. It works like this:

A different person will host a meal for 6-8 people. With enough people, we can create a different mix at each event. Several different groups may meet at the same time. The host provides the main course while others bring salad, vegetables, dessert, *etc.* Eventually, everyone will have a turn at hosting and providing different elements.

We would like to meet on Saturday evenings, quarterly, throughout the year. Can we get started on Saturday, February 21? Are you interested? Fill in the tear-sheet below and put it in the collection plate or give it to a CCC member (the Feiertags, the Schulers, the Lands, or Betty Hiebel). If you respond by February 15 then we can start February 21.

TLC SUPPER SHUFFLE

I want to be a charter member of this rockin' group.

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

Number of people I can host (including myself/ourselves) _____



Fun for those

50 or better

What happened?? January came and went and we did not meet!! How about we meet on February 26th, that is the 4th Thursday evening at 6 PM at the Church? We can potluck a meal and plan our fun and games for the remainder of 2009! I will put a sign up sheet on the kiosk for anyone who wants to attend. I hope there will be many, as I don't do potlucks very well by myself! I eat too much!

Mary Dawson

A Glad and Happy Birthday to these TLC members and friends born in February.

Katherine Zuest	2/3
Sandy Koppen	2/3
Deb Feronnato	2/6
Mark Koppen	2/11
Betty Speakes	2/11
Dawn Brown	2/12
Irene Friend	2/16
George Land	2/16
Paula Seitz-Netherda	2/28



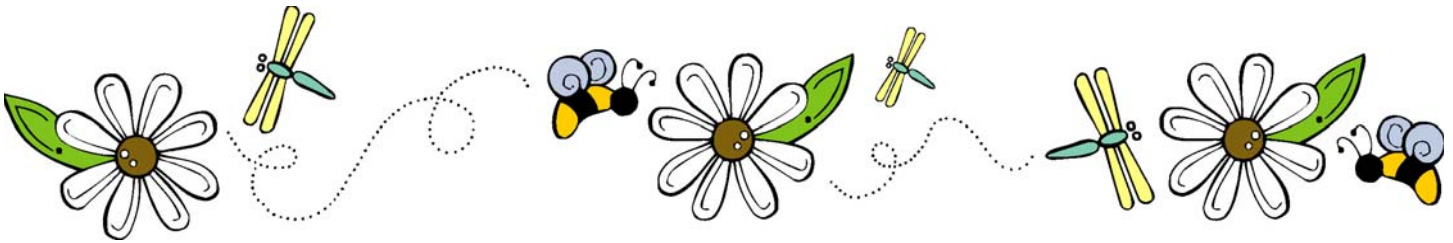
(If you notice that your birthday is overlooked, please let Pastor Jean know so that she can correct the records)



A Letter to TLC...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so grateful to all of you at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church for responding to Pastor Jean's request for assistance on my behalf. You have been so generous with your prayers and your financial resources. I felt completely overwhelmed when my medical expenses suddenly skyrocketed. Then I was even more overwhelmed by tears and speechlessness when God's miracle came to me through you. I pray every day with joy and gratitude for you all. May each of you and your congregation continue to be blessed. Ellen



TLC Community Garden Project Update

This spring will be the 3rd year of planting in the TLC Community Garden. In 2007 we began with one plot, shared by Stan and Marilyn Schuler and Phina Borgeson. This year, it appears we will begin with **19** plots and **10** sets of gardeners! A family of four that began with 2 plots last year will be taking on 2 more plots this year, Robert had one plot last year is taking on another plot this year and has brought in a friend, who will have one plot. Gregory is taking on another plot, so he'll have two, the Schulers have taken on another plot, built boxes and lined them with gopher wire (an incredible amount of work by these two). We have a new gardener who is taking on **FOUR** plots! She was sad to see how little fresh produce the food pantry at the Guerneville Community Church has been able to offer, so her goal is to grow fresh food for those who come to that pantry. Gregory met her at the MCC congregation in Guerneville and told her about the TLC CGP. Gardeners are bringing in gardeners! Very cool. **We are expanding into the north section of the garden this year – THIS IS A BIG DEAL!!!**

We had a meeting in January that was well attended. We gathered mainly to talk about ordering seeds together, and Wendy Krupnick, an instructor at SRJC's Shone Farm dropped in. She is a gardening consultant and has knowledge and expertise in seed saving and selection, plus great contacts – she gave us the name of a person who has barrels and barrels of Burpee seeds and is willing to donate whatever we want. The gardeners are using email to discuss what is needed, and one person will go pick them up. We talked about the new shed, and the need for more irrigation infrastructure now that we are expanding into the north section. We also had some needed discussion about what our goals are in a material sense, who we have partnered with so far, the sustainability of this project in the long term, and who we hope to help through this project. Having this articulated is necessary for Ian to write more grants for the garden. Which brings me to...THE SHED.

Our "Tall Barn" shed has been ordered from Tuff Shed and fabrication will begin this week. It will be built/installed on the gravel pad (provided by Miller Concrete) within the next couple of weeks. **THIS IS A BIG DEAL!!!** Not only does it mean no more schlepping back and forth from home of wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, picks, or just about anything else we need for the garden, it also gives permanence to the TLC Community Garden Project. Side benefit: it is also a place to store the lawnmower for TLC. The cost of the shed is being underwritten by a Community Improvement Grant from the City of Santa Rosa's Community Advisory Board. Ian wrote the grant, we presented it to the CAB, and it was approved in the amount of \$4,939.00.

Thank you for your continued prayers and other support for the TLC Community Garden Project.

*Karen Lehman, coordinator
TLC CGP*

Lent is Time for Spiritual Nurture

February 25 is Ash Wednesday, the most solemn day of the church year. Worship that day begins at 7 p.m. and will feature the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Come and humble yourself before the eternal and unconditional love of God, so that you will know abundant peace and hope.

Thursdays in Lent - Stone Soup and Great Confessions

Because the Casa al Farero congregation worships at TLC on Wednesday evenings, we will hold our midweek Lenten gatherings on Thursdays. The worship services last year were such blessing to those who came. All members are encouraged to participate this year. Take advantage of the spiritual discipline of Lent and enjoy homemade soup and biblical insights.

Here's how the evenings will work:

Participants will bring a soup ingredient (a vegetable, meat, bean or pasta or grain, broth or cream, fresh herb). Pastor Jean will create a soup from the "potluck" ingredients for the following week. Soup will be served at six.

At seven, we will gather in the sanctuary for hymns, prayer, and for the story of one of the great confessions from our holy scriptures and learn what a confession is and means.

The first Midweek Lenten Thursday will be March 5.

Participants are also encouraged to bring a canned soup every week for the F.I.S.H. barrel. Good food, good faith community, good ministry, good worship. Amen.

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

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email: tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net
On the web: www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

TLC Council:

Deb Ferronato, Congregation President
Jan Thomas
Jean Harrison
Jean Flak
Joan Hax
Sharon Boschen

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, February 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

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 22.