

The

# TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 7 No. 2

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

February 2010

Are You *Suffering* from *Lutheran Lethargy*?

Is Your *Spirit Receding* in this *Recession*?

Have You *Tested Your Faith* Lately?

Are You *Searching* for A *Meaningful Lenten Discipline*?

Would You Like Your Bible to Be *Less* a *Book on a Shelf*  
and *More* a *Boldness of Your Heart*?

And Would You Like To Know What To Do?

Let your "Yes" lead you to participate in a 40-day plus spiritual journey and discipline designed to raise awareness and commitment and funds for the international ministries of ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Stand With Africa, and ELCA Disaster Response.

Following the 40-day plus calendar (which will be available at TLC beginning on Ash Wednesday), every day in Lent you will have a short Bible reading and an awareness assignment. Some days you'll have something to practice; some days you have something to ponder. Each of you will receive a little money cube to use throughout your journey.

On Thursdays, during Lent, we will gather at TLC for homemade soup, fresh bread, and a sweet dessert, and then we will share how the week went for each of us, to further our awareness. We will conclude with prayer.

This is a great opportunity for you to grow during the growing season of Lent.

Love,  
Pastor Jean

## In This Issue

Pastor's page.....	Page 1
February Worship Highlights.....	Page 2
TLC Giving.....	Page 3
Prayer Ventures.....	Page 4-5
My Mother's Journal.....	Page 6
February Calendar.....	Page 7
TLC Group News.....	Page 8
Treasurer's Report.....	Page 9
Gift of G.A.B.....	Page 10
Worship Schedule and Stewards.....	Page 11

### Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Tuesday, February 23. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words. Please email submissions to:

TLCeditor@thanksgivinglutheran.org

If you do not have email, place submissions (along with your name in case any clarification is needed) in Dorothy's inbox.



### A Glad and Happy Birthday this Month to:

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: tlcantarosa@sbcglobal.net  
On the web: www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

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

## February Worship Highlights

### Something to Contemplate as you enter Lent

**G**o into silence: strip yourself of all pretense and selfishness and sensuality and sluggishness of the soul. Lift off thought after thought, passion after passion, until you reach the inmost depth of all. Remember how short a time and you were not at all, how short a time again and you will not be here. Open your window and look upon the night, how still its breath, how solemn its march, how deep its perspective, how ancient its forms of light, and think how little you know except the perpetuity of God and the mysteriousness of life – and it will be strange if you do not feel the Eternal Presence as close upon your soul as the breeze upon your brow – if you do not say, “O Christ, art thou ever near as this, and have I not known thee?”

(from James Martineau's *Endeavors After the Christian Life*)

### Special Dates in February

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 7, 2010
- Transfiguration of the Lord, February 14, 2010
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2010
- Presidents' Day, February 15, 2010
- Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010
- First Sunday in Lent, February 21, 2010
- Second Sunday in Lent, February 28, 2010



## Rwanda - Update

Many TLCers were present in late September to hear the story told by Karl Smith from Bethlehem Lutheran about their congregation's support of a new school being built in Rwanda to serve children whose lives have been devastated by war. We were deeply touched to see the hope in the children's eyes and smiles on their faces in the photos showing the school being built. Since then, the Stewardship Committee, supported by the Outreach/Evangelism team, have made plans to join Bethlehem in support of this much needed and very worthwhile project. First, we have designated the third Sunday of every month to be an extra-mile giving opportunity that will benefit the school. All TLCers are invited to give as you are able, using the special envelopes found in the bulletin that day. Also, we are starting to plan an event to keep this mission project visible to our congregation. Watch and listen for more information to come!

We will keep you updated about the progress of the school, and the results of your giving. There is a bulletin board on one side of the kiosk in the entrance area of the church with newsletters and photos. This will be updated as often as we can get new information.

Thank you for opening your hearts and digging a little deeper into your pockets to support the Rwanda School Project.

## Haiti Earthquake Relief

Tuesday, January 12, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti, primarily impacting the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Already one of the poorest countries in the world (70 percent of Haiti's population lives in extreme poverty), this catastrophe will exacerbate the suffering felt by many already living with hunger and poverty.

ELCA Disaster Response is already working through long-standing partnerships on the ground to provide emergency food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Financial gifts are urgently needed. **Your gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response, designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief, will be used entirely-100 percent-for immediate relief and ongoing recovery in Haiti.** Your prayers and generous gifts will make a life-saving difference. Please give today at [www.elca.org/haitiearthquake](http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake).

Thank you for your prayers, your gifts and your partnership.

*The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal*

---

## Thank You Messages We Have Recently Received

### Dear Thanksgiving Church,

Thank you so much for the check. It has helped so much. As we move through our financial struggles, trying to find work and making our small income stretch, it is amazing how in our community we are truly blessed with warm hearts, a shoulder to cry on and gifts, such as your check, that truly help.

Thank you and God bless all at Thanksgiving Church

### Dear Friends of F.I.S.H.

We are most grateful for your gift to our Food Cupboard. We give a two-three day supply of food to help in emergencies.

People may come for help every thirty days if they are in need. We make no judgments of any kind. We operate Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:30 to 12:00 p.m.

F.I.S.H. is operated by volunteers and all money received is spent for food. We purchase all our food at the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Thank you for your faithful support. Thank you for your donation of 100 pounds of food. F.I.S.H. gave food to 5,595 people in December. If you did not help us, we could not help those in need.

Jeanne-Marie Jones, Director F.I.S.H.



# Prayer Ventures

February 2010

**1** During this Black History Month, pray especially for African American women leaders in communities, congregations, families and all contexts, that they might be supported, uplifted, encouraged and blessed in all the ways they serve.

## **2 Presentation of Our Lord**

Pray for All Saints in Big Sky, Montana, a new joint ELCA/Episcopal ministry. May its pastor, Darius Larsen, and its members continue to reach out and welcome all who come to explore and enjoy the beauty and wonders of God's creation.

**3** Give thanks for Pastor Mark and Marcia Holman as they serve the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Pray for peace in the strife-torn Holy Land.

**4** During this Youth Leadership Month, give thanks for the young people of color in this church who continue to live into their vocational calls as witnesses to new beginnings and generational collaboration, that they might be nurtured by their communities to live toward God's vision of life lived in love for others.

**5** Pray for Patricia Bentsen, a longtime nurse in Madagascar who is medical administrator to the Malagasy Lutheran Church Health Department in the capital city of Antananarivo.

**6** Pray for the Oromo Evangelical Church of Washington, D.C., that was organized in October. Give thanks to God for this new congregation, their ministry among Ethiopians, and their mission developer, Pastor Waqtola Dinagde, who is retiring after 40 years in the ordained ministry.

## **7 5th Sunday after Epiphany**

Merciful God, we give you thanks for the diversity of ministry among the churches in Ireland and the United Kingdom. We pray for the continued companion relationship between the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the ELCA Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod.

**8** We ask God's blessing on the ministry of Pastor Bill Lundgren and the Community of St. Dysmas. An ELCA congregation within the Maryland correctional system—behind prison walls—St. Dysmas continues to proclaim repentance, acceptance and forgiveness in Christ's name.

**9** Thank God for Kirsten and Pastor Stephen Kienberger. Pastor Kienberger is a parish pastor of the American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway. This international congregation seeks to bring together people of different nations and denominations as followers of Christ.

**10** Give thanks for all who participate in the life and ministry of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay. Remember especially the Young Adults in Global Mission, Chris Jarvis and Cristina Kinz, as they serve in congregational and social service ministries in Argentina.

**11** Let us pray for discernment for Peace Lutheran Church, Eyota, Minn., as they consider whether God is calling them to move out in faith and construct their first building. Peace organized as a congregation in 2001.

**12** Pray for Martin and Suzanne Schoffner, who serve the church in Jerusalem. Martin serves as the coordinator for both the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Palestine and the Holy Land trips program.

**13** Pray for Sarah and Pastor Peter Grow-Hanson who serve in Dakar, Senegal. They provide direction for leadership development and early childhood education, as well as orientation for visitors and new missionaries to Senegal.

## **14 Transfiguration of Our Lord**

God in heaven, bless all who strive for peace and human welfare in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Take away any anxiety about the future and give them a sense of responsibility for where you have called them.

**15** We thank God for Ed Halter and his coordination of the Mission Partners program in the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod for the past 21 years. As Ed retires from this volunteer position, may God continue to direct his journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**16** Pray for the presidents of ELCA colleges and universities as they gather for their annual meeting at the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA). Pray especially in thanksgiving for many years of faithful service by Ralph Wag-  
oner, who is retiring in June 2010 as the executive director of LECNA, having served in that capacity since retiring as the president of Augustana College, South Dakota.

### **17 Ash Wednesday**

As we enter Lent keep in your prayers all the volunteers who donate their time and talents to your congregation.

**18** Pray for Don Huber as he begins his leadership of the "Stewards of Abundance" project, following his retirement as academic dean of Trinity Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. The project will explore options for reducing seminarian indebtedness and sustainable financing for the ELCA's system of theological education and pastoral ministry.

**19** Praise God for the witness of Pastor Jeffrey Truscott. His classes in liturgy and theology at Trinity Theological College in Singapore equip students from many Asian countries to cultivate a worship life that will shape their faith communities.

**20** The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) is an organization serving the approximately 1700 schools and early childhood education centers of the ELCA. Pray for Gayle Deny, its executive director, and the board of ELEA, as they work to improve this church's day school ministries with children.

### **21 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

O God, you who stand in the midst of the silent ones, bless the churches of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta, and their ministries among children, workers, the sick and the elderly.

**22** *Lutheran Partners*, a magazine for leaders in the ELCA, will cease publication with its March/April issue. Pray with thanksgiving for the 20 years of ministry of *Lutheran Partners* and the faithful service of its departing editor, Bill Decker.

**23** Remember, Jenifer Brown, Matthew Linden, and Carolyn Stypka who are serving as English teachers in Tokyo and Kumamoto, Japan, as part of the J-3 program of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**24** Pray for strength, guidance and openness for all who are part of harmful systems like racism and sexism, that we might recognize the barriers in our lives that keep us from fully loving and serving our neighbors and living out God's call in our lives.

**25** Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide, direct and inspire the ELCA South Carolina Synod's newest outreach ministry, Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in West Columbia. Only 1 ½ years old, the ministry already has 100-140 people in weekly worship and has conducted 23 baptisms.

**26** Pray for the many young people participating in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Today we remember Joe Beasley, Amanda Dahlseng, Marta Diehm, Elayna Dush, Traci Hawkins, Edwin Johnson, Dana Olson, Amy Pennenga, Kristina Rogers, Rebeckah Selnick, Rebecca Truland, Whitney Wallace, and others who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in Great Britain.

**27** Give thanks to God for Cathryn Proctor, serving as an intern at the American Church in Berlin, Germany, and studying at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Ask that her experiences in these contexts shape her future ministry.

### **28 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

We give you thanks, O God, for signs of your presence and activity among the people of Germany and France. Continue to bring vitality, we pray, to the churches, that the awakening that happened with the Reformation may live on in ongoing renewal.

*Prayer petitions for Sundays follow the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and can be incorporated into the prayers at weekly worship. Weekday entries are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the church. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

# My Mother's Journal

By Jan Loewen

**M**any of you may know that my mom died in August last year. It seems to me that when a person loses her mom, she must go through some rite of passage to mourn her. I decided to try it and went on a little camping trip all by myself. It was me, my trailer, coffee, some Cheerios and my mom's journals from the last 20 years.

I'm not sure what I thought I'd find, but, it seems that if we "open the Bible" (metaphorically) we do find a passage that, either by chance or by divine intervention or by our sheer desire, is just what we needed.

My mom's journals were actually fairly mundane. They noted when she felt sick or had a good night's sleep. She said four sentences about my being gay. One was when I came out to her. She said that at least this would be the end of deception (presumably the deception that I had done to keep my sexuality hidden). Then shortly after that, she talked about telling my dad and said, at least it would be easier on her now (presumably because she wouldn't carry the burden of knowing by herself). One time she said I was looking more like a lesbian but thought maybe it was because she was thinking about it more. Strange – there was no judgment; maybe some sadness but no judgment.

I didn't know why I read those journals. It just seemed like the thing I should do – something that everyone does in the movies when they have to mourn the death of someone. I went to the beach in the morning to sit looking at the waves – like they do in the movies when they mourn someone. But, the combination of the two was, I would like to think, God's message to me in a certain sense. I've never been able to figure out what that really means, so because I had an epiphany of some sort, I will assume it was God.

As I mulled over my mom's journals and sat there staring at the waves, I realized that life is just a bunch of ebbs and flows – a bunch of overlapping cycles that make up life; all life. For instance, there is the ebb and flow of waves and the ebb and flow of tides. There is life and death; I saw seaweed dead on the beach and thought it was once living and attached to the bottom of the ocean. I know this is not a new concept, but it seemed to be relevant to my state of mind.

I thought of my mom's life and death. I saw the ebb and flow of my mom's life as I looked over 20 years of her journals. Some parts of the cycle were really long and took nearly her whole life – like her M.S. Some were very short, like the flu or a good day. But they all seem to have their own cycle.

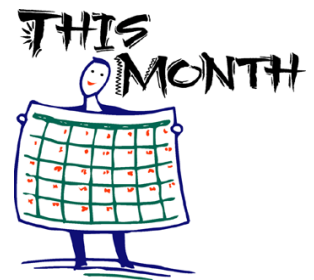
I guess this made me opine that God set these cycles into motion – all of them. I think that He has something to do with the rhythm with which they happen. He is probably able to change their rhythm (I guess I'd like to think so). Maybe He doesn't always change them. Maybe we can change them. We can't (on our own) change the direction of a large ship, but we can change the direction of a row boat.






But, it's those rowboat-sized ebbs and flows – be they long or short in duration – that I'd like to think I have some part in managing. They may be the job that I apply for or the words that come out of my mouth or the people that I accept into my life. I think that the bigger ebbs and flows are for us to notice and to accept; like being in a concentration camp or having M.S. or being incredibly talented in some way. I don't think there's anything to prevent us from asking for these ebbs and flows to become shorter or longer. But I do think they are just out of our control.

I think older people have seen so many ebbs and flows, big and small, long and short, that they just ride them with less worry. They know the next ebb or flow is just around the corner and they are content to wait and watch. I think that my mom was like that toward the end of her life. She must have looked at her journals and seen the cycles – either consciously or sub-consciously. In either case, it mellowed her.

The one thing about her journals that amazed me was the amount of times the words, "Praise the Lord" were written. There wasn't a page without those words on it somewhere. My mom had some hard ebbs to deal with. But it seems she never lost her desire/will to praise God for them or in spite of them. That was a lesson for me. I will try to get there. I will try to accept those ebbs and flows. If I remember that there is some positive flow coming at some point in the future, maybe I can worry less, have more patience and praise God a little more.

# February 2010 at Thanksgiving Lutheran



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> TLC Women's Retreat at Bishop's Ranch <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa al Farero <b>2:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero Meeting	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>7:00 PM</b> Mutual Ministry	<b>2</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> T.O.P.S. Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Committee <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>4</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Training for Assisting Ministers	<b>5</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>6</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>10:00 AM</b> Joint Ministries Planning Meeting
<b>7</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Congregational Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>8</b> <b>7:15 AM</b> TLC Book Group <b>3:00 PM</b> Outreach and Evangelism <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> T.O.P.S. Quilters <b>1:00 PM</b> Property Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>14</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>15</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>16</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> T.O.P.S. Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>17</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>18</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> TLC Men's Club	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>20</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>10:00 AM</b> Church Council Meeting
<b>21</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>22</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>23</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> T.O.P.S. Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>24</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>25</b>  Heavenly Hell Raisers <b>6:00 PM</b> Midweek Lenten Gathering	<b>26</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>10:00 AM</b> Church Council Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero
<b>28</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>2</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> T.O.P.S. Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>4</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Midweek Lenten Gathering	<b>5</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa Alfarero	<b>6</b> <b>1:00 AM</b> Gardening Workshop <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous

# TLC Group News



## TLC Book Group

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 8, 7:15 pm at Mary Weber's home. We're starting a new book, *Walking the Bible: A Journey By Land Through the Five Books of Moses*, by Bruce Feiler, so now is a perfect time to join the group! For this meeting please read through "Book I" (the first three chapters--through p.119 in most versions.)



## Heavenly Hell Raisers

Heavenly Hell Raisers will be coming out shortly with a calendar of activities for 2010!



## Special Activities for Young People During Lent

With the success of the Advent special activities for our young people, plans are under way for special activities for our youth during Lent. Deb Ferronato and Jean Harrison are in charge and would love to hear ideas from youth and adults. We're sure that dyeing Easter eggs will be a part of the fun (perhaps we can even find a real bunny to help) but we are open to other ideas too. Make plans to stay after church after the start of Lent to be included in the fun.



## Pennies From E-Scrip

Take advantage of the e-scrip program and register your Safeway card and credit cards. Then, every time you use them in a transaction, you will earn pennies for TLC! It makes good cents!

Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "1-Sign Up" and follow the directions using TLC's ID #: 137963301.



## Men's Group

For the months of February and March Men's Group will join others for the mid week Lenten soup supper and service. We will return to our regular format in April.



## We Are A Giving Group

The Christmas offerings of \$1,312.25 is now helping those in need being served by Lutheran Social Services of Northern California.

Gifts collected January 17th to help those in need after the earthquake in Haiti totaling \$310.25 have gone to Lutheran World Relief. Additional money can still be donated.

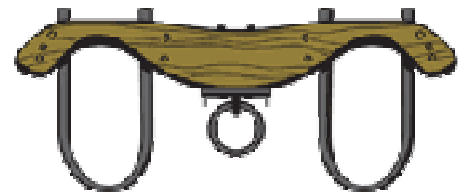
The Rwanda School Project has received \$169 from the special offering January 17th. Gifts will be collected the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Well done TLCers. We are a truly Blessed congregation and we truly reflect that in our giving.



## Yoke

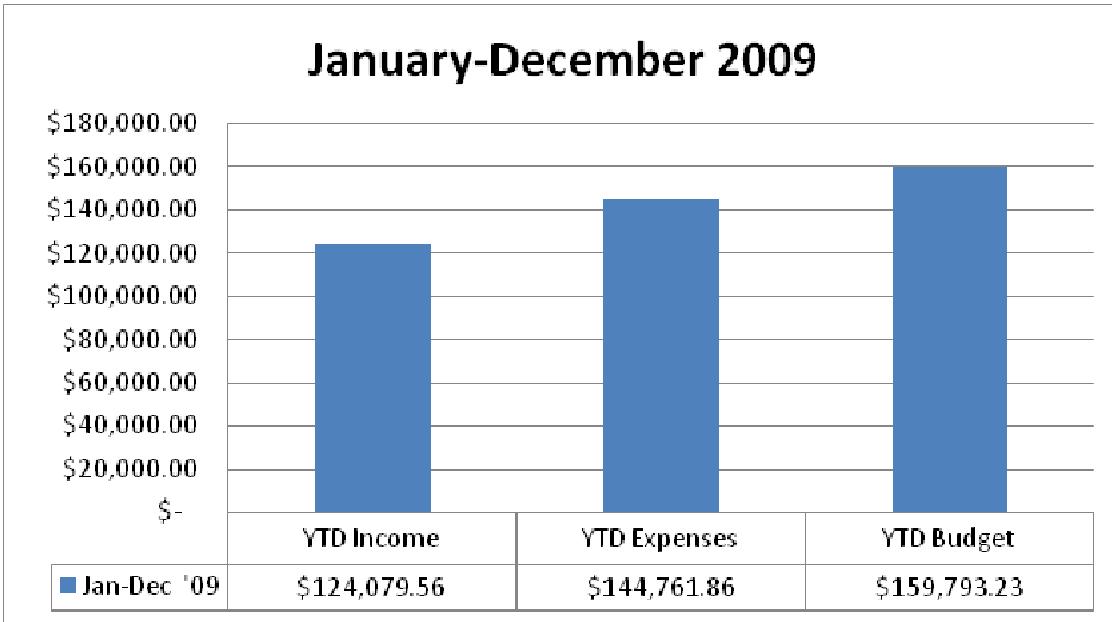
The yoke is a burden of hardship and toil, as well as of subservience. But Jesus said the "yoke" of serving him is "easy" and that he provides rest for the weary (Matthew 11:28-30). The yoke also symbolizes human allegiance, as in marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV).





# Treasurer's Report

TLC finished up the year with a deficit of \$20,715.88, of this \$2,558.65 came in December. This deficit averaged \$1,726.32 per month. The anonymous gift of \$40,000 in September is not included in these figures and was earmarked by Council as restricted funds. Our bills are all paid and we still have money in the bank but our regular income continues to not cover our regular expenses. Please include this situation in your prayers and in your giving. It has been a difficult year financially for many of our families personally and for TLC and yet we have much for which to give thanks.

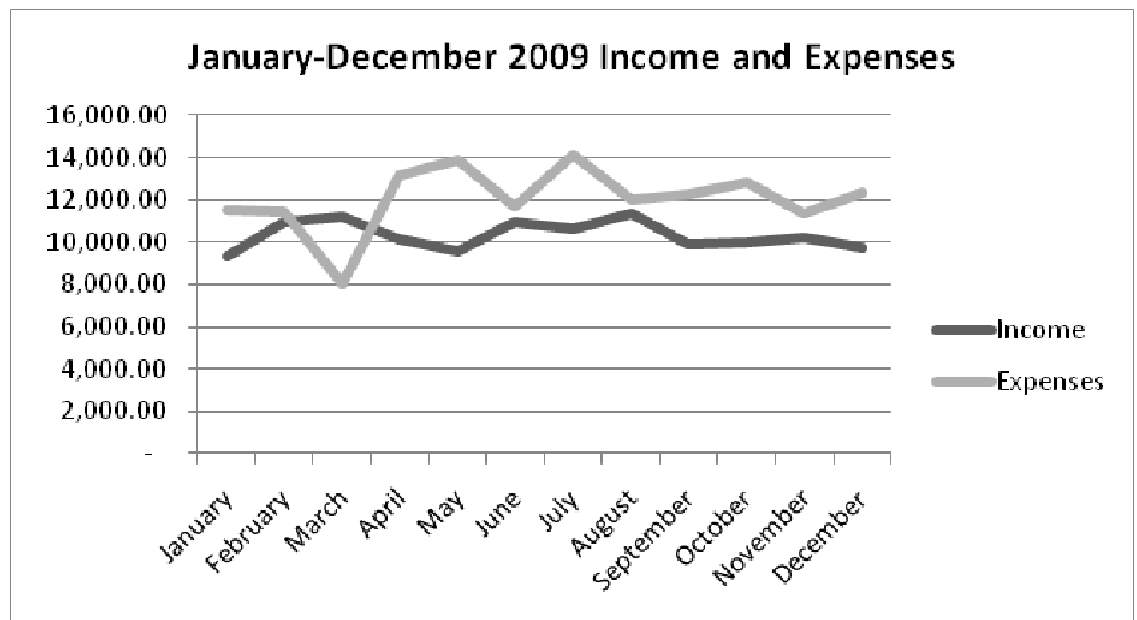


## Mortgage Principal Update

After our wonderful Thanksgiving offering the principal balance on our loan was \$740,731.30. There is still a bit of money coming in from the sales of DVDs that will go towards paying that balance down a bit more. After the January loan payment the principal balance is now \$738,224.98. Every month sees a principal reduction of over \$2,500!

## TLC Special Fund Totals as of 1/18/10

Stained Glass Window	\$3,325.06
Memorial Gardens	\$ 499.04
Sanctuary Chairs	\$9,634.75
Landscaping	\$ 103.49



# Gift of G.A.B. (God's Abundant Blessings)

## The Joy of Giving Time, Treasure & Talent for Full Inclusion

by Paul Feiertag

**T**he plight of gays in the church has had a huge influence on our giving. In addition to TLC and 2nd Mile giving, we have taken on support for three organizations that exist primarily to bring about full inclusion for gay Lutherans. Lutherans Concerned, the support organization for gay Lutherans is also the gay presence at church assemblies. It sponsors the

---

**... I have examined the Bible in its historical and literary contexts, and I can tell you that it is a misuse of God's name and God's word to say that God looks upon same-gender love any differently.**

---

Reconciling In Christ program to help congregations become fully gay supportive. Our gifts to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries subsidize gay and lesbian pastors who were "precluded" from ordination in the ELCA. God calls them to serve; congregations and small ministries call and ordain them; we help pay their salaries. We help The Network for Inclusive Vision publish quarterly newsletters of scholarly articles advocating full inclusion. If you add the \$2,000+ that we spent to attend Synod and Churchwide Assemblies in order to influence voters to grant full inclusion, the FISH barrel, and other local charities, our charitable giving is around 20%. Plus the church is in our wills. Giving is the source of lots of joy. Our total 2009 income of \$40,500 stretched a long way beyond our family and TLC.

The following four steps will help you to become totally gay-supportive:

The grey hair on my head shows that I'm old enough to have changed my mind about gays in the church. Here's #1 of four reasons for you to join the Feiertags in a life guided by the Spirit of Christ and being totally gay supportive. Do it for yourself--so that you will be prepared. A lot depends on how you react when a family member, friend, neighbor or

fellow church member tells you that she or he is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Learn about sexual orientation and gender identity for your own sake.

Tim knew it would hurt us to know the truth about himself, but he had to tell us "Mom, Dad, I'm gay." I didn't react well at first, but I did learn for Tim's sake. Learn for the sake of the gay people in your lives already and the gays who will be in your lives in the future.

Every June we march with all the other Northern California Reconciling In Christ congregations in San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade. Gay people have been badly scarred by Christians who misuse the Bible to label their same gender relationships as always sinful, making them deserving of damnation. Learn everything you can about gay people for the sake of Gospel-centered ministry in the ELCA and the Christian Church world-wide.

Finally, as an ordained Lutheran clergy person--educated and set apart to be a public spokesperson for the church--I have examined the Bible in its historical and literary contexts, and I can tell you that it is a misuse of God's name and God's word to say that God looks upon same-gender love any differently. God does not punish love. God is love. Join the Feiertags in the joy of giving time, treasure, and talents for full inclusion of gays for God's sake, too.



# SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP DURING LENT 2010

## Feb. 17 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 P.M. WORSHIP

Scriptures: Joel 1: 1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## Feb. 21 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Scriptures: Deut. 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

## Feb. 28 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

## Mar. 7 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

## Mar. 14 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Scriptures: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## Mar. 21 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8



## February Stewards

Date	February 7	February 14	February 17	February 21	February 28
Preaching	Jean Lebbert	Jean Lebbert	Jean Lebbert	Jean Lebbert	Jean Lebbert
Event	Epiphany 5	Transfiguration	Ash Wednesday	Lent 1	Lent 2
Music	Band	Band	Solo Piano	Solo Piano	Solo Piano
Paraments Color	Green	White	Black	Purple	Purple
Assisting Ministers	Mary Thompson	Ingrid Feiertag	Not needed	Karen Lehman	Mark Koppen
Readers	Sharon Boschen	Fiona Becker	Gloria Feiertag	Jim Lehman	Mary Thompson
Acolytes	Casey Becker	Griffin Becker	Not needed	Natalie Koppen	Nathan McPherson
Greeters	Linda Holzworth	Joan Hax and Flak	TBA	Sharon Boschen	Jan Thomas
Ushers	Dave and Kathy Flanagan	Diane and George Land	TBA	Luci Arpi and Bill Reed	Astrid Anderson and Ray Zuest
Offering Tellers	Sandy Koppen and Betty Hiebel	Paul Feiertag and Lisa Bartlett	Not needed	Jim Lehman and Gloria Feiertag	Keith Becker and Paul Feiertag

## Synod News

You may have heard that a strong earthquake hit off the Humboldt County coast; initial reports put the magnitude at 6.5. The damage seems to be limited mostly to breakage, cracks, and the like, although there are some reports of mild to moderate structural damage. Power is out in areas scattered throughout the county. Our church in Fortuna came through well; Ferndale, closer to the epicenter, sustained what appears to be minor damage to the steeple that will need to be checked. I've spoken to David Groe of Immanuel, Eureka, and the church is all right. I haven't yet been able to reach David Holmquist of Calvary, Eureka, or the pastors in Arcata or McKinleyville, which are farthest from the epicenter. Jeri Gray-Reneberg, who lives in Arcata, said the shaking was very strong but suffered little damage. Retired pastors George Demant and Dean Lindquist are fine. Please keep us in your prayers and help us to give thanks that we were spared a much greater impact!

Blessings,

*Jim Goldsmith, Dean of Redwood Conference*

## Who's Who In Worship

### **Acolytes Coordinator:**

Keith Becker

### **Altar Guild:**

Mary Dawson, Deb Ferronato, Kathy Flanagan, Diane Land (chair), Lorraine Larson, Pam Mahan, Christine Willsey

### **Greeters Coordinator:**

Jan Thomas

### **Asst. Ministers Coordinator:**

Karen Lehman

### **Musicians Coordinator:**

Mark Koppen

### **Offering Tellers:**

Lisa Bartlett, Keith Becker, Gloria Feiertag, Paul Feiertag, Betty Hiebel, Jim Lehman, Sandy Koppen

### **Readers Coordinator:**

Karen Lehman

### **Ushers Coordinator:**

George Land

## Who's Who In Service

### **Youth Coordinator:**

Jan Loewen

## Who's Who In Special Taskforces

**Blessing of the Pets Coordinator:** Pastor Jean Lebbert

### **Community Garden Coordinator:**

Karen Lehman

### **Pastoral Support:**

Kathy Alexander, Mary Dawson, Mary Thompson

### **Patio Landscaping Coordinator:**

Jean Harrison

### **Quilters Coordinator:**

Lorraine Larson

### **Sound Enhancement:**

Dave Flanagan, Jim Harrison, Mark Koppen, Jim and Karen Lehman, Jan Loewen

### **Women's Groups Coordinator:**

Karen Lehman

### **TLC Council:**

Sharon Boschen, VP

Jean Harrison

Jean Flak

Joan Hax

Pastor Jean Lebbert

### **TLC Committee Chairs**

CCC: Without Chair

Education: Without Chair

Evangelism and

Outreach: Sharon Boschen

Finance: Jean Harrison

Property: Jan Loewen

Stewardship: Jean Flak

Worship: Mark Koppen