

TLC

Trumpet

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

Volume 8 No. 1

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

January 2011

Pastor's Page

Happy New Year, again!
The church year begins with Advent, but the secular year begins after the Christ baby arrives.

A little while back, I enjoyed a bit of wondering about what kind of adjustments our heavenly parent had to make once the baby came. Here's a peek at what I wondered:

Did the Almighty have all the worry about raising a little one in this world, all the expectations for what the child would become, would want to do with his life? Losing sleep . . . well, I guess for the One who never slumbers [Ps. 121:4], this wouldn't be an adjustment. Did the Creator endow the Christ child with really, really

strong abilities to obey so that there wouldn't be the risk of Jesus choosing another path? I think back on choices I came close to making, which would have put me in an entirely different

When I try to take a photo of the ocean, I just can't capture its immensity in the lens. It should be that way when we ponder the Divine – too big to capture in just one perspective.

existence from the one I'm in right now. And, what would have happened if Pilate had been convinced about Jesus' majesty and refused the cries for crucifixion? The Ninevites repented – blew Jonah away. What would Jesus have done if Pilate had let him go? Would he have lived forever and still be alive today? Would people believe in him if he were still alive today? Imagine over 2,000 years of Jesus' teachings!!!

I think that a little while back, people would be offended with my sharing these kinds of thoughts. There have been periods when questioning was considered sinful – like playing cards or dancing or divorcing. I remember, and it still turns my stomach, hearing once that

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The Trumpet

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, January 26. 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. Submissions may be edited for space.

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

January hours for our administrative assistant

Starting in January, the office hours are

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9:30-12:30



Happy Birthday this month to:

Kier Skinner	1/15
Joan Hax	1/19
Lucy Arpi	1/21
Christine Willsey	1/21

Some TLC Highlights for 2011

January: Outreach and Evangelism Committee introduces "My Faith Works"; Soul Food Potluck; TLC Annual Women's Retreat; Confirmation Retreat at Mt. Cross; Congregational Meeting

February: Worship Assistants training; "My Faith Works"; Cajun food potluck

March: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast at Bethlehem; Ash Wednesday worship; Lenten Pulpit Exchange with Bethlehem, Faith, and Cross & Crown; Thursday night Soup Supper and Evening Vespers

April: Property Cleaning Work Day; Holy Week: Death and Taxes AND Resurrection!

May: Synod Assembly; "My Faith Works" returns; Italian potluck; Memorial Day at Mt. Cross

June: What will Worship Committee come up with for our Summer Worship Theme?

July: 3rd Annual Joint Ministries Worship Event; Biblical lands potluck; Ray Brandt turns 95!

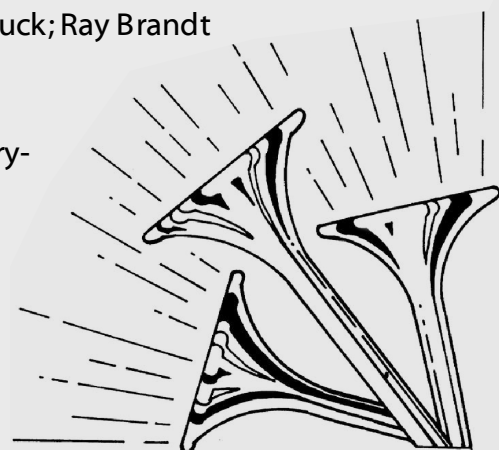
August: ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, Florida

September: 2nd Joint Ministries Progressive Dinner Event for everyone

October: Blessing of the Animals; Pastor Jean leads Women Clergy Retreat preceding Professional Leaders' Conference at Asilomar; Reformation

November: Congregational Meeting; Thanksgiving; Church year ends and Advent begins

December: Planning for 2012!



A Special Thank You from Sharon Boschen

Many of you know that Ray is slipping deeper into the dementia of old age, but there's one thing he tells me almost every day: "I love this church. They are such good people here." Ray fell three times last week, so Pastor Jean came to give us communion. I had hoped in this cold, rainy, risky weather that this visit would allow him to skip worship in the interest of safety. But, no! He had to go to worship though he struggles to follow the service and sleeps during the sermons. It is so important to him to be with you! Your kindness permeates every human condition to make us all feel we belong. We belong to the God Who loves us, and we belong to each other. What a gift!

In November, I, too, came close to death. Again and again, I experienced your love in the Prayer Quilt, cards, calls and extra care of Jan Thomas and Pastor Jean. Many of you knew how important it was to me to be the "Granny Nanny" for my 21-month-old grandson (light of my life!), when his little sister was born. Grace Alia

Robinson was born on Pastor Jean's birthday!

Your response was to shower the young family (and me!) with meal after meal--the most personal, practical, and loving thing you could have done. How delicious your love was to us! You researched "gluten free" cooking to address food allergies and took extra care in preparation. You slogged through dark and rain to deliver your gifts. Every bite was evidence of your caring support!

When little Grace comes to our baptismal font, she will be joining a caring community that may nurture her all of her life. What a gift! I know that our family is not alone in your caring. As a small congregation we know and care for each other in so many ways. We are learning to practice our faith with each other and within our larger community. From my overflowing heart I had to tell you what a gift you are to me as I work now to heal and--hopefully--I may one day be the grace of God to you as you have been to Ray and to me. We thank God for you!



Pastor's Page *Continued*

Christian missionaries mixed crushed glass in the sands in Hawaii because they believed the native dancing was pagan and evil.

I am grateful that we are in a time when it's okay to ask questions, to challenge norms, to consider other faith perspectives. Oh, sometimes I get frustrated because it gets hard to know what is NOT going to change, what IS the truth, but on the other hand, I am able to embrace more and more of the Eternal by opening myself up to a more immense truth.

When I try to take a photo of the ocean, I just can't capture its immensity in the lens. It should be that way when we ponder the Divine -- too big to capture in just one perspective.

I wonder if we could have some conversations in which we share the things we are pondering, things we aren't sure about yet. Would those conversations help us? I wonder.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor or'nary people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky

Merry Christmas and Happy Epiphany and
have a blessed, wonder-full New Year.

*Love,
Pastor Jean*

Prayer Ventures

December 2010

1 Pray for the Rev. Stanley N. Olson as he begins his new position as president of Wartburg Seminary.

2 Second Sunday of Christmas

Merciful God, we remember with hope the gift of peace. Grant your peace upon Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, that the power of your love may be known.

3 Give thanks for Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church, Marina, Calif., an inclusive community, grounded in the Gospel and compassion of Jesus Christ and committed to making a difference in our world.

4 Pray for the Rev. Fred and Diaconal Minister Gloria Strickert as they serve the English-speaking Redeemer Congregation in Jerusalem and assist Bishop Younan with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Their congregational ministry provides a needed sanctuary for many working for justice and peace in the difficult situation of occupation and oppression.

5 Lift up in prayer the leaders of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod as they have agreed to pray daily for the mission of the synod and its ministries at the same time every day.

6 Epiphany of Our Lord

Gracious and merciful God, during this most hectic of seasons you revealed the gift of your son Jesus the Christ to

all of the nations with the epiphany of the Christ child. We pray during this season for all children, and the ministries of ELCA congregations that feed, educate and house them.

7. Thank God for Epiphany Lutheran Church, Suwanee, Ga., which serves the children of Haiti, partnering with the Haitian Timoun Foundation to create a future of hope, sustainability and dignity.

8 Praise God for Erin Odgers. Ask God to bless her time and ministry as an English as a Second Language teacher for the St. Andrew's Refugee Services in Cairo, Egypt, where she works to empower Sudanese and other refugees.

9 Baptism of Our Lord

Transforming God, we remember with joy the baptism of Christ Jesus, your Son. Call your children of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq into your embrace that they may be immersed in your life-giving Holy Spirit.

10 Remember in prayer Barbara and Pastor John LeMond as they serve within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. John teaches world religions at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, and coordinates interfaith programs with the Tao Fang Shan Centre.

11 Pray for the staff and ministries of the ELCA church-wide office as they experience a time of transition into the ELCA redesign.

12 Keep in your prayers today ELCA missionary Robin Strickler who serves in Rwanda, working in education development. Started by Rwandan refugees returning from the genocide of 1994, the Lutheran Church of Rwanda focuses on training leaders and is building a secondary school and a women's center.

13 Give thanks for Epiphany Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio, whose youth group for 6th through 12th grade students provides activities for both junior and senior high groups include outings, retreats, service projects, camping, etc.

14 Pray for Jane and Pastor Ted Zimmerman in their ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. Ted teaches New Testament at Lutheran Theological Seminary and assists with pastoral leadership of a congregation.

15 Thank God for Epiphany Lutheran Church, Dale City, Va., and its preschool and high school students, who serve meals at the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center and provide needed school supplies for the children residing there.

16 Second Sunday After Epiphany

Lord, who through a vision to your servant John of Patmos revealed yourself amid the seven churches of Asia, encouraging, reproofing and challenging those first Chris-

tian communities; continue to walk with today's churches in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

17 Pray for New Hope Lutheran Church, Jamaica, New York, as they are in the final stages of their building project.

18 Confession of Peter

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins, pray for Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue participants -- inheritors of the churches of Peter and Paul -- as they address the churches' differences and similarities.

19 Give thanks for the continued ministry of Drs. Helmut and Rotraut Diefenthal, who spend 10 months a year at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Tanzania, and for the companion relationships that exist between ELCA synods and dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

20 Pray for the Youth Ministry Network as it gathers for its annual conference January 21-24 in Kansas City.

21 Lift up Paul and Stephanie Schick in Cairo. Paul serves as an intern at St. Andrew's United Congregation and the St. Andrew's Refugee Services ministry, working mostly with refugees from Sudan.

22 Pray for Jodi Hanson and the leaders of the Western Mission Network's annual

consultation that convenes January 21-23 at the Spirit in the Desert Conference Center, Carefree, Ariz.

23 Third Sunday After Epiphany

Almighty God, grant your wisdom and love upon the people of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, that they may live in peace and harmony.

24 Pray for the People of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Wash., as their Earth-keeping Ministry helps with their area's food crisis.

25 Conversion of Paul

Ask God to help the members of the ELCA to bring the light of the risen Christ to others, that their lives might be transformed as was St. Paul's on the road to Damascus.

26 Thank God for the more than 18 years of service of Judy Perry, who most recently assisted in medical work among mothers and infants in the People's Republic of China, and engaged in health worker training with Evergreen Foundation. Pray for all medical workers and those who care for the ill and suffering throughout Asia.

27 Commemoration of Victims of the Holocaust

Lift up ELCA's Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations staff and others participating in The Jewish-Christian National

Dialogue Table, that understanding between Lutherans and Jews will continue to grow.

28 Pray for Elizabeth McHan in Jerusalem, as she assists Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land as his communications assistant.

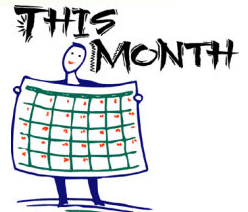
29 Lift up in prayer St Cloud State Lutheran Campus Ministry and University Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, St. Cloud, Minn., an open and caring community, and also all campus ministries, struggling in these economic rough times.

30 Fourth 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.

31 Give thanks for Dr Mark and Linda Nygard as they serve within the Evangelical Synod of the Nile. Mark serves as the coordinator of graduate studies at the Evangelical The

Prayer petitions for Sundays follow the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and can be incorporated into the prayers at weekly worship. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.



January 2011 at Thanksgiving Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa al Farero	27 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	28 1:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	29 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	30	 31 4:00 PM Magic Show 6:00 PM New Year's Eve Party	1 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 PM Casa al Farero
2 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa al Farero	3 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting	4 1:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship and Music Comm. 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon	5 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	6	7 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	8 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous
9 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Sanctuary Task Force 1:00 PM Casa al Farero	10 4:00 PM Christian Edu- cation Meeting 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 PM Book Group	11 1:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters Mtg. 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon	12 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	 13 6:30 PM TLC Potluck	14 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	15 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon 10:00 AM Finance Committee Mtg.
16 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa al Farero	 17 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	18 1:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	19 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	20 6:30 PM Men's Group	 21 TLC Women's Retreat 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	22 TLC Women's Retreat 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous
23 TLC Women's Retreat 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 1:00 PM Casa al Farero	24 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	25 1:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	26 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	27	28 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	29 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 PM Casa al Farero
30 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting Pt. 2 1:00 PM Casa al Farero	31 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	1 1:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	2 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	3	4 7:00 PM Casa al Farero	5 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anonymous

TLC Group News

International Potlucks

Soul Food In More Than One Way

Bring a dish of fried chicken, catfish, hoppin' John, collard greens, meatloaf, cornbread, Po Boys or some other version of soul food on Thursday January 13th for our monthly themed potlucks. The always delicious meals start at 6:30 pm and end with prayers and communion. Everyone is most welcome.



New Year's Challenge

If you are not serving on a TLC committee and haven't served on one for a while, why not resolve in this new year to change that? At church, as with any community, the more you give, the more you receive. How do you join? Show up at a meeting – they are listed in the weekly announcements, in the monthly newsletter, and on the calendar on our website (thanksgivinglutheran.org).



Harrison Renewal of Vows

Jean and Jim Harrison will renew their wedding vows on Saturday, January 29th at 2:30 pm. This celebrates 30 years of marriage. Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony and reception to follow. Please RSVP to 545-6042, ecosave@sonic.net or to Jean in person so that enough food can be prepared.



TLC Book Group

In January we return to books, and will read and discuss *The Girls*, by Lori Lansens, on **Monday, January 10, 7 pm** (At Mary Weber's home.) What do you think we should read in 2011? Bring your suggestions for our next book as well. Resolve to read more in 2011 – pick up a copy of the book and plan to join in the conversation. Newcomers are always welcome! (Questions? Talk to Mary Weber or Sandy Koppen.)



Men's Group

This small but mighty group meets January 20th at 6 pm to share a meal and enjoy fellowship. Any male over 18 is most welcome.

Christian Education News

There will be no Chris Ed Sunday in January due to the Women's Retreat and the Congregational Meeting. We resume our monthly schedule of meeting on the 4th Sunday of each month after church in February. The Adult Forum on February 27th will look at marriage in the Bible with Jordan Eberly and Paul Feiertag leading the discussion. The young people will make various types of crosses to decorate the narthex.



And Kudos to our Actors

Special thanks go to our young people Casey, Fiona and Griff Becker; Isabel Johnson; Natalie Koppen; Katarene and Nathan McPherson; Spencer Santiago; and Keir Skinner for doing such an outstanding job portraying the Christmas story during church on December 19th. Oscars to all!! Thanks also to our wonderful inn keepers Mary Dawson, Jordan Eberly, Mary Thompson, the Flaks, Mark Koppen and Keith Becker for being such good sports. And thank you to Jordan for assisting during rehearsal, making signs and running out for the pizza when my car wouldn't start. You're the best! It was fun. Shall we do it again next year?

Jean Harrison

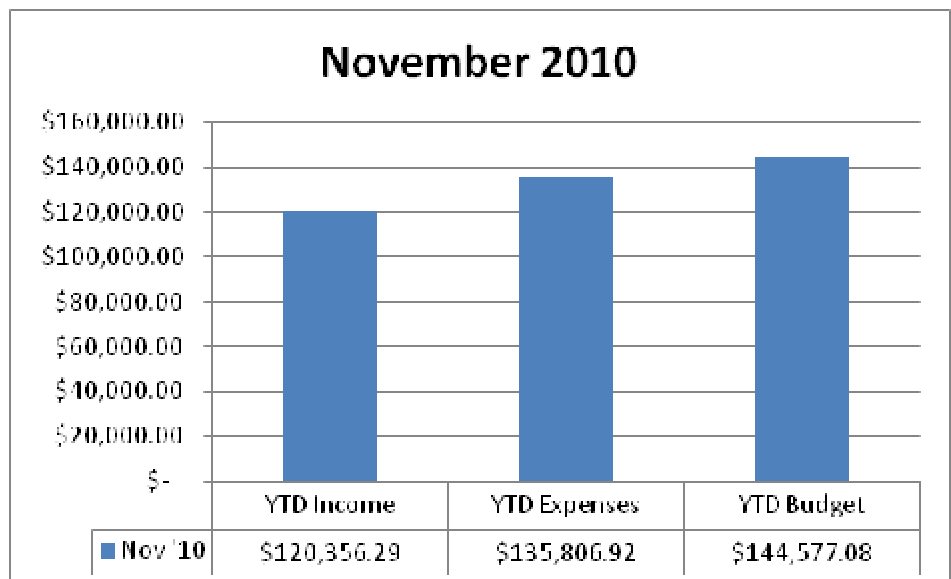
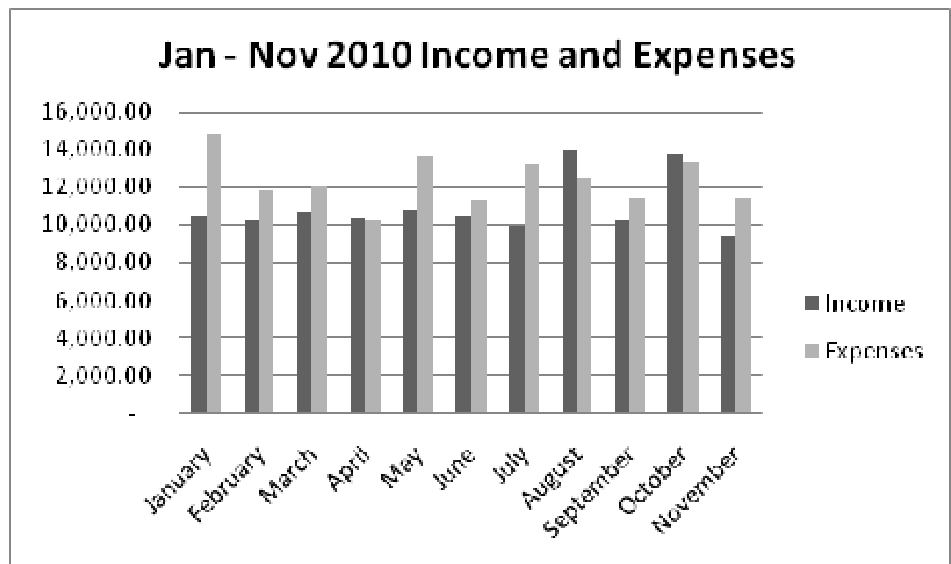
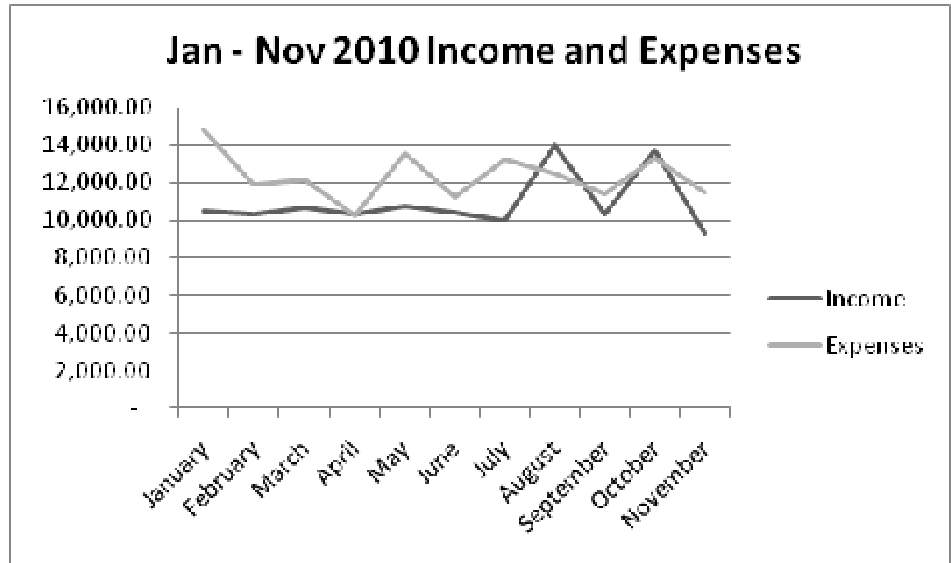
Finance Corner

First the good news

To date TLC has given \$1,387.50 to the Rwanda School Project. The Thanksgiving holiday offering was \$3,531.00 which has gone to Mission Investment to pay down more of the principal. \$760.25 was offered on Christmas Eve for Lutheran Social Services of Northern California. Pledges are way up for 2011. All of our current bills are paid. We have some money in the bank and in savings. Well down good and faithful servants!

Then the bad news

Our deficit continues to grow. November was in the red to the tune of \$2,107.01 bringing our 2010 deficit to \$15,542.27 (an average of \$1,412.93 per month). The Heckathorn bequest money is nearly gone. We will need to dig into other savings to cover the next deficit month. We adopted an annual budget with a deficit. Something has to change. Remember this situation in your prayers and as you make your offerings.



Worship in January:

Tips to help you improve your worship experience: Read the scriptures assigned for the day earlier in the week so they sit on your heart for a while, or join the 1 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study at which we read and discuss the upcoming scripture readings. Come to worship a little earlier to sit still and be in prayer, opening your soul to the Spirit. Sit closer to the front, if you are a back row occupant.



- 1/2 **Second Sunday After Christmas**
Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1: 1-18
Installation of 2011 Church Council
- 1/9 **Baptism of Our Lord**
Scriptures: Isaiah 42:1-9; Ps. 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
My Faith Works – Jim Lehman
- 1/16 **2nd Sunday After the Epiphany**
Scriptures: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 19-42
Gift of G.A.B. – Finance Committee; Sandy Koppen and Mary Thompson
- 1/23 **3rd Sunday After the Epiphany**
Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
Women's Annual Retreat at Bishop's Ranch
- 1/30 **4th Sunday After the Epiphany**
Scriptures: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
RIC Sunday and 2nd Part of Congregational Meeting



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TLC Council:

Jean Flak
Mark Koppen
Jean Harrison, Treasurer
Keith Becker
Karen Lehman
Pastor Jean Lebbert

TLC Committee Chairs

CCC: Without Chair
Education: Jean Harrison
Evangelism and Outreach: Sharon Boschen
Finance: Jean Harrison
Property: Jan Loewen
Stewardship: Jean Flak
Worship: Mark Koppen and Mary Thompson

Who's Who In Worship

Altar Guild:

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

Greeters Coordinator:

Jan Thomas

Asst. Ministers Coordinator:

Ingrid Feiertag

Musicians Coordinator:

Mark Koppen

Offering Tellers:

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

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:

Lorraine Larson

Sanctuary Task Force Coordinators:

Diane Land and Jan Thomas

Women's Groups Coordinator:

Karen Lehman

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