

The

TLC Trumpet



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

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July 2007

Reflections on Pastor Jean Lebbert's Installation

by Paul Feiertag

What a joy-filled celebration that installation service was! It was so special that I want to invite those not able to attend to participate vicariously after the fact.

I had been spending extra hours on the landscaping to make the grounds as pretty and inviting as possible. You can only imagine my surprise when I arrived to see that the Lehmans had spread pickup truckloads of very pretty colored mulch over all the areas around the church that I had simply abandoned because I couldn't get to them. The church grounds looked beautiful! Deb & Mark Ferronato's canopies not only provided shade outside for the picnic tables, they announced to all passers-by and those who drove in to park that a party atmosphere was happening at TLC. Another of Betty Hibel's cake creations was on display decorated with reminders of Pastor Jean's recent children's sermons. There was enough food to feed twice the number of people. And that was just the preparations!

The service began with a concert unlike anything ever heard at TLC—our own Pastor Jean, her sister Janet, and their colleagues all playing various sizes of recorders from inches to feet long. I sat in a chair and soaked up that beautiful classical music. I wondered why all the people didn't pick up their chairs and turn them around to face the musicians. Chairs can be moved, folks! Hasn't Christ freed us?!

No one has ever preached at TLC like Pastor Jean's friend, Pastor Margie Brown. I felt as if I was back in the first century listening to the storyteller Jesus. And when has a preacher placed her dog named Peaches on a chair in the front row?! Or graced the congregation with her harmonica?

After Gateway Conference Dean, Pastor Newt Kerney, did the installing ritual, all the vested visiting clergy encircled Pastor Jean to lay hands on her and give her blessings. It was so emotional to do that. I had a vision of how Jesus felt at his baptism when the Spirit—through John the Baptizer, gave Jesus all the gifts and blessings he needed to carry out his ministry. Pastor Jean is well prepared for her ministry.

And all the visitors! I think Pastor Jean's family and friends outnumbered TLC members. It reminded me how special she is and how blessed we are.

Then she blessed us. She gave Newt Kerney a bottle of his favorite wine. She called the Call Committee together for the last time and demonstrated her understanding of grace. After reminding us of the lengthy, grueling interview process, she gave each of us a gold box containing two chocolate truffles. I still want to know who picked up my gold box after the service was over. I had to take George Land's box. He was celebrating their wedding anniversary with his wife and daughters. I justified my theft by saying: You have to be present to win.

Thanksgiving Church is a winner to have Pastor Jean among us to lead us and to serve us. To all who read this: Remember; you have to be present to win. See you at church!

Inside:

Healthy Start - What is it? Who's involved? See page 6

What REALLY Makes July Sizzle? Find out on page 4

She Had the Same Drama Teacher as Tom Hanks? Get to know Pastor Jean on page 3

And much more...

The Trumpet Looks a Little Different...

Now that the Trumpet is available on line you will notice that the layout is a little different. When reading the Trumpet on the TLC website, the pages run vertically on the screen - you page up and down, not back and forth. With this in mind, the articles will run all the way across the page with items (usually) arranged from top to bottom in order to be more comfortable to read. Your editor got a little dizzy with all the up and down required in the other format! It is hoped that you will continue to enjoy the Trumpet in either media.



Stewardship Corner

Thanksgiving Lutheran strives to encourage all members to view their offerings of time, talent, and treasure as acts of discipleship in response to God's gracious gifts to us, and our members have historically taken this message to heart, often going the "extra mile" in response to financial difficulties of the congregation as well as contributing generously to causes outside of the congregation! The following article is part of an ongoing series, "10 Stewardship Principles," inspired by ELCA Stewardship materials available online and adapted for TLC by the Finance team; we hope that you will recognize yourself in these principles!

Reading Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, one definitely gets the feeling that neither human nature nor stewardship campaigns have really changed all that much in the past 2000 years! In 2 Corinthians 9:1-5 Paul writes to the Achaean as part of his appeal for the Jerusalem collection, "it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia." BUT, human nature being what it is, Paul still feels it necessary to send personnel and advice ahead of his arrival to make sure the Achaean are ready when he comes—"otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion." Paul's comments indicate that the Achaean have enthusiastically embraced **Stewardship Principle #7: Commit intentionally**—make a statement about your intent to commit your time, talents, and resources as a faithful response to God, and then follow through! In sending the brothers ahead, Paul seems to recognize that "following through" is often the most challenging part of making a commitment. In 1 Corinthians 16:2 he gives advice about how to successfully carry out our intentions: "On the first day of every week, each of you should put aside and save whatever extra you earn," pointing us to Stewardship **Principle #8: Contribute regularly**—by practicing our stewardship on a daily or weekly basis, giving becomes a lifestyle, and the mountain of our commitment becomes a series of more manageable molehills! TLC has seen this work firsthand. For a number of years, TLC has pledged 10% of our General Fund income to the Synod for support of the ELCA's wider mission, and we would send contributions monthly. However, when funds got really tight, those *monthly* contributions felt HUGE and got harder and harder to keep up—and we got behind on our commitment. The Council then decided to switch to sending our Mission Support on a *weekly or biweekly* basis, and somehow it was easier to "let go of" those smaller weekly amounts. It seems that Paul was really onto something!

Getting to Know...

Pastor Jean Lebbert

Our new Pastor is a California native. She is a graduate of Skyline High School in Oakland where she was active in school drama. A life member of Thespians, she came ahead of Tom Hanks and they both had the same Drama teacher.

Jean is the middle “J” of three girls, Judy, Jean, and Janet. Janet is the sister who shares the Lodi house with her. Now the sharing is part-time since Jean also has a place on Middle Rincon Road in Santa Rosa. “Mahalo Manor” (Hawaiian for “Thanksgiving”), also houses her two dogs, Ani and Dane.

Jean grew up at Grand Lake Lutheran Church which boasted the most active youth group you can imagine. Eleven kids in the group eventually entered the ministry. This included Dale Sollom-Brotherton, well-known to TLC’ers for his work here. His parents and Jean’s parents were best of friends.

This large group excelled in presenting biblical drama to the congregation and other churches. Jean served as their playwright, narrator, and prop director. She wrote plays and original songs for such as: “David and Goliath,” “Matthew 13,” “Christmas and the Grinch.”

In 1974, Jean graduated from Hayward State with a B.A. in English, specializing in creative writing. At this youthful stage, she was unsure of what to do with an English degree. Finally, she entered Humboldt State and earned another B.A. . . . in Home Economics, with a minor in Journalism.

So what do you do with that? Of course . . . she went to work for Sunset magazine. She began as a Recipe Tester and became a Staff food editor in 1978. She produced recipes, wrote stories, tips on parties, and anything concerning food products. In her words, “for 9 years I cooked and ate all day long.”

But she knew this was not the right job and so she resigned even though nothing was waiting in the wings. Her high school pastor encouraged her to enter the seminary. She took the plunge and worked her way through PLTS as a cook for the dorm students. This was her time of “stewing and studying.” She graduated with honors in 1992 with a thesis, “Developing ‘Recipes’ For Effective Church Committees.”

Receiving a call from Emanuel Lutheran in Lodi, Jean became Associate Pastor. She believes that she made a good team with Pastor Crabtree, but after 9 years it was time to move on.

In 2000, Jean inherited a nice estate from her eccentric Godmother, Muriel. This provided her with living expenses for 7 years, and has actually grown in size with wise investments. Unsure of what direction to go, Jean did Pulpit Supply during these years, then began seeking a call. This is where TLC enters the picture and here we are!

We must remember that Jean is not full-time. Being 2/3 leaves her with spare time. She likes to do quilting and photography. She can be found gardening at her Lodi home. She loves playing recorder with her recorder quartet, “Wind Horse Consort.” With sister Janet, she is writing a book about the Ten Commandments with negative language removed.

Jean’s plans for TLC’s immediate future include developing strategies for our Mission Plan as conceived by our Council and Congregation. In the meantime, other TLC’ers, especially the more youthful, are probably more curious to see what other personalities are lurking in her stable of puppets. (I happen to know that she has a horse named “Hallelujah,” plus 10 different sheep!)

George Land



Scripture Sizzles in July!

Plan to come to worship so that they can get into your heart and head.

The Revised Common Lectionary is designed to lead you into deeper and deeper relationship with the Highest Power ever and ever to come. We are at the end of the 3-year cycle now, so the readings are really fanning and shaping the Spirit in us

Here are the themes and readings for the Sundays in July. You may better prepare yourself for worship by reading them ahead of time, so that they can sit with you a little while before we wrestle with them in worship.

July 1
For freedom, Christ has set us free; so let go of it!

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21	Elijah learns to let it go
Psalms 16	A song of confidence
Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Christ has set us free
Luke 9:18-24	Jesus' disciples get a lesson about letting go

July 8
Develop a spirit of gentleness; we reap what we sow

Isaiah 66:10-14	A vindicated Zion
Psalms 66:1-8	A song of thanksgiving
Galatians 6:1-16	Bear one another's burdens
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Mission of the seventy

July 15
Choose Spiritual Living

Deuteronomy: 8-15, 19	Choose Life
Psalms 25:1-9	Prayers for guidance
Colossians 1:1-14	We're praying for you
Luke 10:25-37	The Good Samaritan



JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 22
Surprise! Even you are sent!
(Commemoration of Mary Magdalene)

Ruth 1:6-18	Where you go, I will go
Psalms 73:23-29	The security of the righteous is permanent
Acts 13:26-33a	Paul witnesses in Antioch of Pisidia
John 20:1-2, 11-18	The first witness of the resurrection

July 29
Be persistent in expecting God's greatness

Genesis 18:20-32	Abraham barter for Sodom and Gomorrah
Psalms 138	Hymn of a grateful heart
Colossians 2:6-19	Continue to live in Christ
Luke 11:1-13	Ask, it will be given

From the Council President...

Blink! Where did June go? We welcomed Pastor Jean on June 1, and she has jumped into our midst with both feet, an open heart, and great energy and excitement! She has shared her talents in sermons for both adults and kids, and as a musician with her recorder consort as a prelude to the uplifting Installation Service; she has shared her friends, introducing us to the Rev. Dr. Margie Brown who inspired us at the Installation by pointing out to us how no seed, whether it lands on a rocky path, weed-choked ground, or nice fertile soil, is ever useless to God (or to us!); she is already offering a five-session study this month on "Paths to Finding Your Spiritual Power," beginning July 1 and promising "all you can eat salad" and "all you can take spiritual empowerment." The congregation has been busy too—rolling out the welcome mat with a weeding party, working to put the "team" back into the Property Team (new participation is welcome—the next scheduled meeting is August 20) and serving up a great BBQ for Pastor Jean's Installation (A huge THANK YOU to everyone who played a part in making these events happen!)

So, what's in store for July? This month the Council's focus will be on getting off to the best start we can with our new pastor. With this goal in mind, the Council and Call Committee will be participating in a program, developed by Dale Sollom-Brotherton, called "Healthy Start." Beginning with a Saturday retreat on July 21 (for Pastor, Council, Call Committee, and a few others in associated leadership roles), and followed by quarterly check-ins with our Healthy Start facilitator Lyle Beckman. The goal of Healthy Start is to help congregations and their newly called pastors to clarify mutual expectations and to take advantage of the congregation's excitement to establish positive goals and healthy communication habits for the future. We've worked hard (and learned and prayed a lot!) as a congregation over the past few years, and we believe that participation in Healthy Start will help us establish a partnership with our new pastor that will be faithful to the God who has called us together—and we are thankful that we won't have to reinvent the wheel to make it happen!

Blessings to you this summer—see you in worship! -Sandy Koppen

"THEN WILL I ... HEAL THEIR LAND."

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Solomon's temple was finally complete. The work of 70,000 laborers, 80,000 stone cutters, and 3600 foremen—finished. Pure gold covered parts of the interior. Precious inlaid stones sparkled. The Ark of the Covenant inhabited the Holy of Holies. Only the presence of God was missing. So Solomon prays "Arise, O Lord God, to Your resting place" (2CH 6:41). And how did God respond? "And the glory of the Lord filled the temple" (2CH 7:1). The people fell on their faces declaring, "He is good; his love endures forever" (2Ch 7:3). After 15 days of celebration Solomon retreated to his palace.

But God wasn't finished speaking. God knows our tendency to forget His blessings and go our own way. Look around you. The conditions that preceded the fall of every great civilization are in place. Can our country be saved? Yes! By whom? God said: (1) "If my people, who are called by my name". We must turn from self-promotion to God promotion. (2) "Will humble themselves and pray". We must turn from self-reliance to God reliance. (3) "And seek my face". We must turn from self-direction to God direction. (4) "And turn from their wicked ways". We must turn from self-indulgence to self-examination. When will God heal our land? When His people turn back to Him!

If the terrain tells you you've make a wrong turn, it's time to make a aright one. As a country we've been traveling through some rough terrain. And it's getting rougher every day. What can be done" God's people can turn it around! And the turn begins with – you!

From the K-Love Radio Devotional, submitted by Judy Sawyer

The Lord is my flashlight

I am complete

My delight is to walk in meadows

Bathed by bright moonlight

Night, but bright

And to catch sight of trickling waters

Shimmering in moon's soft lamp

Just as often there is no moon

Darkness drops in front of me

Impenetrable as a wall

Any sound threatens me

An ill-meaning enemy

Ignorance, the cancer of trust,

Comes over me, overcomes me

I choose paralyzation over life

You are the source of illumination

From source incomprehensible

You reveal my enemies before me

To be fellow paralytic victims

And my own attempts to comprehend

Sheer goodness and kindness

Quicken my trust

Empower me to integrity

Permit me to live for proclamation

*Jean Lebbert
March 7, 1990*

GROW

Get into the light of the SON

Mealtime is special.

Let's meet at the Eucharist each Sunday.

Wilting?

Have you forgotten the water of
baptism?

Sisters and brothers never make a
parent happier than when they care for
each other.

God is our Parent

We are all God's children.

*Contributed By
Paul Feiertag*

If...

*If your kite runs out of string,
tie it to a cloud.*

*If that's the way the cookie crumbles,
then eat it with your ice cream.*

*If your favorite tree becomes
a stump,
dress it with a table cloth.*

*If the grass is greener on
the other side,
ask them how they did it.*

*If all you have left is one seed,
find a place to plant it.*

*If sometime you break your word,
put it back together with your
favorite frosting.*

*If you're out on the town
with a friend,
Paint it your favorite color.*

*If your roof leaks a lot,
catch the water with your
house plants.*

*If your patience runs out,
follow to see where it's going.*

*If someone has an axe to grind,
ask them to dull the edges.*

By Dr. Herbert Brokering,
Wheat Ridge Ministries Staff Associate

Contributed by Gloria Feiertag

F.I.S.H.*

Here is a list of the supplemental food items regularly given away at the F.I.S.H. facility in Santa Rosa:

Macaroni and Cheese

Tomato Sauce

Tuna

Cereal

Spagetti

Soup

Bread

Rice

Canned Beans

Peanut Butter

Canned Fruit and Vegetables

Variations welcome: Cereal to cook, any kind of pasta or rice products, any kind of canned tomatoes, fruits and vegetables, all varieties of canned and dried beans and soups.

For those who are homeless flip top cans and instant foods are helpful.

Easy to eat items for some seniors include Boost, Ensure, puddings and broths—anything you can think of for someone who's not feeling very well.

Thanks for your donations of shampoo, toothpaste and other personal care items.

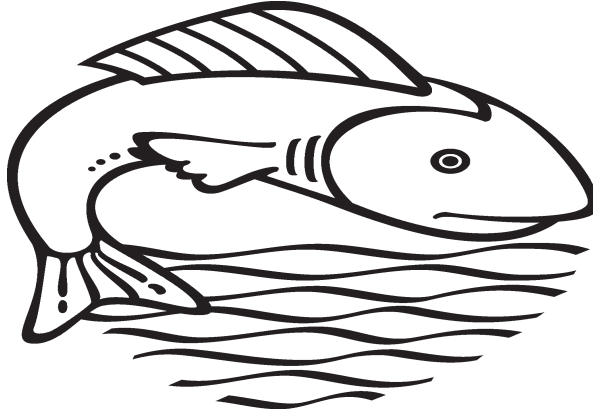
If you should see a good buy in pet food - life gets tough for all of God's creatures sometimes.

Thanks to June helpers Alicia, Mary D. and Betty S. They will be on vacation in July but I think we will be covered on the 7th with the extended Schuler family.

:-) Stan and Marilyn

*FRIENDS IN SERVICE HERE

1055 Benton(Corner of Benton and North Streets)



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Mary Dawson



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The TLC Trumpet is now available at www.ThanksgivingLutheran.org shortly after publication on paper. If you would like to discontinue your paper version, please email editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org with your wishes, and you will be notified by email every month (with a link to the website) when the newsletter is available. If you would like to continue to receive the TLC Trumpet on paper, you don't have to do anything.

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation...

In faithfulness to the Gospel, we respond to God's compassionate love with openness of heart and spirit. Thanksgiving Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. We welcome and accept gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their families as full participating members of the congregation. We welcome and accept all people regardless of their cultural or ethnic background, physical or mental abilities, socio-economic or marital status, gender, or age. God loves us exactly as we are. This congregation welcomes you, exactly as you are.



A prayer for July 4

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for the special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom's lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the of the land we love. Amen.

Worship:

Sunday morning at 9:30 with Children's Sermon, Holy Communion, and education hour for all ages (Sept-May)

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Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, July 19. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words, using 12 point Arial font.

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.

Thank you for keeping the Trumpet interesting and informative! *editor*