

The

# TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 5 No. 7

[www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)

July 2008

At the time I need to write a terrific Pastoral missive for the Trumpet, my office is all packed up in little boxes.

It's hard to inspire when your stuff is so contained.

## Pastor's Packed in Boxes this Month

I imagine that this is what Jehovah had in mind when advising King David to not put his energy and resources into building a temple right then. Our life is affected by what we put our energy and resources into: boxes, mindsets, opinions, attitudes, temples, doctrines.

*When we put our souls into the eternal light of Christ, we are set free, however. Good box.*

I am grateful to the Alexanders who are donating beautiful new furniture for my office, furniture made by Bruce! Give me a couple of weeks to move back in, then stop by. I am grateful for all of you who directed that some of our precious resource of money be designated to do up my pastor's digs. I tell you, I have the best congregation.

**Speaking of putting your energies and resources somewhere, here are some places at TLC that need you:**

- Join our Christian Education Committee
- Help Deb Ferronato with chores
- Work with me to plan our 2nd Annual Blessing of the Pets worship service
- Become involved in worship: be a reader, worship assistant, usher, greeter, host of the the fellowship time.
- Join up on any of our Committees; they are all doing great ministry

*Love,  
Pastor Jean*

## **Stewardship Snippets**

### **Tony Campolo at a Women's Conference**

Tony Campolo tells of being invited to speak at a ladies meeting. There were 300 women there. Before he spoke the president of the organization read a letter from a missionary. It was a very moving letter. In the letter the missionary expressed a need for \$4,000 to take care of an emergency that had cropped up. So the president of the organization said, "We need to pray that God will provide the resources to meet the need of this missionary. Brother Campolo will you please pray for us?" Tony Campolo, who is very outspoken said, "No." Startled, she said, "I beg your pardon." He said, "No, I won't pray for that." He said, "I believe that God has already provided the resources and that all we need to do is give. Tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to step up to this table and give every bit of cash I have in my pocket. And if all of you will do the same thing, I think God has already provided the resources." The president of the organization chuckled a little bit and said, "Well, I guess we get the point. He is trying to teach us that we all need to give sacrificially." He said, "No, that is not what I am trying to teach you. I'm trying to teach you that God has already provided for this missionary. All we need to do is give it. Here, I'm going to put down all of my money I have with me. He wrote, "I only had \$15 in my pocket so I wasn't too worried about that." So he put down his \$15 and then looked at the president of the organization. Reluctantly, she opened her purse and took out all of her money, which was about \$40, and put it on the table. One by one the rest of the ladies filed by and put their money on the table, too. When the money was counted they had collected more than \$4,000. Tony Campolo said, "Now here's the lesson. God always supplies for our needs and he supplied for this missionary, too. The only problem was we were keeping it for ourselves. Now let's pray and thank God for His provision."



**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

***The 1<sup>st</sup> amendment to the US Constitution***

When a whole nation is roaring Patriotism at the top of its voice, I am (obliged) to explore the cleanness of its hands and purity of its heart.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), Journals, 1824*

There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.

*Bill Clinton (1946-*

You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it.

*Malcolm X (1925-1965)*

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

*John F. Kennedy (1917-1963), Inaugural address, January 20, 1961*

# What Gay Marriage Means for Sierra Pacific Synod Clergy and Congregations

By Paul Feiertag

The pictures tell the story. The faces of people involved in these recent same-gender marriages are transformed; so filled with joy that tears often overflow. They are not pursuing some “agenda” that will bring society to destruction. They are not acting in rebellion against God. They are very normal couples whose love has finally been recognized as equal with the majority other-gendered couples. At the Gay Pride Celebration on June 8 Jen & Megan (Their letter about becoming Registered Domestic Partners was printed in the Trumpet last year.) stopped by TLC’s booth and asked me to officiate at their marriage planned for October. What a thrill! We have known Jen since 1991 and grown to love her. I said, “Yes,” even before Bishop David Mullen and Bishop-Elect Mark Holmerud sent a joint pastoral letter to all the Synod’s clergy on the subject of same-gender marriages.

First they remind us that in Lutheran churches marriage is not a sacrament. Marriage is a civil institution governed by state laws. The State has decreed that ordained clergy are among those authorized to officiate at marriage ceremonies. When Lutheran clergy officiate at weddings, they are acting as agents of the State. They complete the Marriage License and return it to the proper county agency to be recorded. We do not put away our ordained clergy status, though. We also preach the Gospel, instruct in God-pleasing life-styles, pray, bless in God’s name and offer ourselves and our congregations for on-going support.

No pastor is required to perform same-gender marriages. The Bishops reassured all clergy—those who will not and those who look forward to performing same-gender weddings—that they have the Bishops’ support.

Our Sierra Pacific Synod adopted a Reconciling in Christ statement in 1990 and has defined its support for LGBT members in additional resolutions in 1994:

Marriage and other civil rights protections are essential to making all families safer and more secure;

The right of every American to marry, including LGBT couples;

And support for the efforts to make civil marriage for LGBT couples a reality in our country and to oppose any attempts to discriminate against LGBT couples and individuals.

The 1993 Assembly commended the Sierra Pacific Synod Church Council for encouraging clergy to “use wise pastoral discretion in decisions regarding the blessing of monogamous, covenantal, same-sex relationships.”

The ELCA has a policy statement defining marriage as a covenantal relationship between a man and a woman. Therefore, technically, there is no constitutional support for same-gender marriage. Technically, there is also no prohibition from offering pastoral care to same-gender couples who seek the blessing of the church in their lives; and the Conference of Bishops affirmed in 1993 the wisdom of staying in dialogue with pastors and congregations who are in ministry with gay and lesbian persons as pastoral care is done.

Can charges be brought against a pastor who solemnizes a same-gender marriage? Our Bishops Mullen and Holmerud say they will not. Any 10 ELCA clergy or any 10 congregations can bring charges, since it is technically against the ELCA policy. That is unlikely since the ELCA Assembly last year overwhelmingly adopted a resolution to refrain from discipline as the church continues the process of coming to consensus on LGBT issues.

So the bottom line is that we clergy in this Synod may officiate at same-gender marriages after consulting with the Bishop and our congregational leadership, avoiding media-driven ceremonies, performing the ceremony in a way that affirms our ELCA’s image in the public eye, and using the best we know in pre-marital sessions.

## Fill the F.I.S.H.\* Barrel

If you are new or visiting at Thanksgiving you might have noticed that blue barrel in the narthex. It's what we try to fill up each month for F.I.S.H., a local food bank. Our regular givers are used to picking up a few extra cans of fruit, soup, beans or boxes of dried potato dishes or cereal while doing their regular shopping. If you visit places like Costco you can pick up a case of something in the canned or dried goods aisle for five or six dollars. **Keep the food bank in mind when you have surplus vegetables in your garden or loaded fruit trees.** When you are tired from making applesauce or pies for the freezer or friends and neighbors remember F.I.S.H. Call us at 869-8148 and **we will come to your house and pick up any fresh produce you have to spare.**

Another thing to keep in mind if you've been traveling or intend to. The little bars of soap or shampoo or lotion you find along the way are really appreciated by the people who visit the food bank. If you see a really good buy on toothpaste or shampoo or samples of over-the-counter headache, cold or allergy remedies remember F.I.S.H. Moms who are really struggling to get food on the table for their families very often don't have money for those items.

I know that Blue Barrel is pretty big but I also know this Thanksgiving congregation has a big heart.

*M. Schuler*

\* Friends In Service Here

Food Pantry

1055 Benton (Corner of Benton and North)

Santa Rosa



## T L C W o m e n ' s G r o u p



### It's a Movie Night!

The TLC Women's Group is meeting Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at the church for a movie, and suggestions are being accepted. Comedy? Drama? Sci-Fi? Adventure? Probably not a horror movie... Give Karen Lehman some titles, and let her know if you can come – that way we know how much popcorn to make!

The TLC Women's Group meets on the first Wednesday of even-numbered months – or would you prefer a different day of the week? Tell Karen your preference in that department too!

# UPDATE: The TLC Community Garden Project

**Lots going on in the garden** – hose bibs are in place, compost has been delivered and tilled in with the little tractor, and gardeners are actually gardening! Praise be to God! Each step is an answer to prayer – prayers that began in early 2006. Maybe you were in on the praying – independently and unbeknownst to the garden folk. Thank you for your prayerful ways.

One of my prayers was for a person that is willing and able to pursue and write grants for the garden. This prayer also seems to have been answered, as a young man named Ian has come back to us after a long absence (he was seriously injured last November when he was hit by a car while on his bicycle). Ian is a student at SRJC and is in the process of creating a major that combines sustainable agriculture and business administration. His mother writes grants for UC Davis, so he has an excellent source for feedback and advice. Currently, Ian is writing a grant for the TLCCGP that is sponsored by Santa Rosa's Community Advisory Board. Please pray for this to come to fruition this summer.

**What's next for the garden?** The top three:

1. We have high hopes for the garden and for TLC as a whole – the next really big thing is a secure shed on a cement slab to store tools and supplies for landscape maintenance, and for the community garden.
2. More gardeners – there are 7 plots available as of this writing – so your prayers in this area are also appreciated. Once the south portion of the garden is developed, we'll work on the north section, which means at least another 16 plots.
3. Automatic irrigation for both sections – this will require an electrician to wire for a sprinkler/drip system on timers, the timer boxes, the pipe, and the rest of the hardware for the hose bibs, and sprinklers and drips. In the meantime, we are gathering information from several experts on the various types of systems available. Opinions and styles abound!

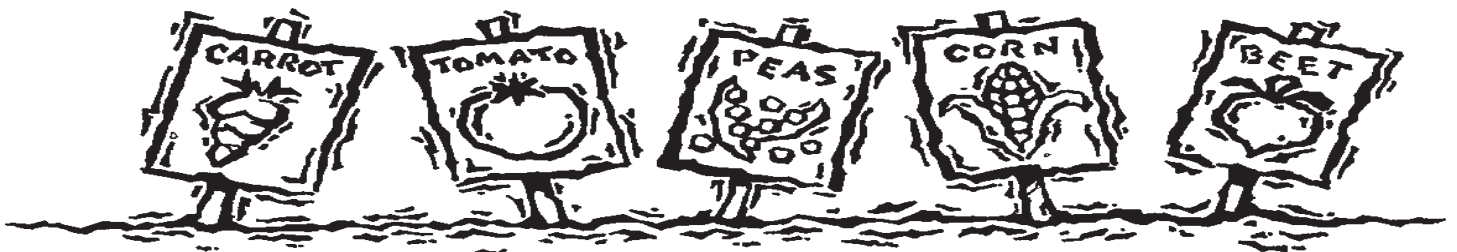
Once we have a shed, **materials you can donate include:**

- Good hoses with both ends in good working order and no leaks
- A pick ax
- Pitch forks – 4 or 5 tines
- Spades, hoes, rakes, shovels
- Watering tools in good working order
- Small hand tools
- Half wine barrels or other large planting containers made of wood or clay
- Garden carts and wheelbarrows

Generally, if you have extra plants or seedlings, we will accept them on behalf of the gardeners, but please understand that all of them may not make it into the garden – it just depends on what gardeners need/want to plant. Please include the names of the plants. Labeled seeds are also welcome.

Thank you for all the ways you support the TLC Community Garden Project!

*Karen Lehman, coordinator  
TLCCGP*





## Getting to Know...

### Josephine Borgeson

Phina is well-known at TLC for her involvement with the Community Garden, but in addition to that, she brings a lot more with her. She was born and raised in Duxbury, MA. While in high school she was in the Honor Society, Editor of the Literary Magazine, President of the Band, and won a letter playing tennis.

She went on to Radcliffe, the women's college at Harvard University. She concentrated in biology, with an emphasis in evolutionary biology and ecology, earning an A.B. degree.

After college she moved to the Bay Area, where after several years working at the Bank of California she attended the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley. She earned a Master of Divinity degree in Divinity and was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church 34 years ago.

Phina worked for the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada directing their summer camp at Lake Tahoe, doing campus ministry, and eventually working full time in congregational ministry development, based in Reno. She helped small and rural congregations with re-development. In 1990 she was called to serve as Missioner for Christian Education in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles where much of her work was intercultural and ecumenical.

Phina moved to Sonoma County in 2000, and to her current home in northwest Santa Rosa in 2001. She continued consulting in ministry development, and worked part-time as Faith Network Coordinator for the National Center for Science Education in Oakland. Currently, she is a Ministry Developer with the Redwood Episcopal Cluster, working part-time with three congregations in Lake and Mendocino Counties. She also is a correspondent for Episcopal Media in the areas of environment and science and theology.

As a volunteer, Phina is a member of the National Episcopal Committee on Science Technology and Faith and convenes the Celebrating Creation Network for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. She is a frequent speaker and workshop leader in these areas.

Outside of church, Phina has three main interests. One involves food . . . cooking and production. She is concerned with food security and agricultural sustainability and is involved with a project mapping the food system in Sonoma County.

Another interest is knitting. She has knitted for 45 years and has been active in the Sonoma County Knitting Guild. She is also a baseball fan. Growing up with the Red Sox, she follows whatever American League team she lives near, but never the Yankees. She is looking forward to combining these interests in September, at the annual Stitch 'n Pitch at the Oakland Coliseum.

Later this year Phina will participate in the Sunday Scientists program of the ELCA, when they focus on Food and Faith in Des Moines, Iowa. But we at TLC know her best for her steady and untiring work in our Community Garden. She can often be found there sharing her expertise with the soil. Ask the Lehmans or the Schulers where the Garden would be without Phina!

*George Land*



# God Loves a Cheerful Giver

## 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Bible says, “Whoever sows generously will reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion”.

Are you a cheerful giver or a fearful giver? It's not that we're greedy or opposed to supporting God's work, we're just concerned that if we don't look out for our own interest, they might not get looked out for at all. But such fear is irrational! It's like a farmer, who, out of fear of losing his seed, refuses to plant his fields. Don't hoard the seed God intends to be sown, for the harvest He wants you to have. God's promise to you is, “If you sow generously you'll reap generously”. When you make giving to God your first priority, you don't have to fear. Jesus said, “Put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well” (Mt 6:33). When you strive to be a faithful conduit for His kingdom, God promises to “increase your store of seed.” And it gets better: “You will be made rich in every way.” When you partner with God, He rewards you abundantly for every good deed.

When you view your money from God's perspective, the thing to fear isn't giving away too much, but sowing too little!

*From the K-Love Radio Devotional series*

*Submitted by Judy Sawyer*

**According to an Arabian proverb**, “A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away.”

That's why it's so important to have Christian friends. We can share the good and bad, confident that our friends won't judge us as a result. Instead, true friends celebrate our successes and encourage us during disappointments.



*“A friend loves  
AT ALL TIMES.”*

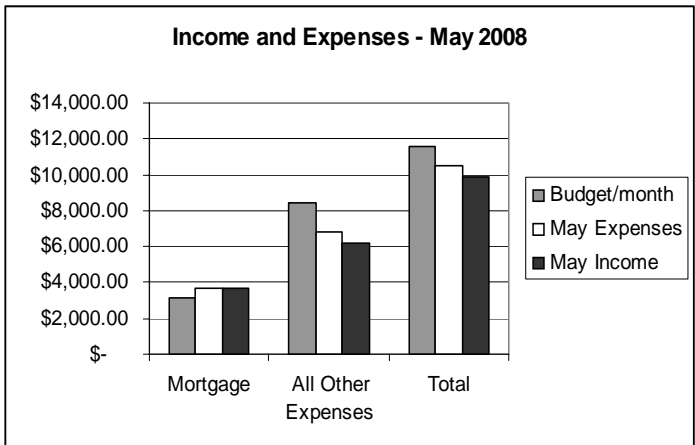
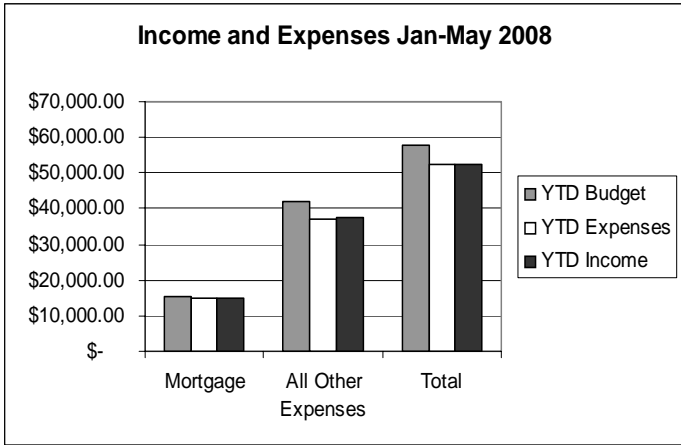
PROVERBS 17:17. NRSV

## What attracts people to church?

Why do people select a particular church? A convenient location? Yes. A good speaker in the pulpit? Yes. Inspiring music? Yes. An attractive building? Yes.

But a more essential element in attracting visitors, newcomers and prospective members is friendliness — both in the pew and throughout the community. Where there is a warm, dynamic congregation with an enthusiasm that's contagious, visitors will usually be found, and will return.

A church can buy many advantages with money, such as nice buildings, trained leadership, effective advertising and an abundance of supplies for spiritual and social use. But old-fashioned friendliness, of which the world is sorely in need, can't be purchased with money. It comes only from the hearts of dedicated people who love God and enjoy helping others feel at home in their church.



\*Notes: YTD Budget figures reflect \$3100/month mortgage payments for all of 2008. Mortgage payment for January 2008 was actually still an “interest only” payment; payments for March, April and May are \$3100/month, and June-December payments will be \$3400/month. May mortgage expenses include special contributions designated for mortgage principal reduction.

**REMEMBER  
YOUR PLEDGE  
THIS  
SUMMER**






*Can you help with TLC's Summer Project?*  
**Lutheran World Relief Health Kits!**

Worldwide requests for Lutheran World Relief Parish Project quilts, kits, layettes, and soap have increased in 2008, and LWR's current inventories are not able to meet anticipated needs. TLC's Congregation and Community Committee (CCC) wants to help!

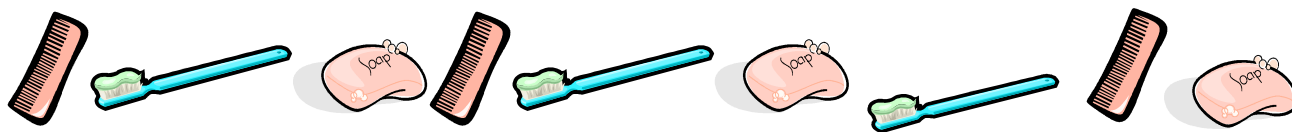
**Our Goal: To collect supplies and assemble 75 Health Kits this summer!** Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has approved a grant for \$400 which will allow us to purchase the needed hand towels and washcloths, but we need YOUR help to collect the other needed supplies and assemble the kits!

**Each kit will include the following, so we will need 75 of each item:**

- § One bath-size(4-5oz.) bar of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- ~~§ One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging~~ (RECEIVED—thank you!)
- § One comb, wide tooth preferred
- § One metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached
- § 6 Band-Aids® (or similar brand), ½" to ¾" size

 Please note: Items must be new, and may NOT be decorated with any religious, patriotic, political, or military symbols or messages (including camouflage.)

**Items may be brought to worship throughout June and July** (watch for a poster tracking our progress!) and you will have the opportunity to help assemble the kits at a congregational event in August. **We are also accepting donations toward the cost of shipping our completed kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul, Minnesota**



*Ordinary things become extraordinary when they are assembled into LWR Parish Projects and shared as gifts of love and comfort!*

“I am  
the  
true  
vine ...”




Pastor Jean Lebbert 707-327-6292  
 Church office: 707-544-0241  
**Worship:**  
 Sunday morning at 9:30 with Children’s  
 Sermon, Holy Communion, and education  
 hour for all ages  
 September - May.  
 Thanksgiving Lutheran Church  
 1225 Fulton Road  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

email: [tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net)  
 On the web: [www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)

**TLC Council:**

Deb Ferronato, Congregation President  
 Dave Flanagan, Vice President  
 Jan Thomas, Secretary  
 Sandy Koppen  
 Jean Harrison  
 Jean Flak

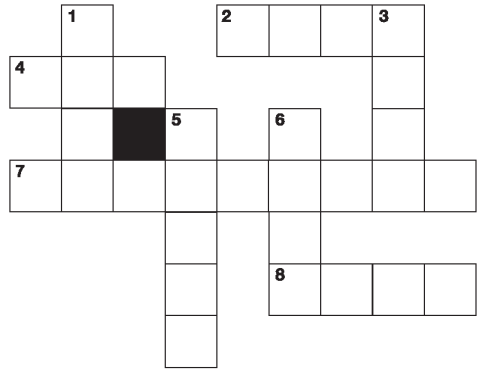


*God has made everything*  
**Beautiful**

As God’s special creations, people should take every opportunity to appreciate all that He has made.

Use the words in the box below to complete this puzzle. Then match the number for the word to the blank below to finish Psalm 104:24, NIV.

WORD BOX		
CREATURES	EARTH	
THEM	MADE	HOW
LORD	YOUR	FULL



**ACROSS**

2. Rhymes with gem.
4. Rhymes with cow.
7. Rhymes with features.
8. Rhymes with cord.

**DOWN**

1. Rhymes with pour.
3. Rhymes with fade.
5. Rhymes with worth.
6. Rhymes with pull.

“\_\_\_\_\_ many are \_\_\_\_\_ works, O \_\_\_\_\_!  
 4                                    1                                    8  
 In wisdom you \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ all;  
   3                                2  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_.”  
                                 5                                6  7  
*Psalm 104:24, NIV*

Answers: “How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” Psalm 104:24, NIV

**Next Trumpet Deadline!**

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, July 24. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words, and using 12 point Arial font is a plus! Please email submissions to:

[editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org](mailto:editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org)

If you do not have email, place submissions (along with your name in case any clarification is needed) in the “Lehman” mailbox at TLC by Sunday, July 20.