

The

# TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 4 No. 3

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

March 2007

It's Time to....**Define** (ascertain, assign, characterize, construe, decide, delineate, denominate, denote, describe, designate, detail, determine, dub, elucidate, entitle, etch, exemplify, explain, expound, formalize, illustrate, interpret, label, name, prescribe, represent, specify, spell out, tag, translate) **Evangelism!**

Ask 12 members of TLC to tell you what “evangelism” means and you’ll probably get 12 different answers; indeed, if asked, how would *you* answer that question? What would you consider an “evangelism activity?” And, based on your idea of what evangelism means, how do you feel about the idea of “doing evangelism?” Does the idea of being an “evangelist” fill you with enthusiasm, or make you want to run screaming for the door? One of the first things that became clear during our congregation’s Mission Planning work with Dale Sollom-Brotherton last Fall was our need to develop a common understanding of the term “evangelism”—**just what does evangelism mean to us, in our particular context?** Evangelism can be a “loaded” word and misconceptions about what it is (or is not) can lead to resistance to engage in “evangelism-related” activities—even at TLC, where every one of those 12 members questioned above would likely be quick to tell you about our Welcome statement affirming God’s love and grace for all people!

In November, Karen Lehman, Jan Thomas, and Marilyn Schuler volunteered for our “Defining Evangelism Task Force”; they were charged with the task of planning and arranging for activities, events, speakers, and/or other learning opportunities to help the members of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church develop a “working definition” of Evangelism that is relevant for our ministry in this place. The Council is happy to announce that the Task Force has lined up **two guest speakers** for March! Each speaker will join us for worship and share a sermon, and will then stay with us for Adult Forum time to lead us in conversation and discussion aimed at helping us understand (and develop enthusiasm for) evangelism! **On Sunday, March 18, our guest will be Rev. Peter Rehwaldt.** Pastor Rehwaldt was recently involved with the Renewing Worship Hymnal project, has extensive pastoral experience with parishes large, medium, as well as campus ministry, and completed doctoral work on worship and how different generations relate to liturgy and hymns (and he comes highly recommended by Dale Sollom-Brotherton as well!) **On Sunday, March 25, our guest will be Rev. Bonnie Bell, Ret.** Pastor Bell comes recommended by the pastor at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in Santa Cruz; she did extensive work with evangelism as founding pastor/developer of Light of Life Lutheran in Scotts Valley and with St. Stephen’s Lutheran.

***Your participation in these discussions is an important part of our Mission Plan—Mark your calendars and plan to attend Worship and Adult Forum on March 18 and 25 and learn from our guests!***



## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The call process for our next pastor continues this month, and we need everyone's prayers now more than ever. In February Pastor Bill Wong from the synod office presented the committee with two candidates for our 2/3 time pastoral position. We will begin interviewing and getting to know these candidates in early March, which we are very excited about. We and Bill are also following up on a few other potential candidates. Again, this interview process is confidential until the time when we are ready to present a candidate to call to the entire congregation; this is to protect the candidates' privacy. An outline of the call process from this point is posted on the kiosk – please let me know if you have questions. Pray that the Spirit guides our congregation in this process – as our large worship area banner says, "Trust in God and he will act!"

*Mark Koppen*



## 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! In the next several issues of the Trumpet, the Finance Committee would like to share "10 Stewardship Principles," adapted from ELCA Stewardship materials available online; we hope that you will recognize yourself in these principles!*

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul praises the generosity of the Macedonian churches for their response to the collection for the Jerusalem church—they gave "not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us" (2 Cor 8:5). The Macedonian churches offer an example of **Stewardship Principle #1: Respond gratefully** to what God has first given us. All that we do is a response to God's grace! Everything we are, have, and use comes from God. Best of all, God gives the gift of Jesus Christ and the community of believers; it all begins with God. Even our confession of faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is not of our doing; grateful stewards put God first!

## Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Needs YOU!

Now is the time to start making plans for Memorial Day weekend. How about spending your weekend at Mt. Cross camp in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains? Come join your Mt. Cross Rangers, Keith Becker and Zoe Zuest-Becker (and Fiona, Casey, and Griffin) for a weekend of Christian fellowship, fabulous food, lodging, the great outdoors, and lots of fun.....all in exchange for a little use of your talents. The misconception is that you have to do hard manual labor during this weekend. Yes, there are physically challenging jobs for those that want to do them, but there are also LOTS of other things that need to be accomplished during the weekend that don't require a buff body and the strength of a professional athlete. If you make your plans NOW, and let Mt. Cross know you're coming, you can book a room in one of the lodges where you can sleep in a REAL bed instead of a cabin with a bunk. You can even take some time off during the weekend to drive 10 minutes to Santa Cruz beach or boardwalk! Talk with Keith or Zoe if you'd like more information. Start making your plans NOW!

# Awareness+Trial+Commitment = Spreading the Good News!

Remember this diagram?

In keeping with our Mission Plan, in late January the Council, Jan Thomas, and Jan Loewen met with Dale Sollom-Brotherton to "take inventory" of current TLC activities—our goal: to take a look at our current activities and determine what steps we need to take to improve the "balance" of our ministry in the areas of Awareness, Trial, and Commitment. Not surprisingly, we found that we have the greatest number of actions in the Awareness area, slightly fewer in the Trial area, and have most room for improvement in the Commitment area—and Dale tells us that we are not unusual in this regard! With this understanding, and in keeping with our desire to focus on "one do-able thing at a time," we settled on the following priorities:



**Awareness:** In addition to our website makeover and plans for additional advertising and postcard mailings around Easter, we will produce a TLC "**business card**," to be made available for all members to carry/distribute as they wish, which will include the basics: "A Come as You Are Church," TLC's website address, phone number and worship time.

**Trial:** In addition to our greeters, who are doing a great job in contributing to our visitor's Trial experience, we would like to offer more opportunities for visitors to provide contact info in convenient and comfortable ways, and we would like to start a "**Church Buddy**" program. Being a "church buddy" is an intentional way to help visitors feel welcome and involves two simple actions: 1) learning a new visitor's name, and saying hello each time they return, and 2) offering to help a visitor feel comfortable in worship each time they attend (this could be offering guidance on following the bulletin, explaining that all are welcome to partake in communion, or answering any other questions they might have.) Speak to any Council member to volunteer!

**Commitment:** It is so important to be able to offer opportunities for new as well as long-time members to deepen their faith and build relationships. To this end, our goal is to **add 4-5 new short-term or single session events with a spiritual nature** to our calendar. These could be book or movie discussion events, bible studies, guest speaker presentations, any sort of activity that you can think of that will encourage faith awareness and sharing. **Here's where you can help:** If you have an idea for an activity, large or small, that you feel others might be interested in and you would like to help make happen, the Council wants to hear about it! To help you organize your thoughts and think about what your activity might involve, **pick up an "Action Plan" worksheet**, available on the kiosk in the narthex or from Sandy Koppen, fill it out and return to any Council member so we can help you plan, get your activity on the calendar, etc. I know there are some great ideas floating around out there...



## Nifty Fifties +

Recently, it has come to our attention that certain individuals have been attempting to alter and forge their birth certificates to make them appear to be 50 years of age. This is because they have heard how much fun the Nifty Fifties + group is having at their monthly meetings. We won't mention names, but we know who you are! You really don't have to go to that much trouble! If you really want to come, nobody is checking ID's at the door!

The NF+ group will next meet on Thursday night, **March 22, at 6 PM** at the church. This is a "3S Potluck." Bring a salad, a soup, or a stew... your choice. Also, bring your place-setting and your choice of drink. Coffee will be provided.

After supping, we will go back in time to April 18, 1775. To the night that Paul Revere rode . . . or did he? See what happened the next morning when the Colonies began their revolt against "Mother England." Through slide-magic we will see what these historic sites look like today.

*George Land*

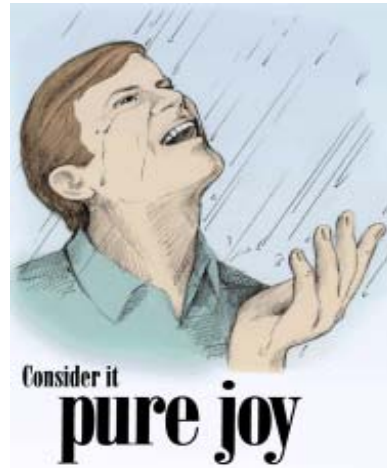
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### From Dwight D. Eisenhower's farewell address, Jan. 17, 1960:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.

I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it. "

*I wish I would have said that, time and time again!*  
*Pastor Flak*



*...Whenever you face trials ... because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:2*

### Now, be honest.

You've probably read this verse and wondered if James was living on the same planet as you! This may be one of the hardest commands to obey in all of Scripture. James said we are to respond to our trials with "joy." That leaves no room for complaining. Start

praising God when your life is interrupted by a problem or circumstance you didn't plan on or see coming. Why? Because the truth is, we are either in a trial right now, coming out of a trial or heading towards the next one. James speaks of "various trials.." You won't get bored by the trials you face because they'll come in every variety you can imagine. They're like some of the mail we receive, simply addressed to "occupant." All you have to do to undergo trials is occupy space on the planet. Notice, James didn't say "if" they come, but "when." Will Rogers once read a newspaper headline "Innocent Bystander Shot in New York." "How about that?" he said. "All you have to do to get shot in New York is be innocent and stand by." That's how it is with trials. Just stand by and you'll get hit. But why? James answers: "Under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way." Adversity produces maturity. The truth is, it can't come any other way!"

*From the K-Love Radio devotional series  
Submitted by Judy Sawyer*



# Reunion on the High Seas

by Jack W. Lundin



It was April 28th in the year 1949 when the grand and glorious Cunard line Queen Elizabeth sailed from pier 90 in New York heading for Southampton, England. I remember that sailing better than any of the others I took as a very very young and inexperienced tour conductor for Olson

Travel Organization. We were headed for Europe to sight see, not wage war! No tour conductors were experienced those years when travel for pleasure was just starting up., No need to be nervous. I certainly wasn't alone.

I had some twenty folks signed on to my OTO luxury tour. . My job as tour conductor was to escort these mostly elderly folks around some seven countries in Western Europe, and to do that I had to study their passport photos which we requested in our Chicago office prior to the tours. I arranged with ship's people for us to meet as a tour group in the press room on the Sun deck of the QE the first day out. I introduced everyone, of course, to the amazement of all. From that time on the folks figured that I also knew pretty much everything that was to happen on their tour of Europe. Little did they know.

At dinner that first night out on the Atlantic I remember sitting at a table of six. All table-mates were from our tour group. I was fascinated with the jovial demeanor of one couple in particular and found myself becoming good friends with Mr and Mrs. George Mecherle; he was the founder of State Farm insurance company of Bloomington, Illinois. The Mecherle's were down-home folks and both were excited about the trip since Mr. Mecherle would celebrate a significant birthday at the end of the tour in Paris. I sensed, with relief, that we were off to a great start with bright and enthusiastic tour members so my nerves were calmed and I relaxed.

We were just about to give our dining steward our order that first evening when I noticed Mrs. Mecherle had a look of consternation on her face. Then we all heard a nearly bloodcurdling scream. The whole dining room became instantly quiet and attention was given to our table and to the scream from Mrs. Mecherle. At nearly the same time our steward nearly dropped the tray of water glasses he was carrying. The two of them - the steward and George's wife stared at each other! For the longest time! Then, as if out of the blue, he knelt beside her chair and both began to cry. What in heavens name was going on? All eyes were on these two who were in tears.

"The Lucitania" she cried. "Yes", he said. It was then - after a few highly charged moments of curiosity on the part of us all, and with other dining stewards and matre'd,s hovering around us, that Mrs. Mercherle's trembling voice announced, "This is the young man who pulled me from the water when the Lucitania sank."

The gasp from everyone within earshot was stunning. After all those years, what could one say to such a chance meeting.? Our steward had been a sailor on one of the British ships that steamed to the rescue of the sinking Lucitania. - and he was indeed the one who pulled a young girl from the raging sea on May 7, 1915 off the Irish coast.

What a way to begin a voyage to England! It's one I'll never forget, and cannot even to this day as I check my car insurance with State Farm and then harken back to that moment when a scream of recognition made us all gasp for air. Needless to say, our five sailing days from New York to Southampton were filled with British and American reminiscences gingerly served up between courses every evening. We also had the most attentive service in the QE dining room I've ever known.

## Getting to Know... Kim Santiago

Our Council is a real cross-section of our church membership. We have male and female, working and retired, plus young and not-so-young. Kim is new on Council this year and also holds the TLC record for being our youngest ever . . . age 25. It should be useful to have a youthful viewpoint injected into Council business.

She was born in Jacksonville, FL when parents Dave and Kathy Flanagan were there on Navy duty. While growing up in Santa Rosa, Kim attended Matanzas Elementary and Slater Middle School. She was a musician at Montgomery High School in both band and choir. A brass person, she played trumpet, then baritone horn which was her favorite. She was in jazz band, concert band, and marching band. Most of her social time during these years involved Job's Daughters. She moved through the ranks to become Honored Queen, then held the state office of Grand Bethel Girl in 2002.

Feeling her way into the adult world, Kim attended Santa Rosa J.C. for two years, then entered the labor force. She was a clerk at Shapiro Galvin Law Offices in Santa Rosa for 2 ½ years.

Next on the agenda was marriage to Gabriel Santiago, a Coast Guard sailor at the time. A year later, their son Luis Spencer was born. He often attends with his mother and grandparents . . . maybe you have heard him? He answers to his middle name Spencer, taken from his great grand-mother who just recently passed away. Now with divorce pending, this little guy is Kim's rock of maturity that keeps her strong. Her faith in God has renewed during these troubled times, especially aided by Pastor Flak who guided her as a youth at Faith Lutheran Church.

Since 2005, she has been working at Beam Wine Estates in Healdsburg. She loves her job as Receptionist and Administrative Assistant. Beam is parent to a number of various wine labels. In fact, Mark Koppen used to work there!

Kim's spare time activities include reading and once-weekly shopping trips with a friend. But her favorite activity is not really "spare" time at all. She is always anxious to get home from work and spend her evening with her saving grace, little Spencer.

*George Land*



## Moody Baby Boy

Yep, that's what his hospital label said!

Faith & Walter Moody are proud parents, and Bill & Deborah Baggett are proud grandparents of William "Will" Dawson Moody, born Sunday, February 25th at 8:05 pm in Santa Rosa. Weighed in at 9 lbs 3 oz (which is the exact same birth weight as his mother was), and 22.5" VERY long

All are doing well, except their chihuahua, Joey, who has lost the place of honor on Faith's lap!

Hilary and Tommy are expecting their second child in July ~ this is a busy baby year for Bill and Deb, and they are thrilled (and taking their vitamins!)

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## Greetings from the North Pole (or just about)

Dorothy writes:

It's 20 below this morning, but it will warm up to about 0 by noon. We are planning on coming to visit you in March. We're having a Grandchild and can't miss this blessed event! We are hoping for good weather on our trip, and bringing the car because we know we won't have a place to park the Dog Sled (ha ha). Hope all of you are well. See you soon,  
Dorothy & Wes.

## Shedding Tears Before God

When Philip Johnson, renowned architect and designer of the Crystal Cathedral in California, was just 13, his family took him to France. When they entered the cathedral at Chartres, Philip was so moved by the majesty and beauty of the building dedicated to God that he burst into tears.



I have also shed tears in a church. I wept when I felt the nudging presence of God pointing me toward the ministry. I wept when I was ordained. I wept when I retired after serving as a pastor for 38 years.

I have seen people weep at the altar rail. I have seen brides cry during the marriage ceremony. I have observed people weeping at funerals and sometimes at the baptism of a child. I recall a man saying to me, “I cried during the sermon. Do you know that what you preach can sometimes make a person cry?”

To weep before God is to be in good company. Job said, “My eye pours out tears to God” (Job 16:20, NRSV). A psalmist prayed, “Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not hold your peace at my tears” (Psalm 39:12, NRSV). Read Jeremiah 9 and you will understand why he is called “the weeping prophet.”

Jesus wept over the wretched status of Jerusalem where he was spurned (Luke 19:41). He also wept when his friend Lazarus died (John 11:35). St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears” (2 Corinthians 2:4, NRSV).

The point is this: When you are moved to cry before God, cry. People with caring hearts do that. This is something to remember, especially during Lent.

Charles Ferrell

## TIME PASSES

Time passes,  
and what it passes through is people—  
though people believe they are  
passing through time,  
and even, at certain euphoric  
moments, directing time.  
It’s a delusion,  
but it’s where memoirs come from, or at  
least the very best ones.  
They tell how destiny presses on desire  
and how desire presses back,  
sometimes, heroically,  
always poignantly,  
but never quite victoriously.  
Life is an upstream, not an uphill, battle,  
and it results in just one story:  
how, and alongside whom, one  
used his paddle.

-Walter Kirn, reviewing Robert Stone’s *Prime Green: Remembering the Sixties* (Harper Collins, 2006), in the New York Times Book Review, January 7, 2007.

## Prayer Requests

*...Continued prayers for TLC as the call committee moves through the interview process with pastoral candidates. May God guide us and continue to bless this congregation.*

*...That the person who will buy Mary Weber’s house will come soon.*

*...Good health for little William Moody, and courage, wisdom, faith and strength for Faith and Walter as they enter the world of diapers, late-night feedings, and the joys and blessings of raising a child together.*

*...For Jack and Flak (and Marti and Jean) as they continue with us as our interim Pastors. Grace and blessings upon them.*

*...Safe travel for Wes and Dorothy Hay and others as they journey to and from home this month...*

# F.I.S.H.\*

Food Bank News

Thanks to Betty Speakes for handling the "door duties" in January. The grandsons Ben and Nick were in town so Kimberly got the day off. For February it was Mary Dawson on the door with Betty Speakes helping in the produce department and general all around "Girl Friday" duties. Kim was the bagging expert and Stan was assisting at the phone as well as other "all around Guy Friday" tasks. Thank you all. F.I.S.H. would not exist without volunteers.

Helping those in need is difficult these days. Grant money ran out at the end of 2006. A big boost comes in May when the postal employees really pitch in. As always, your help is needed very much indeed.

Soup and chili, cereal, beans, vegetables, fruit—anything that appeals to you, be assured someone with a severely limited budget will really appreciate. Don't forget those paper bags with handles, the plastic grocery store bags, and the smaller produce bags as well. Thank you to those of you who found the little bottles of shampoo and lotions. All of those kinds of things are appreciated.

*Stan and Marilyn Schuler*

\*Friends In Service Here

## **Worship:**

**Sunday morning at 9:30 with Children's sermon, Holy Communion, and education hour for all ages**

**Pastor Flak at home: 707-545-1467**

**Pastor Lundin at home: 707-996-8602**

**Church office: 707-544-0241**

**Sandi Leithe, church secretary**

## **Council Officers:**

**Sandy Koppen, President**

**Jim Lehman, Vice President**

**Colleen Sass, Secretary**

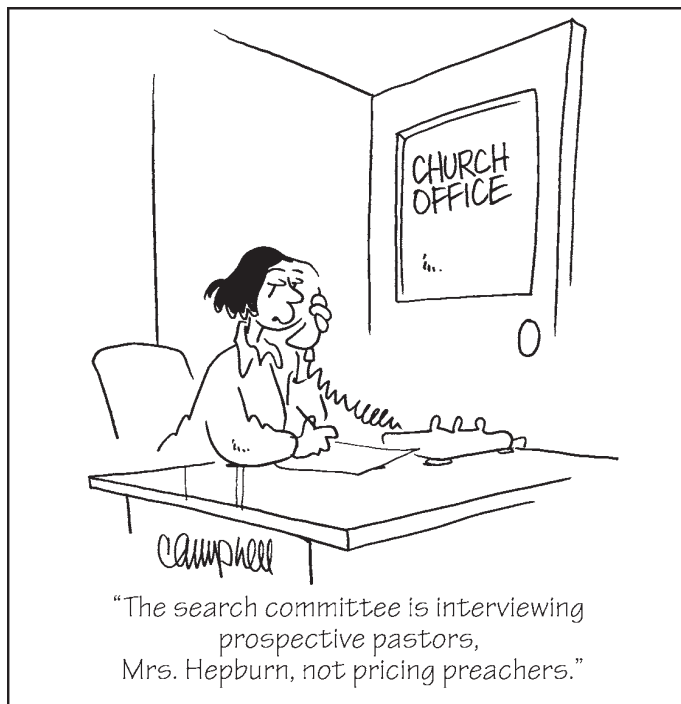
## **Thanksgiving Lutheran Church**

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**On the web: [www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)**



## Service Groups Meeting Weekly at TLC

Alcoholics Anonymous.....	Monday 12x12 - 7:30pm
	Saturday 3rd Step Group - 11am
Narcotics Anonymous.....	Tuesday 8pm
TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly).....	Tuesday - 9:30am