

The

TLC Trumpet

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

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www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

March 2008

Grace and Peace be with you,

My mom served as head of the Altar Guild of her church for over 30 years. At home, she grew dozens and dozens of Calla lilies so that she could make these HUGE bowls of blooms for the Easter. And she'd buy all the potted lilies all closed up in tight buds and tend to them in the back room, striving to get them to all open up just at the right time. Mom died in 1994, but still today, when I smell Easter lilies, I think of Mom and the rumpus room. We had to sell the house after Dad joined Mom. I don't know what has become of the garden.

Grams used to do the egg hunts. We would help her dye and decorate the dozens and dozens of eggs the weekend of Palm Sunday, and she would spend Holy Week hiding the eggs. She was known to sew eggs in the drapes and bury them in the puzzle pieces of the stack of jigsaws she kept in the toy closet. She could hide eggs in her knitting basket so well that it seemed that every time somebody would go through it, they'd find another egg. Everybody hunted, grownups and kids. The unspoken rule was that if it was easy to spot an egg, you left it for somebody younger who was just learning to hunt. Took a long time to find all the eggs. We'd nosh and chat. Once in a while, somebody would get up again and start hunting around.

Nearly every June or July, Mom would answer the phone and hear only Grams laughing on the other end, and she'd say, "You found an egg?"

My sister Judy has taken over the egg hunt, and the tradition of not being able to find all the eggs is still being carried on.

These and all the traditions celebrate the miracle and the victory of Christ's resurrection and of Spring and perfect love and church and faith. I was celebrating when I was hunting eggs at Grams just as much as when I sat with the choir in the balcony and was singing "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

I am looking forward to celebrating with TLC, my new faith family whom I dearly love, not just on Easter Day, but the whole month of March.

We have wonderful Gospel stories the last two Sundays, building up to Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we'll remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then let the liturgy sweep our hearts up into Jesus' passion. On Maundy Thursday, we start with a 21st century version of the Passover meal Jesus had in the Upper Room with his disciples and conclude with the harsh stripping of the altar table and the stark reality and pure promise of Good Friday.

On Easter, we'll pull out all the stops: a baptism, welcoming new members, instrumentals, a choir, Easter lilies, egg hunt, feasting, fellowship, faith, hope, joy, resurrection. Whew!

The last Sunday of the month, our worship will feature a drama recalling the disciples, confused, mournful, and afraid, hiding behind locked doors. Then the resurrected Christ appears and mourning turns to joy, weeping to laughter.

"You found an egg?" "NO! NO! We've seen the Christ! He is risen!"

Hope to find you at church!

Love, Pastor Jean

“Pilgrim Picnic on the Path with Jesus”

On Maundy Thursday (“Maundy” means “teaching”) we reflect on what Jesus taught his disciples in the Upper Room during Holy Week. This year, we will begin Maundy Thursday with a special Seder experience at 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Margie Brown will lead us in a family-friendly picnic and biblical journey, deliciously weaving the ancient story with a contemporary touch. We’ll follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we cross the Red Sea into freedom with our ancestors, attend that special Passover Party, and gather around the Good Friday campfire.

Many will remember Margie. She preached for Pastor Jean’s installation; she helped lead the women’s retreat last November, and she has uplifted our worship services with her harmonica playing and her dog Peaches.

Children and youth, family and friends are welcome to “Pilgrim Picnic on the Path with Jesus.”

Worship with Holy Communion will follow at 7:00 p.m.



MUCH IS REQUIRED FROM THOSE TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN

Luke 12:48

Responsibility is a two-sided coin. On one side is responsibility, on the other side is rewards. Too many of us are focused on one side of the coin only – reward. Taking responsibility means three things. (1) Acknowledging what you are responsible for. (2) Acknowledging who you are responsible to. (3) Acting responsibly at all times. All the excuses you give yourself, and others, won’t let you off the hook. Jesus said, “Much is required from those whom much is given”. At their annual conference the manager of a dog food company asked his sales team how they liked the company’s new advertising program. “Great!” they replied, “the best in the business.” What do you think of the product?” he asked. “Fantastic” they replied. “How about the sales force?” he asked. They were the sales force, so of course they responded positively saying they were the best. “Okay then,” the manager said, “so if we have the best brand, the best packaging, the best advertising program and the best sales force, why are we in seventeenth place in our industry?” After an awkward silence one of the salesmen shouted, “It’s those dogs – they just won’t eat the stuff!”

Guess what? Your problem is not the dogs, or your job, or your spouse, or society at large or whatever. Be honest, your biggest challenge in life is you. If your life’s not going the way you want it to, you are responsible for changing it. And God will help you if you turn to Him. But you must want to change, decide to change, and work each toward the end.

LIFE IS A SERIES OF PROBLEMS:

Either you are in one now, you’re coming out of one or you’re getting ready to go into one.

The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort.

God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy.

We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that’s not the goal of life.

THE GOAL IS TO GROW IN CHARACTER IN CHRIST’S LIKENESS.

From the K-Love Radio devotional series, submitted by Judy Sawyer

Awareness-Trial-Commitment: What does this mean? **(Part 2: Focus on the Trial Experience)**

In this 4-part series, we're considering each element, Awareness, Trial, and Commitment, as it applies to TLC's "outreach" activities—the "big picture" things we do to reach out to those in the greater community who don't yet know about Thanksgiving Lutheran—and we are also taking a look at how each element applies "internally," to *everything* we do or plan at TLC. Our goal? To make Awareness-Trial-Commitment thinking a way of life at TLC! Last month we looked at Awareness; this month, our focus is on the **Trial** experience of those who become "aware" of TLC.

"Trial" happens whenever someone becomes aware of Thanksgiving Lutheran (perhaps they saw our sign, received a postcard, or heard about an activity through a flier or word-of-mouth) and decides to find out more—"to give us a try!" Attending a worship service, participating in an event sponsored by the congregation, or checking out our website are some of the ways that people might try us out. **Trial-enhancing activities are the things we do to provide a warm and meaningful experience to those who have become aware of TLC and come to check us out!** Without attention to the Trial experience of those who become aware of our ministry, visitors will not return, and our ministry will not grow! Here are some examples of current activities at TLC that fall into the Trial category:

- Greeters at the door on Sunday mornings
- Everyone making an effort to greet visitors and newcomers at worship.
- TLC's open communion policy
- Follow-up with visitors by mail or phone as soon as possible
- Attending to the cleanliness and attractiveness of our property
- Providing relevant and meaningful worship each week

Attention to the Trial experience is important *within* our committees and planning groups too! All groups should be attentive to how newcomers might experience their meetings and activities; when people find a group rewarding or meaningful to work with, they'll want to stay involved! Here are some ways to be attentive to the Trial experience of newcomers to committees and other groups:

- If someone new attends your group, welcome them warmly and make sure everyone has been introduced
- Open with prayer and use TLC's Relational Covenants at your meetings at least occasionally (copies are available in the church office) as a reminder to honor each other and be open to new ideas
- Respect people's time and presence by keeping "side conversations" to a minimum at planning meetings

If you are thinking about a new program or ministry idea, or want to improve an existing program, ask yourself these questions to make sure you are taking the **TRIAL** experience into account:

- Will this activity or action enhance the Trial experience of newcomers to TLC? How can we be intentional about making sure that visitors to TLC have a positive experience? Imagine yourself as a visitor to TLC—what would make you want to come back? What would turn you off?
- How will my particular group welcome new participants and make them glad they showed up? What are we doing as we plan and carry out our particular mission to make sure that people who join us have a meaningful experience?

If you missed Part 1: Focus on Awareness in last month's Trumpet, you can find it online at www.ThanksgivingLutheran.org on the Trumpet archive pages. Be sure and read next month's installment, Part 3: Focus on Commitment.



Scripture Readings for March 2008

March 2

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Samuel anoints David
Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd
Ephesians 5:8-14 Live in the Light
John 9:1-41 Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

March 9

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Ez.'s Prophecy to the Bones
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11 Set the Mind on the Spirit
John 11:1-45 The Raising of Lazarus

March 16 Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 The Passion of the Christ

March 20 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116:12-19
Hebrews 9:11-22 or 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
Matthew 26:17-30 or John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 21 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

March 23 Resurrection of Our Lord!!!

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

March 30

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31



March 16 Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30am

March 20 Special Seder Experience at 6pm

Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion at 7pm

March 21 Good Friday Worship at 7pm

March 23 Easter Day Worship at 9:30am

Brunch and Egg Hunt following the service

Getting to Know...

Linda Dinnocenzo

Linda is living evidence that gentle persistence can be effective. Working in the same medical office as Nora Wilson, Linda would receive occasional suggestions that she come with Nora to TLC. Finally, she did and she has been with us now for a year.

Born in Santa Barbara, Linda grew up in Marin County and graduated from San Rafael High School. While attending College of Marin, she met and married Michael Thomsett. Soon he was writing books . . . lots of them. On varied subjects like bookkeeping, investing, American history, a dictionary of music, plus composing music. Writing brought in a pretty good living, Linda reports. But you had to be good with a budget. Royalties were figured regularly, but were only paid twice yearly.

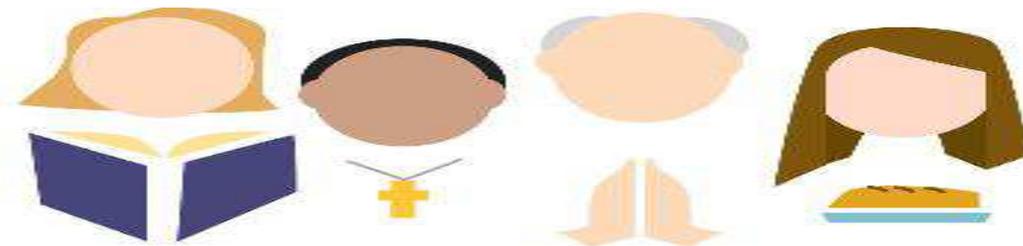
Michael Paul, now an actor and director in Marin was born in 1969. Then Eric was born in 1976. He is now an Army officer stationed at Fort Drum in New York. Linda took care of the house and got the boys around to school and Scouts. She was active in PTA where she was Vice President. She also staged the school Holiday Program for 3 years. In the Parent Aid program she assisted Social Workers in cases involving abusive parents.

Moving to Sonoma County after her divorce, she attended Empire College. Now with a Certificate, she became a Medical Assistant. She has been President of the local chapter of the Sonoma County Medical Assistants Association.

She values her private time highly and does not waste any of it. She does crafts type of painting and has an eye for antiques. Her home décor testifies to antique shopping. Linda also attends as much live theater as can be afforded. This is preferred over movies, but you can find her watching those also. Most of her movies are old . . . the B&W kind. She keeps Netflix active with a steady diet of old classics.

The overseas travel bug has bitten Linda. She has visited London, Ireland, and Paris. London is her favorite but she would not refuse an expense-paid trip to any destination.

George Land



Liturgical Deacons Needed

One Body, Many Parts

Thank you to everyone who takes part in shaping the wonderful worship experience we get to have here at Thanksgiving! Reading the lessons, bringing the flowers, setting and cleaning up the communion, playing music, decorating the worship space, straightening up the chairs, planning the actual worship – these and other tasks all make worship complete. One of the elements this body is short on is Liturgical Deacons. An LD assists with worship – if there is a Psalm, the LD may read or sing the leader parts. The LD reads the prayers of the people, assists with communion, reads the post-communion prayer, and the dismissal. Sometimes the LD finds it necessary to help Pastor Jean straighten her stole!

A Liturgical Deacon can be any confirmed member of the church.

If you are interested, or are feeling called to assist with worship, please talk to Pastor Jean as soon as possible.

A TLC Women's Group?

Lately I've been wondering if there is any interest in reviving the TLC Women's Group for regular gatherings. Thanks to Sandy Koppen, we have the Lutheran Women Today Bible Study on the 3rd Monday of the month which will run for a few more Mondays; the quilting group is currently made up of women, and we have the Annual TLC Women's Retreat (scheduled for November 21-23 this year - see below).

Rather than write here about what sort of activities the TLC Women's Group did in the past, I'd like to hear your thoughts about what kind of women's group you would be interested in at this point in time. Would you like to attend a monthly social gathering for fun and games? Get involved in service projects? Be attached to the WELCA? All of the above? Something else? Let's get together and talk about it! Pencil in Saturday, April 5th at 2:00, and we'll get together to share ideas. See you then!

Karen Lehman



2008 TLC Women's Retreat – Reserve Your Space Today!

We are confirmed for November 21-23 at The Bishop's Ranch. The contract has been returned to The Ranch to hold our spot, with the deposit of \$652.00 due before June. Maximum overnight capacity is 22, and our contract minimum is 16. If 16 women come up with \$41.00 each, we'll have our deposit, and your spot will be secure. We were at maximum overnight capacity for our last retreat, and at the rate TLC is taking in new members, it would probably be a good idea to make your reservation early this year! If you would like to make a deposit or have any questions, contact Karen Lehman.



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 Thanksgiving Lutheran Church
1225 Fulton Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

email: tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

On the web: www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, March 19. 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

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, March 15.