

The

TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 6 No. 3

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

March 2009

Lent and Easter at TLC

A time of spiritual introspection, renewal, hope and celebration



Lent Soup Suppers and Services - Thursdays, beginning March 5
We will gather at 6pm for soup supper and fellowship. Bring an ingredient for next week's soup and see what Pastor Jean cooks up! Worship begins at 7:00. The theme for this year is "Great Confessions from the Scriptures".

Palm Sunday Holy Communion - April 5 at 9:30am
We remember Christ's Passion, from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his suffering and crucifixion outside the city walls.



Maundy Thursday Holy Communion - April 9 at 7pm
On his last night with his disciples, Jesus gave a new command, to serve in unconditional love.

Good Friday - April 10 at 7pm
A rugged cross becomes our symbol of victory.



EASTER

Easter Celebration Holy Communion
April 12 at 9:30am
The tomb is empty. "Christ is Risen!" breaks into a new day and a new life in Christ. Stay after worship for the annual Easter Brunch potluck on our new patio! (weather permitting)

Love Notes...

From Pastor Jean

Do you know what your basic outlook on life is? Are you a “half empty” or “half full” person?

A couple of years ago, I read a meditation that made the claim that there was no such thing as a “half empty” or even “empty” glass, because besides whatever liquid is supposed to be in the glass, there is also air in the glass. So all glasses are always full!

How do you react to that notion? Do you get a little thrill, like, “Oh, wow, I didn’t even *think* about the air – that is so cool.” Or do you think, “We’re talking about the liquid – don’t be such a smartie.”

Researchers now claim that each individual has a default position, and no matter what occurs, deviations from that position don’t last long. In his book *The Happiness Hypothesis*, Jonathan Haidt writes that within a year of major life-altering experiences, whether it be winning a lottery or being rendered a paraplegic in an accident, people have, on average, returned most of the way to their baseline levels of happiness. The optimistic find cause to stay upbeat, and the pessimistic find cause to stay down.

That makes me think about telling the story of Jesus’ passion. Whatever your basic outlook on life is will affect the way you receive the story and the way you retell it to others. That kind of makes it a challenge. If an optimist tells the story to a pessimist. . . well, it’s not hard to imagine the vast opportunity for misunderstanding.

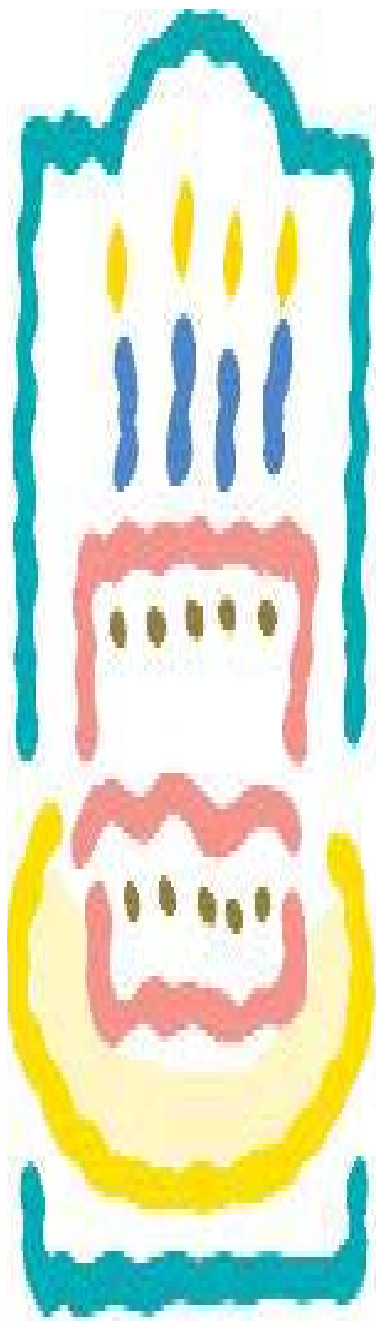
Although, it’s not so much misunderstanding as it is differently understanding. Fred Rogers once made the wise claim that the space between one’s mouth and another’s ears is sacred space. It’s the place where the storyteller has to let go of the message and gift it to the hearer and the place where the hearer can receive or reject and, if the story is received, it settles into the hearer’s default position!

It almost makes it essential such a story as Christ’s passion be told in love. We have to let go of the facts and delight in the effect it makes on the heart and mind of the hearer. Whatever that effect is. They don’t have to get the story right; they have a chance to get the story for them.

Maybe I’m over anticipating the fantastic opportunity I get to preach on the scriptures this month. The Lectionary assigns great stuff: March 1: God sends a flood that kills every human in the whole world except for one family, and the Spirit driving Jesus into the wilderness to be tested by beasts and angels. March 8: God calls Abraham to be the father of many nations, and Jesus calls Peter “Satan.” March 15: God gives the Commandments, and Jesus takes whip and ire to the moneychangers. March 22: oh, really great stuff – Moses and the poisonous serpents – believe or die! March 29: that wonderful passage in Jeremiah about God circumcising our hearts, so that we can let the sacred stories in and let them dwell in our default demeanor.

I’ll try my best to make each sermon a gift worth giving, and I can’t be more thankful for the congregation that I get to gift each sermon to!

Love,
Pastor Jean



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

The children of Roger Larson invite you to celebrate
Roger's 90th Birthday!

March 28th
2:00pm

At the Sequoia Gardens Recreation Center
433 Fulton Rd, Santa Rosa

Come join friends and family for snacks, music, dancing
and of course Birthday cake! There will also be a short "Roast"
if you have anything you would like to tell us about Roger.
(Please notify us ahead of time, so we are sure to give you an
opportunity to share).

NO GIFTS PLEASE!

Your attendance and enjoyment will mean so much.
Please RSVP to Julie Bogue at (530) 347-3010 or
email to: julieb@shasta.com or you may call Terry
Larson at (707) 996-9889

Dear Friends and Family of Roger Larson,

We hope you will be able to attend this milestone
celebration. Sequoia Recreation Center and Park will have
some limits on parking, so here is our plan...
If you are unable to find an appropriate parking space, there
will be "overflow" parking at the Thanksgiving Lutheran Church
just to the north of Sequoia Gardens on Fulton Rd. We will
have a van to shuttle guests between 1:50 and 2:30, so you
won't have to walk along the busy Fulton Rd. Also, please
notify us if you need handicap parking or assistance.

Also, if you are interested in joining in on the music,
please feel free to bring an instrument.

Hope you can join us,
The Larson kids

March Birthday Blessings to:

Laura Koppen	3/15	Ray Zuest	3/22
Pam Mahan	3/16	Alyssa McKenney	3/23
Natalie Koppen	3/19	Roger Larson (90 th !)	3/30
Kim Santiago-Flanagan	3/20	Kathleen Flanagan	3/31



(Note: Let Pastor Jean know if your birthday is overlooked so she can get it on record.)

Meet our
New
Members



Astrid Anderson
9416 Oak Trail Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95409-6162
707-539-4552
email: astrid.anderson@sbcglobal.net

Maghan Auerswald
621 Decanter Circle
Windsor, CA 95492
707-322-6285

Marco Claudio
2369 Kenton Court, Apt A
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
707-656-2090

Linda Dinnocenzo
475 E. Street, Apt 3
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-545-3793

Getting to Know...

Astrid Anderson

If you need proof that our world is small, consider how Astrid found her way to TLC. She was born in Switzerland and grew up there in a small town. At age 18 she left to be an au pair for a family in Canada, near Toronto. There, she met John Anderson and they were married when Astrid finished her contract.

They immigrated to the U.S. in 1965 and came straight to the Bay Area. Both went to work in Silicon Valley while living in San Mateo and Belmont. John was a Mechanical Engineer and both saw Valley electronic and computer firms progress from infancy to the present day.

Astrid was busy teaching ERP packages. That stands for Enterprise Resource Planning, which basically describes how a product goes from start to finish. (Talk to her if you want a better explanation.)

During her last four years in San Carlos, she was Administrator for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We might casually refer to that as the Church Secretary. But Astrid suggests that is easily confused with the Council Secretary. In 1992, a move to Half Moon Bay brought her to Coastside Lutheran where she was Treasurer. One of her tasks was to install church management software and train people to use it.

Another move just a few months ago brought Astrid and John to their new home in Oakmont. This brings them closer to family in the area, and also to son Brian and their granddaughter in Albany.

In past years, the family spent many vacations camping and traveling in a VW bus. They have been to most National Parks in the U.S. and Canada. Plus, they (and the VW) survived the Alcan Highway to Alaska and back. At home in retirement, Astrid enjoys hiking, gardening, reading, needlepoint, and sewing. She also knits and crochets.

Some of us who were not born into Lutheran families have interesting stories of how we found our way. But I'll bet you have not heard this one before. For years, Astrid and her Canadian sister would alternate hosting their mother during the winter months so she could escape the Swiss winters. Even though Mom was Catholic, Astrid took her to the local Lutheran church when she was at her home. Then Astrid would not go for two years until it was her turn to have Mom again. Finally, she decided it made no sense to quit going just because Mom had left. So she continued to attend . . . and here she is at TLC. Why TLC? One reason is because we are RIC. But mainly because we welcomed her openly, were attentive, and made her feel at home . . . in Astrid's words, "...more so than any other church." So you see . . . a friendly greeting goes a long way toward lasting relationships!

George Land

Little Box o'Quotes

- Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

—*Leo Buscaglia*

- You can love a person deeply and sincerely whom you do not like. You can like a person passionately whom you do not love.

—*Robert Hugh Benson, English clergyman*

- The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems.

—*Mohandas Gandhi*



Fun for Seniors

Plans are in progress for the 2009 season of the Heavenly Hell Raiser Gang!

Heavenly Hell Raisers are meeting on Thursday the 26th of March, 2009 for lunch and a movie. We will have lunch at Marys Pizza on Summerfield Road and take in a matinee at the Rialto Theatre next door to Mary's Pizza

Time and movie yet to be determined. Stay tuned for further information.

Mary Dawson

Memorial Day Weekend at Mt. Cross

It's time to start making your plans for Memorial Day weekend! If you're looking for an inexpensive weekend away, consider joining the Zuest-Becker family (and the numerous youth who join them) at Mt. Cross Camp in Felton.

In exchange for your hard work (and it doesn't necessarily have to be physical, back-breaking work), you get room and board and LOTS of wonderful

Christian fellowship! If you are interested in attending, talk to Keith Becker or Zoe Zuest-Becker, your Mt. Cross Ranger. You can also sign up by using the registration form at www.mtcross.org. It would be wonderful to have more TLC members participate in this great weekend.!

Seeking Support for Mt. Cross Memorial Day BBQ Scholarship Fundraiser

Mt. Cross has asked if our congregation would help support it's annual Memorial Day BBQ fundraiser by donating gift cards, as we have done in past year. The BBQ and silent auction/raffle raises money for "camperships" for underpriveleged children to attend camp this summer. (And it will be even harder than usual for families to send kids to camp this year!) If you could donate a \$5, \$10, or \$20 gift card to a "national" business (i.e. something that can be used anywhere in the Bay Area), please see Keith Becker or Zoe Zuest-Becker. We've been asked to try to collect at least 10 gift cards from our congregation. Thank you.

A Little Bit of Catechism: A Few Words from Luther*

(....because the *Catechism* isn't just for kids!)

In view of the recent headlines about Bernard Madoff's \$50 billion dollar Ponzi scheme and the \$8 billion fraudulent certificate of deposit scheme orchestrated by Texas financier Robert Stanford, it seemed to me that this month might be a fine time to take a look at what Luther has to say about the 7th commandment: "You are not to steal." While it is easy to recognize that massive fraud, like that orchestrated by Mr. Madoff and Mr. Stanford, constitutes a gross violation of God's commandment not to steal, Luther's teachings on the subject remind us to pay just as much attention to what goes on in our own backyard!

Luther reminds us that "to steal is nothing else than to acquire someone else's property by unjust means. These few words include taking advantage of our neighbors in any sort of dealings that result in loss to them," and this applies not only to those who rob someone's safe or pick their pocket, but also to those who cheat others with defective merchandise and shady dealings or waste resources or damage property of neighbors or employers through laziness or malice, and *especially* applies to those who take advantage of the poor. It is not too hard to imagine Luther making his comments in our own time and place: "Stealing is a widespread, common vice, but people pay so little attention to it that the matter is entirely out of hand. As a result, if we were to hang every thief on the gallows, especially those who do not admit it, the world would soon be empty and there would be a shortage of both hangmen and gallows." Quite a vivid turn of phrase to be sure, but not one that paints a very pretty picture of human nature! Luther goes on to assure us that:

"no stolen or ill-gotten possession thrives....no matter how much you steal, be certain that twice as much will be stolen from you. Anyone who robs and takes things by violence and dishonesty must put up with someone else who plays the same game. Because everyone robs and steals from everyone else, God has mastered the art of punishing one thief by means of another. Otherwise, where would we find enough gallows and ropes?"

Gallows and ropes notwithstanding, Luther's second to last word is a bit more positive: "Here you have a rich Lord, who is surely sufficient for your needs and will let you lack or want for nothing. Thus with a happy conscience you can enjoy a hundred times more than you could scrape together by perfidy and injustice." If you are curious about Luther's final word on the subject, I'll leave you to look it up yourself!

-Submitted by Sandy Koppen

*Source for Luther quotes: *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, editors. Augsburg Fortress, 2000.

Member Website of the Month

Check out Jan Thomas' new website: www.janthomasart.com. She will be adding images as fast as she can paint. Jan also invites everyone to visit the newly renovated and historic Hembree House in Windsor, which is now the home of the Windsor Arts Council and Windsor Historical Society. There are continuous art shows and exhibits of artifacts on display as well as a nifty little gift shop. It is open 9:30 to 4:30 Friday through Sunday and admission is free. The Hembree House is located at 9225 Foxwood Drive, next to the Senior Center in Windsor.

Scripture Readings for Sundays in March 2009

March 1 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22 ; Mark 1:9-15

March 8 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

March 15 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 22 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Number 21:4-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 29 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33



March Scripture Readings

Council Notes about Special Offerings for 2009

- **New Project added for Memorial Funds:** A few years ago, the TLC Council created the current Memorial Fund, designating three special projects—(1) a large patio, (2) stained glass for the sanctuary cross window, and (3) a memorial garden—as options for individuals and families who want to donate to the church in honor of, or in memory of, their loved ones. As you probably are aware, we have recently been able to complete the patio project! With the patio completed, and noting the need for eventual replacement of our sanctuary chairs, which are becoming worn and stained, the Council has voted to replace the patio fund category with a new project fund: **new chairs for the sanctuary**. In addition to memorials, contributions to *any* of the three memorial fund projects may also be made at any time for any reason.
- **Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Special Offerings:** Each year our offering envelope sets include special “extra” envelopes for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and TLC’s usual practice is to designate these offerings for special purposes beyond the general fund. The Council has designated this year’s offerings as follows:
 - ◆ **Easter Offering:** Our Easter Offering will go to the newly designated **Sanctuary Chair Memorial Fund**. The Council plans to apply for supplemental funds for this offering from Thrivent’s Care in Congregations program.
 - ◆ **Thanksgiving Offering:** This year’s Thanksgiving Offering will go toward **Mortgage Reduction**.
 - ◆ **Christmas Offering:** This year’s Christmas Offering will once again be designated for **Lutheran Social Services of Northern California**.



I Can Help in the Next Six Months

In the Middle of January the Stewardship Committee passed out “I Can Help in the Next Six Months” time and talent sheets. Almost 40 people turned in one of those sheets on that very day! What a wonderful response. It shows how much we love and support TLC!

Sixteen or more people said that would like to sing in a choir - lots of folks said they would like to make soup - many folks said they would help with outreach stuff (sending mailings, being greeters, etc.), some folks said they would clean the kitchen, classrooms and nursery, and some will plan events for families. How could we ask for any more!?

The tabulation of all those sheets have been placed in every committee’s folder in the church office. (Did you know that each committee has a folder? They do - don’t forget to check those folders.) Use them and spread the time and talent of our folks around.

This is a wonderful way that each of us can use our time and talent to support our church. If you didn’t fill out one of those sheets this time, be thinking about ways that you can help next time. When the sheets are passed out again, you will be ready with your time and talent to help make TLC the special place it is.



Church Photo Directory

Maybe You’ve Heard -

There’s a new church directory in the works, due out around Easter. All we need to do is take some pictures - of YOU! Jan Loewen will be photographing members on each Sunday in March. If your last name begins with any letter from A -L, let’s take your picture on the 1st, 3rd or 5th Sunday. If your last name

begins with any letter from M - Z, your Sunday is the 2nd, 4th, or 5th Sunday. If you’re having a good hair day, show up at the back of the sanctuary and get your picture taken on ANY March Sunday!

Other Witnesses About Christ


There is much historical evidence, besides the Bible, that Jesus did indeed live and that his life, death and resurrection were the foundation of Christianity.

One famous non-Christian historian named Flavius Josephus lived about A.D. 37. He focused primarily on Jewish history but also wrote the following words: “Now there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man ... a doer of wonderful works. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles.”

The writings of Josephus provide important extra-biblical information about the people, customs and geography during Jesus’ time. Origen, a Christian author who wrote around the year 240, said Josephus “did not accept Jesus as Christ.” But by mentioning Jesus in his history texts, Josephus added credibility to the Lord’s earthly life.



In Difficult Times

 Lord, we see our neighbors hurting as they lose their jobs to layoffs and plant closings and their homes to foreclosure. We pray that in the midst of turmoil, they feel your presence.

Lord of compassion, hear our prayer

Lord, our elected officials are seeking solutions to this economic crisis, let them not forget workers, who through the sweat of their brows, keep this country going.

Lord of compassion, hear our prayer

Lord, as we face the uncertain future, give us the spirit of integrity, that we would hold up those who are in severe distress, as we are all your children and made in the image of God.

Lord of compassion, hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for employers that they would not bow to idols in the worship of wealth, stealing wages and abusing workers rights, but would seek justice, providing fair compensation and benefits to those they employ.

Lord of compassion, hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for those who see no way, are discouraged, or are hurt. We pray that they do not feel hopeless or alone. We pray that our hearts would be open to help our neighbors and community through this time.

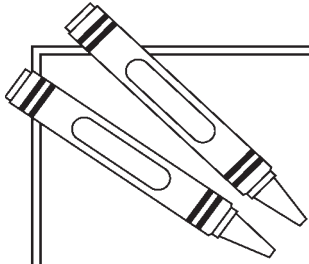
Lord of compassion, hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for those who face sickness and disease without the security of health care. We pray that your grace would touch the heart of those who can change this situation.

Lord of compassion, hear our prayer

We pray for ourselves, that we would exhibit your loving kindness. We pray that we would not stand idly by while suffering surrounds us. We pray that we would be instruments of justice, speaking truth to power and acting on the mandate of justice.

Lord of compassion, hear our prayer



Just for **KIDS**

A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY: a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"H e ___nd ___ll h___s f___m ___l___
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w___r___ d___v___ ___t ___nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G___d-f___ ___r___ng; h___ g___v___
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g___n___r___ ___s l___ t___ th___s___ ___n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n___ ___d ___nd pr___ ___ ___d t___ G___d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r___g___l___r l___." ___cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

Q: What's Irish and sits on the porch?
A: Paddy O'Furniture

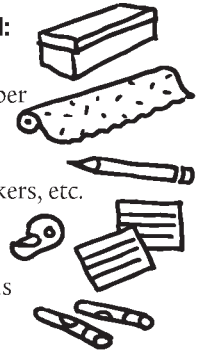


PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

What you need:

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.

Fundraising Made Easy! Try This Today!!!

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church can earn a penny every time you search the Internet, and a percentage of your online purchases can support TLC!

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's, Zappos, and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting TLC.

Just go to **www.goodsearch.com** and be sure to enter Thanksgiving Lutheran Church as the charity you want to support. We're already registered, just type it in the space provided – you'll see it when you get there. **It's SO EASY!!!** You can make Good Search your homepage, or add it as a bookmark to your toolbar to help you remember to use it. So far we've raised just a little over a hundred dollars - imagine what will come our way for this year's efforts if we all get diligent about using GoodSearch on every first search query, and GoodShop.com when we want to shop online!

Pastor Jean Lebbert 707-327-6292

Church office: 707-544-0241

Worship:

Sunday morning at 9:30 with

Children's Sermon, Holy Communion

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church

1225 Fulton Road

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

email: tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

On the web:

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

TLC Council:

Deb Ferronato, Congregation President

Sharon Boschen, V.P.

Jan Thomas, Secretary

Jean Harrison

Jean Flak

Joan Hax



An Irish Blessing

May you have
walls to keep out the wind,
a roof to keep out the rain,
warm drinks by the fire,
laughter to cheer you,
those you love near you,
and all that your heart may
desire,
including the love of
God within.

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, March 26. 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 22.