

The

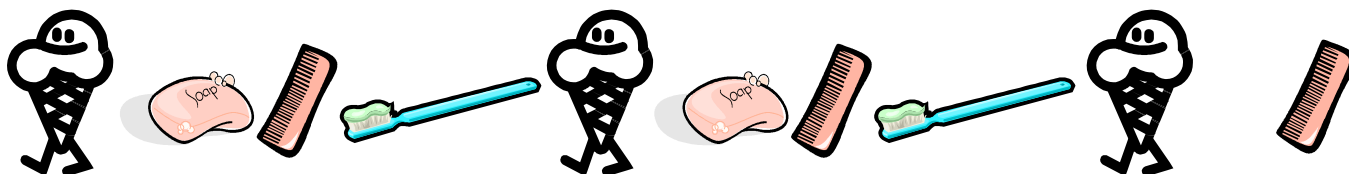
TLC Trumpet

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

Volume 5 No. 9

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

September 2008



What do you have when Ice Cream and your favorite Toppings get together with Soap, Towels, Toothbrushes, & Combs?

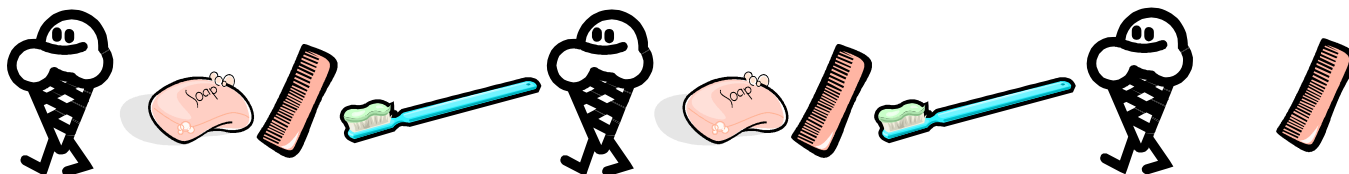
A-Lutheran-World-Relief-Kit-Making-Ice-Cream-Social!

Date: **Sunday, September 7, 2008**

Time and Place: **3:00 pm at Church**

Who: **Everyone, young and old, who would like to help assemble a Lutheran World Relief Health Kit or who just likes ice cream—so that means YOU!**

We've been collecting supplies all summer, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing funds for the needed hand towels and washcloths, so now the Congregation and Community Committee (CCC) invites you to join us to help assemble our Lutheran World Relief Health Kits (75 of them!) and enjoy each other's company with an ice cream social. **CCC will provide the ice cream, and each attendee is invited to bring a favorite topping to share.** You'll have the opportunity to assemble a kit yourself, enjoy some ice cream, and learn a bit about what will happen to our kits after they are shipped off to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse. So be sure and save the date—we'll see you there!



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

Luther didn't "invent" catechism (the Greek word *katecho* was already used by Paul (Gal 6:6) to denote Christian instruction, by the 2nd century it was used to designate pre-baptismal instruction of new Christians—catechumens—and by the Middle Ages the church typically had narrowed such instruction to the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer) but it seems that he did take the importance of catechism to a whole new level, spurred on by his experiences as an authorized "visitor" of congregations in 1527-1528. Luther's words in his preface to the Small Catechism, the first three parts of which were originally published as separate broadsheets in January 1529 and which were addressed to the heads of households, explain: "The deplorable, wretched deprivation that I recently encountered while I was a visitor has constrained me to prepare this catechism, or Christian instruction, in such a brief, plain and simple version. Dear God, what misery I beheld! The ordinary person, especially in the villages, knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith....As a result they live like simple cattle or irrational pigs and, despite the fact that the gospel has returned, have mastered the fine art of misusing all their freedom." And these words are relatively mild compared to others we can find in the same preface—we can count on Luther to tell us how he REALLY feels!

Of course, Luther also has some lovely words to share; check out THIS teaching from the Small Catechism on "The Third Article of the Apostle's Creed: On Being Made Holy" (the Third Article is the one that begins "I believe in the Holy Spirit...."):

"I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the Last Day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true."

Try beginning your morning with those words every day for a week and see if it makes a difference in how you feel!

Sandy Koppen

**Source for Luther quotes and info: The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Augsburg Fortress, 2000.*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE !

Jan Thomas	9/2
Ranee Sass	9/7
Paul Feiertag	9/8
Kain Vandenhof	9/14
Julie Schoepp	9/24
Kathy Alexander	9/28
Mary Thompson	9/29



Community Garden Harvest Festival Picnic Come Celebrate the Harvest!

Join with the community of gardeners, church members and friends

Saturday afternoon, September 27 at 2 p.m. in the garden!

We'll assemble a big batch of gazpacho from the season's bounty.

Please bring a picnic dish

(that doesn't need reheating or last minute kitchen attention)

to share from your garden's bounty, or other local, seasonal sources.

We also encourage you to reduce the use of disposables by bringing your own refillable water bottle and cloth napkin.

Need more info? phinaborgeson@sbcglobal.net or 571.1479



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN - BECOME A CHILDREN'S VILLAGE GRANDPARENT!

The Children's Village of Sonoma County provides nurturing, stable family homes in a multi-generational enriched environment for children and sibling groups in foster care.

VILLAGE GRANDPARENTS:

Live on-site in new, separate apartments with reasonable rent.

Share time and activities with the children and are involved with the family units and village parents.

For information call: The Children's Village Office, 707-566-7044



Christmas Crafts Fair and Bake Sale November 1st

Fall is upon us, and that means it's time to start thinking crafts, food and fun. The TLC Annual Christmas Bazaar is on the calendar for the 1st of November, so start thinking about how you would like to participate - are you a crafter? A baker?. We'll need lots of tables full of crafts and baked goods. Tell neighbors and friends! Our goal is to double the number of tables from 11 last year to 22 for 2008! The charge for a table is \$20 which goes to the church along with the proceeds from the bake sale. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Flanagan at 526- 5582.

Notes from Pastor Jean...

Many thanks again to the Alexanders, who donated the beautiful furniture for my office with the stipulation that I also get a laptop, and to Jim Lehman, who helped me pick out the laptop and printer and got me set up at Mahalo Manor. I can do most of my e-mail business at the house now, which is freeing up my office hours for visits with members. I'll be calling on you!

Please be open to visit with me when I call, and please be open to sharing with me how it's going for you at TLC. Your experience here, in worship, in fellowship, and in committee work, is important. This is your faith community. Let's celebrate and ameliorate! Approve and improve!

We have some good activities coming up:

- Sept. 7** An ice cream social, sponsored by our Community and Congregational Care Committee. As part of the activities, everybody will help assemble health kits for Lutheran World Relief. We accumulated enough items to be able to send 90 kits!
- Oct. 11** We will hold our 2nd annual Blessing of the Pets event. This year, Bethlehem Lutheran Church joins us.
- Nov. 21** Women of TLC will come together for their annual women's retreat at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, led by Pastor Jean. Karen Lehman is the coordinator (call her if you'd like to participate!)
- Nov. 26** On Thanksgiving Eve, we come together for worship and homemade pie potluck. Last year we had record-breaking attendance and incredibly yummy pies.

Other activities are being planned too – dates aren't set yet.

I hope that all of you will plan to participate in some of these activities and let them strengthen your relationships with your siblings in Christ!

There's Something New in Christian Education at TLC

The goal of the Christian Education Committee for the 2008-2009 year is to develop something that will foster new relationships within TLC.

The challenge is that we need to find a way to inspire ourselves to want to further our spiritual education.

For our prereaders, we have ordered some colorful booklets from Augsburg Fortress. When these wonderful little ones come to worship, the ushers will give them a booklet to look at during the service and to take home with them.

On Sunday, September 14, our Rally Day, we will be taking a congregational assessment to see where we are in members' experience with the Bible. The assessment comes from Opening The Book of Faith, which our voting members to the Synod Assembly received. It is part of a church-wide emphasis that the ELCA is giving to the importance of our sacred scriptures having meaning in our daily lives.

See "New" on page 6...

Getting to Know...

Jan Loewen and Julie Feingold

Another of those people from Southern California who discovered that Northern California is God's country, Jan was born and grew up in Canoga Park. As ASB Treasurer, she guarded C.P. High School funds and was active in her Presbyterian youth group.

Next came four years at Azusa Pacific University, a Methodist college. She sang in the Women's Choir and worked part-time as a campus security officer. Graduation came in 1986 as a Communication major.

She was employed by JCPenney as a Merchandise Manager. She purchased women's clothing and was "mother hen" for the store cashiers.

Unknown to Jan, her life path began to change in 1987 when Penney's sent her to a similar job in Hartford, CT. Now in the "Insurance Capital of America" she made a career change into the insurance industry. She became an insurance adjuster at Amica Mutual Insurance Company.

Now the roller coaster began to move quickly. She worked for Amica for many years and then with Fireman's Fund. Fireman's Fund sent her to Detroit, MI where she adopted Ashley. Fireman's Fund then sent her back to Santa Rosa in 2001. Ashley now has her own apartment in Santa Rosa and is in the school district's 18-22 Program.

Jan finished her Masters of Science Insurance Management in 2005 and is now working for Farmers Insurance. She is on the road 1-2 days a week, going all over Northern California adjusting Homeowner's claims.

Jan's other half is Julie Feingold. She was born and raised in Yuba City. Julie is a "true blue" child care person. At 18 years old, she was a Director at one of her Mother's child care facilities. She went on to a B.A. in Child Development at S.F. State. Up until recently, she had her own day care business in Santa Rosa called Julie's Kids' Place. I recently inspected the facility and this retired teacher is impressed. All the aids and materials were there ... and in their place ... ready to prepare kids for kindergarten.

Through the miracle of modern fertility methods, Julie gave birth to twins in 2001. Both Zane and Jacey are now 6 ½ and entering 2nd grade at Yulupa School.

Julie and Jan met on a blind date that didn't go very well. Uncharacteristically, Jan became shy and Julie thought Jan was ignoring her. To make matters worse, they were in a very loud nightclub - not a familiar scene for either of them.

Fortunately, they tried it again on another date. Now they went to a nice, quiet place and discovered that they have much in common and are very compatible. On August 30, 2008, Jan and Julie were married at their home in Santa Rosa. On September 7, 2008, they will host the church's coffee hour so they can celebrate their happiness with the entire congregation.

When not working, Jan and Julie are often busy with the kids, home maintenance and gardening. Jan has played piano since age 7 and is self-taught on guitar. Her interest in photography always lurks in the background. Julie's passion is her kids.

A recent pastime for all of them is camping. Both Jan and Julie grew up camping with their parents. Now they have an 18ft Rockwood travel trailer with 3 tip-out beds. Just right for weekends with the Bartletts and Lehmans. We always know when they're camping because the church becomes a ghost town!

George Land



News From The TLC Womens Group

All TLC women and friends are encouraged to gather at TLC on October 1st for an evening of card making, society, and of course, goodies. All you need to bring is a creative spirit. All card making materials will be provided. If you have stamps, paper, ink, accessories that you would like to contribute please bring them. The more variety we have the more fun it will be. We are hoping to put up a supply of blank greeting cards for Pastor Jean and Sandi L. to have available at the church.

Please plan to come!

7 PM on Wednesday, October 1st at the church.

The 14th Annual TLC Women's Retreat is scheduled for Friday, November 21 through Sunday, November 23 at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg. There are 5 overnight spaces available at the time of this printing. Pastor Jean will be leading us this year, so you know it will be a good time of reflection, storytelling, learning, and fun – and if you've been on one of these retreats to Bishop's Ranch, you know the food is delicious and plentiful (and we don't have to do any of the cooking!), and the setting – beautiful! *If you would like to reserve a space, or would just like to know more about it, please contact Karen Lehman as soon as possible.*



"New", continued from page 4...

Jan Loewen will still do her wonderful work with our older youth. They will be attending a Christian concert on October 4, and, hopefully, they will plan another youth-led worship at TLC.

Sandy Koppen will give us all "Lessons From Luther" in The Trumpet, and she will be checking our Synod Resource Center, Augsburg Fortress, and other Christian publishing houses for a Christmas play.

In January, we will hold a meeting of the Christian Education Committee to evaluate and determine our next steps. It is a challenge of smaller congregations to keep all of our committees filled out with people; just right now, this Committee is one that is understaffed to be able to offer a fuller education program.

I encourage all of you to consider prayerfully your personal spiritual journey. The wise know that we never stop learning. Our amazing brains and hearts can hold an awesome amount of knowledge, dreams, concepts, newness – all to enliven and deepen our relationship with the Divine and our choice to live divinely.

Bless you as you grow closer to our gracious, loving God.

*Love,
Pastor Jean*

Give of Your Treasure and Your Heart Will Follow

by Mark Allen Powell,
Shared by Mary Thompson on Sunday, August 17, 2008

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.” This is a promise. It is not a commandment, and it is not just an observation about life; it is a promise. It is good news!

Many people seem to hear what Jesus said backwards. They think that he said, “Where your heart is, that is where your treasure will end up.” I’ve heard sermons on this — about how people spend their money on things they truly care about. If you look back over your check register, you will see what is most important to you. Do you spend more money on sporting events than on giving to the church? Then, that is where your heart is.

Well, that might be true, but it isn’t good news and it also isn’t what Jesus said. Jesus did not say, “Where your heart is, there your treasure will be.” He said it the other way around: where you put your treasure is where your heart will go. It is a promise and it is good news. according to Jesus, there is a way for us to alter our spiritual affections. We can decide what we want to care about and then we can do something that will change us inside until we really do care about those things. We can decide who or what we want to love, and then we can do something to direct our hearts accordingly.

There is a close connection between generous giving and spiritual devotion. Everyone knows that the latter can motivate the former. People who are spiritually mature give generously of their money - we know that.

But here is the good news! Jesus says it can also work the other way around: what we do with our money affects us spiritually. It affects how deeply and how purely we love our God. When we give more generously of our money, we become more spiritually mature people. This is one reason that it is more blessed to give than to receive: generous giving is the pathway to a deeper, more meaningful spiritual life.

The point is not that how we spend our money reveals what sort of people we are. The point is that how we spend our money determines what sort of people we become.

“Give from your heart”. I hear people say. That sounds nice, and it would work fine if my heart were where I wanted it to be. If I am “pure in heart” as Jesus says, it will work quite nicely. But what if I’m not? What if the whole problem is that my heart is not where it should be? Then, the best advice might not be “Give from your heart” but “Give from where you want your heart to be!” Give as though you were the sort of person you would like to be — and let your heart catch up later!

Stewardship is the surest path to spirituality.
There is no more biblical way to follow Jesus than to give away our money.

Good news! We can be closer to God!
Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be!



From Our Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson:

Recently, I joined with three leaders of Lutheran organizations in writing a letter to the two major party candidates for U.S. President, U.S. Sen. John McCain and U.S. Sen. Barack Obama. The letter, which highlights policy priorities on a number of topics, was signed by Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr., president, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; the Rev. John A. Nunes, president, Lutheran World Relief; Jill A. Schumann, president and chief executive officer, Lutheran Services in America; and me.

The text of that letter is now available on the ELCA Web site at <http://archive.elca.org/bishop/messages/candidatesletter.html> In addition, I recommend that you read "Called to be a Public Church: 2008 ELCA Voting and Civic Participation Guide," which offers a helpful examination of important matters related to the role of the church in the upcoming election. It can be found on the Web at <http://archive.elca.org/advocacy/publicchurch/publicchurch08.pdf>

(Note: If you don't have the capability to retrieve copies of these publications on a computer, ask Pastor Jean to get copies for you)

Looking for a way to get involved in the life of TLC?

There are LOTS of ways!

See below - Maybe there's something that fits your gifts and talents!

Bake or bring bread for Sunday Communion - Mary Dawson can tell you how that works, and there's a sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

Check the flower calendar in the hallway and see if there's a Sunday available for you to bring flowers for the altar, and go ahead and sign up!

Enjoy interior decorating? See Mary Dawson about getting involved with Altar Guild - they're the ones responsible for making our space so beautiful for worship! Great teamwork there!

There's a group that does quilting, donating their handiwork (usually) to the YWCA Women's Shelter - even if you don't know how to sew, you can get involved with this activity - See Lorraine Larsen for details

There's a sign-up sheet on the kiosk for bringing refreshments, setting up or cleaning up - help is needed with all three tasks!

How about learning how to do the cleanup for the communion dishes after worship? Or learning how to do the setup?

If ushering is your forte, talk to George Land - he's the guy that does the scheduling and training.

Or maybe you'd like to be an assisting minister during worship - Karen Lehman coordinates that task...

This congregation is always looking for Sunday School leaders, so if that's your gift, talk to Pastor Jean or Sandy Koppen.

There are myriad small tasks centered around the maintenance of the church building and outdoor areas of the property that require attention once, twice, three times a year. There are monthly tasks and weekly jobs. Talk to Jan Loewen - she'd be thrilled to hear from you!

How about landscape maintenance? Paul Feiertag is at the church just about every Monday (weather permitting), taking care of the weeding and placement of chips on the landscaped area. He also spends time maintaining the irrigation lines. This is another "worker in the vineyard" that would be tickled pink to see you show up on a Monday to help!

And this list doesn't even include joining a committee!

Put your talents where you want your heart to be!*

*Yes - shamelessly stealing a phrase from this month's Stewardship Snippet!

OUR HOUSE


This craft is a reminder of the blessing of your family and what you and your family should do for God.

What you need:

- 8 1/2" x 11" cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- A photograph of each person in your family that you can cut apart
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- A hanging picture frame that holds an 8 1/2" x 11" photo (optional)

What you do:


- Draw a colorful picture of the outside of your house. Remember to add a door and windows.
- Decide where you want each person's photo to go. Cut out a whole body (if you want someone to stand on the front porch, for example) or just cut out a face (if you want someone to be looking out a window).
- Use the glue stick to glue the cut-out photos onto your drawing.
- Write out Joshua 24:15b, NIV: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
- To frame your picture, have an adult help you. If you don't have a frame, display your house on a refrigerator or bulletin board for everyone to see.



As for our family...

With school starting, schedules are getting busy again. Sometimes you might feel like you're going in too many directions and forgetting what's really important. Use the key below to remind you of where your family's real focus should always be.

	A	B	D	O*	N*	R*
KEY:	E	F	H	S*	T*	U*
	I	L	M	V*	W*	Y*



□ □ * □ *

“ B _____

□ □ * □

□ □ * □ □ *

□ * □ □ * □

□ * □ □ □

□ □ * □ □

□ * □ □ □

JOSHUA 24:15B

_____”

Answer: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church
is a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation...

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

Pastor Jean Lebbert 707-327-6292
Church office: 707-544-0241

Worship:
Sunday morning at 9:30 with 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
Dave Flanagan, Vice President
Jan Thomas, Secretary
Sandy Koppen
Jean Harrison
Jean Flak

A Prayer for Perspective

This was written for use during the Jewish New Year (September 30-October 1) and is pertinent for Christians, too:

***Eternal God! Grant us gratitude
enough to look
backward and be thankful;
courage enough to look forward
and be hopeful;
faith enough to look upward and
be humble;
kindness enough to look outward
and be helpful.
Amen.***

Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, September 25. 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, September 21.