

# TLC Trumpet



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

Volume 8 No. 9

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

September 2011

## Pastor's Page

There's a certain smell to September that stirs up back-to-school memories. The earliest ones include my favorite pencil box (in the days way before iPods and laptops we used these slim wooden sticks filled with a lead filament. What we did was sharpen the stick at one end and then scratch letters and numbers out on really, really, really thin sheets made out of wood pulp and fiber or something. It was like the next step up from lugging along a scribe and scrolls made from the reeds of the river Byblos).

Anyway – isn't it amazing how stirred up memories work exactly like YouTube, flitting from one subject to another to another to another?—What was I talking about? Oh yeah, back to school.

My high school, Skyline High School in Oakland, was a mile up a hill from my house. We usually took the bus (which does bring up the

time in Junior High School when I took the bus home the wrong way—that's another Pastor's Page)—I still have dreams about taking the bus to Skyline.

The predominate memory about back to school at Skyline was how we started out at the house dressed in our new fall school clothes. It

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**Miracles of love are not spectacular displays. Mostly they are gestures of forgiveness and understanding, motions of equality and justice, choices grounded in faith.**

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was cold and foggy at the house, so we donned wool and sweaters. But then the bus would drive us up and above the fog, a mile closer to the sun. So in school, I suffered in my new clothes. I was delighted to wear something new, but all day long I was too hot and uncomfortable. I wanted to go back home and put on my old, cooler clothes.

Our Scriptures for September would have us put on Christ – glorious garments of grace, fabulous frocks of forgiveness, complex clothes of compassion—and then travel into the unpredictable: relating with each other in learning, play,

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## Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Friday, September 23. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words. Please email submissions to:

tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

If you do not have email, place submissions (along with your name in case any clarification is needed) in Dorothy's inbox. Submissions may be edited for space.

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

## New hours for our administrative assistant

The office hours are Monday from 8:30-11:30, and Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11-2.



## A Glad and Happy Birthday this month to:

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

## The public and your pets are invited to our



Blessing of the Animals is a tradition that the church celebrates to commemorate St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint to all animals

- 🐾 Pet Parade
- 🐾 Individual Blessings
- 🐾 Joint Choir Performance
- 🐾 Animal Story Sharing
- 🐾 Pet Portraits
- 🐾 Hot Dog Bobbing
- 🐾 Refreshments for Canines, Felines, and Homo Sapiens

**Thanksgiving Lutheran Church**  
**1225 Fulton Road**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95409**

## Pastor's Page

*Continued from page 1*

work, and at rest. The School of Hard Knocks. The Classroom of Life. The Playground of Love. Gawd, I love metaphors!

At first, it feels wonderful to put on Christ, to be confident and strong and holy, but—ah, the but. But, when the heat comes, when your hopes die or your heart is crushed, when another disappoints or disagrees or abuses you, those Christ clothes become challenging. You want to crawl back into your old comfortable behaviors, defend yourself, not sacrifice yourself.

Maybe a helpful key might be to realize that everyone else is in the same place. We are all at some level of discomfort. So, let's be gentle with each other and with ourselves. Miracles of love are not spectacular displays. Mostly they are gestures of forgiveness and understanding, motions of equality and justice, choices grounded in faith. We have put on Christ—Cool!

*Love,  
Pastor Juan*

## Progressive Dinner is September 24

So, put on Christ and come meet, greet, and eat with fellow Santa Rosa Lutherans. It's TLC, BLC, and FLC together again!



The evening starts at TLC with a walk-around dinner -- a chance to show off our narthex and patio and the culinary prowess of our new CCC chair, **Jordan Eberly**. She has created a sign up sheet, posted in the narthex. Sign up! Be a part!

After dinner, we'll move on to Bethlehem for dessert and, as rumor has it, entertainment by Pastor Tim from Faith.

The Progressive Dinner is an adult-only event; however the teens at Bethlehem will be holding a pizza and movie gathering to offer child-care and as a fund-raiser for the National Youth Gathering.

More information coming in weekly announcements.

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## News from the Synod

The Rev. Jose Luis La Torre-Cuadros has been called by the Synod Council to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop for the Sacramento Office of the Bishop. In addition to providing care and connection with congregations and pastors, Pastor Jose Luis will be focusing on areas of justice and community, as well as connecting with Lutheran Social Services, the Lutheran Office of Public Policy, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Nevada, and the Leadership Discipling Team.

Pastor Jose Luis was born in Lima, Peru. He was ordained to pastoral ministry on October 31, 1998. In February 1992 he married Elena (Lucy); they have two children: Nicolas and Miranda. He earned a degree in Law and Political Sciences from San Marcos University and then entered the Evangelical Seminary of Lima. In 2002-2003 he pursued his Masters in Philosophy at San Marcos University. His last call in Peru was to the Lutheran Congregation Cristo Rey in Lima, where he was involved in the theological education of new leaders and ecumenical affairs.

Since September 2005, Pastor Jose Luis has served as Hispanic Ministry Mission Developer at St. John's Lutheran Church, to serve the Sacramento area. He also served as Dean of the Sacramento Conference and Synod Council member at large. He will officially begin his new call September 1, 2011.



## September 2011 at Thanksgiving Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>29</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>30</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>31</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>12:00 PM</b> CCC Meeting
<b>4</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	 <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>7:00 PM</b> Mutual Ministry Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo <b>7:00 PM</b> Outreach Meeting	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Gateway Conference Clergy	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>11</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>12:00 PM</b> Confirmation Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo <b>5:00 PM</b> Dinner for the Council	<b>12</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Chris Ed Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>13</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>14</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Property Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>15</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Monthly Potluck	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>10:00 AM</b> Finance Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo
<b>18</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>20</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>22</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> HHR Tour of Funky Art	 <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	 <b>Progressive Dinner</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>5:00 PM</b> Progressive Dinner
<b>25</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>26</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>27</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>8:00 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous	<b>28</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Council <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Casa de Alfararo	<b>1</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous <b>12:00 PM</b> CCC Meeting

## TLC Group News

### Monthly Themed Potlucks Resume

We return to monthly potlucks on Thursday September 15th at 6:30 pm. The theme for the food is Jewish cuisine. In October it is time for an Oktoberfest of German food. Supper is followed by prayers and communion. Prayer requests can be made ahead to Pastor Jean if desired.



# September



### Chris Ed Corner

Christian Education  
Sunday is September 25th.  
Adults are encouraged to join Jordan and Paul for the second session on Marriage in the Bible. The youth will join Jean Harrison in an activity. Plans for Christmas and a project will also be made.

### Calling all Crafters and Bakers.

The time has arrived to start planning for the Holiday Craft Bazaar. The date of this fabulous affair is November 10th and 11th from 12pm to 8pm both days.

Reserve a table for both days for the small sum of \$25 and start accumulating the items you desire to sell for the holidays. Bakers are needed to bake items such as cookies, cakes, etc. to donate for sale. These baked goods will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the baked goods sale and table reservation fees go to Thanksgiving Lutheran Church.

For further information contact Kathy Flanagan, 707-526-5582 or see her at TLC on Sunday mornings.

### Pennies From E-Scrip

Take advantage of the e-scrip program and register your Safeway card and credit cards. Then, every time you use them in a transaction, you will earn pennies for TLC! It makes good cents!

Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "1-Sign Up" and follow the directions using TLC's ID #: 137963301.

Thanks!

### Coat Drive Coming!

**Cindy Heiller and Mary Weber** are heading up a coat drive sponsored by our Heavenly Hell Raisers. Beginning October 16, all TLC members are encouraged to bring clean, gently used coats to church. Cindy and Mary will store them in plastic bags as they accumulate and then see that they get distributed in the community. So, clean out those neglected corners of your coat closets and poke through garage sales and thrift stores. Working together, we can provide warm coats to our neighbors who have none.

*Dear TLC Quilters,*  
I wanted to tell you – I LOVE MY QUILT.  
Blessings and Love,  
Janet Venerella



Dear TLC Family,

I have moved from my daughter Patty's home to my apartment, but everything is still a mess. I have ordered furniture, got health insurance, car insurance, some banking and saw some of the family.

Patty and Bill are having a family get together Aug/ 28<sup>th</sup>. Patty's son Mike is getting married Sept/ 24<sup>th</sup>, my first grandson to get married.

I have been to church and last Sunday was a get together of those who would like to become members. The meeting was 8:45 a.m. to 11:00a.m. with brunch. Yumm good!

Church membership is 2,900 and 250 children in Sunday school. Senior Pastor is John Peshek; Associate Pastor is Greg Billberan; and the Interim Pastor is Marilee Bergerson.

Program, Support, Custodial, Parish Health, Music Staff and Community Preschool – all groups with lots of things to do.

They have bought land and plans next for a large church building. There are 3 services Sunday morning and one Saturday evening. This church building is large, with many classrooms, but not big enough for this congregation

My apartment is really nice and has just right amount of

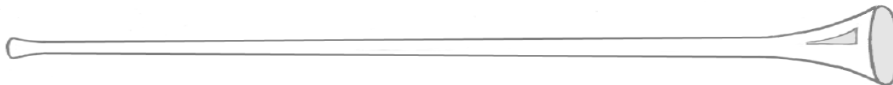
room for me. I can have small parties. The dining hall has lots of room for bigger parties. This place is only three years old, so everything is pretty new. Everyone has been telling me their names. It has been fun meeting then. Everyone is very friendly. There are lots of activities for everyone to enjoy. Card games too.

Today is the first day I have sat down and had coffee at the 3:00 p.m. dining hall. Met lots more folks.

Everything's so green as they have had lots of rain this year.

Thanks again for all your caring for me and love.

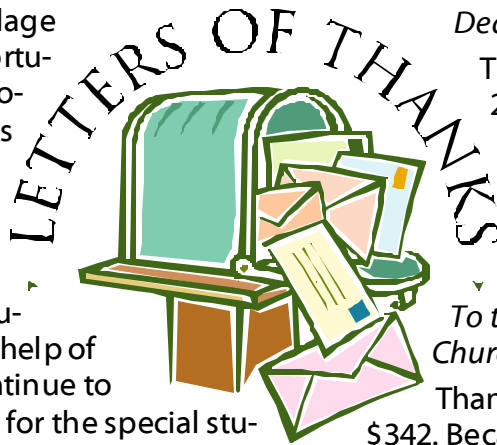
God Bless,  
Betty Hiebel  
1810 Darling Ave. E, Apt. 101  
Alexandria, MN 56308



Mosaic at Bethpage Village would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your donations of Campbell's Labels and/or Box Tops for Education. Both of these programs provide wonderful supplies and educational materials for our Special Education School. Through the help of supporters, like you, we continue to provide a quality education for the special students of our school.

Once again, a big thank you to all who remember us in this way.

Sincerely,  
The Students and Staff of Mosaic Axtell School



Dear Friends of F.I.S.H. ,

Thank you for your generous donation of 250 pounds of staple items.

We are grateful for your much needed support.

F.I.S.H. Board of Directors  
Jeanne Marie Jones

To the members of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$342. Because of gifts such as yours, the school will provide a center of learning for Rwandan children for years to come.

Thank you for all your support as we continue to work together on the Rwanda School Project.

# Gift of G.A.B.

By Keith Becker

In preparation for my Gift of Gab today, I looked to the Bible for inspiration. I was looking for some THEME on how to live life, and a sensible approach to stewardship. No matter how much I thought about it, I kept being drawn to the same starting point – Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. **“Do not be anxious about your life; look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. ...and consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.”** Okay, bear in mind, I just offered an abridged version of Matthew 6 – but, in the reading, this sounds a lot like Bobby McFerrin’s song, “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.”

However, particularly in reference to stewardship, the Bible doesn’t provide many more verses that are quite as calming and complacent. As a matter of fact, just the opposite: Leviticus 27: “the entire tithe of the herd and flock – every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod – will be holy to the Lord.” Deuteronomy: “Be sure to set aside a tenth,” Genesis 28: “Jacob made a vow: all that you give me I will give a tenth.” Second Corinthians: “the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits, a tenth of everything.”

And there are the admonitions. For example, from Proverbs: “One man gives freely, and gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.” And “A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.”

Let’s be sensible - a tenth of everything? How is that supposed to work? Here we are, it’s 2011, times are tight, every single necessity is

more expensive, and many of us find ourselves running twice as fast just to stay in place...

But regarding stewardship – regarding the financial needs of our church and how each one of us can help – should we approach our situation like Brer Rabbit, merrily and blithely singing “Zip-a-dee-do-dah?” Or, alternately, like Chicken Little, worried that the sky is falling? Actually, I believe the reality is somewhere in between. And to support this approach, the Bible says a great deal.

From the Gospel of Luke: “If you give, your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, and running over. Whatever measure you give – large or small – will be used to measure what is given back to you.” Deuteronomy, chapter 8: “Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” From Second Corinthians: “Each man should give what he decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” And, “If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one HAS, not according to what he does NOT have.” Actually, if you are looking for a roadmap and a reassurance, Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians is the mother lode. There is a great deal of good advice



## A Note from Joan

Thank you to all of my “extended family members” at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church. Bob and I were most fortunate when we heard Flak and Jack were doing the ministry work at TLC while the church waited for a permanent minister. I became a member at Faith in 1978 when we moved to Santa Rosa from Novato. When Flak retired, we had a difficult time adjusting to a new pastor/church, and we were definitely blest when we heard of Flak and Jack at TLC. God definitely answers prayers ... after 52 years of marriage, Bob was baptized by Pastor Jean, AND, Flak and Jean were his godparents. Bob loved the church and the members. He enjoyed the variety of social events, especially the Heavenly Hell Raisers and creating a “dish” for the potlucks.

My family, Gary, Emily, Andrew, Carol, Rob, Robert, David, Jeannette and myself are so very thankful to all who worked to create a very memorable Memorial tribute to Bob on May 14th. Thanks to all for helping prepare for the service: Pastor Jean, kitchen preparers/workers, arrange seating for 150 guests, creating floral displays, taping the service, Nora’s beautiful piano music, to the person that supplied the DVD



for Bob’s request to begin the service playing “Souza’s March”, Sandy’s opening solo, Pastor Jean’s readings, Flak’s closing solo singing The Lord’s Prayer, (his melodious voice literally “rocked the rafters”), to all members who greeted and helped the many guests, those serving food/ preparing coffee, tea, etc, setting tables in the sanctuary. Then to all who stayed to clean up and set up for our Sunday service.

Many, many thanks for the prayers, thoughts and concerns for me and the children as we work through the despair, pain and loneliness without my “sveetart”/partner/friend and their dad and grandpa. I’m blest to have 56 years of memories ... some really, really great and beautiful and some very “memorable”.

You are all God’s blessing to and for me.  
Love and hugs ... Joan

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## Gift of G.A.B.

*Continued from page 7*

and encouragement: “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.”

My son, Griffin, spent numerous years as a Cub Scout – a group that abides by the motto, “Do Your Best.” Throughout the Bible, both Old Testament and New, that same encouragement is repeated: “Do Your Best.” We end where we began, from the Sermon on the Mount: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourself treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy,

and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

As summer turns to autumn, the Stewardship Committee once again prepares for our annual Pledge Drive. The sky is not falling. At the same time, it’s not sensible to blindly accept the adage, “**Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.**” Instead, we propose this: as you consider your continuing financial support for Thanksgiving Lutheran Church, we ask for your prayers, we ask for your assistance, and we ask that you Do Your Best.

# Please - Be Our Guest!

## So We Can Say **THANK YOU!**

*The gardeners from the TLC Community Garden  
are hosting the*

**4th Annual Harvest Picnic**  
**Saturday, October 8 at 4:00**  
On the TLC patio.

Here's what you do:  
**Just Show Up!**  
**Don't bring anything**  
**Don't help set up**  
**Don't help clean up**



We're tidying up around the garden to get ready for company, and everyone is preparing a dish that includes ingredients from the TLC Community Garden.

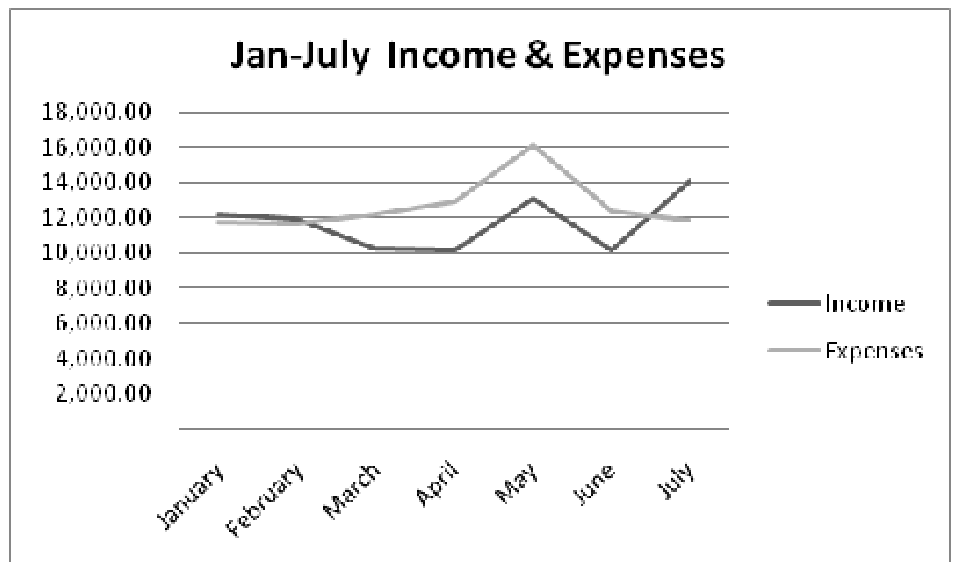
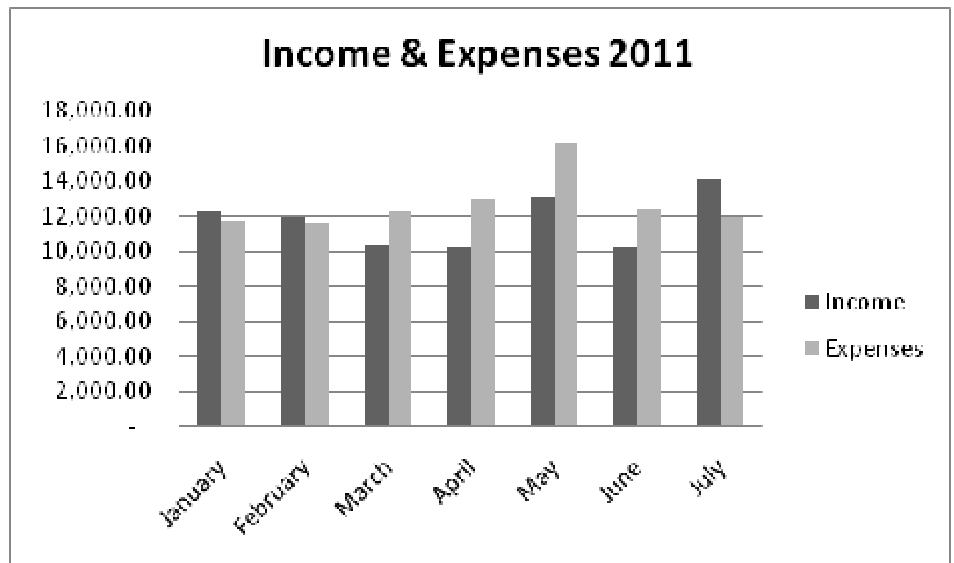
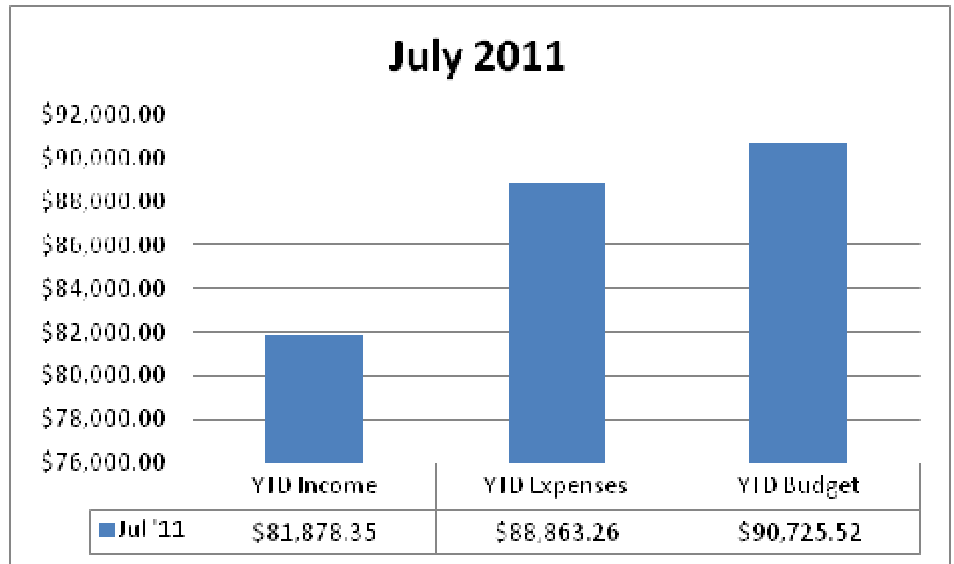
We want to make sure we have enough food and drink, so please call 887-9348 to let us know you'll be coming!



July was a better month financially. We were \$2,189 in the black! For the first seven months of the year we are \$6,984.91 in the red. Compared to the projected deficit for the year we are doing better by \$4,644.12 than expected. That is better news but keep in mind the nearly \$7,000 in deficit came from our savings. Those are dwindling. We are current on our bills and will be okay for a few months but income must increase. Please keep this situation in your prayers. Thank you to everyone for keeping their pledges current and for giving that extra amount. This allows us to continue our worthwhile ministry.

## Giving is alive and well at TLC.

As of August 21st the congregation has give \$847 to the Rwanda School project and \$495 to Second Mile gifts. We are still calculating the donations given at the Thursday night potlucks in July and August designated for the ELCA World Hunger mission. In addition an overflowing wheelbarrow of canned fruit went to FISH and gifts continue to come into the FISH blue barrel. Thanks to all who give that extra amount for these worthy causes.



## Holy Scriptures for September Worship



For our First Readings this month, we hear from the book of Exodus about great works of mercy and redemption: the Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, manna in the wilderness, water out of rock. While our hearts and minds are open, then, in awe and gratitude, Paul and Jesus transform them with powerful teachings so that we put on the minds and hearts of Christ, bold with compassion, forgiveness, generosity, and love for others. September's scriptures affirm our intention to be a faith community where everyone can "Come As You Are."

### **9/4 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

### **9/11 Holy Cross Day Observed/My Faith Works: Jan Loewen**

Scriptures: Numbers 21:4b-9; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17

### **9/18 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost; Gift of G.A.B.**

Scriptures: Exodus 16:2-15; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

### **9/25 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



## Council Highlights

At the July Council meeting work continued on updating the constitution. They also reviewed requests from Property asking permission to obtain bids on painting the sanctuary and the Community Garden regarding a sign, acknowledged the donation

by Betty Hiebel of her piano and many other kitchen items, authorized a plan to utilize our two classrooms better for meetings and approved the plan for the narthex submitted by Outreach and Evangelism.

In August the TLC Council continued discussion of the Constitution revision. This will be ready for mailing to the congregation soon for discussion and action at the November 13th Congregation meeting. Committee reports were approved, the financial situa-

tion discussed, suggestions made for the 2012 budget and an additional Sunday off for Pastor was approved. A separate Task Force will be set up to handle the lift station project. The congregation will be fully informed of this project by announcements from the Council, at congregation meetings and by posting all minutes of any meetings with the city. No additional action on this is needed at the moment. All will be informed of the next step.

### **TLC Executive Committee:**

Jean Flak, President  
Keith Becker, Vice-president  
Mark Koppen, Secretary  
Jean Harrison, Treasurer

### **Council Liaisons to Committees:**

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Karen Lehman
Finance	Astrid Anderson
Outreach and Evangelism	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Property	Keith Becker
Stewardship	Jean Flak
Worship and Music	Mark Koppen
Youth (in hiatus)	

### **Committee Chairs**

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Jordan Eberly
Finance	Jean Harrison
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Jim Lehman
Property	Jan Loewen
Stewardship	Jean Flak
Worship and Music	Mary Thompson
Youth (in hiatus)	

## **Who's Who In Worship**

### **Altar Guild Coordinator:**

Diane Land

### **Greeters Coordinator:**

Jan Thomas

### **Asst. Ministers Coordinator:**

Ingrid Feiertag

### **Musicians Coordinator:**

Mark Koppen

### **Offering Teller Coordinator:**

Paul Feiertag

### **Readers Coordinator:**

Ingrid Feiertag

### **Ushers Coordinator:**

George Land

## **Who's Who In Special Taskforces**

### **Community Garden Coordinator:**

Karen Lehman

### **Landscaping Coordinator:**

Jean Harrison

### **Quilters Coordinator:**

Lorraine Larson

### **Women's Groups Coordinator:**

Karen Lehman

**Please Support Those who Support Us**



At the Mission Investment Fund, we use the money you invest to fund building and renovation loans for ELCA congregations and related ministries. Give us a call at 877.886.3522