Mountain Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Ralph

Variety—the Spice of Life?

We crave variety in our lives. We tire of leftovers. We shop in malls. We choose between dozens of TV channels. Yet as our choices multiply, our sense of satisfaction often is diminished. We have not found contentment simply through the increase in possibilities.

Why are we so unsatisfied? Often it is because the choices offered are ultimately unedifying and contrary to God's design for what is best for us. The choices we face can promote degeneration, not renewal. In efforts to keep our options open we allow ourselves to be led away from God. There are some options we must abandon if we truly are to experience renewal in God.

In fact, as we restrict our experience of variety to those things that are of Christ, we find unlimited opportunities to love, serve, and forgive others. Human distinctions then disappear and Christ will be all that we need. Christ as "All in All" is not a vision of sameness, but a vision of fullness, in which all people find their true life and purpose in God.

Church Council Members:

President	Tom Carman
Vice President	Tom Sweeney
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Stan Bruederle
Members at Large	Jean Cox
	Dorine Smith
Pastors	Ralph Herman
	Ginger DuMars

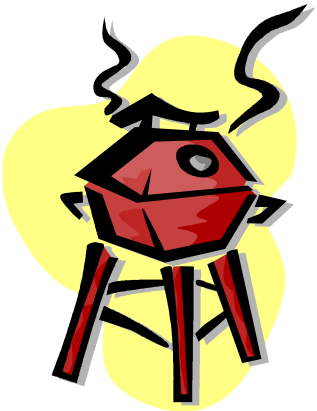
Our Volunteer chairpersons for this year are:

Web Master	Tom Carman
Altar Guild	Delores Van Brocklin
Publicity	Dorothy Parker
Prayer Chain	Judy Basey
Newsletter Editor	Mary Bruederle
Refreshments	Judy Basey
Music & Worship	Tom Carman
Property Manager	Bob Smith

. Pastor Ginger's Summer News, 2010

Celebrating the 4th Anniversary of the Dedication of our New Church on July 25 reminds me of Psalm 84, vs. 1. *"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!"* Indeed, where God dwells at Mountain Lutheran Church & in our hearts is a lovely place! ***Verses 4-5a say, "Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, (O Lord)."*** YES, we are very blessed & grateful for this beautiful house of worship, God's house! Since we are part of God's family it's our church family's house too! PTL! We are called to be good stewards of all the blessings God has given us. We know that our strength comes from God.

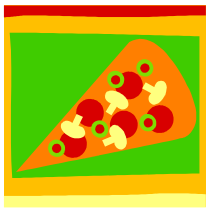
And, I am very grateful for the PEOPLE of Mountain Lutheran Church also! Your willingness to work on a variety of projects is amazing & greatly appreciated! ***Thanks to everyone who brought delicious food***, helped to set up & clean up & to keep things organized for our 4th Anniv. Celebration on July 25. ***Thanks to Anna & Harold Bramhall*** for getting the food on the serving table at just the right time & for serving a variety of beverages & even washing dishes!



Thanks to Mark Herman & Bob DuMars for BBQ-ing & having the hamburgers ready immediately after worship!

Thanks to Lil Dawson for supplying the church with paper towels & bathroom tissue. ***Thanks to Teresa Hunter assisted by Shirley Carman*** for keeping our church sparkling clean! ***Thanks to Elden Bruha & Bob DuMars*** for cutting down the weeds on the church's property earlier this spring & summer. ***Thanks to Tom Carman*** for setting up our automated (pre-recorded) church organ ("Digital Dorothy") several times this summer to provide music for worship. Tom has led most of the chanting during worship "a cappella". Thank you, Tom! ***Thanks to Elden Bruha*** for his extra work with the sound system, too, on Sundays & for the July 10th wedding.

Thanks to everyone who helped to set up & donated items for the Women's Retreat Scholarship Rummage Sale at Evangelical Free Church on June 24.



Thrivent Financial hosted a pizza lunch at Two Guys for about 24 people (adults & youth) in the set up crew & donated $25 for scholarships. The Rummage Sale raised

$3500 for Retreat Scholarships. This dynamic retreat, **"Joy for the Journey" is on Fri.-Sat., Sept. 24-25 at Camp Tuol. Trails**. We are immensely blessed with an excellent & inspiring speaker, 2 motivational workshop leaders, a fun craft leader & a spirit filled worship & music leader. You can stay overnight at the camp for $110 or sleep at home ($90) & still participate in everything. See Shirley Carman or me (Pr. Ginger) for Registration forms. Register early since space is limited to the first 120 ladies who register.

Our Thrivent Financial Chapter needs your HELP! Please consider becoming a Tuol. County Chapter Leader/ Officer for Thrivent Financial. Most of us have served for many years & need a break! Our 3 Tuol. Co. congregations & communities have been blessed with thousands of dollars funneled through our chapter. Most of the Thrivent matching funds are only available if we have 5 required leaders/ officers & a functioning chapter – so please consider serving on our chapter board with 1 (approx. 2 hours) meeting every other month – usually in Sonora. Talk to the Bruhas, Audrey Fiance, Jean Cox or me – if you're interested. **Information on** how Thrivent Financial members can designate **Thrivent Choice Dollars is coming soon – by early Sept.!**

Thanks to everyone who participated in our June 6 Congregational Meeting – reviewing proposed changes to Mountain Lutheran's Constitution! The congregation voted to approve all the proposed changes & updates. All the required documents with the changes clearly marked & noted have been mailed to our Synod's Secretary. Next, the Synod's Congregational Constitution Review Committee will study it & hopefully present it (if they don't want us to make any changes or corrections) to Synod Council in Sept.! All the constitutional changes were noted on the copies of the constitution that our committee distributed to you as the members – except 3 By Law changes. These 3 By Law changes were made at June 6's Congregational Meeting. By Law changes can be approved by a Congregational Vote & become effective immediately. These are fairly minor changes & include: 1. Adding the words "Mutual Ministry & Communications" to Chairperson for Staff Support. 2. Placing a "limit of $2000 on our Church Council's necessary expenditures not included in the budget." 3. Change the month for reviewing the Congregation's Membership Roster from May to "Jan. or Feb." annually.
The congregation will need to ratify the amended Constitution at (hopefully) our next Congregational Meeting in Dec. – depending on the response from Synod Council. After almost 2 years of working on this project we will be very

pleased when it is completed & up to date! ***Thanks again to Audrey Fiance for leading us in this long, legalistic & practical project!*** A Special Thank You to Mary Bruederle, our Church Newsletter Editor & Publisher! We appreciate you & your excellent work!

With Faith & Hope, Love & Gratitude –
Pastor Ginger DuMars

Presidents Corner

God's blessings and peace to everyone. Six months have passed and the council has worked hard to get our revised Constitution and By-Laws to the Congregation for approval. A big thanks goes to Audrey Fiance for chairing the constitution revision committee and to all the committee members for their hard work. The Congregation approved the proposed amendments with just a few minor changes. By the time this article is printed, the Constitution and By-Law changes will have been checked and forwarded to the Synod for approval.

Since we are six months into the year, now is a good time to review our giving to see how well we are doing. I want to say that this congregation is one of the most generous congregations that it has been my pleasure to be a part. I believe that it is, at least in part, due to our commitment to Stewardship that focuses on a spiritual growth oriented process designed to enrich our Biblical understanding of Christian Stewardship. This is a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their income. For the first time in a very long time our giving is down from what was pledged for the first half of this year by about 12%. We are in tough economic times and most of us have made some adjustments in our discretionary spending. If you happen to be behind in your pledge, see if there is a way to help bring your pledge into balance. I know times are tough but do what you can.

The big Churches in our Synod have cut programs, reduced staff and tightened up on spending in general. Our Church, however, already operates on a very austere budget and there is not a great deal that can be done. The biggest thing we can do is thank God for our blessings and pray for guidance.

God bless our congregation.

Tom Carman

BIRTHDAY INVITATION

The Family of Grace Schroder extends an invitation to celebrate her 95th birthday, on August 15th at Avalon Care Center on Greenley Road in Sonora. The party will be from 1-4 in the afternoon. Please RSVP to Sue King, 962-6636.

Raising the Roof on the first Lutheran School in Rwanda, May 2010

July 7, 2010

To the members of Mountain Lutheran Church,

Thank you your donation of $245 and for your continued support of The Rwanda School Project. We are excited to share that construction is going well and because of gifts such as yours, the school will provide a center of learning for Rwandan children.

Thank you for your support and may God bless you as we work together on The Rwanda School Project.

In Christ,

Joy Petty, President

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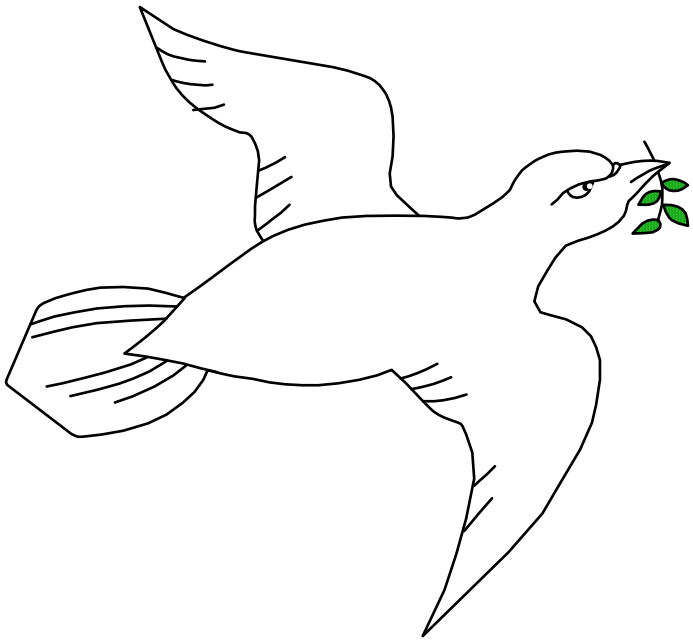
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