

# Mountain Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 995

Groveland, CA 95321-0995

Phone: 962-4064

13000 Down To Earth Ct.

Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

[www.mountainlutheranchurch.com](http://www.mountainlutheranchurch.com)

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*From Pastor Ralph*

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> marks the beginning of Lent. Christians around the world will receive the mark of the cross on their foreheads. That mark, made from ashes, is an outward sign of inward hope. As our foreheads are marked, we hear again God's words to the first people: "...you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19b). God spoke these words just after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. They gained knowledge of good and evil but lost their relationship of trust in God's goodness. As we begin our Lenten journey, these words remind us of our fallen place in this world. We share Adam and Eve's sin. We too live outside of the garden. We too shall die and return to dust.

But the dust of ashes on our forehead makes a cross! We also remember our right relationship with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Jesus, God saves us for eternity.

"Practice your piety for God," Jesus tells us. All other efforts will return to dust. Only what God ordains and redeems in Jesus Christ will remain

forever. The mark on our foreheads shows our hope in our Lord.

### *Ash Wednesday Service*

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be February 22, at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Ginger will be presiding.

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#### **Church Council Members:**

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

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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            |

## **Pr. Ginger's Winter (Feb. & March) News, 2012**

I love Paul's words of appreciation to Philemon as they so eloquently express MY love & appreciation for ALL of YOU! *"When I remember you in my prayers (which I do often) I always thank God for you because I (know) of your love for all the saints & your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become (even more) effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ! I have indeed received much joy & encouragement from your love, because the hearts of (many) saints have been refreshed through you...!"*

**THANK YOU** for sharing your faith & hope, love & generosity with your church, those in need & especially with Bob & me in so many ways! We have been blessed & refreshed & strengthened by your meaningful prayers & beautiful cards during this (2011) Christmas Season – which was also the time of my dear father's death from earthly life on Dec. 8. He was very ready to move on to his Heavenly Home & died peacefully at Mercy Hospital in Sacramento. He lived a very full & active life until just a few days before his death at age 90 years + 10 months. We enjoyed grand

celebrations for him in Sac. & were blessed with 14 from Mountain Lutheran Church & 2 from Groveland Evan. Free Church attending Dad's Celebration of Life & Faith! We have been back & forth to Sacramento many times recently & have been carried & strengthened by YOUR loving support & prayers & those of Groveland's Christian community! **THANK YOU!**

Thank You also, for your generous Christmas Gifts of Special Meals at Applebees (gift cards) for your pastors & professional musicians/organists! We enjoyed ours with 2 celebrations with family & friends! Thank You!

*As a congregation, we are extremely **THANKFUL** for **GOD's Blessings & Inspiration** for all of us to **Live & Give with Joyful & Grateful Hearts & Lives!***

This is made evident with ALL the ways YOU serve & give at Mountain Lutheran & in our communities. ***Our "hoped for" estimated Income for 2011 (GOAL BUDGET) was \$60,540 & we actually received \$67,772.*** We also had a scaled down budget that we lived by as much as possible – estimating \$7500 less in income. **GOD has been very good to our church; and, YOU are very Faithful Stewards! THANK YOU!** Our actual expenses for 2011 were \$55,470 which includes

7% of our undesignated income going to Benevolence plus an additional \$2050 going to Designated Second Mile Ministries outside Mountain Lutheran Church. With Thrivent matching funds we also gave almost \$5000 to various charities in our area. We have budgeted 11% of our undesignated income for Benevolence for 2012. Thrivent Choice dollars designated for our congregation were almost \$4000 which was much more than expected. This is probably a combination of 2010 & 2011 money with this new program. Nike Clothes Sales & Recycling have helped too! (2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Offerings for Jan. are for U.S. and ELCA Disaster Relief, in Feb. for Sierra Foothills Residential Care in Sonora, in March for It's My Very Own Bags of Love, (a local area ministry for children in distress/ being removed from their homes.)

**THANK YOU to our COUNCIL Members** who also serve as Congregational Officers & 2 Members at Large for your dedicated work as Mountain Lutheran's Board of Directors! *Most officers were reelected for their same office except for Kay Smith being elected as Secretary. Thank You, Mary Bruha, for your many years of service as Council/ Congregational Secretary! See the front of this newsletter for the list of*

*officers! 2012's Council was installed during Worship on Jan. 8.*

**THANK YOU** to Judi & Bob Wilkinson for ordering & donating our **Church's Christmas cards** & to the Women's Bible Study Group for preparing them for mailing & distribution. Donations totaled \$65 for the Christmas Card Fund & were designated for buying Bibles for the church. If you'd like to donate to the **Bible Fund** – especially in honor of a special event like birthdays, anniversaries, etc. – your donations will be greatly appreciated! The best price for hard cover Bibles that I've found is \$15 each. We'll probably also designate a 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Offering for the Church Bible Fund later this year.

## Ash Wednesday

Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.

**LENT begins on Feb. 22 with Ash Wednesday!** **The Hymn Liturgy Service for Ash Wed. begins at 7 p.m.** & includes Crosses marked on our foreheads with ashes & Holy Communion. We are the only Protestant Church in the area to offer an Ash Wednesday Service, so invite your friends to come with you for this solemn event. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days of

Lent & the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry & for the fulfillment of God's purpose in sending him to earth. In March we will have 4(four) Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers at 6 p.m. with The Holden Evening Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Look for "Bringing Soup" Sign Ups later in Feb. & invite your friends to these delightful Soup Suppers & peaceful Evening Prayer Services. (Palm Sun. is April 1 & Easter Sun. is April 8.



## **FEB. & MARCH EVENTS**

**10:00 a.m. Worship – Every Sunday** – Delicious Food & Fellowship after Worship.

**Thurs. Feb. 2 & 16 at 1:00** – Bible Study on 1 Corinthians.

**Tues. Feb. 14 & 28 at 10:15 a.m. – 12:30** – Area Pastors meet at MLC.

**Wed. Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. – Ash Wed. Service**

**Thur. March 1 & 15 at 1:00** – Bible Study

**Sun., Mar. 4 at 11:30** – Council Meeting

**Wed., Mar. 7 & 14, 21 & 28 at 6 p.m.** – Soup Supper, 7:00p.m.- Eve. Prayer Service

**Tues., Mar. 13 & 27 at 10:15** – Area Pastors meet at MLC.

**PRAISE GOD from whom ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!**  
*With Faith & Hope, Love & Appreciation,*  
**Pr. Ginger DuMars**

## **NIKE CLOTHING**

We still many new **NIKE CLOTHING** items available for sale. We have ladies medium and men's large items that would make great Christmas presents. Please tell your friends and family to call Shirley (962-5647) and she would be glad to show them what is available. The price of most of the clothing is 3 for \$20 and a few at \$10 each. The Nike clothing sales will benefit Mountain Lutheran Church. Praise the Lord for Leslie Moyer and her great generosity giving Mountain Lutheran the clothing to sale. Leslie we miss your great smile at Mountain Lutheran.



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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUEST**

