

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

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From Pastor Ralph

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will have a 7:00 p.m. worship service that night. The season of Lent is a time of walking with Jesus to the cross, then moving beyond it to Easter. For many Christians, this journey is marked by prayer. Several years ago I read about a Lenten discipline that I want to share with you. It said:

Start a prayer string

1. On an index card, write the name of one person you want to pray for on Ash Wednesday, or write down a prayer concern that you have. Then tape the card to the top of a long piece of string. Let the card on the string remind you to hold that person or concern in your prayers.
2. The day after Ash Wednesday, tape a card listing another person or concern below the first one on your string. During your prayer time, offer prayers for the names or concerns on both cards. Build your

prayer list by adding one card every day in Lent.

3. If possible, during each day of Holy Week, pray for the people or concerns listed on your string once in the morning and once at night. On Easter, pray for everyone on your list before you go to worship at church.

I invite you to start a prayer string, but whether or not you do I urge you to live a life of prayer this coming Lenten season as well as every other season of the year.

Church Council Members:

President	Tom Carman
Vice President	Tom Sweeney
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Stan Bruederle
Member 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 News - Preparing for LENT, 2010.



St. Paul reminds us of the importance of prayer as he writes words of encouragement to Timothy in his letter to him. (1Tim. 2:1): "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercession & thanksgivings be made for EVERYONE!" So let's make **PRAYING our theme for Lent, 2010!** Pr. Ralph & I offer prayers of thanksgiving for all of you often! We thank you for your many acts of kindness & service for the church & community & for your generous & thoughtful Christmas gifts & cards & prayers! Pr. Ralph & his family enjoyed a delightful Christmas week end dinner at Olive Garden in Modesto with their Gift Card from Mountain Lutheran Church! Bob & I will enjoy some special meals in So. CA. in Feb. while on vacation at Dana Point – courtesy of you all. I'll let you know where we go to eat when we get home. We are also very grateful for the volunteers

who decorated the church for Christmas, who brought poinsettias & who also packed up & put away the decorations after Christmas! Thanks to Judi Wilkinson for doing most of the work for our Congregational Christmas cards whose proceeds benefited ELCA's World Hunger Relief! Thanks also to our Council Members who are willing to serve – especially as our officers! **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

We all will enjoy some delicious ***Soup Suppers*** together on ***Tuesday evenings at 6:00*** during Lent again this year: Feb. 23, March 2 & 9 & 23. (Notice that we are skipping March 16.) At 7:00 on those 4 evenings (following soup) we will use Marty Haugen's ***Evening Prayer Service*** with short Meditations on Psalms – usually the one assigned for a Sunday close to that Tues. eve. Talk to Judy Basey to see how you can help with the Soup Suppers. Thank you, Judy, for organizing these. Thanks also to Tom Carman for making arrangements for our musicians & for helping to lead the Tuesday Evening Prayer Services. Also, remember that we'll have an Ash Wed. Eve. service beginning at 7:00 on WED., Feb. 17 which includes the impositions of ashes & Holy Communion. Ash Wed. marks the beginning of Lent. Invite your friends &

neighbors to these events & to our 10:00 Sunday Morning Worship! Guests & Visitors are always most welcome at Mountain Lutheran Church!



Another highlight of Lent will be the Community Choir's presentation of "WORTHY - the Song of the Ages" on Sat. & Sunday, March 20 & 21. Most of the Groveland area churches are participating in the choir (including us) & are excited about this beautiful music & message. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, March 28. Community Good Friday Services (April 2) are at NOON at Evangelical Free Church.



There will be a Vesper Service at the 7th day Adventist Church at 7:00 P.M. We, at Mountain Lutheran, will host the 7A.M Early Easter Morning Community Service. Our Festive Easter Lutheran Worship at our usual time of 10:00 a.m. – on April 4. First Baptist Church in Big Oak Flat will host Vacation Bible School for children & families March 29–April 2.



Prayer & Bible Study sessions continue at Mountain Lutheran Church on the First & Third Thursdays of each month. We are studying Paul's book to the Romans. During Lent we are collecting non-perishable food for the food bank at Ev. Free Church.

Congratulations & Prayers for New Parents, Brandyn & Emily Wilkinson, on the birth of their baby daughter, Aria Noelle Wilkinson, who was born on Friday, Jan. 15, at 8 lbs. 3 oz.! Baby & parents are doing well! Congratulations to the ecstatic grandparents, Chris & David Wilkinson, also, & great-grandparents, Judi & Bob, & to Aunt Bethany! (Brandyn's new address: 9B First Montgomery Dr., Mount Holly, N.J. 08060

Second Mile Offering for Jan. went to Gideons International for printing & distributing Bibles throughout the world. Feb.'s 2nd Mile Offerings are for going to ELCA's Disaster Relief for Haiti. March's 2nd Mile Offering will support Rwanda's Lutheran School & Health Care Clinics. Thank you for your financial &

prayer support for these worthwhile ministries as well as for the ministries & work of Mountain Lutheran Church.

**Hoping you'll pray often!
See you in church!**
*With Faith & Hope, Love & Appreciation –
Pastor Ginger DuMars*

President's Message

God's blessings to everyone, and I wish you all a joyous and happy 2010. I want to thank Stan and the Council for helping us to have a wonderful 2009. Their accomplishments were many and I hope that we will be as successful as your new Council.

I believe we also owe a great deal of thanks to our wonderful Pastors. With their dedication, prayers and blessings they continually give to us, we can accomplish many things. I, however, will need plenty of prayers just to be able to sing the right tunes as I attempt to assist our Pastors in the worship service. It's a never ending learning process.

I haven't been able yet to complete a list of things for us to accomplish this year, but I'm working on it and will keep you up to date. There are a few things I have in mind that I believe we need to accomplish. I would like to

see us complete the update on our Constitution and get it submitted to the Synod. I would like us complete the decoration of our Memorial Garden. I would like to see us do some additional paving of the parking lot. I would like to see us do more outreach and to attract more families to Mountain Lutheran Church, especially children as they are such a blessing. This is just a beginning list and I hope you will help me and the Council add to the list and accomplish our goals.

God's Blessings,
Tom Carman



Some Fun

After church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and talk than to sit and listen."

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Label Here

