

Mountain Lutheran Church

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Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

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From Pastor Ralph

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. There's a somber sound to the title given Ash Wednesday early in Christian history. Old Testament believers displayed sorrow and repentance by smearing themselves with ashes. Ashes also remind us of our humble beginnings. God created humankind of the dust of the earth, and someday our bodies will return again to ash like dust.

Ash Wednesday begins 40 days of solemn reflection. Did you ever wonder why Lent is so long? It reminded the early Christians of the 40 days that our Savior was severely tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Perhaps they understood that our hearts need time to grasp the horror of our sin. We need time for reflection and repentance. We need time to contemplate the agonizing sacrifice Christ made on Calvary.

And when our Lent of reflection and repentance is over, Easter bursts forth in all its resurrection glory. Understanding the grievousness of our sins is the only way we can truly appreciate Easter Sunday. Christ through the cross and empty tomb is declared the victor over sin. Underneath the somberness of Ash Wednesday runs the golden thread of joy in our salvation. Ash Wednesday is not the end of the story, but only the beginning.



Church Council Members:

President	Stan Bruederle
Vice President	David Wilkinson
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Tom Carmen
Member at Large	Jean Cox
	Dorine Smith
Pastors	Ralph Herman
	Ginger DuMars

Our Volunteer chairpersons for this year are:

Lay Assistants	Tom Carman
Altar Guild	Delores Van Brocklin
Publicity	Dorothy Parker
Flea Market	Shirley Carman
Prayer Chain	Judy Basey
Newsletter Editor	Mary Bruederle
Refreshments	Judy Basey
Music & Worship	Tom Carman
Property Manager	Bob Wilkinson

*Pastor Ginger's Winter News
(Jan. - Feb., 2009)*

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

January seems to be the time for planning for the new year & for remembering our special events from last year.

What beautiful Advent & Christmas Seasons we experienced here at Mountain Lutheran – even with a little snow! Special **THANK YOU's** to everyone who helped to decorate & cook, organize & offer hospitality for Advent's Soup & Movie Night, Christmas Services & Richard Van Brocklin's Memorial Service & Reception – as well as for all of our lovely after worship fellowship & goodie times every Sunday! Mountain Lutheran has special gifts of hospitality, & you all make it happen! **THANK YOU!**

Both of us as your pastors are very grateful for your generous restaurant gift certificates given to us as Christmas gifts! What a treat to go to these delightful places (Verona's in Modesto for the Hermans & Azzo's in Jamestown for the DuMars) for delicious dinners with our families. **THANK YOU!**

We have received Thank You Certificates & notes from all of our 2nd Mile Offering Recipients for 2008 & from Groveland's Community

Christmas Basket Program.

We, as a congregation, donate bread for the Christmas Baskets. Thanks to the Bruhas & Smiths & Main St. Market for making all the arrangements for this bread donation & delivery. This program received 96 applications this year (36 of these were new) serving 122 children & 163 adults. We are now investigating how we can help with Groveland's Breakfast program - besides donating January's 2nd Mile Offering to them. February's 2nd Mile offering has been designated for our companion synod & Lutheran churches in Rwanda.

Ed. Tom Carman is putting Bishop Holmerud's journals from his trip to Rwanda on our website. It is very interesting.

You will receive your 2008 Giving Statements soon. THANK YOU, Elden Bruha, for all your work as Treasurer. You prepare Reports, & our Congregation's Pledge to the Synod, our Giving Statements, & Annual Budget & Monthly Reports, as well as paying all of MLC's bills. **THANK YOU** to everyone



who gives as generously as

you can – with a cheerful heart & attitude!

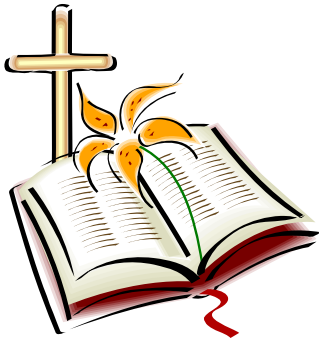
LENT begins on ASH WED., Feb. 25, with an Evening Service here at 7 p.m. This Ash Wed. Evening Service includes Holy Communion & the Imposition of Ashes. We will continue with mid-week services on the next 4 **TUESDAYS** (March 3, 10, 17, 24) with Soup Supper at 6 & the Holden Village Evening Prayer Service at 7 p.m. This service will include a short meditation on a different Psalm each Tuesday evening. Invite your friends & neighbors.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP opportunities include the next **5th Sunday Gospel Sing on March 29 at 6:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church** on Wards Ferry Road in Big Oak Flat with refreshments following at 7:00. **YOU** are also invited to **HOLY WEEK** Services on **Good Friday, April 10, at NOON at Evangelical Free Church** on Ferretti Road & an **Evening Vesper Service at Groveland's 7th Day Adventist Church** on Elder Lane. *We will be hosting the Early (Sunrise)*



HE IS RISEN!

**COMMUNITY EASTER
WORSHIP SERVICE here
at Mountain Lutheran
Church at 7:00 a.m. on April
12.**



**PROGRESS on becoming a
Full Status, “Organized”
Congregation:** We have
received several suggestions
for **revising our MISSION
Statement.** Our CURRENT
MISSION STATEMENT is:
“Mountain Lutheran Church
is empowered by the Holy
Spirit to proclaim Christ’s
Gospel in loving service to
everyone.”

NEW SUGGESTIONS are:
1. FAITH in Action in our
Community.
2. FAITH in Action in our
Community & in the
World.

3. SERVING the Lord in the
Community.
4. WE LIVE the Good
News.
5. SHARE the Word.
6. CHILDREN’s Sunday
School.
7. CHRIST Centered,
Community Outreach &
Service, Gospel,
Communion, Praise &
Worship, Grow.
8. SPREADING the Word of
God through Faith,
Family & Fellowship.

**THANK YOU to everyone
who contributed ideas for
our New Mission Statement!
NOW, we all need to VOTE
on which one you think is
most appropriate for us &
that we can live by &
remember! Please write the
Number (1 – 8) OR
“Current” for which Mission
Statement you are voting on
a 3” X 5” card or the little
half cards (2 ½ X 3) cards
provided at church. There is a
box in the Narthex, or give to
Pres. Stan Bruederle or Pr.
Ginger or Pr. Ralph on any
Sunday in February. These
choices with their
corresponding numbers will
be posted on the Bulletin
Board by the Front Door.
Please vote once – one vote
for each member.**

**God has moved us into a
new year – with hopes &
plans & abundant love &
grace for us! Thanks be to
God!**

With Faith & Hope & Love
–

Pastor Ginger DuMars

Lenten Services 2009

Ash Wednesday Eve. -
February 25th at 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday Evenings on March
3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th, there
will be Soup Suppers at 6:00
P.M. followed by Evening
Prayer Service at 7:00 P.M.

Websites

Thanks to Tom Carmen our
wonderful website
www.mountainlutheranchurch.com
keeps up-to-date
pictures of all our events. He
also has some excerpts from
the Bishop’s trip to Rwanda.

Another website we are lucky
to have, thanks to David
Wilkinson is [Café
Press.com/WhitewolfArt](http://CaféPress.com/WhitewolfArt).
The profits from the sales of
the MLC items all go to the
church. There are t-shirts,
mugs, calendars, stickers,
buttons, hats, and much more.
Shop here first for gifts.

MLC Mug



Another website to check is the one Tom Sweeney sent. It has the satellite he has worked on, that will launch on Feb 4 at 2 a.m. He is in Washington D.C. doing the final practice.
<http://goespoes.gsfc.nasa.gov/poes/gallery/N%20Prime/index.html>

President's Message

Discussions of the Church Council centered on three

main themes for 2009; becoming an organized church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in 2009, updating Mountain Lutheran Church's Constitution and Bylaws, and continuing property improvements and maintenance.

The Lord blessed us with \$7705 in Christmas Eve offerings. The council voted that it would be appropriate to split the funds equally between the general fund and the building fund.

Business has been a little slow at our store on CafePress.com. David Wilkinson has arranged an assortment of MLC related items including several beautify calendars, mugs, shirts and other items. The Web address is www.CafePress.com/whitewolfart. Our products are on the left of the web page near the bottom.

They make great gifts for family and friends!

Finally, thanks to David, Christina, and Judi Wilkinson with help from Pastor Ginger for organizing and doing the Christmas card project. The cards were beautiful and brought in \$508 which is going to the Property and building fund.

Cap from Café Press:



Recipe

This is Shirley's cake recipe we had at Coffee Hour.
Black Forest Cake

1 box devil's food cake mix
1 3oz. package cherry gelatin
1 cup water, boiling
1 20 oz. can cherry pie filling

Icing:

1 8 oz. container whipped topping at room temperature
1 box vanilla instant pudding
½ cup milk

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Prepare devil's food cake according to package directions.
Let cool.

Mix gelatin and water until dissolved. Poke holes all over cake and slowly spoon gelatin over cake.

Spread pie filling on top of cake.

To prepare icing, mix together all ingredients and gently spread over cherries. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

MLC Teddy Bear from Café Press



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Label Here

