

# Mountain Lutheran Church

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Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

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

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*From Pastor Ralph*

## CHRIST-CENTERED LIVING

2 Corinthians 5:15 says, "He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them."

Living for ourselves never works. We may do all right for awhile, but sooner or later we'll come up short in some big way. Living for ourselves makes life so empty. It is the human condition that we can't do well for long when we do not live for others as well.

Christ's life, death, and resurrection for us mean we don't have to live only for ourselves. Jesus has called each of us by name and asks us to live also for him. Jesus asks us to experience the power of his resurrection in the various hardships that come to us. He wants us to know that when we are living for more than ourselves, nothing can keep us stuck. Jesus wants us to learn that when we are centered on him we will experience his power in good times and bad, when he "stretches" us and shows us how much more he has yet to give.

The key to joy is to make Christ the center of our life. Let us include in our

prayers those who do not yet know joy in Christ.

## Your Favorite Hymns

Every Sunday from now through Labor Day Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, we'll be choosing our favorite hymns during the worship service. The hymns we choose, however, must be in either *The Lutheran Books Worship, With One Voice*, or *The Other Song Book*.

### Church Council Members:

President	Stan Bruederle
Vice President	David Wilkinson
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Tom Carman
Member at Large	Jean Cox
	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 Wilkinson

**Pastor Ginger's Summer News & Thanksgiving, July – 2009**

**O give thanks to the Lord our God, for God is good! His steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 118:1) We, at Mountain Lutheran Church certainly have an abundance of blessings for which we can give thanks! What grand celebrations we enjoyed this Spring:** Palm Saturday – our Official Organizational day with Bishop Mark Holmerud & Mount Calvary's Choir & many guests; MLC's Recognition at Synod Assembly; Easter Sunday; 2 Memorial Services & Receptions – honoring Dick Parker & Ted Gehrig; 14<sup>th</sup> & 54<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary Receptions – honoring your pastors! WE THANK EVERYONE who helped to make these events welcoming, meaningful, delicious! What wonderful teams of generous workers we have at Mountain Lutheran! THANK YOU!

**On Sunday, July 19, we'll celebrate our 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary in our new church building!** Immediately following 10:00 worship we will have a short **Congregational Meeting** followed by a slide show of our April 4<sup>th</sup> "Organizational Day" events with perhaps some "building the church" pictures too, followed by a **Salad & Dessert Pot Luck Lunch!** Bethany & David

Wilkinson prepared the "Organizational Day" DVD (shown at Synod Assembly) & Tom Carman has prepared the "Building our Church" DVD. THANK YOU! Both are excellent & inspiring to see!

**Looking forward to August & September** – we'll have **special worship opportunities on Aug. 30 & Sept. 20.** Mountain Lutheran Church is hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community Gospel Sing starting at 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 30 with a hot dog & salad supper afterwards. Bob Wilkinson has agreed to be in charge of BBQ-ing. We hope everyone will bring salads since we had about 90 people 2 years ago when we hosted this event. Erma Cherry has agreed to play the keyboard, and Pr. Jim Lowe will lead the singing – for YOUR CHOICE of hymns to sing! Buck Meadows Community Chapel's children will have an entertaining & inspiring treat for you at Aug. 30's Gospel Sing. Don't miss it! **On the morning of Sunday, Aug. 30, Pastor John Van Dyck will preach & preside** for 10:00 Worship & Holy Communion.

Then on **Sunday morning, Sept. 20, Community Worship will be held at Mary Lavaroni Park at 10:00.** Pr. Ron Cratty will bring the Scripture Message for the day as Groveland Area Christians

gather together to worship "with one voice" – united by the Holy Spirit. There will be NO separate worship at Mountain Lutheran on Sept. 20. Groveland's 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church will provide music & lead the singing of familiar Gospel Songs. (Yes, I've seen their list & know 90% of the songs.)

**Sept. 25-26 (Friday Eve. – Sat. Eve.) is the Groveland Area Christian Women's Retreat** (Yosemite Gateway Women's Retreat) held at Camp Tuolumne Trails. The theme is **"Encouraging Words from the Heart"** led by Wendy Walker from the Turlock area. Optional workshops & crafts have been added to the activities offered this year (as requested by many) as well as delightful fellowship & meals, beautiful setting & facilities, inspiring music & "Encouraging Words" seminar, refreshing swimming pool & skits & camp fire singing – all at a reduced cost this year! \$100 to stay overnight at the camp & \$75 for day use (sleeping at home) which still includes ALL Retreat Meals! Look for your Registration Flyer SOON!

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**THRIVENT FINANCIAL for Lutherans Projects** – Keep giving your CRV Recycling to Harold & Ann Bramhall for our Congregational Matching Funds. **Thanks** to all the Recyclers! **Thanks** to

everyone who helped with our **“Join Hands Project”** with Youth & Adults working together to set up the Women’s Retreat Scholarship Rummage Sale on June 25. The sale brought in \$1990 for Retreat Scholarships. Thrivent hosted a \$166 **Pizza Party** for everyone who helped to unpack & arrange & organize for selling on Friday & Sat.! Thanks also to everyone who helped with **Art Quotient’s Tee Shirt Sales at the Groveland Car Show**. Thrivent matched \$500 of the sales of these great looking tee shirts! Art Quotient is a non profit organization which promotes & publishes the work of young artists. We hope many of you will help with **South Side Sr.’s Sees Candy Sales in Nov. & early Dec.** to insure some matching Thrivent funds. On June 7, many Tuol. Co. Lutherans enjoyed the play “Martin”, portraying the **Life of Martin Luther** at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Sonora! Thrivent Financial sponsored this play & Thrivent members hosted a delightful & delicious light supper afterwards. Projects for **Back to School bags & kits, Habitat for Humanity, and National Assoc. for Mentally Ill**, etc. are in the working stages. Thanks to Jean Cox & friends for making numerous (& CUTE) school supply bags! Most are being sent to India. Thanks to everyone who helped with **Planting the Flower Barrels at Camp**

**Tuol. Trails** on May 1. Thanks to Judy Basey for organizing us & delivering & organizing the flowers! **Two cement benches for the Meditation Area will be delivered soon. Flowers & Benches were purchased with Thrivent Financial “Hands On” Funds.**

Thrivent is also sponsoring **Garrison Keillor** at Sacramento’s Memorial Auditorium (downtown) on **Sept. 22** (eve.). More information will follow when it’s available.

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**Landscaping at MLC Generous Memorial Gifts have been given to Mountain Lutheran Church in honor of Richard Van Brocklin, Dick Parker & Ted Gehrig.** Unless designated for other ministries, these memorial gifts will be used to create a Memorial Garden & Retaining Wall (around the garden) – in honor of these members. **Thank you to everyone who has given memorial gifts. Thanks to Dick & Dorothy Parker for planting the original iris & daffodil bulbs –to get our garden started!** We’ll work on the garden & retaining wall when the weather cools down.

**Also, a big THANK YOU to Elden Bruha & Bob DuMars for all the Weed Whacking work they have done on our church property! Slow down, weeds!**

**WELCOME HOME to all our travelers & out of towners & to ALL who enter the doors of Mountain Lutheran Church!**

*With Faith & Hope, Love & Appreciation –  
 Pastor Ginger DuMars*

**President’s Message:**

**Experiencing God’s Blessings**

As many of you know, our daughter Aimee recently had a benign tumor successfully removed from her brain and then experienced a painful staph infection. While these situations are never fun, they provide the opportunity to appreciate the many blessings God has given us. Such as access to top notch neurosurgeons who removed the tumor and later promptly treated the staph infection; Aimee’s friends and work associates who provided excellent food for us and visited Aimee making her feel part of a very caring community; and all the prayers from Mountain Lutheran Church and many other churches in many places attended by friends and family. We will always be thankful for these blessings.

God’s blessings,  
 Stan Bruederle

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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