

Mountain Lutheran Church

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Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

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From Pastor Ralph

A PLACE FOR FORGIVEN SINNERS

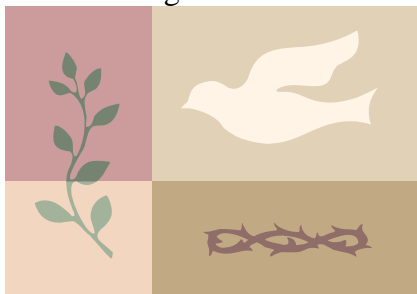
A number of years ago when I was pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Modesto I was talking to a young man and invited him to attend our worship services. For now I'll say his name was Joel.

"You won't catch me in any church," Joel said to me. "That's just a place for hypocrites to go and feel good about themselves. They're no better than I am."

His comments made me smile. My reply to Joel was "The last time I looked and listened, the people in church were aware of their humanity. I think you have the wrong idea about the people here."

I reflected on the crowd I faced from the altar most Sunday mornings. There was a mix of young and old, rich and poor, married and single. Many were facing challenges in life. Some were currently enjoying happiness after struggles.

I could think of no one who would claim or pretend to be perfect! And most, I thought, realized that God could see into their hearts, and that God alone judges them. They trusted that God sees through the externals and deals with them graciously. How I wish that Joel could have been convinced that the church is a place for forgiven sinners!



5th Sunday Gospel Sing & Anniversary BBQ



July 29th we will be hosting the community of churches 5th Sunday Gospel Sing. This is an exciting time for us to share our new church, and also celebrate a year of God's blessings in our new location! The singing begins at 6 PM and the BBQ will be at 7PM. Look for Salad, Side-dish and Dessert sign-up posters soon. We'll need lots of help with setting up the tables outside and getting the food to church and set up. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends for a "choose your favorite hymns to sing" event and an informal BBQ.

Church Council Members:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| President | Dick Parker |
| Vice President | Harold Basey |
| Secretary | Audrey Fiance |
| Treasurer | Elden Bruha |
| Financial Secretary | Bob Smith |
| Member at Large | Tom Sweeney |

Our Volunteer chairpersons for this year are:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lay Assistants | Tom Carman |
| Altar Guild | Delores Van Brocklin |
| Publicity | Dorothy Parker Ginger DuMars |
| Flea Market | Shirley Carman |
| Prayer Chain | Judy Basey |
| Newsletter Editor | Mary Bruederle |
| Refreshments | Judy Basey |
| Music & Worship | Tom Carman |

Pastor Ginger's

July & August News

Psalm 105 reminds us to sing praises to God & call on his name often!

“O give thanks to the Lord, call on his, name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!” (verses 1-4)

Sunday Celebrations

What wonderful celebrations of God's Word & Spirit we have experienced at Mountain Lutheran recently!

Pentecost Sunday (May 27 this year) is always a joyful celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit – given to all Christians! What beautiful new Pentecost banners adorn our Altar area – thanks to Judy Basey, Mary & Stan Bruederle, Mary Bruha & Jean Cox. Thank you, Dorothy Parker & Judy Basey, for making new flower arrangements for May & most of June! The season of Pentecost lasts approximately 5 months & accentuates a time of Spiritual Growth for Christians.

The Rite of Confirmation (also known as Affirmation of Baptism) is always a highlight for the church, and we

celebrated Confirmation Sunday with gusto on **June 24! Congratulations to Bethany Wilkinson, Hillary & Kristen McAdams!** They did a very nice job assisting with Worship that day, reading the Scripture Lessons & their own Belief Statements & offering special guitar music! You 3 are an inspiration for all of us! Of course, there were Special Prayers & Scriptures, cards & certificates, banners & crosses given to & for these 3 special young ladies as they affirmed the promises of their baptisms & received full adult membership in our congregation. This joyful celebration was the culmination of a 2 year program studying The 10 Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, The Means of Grace (Holy Baptism & Holy Communion & The Keys to God's Kingdom) & The Apostles' Creed along with Bible Studies & what all these parts of the Catechism mean to them & to me & how Martin Luther explained their meanings. We have had very enlightening & deep discussions sharing & expanding our thoughts on these & other theological subjects. Thank you, Banner Makers – Judy Basey, Mary Bruederle & Jean Cox - for making special blue banners with beautiful white doves on them, individualized with their names for these 3 confirmands. Thanks to the Confirmands' families for the

beautiful new June 24 – July Flower Arrangements especially to Bethany & Christina Wilkinson for making them. Thanks to Shirley Carman & Sherri McAdams for hosting the Confirmation Reception & to Judi Wilkinson for assisting them. **Congratulations to the Confirmands for their excellent school work also.** Bethany enters High School at Summerville's Art Academy as a 9th grader (Freshman) in the Fall. Hillary will be a Junior – looking forward to college in a couple years. Kristen enters 8th grade in the Fall. Hillary & Kristen attend school in Tracy. God Bless You & your school studies also!

Mountain Lutheran is hosting the **5th Sunday Gospel Sing at 6 p.m. on July 29.** Our Church Council decided that this also is a good time to celebrate our **First Anniversary** of enjoying our new church facilities. So we will host a **BBQ after the singing at 7 p.m. on July 29.** Look for Salad, Side Dish & Dessert Sign Up Posters soon. We will buy Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Buns & Condiments, drinks, paper plates etc. from Costco with Thrivent Awareness money. We'll need lots of help – especially with food & setting up extra tables & chairs outside for the BBQ. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends for a “choose your favorite hymns to sing” event & for an

informal BBQ afterwards. It's also a good time for us to thank the Groveland area community again for all their support in helping us to build our new church. Since we are not mailing out invitations this year, it's up to the congregation to invite members of the community to come & celebrate with us. I will send reminder flyers to the area churches & pastors & provide flyers to the congregation to distribute also.

Special THANK YOU's
to all our dedicated
volunteers: Worship Assistants, Altar Guild, Ushers, Refreshment Hostesses! Thank you to Elden & Mary Bruha for all your weed cutting! Thanks to Dick & Dorothy Parker for trimming & tending to our outside flower gardens along the building. We have lots of beautiful flowers blooming! Thank you, Elden, for all your extra accounting & updating of Offering & Giving Statements while our Financial Secretaries were traveling. Thanks to Audrey Fiance & Bob Smith for helping with Offering Statements & Accounting also. Thanks to Dorothy Parker for substituting as Council Secretary at our last meeting. **The next Council meeting is scheduled for Aug. 5** – after our big Anniversary BBQ on July 29 & after our mid year **Congregational Meeting on July 15.**

As requested by our Council, Tom Carman & both pastors went **keyboard shopping** together on Friday, June 29. ***We found a magnificent, new, versatile, easy to use Yamaha***



Clavinova for approximately \$4500. It produces beautiful musical sounds varying from a full & robust pipe organ to simpler & complex church organ sounds to classical grand piano to modern synthesizer sounds, as well as other instrument sounds like trumpet & trombones, violins & other strings, woodwinds, percussion, etc. It comes in a beautiful wood cabinet which closes over the keys & instrument panels. It has many amazing recording & transposing & other computerized features & is delightful to play! \$4500 or less would be a great bargain for this \$6600 instrument. New models are due to arrive in August so Mr. Barker is anxious to sell what he now has in stock. His proposal includes delivery, set up – wiring the keyboard into our sound system, a mini concert and a small group introductory lesson. We have

\$2000 approved in 2007's budget for furniture & musical instruments so we want to accept Mr. Barker's proposal soon for this Yamaha Clavinova. Let your officers or pastors or Tom know what you think about this purchase. (Dick Parker is president. Harold Basey is V.P., Audrey Fiance is Secretary, Elden Bruha is Treasurer, Bob Smith is Financial Secretary.) Donations to the Keyboard Fund will be gratefully accepted!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Landscape Project at Camp Tuolumne Trails. We planted 100 little plants on a hill side – mostly yellow flowering St. John's Wart – and a beautiful, tall flowering pear tree. We did a lot of



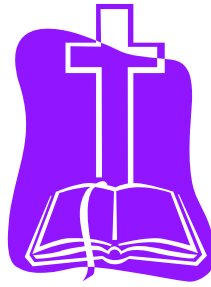
construction clean up & installed weed block screening & spread lots of planting soil. Afterwards we enjoyed a pizza party at church. Thanks to Judy & Harold Basey for ordering & organizing the plants & to Bob DuMars and Tom Sweeney for donating & installing the watering system. We appreciate the 17

– 18 people who worked & sweated and/ or donated plants and other items. We'll set another date soon to set up wine barrels cut in half & plant them with colorful flowers around the Girls Bunk House. That should be a lot easier! This Landscaping is our **Join Hands Project**, sponsored & financed by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Join Hands projects bring Youth & Adults together for the benefit of the community. Thrivent also contributed \$500 to Wilkinson's Art Quotient Program as matching funds from some of their Tee Shirt Sales at Groveland's Car Show in June. We like to work together for our community! **We do need more Thrivent members in order to qualify for future projects.** If you're interested in being a member, please ask the Bruhas or Jean Cox or either pastor or Mary Bruederle for information or a simple application form.

The next Women's Bible Studies are Thursdays, July 19 & Aug. 2 at 1:00. We'll clean the church on July 19, starting at 10:30 & break for lunch at Noonish. Bring your own lunch & come & share the work & fun & fellowship!

Come & Worship often – giving thanks & singing praises to God! Invite your friends & family & even strangers. Warmly welcome everyone!

With Faith & Hope & Love - Pastor Ginger DuMars



Obituaries

Many of you remember Dick and Evie Kranz. They were active members of Mountain Lutheran until they moved to Rio Vista a few years ago. We are saddened to report that Dick died Sunday, June 24th. In the event that you wish to send a sympathy card, Evie's address is 339 Cedar Ridge Dr., Rio Vista, CA 94571-2101.

Another member who has passed away is Jim Kerrigan, on May 23. He and his wife Betty have been members for many years and recently moved to Big Oak Flat. Betty has since moved to Mill Valley: Betty Kerrigan 40 Camino Alto #11306 Mill Valley, CA 94941

PH: 415-383-1473

Moving on

Ron & Melanie Dimoree
205 N. Navarro Way
Santa Maria, CA 93454

LIFE LINE SCREENING
Protect your health. Protect your life.

Life Line Screening will be in Groveland at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Wednesday, July 18th. A complete wellness package consisting of four screenings (stroke/carotid artery screening, abdominal aortic Aneurysm screening, peripheral arterial disease screening, and osteoporosis screening) will be offered. The total cost is \$129. This test can stop a stroke, aneurysm or osteoporosis in its tracks. Appointments are required. Call 1-877-792-8480. Brochures are available in our church narthex.

BOOKS

Explore the Bible, faith and Christian living with humor through a new book by cartoonist John Bush. The *Funny Shape of Faith: Devotions for the Rest of Us* combines cartoons based on biblical texts with reflections and prayers for any day of the year. Included are 158 devotions, each funny and faithful in their own particular way, and arranged in sixteen categories, such as: "The Problem with God's Love (Is That It's Also for People You Might Not Like So Much)" and "I Am the Lord Your God, So Listen Up!" This is the perfect "devotional" for those of us who don't always do devotions - in other words, the rest of us.

[1. The Funny Shape of Faith](#) is available from Augsburg Fortress.



FLEA MARKET

PML Flea Market in May, where the proceeds were matched by Thrivent Financial. The total that we made was \$1300, with the same amount matched by Thrivent.

FLEA MARKET

CONFIRMATION

June 24th Hillary and Kristen McAdams, and Bethany Wilkinson were confirmed, after completing a 2 year course on the catechism. The three girls are shown with Pr. Ralph and Pr. Ginger. (Picture by David Wilkinson)



JOIN HANDS

Another Thrivent project in which youth and adults perform a community service project. Our youth chose to plant landscaping plants and a tree at Camp Tuolumne Trails. (See Pr. Ginger's article.)(Picture by V. Gustafson)

