

Mountain Lutheran Church

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Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

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From Pastor Ralph

Keep the Faith

The sages of Israel were wise enough to know that when it comes to faith you “use it or lose it.” So they cautioned their people to talk about faith, teach it to their children, and write it on their doors and gates.

Our faith is not something that we learn, pass a test on, and then go on to other things as if we had accomplished something and were finished with it.

Martin Luther echoed this thought when he counseled us to repent daily. We are either growing in our faith or we are losing it. Daily repentance reminds us that while we are God’s people, we always are being tempted by the empty promises of this world and by our own pride.

We repent as we join in the Confession at our services, and we keep the Word before us as we unite with others to praise God and hear God’s Word preached and taught.

These are the ways that we keep the faith before us, loving the Lord with all our hearts and souls and with all our might.



Church Council Members:

President	Tom Sweeney
Vice President	Stan Bruederle
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Audrey Fiance
Members at Large	David Wilkinson 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
Prayer Chain	Judy Basey
Newsletter Editor	Mary Bruederle
Refreshments	Judy Basey
Flea Market	Shirley Carman
Music & Worship	Tom Carman
Property Manager	Bob Wilkinson

Pastor Ginger's May News

April 25-27 was our Northern CA. & NV. (E.L.C.A.) Lutheran Gathering at the Oakland Convention Center, in which Audrey Fiance & I participated. Representatives & Voting Members from 214 congregations met for Worship, Business Meetings & Elections, Fellowship, Education & Inspiration & a time to become more bonded as Children of God & Workers in God's Kingdom. This year's Synod Assembly encompassed & encouraged the **THEME: GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS!**



One of the most exciting & impacting events was the Election for a 6 year term of a new Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop. This took six Ecclesiastical ballots at six different times. On the first ballot voting members wrote the name of any pastor who is included on the E.L.C.A. Roster that they wanted to be Bishop. There were 37 pastors named or nominated on that 1st ballot. By the 6th Ballot – there were 3 excellent candidates! The top 5 (after the 4th or 5th ballot) gave short presentations & answered questions for each District in

rooms of approximately 100 people.



Pastor Mark Holmerud (pictured with his wife) of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Davis was elected on the 6th Ballot. His former church is Zion Lutheran in Stockton. I believe that he will be an excellent Bishop, since both of these congregations have exuberant & growing ministries & Mark is a very effective & efficient administrator, communicator, spiritual leader, & a very caring person! **His installation will be Sat., July 12** at St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Sacramento **with Rev. Mark Hanson, Bishop of the E.L.C.A., presiding.** Everyone is invited to attend.

Other elections included a new **Synod Secretary, Pat Cash** from Novato, for a 4 year term. Pat has had some good leadership experience as President of our Synod's Women's Organization & in many areas of church & synod responsibilities. Our own Conference Dean, **Pastor Mary Sanders** of Galt, was elected Voting Member for the E.L.C.A. Churchwide (nationwide) Assembly in Aug. '09 – along with 2 Lay

Leaders from our District E – one male & one female. We also elected a new Voting Member (Lay Male) from our District E to serve on Synod Council. All major representations are based on each District having 2 Lay Leaders – one male & one female & 1 Rostered Clergy who can be either male or female. Voting Members also elected participants to Synod's 3 Discipling Teams.

Resolutions presented, discussed, some amended, approved: 1. Pursuing possibilities & ways to Evaluate Congregations every few years; 2. Training 50% or more Pastors to be Mission Developers; 3. Respecting & Helping Immigrants & Refugees – especially in areas of justice & legal issues, citizenship & education & local services; 4. More detailed accounting & reporting of 2nd Mile & Designated Giving & Reconsideration of Synod's Mission Priorities – especially regarding so many New Mission Congregations at the expense of other ministries. **A \$2.7 million Synod Budget/ Mission Plan was also adopted for 2009.**

The best highlights of Synod Assembly for me are Worship (Fri. Eve., Sat. & Sun. Mornings), Inspiring Speakers, Fellowship & Reconnecting with Friends & Colleagues, Reports from the Nationwide E.L.C.A. & Global Missions, Area

Ministries & Synod Youth – all of which we support with our Synod Benevolence!
YES, I brought back new ideas for Stewardship, Education, Communication Building, etc. ***THANK YOU for sending & sponsoring Audrey & me to participate in this year's Synod Assembly. Thank you, Audrey, for all your time, attention & energy spent for downloading all the printed materials (a whole binder full) that we needed.***

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Thank you, Virginia Rayment, for a most informative learning experience with our Winter (Jan. – May 1) Bible Study! Virginia has great wisdom, knowledge & teaching skills. Thank you, Virginia, for sharing your giftedness & leadership with us in so many ways!



What's next for our Thurs. Afternoon Bible Studies? We'll meet at 1:00 on May 15 & discuss what we want to study next. Bring your books and/ or a sample lesson to share & then we'll decide. I have a few ideas & books too & a sample lesson . Please bring your ideas too! We will continue meeting on the FIRST & THIRD THURSDAYS at 1:00 for BIBLE STUDY.

The Ladies who have been cleaning the church are requesting that we **hire a cleaning service.** It's usually the same few ladies & we're ready for a break after almost 2 years! We'll be getting a couple estimates for monthly cleaning soon. It's a huge blessing that the church does not get very dusty – but there are still some cleaning tasks that need to be done almost weekly, some monthly, some less often. Please think & pray about how YOU can help!

The next **Groveland Area Christian Women's Breakfast is Sat., May 17, 9 – 11 a.m. at Mountain Sage**, downtown. Hawaiian Spiritual Dancers will be leading the Devotion Time. It's a No Host Breakfast – so if you want to buy something to eat there – come early.

SUMMER is just around the corner so mark you calendars for ***June 29's FIFTH SUNDAY GOSPEL SING*** at Groveland Evangelical Free Church – starting at 6:00 p.m.

Mountain Lutheran's Second Anniversary of our New Church will be celebrated on Sunday Morning, July 27 with the Dedication of our First Stained Glass Window – featuring The Lamb of God, designed by David Wilkinson.

We're hoping to have some special music that day, & we'll have lunch & fellowship after

worship. So watch for details & invite your friends for an extra special & festive day on July 27!

With Faith & Hope, Love & Appreciation – Pastor Ginger

FROM THE COUNCIL

Greetings,

This is my first “official” contribution to the newsletter as your council president (my arm is nearly healed). Seriously, it is a blessing and privilege to be able to serve our Lord in new ways. We have similar opportunities in our community and it is good to be part of a congregation that gives back as a group and as individuals.

As I mentioned in church on Sunday, keep our building fund in your prayers and offerings as we look ahead to paving our parking lot. This is in the early discussion phase but we definitely want to move forward with this project. It will be especially nice during those wet winter months.

We have some fun events coming near term with the Flea Market on June 7th, and the second anniversary celebration of our new building later in July. Our stained glass window will be dedicated at that time as well. Our next congregational

meeting is planned for July 13th to give us a chance to touch base. If anyone has any ideas for fellowship opportunities, bring them up. We have a great group and it would be fun to have more chances to get together, and invite friends and family, and share God's blessings.

Yours in Christ,

Tom

SHIRLEY'S NOTES

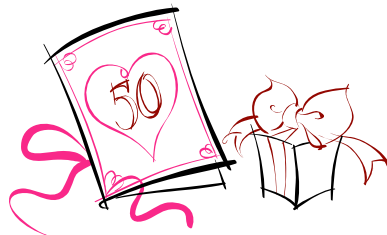
We will be having a Flea Market, lunch, and bake sale at the church on Saturday, June 7, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will be setting up on Thursday, June 5, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., so if you can help please come and lend a hand. We all have items that we have wanted to get rid of, so get them out and bring them to church any Sunday or call Shirley 962-5647 to have them picked up. We will be receiving matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Food Drive

I want to thank everyone who brought food for the EV Free and Baptist church food banks. They were very thankful for all the food to help the people in the area that are in need. God Bless!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audrey Fiance wanted to make everyone aware of this program on PBS. There is a very worthwhile TV show on NOVA on Channel 6 on Tuesday, May 13 at 8:00 p.m. It is "A Walk to Beautiful," the story of three young women in Ethiopia suffering from devastating childbirth injuries (very common in their culture). They are rejected by their husbands and ostracized by their communities, leaving them to live in loneliness and shame. The trials they endure and their attempts to rebuild their lives tell a universal story of hope, courage and transformation.



Gene and Audrey Fiance invite you to join them in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house at 19535 Pleasant View Drive, Groveland, on Sunday, May 25th from 2 to 5. It is a casual gathering of friends to chat. No gifts, please.

CORRECTION

Last month, the poem submitted by Dorothy Parker entitled "Inside" was written by her granddaughter Natalie Hallberg when she was only 13 years old. Here it is again!

INSIDE

Outside was dark,
Inside was filled with the light
Of his presence.
Tears of joy were streaming
Down their faces
The light was now found.
The joy and laughter filled me
He was there going through
A new sensation went from
my head to my toes
A warm shiver of comfort.
For those in the dark
It is your loss
Until you believe
The reason he died
With your heart
You will be empty
No meaning to life
The rest of the days
Of this life on earth



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Label Here

