

Mountain Lutheran Church

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Volume 10, Issue 6

November 2008

Walk with *Jesus*

From Your Pastors

Dear Members and Friends of Mountain Lutheran Church,

Each of us is on a walk with Jesus! Every day we have the opportunity to learn from Jesus on that walk, just as his first disciples did. As we disciples walk with Jesus, Jesus wants us drawn closer to him. Jesus wants our walk always to be drawing us deeper into our relationship with him!

It is because of this that Jesus talked so much about money as he walked with his first disciples. Jesus recognizes that the lure and emphasis of money can erect a barrier between him and his children. He says so quite clearly in Matthew 6:24 when he says, "You cannot serve God and wealth."

Perhaps the best example of this truth in all of scripture is the story of Jesus and the rich ruler in Luke 18. Jesus asks the ruler to sell his possessions, give the proceeds to the poor and follow him. The rich ruler is unable to do this. His loyalty to his possessions is so strong that he cannot follow Jesus.

Jesus wants you to be a generous giver of your time, talents and financial gifts. He wants this not because our church needs your money as much as Jesus knows that you need

to give for your faith to grow. You need to generously give yourself and your possessions away in order that you might follow your Lord. Clinging to possessions blocks your relationship with Jesus, just as it did for the rich ruler. Giving generously to Jesus opens the way for a new and deeper level of walking with Jesus.

In Worship next Sunday, Nov. 16, you will have the opportunity to complete your Estimate of Giving Card indicating your plan for contributing to the ministries of Mountain Lutheran Church for the coming year. Please make your generous giving a part of your Walk with Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ralph B. Herman

Pastor Ginger DuMars

Church Council Members:

President	Tom Sweeney
Vice President	Stan Bruederle
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Audrey Fiance
Member at Large	David Wilkinson Dorine Smith

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

From Pastor Ralph

GIVING THANKS

For most Americans, Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27th this year) is a day to cease work and give thanks to God for the bounty of our lives. Whether the fields have yielded magnificent crops or drought has rendered them barren, farmers stop and give thanks.

Whether the table is laden with turkey and the trimmings or pizza is served up on everyday dishes, families stop and give thanks.

Whether students listen attentively and learn, or they bluff their way through classes, teachers stop and give thanks. Whether wages are up and prices are down, or the recession we're in now continues, workers give thanks.

Christians are a peculiar people. Whether things go well or not, we give thanks. Our gratitude is not dependent on our circumstances, because, like all our blessings, our thankfulness is a gift of God's grace. Even when we do not think we have anything for which to be thankful, God out of love for us gives us a sense of gratitude and helps us see that we can indeed give thanks.

Stewards Know They are Doing Their Best

Included in giving thanks is being a good steward. 1

Corinthians 10:31 says, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

A number of years ago a small college wanted to erect a dormitory. To cut costs the authorities decided to work out the plans themselves and use a few local people from a small, neighboring village to do the construction. Everything went according to plan—unfortunately. When the two-story building was just about completed, they discovered there was no staircase in the plans. Today, the building stands ... with an outdoor iron stairway to the second floor.

Stewardship means doing your best to serve God. It means doing a good job with real time, real money, and real abilities ... the college we spoke of did not do its best. Cheap work is often poor work. Shortcuts can be tall mistakes. If we Christians are cheap and neglectful in helping the poor, in financing the missions, in educating our people, then we are no wiser than the authorities in the example. We are not doing our best.

Good Stewardship also means getting people involved. In this respect, the college was right, involving the local people. Some might think that all the works of the church can be purchased like a pre-fab house—cheaply, with no effort. Happily it isn't so. Technology may

perform a lot of tasks but it won't substitute for real people doing Christ's work. St. Paul tells us that "We are what he made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:10). What a wonderful privilege we have then to work for Jesus and do our best.

Take a moment and ask yourself: How much time and money, how much interest do I give to Christ each week?"



PASTOR GINGER'S NEWS for NOV. & DEC. 2008,

We are entering Holy & Busy Seasons! For some people Thanksgiving & Advent & Christmas are the happiest & most meaningful times of the year! For others, these are sad or lonely or difficult times – maybe - especially this year! So remember to invite friends & strangers, family members & acquaintances to our many church activities! Offer them Mountain Lutheran's & your hope & love, faith & fellowship!

On Sunday, Nov. 9, we are enjoying a **Guest Preacher & Discussion Leader from**

ELCA's Churchwide Office of Evangelical Outreach & Congregational Mission.

Please welcome Pastor Harvey Blomberg with your presence & participation in worship & the meeting that follows. Immediately following worship, he will answer questions about our status as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Congregation & the steps & advantages for becoming a Full Status "Organized" Congregation. This is an informational meeting only. No voting will take place, but it's a good time to think about our future!

On Sunday, Nov. 16, we will CELEBRATE Our Walk with Jesus & God's Blessings to us with Commitment Sunday & our Giving Thanks Pot Luck Lunch here at church!

Responding with an "Estimate of Giving" card is always optional & done on a voluntary basis at the end of worship. Giving Thanks to God with Worship, Prayers & Daily Life as well as with Celebrations of God's Goodness should be a very joyful & natural response to God for ALL of God's gifts to us! So come & celebrate & bring your favorite pot luck salad or hot dish or dessert to share! God is so good to all of us! **Special THANK YOU's to our Temple Talk speakers for our Fall Stewardship Program:** Tom Sweeney, Stan Bruederle &

Elden Bruha & to Everyone who helps with our Giving Thanks Pot Luck Lunch!

***Thursdays, Nov. 6 & 20, Dec. 4 & 18 - Bible Studies on ACTS** continue on the first & third Thursdays at **1:00**.

Sunday, Nov. 23, is Christ the King Sunday, and the last Sunday of the Church Year. We'll celebrate in Worship at 10:00 with hymns of Thanksgiving & Jubilation & God's Grace. Council will meet at 11:30. Thrivent Chapter Officer Elections will be held before & after Worship. Thank you, Jean Cox, for organizing this Chapter Election!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING to everyone on Thursday, Nov. 27!

Sunday, Nov. 30 is the First Sunday in Advent. Worship at 10:00 with Setting I! *Also that day is the 5th Sunday Gospel Sing at 6:00 p.m.* & Refreshments at 7:00 at Groveland's 7th Day Adventist Church, 19585 Elder Lane.

***Thurs., Dec. 4 at 1:00 – Bible Study.**

Sat., Dec. 6, 11:00 – 2:30, is our Sierra San Joaquin Conference Assembly at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Galt. Each church will have a display (picture board or

computer video or ?) of some of their ministries. **Bishop Mark Holmerud will address the assembly & conduct the election of our Conference Dean** (or re-election of our Dean.) We'll also enjoy **worship & lunch** (provided). Let me (Pr. Ginger) know if you'd like to participate in this exciting Conference event!

Sunday, Dec. 7 – Advent Worship at 10:00. Coffee & Refreshments & Decorating the Church after Worship. Please help!



Tuesday, Dec. 9 – 11:30 - Advent & Christmas Lunch for Thrivent Chapter Officers & Congregational Coordinators, Pastors & Spouses at The Peppery in Sonora.

Advent Evening - Soup Supper at 6:00, Christmas Carol singing at 6:45, "The Nativity Story" Movie begins at 7:15, with a closing prayer or song at 9:00. Invite your friends & neighbors, strangers & acquaintances. **THANK YOU, David Wilkinson & Tom Carman** for making Movie & Music

arrangements & for advertising this special evening!

**Sunday, Dec. 14 – Advent
Worship at 10:00.
Congregational Meeting at 11:00.**

*** Thurs., Dec. 18 at 1:00 –
Bible Study**

**Sunday, Dec. 21 – 4th
Sunday in Advent -
Worship at 10:00.
Christmas Blessings to YOU
& Your Loved Ones! May
God’s Peace Reign for All!**

**Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 7:00
p.m. - Christmas Eve.
Worship with special
sermon, Christmas Carols
& Holy Communion.**



Wesofych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

(Ed. Sorry, I don’t know what that means under the picture—it was on the graphics!)

**Sunday, Dec. 28 – 10:00
a.m. – Worship– Still
Celebrating Christmas!**

More THANK YOU’s!

***Wow! What a fun &
profitable Autumn Auction &
Dessert Evening on Sept. 26!
Thank You – to everyone
who baked &brought &
bought items, and those who
announced & auctioned,
invited people & publicized,
decorated & organized
baskets, collected & counted
money! Special Thanks to
Shirley Carman for
organizing this event to
Benefit Midwest Flood
Victims! We raised \$1260
that evening, & Thrivent will
match half of that amount!***

**THANK YOU, Tom
Carman & Dorothy Parker**
for your articles &
information & pictures
provided on Mountain
Lutheran Church’s WEB
SITE & in The PML News &
in the Yosemite Highway
Herald! We also send special
event notices to Sonora’s
Union Democrat. **THANK
YOU, Mary Bruederle,** for
organizing & editing, &
publishing Mountain
Lutheran’s Newsletter!
Thanks to the picture &
article contributors, too. **You
all do a great job of keeping
us & others informed!
Thank you!**

**God Bless You ALL & Your
Families in these Holy &
Busy Seasons!
See You in Church!
With Faith, Hope & Love,.
Pastor Ginger**



**President’s Notes: Tom
Sweeney**

Greetings to my fellow
Christians of Mountain
Lutheran from Annapolis
Maryland

This past week has been a
busy one for me with trips to
San Jose, Denver and now
Annapolis. The weather here
is beautiful and so are all the
trees. The beauty of our
Lord’s work is evident across
this wonderful country of
ours. Speaking of beauty, I
had the pleasure of
previewing the photos in
David Wilkinson’s calendar
project. WOW! These will
make great gifts for Christmas
and at the same time spread
some of God’s word and help
our church. If you get a
chance, take a look at
Cafepress.com. I purchased a
couple of the “Lamb of God”
mugs a while back and they
hold a good sized cup of your
favorite hot drink.

The council had a good
discussion last meeting about
helping Jerry Rose with his
breakfast program in
Groveland. We are planning
on earmarking our Second

Mile Offerings in January to help buy food for his program. From what I hear, a lot of folks benefit from this. This is another opportunity to practice stewardship in our community.

Our own church stewardship program is now in full swing and will culminate in commitment Sunday November 9th and what promises to be a great potluck. We all need to carefully consider what the Lord has done for us and what we give of what He has given us. As I mentioned in my Temple Talk, it has been a tough year economically which makes this even harder to contemplate. I often think about the disciples who gave up everything to follow Jesus who gave his life for our salvation.

I will be on the road a good part of the time for the next 3 months but will be home for the holidays. The project I'm on is getting ready to launch the last weather satellite in a series that started back in 1960. If you're interested take a look at:
<http://goespoes.gsfc.nasa.gov/poes/index.html>

I'm looking forward to seeing you all as we celebrate the birth of our Lord at Christmas.

Tom

Shirley's Corner

Our Fall Festival was a big success and I want to thank everyone who helped. God has given us all talents and you shared them to make the festival a success. We had a wonderful time and if you weren't there you missed many wonderful desserts. The money went to the Midwest Flood Victims and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gave \$1 for every \$2 we raised. God bless you!

Shirley



Christmas Poinsettias

We used the poinsettia fundraiser last year to fill up the church with flowers. This year we hope to do the same. Call Pr. Ginger (352-7260) if you need yours picked up and delivered to the church.



Website

Thanks to Tom Carmen our wonderful website www.mountainlutheranchurch.com has great pictures of the Fall Festival. If you prefer them in the newsletter, let me know. Editor

Cell phone vs. Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Trust in the Lord and *ASAP (Always Say A Prayer).

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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