

# Mountain Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 995

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Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

Volume 9, Issue 5

**Worship Time: 10 A.M.**

September 2007



## *From Pastor Ralph* **Stewardship as the Enabling String**

In the Kent (England) hop gardens the process known as ‘stringing’, which used to be done on stilts, has been completed and the hop plants have begun their climb up the strings. They can grow six inches in a day, always winding anti-clockwise round the string. Until they are about six feet above the ground, however, they need help in their climb. Afterwards they are on their own. Now, if the farmer failed to provide the strings the hops would not die; they would still grow a bit, but nothing like six inches a day, because they would be deprived of the air and the sun and they would never reach their full potential.

The practice of stewardship in a parish is the “enabling string” which can help the members of the parish grow up in their discipleship.

Christian stewardship includes most of the graces and virtues of the Christ-like life we should lead to be disciples of Christ. It is partnership with God in the spirit of Jesus, for every Christian is a fellow worker, a steward,

who, as a “laborer together with God,” shares in God’s creative purposes. It is dedicating “all I am, all I have, all I know, and all I do” to God and His use. It is devoting time, talent, possessions and life to the doing of God’s will. It is living daily the life of love and service. This is the complete commitment of a faithful steward.

Every Christian should express his stewardship of possessions by sharing generously – by proportionate giving. God will and does spiritually bless every Christian steward who uses his talent, his time and his contributions in His service for His greater glory. Such stewardship is the enabling string which helps the members of Mountain Lutheran Church to grow up in their discipleship.

### **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
Pastors	Ralph Herman & Ginger DuMars

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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 Autumn News, 2007

According to Solomon's writing in Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season.... a time to plant & a time to harvest.... a time to break down & a time to build up, a time to weep & a time to laugh...."



### **On Sat., Sept. 1 it's TIME to PLANT flowers again at Camp Tuolumne Trails.**

We'll gather at 8:30 a.m. by the Girls' Bunk Houses at the camp (about a mile past Yosemite Vista on the left side of Ferretti Road – just before the cattle guard) & plant colorful flowers in barrel planters. We're hoping to spread wood chips around the area too. We'll have lunch together at church afterwards. We have Thrivent money & PML Garden Club money to buy the flowers, planting soil, barrels, etc. We're hoping to get the wood chips donated. And, we still have some Thrivent money to help with lunch. Bring your gardening gloves, shovels (large & small), hat, sun screen & drinking water. If you

haven't been out to the camp for a while, take a drive out there & see all the progress with buildings, swimming pool, landscaping etc. We'll have a good time on Sat., Sept. 1 – planting & sweating, giggling & seeing all the progress!

### **Then on Sept. 2 it's TIME to BEGIN SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10:00 a.m.**

That's our new Sunday starting time – as voted on at July 15's Congregational Meeting. Signs & ads & listings have been changed. So invite your friends for **10:00 Sunday Morning Worship.**



Everyone is enjoying our new Yamaha keyboard, & Elizabeth is having fun trying out different organ sounds on it too. What a wonderful mini concert we all were blessed with on Aug. 5 when Kyle Barker introduced new beautiful sounds & music on our first Sunday with the Yamaha Clavinova. Thanks to everyone who donated money for the keyboard, especially the Kranz family who gave in honor & memory of Dick. Thanks also to Charlie Mills for his lovely & inspiring guitar & vocal music on Aug. 19.

### **The next Women's Bible Study is Thursday, Sept. 6**

**at 1:00.** Come early if you want to consider buying a new cook book or a few. On the third **Thursday, Sept. 20**, we'll **clean the church at 10:30**, have **lunch together at 12 noon** (BYO Lunch) & have **Bible Study at 1:00.** *THANKS to all the ladies who clean the church!* God loves our sparkling clean look! (October Bible Studies are at 1:00 on Oct. 4 & 18.)

### **Tues., Sept. 11 is a TIME & COMMUNITY DAY of PRAYER & 9-11**

REMEMBRANCE at Groveland's Evangelical Free Church, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pictures of our community members serving in the military will be projected on a screen as we pray for them & as we pray for whatever else is on our hearts & minds.

**Sat., Sept. 15 is the '49ers Day Parade – a time to march & invite people to church.** Several Mountain Lutheran members asked if we could march in the parade – Celebrating God in the Sierras. We'll have 2 horizontal banners to carry on poles & hope to have balloons & lots of smiling faces! Please let me (Pastor Ginger) know if you can march with your church family & friends that day – meeting at Yosemite Bank at 8 a.m. We're planning to wear tee shirts in fall colors – hopefully some in yellow since the banners are yellow!

### **Sun., Sept 16 is '49er Days Community Worship at 10:00 a.m. at Mary**

**Lavaroni Park.** Since we are part of Groveland Area's Christian Community, it's important for us to take time to participate in a few Christian Community events each year. Everyone enjoyed the speaker and worship last year. (There will be NO separate worship at Mountain Lutheran that day. So come to the park & worship with your Christian neighbors!)

**On Sun., Sept 30**  
**Mountain Lutheran's Council will meet** after worship & after a brief refreshment time. (The meeting should start by 11:30.) Council Meetings are OPEN to anyone who wants to attend. That evening (9-30-07) will be the **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**Gospel sing hosted by Foothills Community Church** & held at Groveland's Community Hall. Women who want to pray for Oct. Women's Retreat are invited to come at 5:00.

**Community Singing begins at 6:00** with refreshments offered, a little after 7:00.

**Oct. 12 (Fri. dinner) – Sun. Lunch, Oct 14 is the 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Christian Women's Retreat** at Jenness Park near Cold Springs off Highway 108. Women from all the Groveland Area Christian churches participate in this inspiring & refreshing weekend. Our guest speaker this year is Jill Ludlow – a very talented musician & dynamic speaker. There will be times for Prayer & Praise & Holy Communion,

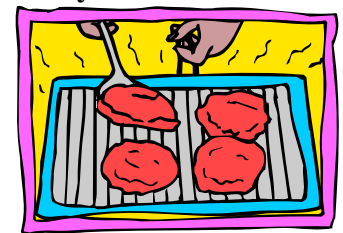
enjoying nature & a gift shop (& coffee bar); workshops available on Spiritual Gifts, 5 Languages of Apology, Arts & Crafts. The theme this year is "Come Thirsty" – based on John 4: 1-42. The food & fellowship at Jenness Park Camp are always delicious! Cost is \$125 for the week end. Registration forms with a \$40 deposit are due on Sept. 7 (or by Sept. 10 at the latest). Scholarships are available for the balance (after the \$40 reg. fee). I have flyers & registration forms if you need one. For more info, see me-- Pastor Ginger. This will be my 5<sup>th</sup> retreat with this group & 2<sup>nd</sup> time to Jenness Park. I can hardly wait!



**Sometime in Oct. or Nov. we will again Celebrate God's Gifts Given Generously to us,** with a time of focusing on Being Generous Stewards & Giving Thanks! At our Aug. 5 Council Meeting we decided to use the **Consecration Sunday Program** again this year to help us Celebrate God's Abundant Blessings. Tom Carman has agreed to Co-Chair this program with me. So look for details in Oct. about our guest preacher, dates, special lunch site, etc. We're hoping that all of our

great helpers from last year will want to help again this year!

**Special THANK YOU's are given to Charlene Cruff of CC by Design for the beautiful altar flower arrangements & vases.** She is a friend of the Basesys & Bruederles & has assisted them with delightful interior designs & décor. You might want to stop by her studio in Jamestown at 18145 Main St. to say Thank You or to browse or get ideas. (Phone # is 984-0500.) **THANKS also to Tom Carman** for arranging for Charley Mills to play & sing for us on Aug. 19. **THANK YOU to Dick & Dorothy Parker** for sponsoring most of the construction of MLC's BBQ. What a great cement mixing & pouring crew we had here on July 23 to start the BBQ Construction project. **Thanks to Bob Wilkinson & Bob DuMars, Dick Parker, Elden Bruha & Paul Basey**



Cement blocks are being installed as I write this, so soon we'll have a beautiful, permanent BBQ. Let's have a party to celebrate! And, last – but not least – **THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helped with July's 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel Sing & 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary BBQ.** 132

people were here & enjoyed the singing & BBQ. 29 members of MLC helped to host this Big Event & to welcome all our guests! Even a couple people who were out of town brought food beforehand & then helped to dispose of the garbage afterwards! We give God thanks for the abundance of enthusiasm, hospitality, good food & music, hard work & fun! Even some of our friends from Mount Calvary Lutheran in Mi-Wuk Village took the long drive to enjoy this special event! **Thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** for buying all the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates & cups, drinks, etc. – as part of our Thrivent Awareness efforts. Master BBQers & Meat Organizers, **Mark Herman & Elden Bruha, Bob Wilkinson & Bob DuMars**, cooked the meat & kept it hot & ready for all of our hungry guests! **Thanks also to MLC great cooks** for all the delicious food. What an exciting time we're having at MLC this Summer & Fall! **See you soon – in church for 10:00 Worship on Sunday Mornings!**  
*With Faith & Hope, Love & Appreciation, Pastor Ginger DuMars*

## Can Recycling

Thanks to many people the can and plastic bottle recycling is continuing. We

even have a nonmember, Dick Faux putting in lots of time collecting and redeeming the cans. Our members that work on this are Harold (and Anna) Bramhall and Tom & Shirley Carmen. Harold crushes those cans that need to be and redeems them. He has been faithful in doing this for many years. Dick put up garbage cans at several areas in PML and collects them when they are full. Harold and Dick reported that they have collected a little over \$600. **THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!!** These funds help to pay off the building loan.

## Flea Market

We had a very successful flea market in May due to the generosity of June and Doc Barto. They gave us many items that they couldn't use in their new home in Sonora.

Mountain Lutheran will be going to the Pine Mountain Lake Flea Market at the Stables on Saturday, October 6, so please mark the date on your calendar now. We will need help with set up, selling, clean up, pricing, and we may be doing a bake sale again. The proceeds from the Flea Market will go to the building fund. If you have wanted to clean out the garage, cupboards, and closets now is the time to get started. If you have any questions call Shirley at 962-5647.

## Recipes

Linda Wagner has had several requests for her diabetic recipes. She has generously offered to share them. For any sugar, substitute twice the amount of Splenda.

### Mud Pie

Crust:

1 ½ c. flour

⅓c. powdered sugar (⅔c. Splenda)

1 ½ c. chopped nuts

1 ½ stick marg. (don't use diet marg.)

Mix well, put in 9 X 13 baking dish. Bake at 325° until light brown. Cool.

Layer 1:

1 8oz. cream cheese

1 c. powdered sugar (2 c. Splenda)

1 c. Cool Whip

Mix at medium speed until creamy. Spread on cooled crust.

Layer 2:

1 pkg. small vanilla instant pudding (sugar free)

1 pkg. small choco. instant pudding (sugar free)

3 c. milk

Mix at low speed until thick, spread on the pie, frost with Cool Whip. Refrigerate.

Variation: Peach Pie

Make the crust, and layer 1.

Cook of stovetop:

16 oz. peaches (frozen or fresh)

2 Tbl. cornstarch or flour

2 cups Splenda

Cook until thickened. Cool, and then spread on prepared pie. Refrigerate.

Thanks Linda!

## Response of Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson to Vatican Statement "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church"

July 11, 2007

The Vatican's statement, "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church" ("Responses to Questions"), does not appear to change previously stated positions. It does, however, restate known positions in provocative ways that are before us in the ongoing U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic bilateral dialogue.

It is no surprise that the Roman Catholic Church asserts that in it subsists the Church of Christ; surely every Christian church body makes the same assertion, for it is only because Christ's Church survives in and lives through the community we call "Church" that we preserve and promote the apostolic faith. However troubling such exclusive claims may be, we recall the Second Vatican Council's "Decree on Ecumenism" which affirmed that the separated churches and ecclesial communities are used by the Spirit of Christ "as means of salvation" (*Unitatis redintegratio* 3.4). The statement, "Responses to Questions," does not minimize this affirmation.

As Lutherans we uphold the *Augsburg Confession*, which states that, "The Church is the assembly of saints in which the Gospel is taught and the sacraments are administered rightly" (AC VII). Therefore, although our witness is wounded by the division that exists among Christians, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes no deficiency in our self-understanding as "Church."

The anguished response of Christians around the world to the Vatican's statement, however, clearly indicates that what may have been meant to clarify has caused pain. Now is the time for our thoughtful and measured response. The question all Christian people should reflect on today is how best to exercise forbearance and love for one another. With Roman Catholics, we trust that, ". . .the Lord of Ages wisely and patiently follows out the plan of grace on our behalf, sinners that we are. In recent times more than ever before, he has been rousing divided Christians to remorse over their divisions and to a longing for unity. Everywhere large numbers have felt the impulse of this grace, and among our separated brethren also there increases from day to day the movement, fostered by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for the restoration of unity among all Christians" (*UR* 1.1).

"Responses to Questions" does not alter the commitment to ecumenism of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It will not cause us to step back from our U.S. or international relationships or promises. We remain dedicated to the ecumenical task described in "Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA," which stresses that, "Ecumenism has as its focus and goal clarity of understanding among Christians and a greater realization of unity among Christ's people. As such it is closely related to the mission of the Gospel to all the world." That singular focus and goal has led to numerous breakthroughs with the Roman Catholic Church, including the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" in 1999, which resolved a bitter 500-year dispute. We will continue to celebrate and build upon the deepening relationships fostered by that "Joint Declaration" even as we long for greater visible unity itself.

I encourage you not to pull back from your own personal commitment to ecumenism. I agree with Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, that in order for the ecumenical movement to bear the weight of change for the future, it must be rooted in an ecumenism of life. This is ecumenism at the local and personal level through joint prayer, Bible study, and service with Christians of other traditions.

Difficult and important matters of ministry and ecclesiology remain to be discussed in our ongoing U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue. Since "Baptism . . . establishes a sacramental bond of unity which links all who have been reborn by it" (*UR*, 22.2), Christian unity already exists through baptism into Christ, which serves as a continuing sign of hope that our churches will not always remain divided.

*Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen*  
- Evangelical Lutheran Worship

# FUN & GAMES

## Hidden books

*(How many books of the Bible can you find in the paragraph below? There are 15 books from the Old and New Testaments.)*

I once made some remarks about hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu - kept some people looking so hard for facts and studying for the revelation that they were in a jam. Especially since the books were not capitalized. But truth finally struck numbers of readers . To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy to spot. Others require judges to determine. We must admit it usually takes a minute to find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how simple it is. One woman says she brews tea while she puzzles her brain. Well, get to work if you want to complete it. Good luck! (\*Answers on the right.)

# Rules from God

1. Wake up!! Decide to have a good day. "Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it". Psalms 118:24
2. Dress up!! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7
3. Shut up!! Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so he must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs



13:3

## \*Hidden books—the answers:

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# Picture Page



Dick, Elden, and Bob building the new barbeque grill



Pentecostal Banners

## Fifth Sunday Gospel Sing and First Anniversary Barbeque – July 29th



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Groveland, CA 95321-0995

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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