

Mountain Lutheran Church

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Ralph B. Herman and Ginger DuMars, Pastors

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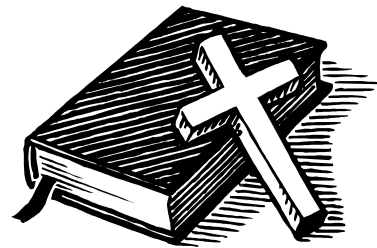
From Pastor Ralph

Reformation

As a young man, Martin Luther became a monk, and for the first years of his life in the monastery he was consumed with his own depravity. The knowledge of his own sin was so deep that it sent him into the depths of depression and self-loathing. He became convinced that nothing—including God—could be greater than his sinfulness. A wise mentor sent the young monk to study God's Word and focus on the nature and character of God. Martin Luther discovered that when he was willing to stop acting as his own judge and jury and let God be God in his life, he found hope.

One of the continuing mistakes we make in our own journeys of faith is to imagine that God is too small to overcome our sin. It happens when we forget that we are in relationship with God. In any relationship, it is important to keep learning about each other. When the psalmist in Psalm 46 tells us to 'be still and know God', it is not meant as a chastisement. Rather, it is a reminder and an invitation to focus our attention so that

we can know the freedom and grace that God gives us in Christ.



Church Council Members:

President	Tom Carman
Vice President	Jean Cox
Secretary	Mary Bruha
Treasurer	Elden Bruha
Financial Secretary	Stan Bruederle
Members at Large	Kay Smith Dorine Smith
Pastors	Ralph Herman Ginger DuMars

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 Smith



Pastor Ginger's Autumn News, 2011

Autumn is one of my favorite times of the year – as the weather cools down from hot summer days & as we celebrate a season of Thanksgiving! I think Thanksgiving should be a liturgical season covering the months of Oct. & Nov.! Thanksgiving & Stewardship go together as they emphasize & encourage us to live our Christian lives by Giving Thanks DAILEY in a variety of ways, – with our thoughts & words, good deeds & finances! Christians are to live life as Thankful & Generous Stewards (Earthly Managers) of God's Abundant Blessings given to us – YES – even in tough times & difficult situations! Thankfulness & Stewardship are central to Christian life style & expressions of gratitude! So we begin this Autumn with an emphasis on the theme, **LIVING & GIVING WITH JOYFUL & GRATEFUL HEARTS!**

God has given us numerous Scripture verses that emphasize this theme, so I'll share a few of them with you to ponder & hopefully to internalize as you continue to live & give with joyful & grateful hearts! Paul writes in

2 Cor. 9:7-8, "Each of you should give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER!** And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly (& joyfully) in every good work." Jesus discusses money often as recorded in The Bible & tells us in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." There are so many Psalms expressing thanks & praise & rejoicing to God that it is hard to choose which ones to list here. I want to give you a few of my favorites. What a blessing & pleasure to take a quick look through the whole book of Psalms & find so many uplifting ones! Here are a few excerpts. Psalm 33 begins: "REJOICE in the Lord... PRAISE the Lord... SING to God a new song!" Psalms 9 & 138 begin with "I will give thanks (I give thanks) to the Lord with my whole heart!" Ps. 75 begins with "WE give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks for your name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds." Many Psalms praise & thank God for the majesty of God's creation, for God's protection & help, for rescuing them & for answering their cries & prayers. Psalms 146 – 150 are beautiful praise Psalms along with 95-101 & many others. Hopefully, we will be

reading & chanting many of these during Sundays this Fall! As Psalm 122 tells us – "Be glad (I am glad) when we are called to the house of the Lord – to give thanks, to pray for peace & to seek good!" Finally, as Psalm 45 says – "May our hearts overflow with a goodly theme" – as we celebrate God's blessings & generosity given to us: **LIVING & GIVING WITH JOYFUL & GRATEFUL HEARTS!**



I plan to keep our Stewardship emphasis short & simple & uplifting this Fall as you all have expressed your thankfulness & generosity in many ways all year! We, as pastors, are grateful that our Jan. – June (2011) pay cut was reimbursed in July. Of course, we are hoping that our July – Dec. pay cut will be reimbursed in January. Financial Giving has improved so we should be back to our budgeted income & expected expenses. I'm hoping we will have a Pot Luck "Giving Thanks" Lunch in Nov. or early Dec. to celebrate God's Blessings & a good year at Mountain Lutheran Church!

EXCITING OCT. EVENTS

Every Sunday at 10:00 –
WORSHIP
11:00 or so – Refreshments &
Fellowship

Sun., Oct. 2, 11:30 – Council
Meeting

Tues., Oct., 4, NOON –
Conf. Clergy meet at Faith
Lutheran in Murphys

Thur., Oct. 6, NOON – ***ALL
Ladies are invited for Pizza
Lunch at MLC*** – celebrating
June - Dec. Ladies' Birthdays.
**1:00 – Bible Study on 1
Corinthians.**

Tues. Oct. 11 at 2:00 –
Tuol. Co. Chapter of
**Thrivent Financial
Meeting** at St. Matthew
Lutheran, 13880 Joshua
St., Sonora.

Wed., Oct. 12, 4 – 6 p.m. – A
**Special Literature Reading
& Book Signing with Poetry
& Short Stories from
Groveland Writers & from
our own Bill Wallace who
wrote his novel, *Ghosts of
Gordon Street*. Bill**

Manville, who has conducted
& encouraged writing groups
at the Groveland Library, will
be introduced & honored at
this event at the Groveland
Library. Robin & Bill
Wallace attend MLC when
they are staying at their PML
home.

Thur., Oct. 20, 1:00 – **Bible
Study.** (Also on Nov. 3 & 17
at 1:00)

Tues., Oct. 25, 10:15 a.m.
(til 12:30) – Area Pastors'
Meeting at MLC.

Sat. Oct., 29 – **Conferences
16 & 17** will meet at
Emanuel Luth. Church,
324College Ave. in Modesto,
starting about 9:30 a.m.-2
p.m.



Martin Luther

(Sun., Oct. 30 –
Reformation Sunday (Wear
RED for a.m. worship – if
you want)
**6:00 p.m. is the 5th Sunday
Gospel Sing at Buck
Meadows Community Chapel**
with refreshments following.

*May God Bless Your Autumn
with Beauty & Inspiration and
with Joyful & Grateful Hearts!*

***With Faith & Hope, Love &
Gratitude,
Pastor Ginger DuMars***

From Shirley:

The parking lot sale was a
wonderful success thanks to
so many people working on
this fundraiser. The total that
we raised for Special
Olympics was approximately
\$3,244, which includes the
parking lot sale, selling the
Nike clothing at the PML Flea
Market, members selling to
their friends, and some
matching funds from Thrivent

Financial for Lutherans. The
Montana and the Tuolumne
County Special Olympics
received \$1644 each. Special
Olympics and wasn't the only
organization who benefited
from our parking lot sale. We
also gave items left over from
the parking lot sale to Helping
Hands Thrift Store, (who
gives their profits back to our
Groveland community), and
Goodwill Industries, Good
Stuff Thrift Store in Sonora,
which benefits
developmentally disabled
adults, and books were given
to Groveland Library for their
Saturday book sales. Thanks
to Leslie Moyar who gave the
new Nike clothing to
Mountain Lutheran Church to
sell. We Praise the Lord for
giving our members so many
talents.

We want to thank Lisa Miller
for bringing all her medals
that she won at Special
Olympic events, so people
who were shopping at the
sales would have an idea how
their money benefits Special
Olympics.

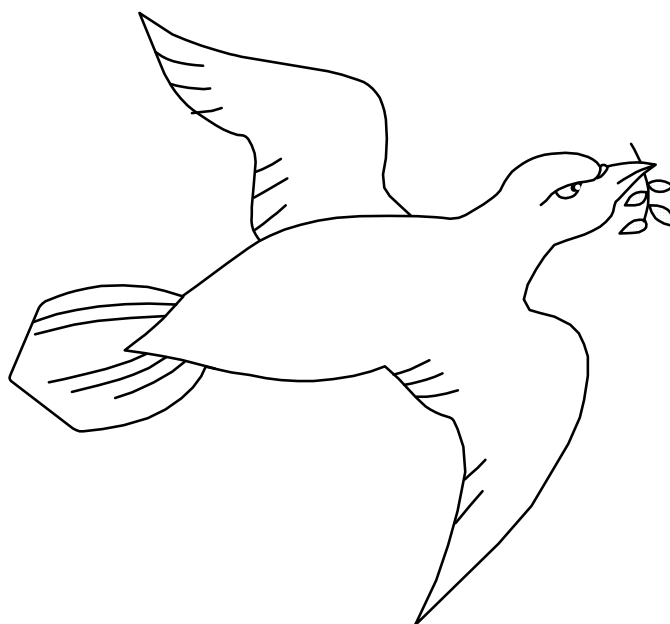
We still have more new Nike
clothing, and I will be glad to
show it to anyone who would
like to buy some. Call me
(x5647) and I will open the
store room.

Thanks,

Shirley

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUEST





This is Lesley Moyar going 'Over the Edge' as a fund raiser for Special Olympics in Montana, in August. She did this on the highest building in Billings, Montana.