

# ***The Marin Lutheran Bridge***



***A Reconciling in Christ Congregation***

***January 2010***

*"God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? God is the stronghold of my life; of whom should I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)*

Every morning, I step out of our back gate into the schoolyard, and as our dog Bernie races out into the new morning air, I always feel like everything is starting out fresh! I begin praying right away – going over my day with God, asking God to bless my family and any members of Marin Lutheran Church who are in special need. Then I feel ready to begin my day – knowing who it is that is my light.

I feel that same sense of possibility and expectation in the new year. As we begin 2010, in the church we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord – January 3rd. (It's actually on January 6<sup>th</sup>, but it's a moveable feast day.) Epiphany means *manifestation*. On this day we celebrate the many ways God makes Christ known to the Gentiles – that means *everybody – including us!* Traditionally, the church has celebrated three major ways God shows us who Jesus is for us:

- 1) The magi's adoration of the Christ child (Matthew 2:1-12)
- 2) His baptism in the Jordan River (Luke 3:15-1, 21-22)
- 3) His first miracle in which he changes water into wine (John 2:1-11)

*(You could read those Gospel readings in preparation for the first three Sundays in January.)*

Of course, we believe that God is constantly gracing us with more epiphanies along our journey. Hearing the Word of God in worship, reading it alone, receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, sharing the peace with a sister or brother in Christ – these are all epiphanies as well. And when we have Christ revealed to us – then we are filled with joy to go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our world.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Every day, every day, I let my little light shine.  
On Monday, Gave me a gift.  
On Tuesday, He's come from up above.  
On Wednesday, told me to have more faith.  
On Thursday, gave me a little more grace.  
On Friday, told me to watch and pray.

On Saturday, told me just what to say.  
On Sunday, gave me a power divine.  
To let my little light shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Every day, every day, I'm gonna let my little light shine.

May you be graced with holy epiphanies in this New Year & filled with joy as you let the light of Christ shine through you!

In Christ's Love & Light,

*Pastor Kathryn*

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## **With Appreciation**

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Thank You 

The Bedilion Family would like to thank all the folks at MLC for their loving and steady support extended to Thelma Stai during her last couple of difficult years and again to our family following her death. These countless kindnesses were demonstrated in so many ways and are deeply appreciated. Your signs of care and concern have truly helped us during a sorrowful time.

With gratitude,  
*Cathy, Jim, Courtney, Taylor & Robin*



To all the saints at MLC,

Our hearts are filled with such gratitude for your love and support for our family. Your Christmas gift to us this year was beyond generous. We continue to consider it a holy privilege that God has called us to serve you.

May God's blessings of love, joy, peace and much laughter fill your homes in this upcoming year.

In Christ's Love,  
*Pastors Thomas & Kathryn*

Dear Marin Lutheran Congregation:

What a generous and thoughtful family you are to me! I truly appreciate your kindness and support; thank you so much for your wonderful gift.

Love, *David*



Congregation members and friends,

Thank you for your generous gift. I feel blessed to be a part of the worship and I am grateful for the love and support of the congregation.

*Marilyn*



I wish to extend our deep appreciation to the MLCC parents, Marin Lutheran congregation members and board members for your Christmas gifts to the children's center staff and me. We appreciate your support. It is our pleasure to care for the dear children that are enrolled in the program.

On behalf of the MLCC staff,  
*Zenaida Alberto, Director*

# kids *of the* kingdom

Welcome back! Thanks again to all of the children and their families who participated in our annual Christmas Pageant. This year's production, "On Our Way to Bethlehem" was as adorable as ever, complete with errant sheep :) Sincere thanks to all of the MLC angels who make it all happen - Barbara, Jane and crew for the wonderful dinner; Rod and crew for stage assembly; Rob for set building; John on sound; Jim and the musical ensemble; Bev for the program and many other details; and our wonderfully supportive pastors.

We resume our regular Sunday School classes on January 10th with a new Spark! rotational unit, "Doubting Thomas" and look forward to seeing all of our pre-K through 5th graders ready to dive back in to the Bible through art, cooking, games, music and more.

Opportunities are available for Sunday School teachers! Please let me know if you're able and interested!

*Michele Jacobs*



## Classes in January

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## Adult Education on Sunday Mornings

10:15 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

### New Member Class

January 10<sup>th</sup> through February 7<sup>th</sup>

Beginning Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> we will have a new member class for those interested in becoming members of Marin Lutheran Church. Long-time members are also invited to come and get to know those who are new to our community. The first two classes we will spend time getting to know one another. The next one and a half classes we will learn a bit about Lutheranism. Closing out our series we will learn more specifically about the mission and ministry of Marin Lutheran Church.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>  
12:30pm

Begins with a light lunch

Business items:  
Organization, Board & Pastor reports from 2009

Presentation of 2009 budget  
Approval of budget for 2010

## Redefine Stewardship: Give Early, Give Often

Many of us have probably been thinking a lot about “giving” over the past few weeks – mostly about giving Christmas gifts, what we are going to give to important people in our lives, or about what gifts we would like ourselves. Maybe we’ve also done some thinking about charitable giving, as we receive pleas from many charitable organizations (including Marin Lutheran Church). As the year draws to a close we think about additional charitable deductions to reduce our 2009 taxes.

I heard an ad, several weeks ago, suggesting that we “Redefine Christmas” ([www.Redefine-Christmas.org](http://www.Redefine-Christmas.org)). My first thought was, “Why on earth would we need to redefine Christmas?” But their suggestion – plea – was to dial back the materialism of Christmas just a bit: “as we consider our individual place in this world, we can be of help to others with a simple gesture that bestows the gift of charity on those who are in need.” Instead of buying lots of *things*, give a donation; make a donation to your loved ones’ favorite charities in their name, and request they do the same for you. What a concept! I’m sure many of you already have been doing this, without needing to “redefine Christmas.” (We’ve given “gifts” from (to) ELCA World Hunger, in our family.) But the word, “redefine,” in the context of Christmas giving made me think of stewardship and our stewardship board. Several times in recent years, I’ve heard pastors, Stewardship board chairs, and church members, either ask for or offer their definition of the word “stewardship.” Not surprisingly, there are quite a few different definitions and understandings of the word in the context of church stewardship.

Having served on many stewardship committees, for many years, I’d like to offer up one more “redefinition” of stewardship, in the spirit of the aforementioned Redefine Christmas movement.

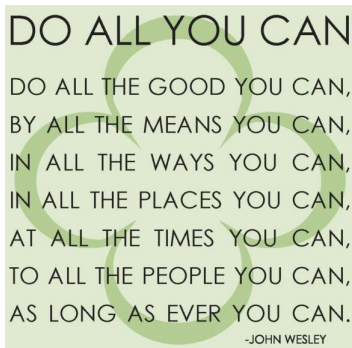
### It’s about **giving**.

ALL about giving (or let’s make it so). The dictionary definition of stewardship mentions “taking care” of something – to preserve, watch over, and make sure it is used properly, effectively. I suggest this is not all that helpful and risks taking us down the wrong path with respect to monetary stewardship. When people focus on the “taking care” part of the definition of stewardship, they are apt to think it is **money** they are supposed to “take care” of. Almost inevitably, that gets in the way of the *giving* side of stewardship. We already have a hard enough time giving up *our hard-earned* money, truly believing that everything is a gift from God from which we should willingly and gladly give back the “*first fruits*.” The last thing we need is more encouragement to “take good care” of our money.

Watching the purse strings closely comes naturally to us. As we strive to become better stewards in the biblical sense, the thing we need an extra push to do is to give: give freely, happily, generously, of ourselves and everything we have; especially our money.

Since this isn’t always easy for us, we (the Stewardship Board) try to make it a little easier with many different ways to give to Marin Lutheran Church (the IRS adds some additional incentives as well). Following are the top ten:

1. Cash
2. Check, (with or without weekly envelopes)
3. "Simply Giving" – Thrivent-sponsored automatic electronic funds transfer
4. Credit Card (Visa, MC - contact church office)
5. Online at [www.marinlutheran.com](http://www.marinlutheran.com) (initially, just at year-end 2009, but watch for it to re-appear early in the new year.)
6. Gifts of stocks, securities (or just about anything else)
7. Wills, Bequests, Endowments, Memorials
8. Life Income Gifts (charitable gift annuities, deferred charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, administered through the ELCA Foundation)
9. United Way: Some corporations with an annual United Way drive allow donations to be directed to *any* 501c-3 organization, *including* your church.
10. Company Match: many corporations provide some matching of employee charitable donations - usually not to a church, however donations to one of our ministries such as Marin Lutheran Children's Center will be matched by some corporations.



Your giving to Marin Lutheran is important to keep our ministry and community alive. It supports a variety of projects and ministries of our Synod and national church, as well as a wide range of local projects and organizations through our Social Concerns committee. Finally, in addition to what you give directly to MLC, you have additional opportunities to give to our 2<sup>nd</sup> mile giving partners each month, and to ELCA World Hunger, part of Lutheran World Relief, one of the most respected and efficient global relief and development organizations in the world.

Let us redefine stewardship and give, early, often and generously!

*Jim Kamphoefner*



## Volunteer Thank You!

Things that disappear from church: some come back, some don't . . .

On two different occasions recently a bench from the upper patio area, right outside the front door disappeared. On both occasions, a few days later, they were returned, repaired and repainted!

Piles of cuttings and branches accumulate on the east side parking lot as we try to keep up with the pruning that needs to be done around the church. Mysteriously this pile disappears and does not return (until the next time large scale pruning is done).

We have two men to thank for this: **Scott Kimsey**, a new comer to MLC, has done the work on the benches, and long time member, **Jon Rolien** comes as soon as he is notified that yard waste is present, loads up his trailer and hauls it to the dump. **Thank you, Jon & Scott** for volunteering your time and taking care of these jobs so efficiently.

## Worship in January 2010

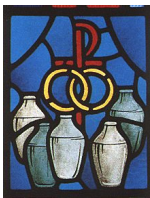
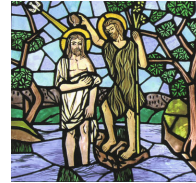
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At 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.



The first Sunday in the new calendar year, (1/3), begins with the arrival of the magi from the east. They make their way to Bethlehem bringing their gifts to the new-born king. This Sunday also begins the season of Epiphany, which means "manifestation." Over the course of the Sundays of Epiphany we will hear stories that manifest the identity of Jesus.

On Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> we hear the story of Jesus' baptism and with it the heavens open and a voice declares Jesus to be beloved of God.



The third Sunday in January, (1/17), the gospel reading takes place at a wedding feast in Cana. In this story from the Gospel of John Jesus is encouraged by his mother to do something about the lack of wine. He ends up changing ordinary water into great wine.

On the final two Sundays of January, (1/24 & 31), Jesus goes back to his hometown of Nazareth. In the temple he reads from the prophet Isaiah declaring his mission to be about bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind. After Jesus sat down the people were amazed at who this person had become. Quickly however, they turn against him driving him to the edge of town and threatening to push him over.

### CHURCH PROPERTIES

The painting of the north and west sides of the sanctuary building is now complete. It was not as easy as I had hoped. Paint degradation was greater than anticipated, we had the problem of properly handling old lead-base paint that had to be scraped and sanded, and, of course, there was the weather. We now have an excellent job, and our deep thanks must go to Kerry Hansen who put much more into the project than the cost would indicate. Next year, when we have a new budget to work with, the remaining portion of the sanctuary building should be done. Kerry discovered two areas of dry rot in the siding of the narthex. This was a complete

surprise, since the narthex is only about eleven years old. In any event, Rod Seeger has agreed to do the necessary repair.

I also reported that we have begun to address the problem of that unpleasant odor which we intermittently experience between the two buildings. It is undoubtedly coming, somehow, from the sewer system. We don't know the "why" and don't know the exact "where". Alan Wulzen, who is taking on the project, has conferred with Corte Madera Public Works and with Roto Rooter. Some tests and a TV examination of our line may occur soon. Stay tuned!

I have intermittently reported to you about our gardening. At the beginning of the year I had cancelled our gardener service, and Lorraine Loo managed the effort with our volunteers. As the year progressed, there were fewer and fewer volunteers. We have now reached the point where, in spite of her efforts, we must again employ some professional services in order to keep up with weeding, pruning, etc. Those plants just won't stop growing! It's part of the new church properties budget, and, if it is approved, will cost \$100.00 per month at \$25.00 per hour.

Last Sunday Sandy Seeger discovered that the stone steps to the narthex can be slippery when wet. As I write this, there is a rope across those steps, so the only access right now is the ramp. I have procured the material for what I believe will be good "fix", but we need some dry weather and an acceptable temperature to do the fix. When those two conditions occur, it will only take about one hour for the repair.

This is my last report to you as your properties director. Of our eight wonderful years as members of MLC, I have been director six of those years. I can't say that it has been fun, and it hasn't been exciting. But, believe me, it has been rewarding. It has been so, because of the service I was privileged to offer to the congregation and because of the close relationships which have developed with the many, many helpers. That help is a very strong form of stewardship and it has always been greatly appreciated. Thank you - all. And we must be especially appreciative to Margot who has been very patient with me regarding my time spent on this job.



## Marin Lutheran Church Women

### **Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.**

All MLC women are invited and encouraged to attend our combined *General business meeting and Bible study* led by Pastor Kathryn, followed by light lunch prepared and served by your Board. After lunch we will take down the Christmas wreaths and Chrismons.

**Sunday January the 10<sup>th</sup>** the women will hold a mini fundraiser. The fundraiser benefits the kitchen refurbishing project. To date we have raised \$200-\$250 plus or minus a bit each month with these mini sales. Thank you to everyone who has helped by contributing or purchasing items.

### **Kitchen Committee Meeting – Jan. 10th**

Plan to attend an organizational meeting with the kitchen committee. The committee consists of Janet, Jane, Dawn, Sandy, Margot, and Lorraine. If you have interest in joining this group please call Janet or Jane.

### **Thursday Jan. 21 Serve and Share**

Please join us in the conference room at church from 10:00am-12NOON, as we plan our next outreach and social concerns project.

### **Kudos to MLCW and others!**

Four boxes were sent and received in Van Nuys, CA for *Operation Gratitude*. They contained 25 scarves as well as lots of Halloween candy, beef jerky, individual snacks, cereals, nuts, etc., toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorant, chap-stick and small stuffed animals. A good assortment of items.

As Bev was mailing the boxes, a man who helped her carry them recognized *Operation Gratitude* immediately. He asked her if she knew someone "serving over there." When she said no, it was our church group doing it he replied that was a wonderful thing. Thank you all for your participation.

For questions or more information about women's activities please call Jane McKenzie.

# Youth Events

## Senior High Youth Mission Trip

January 2-3

**Saturday:** Meet at MLC at 8:00 p.m.

We'll spend the night here at church

**Sunday:**

Great breakfast here at MLC

9:00 a.m. - Worship at Glide Memorial

11:30 a.m. - Serve lunch at Glide for the hungry poor

Speak to Pastor Kathryn if interested!

## Jesus, Justice and World Hunger

### Benefit Concert

January 29-30

**Featuring:** "Lost & Found" & "Agape"

(2 groups which performed at our National Youth Gathering in New Orleans)

**Cost:** \$10 (if tickets are still available)

**Locale:** St. John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento

We'll leave from MLC at 5:30pm on Friday for an 8:00 p.m. concert

We'll spend Friday night at St. John's and participate in a service project on Saturday before coming home

## Moravian Star

Many of us have noticed the beautiful lighted star hanging in the sanctuary. It is a Moravian Star also known as an Advent Star and is a gift to the church from our pastors and Director of Music. Thank you Pastor Kathryn, Pastor Tom and David for this wonderful gift. We will enjoy it for many years to come during the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

## January Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 1 Daniel Houts  
Karen  
Halvorsen
- 2 Bob Dunn
- 3 Eun-Sil Kim  
Joan Barry  
Kieren Fickenscher  
Eric Bergman  
David DiDonato
- 5 Maggie Harrington
- 6 Keiren Hutt
- 8 Marie Conrad
- 15 Peter Lewczyk
- 20 Nancy Hansen  
Lorraine Loo
- 26 Marilyn Davis
- 27 Brandon Hirdt  
Cathie Schinski
- 31 Jean Wallman



### Anniversaries

- 11 Rich & Carolyn Myhre
- 18 Magda & Walt Potter

## 2010 Flower Chart

The flower chart for supplying sanctuary flowers in 2010 is posted on the kiosk in the narthex. Please look at the available days and put your name down if you would like to bring the flowers for an open Sunday. Please include a dedication that will be in the bulletin on that Sunday.



## JANUARY 2010 WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

	JAN 3 <sup>RD</sup>	JAN 10 <sup>TH</sup>	JAN 17 <sup>TH</sup>	JAN 24 <sup>TH</sup>	JAN 31 <sup>ST</sup>
<b>GREETERS</b>					
9:00 AM	Sandy Seeger	Mary Creigh Houts	Marie Jacobs	Barb Bischoff	Margot & Ray G.
11:00AM	Jane McKenzie	Erna Randig	Dawn Brewster	Stu & Jeanne Burt	Marie Conrad
<b>USHER</b>					
9:00 AM	Rich Myhre	Michael Rosendahl	Ron Jacobs	Theresia Morgenlaender	Duff Hansen
11:00AM	Lorri Reinders	Rick West	Clint Bastin	Dave Richard	Joe O'Neill, Jr.
<b>ACOLYTE</b>					
9:00 AM		Emma Dowling	Caitlin J./Alina B.	Chloe J./Taylor S.	Robert Allen
11:00AM	Michaela Marymor	Kirsta Rodriguez	Peyton & Wyatt R.		
<b>LECTOR</b>					
9:00 AM	Jon Rolien	Sharon Guy	Marie Jacobs	Michele Jacobs	Ray Gergus
11:00AM	Bob Dunn	Janet Foster	Nate Russell	Anne Marie Hofling	Betsy McCormick
<b>ALM</b>					
9:00 AM	Susan Morrow	Karen Anderson		Kathy Bayler	Karen Anderson
11:00AM	Betsy McCormick		Paul Davis		Paul Davis
<b>COMM ASSIST</b>					
9:00 AM	Sandy S./ Jane Mc	Bryan Wulzen	Carol Zlatunich		Carol Cunliffe
11:00AM	Paul Davis	Erna R / Janet F		Jane M / Janet F	Betsy M /Marie C
<b>SOUND TECH</b>					
8:30AM	John Bischoff	Jeff Reinders	John Bischoff	John Bischoff	Jeff Reinders
11:00AM	Jeff Reinders	Kerry Hansen		Kerry Hansen	
<b>COUNTERS</b>					
9:00 AM	Corneille Church	Roy Davis	Brewster/Bastin	Corneille Church	Roy Davis
11:00AM	Kamphoefner	Janet Foster	Brewster/Bastin	Janet Foster	Kamphoefner
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b>					
9:00 AM	Jane McKenzie	Caroline Wulzen	Susan Morrow	Sandy Seeger	T. Morgenlaender
11:00AM	Jane McKenzie	Lorraine Loo	Brewster/Bastin	Jeanne Burt	Carol Zlatunich
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Karen Clinton				The Davis'
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Bev Kamphoefner	Janet Foster	Bev Kamphoefner	Bev Kamphoefner	Bev Kamphoefner

S H G P J G S M F N P O A Y U  
T A Y J J W I S O A T E V F N  
H B V S O N Z T D C N W P V U  
G G Z R I A G R I C N S E T I  
I G L S Q N C L E H E P A E B  
R D T B I V B T Z D E G C M S  
G E D H E U N D I P A W E O W  
R K S H P Q B G O V K E G V P  
X A E Z I R P O Q I I Q L E U  
W P O L I T I C A L S S Z M G  
C I V I L S G R J W N D T E E  
U C L K V Z C Y U N M O B N B  
I J Q U U D W R R H Q B B T Q  
A N H Q J X F V E L B J T E O  
N Y L K S U O M A F B X S D L



ACTIVIST  
LEADER  
NOBEL  
PRIZE  
WASHINGTON

CIVIL  
MINISTER  
PEACE  
PUBLIC  
WORLD

FAMOUS  
MOVEMENT  
POLITICAL  
RIGHTS

## Winter Crossword

3

Find the spot where each word fits. Use each word only once.

HAT  
COAT  
COLD  
SLUSH  
SCARF  
BOOTS  
HOCKEY  
SHOVEL  
WINTER  
ICICLES  
GLACIER  
TOBOGGAN  
SLIPPERY  
SNOWBALL  
SNOWFLAKE

