

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 21 No.12

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Lifeline is a Newsletter published by Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Moreno Valley, California.

LIFELINE

Our Mission Statement

Inviting all to grow in Christ!



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I hope you had a blessed Christmas and a happy start to the New Year. It has been almost a year since I came to LOL as your interim pastor. I am getting know many of you and I enjoy working with you, especially sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Do any of you

enjoy gardening or yard work? Planting flowers or seeds is actually fun? Our previous home had a dozen palm trees, and friends and relatives who visit us from the North East section of the State as well from Japan often wonder how often we harvest the coconuts. These palm trees may look alike but they are a different species. Likewise, many out of state friends see our bird of paradise and think how often we harvest bananas.

How do the plants get started? Yes, they grow from seeds. We usually think of seeds as very small. Some are no bigger than a grain of salt or speck of sand.

Now here is something interesting: What is the biggest seed you can think of? This seed I have in my mind is bigger than a peanut, bigger than a chicken egg. Did you know that coconut is a seed? Yes, this big, shaggy, brown coconut is actually the seed from which other coconut palm trees grow.

The biggest seed is as big as an ostrich egg.



An ostrich egg is in average of 1.5 kilograms and one of them scrambled can easily serve 10 people.



You may have seen a picture of how coconuts hang high up in a palm tree. When the coconut is ripe, it falls from the tree onto the ground below. The coconut may stay there for months and it may look very dry and brown, as if nothing is happening, but eventually a green leaf will poke out of the area between the eyes of the coconut.

After some time, the coconut takes root and a coconut palm tree grows right where the coconut landed. Because there are air pockets inside the coconut, it will float. Stories are told about coconuts that have been picked up by waves and float across oceans to land and grown on distant lands. Jesus said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man."



Jesus uses the story of seeds to teach us that he is the one from whom love comes. We are like those brown, dry coconuts. When we receive God's love, we take root and start to grow.

As Christians, our ultimate goal is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we receive God's love, we are like "good seeds" which grow and produce more love that we can share with others, even those who live in a distant land.

May you have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

In His Spirit,

Pastor Kishino

“I resolve to _____”

By: Bob Vernlund

You fill in the blank. It's a new year, a new beginning; in church and in our lives. I think all of us find it necessary to "start over" in many areas: a new diet; a new commitment; or any one of many new "resolutions". Some of them work for a while, most are tried, but only what is held in your heart will last. It's a lot like accepting Jesus Christ to live and lead your life.

Our church belongs to Jesus the Christ. He offers us a place on this earth to gather together in His name to praise and pray. We live in a world that is changing. We worship a God that is changeless. We have been a congregation for more than 25 years and there are still needs in our community and world that need to be met. We have all been called by God to serve and love our neighbor. What is your resolve to meet that challenge? Are we as a church bringing the word of a changeless God to a changing world? Now is the time to look at how we do what we do. Our mission statement of "inviting all to grow is Christ" is still a good goal, but are we really "inviting" our friends, family, youth, neighbors, and all with needs to praise and pray with us. As Lutherans we know that the church year starts with Advent (1 Dec this year), goes through Lent (5 Mar – 16 Apr), celebrates Easter (20 Apr) and is followed by Pentecost and the time after Pentecost. All of this is based on scripture and follows a three year cycle. But is it enough? That's the plan for the year. Is it not time for us to examine our souls and resolve to meet the needs of our community, our parish, our youth, and our calling to serve and love our neighbors? Maybe it's time to listen. Maybe it's time for some changes to align our parish and worship with the changing world by following what God tells us to do. This can only happen with prayer and the study of God's word. I'm asking each and every one of us in this church to pray that we can offer the gift of God's love to all who enter the doors of

our church or receive the blessings of our outreach.

I pray that you fill in the blank to "pray for our parish and study the word of God". What a great gift it would be to live this new year with the endless opportunities of serving God if we just listen and follow His will. Is it that simple or easy? No, but the power of prayer and the word of God will never let you down. Remember, it is not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.



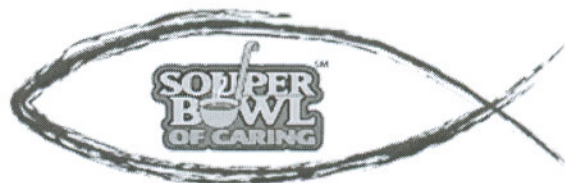
Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26th

Election of Church Council Members

Annual Reports

Church Budget



“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary amount of food and money for soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities in communities across the country. Hundreds of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving.

A special offering will be taken on February 2nd with 100% of the donation going directly to CCLM. Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace, mercy, and God's Peace be with each of you as we look forward to the coming year.

As you read this, we will have just celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, the "Prince of Peace," the "Comforter," and the "Wonderful Counselor." How fortunate we are to know the Savior, to know that in any of life's crises, He is there for us. Do we utilize His services beyond that of a Savior? I know I seldom get hung up on my worthiness to approach Jesus with my feelings or needs, fully knowing that God has told us to "Come unto me, all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We, as Christians, know the promises of God, but often choose not to use them. Why is this, and what problem does our not relying on God create?

The problem we create begins when we leave our church walls. If we are not taking and using God as He asks us to, how are those we are supposed to be helping in our community going to see what our Savior can do for them? We must be an example of Christ to all we meet each day. Is it right to keep the world's best present to ourselves and not share it? I think not! If we choose to do this, we take away the whole meaning of Jesus' birth.

I am so thankful to be a part of a congregation that wants to share the glorious news of our Savior each and every day. Each of you continue to inspire me to do all I can for my fellow man, to bring them to know the greatest "Prince of Peace," the most awesome "Comforter," and the "Wonderful Counselor" the world will ever need. As we start the new year, help us to focus on those around us who have yet to meet our Savior. Amen?

With God's peace,
John Lowe

From the council:

- The electronic waste recycling was held.
- The Chili's fundraiser was also held. No results yet.
The Christmas Party was a success and well attended.
- John Lowe has contacted two people about filling the two vacancies on the church council.
- We are looking for representatives to the Synod Assembly in May.
- The congregation annual meeting will be January 26, 2014

Committees: It's time to get involved and share your love of Christ.

As mother Teresa said, "We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love." The following are a list of committees with their point(s) of contact and a short definition of what they do.

1. Evangelism

- Pastor Kishino
*Worship is evangelism.
Evangelism is worship

2. Education

- John Lowe
*Lifelong learning — formal and informal

3. Fellowship

- Margo Ross
*relay, fellowship meal, small groups, mission festival, special event and personal visit

4. Finance

- Amy Freeman, Harold Lester, and Chris Silvey
*General, building, designated funds and budgets

5. Property

- Jim Cassem and Fred Palestis
*Maintain and monitor all church property

6. Social Ministry

- Jo Lippire
*Igniting the fire of faith

7. Stewardship

- Bob Vernlund, John Lowe, Jo Lippire, and Amy Freeman
*Growing joyful stewards in your congregation

8. Worship and Music

- Jim Cassem
*Worship service structure, content, and music

9. Youth

- Margo Ross
*Building our future with youth ministry.

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NEWS & Notes

By Cindy Cassem



Trish Walker, Larry Combes, Ira and Gene Yoder, Carole Horton, Rita Nielsen, Beverly Erck, Pastor Kishino, Mark Korshavn, Oly Vernlund, Maggie August, Laura Entrekin, Gertrude Munoz, Dave Williams, Esperanza Arce, Carole Korshavn, the family of Sue Scoville, Mike

Please Pray For:

and Dolly Kline, the family of Arnette Lester, Fred Gonzalez, Hilde Schubert, Lowell Rasmussen, Hannelore Heidinger, the family of Dick Dodd, Diane Kroh and John Meeks, Karman Johnson, Mary Lou Ptacek, Connie Lowe, Jim Busick, Marshall Whitney, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Sean and Suzy Orza, Julia Spaulding, Katie Spaulding, Andie Jaeger, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



January:

Jessie McMillian
John Stanton
Ian Abramson
Carole Lantz
Blanch Ross
Julie Ellingson
Shelley Palestis

February:

Michael Brown
Spencer Ciasullo
Brianna Egeland
Robyn Nelson
Jo Lippire

If your baptism information is not included, or included in error, please contact the church office so that we may update our system. We would like to celebrate everyone's baptism anniversary, so please be sure to contact the church office with your information. Thank you.



MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU NOW AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR!

As most of you know, as part of my education I go back to Wartburg Seminary about three times per year for intensive classes. One of those times is usually in January. However, for January 2014 each student in my class is required to complete a "Cultural Immersion" experience. Some of the students are going to the Holy Land, some are going to Women's Shelters for abused women in Chicago and Milwaukee, and there are several other opportunities. I developed my own experience and it was accepted by the seminary. We have so many needs all over the world and even in our own neighborhoods. My plan will take me to Central City Lutheran Mission January 5 – 18, 2014. I will be staying there in one of their guest housing units and working with the staff and the local people that utilize the many ministries through CCLM, not the least of these being to feed the hungry.

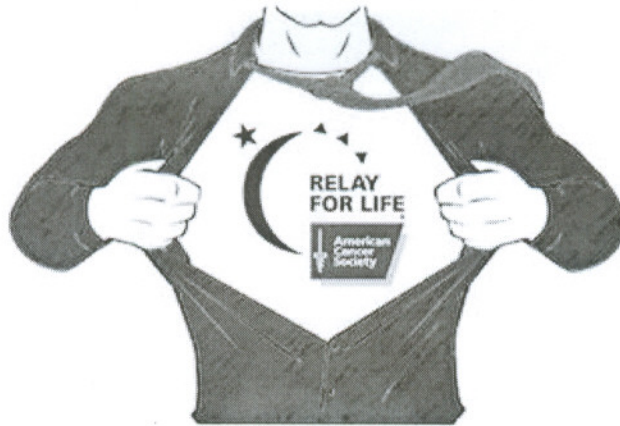
I have asked Pastor Nagler if there was a service opportunity for our youth that they could participate in during the weekend of January 11-12. Once I am there we will get together and decide on an activity. Please keep this weekend in mind for our youth, parents and anyone else who would be interested in participating in this opportunity. We will need chaperones, transportation and especially willing hands to help out the less fortunate. Remember the ELCA motto: "God's Work, Our Hands" and use this opportunity as a way to serve God and our neighbors, whoever they may be.

We will give you a full report when I have completed these two weeks. Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Cindy Cassem

SUPERHEROES WANTED



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**RELAY FOR LIFE - MORENO VALLEY
VALLEY VIEW HIGH SCHOOL TRACK
APRIL 26-27, 2014**

This year's Relay For Life of Moreno Valley is just around the corner! Please sign up for our award-winning Lord of Life Lutheran Church team, "Love of Life" and join us for this incredible event and worldwide movement to fight cancer! This will be our 14th year participating by setting up camp and walking in support of our church friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers in their fight against cancer.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life event is a celebration of survivorship — an occasion to express hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love.

We need **YOU** at this year's Relay For Life to help us save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

If you are interested in being on the team, serving on a committee, being a sponsor or helping in any way, contact Pat Rupert, 951/243-1045 or email: pat.bill.rupe@verizon.net.

*Relay For Life is a family friendly tobacco-free, alcohol-free
community event with fun and entertainment for all ages.*