

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

*"Where There's Life For You!"*

Volume 22 No.6

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

January-February 2015

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

## Our Mission Statement

*Inviting all to grow in Christ!*



## Inside this issue:

From the Pastor .....	P. 2
Are we listening? .....	P. 3
From the council .....	P. 3
30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt .....	P. 4
Annual Meeting.....	P. 4
Lenten service schedule .....	P. 4
Souper Bowl.....	P. 4
The Inn Keeper's Story .....	P. 5
Relay for Life .....	P. 6
Prayer Shawls .....	P. 6
Simply Giving .....	P. 6

# LIFELINE



## Advent/Christmas Devotion message

*“And the word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14*

The amazing fact about Christmas is that God became one of us.

A Sunday school teacher once asked his class to meet him at his pet shop for class. In the shop he showed the children a special aquarium with oysters in it. He asked the class, “How could we tell these oysters we want to be friends with them?”

One child suggested writing a note and dropping it in. Another wanted to tap on the glass with a stick in Morse code. One said that if they shouted the oysters might hear. But none of these suggestions seemed practical.

Finally one of the children observed, “One of us will just have to become an oyster.” The teacher smiled and said, “That sounds great. Do we have any volunteers?” No one was quite ready to volunteer to become a squiggly oyster.

When God wanted to communicate His wonderful love to us, He gave His wonderful love to us. He gave us His beautiful world. He gave us His messages in the law and prophets. Finally He came in the person of His son, Jesus Christ. Christ’s coming at Christmas reminds us how much God really loves us. He came to share our total humanity with us, except without our sin. He shared our lives even to death for us.

Because of Christmas we know God’s love, we experience His forgiveness, we can understand His Word, the word made flesh; Jesus Christ.

That word has come to live with us and in us. Because of our Baptism into Christ, we can be Christ-like; living in and through us, coming to us today and communicating His love to us. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We need each other, we need to help each other, we need to share joy, happiness, sadness, and the hope of eternal life.

What will be like if we don’t have faith in God in Jesus? Who will give comfort, who will console us when we are spiritually broken?

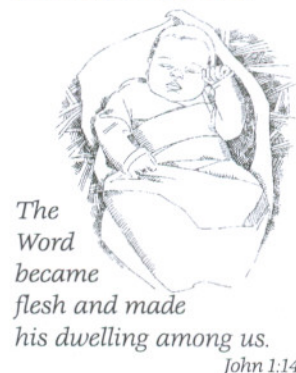
I am not criticizing, but without God, who understands our nature, our mind, our frailty? And without Jesus, who loves us completely, unconditionally and how can we pursuit our life’s ups and downs?

Life is hard. We need each other to pray together, encourage each other, and ask Jesus to fill our heart with much joy in our lives.

I have experienced the loving, supportive and caring deeds to be demonstrated time to time in our congregation as well as our desire to help the causes we are determined to put our effort. The next year early we would like to open up dialogue again with the Pacifica Synod for our congregation to be reconsidered as a mission congregation status. Our city and business are expanding. Each one of us needs to share the message of Jesus in actions such as canvassing our neighborhood to invite others to worship and fellowship with us.

In His Spirit,

Pastor Kishino



*The  
Word  
became  
flesh and made  
his dwelling among us.*

*John 1:14*

## Are we listening?

By Bob Vernlund

This congregation started as a mission church, ended up building on Nason St., and is ready to emerge into our growing community of over 200,000 people from all walks of life. We stand ready to serve the ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural, and inner-city community. God has called us to serve and has blessed us with one of our own members who is preparing to lead us after completing the required theological education for emerging ministries. That is why this congregation is being asked to give their approval for restoring its status as a mission church. This is an exciting challenge that will involve “stepping out” on that new four-lane road being laid at our front door steps. This part of the city is just getting ready to bring in many more homes and businesses. We are in a prime location to meet the needs of this growing population. We need everyone’s prayer and support; God will do the rest.

### CHURCH COUNCIL AT WORK

- Council working with the Salvation Army this year on Christmas baskets. Because of the volume of baskets that the Salvation Army provides, they are very cost effective and can provide more baskets for the money donated. They are asking for our help in assembling and distributing the baskets.
- We are recommending to the congregation that we vote for Mission status for the church at the congregational meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This is the first step toward qualifying for a TEEM minister.
- The Executive Committee of the council will be working on the church budget for 2015. This also will be presented to the congregation at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The council is looking for one member to serve on the council for the next two years.

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly  
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California  
Volume 22 No. 6 January-February 2015

### 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

- Harold Lester  
\*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,  
\*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.

---

---

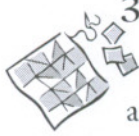
### What a milestone celebration!



#### Save the Date:

Our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be held at Benedict Castle on April 18, 2015! Let’s celebrate and praise God for the blessings on our church. Let’s make this a celebration to remember!

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt



Your quilt blocks for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt are due JANUARY 15, 2015. Please do not be late.

Also, I am having the quilt professionally quilted; so no embellishments like buttons, sequins, bells, rhinestones, etc. because the long-arm quilter cannot go over the embellishments. The embellishments can, however, be added after the quilt is finished.

Any questions call me at (801) 440-2956; but no calls about being late!

Thanks, Jo Lippire



### Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

Election of Church Council Member

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."**

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. **Every dollar and food item donated goes directly to CCLM.**



## 2015 Lenten Worship At Lord of Life

February 18-March 25  
Worship at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>-Soup Supper 6:00 pm  
*Holy Communion and imposition of ash*  
Wednesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>- service only at 7:00 pm



**Please Pray For:** The family of Diane Combes, Harold Lester, Darlene Bueker, Denise Slaton, Andrea Brown, Christina Avila, Brian Kelley, Dorothy Parr, Nancy, Dustin Atkins, Steve Johnson, Michael Brown, Ira Yoder, Iver Sonnack, Gi Pierce, Carole Horton, Rita Nielsen, Christian Castillo, Larry Wilderman, Jewel Willis, Sara Ulate, Jeannie Mooney, Oly Vernlund, Maggie August, John Messer, David Gadbar, Jim Cooper, Mickey Michalek, Kathy Bickel, Laura Entekin, Charles Vogelgeseng, Diane Kroh and John Meeks, Connie Lowe, Jim Busick, Marshall Whitney, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



**January:**  
Jessie McMillian  
John Stanton  
Shelley Palestis

**February:**  
Michael Brown  
Spencer Ciasullo  
Brianna Egeland  
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.*

## The Inn Keeper's Story

By John Lowe

Hello, I'm just another inn keeper in a little city called Bethlehem, but my story is beyond words.

The week had been so chaotic, and mysterious. Why was this year do different? One of the peculiar things about the week was a star. You might ask, "Why a star? Stars are in the sky every night." You are correct, but this star was so bright and, more than that, it also shone during the day. A simple star...was there a purpose for such a spectacle? Then there was the wild and craziness of my city which I saw every year at this time. For you see, people from many regions had to come back to their homelands to pay their taxes, something no one enjoyed doing. Now, as you might expect, I was exhausted at the end of each day and, when I closed my doors to the inn each night, sleep could not come soon enough.

As was my custom each night when I still had rooms available, I left my lamp in my window. Perhaps, due to fatigue, I forgot to take my lamp out of my window for, you see, on this night I had sold all my rooms. This time of year was very dear to me since this was when I made the most money. But it always bothered me when I had to turn people away.

It was late, and I was sound asleep, when I heard what sounded like someone knocking on my door. Who were these people? Could they not see that the inn was closed? Knock! Knock! Knock! The knocking did not stop, so I got up and went to the door. It was then that I realized that I had not taken the lamp out of the window. I opened the door, knowing that I would have to give them the bad news that I had no more rooms. There, in front of me, stood a young couple and, to make matters worse, the woman was pregnant. I thought she was going to have the baby right there. My heart sank as I had to tell them that I had no more rooms, but what could I do? The man spoke first, "Surely, you still have one room left. After all, your lamp is still in the window." I know, I said, I am sorry. But I was so tired, and forgot to take my lamp out of my window. Then the woman spoke softly, "Please sir, we have traveled for over a day and we are also tired, and I am afraid that tonight may be the night that my son is born. Don't you have anything we can just lay down and rest in?" My heart was broken, of all the people to leave out in the cold. I gazed up into the sky, as if to say "What can I do?" It was at that moment that I saw the star that had been shining so brightly this pas week, and I thought to myself, I do have a stable out back, and there is some hay that can be like a bed, just for the night. So I offered them my stable. It was not much, but at least it was a shelter. And with the star so bright, there would be plenty of light. "Thank you, thank you, thank you," the couple exclaimed. "We will make it right with whatever we owe you in the morning. Thank you!" There were no words for me to say. This couple was truly unique. Who else would accept a stable to sleep in, especially being pregnant? No charge was all I could muster up to say. After all, could you charge someone to sleep in a stable with the likes of cows, donkeys, sheep, and probably chickens?

The next morning, I woke up at the crack of dawn, for I had slept restlessly worrying about that young couple out in the stable. I got dressed and ran out into the stable to see how they were, and there was the baby. He was so precious, just lying there sleeping with His mother and father. I just stood there in awe. The animals seemed to be singing softly to the baby. Moo, Baaa, went the cows and sheep. And, as if the rooster knew the hard night this little family had had, not a sound did he make, as if to say, rest, sleep well. I went back into the inn and pondered what I had just witnessed.

In the days to come, people from kings to peasants came to see the baby. I noticed that the star, which had been ever present for so long, was no longer present. Who was this child? Was the star there to point the way to this baby? Perhaps, but why? Why were so many drawn to my little stable?

As I reflect back on that night, it truly was one of mystery and awe. When I found out who this child was, and what He would do for this world, I am amazed that He came into the world in the humblest of ways, but He would leave this world as the Greatest Man who ever lived. After all is said and done I, being just an inn keeper, learned to be willing to give all that I had, and as a result, I was rewarded for life. It was with no expectations that I gave all that I had, but I can tell you, I received the greatest gift in my life on that night so long ago.

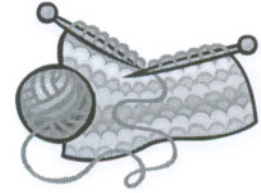


## Save-the-date for the 2015 Moreno Valley Relay For Life.

This fund-raising community event will be held Saturday, May 16 at Valley View High School. It will be a 15-hour event beginning at 9 am 'til 12 midnight, a deviation from the usual 24-hour event. The Cancer Survivor's Lap will begin at 9 am; Luminaria Ceremony at 9 pm; and Closing Ceremony at midnight. If you wish to participate on the Lord

of Life "Love of Life" team or help out in any manner, please contact Pat Rupert. We will dedicate our walk in memory of Diane Combes as well as honoring our Lord of Life Cancer Survivors, in memory of our loved ones and honoring our caregivers.

Can you knit, crochet, or sew? Audrey Flickinger has started a Prayer Shawl/Blanket ministry for the members and friends of Lord of Life. If you want to help wrap someone in a warm hug infused with prayer, please contact Audrey. There are patterns for all skill levels. If you or anyone you know would like to receive a prayer shawl, please contact the church office. Thanks!



### **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans\*** **Let's thrive!**

If you have an investment or insurance with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you earn Choice Dollars. These Choice Dollars do not come out of your investment but are from Thrivent – like the Thrivent matching funds. Choice Dollars can be contributed to Lord of Life Lutheran Church. If you have questions, you can call your Thrivent representative or visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com). *Thank you to all Thrivent members who have already designated Lord of Life Lutheran Church as the recipient of these Choice Dollars. Through this grant fund program, we have received over \$6,000.00 in additional donations that have helped Lord of Life further their ministries.*

## The Simply Giving® Program

The **Simply Giving** Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank is a simple, reliable way to make your regular contributions to our congregation through automated giving.

### **An easy, generous choice**

The program is designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give financial gifts to our congregation's ministry. You can use electronic funds transfer to give your weekly, semi-monthly or monthly offering. To learn how, contact Becci in the church office.

### **You can make a difference**

Let the **Simply Giving**® Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank help you build better stewardship by turning a simple choice into a generous response.

\*\*\*\* Check it Out! We have vendors on our back page. Show them your gratitude and appreciation by looking there first, and use their services whenever possible. Thank you!  
\*\*\*\*

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

