

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 22 No.12

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

January-February 2016

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

Our Mission Statement

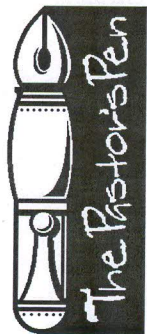
Inviting all to grow in Christ!



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LIFELINE



Journey with Jesus

(First published in the Lifeline Jan-Feb 2006, edited for 2016)

Last month we remembered the first La Posada once more, the journey of Joseph and “great with child” Mary from the northern village of Nazareth down south to the Judean hills and the village of Bethlehem, only to find upon arriving, there was no room for them in the Inn. Christian folk often reenact this search for lodging among their church communities. The journey continues.

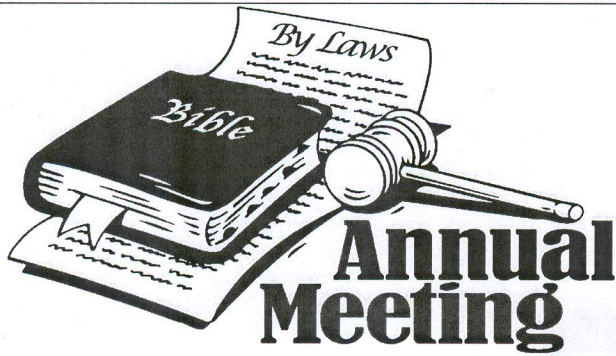
Perhaps you journeyed to relatives or friends for Christmas or New Year’s but undoubtedly your journey was a lot less taxing than the trek Joseph and pregnant Mary made over 2000 years ago. Prompted by a decree from Caesar that their taxes were due and payable in the village of Joseph’s lineage, Bethlehem, the couple made their 65 mile journey through some rugged terrain on foot. I know a donkey is always seen in all the storybooks and movies, but no such beast of burden is mentioned in the Gospel of Luke’s Christmas account in the second chapter of Luke . Today a trip of that length would take us about an hour. Joseph and Mary probably took at least three days to accomplish the journey. They slept on the ground along the way and bedded down in a stable that first Christmas Eve. Sometime during that first holy night, Mary, without the assistance of a friend, relative or midwife, gave birth to her first newborn Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior. The journey continues.

This month we follow the Star of Bethlehem once more in this glorious season of Epiphany. We remember, on January 6, the journey of those first magi as they traversed over field and mountain to complete their search for the promised Child. This, too, was a rugged journey unlike our more comfortable jaunts today. And once there, they presented the newborn King with their treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The journey continues.

The question remains, where will our journey take us this year of our Lord 2016? The calendar, like other years, offers us 365 days to **journey with Jesus** . Each day affords us a new opportunity to seek His guidance as to where to go and what to do. I believe each day comes as a special gift to us. It is ours to do with as He leads us. Some days may come in wrappings that are less than joyous, yet nonetheless they are still our days to perform the deeds He would have us do. The journey continues.

Where will He take you this year? And where will He lead Lord of Life? We don’t know all of the answers but we do know that we will trust in the power of God's love and open our hearts and minds to the direction He will lead us. The journey continues.

May the Lord of Life guide all of your days and your deeds with His Holy Spirit this day, this week, this month and this year. May each new day, each new gift, find you on an exciting journey as the adventure of life, your **journey with Jesus**, continues.



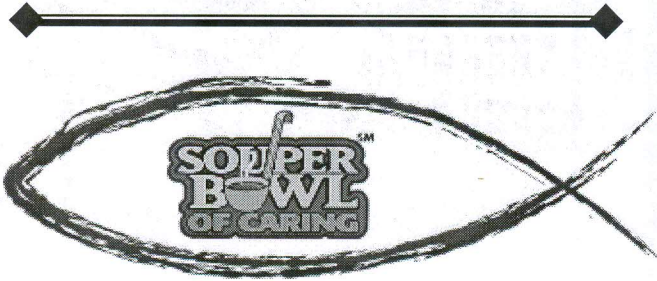
Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31st

Election of Church Council Members

Annual Reports

Church Budget



More than 25 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

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

since that day, more than \$110 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. 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. Give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar and food item donated goes to Central City Lutheran Mission.

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

- Marv Egeland
*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
*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

- Larry Olson
*Worship service structure, content, and music

9. Youth

- Margo Ross
*Building our future with youth ministry.



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Worship Schedule For Lent

2016 Lenten Worship At Lord of Life

February 10-March 16

Ash Wednesday, February 10th - Soup Supper 6:15 pm
Holy Communion and imposition of ash

Remaining Lenten services to be announced.



January

Jessie McMillian
John Stanton
Shelley Palestis

February

Michael Brown
Spencer Ciasullo
Brianna Egeland
Jo Lippire



The family of Jeff Van Hoosier, Oly Vernlund, David Johnson, the family of Marissa Sheffield, Ikuko Kishino, Ericka Anderson, Tonni Broussard, Ralph Velez, Beatriz Gonzalez, Maxine Hagle, Jill Rasmussen, Maxine Cassem, John Abramson, Craig May, Jason Withrow, Jackie Leany,

Please Pray for:

Michael Brown, Elijah Fields, Steve Johnson, Brian Kelley, Donna Messer, Bob Lantz, Carole Horton, Mike Johnson, Rita Nielsen, Cindy Cassem, Mark Korshavn, Jewel Willis, Brian Kelley, Jim Cooper, Larry Wilderman, Kathy Bickel, Jeff Sims, Connie Lowe, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.

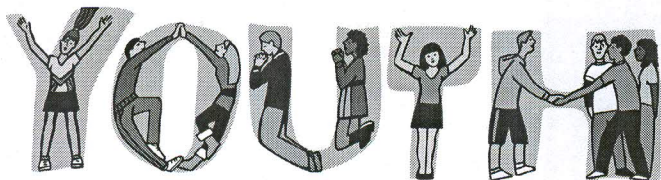
If your baptism information is not included, or included in error, please contact the church office so that we may update our system. We would like to celebrate everyone's baptism anniversary, so please be sure to contact the church office with your information.

WHAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO CHURCH?

Originally submitted by Mike and Deb Weitenhagen for Lifeline 2009

Why do people select a particular church? A convenient location? Yes. A good speaker at the pulpit? Yes. Inspiring music? Yes. An attractive building? Yes.

But a more essential element in attracting visitors, newcomers, and prospective members is friendliness – both in the pew and throughout the community. Where there is a warm, dynamic congregation with an enthusiasm that's contagious, visitors will usually be found, and will return. A church can buy many advantages with money, such as nice buildings, trained leadership, effective advertising and an abundance of supplies for spiritual and social use. But old-fashioned friendliness, of which the world is sorely in need, can't be purchased with money. It comes only from the hearts of dedicated people who love God and enjoy helping others feel at home in their church.



Looking for ideas that would appeal to all our youth: bowling, movie night, etc. Souper Bowl is coming up and we need to think about service projects. Please contact Becci in the church office with your fellowship and service ideas.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church





AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate.

Remember.

Fight Back.

SAVE-THE-DATE

As you know the Moreno Valley Relay For Life is just around the corner. Lord of Life Lutheran Church's award winning team is once again ready to take on the challenge!

As you may know, we have been one of the top fundraising teams in the city of Moreno Valley for many of the years we have been involved, raising over \$100,000 in the fight against cancer! We were honored with a 5 Star Team Award last year and given our own special VIP tent. It was a great place for our team members to go cool off, warm up, relax and enjoy themselves with pizza, drinks, and video games. We are going to need your help. Together we can make it happen! This years theme:



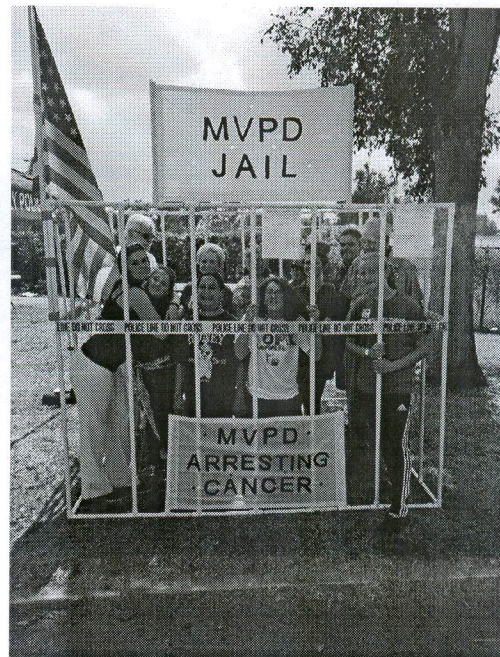
When: Relay begins Saturday, May 14, 2016, 9:00 am

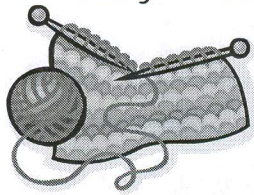
Ends Sunday morning, May 15 with a Closing Ceremony

Where: Valley View High School, 13135 Nason (a few blocks from Lord of Life)

For information: Contact: Pat Rupert, 951/243-1045

E-mail: pat.bill.rupe@verizon.net. or Becci Van Hoosier at 951/924-4887





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. *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 \$16,000.00 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.

Name of Jesus: Happy New Year! Did you make any resolutions for the year? Were you able to keep the resolutions you make last year? Maybe you have given up on trying to make New Year's resolutions. Whether we keep our resolutions or we don't, we can give thanks for the good news that the Lord has resolved to make us God's own. God never gives up on keeping and renewing that Word of promise, which became the Incarnate One two thousand years ago. Today we celebrate the name of God's Word of promise, God's "forever resolution," if you will: Jesus, Savior. How fitting it is to begin the New Year with a promise that will never be broken, ever. How wonderful it is to say the name above all names, Jesus, who is God's enduring promise of forgiving, saving love. How awesome it is to know that the pain of sin and broken trust can never keep us in bondage! Say the name aloud: Jesus! Hear again God's saving promise to you and to the world. No matter what. Happy New Year, Jesus! And thanks again.

(Excerpt from Christ in our Home daily devotional for 1/1/2016)

****** 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! ******