

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 23 No.6

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

January-February 2017

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

Our Mission Statement

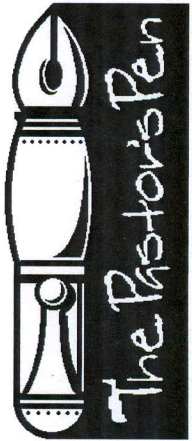
Inviting all to grow in Christ!



Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	P. 2
Annual Meeting.....	P. 3
Souper Bowl.....	P. 3
Budget Planning.....	P. 4
Council Committees	P. 4
Debt Reduction	P. 5
Baptism Anniversaries	P. 5
Prayers	P. 5
Thrivent/Simply Giving	P. 6
Prayer Shawls	P. 6

LIFELINE



The end of the year is upon us. It makes one reflect and plan ahead all at the same time. The last nine months have been amazing and informative. The next year promises challenges, growth, some yucks together, and meaningful worship and study.

During the last few months, I have learned much about who we are and where we might go as a congregation. In other words, I have identified some areas that we can work on together. Having said that, I also am assuming something, and that is that you want to grow as a congregation in number, that you want the youth to continue to be involved and to attract more youth to the church, and that you will be open-minded and willing to step up to the plate to help make all this happen. Grandma always said, "Nuttin' happens 'til the 'want to' is there. Too true!

So it is important that we are all on the same page. If we want different things, then, we first need to resolve that. The boat only arrives at its destination when all the oars are rowing in the same direction!

The question then arises, what do we do? And who will do it? The last one is important because the answer is not, 'the pastor will.' There are a couple of reasons for that. First, the church is all of God's people in attendance, not just the pastor. Second, I am really going to try harder to only work part-time. I have to honor the agreement we have. It is patently unfair to you to allow you to get used to the idea that pastors work for half pay. What happens when I leave? Actually, I have a true story about that from seminary days.

There were 6-7 small dying churches within 15-20 miles of each other near Dubuque, IA where I was attending seminary. The buildings were falling apart and no new members were coming. After much work, they agreed to form one congregation. They did with great success. When I worked with them they had oodles and oodles of kids running around and many young couples in attendance as Dubuque was a booming center of commerce. The pastor who had served the group from its beginning was a retired military chaplain and worked for \$1 a year. As happens, the time came for her to retire, and the church could not afford a full-time pastor. Even paying for supply was a problem. Their mortgage for the new building was consuming them and they discovered young people didn't financially support the church as did the older crowd. They had too much debt themselves. Sad to say, the entire operation closed its door permanently a few years after I graduated.

By the way, my job with them was to assess their viability and assets. The future looked rosy. So what happened? They chose to support the building rather than ministry.

The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 2)

An argument can be made with regard to us doing the same thing. The budget process has revealed much less than 1% of our total budget is dedicated to ministry outside of Sunday morning worship. I did not include benevolence to synod in this because that is only money sent out. Local ministries are addressed with local people, God's people doing God's work. We have wonderful youth with a willingness to be involved, yet there was no line item in the budget supporting that ministry. Ergo, we have been writing grants and holding a raffle. So what should we do?

The first thing is to have more people than me involved in planning the future. So here is the challenge for 2017. Who will be willing to also read the many articles I do with regard to church growth and youth ministry development with an eye to discover what fits Lord of Life? And then to meet and discuss our options? And then act on them? Some of you must be evaluators and planners. Some of you must be worker bees. Some of you must have such a passion for our church that you will set aside the old arguments of being too old, not having enough time, not willing to spend any more money, and every other excuse/explanation humans use to not do what needs doing.

Is our future dependent on this? Absolutely! Is our survival dependent on your involvement? Absolutely! Could Lord of Life wind up closing its doors as did the seemingly thriving church near Dubuque? Sorry to say that is also true. But only if we let it happen. That is not my list of things. What about you?

Shalom,
Pastor Carol

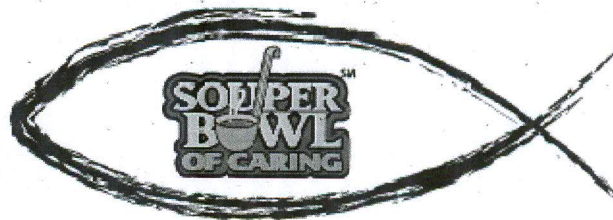


Sunday, January 29th

*Election of Church Council
Members*

Annual Reports

Church Budget



Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without 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 a part of the 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.**

Budget Planning for Next Year



Much work went into creating a budget for 2017. We have a new accounting system we are learning how to use to generate information about how we are doing, where we have issues, what expenses are growing beyond our expectations, where no expenditure has been planned and the consequences of that.

As a result, the council is considering some actions for 2017. One is that it make no fiscal sense to continue to print the Life Line and mail it out. It runs to over \$600 a year, not counting Becci's time and the fact only she and I write articles for it. There are no other ministry reports being written by those leaders. It would be nice to hear from Bible Study leaders, Greeting Card ministry people, Prayer people, the Council, and all sorts of other people that could be sharing their activities in the Life Line.

Another is the rent for the building needs to be revised to reflect an increased cost of keeping things in good repair. Another is revising our mortgage payments. See an additional article elsewhere in this issue with regard to that. Yet another potential stream of revenue is going into partnership to develop the back property so we are seeing money come in, rather than paying taxes on it. There is also the possibility to attract another renter.

All of those things require someone to head them up, gather the information, prepare a report, and along with council prepare a recommendation to bring to the congregation. Certainly not the same person for all of the above, and certainly not someone who is also deeply involved in other church activities. Who among you will step up and learn more about what is required and then prayerfully consider that God is calling YOU to the task?

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

- Brianna Egeland
*Lifelong learning — formal and informal

3. Fellowship

- Audrey Flickinger
*relay, fellowship meal, small groups, mission festival, special events and personal visits

4. Finance

- Harold Lester
*General, building, designated funds and budgets

5. Property

- Council
*Maintain and monitor all church property

6. Social Ministry

- Jo Lippire
*Igniting the fire of faith

7. Stewardship

- Bob Vernlund, Jo Lippire
*Growing joyful stewards in your congregation

8. Worship and Music

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

9. Youth

- Audrey Flickinger
*Building our future with youth ministry.



Debt Reduction

Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert (where Bishop was installed as Bishop awhile back) wanted to build a nice fellowship hall on their campus. It was an ambitious project and, as it turns out, they were unable to get a loan.

So they self-funded it! Successfully. One million dollars successfully!

Our council looked into refinancing our 5.25% (yikes!) mortgage, but the offer was only 4 3/8% in a 3% finance world. The man who headed up Hope Lutheran's self funding program has agreed to mentor us is refinancing our sub \$200,000 mortgage.

We would be able to invest some money in ourselves and realize an interest return at least twice as much as the best savings account. I would love to be able to offer you more details on this, but I don't have them yet. I also believe that many of us would love to make more money on some of our savings.

Harold Lester was going to head up this program for us but as you all know his health issues have precluded him from doing so.

What that means to us is that God has someone else in mind for the task. Is that someone you? Ask God. And be willing to hear that small, still voice whispering in your ear. Actually, we hear God's voice in our hearts. Look there for the answer.

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California
Volume 23 No. 6 January-February 2017



Worship Schedule For Lent

2017 Lenten Worship at Lord of Life

Join us March 1st for

Ash Wednesday service:

Soup supper at 6:00 pm

followed by worship at 7:00 pm



Harold Lester, Jan Egeland, Cindy Cassem, Oly Vernlund, Maggie August, Lola Booth, the family of Margaret Brendt, Denise Slaton, Mary White, Darlene Bueker, Connie Lowe, Ira and Gene Yoder, Odell & Margo Ross, Katherine Ward, the family of David May,

Please Pray for: Jorine Campbell, Jeff Merritt, David Johnson, Diane Kroh, Corey Lester, Alice Bradley, Arlene Van Hoosier, Carole Horton, Carla Engle, Bob Vernlund, Laura Entekin, Jill Rasmussen, Gail Paddock, Megan Kelley, Bruce Gaynor, John Abramson, John Simpson, Margaret, Mary White, Steve Johnson, Brian Kelley, Mike Johnson, Rita Nielsen, Mark Korshavn, Brian Kelley, Robbie, Larry Wilderman, Kathy Bickel, Jeff Sims, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

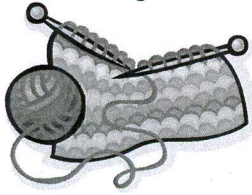
January:

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.



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 additional donations that have helped Lord of Life further their ministries.*

The Simply Giving® Program

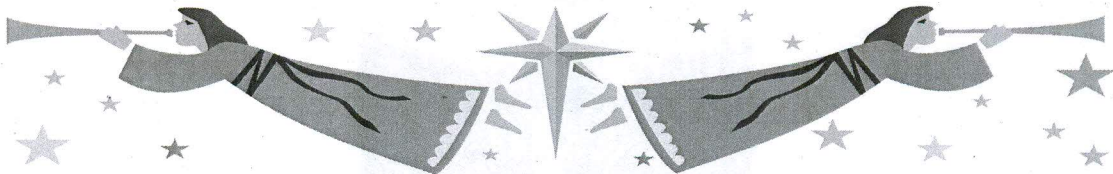
The **Simply Giving** Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank is a simple, reliable way to make your regular contributions to our congregation through automated giving.

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.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

What for? Your Christmas gift to me was described as a small token. I beg to differ. It was very generous because it came with your heartfelt appreciation. And I have something very special ordered because of it.

Thank you for expressing your appreciation and for appreciating!

Pastor Carol

