

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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

Volume 23 No.12

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

January-February 2018

# LIFELINE

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

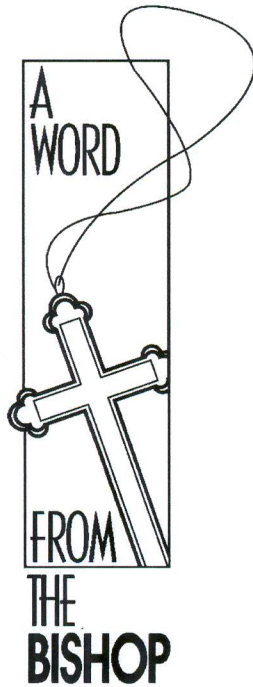
## Our Mission Statement

*Inviting all to grow in Christ!*



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***By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Luke 1:78-79***

Dear members and friends of the Pacifica Synod,

May God's joy and hope fill your hearts.

The biblical words quoted above were spoken by a man whose heart was filled with joy and hope. Luke tells us that Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth had lived many years without a child, and had decided that God would not grant them the blessing of being parents. But one day Zechariah was taking his turn as high priest, serving in the holy of holies, in the middle of the temple, when an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son who would prepare the people of Israel to receive the Lord. Zechariah was understandably skeptical, though you'd think the presence of an angel where no one but the priest was supposed to set foot might have clued him in. Because of his doubt, Zechariah was rendered temporarily speechless.

When the child was born, Elizabeth first, then Zechariah through writing, made it clear that their son was to be called by the name the angel had given him. He was to be named John. As soon as this took place, Zechariah's ability to speak was restored, and he soared into song. He was filled with joy and hope, not because his speech was back, though he must have been glad of that. Not because he and Elizabeth were first-time parents, though I'm sure they rejoiced in that fact. But his song was a song of hope and joy about the world God was bringing about through the birth of this son. He sang of a world where God's people would be free from their enemies, where forgiveness would be known, where those who sit in darkness would see God's great light.

Yet Zechariah's world did not really change much after the birth of John. Rome still ruled the land of Israel. People still lived with guilt and shame. The poor remained poor, and many lacked hope for a better life. But Zechariah knew that God was acting in this world. And that knowledge filled him with hope and joy.

Our world does not always seem that much different from Zechariah's. Our nation is increasingly polarized as even families no longer can discuss political differences without risking seething arguments. We live with wars that displace people from their homelands, violence that threatens children, and the threat of use of nuclear weapons. The most vulnerable in our society: refugees, the poor, those who have sunk into poverty due to lack of jobs and education, continue to sit in darkness and often live without hope.

## From the Bishop

(continued from page 2)

And into this world, God comes. God is present in our world today as surely as God made his presence known through Jesus of Nazareth, whose arrival was announced by Zechariah's son John. We continue to do John's work of announcing the arrival of Jesus, who comes to bring us hope and joy, to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace. We are privileged to share the gospel of God's love in word and deed, making a difference for others and sharing the reason for the hope that we have.

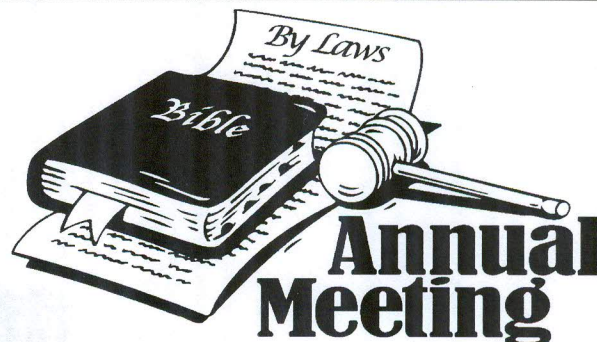
I am privileged to hear the good news of how congregations and individuals throughout our synod are doing God's work of bringing hope to our world. I am amazed at the creative and thoughtful ways in which you share God's love with people in need. And I pray this work will continue. We know that whenever we put aside our own needs and wants in order to care for our neighbor, to listen to another's cares, share our time with those who are hurting, stand for justice with those who suffer, speak of our faith in appropriate ways that bring hope to others, we are doing the work that God calls us to do.

So, I want to thank you for the work you do in God's name. Thank you for sharing in ministry throughout the territory of the Pacifica Synod and into the world. We are grateful for your prayers, your outreach, your connectedness with the synod, and your financial support of the work we do together.

May God be with you. Thank you for the work you do in Christ's name. And may God shine through all you do so that you may share God's hope and joy into 2018.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Bishop Andy Taylor

*Pacifica Synod Website (Used by permission)*



## Annual Meeting

*Sunday, January 28th*

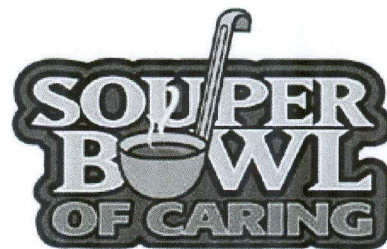
*Church Budget*

*Annual Reports*

*Election of Church*

*Council Members*

*We are looking for people to serve on council. Please let us know if you are being called to help.*



SouperBowl Sunday is February 4th. Let us remember those who are homeless and hungry by giving generously and sharing God's love with those in need. We will be collecting food in the boxes in the Narthex, and a second offering will be taken that Sunday, so vote for your favorite team and tackle hunger. Every dollar and food item donated goes directly to CCLM.

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# Thank you!



Many thanks to the generous people that filled the box for the "Spark of Love Toy Drive." We were able to make the season a little more special for those in need.

## Pacifica Synod Assembly

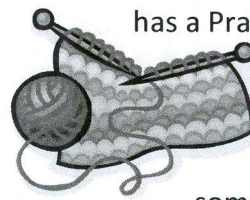
May 18 to 19, 2018

The 2018 Pacifica Synod Assembly will meet at Hope Lutheran in Palm Desert for a two-day assembly in an effort to make the assembly more efficient and less costly. Our Assembly Planning Team has been meeting and has chosen the theme for the Assembly - **"Go and Tell: Giving Voice to Faith, Justice and Blessing"**.

The assembly will begin on Friday, May 18 with registration opening at 7 a.m., Hearings at 8 a.m. and the opening business session at 9 a.m. The assembly will end on Saturday, May 19 at noon.

*If you would like to be a representative at the Synod Assembly, please contact Marv Egeland or the church office. Thank you!*

Can you knit, crochet, or sew? Audrey Flickinger



has 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!



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

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You Shop. Amazon Gives.

If you purchase from Amazon, you can now get donations for our youth programs from the purchases you make. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Moreno Valley for the charitable organization to support, then shop. In order to earn donations, be sure to log into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) whenever you shop Amazon. Thanks for your support!

# ASH WEDNESDAY

The beginning of the Lenten season starts Wednesday, February 14th.

## Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday is March 25th, Maundy Thursday March 29th, Good Friday March 30th, and Easter Sunday is April 1st. Please stay tuned for additional worship opportunities.



### 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.*

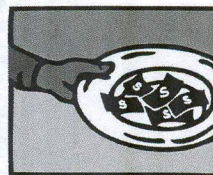
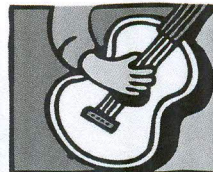


### **Please Pray for:**

Harold & Jeannine Lester, Bob & Oly Vernlund, Ira and Gene Yoder, Larry & Alice Olson, Jim & Cindy Cassem, Katherine Ward, Bill Shulin, Kathy Bickel, Susie Davis, Louise Russell, Carole Horton, Heather Willis, the family of Connie Lowe, Wendy Eder, Gi Pierce, Tarah Sheridan, the family of Steve Johnson, Dale Barnes, the family of Bert Beausir, Don Rasmussen, Laura Entrekin, Gail Paddock, Megan Kelley, Lola Booth, the family of Art Alvarado Sr., the family of Bob & Ruth Kretschmer, Elisa Gonzalez, John Abramson, Mark Korshavn, Larry Wilderman, Kathy Bickel, Jeff Sims, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP



*We are in serious need of volunteers for Sunday Worship: Assistant Ministers, Acolytes, Altar Care, Usher, and Refreshments. If you feel you are being called to help, please contact Marv Egeland or Becci in the church office. No singing required.*

## **From Bishop Andy Taylor Pacifica Synod Staffing Update**

It is with sadness, but also with a great deal of gratitude for work that has been accomplished, that I share with you that Pastor Hitoshi Adachi, Assistant to the Bishop for Finance and Asian Ministry Coordinator, will leave the staff of the Pacifica Synod. He and his wife Satoko are returning to their native Japan to serve as missionaries in Kumamoto. Pastor Hitoshi has been invaluable in support of our Asian ministries, as well as guiding the financial work of the Synod. He has given me permission to share the letter he wrote to the Synod Council announcing his resignation:

**Dear Beloved Pacifica Synod Council Members,**

**May the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany be filled with God's mercy and grace in each one of your lives!**

**Together with Satoko, my wife, there is one thing I must humbly write about today. Because of my aging parents (92 and 89) and Satoko's aging mother (85), who has not been able to walk since last Christmas, Satoko (and I) have been struggling with frequent travel from California to Japan. This past summer, I found that the ELCA is looking to fill three ordained missionary positions in Japan. It was recommended that I apply to the ELCA's Global Mission Unit and make my Rostered Ministered Profile open to be called. I followed the recommendation and prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide us according to God's will and, in the middle of November, Satoko and I were interviewed (if married, missionaries are sent with their spouse in most cases). Last week, I received a phone call that asked us if we wanted to be sent to Kumamoto. Although Kumamoto is a one-hour flight away from our parents in metropolitan Tokyo, we prayerfully discerned this**

**possibility and decided to accept this call. Yesterday morning, we let the ELCA know of our acceptance to the call in Kumamoto, which means our employment status will be transferred to the Global Mission Unit on February 1. Therefore, I tender my resignation from the staff as of January 31.**

**I have shared this information with Bishop Andy and Synod Staff, and my last day at the synod office will be Thursday, January 18. I thank each one of you for your fellowship and friendship for the last 8 years and for being wonderful Synod Council members. Satoko and I will carry our Pacifica Spirit in our hearts, even as we're called to do God's work in Japan.**

**Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Hitoshi**

I invite you to pray for Pastor Hitoshi as he takes on this new role. I encourage you to join with me in sponsoring his work as a missionary with a donation in thankfulness for his service to the Pacifica Synod. I request that your congregation also consider sponsoring Pastor Hitoshi with ongoing support through the ELCA. If you are interested, please email Terri Robertson at [terrirobertson@pacificasynod.org](mailto:terrirobertson@pacificasynod.org) and you will be provided with information about an ELCA Global Church Missionary Sponsorship.

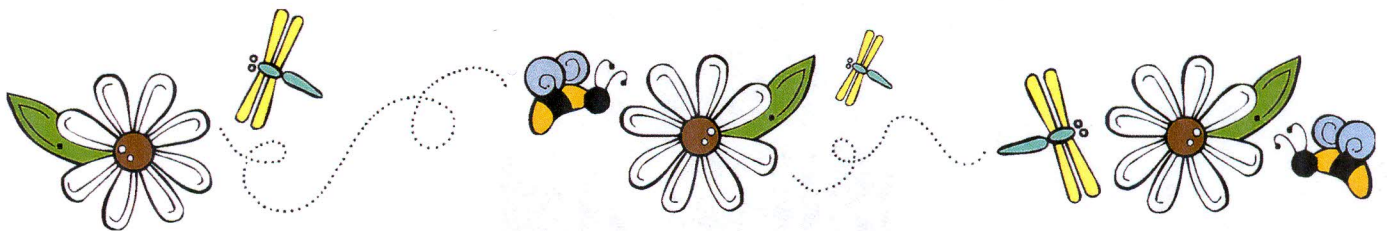
Finally, I invite you to join with me in wishing God's richest blessings on Pastor Hitoshi and Satoko, and all their family, both their parents in Japan and their adult children who will remain in the United States, as they assume this new call. May God bless them and keep them, may God's face shine on them with grace and mercy, and may God look upon them with favor and grant them peace. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Andy Taylor

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of myself and my children, I want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. These last months, I have been carried in God's arms and each of you were right there with Him, and for that we are truly grateful. Each of you gave Connie a home away from home, you always gave her a reason to go on fighting to live, whether it was singing in the choir or encouraging someone going through cancer, you shared her purpose to be here. Each of you are dear to our hearts for the life you shared with Connie. Thirty of our thirty-six years of marriage, Connie would always question why God would not take her home after another cancer diagnosis, and my message never changed...God keeps you here because every time you share your story, you give someone hope. Finally, six years ago, she realized this. Her message was simple: Have faith in God-Faith in Yourself- and the biggest sense of humor you can muster up.

God's peace to all,  
The Lowe Family



*THE DRAGONFLY SIGNIFIES COURAGE, STRENGTH & HAPPINESS. COURAGE TO FIGHT, STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD, AND HAPPINESS FOR YOUR PROGRESS. HAPPINESS TO SHOW HOW MUCH LOVE IS AROUND & TO USE TO ERASE YOUR FEARS, STRENGTH FOR THE ROUGH ROADS, COURAGE TO HOLD YOU TOGETHER THRU TOUGH TIMES.*

BY CONNIE LOWE