

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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

Volume 18 No. 3

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

July - August 2006

# LIFELINE

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

## Our Mission Statement

*We are a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, called by the Spirit into a community of faith and love, nurtured by Word and Sacrament, and empowered by the gospel to be God's instruments of love and grace.*



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## A Day to Remember

What a **day to remember!** The setting was great – a place of beginnings for Lord of Life, the Rasmussen Ranch – thanks for the gracious hospitality, Willie. The weather ideal and the food scrumptious – thanks Fred and all who helped cook. The music very upbeat thanks to Dave Allbeck, Tom Daugherty and others. The MC, our own Jack Pavelich, was superb as was his “sidekick,” President Bob Vernlund. Their skit on the “ten sermons never preached by PD,” hilarious to say the least. And to have no less than three of the Pacifica Synod staff here for the day, marvelous. Thanks to Murray, Lyle and Karen. Additional thanks to Pastors Chuck Aden with his wife Nancy and John Bunge who also dropped by for the festivities. And your note, Pastor Ray Wade, deeply felt and appreciated. We also welcome LOL accompanist, Cherrisse Loo and former LOL accompanist, Grace Yong Carlson, who stopped by bearing gifts as well.

My thanks to all who made this special day happen. The memory book is unbelievable. Thanks to all who are included, even some still adding pages as I write this article. And Brenda Egeland did a fantastic job in putting it all together beautifully. And, Brenda, your Creative memory Christmas book and supplies are out of this world.

And what can one say about that special quilt – WOW! Squares from so many of you beloved family members of Lord of Life. We shall never forget you after this magnificent gift. Much thanks to the WBS, Women’s Bible Study group, and especially Bev Eck and Lois Allbeck. Great job ladies and much appreciated.

In addition we received some home improvement gift cards from Home Depot, Sears, etc. We were gifted with some magnificent plaques to hang in our new home. Some of you, in the quilt as well, gave us Basset prizes. The beautiful art work of Daisy, one of our beloved Bassets, is incredible – thanks to Bev and Lois for having this made by a special artist. It is so lifelike!

We even received watches – his and hers – from the Ross’. I know time will be more redeemed by family in our future. Thanks Margo, Odell and all.

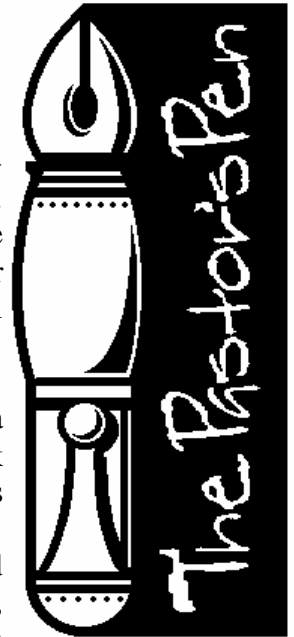
Ann and I even got a container gardening book from the Weitenhagens that is meeting a real need for both of us. We also added devotional books, coffee, wine with great glasses thanks to the Larsens, and a dinner card for one of these upcoming last nights in Moreno Valley. We were especially touched by a beautiful story written and presented to us by Kristin Freeman – the pencils and other goodies were terrific too!

And I saved the “best” for last. The Mejia’s presented me with a \$100 Starbuck’s gift card. Do you have any idea just how many Latte’s this will buy?! My mouth is already watering.

It’s been a great adventure, Lord of Life. And this “**Day to Remember**” puts a cap on it for sure. We’ll have many lasting memories to sustain us long into the future. May God guard and keep you always close to His heart just as you are all close to the hearts of Ann and me.

With much love and appreciation, **PD & Ann**

*Please note our new address:*  
2500 Sirius Star, Henderson, NV 89044  
*Telephone:* 702-720-0113  
*e-mail:* anndavmill@aol.com



# Trusting the Process

*By Bob Vernlund*

By the middle of July we will have a full-time Interim Minister who is trained and ready to serve this congregation until the call process is complete in about one year. His name is Kenneth Davis. He is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, with a Masters of Divinity from Yale Theological Seminary in New Haven, CT. He is currently one of three pastors in a church in Scottsdale, AZ. They have a congregation of 3800+ baptized members where 1500-2000 gather each Sunday to worship. He is married and the father of four children. He is a member of the National Speakers Association

We have been working with the Synod to sign a Covenant with Pastor Davis who goes by the name of "KD". By the end of July a Transition Team will be selected by the Church Council and equipped for the transition work by the Interim Pastor and Synod Staff. They will be meeting about two times per month, have approximately six members and are expected to take about six months to complete their tasks of doing a congregational assessment profile. Somewhere around the first of next year we will be selecting a call committee according to our constitution. The Transition Team, Church Council, and Call Committee will then have a joint meeting as the Transition Team passes on the congregational assessment to the Call Committee with Council approval. The Call Committee completes the Congregational Assessment Profile and submits a finished copy to the Church Council for review and approval. The approved congregational assessment and profile is submitted by your Church Council to the Office of the Bishop. So sometime in early 2007 the "call" process begins and a few months later, we will have a new Pastor to lead our congregation.

A lot of teams, a lot of time, but who is going to do all the work? Well the Transition Team will be people other than those on the Council but may contain up to one from Council for continuity. The Call Committee may include some from the Transition Team but nobody from Council. Each member of the Council has been asked to come up with their private list of who they think should be

on the Transition Team. We will then provide this list to the Synod and they will meet with the Council to help select the team.

We will be working with the Synod staff as they provide guidance and leadership during this transitional period. The Interim Pastor could be likened to John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus Christ as he will be preparing our congregation for our new Called Pastor. The "Process" we are using is one that has been proven to work in our Synod and most Synods around the country. It is a process that I have personally been involved with and can attest to its success. It is a wonderful experience and I think during the next year our Church Family will grow and prosper as we let the Holy Spirit guide us and fill our needs. We are not in this alone and you can be assured that the "process" will help us find the right person to keep the Miracle on Nason Street alive.



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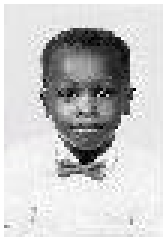
## Have You Noticed?

Many improvements have been made to our church facility. Under the supervision of Mike Weitenhagen, the landscaping and sprinklers have undergone major overhaul. We now have a more efficient drip irrigation system for the front planters and a retaining block wall for the side planter.

Fred and his able electricians have installed an instant hot water heater in the kitchen. They have added florescent lighting outside to enhance the lighting for the stained glass windows. And you're probably already enjoying the fans in the fellowship hall. More fans will be soon installed in our Sanctuary. Jim Cassem and Fred also installed a new sink and faucet in the women's bathroom.

We thank you for your hard work and appreciate you caring for the Lord's house.

## We Welcome Interim Pastor Kenneth Davis!



Pastor KD was born in Kingston, Jamaica. He grew up in Los Angeles, California, with his parents, three brothers and a sister. He is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University, with a major in Theology and minors in Business and Theater Arts. He earned his Master's Degree from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut. While a student at Yale, the President and Fellows of Yale University awarded him, the coveted Charles S. Mersic prize for effective public speaking. He was elected co-president of his graduating class, and elected President of the Black Student Association. He was appointed by the Governor of Arizona to the Arizona Humanities Board and was selected to serve on the Black Board of Directors in Arizona. For his community involvement, Pastor KD received recognition from the Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Pastor KD has taught in the public school system, worked as a director for several non-profit community organizations and served on the staff of several church denominations including: Pentecostal, United Methodist, E.L.C.A. and U.C.C. He is ordained in both the Pentecostal and Lutheran (E.L.C.A.) denominations and for six years served as the associate pastor for men, family and outreach ministries at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran church in Scottsdale Arizona. Most recently he served as a public speaker and a chaplain inter at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center in Glendale Arizona. He and his wife Cathy are natives of California and they have an adult son and three daughters, the youngest two being twins.




Blessed To Be A Blessing!

Your brother from another mother,  
Kenneth Davis (kd)

Please visit my website:

[WWW.WOUNDEDHEALERMINISTRY.COM](http://WWW.WOUNDEDHEALERMINISTRY.COM)



**We're  
Havin' a  
BAR-B-Q!**

**To Welcome**  
**Pastor Kenneth Davis and his family**  
**Saturday, July 15 - 5 PM**  
**At Lord of Life**  
*Bring a dish to share (meat is provided)*

## Come to Youth Group

*By Robert Willis*

During the past few months, our youth group has met for several Bible studies. Designed to help our youth integrate their faith in Christ with their every day lives at school, home and with their friends, these Bible studies have been crucial in their development from young adults to adulthood.

Bowling was on the agenda one Friday night and we all had a *striking* good time! We also fed the homeless, with help from many in our congregation.

Our Youth also began a project to raise funds for their youth fund. We are building a Lego home that when completed will raise approximately \$1200.00 for the youth group and \$1200 for Habit for Humanity. Thrivent will match funds raise, which will enable us to do this project Thank you to Cindy Cassem for help with this project.

During the next few months we will be continuing our Bible studies and homeless feedings. We will be going to the Redlands bowl in July to see the play Beauty and the Beast.

August 3-5 Aaron Egeland and I will be going to the **Invitation to Service Event** at Cal Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Please pray for all our youth as they continue to grow in faith and knowledge in our Lord Jesus Christ. *Robert*

## A real page turner...

By Jack Pavelich

I've been reading a great book entitled *Special Circumstances*, written by Sheldon Siegel. It's a courtroom drama about murder, and suspicion, false accusations, and the revelation of forgotten sins of long ago. I don't know the origination of the phrase, but it fits my interest in this book – it was a real page turner.

While I would plan to read a few short chapters before bedtime, I would find myself going for 4, 5... 6 chapters; only stopping because it was getting verrrrrry late and my day starts pretty early. And that is precisely what a “real page turner” does – it takes over!

I have always been an avid reader. Mary Jean and I went through a lot of authors together as we had similar reading interests. After she died, 2 years ago now, I found that I had lost the ability to concentrate on just about everything – so my ability to read novels was a chore with which I wasn't willing to struggle. I'd pick up a book from time to time to see if I was recovering that gift, only to give up after only a few pages of the things I used to enjoy so much. It feels good to grasp once again this leisure activity that used to be so important to me. With the completion of this book, I guess you might say I've “turned another page.”

You and I turned a page 10 ½ years ago. Our beloved Lord of Life Church was struggling with debt, identity, and a fracture of the fellowship we had once shared together. We seemed to lack the ability to meet this crisis head on. Then Pastor David and Ann Miller popped in, took over our hearts, and helped us find the track for this train we were on. (I think it was the devil costume that got my attention: I remember leaning over toward Mary Jean, who was a member of the Call Committee, and I asked her, “What have you people done to us?”)

Looking back on all that, we found out we weren't in debt after all – we had the money all along. It was just still in our pockets. We grew in our stewardship, as, one by one, our people embraced the tithe, or continued to grow in that direction. Not

only did we find out who we were, but our community has stood up and taken notice of the little church which calls itself the “Miracle on Nason Street.” As we look upon our fellowship, we see a loving community of God's people who are a diverse, joyful, prayerful, enlightened, and a group hugging mirror of our community. And you all know what kind of party animals we can be!

Anyone reading this story, this history of God's people of Lord of Life Church – some opening their eyes and seeing the Lord in their lives for the very first time – would find our last 10 ½ years to be a real page turner. When the events of prior years drive the excitement for the next, that my friends is a page turner. Aren't you tempted to look at the final pages to see how this all turns out? Ah, but wait – this is a chronicle we are writing ourselves (with God's all-mighty support and patience, I might add..)

With every page I turned in this book, I brought along new information and details about all the players in this courtroom mystery. The suspense and anticipation continued to build – page to page. David Miller's ministry was just like that. Each new message building on all those previous to it. Our energy and excitement for our Lord, and the work He would have us do here continues to lay ahead of us. We only need do one major thing to set our task firm. We need to turn this page!

We've learned from the very best along the way – and, I might add, I am anxious to see what happens next! I want to read another chapter to see how this is all going to make us better at what we're doing together. And I can hardly wait to stop in Henderson, Nevada, in a year and tell Dave and Ann all about it.

Meanwhile, I'm going to pick out another book. It really feels good to have this gift back.

And while we're at it, the next page in our life will introduce us to Pastor Kenneth and Cathy Davis, and their girls, who will bring together this next chapter for the continuing saga of *The Miracle on Nason Street*. Amen?

GO AND DO  
LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

# Uniform Drive for Edgemont Elementary

*By Carole Korshavn*

With school starting in mid-August, it is time to begin our school uniform drive for the children of Edgemont Elementary (K-5), the most economically challenged area of Moreno Valley where more than half of the students qualify for a free breakfast and lunch. Although school uniforms are no longer mandatory, a school uniform is provided for those students who cannot afford one and those who come to school inappropriately dressed. The cost of a two-piece uniform is approximately \$15.00.

White uniform socks and underwear are needed on a continual basis and it is necessary to collect these items throughout the school year.

May God richly bless you for continuing to meet the needs of the children of Edgemont Elementary.



## Honors Received

Lord of Life received a plaque of recognition from Edgemont Elementary for all the support we have given them for the school year of 2005-06 with uniforms, socks and underwear, clothing and school supplies.

On June 13, the Moreno Valley Unified School District Board of Education presented Lord of Life Lutheran church the **Community Service Award** for its contributions to Edgemont Elementary School. The plaque was inscribed "with sincere appreciation for your outstanding support to Edgemont Elementary – Moreno Valley Unified School District - 2006"



## Dear Lord of Life,

Thank you so much for your generous donation; the money that you provided me with will help me so much in paying for my college education. Ever since my sister, Kristina attended Concordia, it has been my dream to go there too. It has such a wonderful atmosphere and beautiful campus, I am so thankful that God has blessed me with the opportunity to attend Concordia for the next four years of my life.

I plan to major in Business Administration while I attend Concordia. Although, I am not sure what I will do in my career after college, I believe business is a broad enough subject and will help me with any path that I take. I will be living on campus next year in the dorms - that will be an experience of a lifetime, I can't wait. I would like to get involved with the school by joining the dance team and becoming an active member of the church on campus.

I am really looking forward to this upcoming year, and I could not have done it without your generosity. Once again thank you so much for the scholarship that you gave me! I look forward to coming back next year on the weekends and sharing my experiences with everyone. Please pray for me as I venture out into the world as a college student.

Sincerely,  
Kaysie Ellingson

Join us here at Lord of Life on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
We've got a great view of the fireworks show at Morrison Parl  
Bring a chair, and a dessert to share and enjoy!  
8:00 PM July 4th



# What's Your Sun-Safety IQ?

Sun safety is not just for vacation.

Are you sun-safe every day?

Take the American Cancer Society's quiz and find out.

1.  True  False **I can't get skin cancer, because my routine (work, drive to work, indoor hobbies, and vacations) doesn't include any outdoor activities.**

The correct answer is **false**. Dermatologists say brief sun exposures all year round can add up to significant damage for people with fair skin. And the sun's ultraviolet rays do pass through car windows, so driving during peak sun hours, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., to lunch or on weekends, bathes your hands and arms in damaging UV rays. Such cumulative, everyday exposures are linked to squamous cell cancer. Although not as dangerous as melanoma, squamous cell cancer is still believed to be the cause of up to 20% of skin cancer deaths.

2.  True  False **My husband should use sunscreen at football games, even though he only goes (and gets a burn!) once or twice a year.**

The correct answer is **true**. Many people think it's OK to get a sunburn now and then, but studies show that occasional exposure to strong sunlight seems to increase the risk of the most serious type of skin cancer, melanoma.

3.  True  False **If I'm wearing sunscreen, I can stay in the sun as long as I want.**

The correct answer is **false**. It's not smart to broil in the sun for several hours, even if you are wearing sunscreen. These products don't provide total protection from ultraviolet (UV) rays. The American Cancer Society recommends that people seek shade and limit time in the sun at midday. Also, cover up with a shirt, wear a wide-brimmed hat, and use a sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher. And don't forget sunglasses for eye protection.

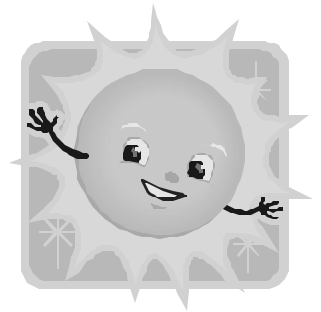
4.  True  False **A sunscreen labeled SPF 30 blocks twice as much UV radiation as one labeled SPF 15.**

The correct answer is **false**. The Sun Protection Factor (SPF) describes how long a product will

protect your skin, if you apply the sunscreen correctly. Fair-skinned people begin to burn in about 15 minutes on a sunny day, so wearing an SPF 15 sunscreen (if applied and reapplied properly) would prevent sunburn for about 225 minutes ( $15 \times 15 = 225$ ), or 3 hours and 45 minutes. The SPF 30 sunscreen should last for 450 minutes ( $30 \times 15 = 450$ ), or 7 hours and 30 minutes. In practical use, you'll need to reapply sunscreen every 2 hours. Be sure to choose a broad spectrum product that blocks UVB and UVA light.

5.  True  False **It's safe to let my children stay in the pool all day if they slip on a T-shirt after a couple hours and reapply sunscreen to their faces, arms, and legs.**

The correct answer is **false**. UV rays easily penetrate a white cotton T-shirt, particularly if it's wet. Your children will get only about as much protection as an SPF 4 sunscreen—certainly not enough for all day and well below the minimum of SPF 15



recommended by the ACS. Better clothing choices include dark colors, fabrics with tight weaves, and specially treated garments and bathing suits. Another good choice is moving into the shade. Sun-protective clothing is often found at sporting goods stores. For babies younger than 6 months, shade, sun-protective clothing, and hats are best. As a last resort, pediatricians now say that very small amounts of sunscreen can be used on small areas, such as the face and back of the hands.

6.  True  False **What are the two most common (and painful!) sunscreen mistakes?**

The correct answer is **using too little and waiting too long to reapply**. A study of Texas beachgoers found most people who used sunscreen came home with a sunburn anyway, thanks to those two mistakes. Adults need an ounce of sunscreen to cover their arms, legs, face, hands, neck, and ears. Spreading it too thin cuts the protection in half, according to Mary O'Connell, a health educator for the American Cancer Society. Sunscreen should be reapplied every 2 hours or sooner.



*Submitted by Pat Rupert*



# Join us for Vacation Bible School!



Summer is just around the corner and here at Lord of Life, we're planning an exciting VBS adventure for our children. This year's theme is Gospel Express: All aboard God's celebration train!

This fun-filled VBS is for all children from pre-school through high school age, and will be held July 24-27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$5, payable when you register, and includes dinner, snack, and a handmade VBS T-shirt!

At Gospel Express, VBS kids will hear stories of Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy train tunes, play zany games, and make lots of new friends! Sign up after church so you will be able to join in on the fun!

\*We also need adult helpers to help with VBS. If you are able to assist, please speak with Cathy Fulgenzi at 242-7142.

