

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

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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
Lenten Worship Schedule	P. 2
Are we ready?	P. 3
Dear Brothers and Sisters	P. 4
Council Committees	P. 4
Easter Activities	P. 5
Prayers	P. 5
Baptismal Anniversaries	P. 5
Relay for Life	P. 6
Let us introduce... ..	P. 6

LIFELINE



Subject: God works in mysterious ways

I used to ask the members of the congregations to send me meaningful articles if they know of one or read one. I received the following story from the members of Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, which was the first church I served when I was ordained in 1978.

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication. She got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys in the car. She didn't know what to do, so she called home and told the baby sitter what had happened. The baby sitter told her that her fever was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door." The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time or other had locked their keys in their car. Then she looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this." So she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old rusty car pulled up with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "This is what you sent to me?"

But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful. The man got out of his car and asked her if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to home to her. Please can you use this hanger to unlock my car?" He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank you so much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for

about an hour." The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, "Oh, Thank you God! You even sent me a Professional!"

We all need God's help from time to time. Whatever happens in your life, God knows how you are doing and he will guide you in the right direction. Sometimes what God presents to you may not be what you want or expect, but he knows the best course for you to take.

Trust me, God shares with you plans of your future, consolation when you grieve, and even joy and happiness when we are full of thanksgiving. So pray to God always. He will surprise you as you walk the path that he has already prepared for you.

And when you receive blessings from God, please share that with others and praise the Lord.

In His Spirit,
Pastor Kishino



Worship Schedule For Lent

Ash Wednesday, March 5 – Soup Supper 6:00 pm
Holy Communion and imposition of ash

Be sure to join us on Thursday evenings from March 13th through April 10th at 7:00 pm for

"The Seven 'I AM' statements of Christ."

Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday, April 13th

Maundy Thursday, April 17th- Soup Supper 6:00 pm

Good Friday, April 18th

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Are we ready??

Next year, our congregation will be
30 years old! What a milestone!!

March 24, 1984: Lord of Life becomes an officially chartered congregation of the American Lutheran Church. There are 120 signers of the charter. A Church Council is elected.

Becoming a member of a church is an important part of the Christian life. Yet the trend these days is one of shunning the practice of organized religion and showing a distaste or fear of commitment, especially of institutions. What can **we** do and why are **we** still here? Here are some thoughts.

Let's Improve the Attendance of Current Members.

- At least once or twice each year teach and preach the importance of faithful worship attendance.
- Include a commitment to faithful worship attendance as part of a holistic annual stewardship commitment.
- Keep a record of attendance and monitor it.
- Know that it is important to respond to absentees before they drop out of active attendance.
- Form a worship membership care team to review attendance within 24 hours of each service.
- Send a handwritten note or call to anyone who has missed three Sundays in a row.
- Maintain a loving, invitational relationship with those who have been absent for five or more Sundays. Never be judgmental.
- Telephone every household in the church and everyone who has ever visited to invite them to some special event. "I hope you will be there."

Let's Invite New People to Attend Worship

- Decide today to open your minds, hearts, and doors to new faces, even if it means changing your music, sermon content, Sunday School, and enlarging your personal circle of friends.
- Pray for the unchurched in your community. Pray for children being raised outside the church, couples in marriages that don't have Christ at their center, etc. But pray also for specific families and individuals -- friends, relatives, associates, neighbors -- by name every day.
- At least once a year preach and teach the importance of becoming an inviting people.

- Know that personal invitations are the most effective method of increasing worship attendance. Invest sixty seconds once a week to invite someone to attend worship with you.
- Recycle your worship bulletins. Keep Sunday's bulletin handy until you have given it to someone along with your personal invitation for them to join you in worship.
- Distribute to members simple printed invitations during the Christmas and Easter seasons that they can give to family and friends. Print at the top of the card, "If you are not active in a church, worship with us this season."
- Have a "Bring a Friend Day".
- Know that the people who are on the fringe of your church are your future, your prospect list, and your next potential generation of deeply devoted disciples. Avoid the tendency to denigrate or alienate those who are not yet fully committed disciples.
- Find ways continually to invite these "near the edges" of your church, especially those who already have a positive impression of the church, such as those who have come to the church for a wedding, a funeral, or to vote and those who already worship a couple of times a year. Do not drop them from the newsletter or membership list.
- Distribute door hangers in target neighborhoods near your church. It is more effective to cover the same 500 doors six times, than to do 3,000 doors one time.
- Send mass mailers to targeted postal routes near your church 6 to 8 times a year. The back-to school season, pre-Christmas, and pre-Easter times are logical for these mailing.

Let's Get Started-Let Go, Let God

We have been blessed through the past 30 years and the future looks great. We call ourselves "the miracle on Nason Street". Just look at what's happening. The new, expanded overpass and on-ramps are just about complete on Highway 60, the extension of Nason Street all the way to Iris is complete, and the street will be widened to four lanes from Cactus to Fir over the next two to three years. The recession is past and the new constructions are coming to our neighborhood. We must be ready to welcome the future and willing to listen to God's will. Pray for our church, our members and our community that we will be here to do what we have been called to do. Submitted by Bob Vernlund

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I can hardly believe that we are already in the season of Lent. It seems that we were just celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and now we are preparing for the reason God sent his son.

As we journey through this Lenten season, let us reflect on what has been done for us so that we may have eternal life with our Father in Heaven. Can we take time to think of all that Jesus had to go through to fulfill His Father's commands? Could we have done it? I think not; just look at Peter, Jesus' friend he called the Rock. Would we be too embarrassed to give our life for our best friend as Peter was? Not once, but three times he denied his best friend.

When we look at Holy Week, we get a glimpse of what expectations can turn into. On Palm Sunday, Jesus comes back into His town with shouts of hosannas and praises, but why? Was it for the right reasons? No! The people of Jerusalem were expecting a king to come and save them as a worldly king, not a heavenly king. As the week goes on, we see betrayal, denial, and ultimately the death of Jesus. Could we have faced all of what Jesus did that week? I believe I am going to take these next few weeks to pause and give thanks for what our Savior has done for us, so that when Easter comes, I can shout and praise God from my heart. I hope that you will, also.

And now, once again, it's time for Relay for Life. Unfortunately, most of us have seen cancer sometime in our lives, be it through a family member or friend. Unfortunately, a cure still evades us. I would encourage all who are able to come out and support the cancer patients and survivors. As I walk around the track each year, I am able to hear wonderful stories of survivors and loved ones who have lost the fight with cancer. I am amazed at how much a simpler conversation means to someone on the track who has lost a loved one. Please come out and share the track with our community.

God's peace to all,
John Lowe



... from your church council

- Church council approved covering the conference and hotel expenses only of our designated representatives to the Synod Assembly in Hawaii.
- Congregational meeting on March 2nd to vote on two nominees for church council: Marv Egeland / Larry Olson.
- Our health kits will be split between two organizations: Lutheran World Relief and 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

- 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

- Amy Freeman, Harold Lester, and Chris Silvey
*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, and Amy Freeman
*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.

- Lenten Services will be on Thursdays with no supper except: Ash Wednesday on March 5th with supper at 6:00pm and Maundy Thursday on April 17th with supper at 6:00pm.

- The annual Easter Egg hunt will be on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

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HEY KIDS...

Join us Palm Sunday, April 13th at 10:15 am for our annual children's Easter Egg Hunt. All children are welcome to join in the fun. Bring your Easter basket and meet in the fellowship hall at the end of the service. If anyone would like to donate candy and/or filled eggs, please bring them to the church office before April 13th. Thanks for your help!



If interested, you may bring an Easter lily to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Your lily will be placed around the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or for Christ's resurrection. Please have them to the church office by Friday, April 18th. Please remember to take them home to enjoy following the Easter worship service.



EVERYONE IS INVITED FOR AN EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST POTLUCK FROM 8:00-8:45 AM ON APRIL 20TH. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.



Please Pray for:

Williams, Jane Mann, Carole Korshavn, Fred Gonzalez, Lowell Rasmussen, Diane Kroh and John Meeks, the family of Delores Wockenfuss, Karman Johnson, Mary Lou Ptacek, Connie Lowe, Jim Busick, Marshall Whitney, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Sean and Suzy Orza, Katie Spaulding, Andie Jaeger, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



March:

John Abramson
Jill Gardner
Tom Gardner
Kaysie Ellingson
Maggie August
Bob Lantz
Jacob Avila
Enjoli Zappulla
Trent Zappulla
Alivia Gardner
Caitlyn Jackson
Greg Luna, Jr.

April:

Zoe Ross
Derrick McMillian
Joseph McMillian
Emery Zappulla
Bryan Slaton
Jackie Silvey
Pat Rupert
Larry Olson
Marie Bundura
Darlene Bueker
Shynell Stanton

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. Thank you.

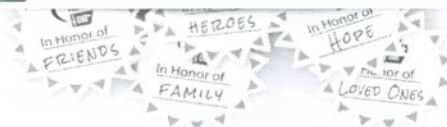
Our Church's Anniversary



Be involved in the planning of our 30th anniversary celebration! Contact the church office or one of your church council members.



Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.™



What: Moreno Valley Relay For Life
When: April 26-27, 2014
Opening Ceremony: 9am
Survivors Walk: 9:30 am
Luminary Ceremony: Dusk, approx. 9 pm
Where: Valley View High School Track

Lord of Life Lutheran Church will once again be participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, a community event which celebrates those who have fought cancer, remembers the loved ones we've lost, and fights back against a disease that has taken too much from too many. It would be an honor to have you on our team "Love of Life". If you have never done Relay For Life before – you will find that it's more than a fund-raiser or a walk around the track. It's a life changing experience.

The theme this year is "Superheroes" and we have selected our Lord of Life cancer survivors (members & friends) as our "superheroes" including those who are with us now and those we have lost to cancer. We will rally around our friends and loved ones who are currently fighting cancer, support our survivors and caregivers and remember those we have lost.

Are you ready to join the fight? If so, please contact Pat Rupert at 951/243-1045 or email pat.bill.rupe@verizon.net. Registration packets and miscellaneous forms are available either from Pat or from Becci, church office manager. You can also register online by visiting our website. Just Google *relay for life moreno valley ca 2014*. Be sure to click on Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Please sign up for a time to walk – forms are on the table in the Narthex. **If you are interested in joining the team, serving on a committee, being a sponsor or helping in any way, contact Pat or Becci.**

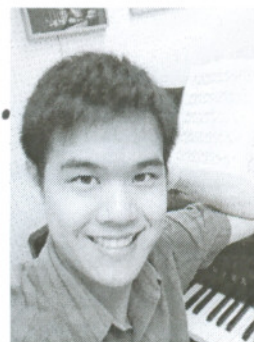
Team members who raise at least \$100 will get a commemorative 2014 Relay t-shirt. Cancer survivors will get a free shirt, gift bag and lunch and snacks at the Survivor's Tent, and will walk in the opening ceremony. Be sure to fill out the survivor's registration form and turn in to Pat or Becci.

How far will you go to make a difference in the fight against cancer? No matter who you are, there's a place for you at this event. Each dollar you raise will help save lives. Your reason for participating is as unique and special as the story that motivates you. If you've been affected by cancer in any way, being part of the Relay event empowers you to make a difference and fight back.

A BIG thank you to Audrey Flickinger, who once again made gifts for cancer survivors, and to Shelly Palestis for creating our "Superheroes" poster. Thanks also to those who have already begun to fund-raise. Relay For Life is a family friendly tobacco-free, alcohol-free community event with fun and entertainment for all ages.

Pat Rupert, Team Captain

Introducing...



Riverside native Joshua Chandra, who comes from a Southern Baptist family of Indonesian-cultured Chinese heritage, is an award-winning musician who has performed with seven orchestras to date, in California, Germany, Indonesia, and Italy. Joshua received his Bachelor's Degree of Music in Piano Performance *magna cum laude* on scholarship at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in 2012, studying under the renowned Argentine concert pianist Eduardo Delgado.

During his undergraduate years at CSUF, he was the school's University Symphony Orchestra's pianist for three years. While attending CSUF, Joshua was regularly favored by fellow students over CSUF staff accompanists in accompanying their rehearsals, recording sessions, and recitals. He was also handpicked by vocal faculty to cover for vocal workshops, sometimes with under a day's notice to sight-read on the spot. He is currently the publicity assistant to the Louisiana International Piano Competition, a post he has held since reaching its semifinals in 2009.

A chronic thumb injury has pressed Joshua off the international stage in recent years, while he continues to seek avenues to glorify God. He has taught private piano students for two years and is currently looking to build his teaching studio throughout the Inland Empire. He regularly plays for occasions of all sorts, ranging from luncheons and dinners to weddings and funerals, informal salon-style performances in houses, and more. Joshua, who is named after the sixth book in the Bible, is blessed and glad to be in fellowship at the miracle on Nason Street! **We are truly blessed to welcome Josh to the Lord of Life family!**