

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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

Volume 23 No.1

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March-April 2016

# 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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Excerpts originally written by Pastor Chuck Malloch for the 2011, 2012 Lifeline

This reflective season, the 40 days of Lent, is a time of spiritual renewal; to reflect and reconnect with God, our neighbor, creation, and ourselves; to remember Jesus is calling us today to follow, to pray, to serve, and to rediscover what it means to us to be and live as children of God. At Lord of Life, there are many opportunities to seek God in a fresh, new way this Lenten Season. Invite someone to join you and be prepared to meet the living Christ!

Lent is not all about penitence or mistakes or guilt. Satan reminds us and drags out the old failures and mistakes to make us feel miserable. Stop living in the past or worrying about the future. Everyone has fallen short of the glory of God. That's why God gave Jesus to die for our sins and this is the emphasis of our observations called Lent. It is a time of introspection, an annual invitation to come closer to God. It offers us a chance to look at ourselves, not to punish ourselves, but so we can identify any obstacles that might keep us from God's peace, which does pass all human understanding. By moving any obstructions away, we come closer to the Love that gives spiritual life, the Love whose triumph we will celebrate on Easter morning. Lent gives us a time to see our current situation in complete honesty, to compare this present snapshot with an image of where we would like to be and in that place God wants us to find.

Too often, we slide back to live in the past and relive all the guilt, grief, and shame. We need to let go of it. We are offered and given forgiveness of all our sins; so leave it in God's hands of love, mercy, and forgiveness.

Live in Christ's victory of Easter!



# Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday, March 20th at 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday, March 24th - Soup  
supper at 6:15; service at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 25th at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 27th at 9:00 am -  
Please join us for Easter Breakfast from  
8:00-8:45 am



## HEY KIDS...



Join us Palm Sunday, March 20th at 10:15 am for our annual children's Easter egg hunt. Children of all ages 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 March 20th. Thank you for your help.



EVERYONE IS INVITED FOR AN EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST POTLUCK FROM 8:00-8:45 AM ON MARCH 27TH. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.

## 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

- Audrey Flickinger  
\*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

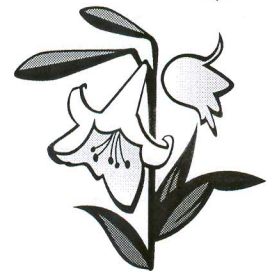
- Larry Olson  
\*Worship service structure, content, and music

### 9. Youth

- Audrey Flickinger  
\*Building our future with youth ministry.



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, March 25th, and please be sure to take them home with you after the Easter worship service.





Looking for ideas that would appeal to all our youth: bowling, movie night, etc. The recent lock-in was a great success Please contact Becci in the church office with your fellowship ideas and possible dates.



**Please Pray for:**

Cindy Cassem, Oly Vernlund, David Johnson, Kally Young, Corey Lester, Dave Endres, Tonni Broussard, Jill Hall, Beatriz Gonzalez, Maxine Hagle, Jill Rasmussen, Maxine Cassem, John Abramson, Craig May, Jason Withrow, John Simpson, Michael Brown, Elijah Fields, Steve Johnson, Brian Kelley,

Donna Messer, Bob Lantz, Karen, Fabian, Mike Johnson, Rita Nielsen, Joy, 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.



**March**

John Abramson  
Tom Gardner  
Maggie August  
Bob Lantz  
Fernando Garcia (Ross)  
Alivia Gardner

**April**

Zoe Ross  
Derrick McMillian  
Joseph McMillian  
Pat Rupert  
Larry Olson  
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.*

**Shake It Off and Step Up**

Submitted by Barb Shoemaker for Life Line March 1999

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule "braying" or whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened...and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back... a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back...HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" He repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed, the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP! You're right! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL OF THAT WELL! What seemed like it would bury him actually blessed him...all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.

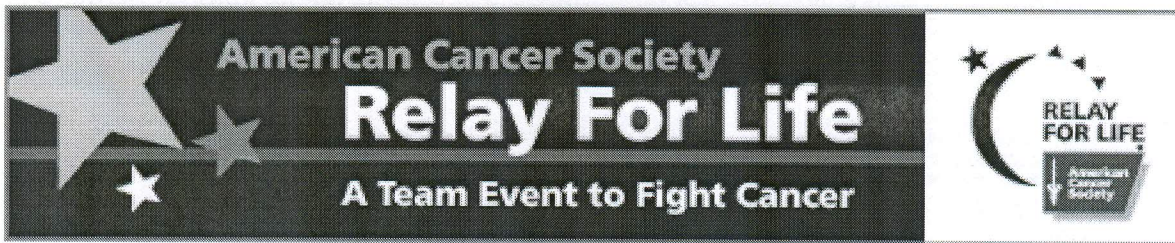
That's life! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity...THE ADVERTISTIES THAT COME ALONG TO BURY US USUALLY HAVE WITHIN THEM THE POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT AND BLESS US!

Remember that FORGIVENESS-FAITH-PRAYER-PRAISE and HOPE...all are excellent ways to "SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP" out of the wells in which we find ourselves!

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly  
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California  
Volume 23 No. 1 March-April 2016



## Teaming up for the Relay fight

**What:** Relay For Life of Moreno Valley

**Where:** Valley View High School Track

**When:** May 14-15, 2016, 9am-9am

- Join us at Lord of Life and be part of an award-winning team that can and has made a difference. There's a place for you at the Relay. You can walk, cheer us on, help set up our campsite, serve on a committee, donate, be a sponsor. Should you wish to be a sponsor your name/company name will appear on the back of the event t-shirts. Be sure to get this done before the shirts go to print.
- Because cancer never sleeps, each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. So please sign up for a time to walk. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.
- While you are raising much-needed funds, you'll also be raising awareness of cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and patient support. Each team member that raises \$100 gets a free commemorative Relay t-shirt.
- Cancer survivors and patients are invited to come as honorary guests and walk in the Survivors Lap. Your strength and courage help the community see that cancer survivorship is real and that we are making progress in the battle against cancer. There will be a Survivors Tent set up for your convenience and comfort. Food and beverages will be served.
- Be sure to stay for the evening Luminaria Ceremony where hundreds of candles light the way to remember those lost to cancer, those fighting cancer and those who have fought cancer and won. This ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and perseverance with which we all continue to fight.
- If possible, please try to register online [www.relayforlife.org/morenovalley](http://www.relayforlife.org/morenovalley). Sign up as a new participant and join team Lord of Life Lutheran Church "Love of Life". You can have your very own fundraising web page to send notes, cards, post pictures etc to your friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers.
- One in three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life nation-based community-wide family event gives everyone the opportunity to fight back and to make a difference in the battle against cancer.

Pat Rupert, Team Captain  
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 951.243.1045

Audrey Flickinger and Becci Van Hoosier  
 Honorary Team Captains

**"We are the church community that takes up the challenge"**



## **EVANGELISM-**

Hello, I am a newcomer to your church.

You cannot know the reason why I am here this morning. It may be as simple as a move to your community or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength from God. In either case, I am here. And I will probably remain here and come back to worship with you next Sunday, and the Sunday after, and the Sunday after that, if you will do some things for me. Won't you please...

Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the church during the first few moments I am in your building, and this first impression will probably stay with me a long time.

Help me find my place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact, I will remember your kindness. (I'm sure the visitor doesn't realize that we have a certain chair that is OURS :)

Speak to me during the coffee hour. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business, but I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for each other unless I first see evidence that you care for "the stranger in your midst."

Tell me good things about your church and your Pastor. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people love each other and where they believe they are doing something exciting and important for the Lord. Notice me-even if I am not a "family." I don't want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager, or an older person.

Talk to me again the second week when I come back, and the third and the fourth. I am still not a part of your church family. Please don't feel you have "done your duty" by me just because you made a point of greeting me the first week I was here.

Invite me to become part of some church group or organization. I need more than worship every Sunday. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the church who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back...the second Sunday, the third, and maybe forever. I will worship with you, and I may join your choir, teach in your Sunday school, contribute to your ministry, and become a highly involved member of your church and, in doing so, I will find my own life immeasurably enriched.

*From the Evangelism chair waiting for you published in the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Volume XVIII, Issue 3*