

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 19 No. 2

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

May-June 2008

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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F R O M T H E



PASTOR

We invited you to become part of our Lord of Life family; you responded affirmatively and our joy is full! Jesus, the Christ will work through you and together we shall continue to celebrate the Presence, the Spirit, and the Peace of our Savior.

We welcome, by pastoral catechism, Mr. David Jackson, real estate agent in Moreno Valley; and, by letter of transfer, Ms. Natasha Sinclair and her son, Joshua. We know you'll be involved in this ministry and always speak a good word for your church.

From our Bishop Murray and the National ELCA leader, a special letter of appreciation for Lord of Life's generous support of the wonderful ministries worldwide and the vibrant ministries of our Berkeley Seminary, Campers Ministries, Cal Lutheran, Social Services, Camps, Conferences and Retreats. Supplying an interim pastor during a vacancy and providing names of candidates of potential shepherds for Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Because you, the LOL congregation members, are making a tremendous witness in the world for Christ's sake! Also, the Gideon International of Moreno Valley, Mr. Dale Jonasson, sends a thank-you to LOL for their gracious reception here. "The \$682.00 special offering is tangible evidence of the love LOL congregation has for making the Word of God available to those who otherwise may not have a Bible. Your gift will enable the Gideon's to place 482 New Testaments in places where people can read them and come to a saving faith in Christ Jesus."

This interim pastor continues to praise God for the inspirational joy and blessing of serving this faithful congregation. The Holy Spirit is active and moving in this place!

Believing God's best for each one of you,

Pastor Chuck

Stumbling through handfuls of blessings

With your Church Council
Submitted by Beverly Erck

No, this is not an original thought. Instead, it is from a message given by Joel Osteen in his Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. His analogy was Ruth gleaning Moab's field and she was suddenly finding handfuls of wheat. She didn't have to work so hard to find food for Naomi and herself...Ruth 2:1-14.

Osteen was referring to the blessings God has prepared for us and gives to us "on purpose" when we aren't expecting them. Each believer just has to keep the faith and he/she will gather more favor from God than they can possibly imagine. I sometimes think of the church council as a single body of believers who keep on receiving God's favor that we neither ask for nor are always prepared to receive. He provides an answer to prayers often before we can determine exactly what the specific need is. Pastor Chuck's presence at LOL the past nine months is a good example of God's favor. Praise the Lord!

We are grateful to all 18 families whom the Holy Spirit has moved to make generous contributions to our 23rd Anniversary Building Fund. Our budget is in good shape and the Building Fund has enough to cover the mortgage payment. If we are able to bring in the new pastor in the next few months, it would be nice to have this fund built up to a point that it would not be affected by a "summer slump," should one occur. If any members wish to contribute to this fund, the opportunity still exists.

Other items that the council is addressing include:

1. Standing committees headed by council members are listed on the bulletin board. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please see the committee chairperson. Your interest is both needed and appreciated. Monthly updates will be reported at each council meeting.
2. Lutheran Lay Renewal is planned for September 26th-28th. Mr. Taylor Avery will lead the LLR team and the activities that weekend. Taylor led the renewal here a few years ago.

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California
Volume 19 No.2 May-June 2008

Stumbling through cont.

3. Family Nights will resume May 16, 23rd, and 30th. A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm with Adult Bible Study and Children's Choir from 7:00-8:00 am.

4. Another children's activity-The Children's Voice Readings for Christ, will perform during the worship services and will practice on Family Night too, along with the choir. Shelley Palestis and I will direct the Reading Voices while Jorine Campbell will continue to direct the children's choir.

5. LOL will continue to support Lutheran World Relief Health Kit and Quilt missions. The items contributed over the Lenten season for the health kits were wonderful. We should be able to complete the drive over the summer months before the Ingathering in October.

Please continue to pray for the Call Committee and for the Church Council. Both are anxious to carry out the mission of Lord of Life, "Inviting All to Grow in Christ." Each council member is prepared to carry out the business of the church as directed by the Holy Spirit. We are hopeful that the person that God has chosen to lead our membership will become clear to the Call Committee so that a call can be made.

May God continue to bless you as you carry on His work at Lord of Life.



Lutheran Lay Renewal

By Bob Vernlund

It has been over five years since our last encounter with Lutheran Lay Renewal. It was an opportunity to "renew" our spiritual connection that held us to a higher calling during the past five years, what a ride it has been!

The church council believes it is the right time to set aside a Friday evening and Saturday as we grow spiritually and renew our dedication to "inviting all to grow in Christ".

We have confirmed the weekend of **September 26-28, 2008** for this Renewal. Taylor and Jan Avery from Highland, CA have accepted the call to serve as our visiting team coordinators for this weekend. They served in this capacity the last time we had Lutheran Lay Renewal.

Mark your calendars and your hearts as we prepare to strengthen our family of believers. Pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to be with all who participate and for the spiritual growth we will receive.



Call Committee Update...

Our elected Call Committee is busy at work reviewing Pastor Profiles, searching the Internet for items and clippings which might describe a candidate's activity in their local community, conducting interviews and tours of our church and community, and traveling to regional churches to hear candidates preach and share the word with the people of God. The work continues.

We believe firmly that God has a specific Pastor in mind for us. We are being as patient with God as we can to allow Him the time needed to bring that person forward. The current panel of candidates could very well include "the one" He is sending our way. As a result, we are excited to meet and spend time with each candidate.

How can you help? Pray. God listens to His people and answers prayer. Let us be patient, let us be aware of His will for us, and let us be wise in putting the needs of the ministry ahead of our personal wants and desires. And most of all, Lord, don't let us choose the wrong person for this important position.

Pray that God's will shall be done.

Jack Pavelich
Calling Team Leader

Mature Driver Training...

by Jack Pavelich (4/2008)

Every year when it is time to renew my auto insurance I get asked the same question: "Have you completed a Mature Drivers Training Course in the past 3 years?" Now, I will admit there are two problems that pop up when I hear that now familiar query. First, it means that somehow, over the course of my earthly journey, I have found myself being referred to as "mature." In today's boringly exhaustive overuse of political correctness, rather than feeling good that someone recognizes my maturity, I know in fact that the term "mature" here means "old guy." So the question falls into the same category as the joy I feel when the table server gives me the senior discount without even asking if I am a senior. Thank you very much!?

The other problem involves the total cost of attending the 8-hour Mature Driver class which is never available in the local community. How will that cost translate into savings on my car insurance bill?

The good news?? With classes in another community, people I know won't see me attending the class, which could save some embarrassment. Kind of like attending an AA meeting...

After years of hearing the question, there was suddenly a new option. My friends at AAA were offering, for the first time, the course on-line! I could complete the class in the darkened privacy of my own home – and at minimal cost! All my excuses for not doing the class were suddenly stripped away. So, I was a student again.

I heard the comment spoken once again as it related to Bible Study: "It's hard to be in a bible study class when I know so little about my bible." It is easy to feel uncomfortable in a bible class when everyone else in the class seems to know so much about it already. It seems everyone else knows where Ezekiel 34:1-2 is located in their 2,000+ page bible – a book which lacks even a helpful table of contents. They're done reading and I'm still looking for the page.

We're embarrassed when people see we can't even negotiate the book. How do we find the map for our lives if we can't find where we are on the map? Even my GPS needs to know where I am before it can be of any use to me.

Just like my Mature Driver class, the resources for God's people to read His Word, inspired by Him for the good and development of mature Christians, is endless. The Internet is a dangerous place! But it is also filled to the brim with Bible Study resources, commentaries, guides and maps which can make the Scripture a true "road-map" for your life.

Good Stewardship of the Earth is much more than an annual Earth Day, or recycling, or opting out of plastic when you're asked: "Paper or plastic?"

Maturity in God's Word brings us to understand those complicated and unpopular issues such as Law vs. Gospel, loving your neighbor even though he's "different", loving your enemy, loving God above all else – even more than our money, tithing, sacrifice, and recognizing our blessings as gifts rather than accomplishments.

My Mature Driver Graduation certificate is good for 3 years and will reduce the cost of my liability insurance for that entire time. That was my goal.

But the certificate and the cost saving to my auto policy became secondary to the information, knowledge and awareness that I gained through the class.

Aside from a thorough review of driving fundamentals, I was made aware of changes in me which put me at higher risk for an accident – changes all related to being "mature." As a result, I'm a safer driver today than I was yesterday.

My recommendation: curl up late at night when everyone else is sleeping, gather your favorite nighttime beverage and your "Bible for Dummies" book, and become a Mature Driver of your own life.

Amen?



Let's join hands and generations to improve our communities.
Be part of a national volunteer day!

“JOIN HANDS DAY” is a national volunteer effort that brings youth and adults together to improve communities and have fun while helping others.

Please join with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members of all ages as we make a difference on this special day:

Celebrate and Renew Genesis House
Saturday May 31, 2008 from 9:00am-2:00pm
3772 Taft Street, Riverside 92503

For more information, contact:
Sue Lehner at 689-7847 or
Sonja Almgren at 479-6805

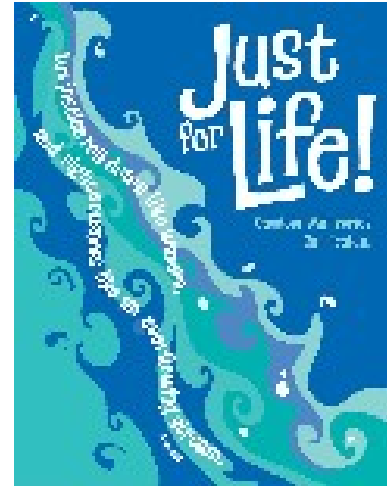
Hosted by members of the West Riverside
County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for
Lutherans



JOIN HANDS DAY is sponsored by America's 76 fraternal benefit societies, including Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the nation's largest fraternal benefit society. Thrivent Financial and its members, who belong to 1,357 chapters nationwide, are strong supporters of this day. Last year, Thrivent chapters conducted nearly 3,000 JOIN HANDS DAY activities, resulting in nearly 590,000 volunteer hours of service.

Summer Camp at Yolijsa
July 13-18

Log on to LRCCHOME.com for further details.



Summer Camp 2008 Theme: “Just for life!”

Based on the Scripture verse in Amos 5:24:

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream”



Cathy

Davis, Joe Broussard, Bev Erck, Daniel Gonzales, Ed & Wendy Shipley, Fred Bueker, Ira Yoder, the family of Tim Bradford, Gertrude Jordan, Mickey Rowe, Pastor Paul Gravrock, Greg Hudson, and Dr. James Busick.

Please be sure to check out the sponsors on the back page of the newsletter. We thank you for your support.



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate.

Remember.

Fight Back.

Moreno Valley Relay For Life – April 26, 2008 - Update

Thank you for being a part of a world-wide movement to end cancer. As this article went to print we do not have totals raised but I'm know that our LOL team, Daisy's Chain, did great. Totals will be reported in the next issue of the Lifeline.

Accolades to those of you who were on the team, those who contributed to the cause, day and night time walkers, our LOL cancer survivors, helper "elves" that set up and took down the campsite and fed us, and those who came to cheer us on as we walked the track during this 24-hour event.

A big thank you to our committee, Co-Captain, Becci Van Hoosier, an integral part of the committee – could not do it without her, Julie McAlister, who sold raffle tickets, Connie Lowe who helped with ticket sales, Audrey Flickinger, who took charge of the "Wheel Game", Deb Weitenhagen, a valuable advisor and responsible for survivor gifts, Mike Weitenhagen, member of the emergency medical response team, and the support of Pastor Chuck who, as a cancer survivor, also came to support the team.

A special gratitude to David Korshavn who did his fundraising the hard way by walking block to block, house to house raising over \$3,000! Jack Pavelich always comes through and it looks like, at this time, he is top online fundraiser for the city of Moreno Valley.

Can we do it again in 2009? You bet we can – we are indeed the "church community who takes up the challenge".

With Praise and Heartfelt Gratitude,

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