

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 19 No. 8

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May-June 2009

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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Old Traditions, New Opportunities...

Kristin, the kids and I drive past Temecula every time we go to San Diego to visit family. As many of you probably know, the welcome sign on the freeway for Temecula has 'Old

Traditions, New Opportunities' written on it. When I see this phrase, I can not help but think of the ways that this connects to the Easter season. Old Traditions...We drove down to San Diego the day before Easter (I was busy the next morning!) to celebrate the joyous occasion early. My mom and dad as they have for all 34 years of my life had an Easter egg hunt set up; for my brothers, sisters, and now their grandchildren too. To add to the tradition, I again came in last place in trying to find the eggs! Some things always stay the same. These events and gatherings with loved ones are such a precious and invaluable time to be with those that God has put into our lives. To me, tradition allows us to spring forth to a place where newness awaits us all. New Opportunities...We joyfully proclaimed on Easter morning, "**He Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!**" I had a plastic egg with me during worship. I opened it up during my sermon, and one of our brothers responded by saying, "It is empty!" He was correct. Giving an empty egg to a child is the worst thing one can do in their eyes; considering many are full of candy, money, or if you are one of my friends from High school-you find car keys inside. For us the words 'It is empty' should be fantastic news. What was really empty? The tomb. The entry way to the tomb was made clear to enter, and when the witnesses go inside, the body of our Lord is gone. What a blessing it is to realize that from this Resurrection, we all have been given new opportunities. The candles will be out in the sanctuary for us to light; signifying the new ways God is revealing himself to us, thus opening the door for new opportunities for us all during this Resurrection time.

Old Traditions, New Opportunities fits faith communities, groups of people, and anywhere else that tradition exists. Lord of Life Lutheran Church fits into this too. Together, we are part of a new chapter in the life of this church. What a joy it is to be here with you during this time! I like the combination of Old Traditions, New Opportunities because it allows a place for everybody. Where we have come is and will continue to be part of what will allow us to go forth: open to new experiences, new challenges, new opportunities and new ways of proclaiming the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After worship on Easter Sunday Kristin, the kids and I went to lunch and then went home to set up yet another Easter egg hunt for the kids. The Easter egg hunts will continue to be part of my family tradition, but they may not always look exactly the same way they did as I was growing up. I am reassured knowing that God is the common thread that ties the traditions, the opportunities together! We can all have the reassurance that wherever we are at in our journey, our God is the thread that connects us all together too!

The first Saturday of each month will see our Monthly Fellowship meal take place, as a new opportunity of coming together, before evening worship. As we gather in community for food and fellowship, continue to give thanks for a God who lives and is present in each of the gathered. We have a God in our lives who continues to do so much for us; may we give some opportunity to think about those ways, and see those ways put into action around all of us. As you know very well by now, your pastor enjoys eating quite a bit! Nothing feeds me more though than being in community with you, watching and taking in the many ways our God blesses us individually and corporately each step in our journey.

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California
Volume 19 No.8
May-June 2009

Old Traditions, New Opportunities...

continued

The Spirit is alive and well at Lord of Life! We have much to be thankful for! I look forward to hearing from you about the numerous ways that this Easter season continues to be a blessing for you all. Luke 24: 38-39 says, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself." We have a God that will be with us forever. With him all things are possible. We celebrated that on His Resurrection day. I give thanks for all of you and for our Lord who has made everything possible. My continued prayers to you and your family this day forward. Continued Easter blessings to you!

Peace,
Pastor Shane



Lord of Life's 25th Anniversary

The countdown to the Lord of Life's 25th Anniversary has begun. On Sunday, April 19, 2009 Fred Palestis and Jim Cassem announced the beginning of the Narthex Tile Project Fundraiser in which the end result will be a beautiful new tile floor in the Narthex to welcome members and guests into the church and the elimination of any budget shortfall for 2010.

Each tile will be sold for \$100. The center tiles of the floor will have the church emblem in mosaic tiles. This section is being offered for a total of \$1500. There are also needs for other donations to help cover the costs of needed supplies such as grout and mortar. Once the tile sales are completed the tiles will be installed. We encourage all members of the congregation to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity to give back to the church and beautify the Narthex for many years to come.

SWEET MONDAY ON WEDNESDAY



The May meeting of Sweet Monday on Wednesday will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at the home of Cindy Cassem, 24815 Moonshadow, Moreno Valley at 7:00 pm. This will be the last meeting before summer vacation. The theme will be

ladybugs and spring cleaning.

So bring your best spring cleaning tips to share with the group as we gather for fun

and fellowship. Sweet Monday on Wednesday will start up again in September, so if you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics for devotions or discussions, be sure to let me know. If you would like to lead any of the meetings, let me know that also. Remember, Sweet Monday on Wednesday is open to all women – no reservations needed. Hope to see you all there!



The Poor will always be with you ...

By Jack Pavelich (04/2009)

Our parish, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, is a ONE Congregation; so named because we have joined with many others around the world to recognize and to act on the plague of poverty which surrounds us. I'm not talking about the poverty of people who "just barely get along." I'm not talking about the poverty of those who depend upon community assistance and food stamps in order to subsist in this life. I'm talking about the kind of poverty which results in death of innocent people caught up in events they cannot control; I'm talking about those 852 million people we share this Earth with who do not know from where their next meal will come.

You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.

John 12:8

As a ONE people, in a ONE Congregation, we are attuned to the power and expectations of our elected officials to carry out the will of the people. As such, we recognize that our "will" is something which must be communicated to those who represent us.

One of the activities we used to help us do that was in our World Hunger program during the Christmas Season of 2006. At the conclusion of the program, which started on Thanksgiving, we gathered together, 50 – 60 of us, in the fellowship room and wrote hundreds of letters to our US Senators and House Representative.

I clearly remember watching this buzz of activity as so many took pen to paper (mightier than the sword...) and wrote letters describing the need of the US to increase our benevolence to the world's poorest people; and I remember Pastor Kenneth Davis saying to me, "I never would have believed this had I not seen it with my own eyes."

For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

Mat 26:11

The numbers are so great, that we cannot comprehend them. 852 million lives in jeopardy due to war, famine, AIDS, poverty, bad luck... and

bad government. We know the pain and helplessness which tugs at our hearts when we talk about the children, under the age of 5, who will die as a result of this extreme poverty. Every few seconds, another takes her final, shallow breath.

But we are a proud lot. The US is the most benevolent nation the world has seen, with billions of dollars used in response to the worst situations and cataclysmic events. Our letters asked our representatives to add just another 1% of our yearly US budget to fight these poverty issues around the world. And we praised the legislators when they heard this cry for mercy and responded with promises of more help and care for these, the poorest of the poor. But it is so expensive, and the numbers are so great; and we remembered Jesus' words...

Then something happened; something so scary that our leaders were compelled to take the only action seen appropriate to avoid great pain and suffering and loss. Our own financial security was threatened.

Two times, in a matter of a few days of posturing, congress spent in excess of \$700 Billion to shore up financial institutions and mega-Corporations to head off a financial crisis.

What did I learn? I learned that we were willing to commit these extreme resources to save ourselves (from the loss of wealth), but we weren't willing to do the same to save others (from the loss of life.)

Now I understand, a little differently, what the second part of Jesus' words were saying...

For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me.

Mk 14:7

As stewards of the Word, we are expected to carry out, encourage, and motivate God's will in all that we do as a people, and as a nation. We have proved we have the resources...

... I pray God blesses us with the will.

Amen?

Daily Stewardship



Hello brothers and sisters. I want to write a bit about Stewardship and the ways in which we can be exercising this daily on our journey with our Lord. A steward is a servant entrusted with administration of his/her master's property and interests. The Bible uses the word in the context of meaning a fruit of faith, i.e. our time, talent, and treasure. Before going any further, let me say how much of a joy it is to see you all using the gifts that you have been blessed with by our Lord and Savior in continued service to your neighbor, your brothers, and sisters in the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God! I write this so we may all think of new ways that we all can use the time that we have, the talents that we have been given by our God, and the treasure that we have as well. Perhaps you have been thinking of serving in a new ministry capacity here at Lord of Life, perhaps you are ready to give a little more of your treasure to the ministry of our Lord, or perhaps you have some new found time that you are now wondering what you can do with that. Allow yourself to be challenged, allow yourself to take another step out in faith. For one thing I know for sure, you will not be alone! You will be surrounded by a faith community that loves, cares, and will support you, and above that we have a God who walks with us every bit of the way; guiding, sustaining us at all times. There is no better news than that! There is always enough of what my family needs, and from speaking to many of you, I know you feel the same about your situation. I give thanks everyday for the numerous ways our God provides for us all. Thanks continue to go to God for all of you and the ways in which you use what God has entrusted to you. I continue to hold you all in prayer.

Peace,

Pastor Shane



Please Pray for:

Ona Ellington, Maxine DeMerritt, Karissa Matheason, Lois White, Frank Rasmussen.

Cathy Davis & family, Jim Hudson, Bill Ward, Jim York, Philip Delaney, Shelly Cuneo, Ramona Graham, Alan Yoder, Karen Libbie-Ptacek, The Hyta family, Harold & Jeannine Lester, Bev Erck, Julie Johnson, Julie McAlister & family, The Boese family, Natasha Sinclair, Joe Youngblood, Sharon Vance, Shirley Bryant, Linda Baginski,

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

Submitted by Bob Vernlund
*If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!*

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting their time by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this...They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, If I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible. When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

"Go Green"

Raincross Cluster Event

June 6th, 2009; 8:30am-noon

Eden Lutheran Church, 4725 Brockton,
Riverside

This event is free of charge. They request that each unit bring a potluck salad to feed 12 or more people. Bring your own coffee cup. "Go Green" shopping bags will be given away. For reservations, call Dona Jenkins at 951-784-1188.

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

Lord of Life Team “Daisy’s Chain” takes top spot



Lord of Life’s Relay For Life team “Daisy’s Chain” raised a whopping \$13,827.80 in the 10th Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life event held at Valley View High School in Moreno Valley.

We will be presented with the top fundraising award for the city of Moreno Valley at a Relay Wrap-up on May 18.

Once again, David Korshavn, our beloved door to door fundraiser, brought in approximately \$7,000. Jack Pavelich was the top online fundraiser. And a big thank you to our ever faithful and giving-from-the-heart Lord of Life members for your generous support. You really came through big time – this was our biggest fundraiser ever.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our Team #2 Captain, Deb Weitenhagen who along with her husband, Mike, made it all happen. Mike and Deb also planned the successful fundraiser dinners at Farmer Boys. Honorary Chair, Becci Van Hoosier was also a great help as was Audrey Flickinger. Thanks to our own Dave Allbeck who provided a band to entertain at the event. Kudos to Pastor Shane for his support. The following made gifts for cancer survivors: Jan Egeland, Sally Haase, Cheryl Hudson, Pat Rupert and Deb Weitenhagen. Thanks to David Jackson and Jeannine Lester for “shakin’ the can” for funds.

Deb Weitenhagen walked 122 laps with Audrey Flickinger and John Lowe not far behind. Pastor Shane undoubtedly set a record as our fastest team runner. Those who spent the night camping out included Deb and Mike, Audrey with her grandchildren, Spencer, Schuylar, and Gillian; Becci with Trevor and Alyssa; and Kristin Freiberg.

A huge thanks to all of you who gave a day out of your life for those who may not have another day. You have been a part of something **BIG**. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is the largest annual not-for-profit fundraising event in the world.

Thanks - Team Members, Walkers, Supporters, Entertainers

David Allbeck, Helen Bedford, Larry Combes, Katherine Coutu, Kathi Cruz, Mona Daugherty, Audrey Flickiger, Pastor Shane & Kristin Freiberg, Wendy Eder, Beverly Erck, Audrey Flickinger, Wendy Gryger, Sally Haase, Cheryl Hudson, David & Carole Korshavn, Bob & Carole Lantz, Jeannine & Harold Lester, Connie & John Lowe, Julie McAlister, Fred & Shelley Palestis, Gabriele Parsons, Jack Pavelich, Willie Rasmussen, Patricia Rupert, Cathy Semenza, Connie Skinner, Christena Torres, Becci Van Hoosier, Oly & Bob Vernlund, Deb & Mike Weitenhagen, Gene & Ira Yoder

Let us once again be “the church that takes up the fight” as we plan for Relay 2010. Let us know if you would like to get involved. We need your help! If you enjoyed your part in Relay, please spread the word.

With Praise & heartfelt gratitude,

Pat Rupert, Team Captain, Team Advisor 951/300-1223 patricia.rupert@cancer.org