

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 19 No.11

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

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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!



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LIFELINE



PASTOR

Brothers and sisters – May God’s abundant and everlasting Grace be with you all! For my article in this edition of the Lifeline, I wanted to include an e-mail that I sent out regarding the recent decision made by the ELCA on Human Sexuality.

I look forward to a fantastic November as we talk about Stewardship and then December where we celebrate the birth of our Lord. My continued prayers to you all!

Peace,
Pastor Shane

Dated September 3, 2009

Hello friends - Blessings to you all this day. I hope this finds you well. This is to serve as an update, or for some who have not been at church for the last couple of weeks; a new bit of information as it relates to the Sexuality discussion that just took place back in Minnesota as the ELCA Churchwide assembly came together in August to vote on the Ordination of folks in same-sex relationships. The assembly did vote to extend Ordination to folks in a same-sex relationship by a vote of 559-451; this is one of many votes that were done at the assembly. This became a point of conversation these last two weeks at Lord of Life Lutheran following our worship experiences together. My goal of the two conversation times was to give a safe place for all to come and share where all stand on the issue. My goal was accomplished. I let folks know that after five years of looking at the issue, my Bound Conscience led me to vote not in favor of this; which I did at the Pacifica Synod assembly just recently held in Riverside. I mentioned that this was the most difficult vote I have ever cast, but in the end I made it. I want to model that even in the midst of disagreeing on something, WE all can co-exist in community together. I say this because a few of our brothers and sisters are saying that we need to leave the ELCA. That, my friends, is an easy thing to say. Here are some things to consider if one really wants to act on this:

- 1) The church where we worship on Nason St. would likely stay with the ELCA; there is a good chance that this property would not leave with the folks.
- 2) I am recognized as a public minister in the ELCA as my Letter of Call states. So, Lord of Life

leaving the ELCA; would, as I look at it now, mean that I would be leaving Lord of Life too.

3) Where, then, would the next pastor of Lord of Life come from? That would be a question to seriously consider.

These all are things to consider. I also want you to consider what Bishop Finck of Pacifica Synod made mention of in a letter that he wrote after attending the Churchwide assembly:

-This action (Ordination) does not require every congregation to find ways to recognize relationships they believe are contrary to the understanding of Holy Scripture.

-Remember that the system for the rostering of our leaders and the extension of congregational calls will remain the same. Individual congregations, working in partnership with our synod staff, will finally determine whom to call as their pastor or other rostered leaders in a process guided by the Holy Spirit.

Friends, this took place just recently as brothers and sisters on Lord of Life's Call Committee interviewed 12 candidates to become the next pastor of the congregation. In that group of 12; from what I understand, was a person or two who are gay, lesbian. The Committee at the time had power to extend a call, or to not extend a call...that will not change going forward.

The ELCA made a decision that many people disagree with, but one that some people do agree with. Are you the members/friends of Lord of Life Lutheran Church going to allow this issue to divide the church? If you want this to divide, it will. I choose to think that it does not have to have this result. I also refuse to think that this issue has to be one that overshadows all of the fantastic ministries, all of the fantastic ways that we proclaim God's Good News to all in our mission field of Moreno Valley, and surrounding areas. My faith in God is so strong, I refuse to think that a single decision could do that.

We had a good turnout for the first two meetings; but not all of you did or were able to come. Going forward, you are always free to engage me in conversation about this. I am re-doing the first few weeks of the Adult Education schedule to make room for us to look at a variety of documents that will be available for you to pick-up this weekend. Read them all! May God’s continued presence be with all as we journey forward in service to Him. Peace,

Pastor Shane Freiberg



Sweet Monday on Wednesday

Today is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! As we reach the Thanksgiving and Christmas season this verse comes to mind. Every day is a good day to count your blessings, but it seems at this time of year we tend to focus more on our thankfulness and praise for each day the Lord gives us.

Come join us on Wednesday, November 11, and on December 9, from 7-9 pm at Cindy Cassem's house for Sweet Mondays on Wednesday. In November we will be remembering those who have served and continue to serve our country (November is Veteran's Day). Kristin Freiberg will be giving the lesson on the meaning behind the colors of Indian Corn and Colleen Johnson will be offering up the devotion. And remember, there is always a fun little quiz for prizes.

On December 9 we will be remembering "The Reason for the Season." We will talk about different Christmas traditions in different countries, as well as in our families. Please bring 2-3 dozen cookies and the recipe for a cookie exchange. This will also serve as our treat for the night.

All women are invited to come. Please bring a friend if you would like. No reservations are needed.

Blessings, Cindy

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Narthex Tile Project

The countdown to 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 piece of the floor will have the church emblem. This section has already graciously been donated. 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.

LORD OF LIFE WISHES TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE QUILT AND HEALTH KIT MINISTRIES. YOUR GENEROSITY AND HARD WORK ENABLED US TO SEND 47 QUILTS AND 500 HEALTH KITS TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY, PLEASE CONTACT AUDREY FLICKINGER.



The Voice of the Church Council

Fellow Lord of Life members,
We know there has been much talk over the recent ELCA vote which approved the ordaining of gay and lesbian individuals as clergy. We decided that as your representatives we should let you know how the Council feels regarding this topic.

First of all, there are many questions the ELCA Synod is working to answer for all of the congregations. We feel that until those questions are answered by the ELCA we should not make any hasty decisions. As far as the business of Lord of Life Church, this decision does not affect the way we currently do business. We have chosen our pastor (the one we felt fit the needs of the congregation) and will continue to have the ability to do so.

As a congregation, we need to have patience while the ELCA defines and explains just how the recent vote will affect congregations.

We agree in faith with you, to move forward into the next stage of God's many blessings for our life, as individuals and as a congregation. It gives us joy to share with you the message God has placed in our hearts. As we pray for our needs, there is a spiritual closeness to Him because our faith is connected to our heavenly father (Hebrews 13:8). There are things of which we are unaware but many times God works in silence. Our faith is being tried and put to the test in some ways. It is by faith that we will move up to higher ground. Keep your trust in the One who has never failed. Our heavenly father, who loves us more than we can put into words, assures us that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. Many of us lose out on blessings because we get discouraged and think we know better than God. Give God time. You cannot hurry Him. He knows how to come in every time, right on time. It is our fervent prayer that this congregation that is so blessed, can continue to do God's work in love and harmony. May we continue to be a bright light of hope and promise in Moreno Valley, and anywhere the Holy Spirit sees fit to

direct us. We are confident that, with continued prayer and a constant belief in our gracious and loving Lord, that all things will be possible for us here at Lord of Life.

We (the ELCA and Lord of Life members) are still one of the greatest Bodies of Christ. We need to work together to make the process work. To those of you that have felt uneasy by the change, we are much stronger by working from within than from the outside.

In His name,
Your Church Council



Our Church's Anniversary



PLANS FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LORD OF LIFE CHURCH ARE WELL UNDERWAY. THIS EXCITING CELEBRATION WILL BE HELD IN APRIL 2010. IT WILL TAKE PLACE AT BENEDICT CASTLE

SINCE THEY WERE SO ACCOMMODATING WHEN WE HELD OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THERE. THE MENU IS BEING PLANNED, AS WELL AS THE DECORATIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH ANY OF THESE PREPARATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS.

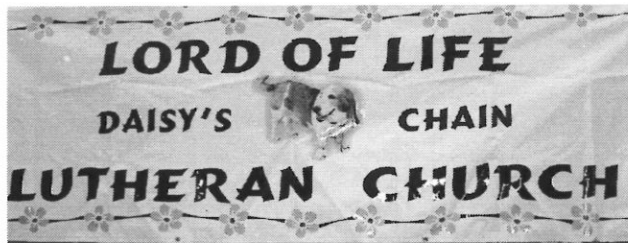
STAY TUNED FOR MORE EXCITING INFORMATION IN THE MONTHS TO COME.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL



Lord of Life has scheduled the Winter Retreat at Camp Yolijsa for January 8-10, 2010. Please sign up in the

Narthex. Your family will enjoy this great experience.



Retiring the Name "Daisy's Chain"

By Deb Weitenhagen

After 10 years, "Daisy's Chain" will be retired. We are looking for a new name for our Relay for Life Team, perhaps something that ties in with our church, "Lord of Life". We are soliciting suggestions from all church members, young and young at heart.

Suggestions should be submitted by November 20. There will be a box located in the Narthex for written suggestions. Please be sure to put your name on them. We will select several and put them out to a vote by the congregation. There will be a prize for the winning entry.



We will have a change of venue for the November "Girlfriends Unlimited." It will be a potluck dinner, held in the church fellowship hall. The invitation is extended to all the women of the congregation.

Date: Sunday, November 8

Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm

Theme: Women of Faith

We will be watching a video of some of the speakers from this year's Women of Faith Conference. If you have never attended one of these functions and have a curiosity about what goes on, please join us. You will be inspired.



The December "Girlfriends Unlimited" will be discussed at the November event. If you have suggestions of how we might share the evening fellowship, please come with your ideas on November 8 (e.g. dinner at a special restaurant, a progressive dinner, a cookie exchange, an ornament exchange, perhaps sharing the ways we celebrated Christmas as children). Girls, this is your night, come with some ideas.

COME WORSHIP WITH US
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH
AT 7:00 PM

THANKSGIVING EVE
WORSHIP



PIE AND COFFEE WILL BE
SERVED AFTER WORSHIP
SERVICE IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Lord of Life is starting a Cub Scout Pack!!!! All boys in grades 1-5 (ages 6-10 ³/₄) are encouraged to join. Cub Scouts is a character based youth program for boys that encompasses the following: citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex and we encourage all families with boys in grades 1-5 to sign up! For more information, contact Barbara Shoemaker at 951-683-3062 or Barbara@shoemaker.net



November

Meggie Hilker
Kristina Hooper
Daniel Grygar
Hailey Levi
Louise Russell
Linda Rasmussen
Lorie Tronti

December

Phyllis Nelson
Judith Cassem
Trevor Van Hoosier
Matthew Winn
Mike Althoff
Patty Bundura
Lindsay Ellingson
Meagan Hood
Garrett Bundura
Joey Bundura

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.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets to be distributed

November 22nd



Thanksgiving
Food Baskets

We are once again getting ready to provide a Thanksgiving dinner to those struggling in our area. Our goal is to provide baskets of food that include a turkey, potatoes, canned vegetables, canned yams, stuffing, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, oranges, and dessert. We will also be providing dinner for the families at the transitional living shelters: Amelia's Light and the Genesis Shelter. Any food or cash donations will be greatly appreciated. See the sign up in the Narthex. Please have all donations to the church before November 20th. Thank you for being a blessing to others!



Our annual Christmas Toy Drive for the children of Edgemont School is underway. We will be providing gifts for the 750 children in school again this year. We are looking for toys that keep the kids active or stimulate thinking and creativity. Some suggestions are: soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, board games, trucks, or cars. Toys need to be at least \$10.00 in value. Cash donations are also accepted. We do ask that no used toys or stuffed animals be given. All gifts need to be turned in by Friday, December 11th to be counted and sorted. There will be a wrapping party on Saturday, December 12th at 3:00 pm with dinner provided. We will also need "Elves" to help deliver the gifts to the students on Friday, December 18th at 8:15 am. Please get involved and make a difference to a needy child.

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



Candlelight Service

5:00 & 9:00 pm



Christmas Day

One service at 10:00 am



Please Pray for:

KD, Kennadi, Camryn, and Cassadi Davis, Dave Korshavn, Maxine Hagle, Brenda Egeland, the family of Haywood Maye, Janell Stanford, the family of Randy Vargas, Bob Vernlund, the family of Polly Meurs, the family of Mary Kate Krone, the family of Del Emerson, Marie Hyta, Bill Ward, the family of Jessi Rothstein, Michael McGrath, Margo Chipman, the family of Ramona Graham, Marilyn Miller, John Abramson, John Aagard, Dixie Flickinger, Barb Shoemaker, Linda Baginski, Shirly Bryant, Lillian Bradford, Karen Serricelli, Josh Althoff, Maya, Philip Delaney, Alan Yoder, Connie Lowe, Julie Johnson, Arnette Lester and all others needing God's healing touch.