

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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

Volume 21 No.5

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November-December 2012

Lifeline is a Newsletter published by Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Moreno Valley, California.

# LIFELINE

## Our Mission Statement

*Inviting all to grow in Christ!*



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It was a special blessing to return to Berkeley, California on October 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church I had served there. Thank you to our council and congregation for making it possible.

If you can imagine, I attempted to serve the five Lutheran Congregations that had just been merged into one, with two locations. One was located on University Avenue, near the great university, and the other near our Pacific Lutheran Seminary. "With God, all things are possible" (Mt. 19:26)...we know, but this seemed quite a stretch. When I left Lutheran Church of the Cross in Berkeley, I recommended to the Bishop that each location should have their own Pastor. This was done at that time, and each location continues to serve their congregation and community with their urgent and glorious ministry. Yes, indeed, with God, all things are possible. I was both humbled and honored to be invited and to share in this sacred celebration.

Another wonderful invitation was to attend the celebration and family reunion at the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Dr. Cunningham at his son's church this past Friday evening. We are blessed to know Dr. and Mrs. Cunningham through Marv and Jan Egeland, who invited these new neighbors to Lord of Life, and they have continuously blessed us with the exceptional Bible Studies and dedicated ministry of Dr. Cunningham. Another recent blessing to our ministry is the outreach of Katherine Ward to one of her neighbors, who is a cancer patient receiving hospice care. Because of her Christian witness to him and encouragement to receive Holy Baptism, we were able to do this following our Sunday Church service on October 7<sup>th</sup>; and we had the honor and joy of welcoming Larry and Alice Olson into the Lord of Life family last Sunday. What a blessing it is to have this wonderful couple with us. If you haven't already, please be sure to introduce yourself and get to know them.

Blessings flow when our wonderful members of Lord of Life Lutheran reach out to neighbors and friends in your beautiful Christian love, and share and tell how enriched your life is in Jesus, the Christ, and the Lord of Life congregation. Think of the blessing you are able to be in this great ministry of our Savior and Redeemer. Look for openings and opportunities to share your faith, and know that the Holy Spirit is opening doors for you and working through you every minute.

With joyful anticipation, we look forward to our Thanksgiving Season, followed by our Advent Services and then our glorious Christmas celebrations with our beloved church family. We are especially blessed here at Lord of Life, and may we continue to serve and praise God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for all of our opportunities and blessings with the positive message of a God of grace and unconditional love.

You've worked to break down the systems that perpetuate hunger and poverty in our community, across the country, and overseas through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We've joined with other faiths and denominations around the world to pray and work for peace. You've created communities where people feel welcomed. You're even helping to stamp out malaria in the world. You've stood up against violence and taught young people that they can change the world.

For all this and more, I give God thanks for you. These are just a few ways we live out our call to fulfill God's mission in the world, which is made possible through your prayers, gifts, and weekly offering. I am grateful for your encouragement, support and prayers in making our work – God's Work!

In God's Love and in His grip,  
Pastor Chuck



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

God's love and peace to each of you. As we approach our festival season of the church, I can't help thinking where we would be, had Martin Luther not chosen to stand up against the church of the day. I look at Martin as the Paul of modern day. Just as Paul opened the door for the Gentiles, so it was with Martin as he was instrumental in the forming of our Christian faith. Martin gave us the opportunity to read the Bible also, instead of just the leaders of the church. By the time you read this, we will already have celebrated Reformation Sunday, but that does not mean we can't observe it every day of the year.

This month is a month of thanks, and I would be remiss if I failed to recognize and thank all of our troops and veterans. I would encourage each of us to say a special Thank You to our troops every day. As we move towards Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to our Lord and Savior daily for all the blessings He bestows on us. On a personal note, I want to say a special thanks to Pastor Chuck for being willing to follow God's direction to shepherd our flock here at Lord of Life. Also, I want to thank each of you for the opportunity you have given me to serve you. I truly believe that one's greatest reward will come from the service they show to another.

The month of December brings us the greatest joy in our faith, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. While we will receive many gifts at Christmas, I pray that we will never lose sight of the eternal gift which was given to us over 2,000 years ago. As many of you know, we are choosing to support Moreno Elementary School this

year. If anyone wants to donate towards this cause, please indicate on your check or envelope, Moreno Elementary.

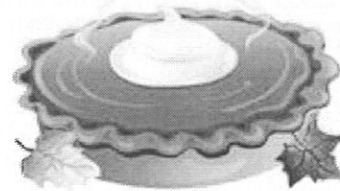
As the year comes to a close, I just want to say Thank You for all you do each year. I have been a part of many churches in my life, and I must say that I have never been a part of a more caring or loving church. Many churches hide from their communities within their walls, but that is not so with each of you. You reach outside the walls just as Jesus commanded us to do. May this festival season be one of great joy and peace for each of you.

From the council to you: Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

God's Peace to you,  
John Lowe, President

Come worship with us Wednesday,  
November 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 7:00 pm.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Pie and coffee will be served in our  
Fellowship Hall following the  
service.

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## Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank God for all of you, because your faith is being reported in all the world" (Romans 1: 7-8, NIV). I thank God for all of your support and your prayers and I continue to remember all of you in my prayers.

I want to catch you up on what I have been doing and will be doing in the near future. As many of you know, I was at Wartburg Seminary for my first intensive course, Theology in Context, September 2-8, 2012. Currently I am taking three "official" online courses – Early and Medieval Christianity, the First 1000 years; Religion, Anthropology and the Human World; and Seen and Heard (about Youth ministry). And then there are two courses that we are enrolled in but receive no grade for – Theological Articulation and Community Life Forum. The first one is supposed to help with writing our papers and the second one is to help keep us connected to WTS (Wartburg Theological Seminary) through listening to the weekly Eucharist sermons on Wednesdays and giving us a place to discuss how things are going for us through this journey. These classes end December 9, 2012 and then I get a little break until I return to WTS January 7-18. This type of a schedule will be followed for the next three years with a few summer courses mixed in.

I have a short survey I would like to have you fill out for me as we are studying congregations in the Religion and Anthropology course. These, of course, can remain anonymous. I would like to have these on or before Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> as this project is due Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>.

I thank those who assisted me with my travel in September and here I am again, asking if there is anyone else who has some extra flight/trip points that you would be willing to part with to help me with getting to WTS in January. Unfortunately, my student loans do not cover my travel, room and board.

Thank you again, for all you contribute to our congregation and the greater church in the world. The Holy Spirit truly does work miracles though Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

Cindy Cassem



## Thanksgiving Food Baskets to be distributed November 18<sup>th</sup>



We are once again getting ready to provide a Thanksgiving dinner to our Moreno Valley neighbors who are struggling, including the residents of Amelia's Light and Genesis House. Our goal is to provide baskets of food that include: a turkey, potatoes, canned vegetables, canned yams, stuffing, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, and dessert. Any food or cash donations will be greatly appreciated. See the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please have all donations to the church by November 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for being a blessing to others.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN AND VERY INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WOMEN OF THE BIBLE, WHO ARE JUST LIKE YOU AND ME. IF THE SPIRIT WITHIN IS GIVING YOU A NUDGE, LISTEN AND COME TO LORD OF LIFE ON TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE LIBRARY. SEE YOU THERE!!



LORD OF LIFE WISHES TO THANK AUDREY FLICKINGER, AND THE CONGREGATION FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE HEALTH KIT MINISTRY. YOUR GENEROSITY, AND THE HARD WORK OF THE FEW DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, ENABLED US TO SEND 500 HEALTH KITS AGAIN THIS YEAR. LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF WILL SEND THESE TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD. PLEASE PLAN ON BEING A PART OF THIS GREAT OUTREACH NEXT YEAR!





Please join Lord of Life on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> for midweek Advent services. There will

be potluck suppers at 6:00 pm followed by the service at 7:00 pm. Please come, enjoy food, fellowship, and worship as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.



Oly Vernlund, Harold Lester, Bill Ward, the family of Lillian Gardner, Alivia Gardner, Mary Lou Ptacek, Katie Andreason, Tom Yoder, Kathy Bickel, Jim Rome, Sarah Pittman, Helen Matheason, Nick and Fran Fulgenzi, Don Wyatt, Connie

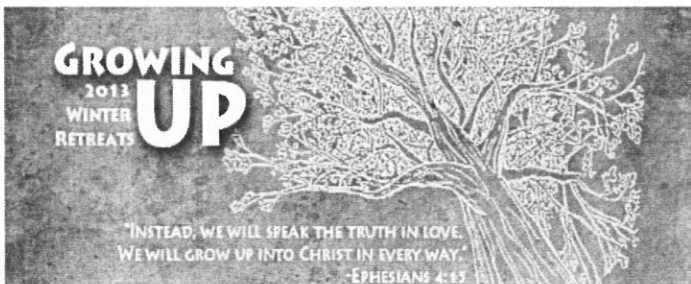
Lowe, Nancy Demichelis, Jane Mann, Eduardo Barrera, Pauline Broussard, Joyce Bobb, Betty Broussard, Jack Millis, Cheryl, Gene, Dorothy Broussard, Tom Jones, Mary Jones, Bill Huie, Marshall Whitney, Alan Yoder, Bea Brown, the family of Cheryl Jones, George Scott, Audra Ciasullo, Katie Spaulding, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford, Jeanne Garrett, Arnette Lester; and all others needing God's healing touch.

*Silent  
Night,  
Holy  
Night*



Join us on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Worship Service at 7:00 pm.

## LRCC Winter Retreats



For information and registration go to: [www.lrcchome.com](http://www.lrcchome.com)



### November:

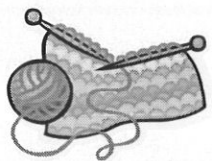
Meggie Hilker  
Kristina Hooper  
Daniel Grygar  
Sophia Langabardi  
Gillian Nunez  
Alice Olson  
Louise Russell  
Linda Rasmussen  
Lorie Tronti

### December:

Phyllis Nelson  
Judith Cassem  
Trevor Van Hoosier  
Matthew Winn  
Mike Althoff  
Patty Bundura  
Lindsay Ellingson  
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.*

## Can you knit, crochet, or sew?



Audrey Flickinger has started a **Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry** for the members and friends of Lord of Life. If you want to help wrap someone in a warm hug infused with prayer, please contact Audrey. There are patterns for all skill levels. If you or anyone you know would like to receive a prayer shawl, please contact the church office. Special thanks go out to Audrey, Penny

Nay, Darlene Bueker, and Jackie Silvey for the beautiful blankets and prayer shawls!

*\*\* Please note: This is not only for the members of Lord of Life, but for friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances...anyone you know that needs prayers and hugs. Just let Audrey know and we'll get one to you. Thanks.*

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**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans\***

**Let's thrive.\***

If you have an investment or insurance with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you earn Choice Dollars. These Choice Dollars do not come out of your investment but are from Thrivent - like the Thrivent matching funds. Choice Dollars can be contributed to Lord of Life Lutheran Church. If you have questions, you can call your Thrivent representative or visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com). Thank you to all Thrivent members who have already designated Lord of Life Lutheran Church as the recipient of these Choice Dollars.

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## The Simply Giving® Program

The **Simply Giving** Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank is a simple, reliable way to make your regular contributions to our congregation through automated giving.

### **An easy, generous choice**

The program is designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give financial gifts to our congregation's ministry. You can use electronic funds transfer to give your weekly, semi-monthly or monthly offering. To learn how, contact Becci in the church office.

### **You can make a difference**

Let the **Simply Giving**® Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank help you build better stewardship by turning a simple choice into a generous response.

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## Cleaning for a Reason



If you know any woman currently undergoing Chemo, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - 1 time per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service.

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org> Please pass this information on to

bless a woman going through cancer treatment. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

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Check it Out! We have new vendors on our back page. Show them your gratitude and appreciation by looking there first and use their services whenever possible. Thank you!