

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 21 No.11

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

November-December 2013

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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Reflection on Advent season

By Pastor Kishino

May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Amen.

Now, Advent wasn't particularly a season of celebration in my family or in my church growing up. I grew up in the relationship with the Church. That is, my parents are the first generation Christians. My father came from large family of 9 children. My mother also came from a large family of 8 children. Both of their parents were Buddhist, as 95% of Japanese are Buddhists even today. My parents became involved in the Christian church separately when they were college/high school age.

...When I was in Japan last February, my brother and I had to clean my parents' home in Tokyo so we could put the house on the market to sell. In one of the tin cans, I found many black and white photos of when they were dating, as well as a stack of letters they had sent to each other. (I did not know that they had written love letters to each other). I also learned that they were married on the first Advent Sunday in 1950 with the presence of over 25 American missionaries...

While my family didn't necessarily engage in buying and giving in the traditional American sense, I do remember the story of the Nativity and the simple prayer my father recited every year.

No exchange of presents. No turkey. We had an apple pie my mother bought in the pastry shop to enjoy. Then, some of church choir people stopped by and sung "Silent Night, Holy night".

Now, it seems from the last Thursday in November – American Thanksgiving – there's a mad dash of parties, events and endless

shopping through to Christmas and beyond. Even if one seeks to resist the headlong fall into consumerism and overindulgence, the draw is powerful, and it is far too easy to be pulled into an unhappy participation.

If the day after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day in the US, then the second biggest must be Boxing day, because everyone seems to go shopping to get the good after Christmas deals, and to stock up for next year.

Nancy and I somehow conformed to the hustling and bustling of the Christmas celebration, but the message of Christmas is still clear:

**"This very day in David's town
your Savior was born—Christ
the Lord!"**

Year in and year out for over two thousand years, people have gathered and told this story: a babe born as low as could be, who is the one who will bring peace to all the nations, the one who will save us all from despair and fear, save us from being lost and abandoned, save us from the emptiness that sometimes fills us. I like the atmosphere of the expectation that Jesus will be back and present among us in spirit on Christmas day.

Even I, as a pastor today, cannot explain what it means that Jesus will come back again. But, every year, I listen to the story and wait with hope in the stable of my heart.

Thank you, God, for this most precious gift you have bestowed upon us. Amen.



Why do we come to church?

By: Bob Vernlund

Our mission statement is just six words long, "Inviting all to grow in Christ". But what does that really mean to you and does it answer the "why" in the title of this article? We are about to enter into a new church year of a three year cycle with the start of Advent on December 1st. This gives us four Sundays before Christmas to "prepare". Our special "Advent" services, which start Wednesday December 4th with a simple evening meal and a short service, follows a tradition in the Christian Church that dates back to the fourth or fifth century. The body of Christ has been alive for centuries and continues to live in the gathered church in worship.

This is not only an important time, but an exciting time for all Christians. We believe that the Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God just as He did for those who came before us. God then speaks to us through Scripture reading, preaching and song. God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ and then blesses and sends us in mission to our community and our world. There is nothing in all this "preparation" that calls for us to be entertained. I will admit we all enjoy the special Christmas music during this time of the year, but our real reason for coming to church is to be blessed and sent out in mission. We feed on the love of God. We welcome all to join us and share in this love. When we gather together, we experience this sharing of God's love and in so doing, strengthen or "grow" in the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us never forget that we must focus on God in Christ with the Holy Spirit, rather than drawing attention to ourselves. Our worship service is not about "us". It is about the mission of God for the sake of our lives, our community and our world.

Please take some time this season, to reflect on why you come to church and how you have been blessed by so doing. Center your worship on the calling of the Holy Spirit to gather as the people of God. We do not look back as we go forward, but we are strengthened by those who came before us as we look forward to doing His will. Enjoy this special Advent season as you strengthen your faith and follow all the reasons and seasons of the church year. God's blessing for all you do and may His power and love sustain you through this wonderful Christmas season and the new church year.

...from the church council -

- **Website:** Council has been researching costs to update the website.
- **Center aisle:** Created for more room. Now a continuing education process for ushers, communion assistants, and congregation.
- **Wall stencils:** Approved and installed in the church.
- **Rally Sunday:** Making church members aware of the various opportunities and committees looking for volunteers.
- **Fundraisers:** Exploring various local restaurants. Electronics fundraiser November 23rd.
- **Solar panels:** Getting quotes on the cost of installing to offset electrical costs.
- **Nomination committee:** Headed by John Lowe, to fill vacancy of council members.
- **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Thanksgiving baskets, Thanksgiving Eve service and pie social, Advent and simple suppers on Wednesdays, Christmas party Dec 7, and Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM.

Come worship with us
Wednesday, November 27th
At 7:00 pm

Thanksgiving Eve Worship



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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and mercy be with all of you. As you are reading this, we will already have started our church activities. Our children are now back in Sunday school, being blessed with the leadership of Shelley Palestis and her helpers: Denise, Margo, Maggie, and John. Thank you all for sharing Jesus with our children. Our choir, under the leadership of Ira, is now also back together sharing the "Good News" through the gift of music. Our bible studies have also resumed, giving us the opportunity to grow in the word. The reformation of the Catholic church by Martin Luther has just been celebrated, also. It is with thanksgiving that God calls people like Martin Luther to make drastic changes in our world. Will you be one of those that God chooses to use in a big way?

How ironic it is that we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving before we get to the greatest gift the world has ever known? Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity first, to reflect and rejoice in God's greatest gift to us and why. Without the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, our lives would be meaningless. Amen? Just as Jesus sacrificed His life for us, so it is with so many of our veterans, who offered the ultimate sacrifice to allow us to enjoy the freedoms we do. As we should do every day, please acknowledge our troops and veterans, especially during this month of thanksgiving. Now, as we anticipate the coming of our Lord and Savior, let us truly enter this season with peace and joy. Jesus was given to us so that we might first be saved, and then that we could know true peace in a world filled with turmoil, and be able to rejoice in the knowing that we will one day see Jesus face to face. It is my prayer that each of you will not only remember the reason for the season but, more than that, take the true meaning of Christmas to those around us, so that they may also receive and know the joy of the season as we do. Jesus tells us to "Proclaim the Good News to all the world." Are we too embarrassed to do this? May this season of thanksgiving and joy be with each of you into, and throughout, the New Year.

God's peace and joy be with each of you,
John Lowe

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

- Pastor Kishino
*Worship is evangelism.
Evangelism is worship

2. Education

- John Lowe
*Lifelong learning — formal and informal

3. Fellowship

- Margo Ross
*relay, fellowship meal, small groups, mission festival, special event and personal visit

4. Finance

- Amy Freeman, Harold Lester, and Chris Silvey
*General, building, designated funds and budgets

5. Property

- Jim Cassem and Fred Palestis
*Maintain and monitor all church property

6. Social Ministry

- Jo Lippire
*Igniting the fire of faith

7. Stewardship

- Bob Vernlund, John Lowe, Jo Lippire, and Amy Freeman
*Growing joyful stewards in your congregation

8. Worship and Music

- Jim Cassem
*Worship service structure, content, and music

9. Youth

- Margo Ross
*Building our future with youth ministry.

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California
Volume 21 No. 11 November-December 2013

Thanksgiving Food Baskets to be distributed November 24th
 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 boxes of food that include: turkey, potatoes, stuffing, canned vegetables, canned yams, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, and dessert. Any food or cash donations will be greatly appreciated. See Fred or the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please have all donations to the church by November 22nd. Thank you for being a blessing to others.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets



Please join Lord of Life on Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th 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.

Christmas
 Eve
 Worship

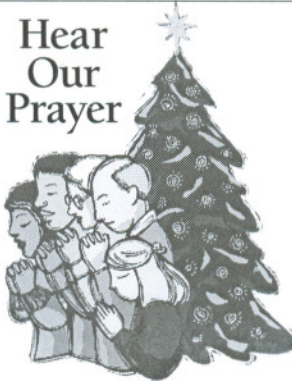


Join us on Christmas Eve for our
 Candlelight Worship Service
 at 7:00 pm.

Thanks...

My thanks to all who have donated books and magazines to our library where I live at Eucalyptus Towers. We have a lot of good readers that are really enjoying the books and magazines. We have run out of space for all the books, but we would appreciate still receiving the magazines. Thanks again, and may God bless you all. My Love, Maxine Hagle

Hear Our Prayer



Trish Walker, Beverly Erck, Pastor Kishino, Mark Korshavn, Oly Vernlund, Maggie August, Laura Entekin, Gertrude Munoz, Carole Horton, Esperanza Arce, Carole Korshavn, Ikuko Kishino, John Messer, Mike Lund, Fred Gonzalez, Hannelore

Heidinger, Diane Kroh and John Meeks, Karman Johnson, Mary Lou Ptacek, Connie Lowe, Jim Busick, Marshall Whitney, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Suzy Orza, Katie Spaulding, Andie Jaeger, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford, Arnette Lester; and all others needing God's healing touch.



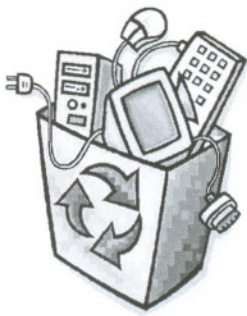
November:

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

December:

Phyllis Nelson
 Judith Cassem
 Trevor Van Hoosier
 Mike Althoff
 Patty Bundura
 Lindsay Ellingson
 Garrett Bundura
 Joey Bundura
 Emily Brown

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.



Free Electronic Waste Recycling Event

Lord of Life will be hosting an Electronic Waste Recycling Event on Saturday, November 23rd from 9am-2pm. Don't throw away your old and unwanted electronics; every pound of e-waste that is collected for recycling helps raise money for the ministries at Lord of Life. Accepted donations are: TV's, monitors, computers, laptops, cell phones, stereo equipment, cable boxes, DVD players, VCR's, cords, wires, cables, adapters, printers, cameras, fax machines, servers, keyboards, power tools...any electronic items. What a great way to dispose of those old items! We are not able to accept: wood speakers, alkaline batteries, light bulbs, glass, or tires.



Help Lord of Life see double!

Participate in the Thrivent Choice[®] Double Direction Church Campaign and help our congregation in a big way! During the campaign, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans[®] is giving up to \$15 million to churches across the country through the Thrivent Choice program. Here's how you can help:

Direct available Choice Dollars[®] to Lord of Life between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2013.

Thrivent Financial will double all Choice Dollars directions made to churches during this time or until up to \$15 million has been awarded, whichever comes first. Thrivent Choice helps strengthen congregations. The Thrivent Choice program allows eligible members of Thrivent Financial[®] to recommend where some of its charitable grant funds go.

To direct Choice Dollars, simply:

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or

Call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say, "Thrivent Choice."

It takes just minutes to do, so make your direction today and help Lord of Life continue to grow and thrive!

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.

****** 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! ******