

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 22 No.5

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November-December 2014

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

Our Mission Statement

Inviting all to grow in Christ!



LIFELINE

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“Advent is anticipation and hope.”

Advent is the beginning of the church year for most of the churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which is November 30th this year, and ends on Christmas Eve.

The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his second Advent. Advent is more than simply a 2,000 year old event in history. It is the celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate.

Advent is also marked by a spiritual expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance. It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which leads to the anticipation of a king who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

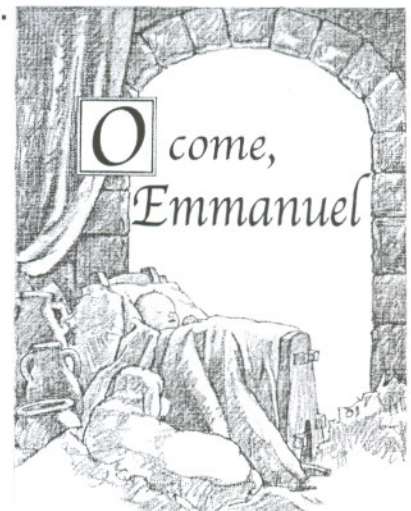
As I’m writing this article, I cannot help but feel sadness of the Middle East war situation, why people have to kill each other (sometimes in the name of God.) Jesus our Lord knows what is happening and the situation of world conflict. So, we celebrate with gladness the great promise in Advent, yet knowing that there is also a somber tone as the theme of threat is adding to the theme of promise. This is reflected in some of the scripture readings for Advent, in which there is strong prophetic tone of accountability and judgment on sin. But, this is also faithful to the role of coming king who comes to rule, save, and judge the world.

Because of the dual themes of threat and promise, Advent is a time of preparation that is marked by prayer! The spirit of Advent is expressed well in the parable of the bridesmaids who are anxiously awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom. There is profound joy at the Bridegroom’s expected coming. And yet a warning of need for preparation echoes through the parable.

“O, come, O, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!” Amen.

In His Spirit,

Pastor Kishino



THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

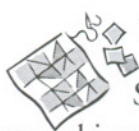
There may be a slight variation in the way the food baskets will be done this year. We are asking for monetary donations, instead of goods, to try and streamline the process. It has been suggested that we then use the donations to purchase grocery store gift cards, so that the recipient on the list can purchase what they want or need for their Thanksgiving dinner. Otherwise, we'll just purchase the necessary items for the baskets with the donations received. Please mark "Thanksgiving" your check or envelope and thank you for being a blessing to others.

**Come worship with us
Wednesday, November 26th
At 7:00 pm**

**Thanksgiving Eve
Worship**



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



30th Anniversary Quilt

Start thinking creatively, because I am asking you to contribute a quilt square for a congregational quilt with the theme "Lord of Life." I will assemble it and it will be auctioned off for the 30th anniversary. Squares can be embroidered (by hand or machine), counted cross stitched, appliquéd, pieced, painted or a picture can be printed on the fabric. Quilt squares of cotton and instruction sheets are now available so, if you haven't picked one up yet, please do so. If you need any help with implementing your design just give me a call.

Thanks, Jo Lippire

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace to each of you.

What joy it is to be a part of a church that does not hold what we receive on Sunday mornings inside our walls, but rather take the message to our friends and community. I thank God for all of you each day.

We have just celebrated the reformation of the Catholic Church by Martin Luther, making it possible for all people to read the Bible and understand it. The Protestants were now a separate group from the Catholic Church.

In the coming weeks, we will celebrate Veteran's Day and I would encourage each of us to take the opportunity to say Thank You to our vets and military personnel. Once again, I will have thank you cards for you to write a message on and I will collect them on the 9th of November. November is also a time for us to reflect on all the blessings we have received over the last year. We can thank God not only for the good He's done for us, but also for the bad, no matter how hard it seems.

December start the beginning of our church year. We start to prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What a glorious gift God gave to us through his Son. Many of us will go out and spend money on gifts for our families but, in doing so, I hope that we will remember the real meaning of Christmas. Gifts are nice to get and give, but help us to remember that the greatest gift of all is the gift of Jesus. As the gift of Jesus was given to us freely, let us be willing to share Jesus to all we meet each day. On behalf of the council, we want to wish you the best holiday ever. May the New Year bring you Love, Peace, and Joy!

God's peace to all,

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
*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

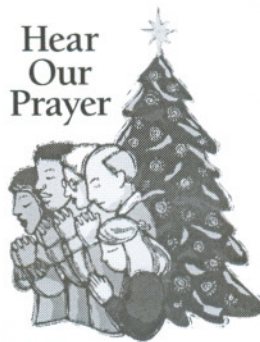
- Bob Vernlund, John Lowe, Jo Lippire, and Amy Freeman
*Growing joyful stewards in your congregation

8. Worship and Music

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

9. Youth

- Margo Ross
*Building our future with youth ministry.



Diane Combes, Alice Olson, the family of Joyce Bob, Dorothy Parr, Nancy, Steve Johnson, Michael Brown, Ira Yoder, Iver Sonnack, Gi Pierce, Carole Horton, Rita Nielsen, Jewel Willis, Sara Ulate, Jeannie Mooney, the family of Jeanne Garrett, Oly Vernlund, Maggie

August, Wayne Eder II, John Messer, the family of Dixie Flickinger, David Gadbow, Jim Cooper, Mickey Michalek, Kathy Bickel, Laura Entrekin, the family of Janet Marostica, Charles Vogelgeseng, Diane Kroh and John Meeks, Connie Lowe, Jim Busick, Marshall Whitney, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



November:

Meggie Hilker
Daniel Grygar
Alice Olson
Sophia Longabardi
Gillian Nunez
Louise Russell
Linda Rasmussen

December:

Trevor Van Hoosier
Mike Althoff
Patty Bundura
Lindsay Ellingson
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.

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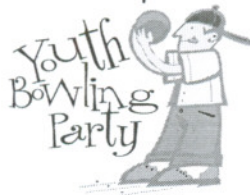


Don't forget that Daylight Saving Time ends early on November 2nd. Please turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.



This calendar year is quickly coming to a close, and I'm sure you all are ready for your first long break. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays approaching, it's a good time to be thankful for all the blessings God has given you and remember those who are in need. We will be planning different service projects during this time, so think about what you can be doing. We will also be continuing our fellowship time and have planned a trip to Brunswick on Sunnymead.

Please join us on Saturday, November 15th from 2:45-5:00 pm for some Cosmic Bowling.



The cost is \$12.00 per person, and includes shoes. This is for all kids who want to participate. Parents, you can stay and bowl too, if you'd like. I recall hearing about kids vs. parents challenge. Hmmm.... See Becci for more information.



What a milestone celebration! Save the Date: Our 30th anniversary celebration will be held at Benedict Castle on April 18, 2015! Let's celebrate and praise God for the blessings on our church. Let's make this a celebration to remember!



Please join Lord of Life on Wednesday December 3rd, Wednesday December 10th, and Wednesday December 17th at 7:00 pm for our midweek Advent Services. Come and worship with us as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.



Christmas
Eve
Worship



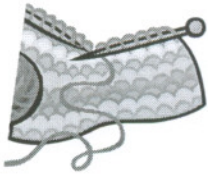
Join us on Christmas Eve for
our Candlelight Worship
Service at 7:00 pm

**** 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! ****



The shepherds went to bet...
 baby? In a Christmas Eve sermon, Martin Luther use...
 congregation as the manger in which the Christ child is found, placed
 before us, and feeds our souls. At this time of year, many
 ons set up nativity scenes, some with living nativities with actors and animals. Luther's
 ggests that the congregation itself is the real living nativity: live-action people who
 he Christ child and who welcome those who come looking for the Christ child! The real
 es place inside the church when the Christian community gathers for worship and witness.
 ere we see the real Christmas story unfold before us. The community of faith testifies to
 , presence of Jesus just as surely as the angels told the shepherds, just as surely as the
 the wise men. (Excerpt from Christ in our Home daily devotional for 12/24/2014.)

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. Thanks!



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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. Thank you to all Thrivent members who have already designated Lord of Life Lutheran Church as the recipient of these Choice Dollars. Through this grant fund program, we have received over \$6,000.00 in additional donations that have helped Lord of Life further their ministries.

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 gift 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.



Women of the ELCA present "Being made new." The 27th Annual Convention and Gathering will be held November 7-9, 2014 at the Radisson Rancho Bernardo in San Diego. See Becci in the church office for registration and convention information.