

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 23 No.11

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

November-December 2017

LIFELINE

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

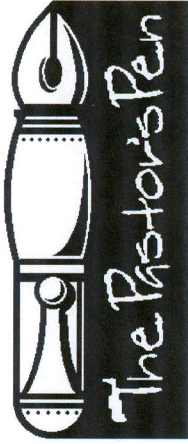
Our Mission Statement

Inviting all to grow in Christ!



Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	P. 2
From the Pastor cont	P. 3
From the Pastor cont	P. 4
Christmas Eve Worship.....	P. 4
Christmas Cantata	P. 5
Worship Assistants needed	P. 5
Baptism Anniversaries	P. 5
Prayers	P. 5
Thrivent.....	P. 6
AmazonSmile	P. 6
November/December Calendar of Events.....	print version only
November/December Assisting Schedule.....	print version only



Changes and Castor oil. There was a time when it was thought that a tablespoon of Castor oil would cure whatever ailment was facing you. And when it was time for the Castor oil, there was no choice but to 'open up and swallow.'

Often we love the results a change brings us, but universally we hate to make the change to get those results. And we seem to think that because we hate changes, it is ok not to make them. Not true.

There are changes afoot.

There are two things I want to bring to your attention in this article.

Preparing our minds to worship is important. The ambiance of worship communicates to everyone around us that we are prepared to worship. To create that ambiance we are making a change prior to the service. A few minutes before 9 AM, someone will ask you to take your seats, be quiet, and pray. Then a prayer will be offered for our worship, after which the Pastor and Assistant will process forward.

Why, you may wonder? Just like wearing your name tags to make visitors feel more welcome, this means we are being intentional about worshipping. Visitors come to church with the intention of worshipping. While we all know each other and love to visit with one another, we need to reserve that for fellowship times. With this practice, we 'set the scene.' Our minds are quieted and our hearts are prepared to focus on God's plan for us this day.

Also we will endeavor to only share with one another the "Peace of the Lord" and not exchange any other news until after the service during Fellowship time. We will give ourselves over to worship for the entire worship time that our minds will be stilled, and our hearts comforted. We never know everything that anyone else is experiencing. This gives everyone the opportunity to receive God's peace and hear God's message for them individually on Sunday mornings. Please give one another that gift of peace and peace only during that time. Perhaps at first it will seem like Castor oil. Soon it will be a sweet elixir that is eagerly anticipated.

The second thing.

Henry Gilmer, 19th Century American statesman, one time the State Treasurer of Virginia (from what became West Virginia in later years) was quoted as saying, "Look over your shoulder now and then to be sure someone's following you."

This is especially good advise for those who lead. For the last month or so, various members of council and the Pastor have been asking for members to serve the church by serving on council. We have universally been met with "Not me". If not you, then who? If no one, then redevelopment is dead in the water.

Serving the church has always required self sacrifice. During a period of redevelopment it is exponentially more so. If no one is behind leadership then they have chosen another path to travel. We are at this precipice. Do we ALL rearrange our priorities to

The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 2)

focus on redevelopment or do we seek an orderly closure of this congregation so each of you can find your path in another setting?

A harsh question, but a necessary one. Pacifica Synod and the ELCA Chicago are poised to help us, but cannot if we choose not to do the difficult work necessary. There are no committees in our church and no committee chairs to lead the effort. Yes, things get done - by someone, but that is disconcerting to the elected and called leadership and is extremely off putting to anyone thinking about joining us as members.

The number of giving units has steadily decreased every year for the past many years. Costs continue to increase. The folks that have left recently, and plan to leave this coming year are going to be closer to family. They have expressed their regret at leaving us and hope they can find a replacement church they like as much where they are going. The bottom line is even fewer giving units and increasing costs. This past year you raised about a third more money than was expected in the offering plate and yet we struggle to stay afloat. This next year you may be challenged to give 50% more than you initially think you can. The handwriting is on the wall. We cannot continue indefinitely on this path.

So coupled with reluctance to serve and faced with even greater financial challenges, is it time to consider a new path for Lord of Life? What will we be prepared to tell the partners of the synod and the greater church as to the path we want and need to choose?

Let me clear here. There are no other people than you to do the work. There is no 'savior on a white stallion' waiting in the wings to do what we choose not to do. No one has a magic wand. It is up to us and God. God will

bless our decision, whatever it is. And now is the time it has to be made.

So what work am I talking about? We will need an aggressively campaign to become a much more welcoming and accommodating worshipping body. That means going over every minute of our Sunday mornings together and choosing the most worshipful experience for everyone. Not more formality, but a lot more intentionality to worship fully and thoroughly. The songs and message are not an audition to see if you liked them, but rather if you were fed and uplifted by them. From the parking lot into a seat in the sanctuary, we need to examine how we are intentionally making that happen for everyone.

We need people who will willingly rearrange their personal priorities to be in worship every Sunday, to seek more Bible study, to ask, "What can I do to help." We need more of you to prepare and lead activities to find and welcome new people. We need more of you to get out in the community and seek to serve as a member of Lord of Life. People aren't looking to hear more about who we say we are. They are watching to see if we practice what we preach.

We have a great deal of potential. We have excess land that can be developed but we need a leader and small committees to explore our options there. We have homes sprouting up like weeds recently. We need a campaign and people to welcome those new home owners to the 'hood and show them we want to be good neighbors. Again we need people to plan, head up and carry out that campaign.

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California 92555
Volume 23 No. 11 November-December 2017

The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 3)

We have loads of people who have drifted away from us. We need to visit them and welcome them back. Again, we need people to plan those visits and then make them.

And this is only the beginning. I am predisposed to help lead you through redevelopment, but a look over my shoulder is rather bleak lately. And that is OK. It tells us you don't see the future that same way. So if not redevelopment, then what?

Every group seems to operate on the 80-20 rule. Eighty per cent of the work is done by 20% of the people. We have to change that around to be successful with redevelopment. Now is the time when we all need to search our hearts and ask ourselves if we have the heart to do this work. Now is the time to be honest. It seems time to have some conversation among ourselves to shed light on our future path.

Satchel Page, the baseball player also had a saying about looking behind you. He said, "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you." What is gaining on us? Maybe not a good thing, but we need to know. Holy closure is a possible path. So is dismal failure.

Page meant to be so focused on where you were going so as not to be distracted with where you had been. You say you are the 'Miracle on Nason Street'. When asked what that means to you, you say "Because we are still here." The real miracle is what is planned or the future, not what has been and what currently is. As we learned from the visit from Keith Mundy, survival is not thriving. At best, it is treading water. No one can do that forever. In fact, treading water is the leading cause of drowning.

The path we are on cannot be sustained. Resources are dwindling. The people to do the work are fewer as time go by. We can

avoid Holy Closure, but the work will be hard and require total focus by all of us. We cannot afford the luxury of "Not me" any longer. The 'somebody' to step forward is reflected in your mirror.

We can do better. We have God with us. We need to do the holy work of deciding exactly what that is. There is no shame in Holy Closure. It is not failure. It is the opportunity to serve where God is calling you in another place. This may seem like an entire bottle of Castor oil in one dose, but it doesn't have to taste bad.

Many stand ready to help us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



Please join us Christmas Eve for our worship service at 7:00 pm.



Come and enjoy wonderful music and fellowship as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.



Christmas Cantata

Come, lend your voice to the choir for our Christmas Eve Cantata. No long term commitment...no solos. Join us in raising a joyful noise! Rehearsals after service on Sundays. See you there!



November:

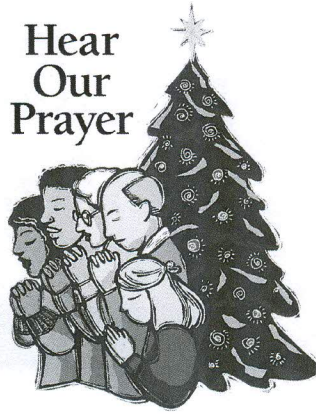
Daniel Grygar
Alice Olson
Gillian Nunez
Louise Russell
Linda Rasmussen

December:

Trevor Van Hoosier
Emily Brown

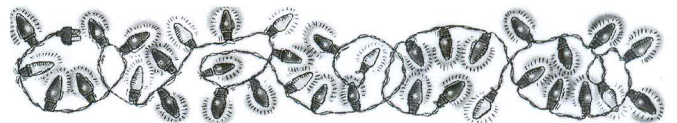
If your baptism information is not included, or included in error, please contact the church office so that we may update our system. We would like to celebrate everyone's baptism anniversary, so please be sure to contact the church office with your information.

Hear Our Prayer

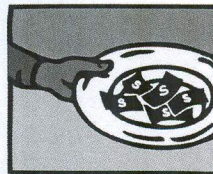
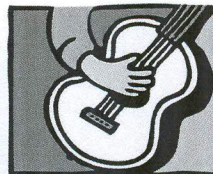


Harold & Jeannine Lester, Bob & Oly Vernlund, Connie Lowe, Ira and Gene Yoder, Larry & Alice Olson, Mark Bueker, Katherine Ward, Bill Shulin, Kathy Bickel, Dorothy, Susie Davis, Ona Ellington, Carole

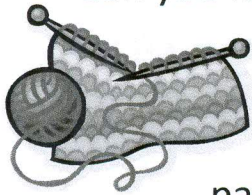
Horton, Heather Willis, Wendy Eder, Tara Sheridan, the family of Elaine Walker, Dale Barnes, the family of Alan Yoder, Gi Pierce, Don Rasmussen, Laura Entrekin, Sally Lopez, Nancy, Cheryl, Gail Paddock, Megan Kelley, James Ward, Broussard family, Bob Kretschmer, Elisa Gonzalez, John Abramson, Steve Johnson, Brian Kelley, Mark Korshavn, Larry Wilderman, Kathy Bickel, Jeff Sims, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP



We are in serious need of volunteers for Sunday Worship: Assistant Ministers, Acolytes, Altar Care, Usher, and Refreshments. If you feel you are being called to help, please contact Marv Egeland or Becci in the church office. No singing required.



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!



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 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 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.



If you purchase from Amazon, you can now get donations for our youth programs from the purchases you make. Go to smile.amazon.com, select Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Moreno Valley for the charitable organization to support, then shop. In order to earn donations, be sure to log into smile.amazon.com whenever you shop Amazon. Thanks for your support!