

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 19 No. 10

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September-October 2009

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!



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F R O M T H E



PASTOR

Moving Forward... Perhaps by now you have heard about the decision that was made at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly regarding the ordination of folks in same-sex relationships. The assembly voted to allow these brothers and sisters of ours to be

ordained. This is a big decision, and one that was many years in the making. Some who I have spoken to about this are happy, and some are not very happy at all. Where do we go from here? John 13:34 says, 'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' We have embarked on a new part of our journey. Sometimes the tendency we fall into when we see something we do not like or agree with, is to pick sides; and point the finger at the ones who do not happen to see eye to eye with us on a particular issue. In doing so, we are not participating as God would want us to in ministry. As I see it now, whether you support the decision that was made, or you do not; really becomes secondary at this point in time. What is primary is how we all will treat and love one another going forward. I choose to believe that Lord of Life Lutheran Church will remain a place where ALL are welcome, where God is at the center of all we do, and all we say. I pray that as we continue to have conversation around where God is leading us into the future, that we never forget that very important part of living a Christian life!

Rally Sunday is coming September 13th! A new program year is just around the corner. What does this mean? Our choirs; the Lord of Lifers, and God's Kids will begin gathering and practicing once again to bless us with special musical offerings during our worship experiences together. Please check with Ira Yoder or Maggie August if you are interested in joining or having one of your children join and sing with them this year. Confirmation will be beginning on Monday, September 14th. We will gather from 6:30-8pm each Monday night at church. Confirmation is a 3 year program for those in 6th-8th grades. Please contact me with any questions you may have about this. Education hour (Sunday school) will begin Sunday, September 20th from 10:30-11:30am. Shelley Palestis

and a host of wonderful teachers will bring God's word to our children in classes following worship each Sunday. Adult classes will be offered in the sanctuary during the same time period; there is something for everybody, come and join us! If you have any questions, please contact either Shelley or myself. Morning Prayer continues each Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9-9:30am in the sanctuary. The Women's bible study will be starting up on Tuesday September 8th; the week leading up to Rally Sunday. Maggie August and a host of others will be facilitators for this weekly gathering. All women of Lord of Life and friends are most welcome to attend! If you have any input for the group, please let us know! Sweet Monday on Wednesdays resume again in September too. Contact Cindy Cassem with details. This is a fantastic opportunity for all of the ladies of the congregation to meet over at Cindy's home on a monthly basis in Christian fellowship. Starting the 4th Thursday of September, and continuing each month after will be a new ministry opportunity; Christ-Chili's-Conversation. We will gather at Chili's in the Super Target shopping center just about a mile from church for a time of fellowship. The time will be from 6-8:30pm. As we gather for food and drink we will discover together how God is showing himself, how we see God's presence in the world. Bring stories you may have heard at work, at school or in the news and let's have conversation and fellowship time together. Keep your ears out to hear about other exciting opportunities as well. I look forward and embrace the opportunity to move forward with all of you. It is a blessing to watch God working in all of your lives. Please continue to keep Lord of Life, all of the ministries, and all of the brothers and sisters that call this place home in your prayers. May we go forward with God's presence leading us and walking with us all of the way. And may we keep the love of our creator at the very center of who we are on our daily walk with Him. I look forward to seeing you all soon, and continue to hold you all in my prayers this day forward.

Peace,
Pastor Shane





Sweet Monday on Wednesday

By Cyndi Cassem

As I write this I am very excited, looking forward to all of the activities of fall that we have put aside for the summer: school, Sunday School, Choir, Autumn leaves and warm fires in the fireplaces. Most of all, I am excited to be gathering again with all of my friends in Christ as Sweet Monday on Wednesday begins another fun and exciting year in which women, from Lord of Life or other guests, gather to share their faith with each other and enjoy the fellowship of other women.

We will meet on the second Wednesday of each month in my home at 24815 Moonshadow Dr., Moreno Valley, CA 92557. No reservations are needed. If you have any questions or need directions, please call 951-485-9660 (cell).

On September 9th, we will be "Falling for God" focusing on the beautiful colors of the season. I have not decided on the theme for October 14th yet, but I am sure it will be something ghoulishly fun. Please come and join in the excitement and bring a friend.



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.



Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California
Volume 19 No.10 September-October 2009

A Luther Opportunity

By Jack Pavelich (08/2009)

And so it was on a still night in 1517, that Brother Martin tacked his 95 Theses on the front doors of the Castle Church ...

Martin wasn't looking to split the church or to even create a new Lutheran church. He was merely looking to do something significant that would lead to a reforming of the church and the powers that be, so that the church would be true to the Gospel. In doing so he changed the face of the Christian Church.

Today we have many Christian Churches, all called by other names. Each one is a sort of reformation; God's people seeking His will in the body of all believers. Each one is slightly different than the next.

Lord of Life Lutheran is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA.) This past week, over a thousand representatives of the church gathered in Minneapolis for a Church-wide assembly. Among the many actions taken by that group was the approval of a Social Statement on Human Sexuality, and subsequently to that a major change in policy regarding our church's ordination of gay people.

Until now, the ELCA ordained gay persons who professed celibacy. And our Church has been richly blessed by their ministries.

In holding with the intent of, and consistency with the new Social Statement, the Assembly has changed this policy to include gays in committed relationships, and the blessing of same-sex unions.

I don't speak for others, only myself. But I suddenly have an urge to nail upon the front doors of the ELCA building in Chicago my own theses.

For those who might agree, I feel as though my Church has left me stranded. I feel abandoned – betrayed – there is a loss of trust that I had in my church and in my pastors. I never thought they would allow this to happen.

On the other hand, not all do agree. Some 550 of the 1,000 voting Lutherans in Minneapolis are one example, and you may be among them. I can't speak for you, but I've listened and studied the subject at great length. You see a great injustice wrought against the homosexual: able to be a participating member of the church, but yet unequal in what capacity they can serve (therefore keeping them separate, different.)

Ephesians 6 outlines God's armor for us. It includes the Breastplate of Righteousness, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The breastplate protects our hearts, a favorite target of Satan. Our heart is the seat of emotions, self-worth, and trust. Nothing is more significant than people's passionate emotions regarding a topic as hot as sexuality in today's society.

The Word is portrayed via the sword. Why the sword? The sword is a symbol of offense, battle, conflict. You see, the truth can be painful to dole out, and painful to receive. God's Word first causes us to acknowledge our fallen ways. In today's society, truth loses out to compassion.

So what now? Now we pray, and work together to determine how our little church on Nason Street will be affected by this most major policy change in the ELCA.

We do great work here. We feed the hungry, we clothe the naked, we shelter the traveler, we guide the lost, and we praise and thank God for all His mighty gifts to us. Let us not take our focus from what God would have us do here.

Meanwhile, let us work together to determine how we respond. Let's respect each other along the way, understanding that God's ways and new journeys are often unpredictable. Either way, as God moves us along, we are blessed by his great love and compassion for us.

In the 21st century, how do we "nail the theses?" I'm looking forward to the discussion. Please God, guide us in all we do...

Amen?

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



Please Pray for:

Cathy Davis & family, Maxine Hagle, the Rasmussen family, Marilyn Miller, Chandler Kohr, Gene Yoder, Chris Zappulla, Mary Kate Krone, Roy Johnson, Bill Ward, Jim York, Ana Garza, Philip Delaney, Nick Fulgenzi, Darrell & Kim Freberg, the Dagen family, the Gonzalez family, Cindy Barton, Barb Shoemaker, Alan Yoder, Karen Ptacek, Julie Johnson, Sharon Vance, Betty Burns, The Defeo family, Katie and Suzy Spalding, Shirley Bryant, Linda Baginski, Lillian Bradford, Ona Ellington, Maxine DeMerritt, Karissa Matheason, and all others that need God's healing touch.

Cathy Davis & family, Maxine Hagle, the Rasmussen family, Marilyn Miller, Chandler Kohr, Gene Yoder, Chris Zappulla, Mary Kate Krone, Roy Johnson, Bill Ward, Jim York, Ana Garza, Philip Delaney, Nick Fulgenzi, Darrell & Kim Freberg, the Dagen family, the Gonzalez family, Cindy Barton,

Christ



Conversation

Hello friends- Blessings to you this day. My continued prayers to you all. Our new program year is just around the corner. Rally Sunday will be September 13th. Those programs that were on summer break will now be going again. I have a new ministry opportunity to announce. Starting on Thursday, September 24th we will be gathering at Chili's in the SuperTarget shopping area on Nason St. right by the 60 freeway. This event will take place the 4th Thursday of each month. The time will be from 6-8:30p. We will gather for some food, fellowship, and a chance together to see how God is working in all of our lives. Please bring friends with you, and enough \$ to cover your food and drinks. (If you need some \$ assistance let me know. I do not want that to be the reason why you do not attend). I look forward to spending these evenings with you. If you have any questions please contact me. May the remainder of Pentecost be fruitful for you all.

Peace,
Pastor Shane

Education hour will resume Sunday, September 20th following morning worship. As you wait for your child to complete their day of Sunday school, you too can complete your own. We look forward to seeing you!





WHAT A
DIFFERENCE
A DAY MAKES!

Join us **Saturday October 17th** at Macy's for a fund raiser for the **Moreno Valley Relay for Life**. A \$5.00 donation gets you an all day pass for 10-20% off of your store purchases. You will also receive a 25% off coupon good on any one item. With these wonderful coupons, you will get an entry form for a chance to win a \$500.00 gift card. See Deb Weitenhagen to purchase your "Shop for a Cause" pass and help raise money for cancer research!



LOL is continuing with much-needed Quilts and Health Kits and we are asking for your support. We are currently in need of hand towels, wash cloths, toothbrushes, combs, nail clippers, soap, and band-aids for the health kits. For quilts, we are in need of gently used clean sheets. We also need assistance with pinning and/or sewing. For quilt requirements, please contact the church office or Audrey Flickinger. We appreciate your continued support to these important missions.



September:

- Alyssa Van Hoosier
- Diane Combes
- Karen Ptacek
- Nicholas Shearer
- Robin Althoff
- Barbara Shoemaker
- Lola Booth
- Danny Egeland
- Teri Hilker
- Michael Kline
- Katherine Coutu
- Gary Ellingson

October:

- David Johnson
- Julie Johnson
- Gina Yates
- Dale Gardner
- Dirk Gardner
- Ken Hudson
- Marilyn Jackson
- Kurt Kozma
- Oly Vernlund
- Deb Weitenhagen
- Iver Sonnack
- Alex Kozma
- Tim Mott

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.

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