

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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

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e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

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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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## Message from Pastor Yutaka Kishino

As I was surfing the web site of Christian inspiration called [CrossDaily.com](http://CrossDaily.com), I read the following story (author unknown). I want to share this but also give credit to that someone who wrote this as he /she must be someone who is filled with the love of Jesus. The story starts...

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him and everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of drift wood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened. Everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried. Early the next day, however, he was awakened the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal." they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going badly. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground – it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it:

You say: "It's impossible."  
God says: "All things are possible."  
(Luke 18:27)

You say: "I'm too tired."  
God says: "I will give you rest"  
(Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: "Nobody really loves me."  
God says: "I love you."  
(John 3:16 & 13:34)

You say: "I can't go on."  
God says: "My grace is sufficient."  
(II Corinthians 12:9)

You say; "I can't figure things out."  
God says: "I will direct your steps."  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: "I can't do it."  
God says: "You can do all things."  
(Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able."  
God says: "I am able."  
(II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "I can't forgive myself."  
God says: "I forgive you."  
(I John 1:9 & Roman 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage."  
God says: "I will supply all your needs."  
(Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid."  
God says "I have not given you a spirit of fear."  
(II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated."  
God says: "Cast all your cares on me."  
(1 Peter 5:7)

You say: "I'm not smart enough."  
God says: "I will give you wisdom"  
(I Corinthians 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone."  
God says; "I'll never leave you nor forsake you."  
(Hebrews 13:5)

You say: "I don't have enough faith."  
God says: "I've given everyone a measure of faith."  
(Roman 12:3)

Pass this on to the people who are struggling with life issues. With Christ all things are possible. He makes good out of bad, when we trust Him.

Pastor Kishino



## YOU LIFT ME UP

By Bob Vernlund

I watched a short video the other day that I hope to share with all of you sometime about what we can learn from a flock of geese. It struck me that these lessons apply directly to our church or any church.

As one of God's creatures, geese have learned to fly in formation. The reason is simple, the goose in front of you decreases the resistance of air and provides a lift that makes flying easier and extends the range about 70%. When the lead goose gets tired it falls back in formation and someone else takes over the leadership position. If one of the geese drops out of formation a pair of geese will go with the sick or injured one until it recovers or dies. The pair will then either rejoin the flock or find another one to join. Simple truths that made me realize how important each person in our congregation (flock) is to my worshiping of God. If I were to show up at our church one Sunday and I was the only one there, I could still worship God but it just wouldn't be the same. The songs would be kind of flat and probably off key. The words would be the same as I read them off the printed sheet but there would be something missing as I strive to "recharge" my faith batteries to meet the challenges that lay ahead. It is not just the ceremony or the way we worship, it is the interaction or formation that we achieve as we worship together in God's presence.

The "honking" of the geese in formation is to encourage the leader to keep going just as the presence of each member that gathers and worships each week encourage and strengthens everyone else. It is like what Aristotle said many years ago, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts". We, as a family of believers, need each other to extend our range as we migrate through life.



## 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. Plan to sign up or ask questions on Rally Sunday, Sept 15th.

### 1. Evangelism

- Pastor Kishino
  - \*Worship is evangelism.
  - Evangelism is worship

### 2. Education

- John Lowe
  - \*Lifelong learning — formal and informal

### 3. Fellowship

- Jorine Campbell & 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

- Jorine Campbell and Margo Ross
  - \*Building our future with youth ministry.

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Here is your invitation!  
Rally Day Kick-off BBQ  
Be sure to join us on  
Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>  
for a BBQ where fun,  
food, and fellowship  
abound. See the sign up  
sheet in the Narthex for  
further information. Then,

come on out on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> for  
"Rally Sunday!" Check out the different  
ministries that are available at Lord of Life,  
talk to the ministry leaders and get invested in  
your church! Whether it's joining a committee,  
getting involved in bible studies, being an  
assistant during Sunday worship...there is a  
place for you! *Get involved!* Have an idea for a  
new and exciting ministry? Let your church  
council know and see how God can help you  
share your time and talents!



Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

God's peace to each of you. Oh, my goodness! Where has the summer gone? It seems as though school just got out and here we go again. We have had a very blessed summer here at our "Miracle on Nason Street," all because of each of you.

First of all, I want to say Thank You to each and every one who made our "Christmas in July" a success. As of this writing, we received almost \$18,000.00 in donations to the building fund. Even in these trying economic times, each of us understands the sustaining power of our God, and believes in His promises to us. While we are small in number, God makes us mighty warriors in our little community, so again, thank you for the gifts God laid on your hearts.

Next, I want to thank all of you for the help you gave to make our youth activities a huge success. Our VBS this year, under the direction of Margo Ross, went very well.

Many of you were willing to take time out of your summer schedule to help out, from cooking meals, to working with the activities. I was told that VBS was a time of fun and learning about Jesus. Each of you truly accepted the call that Jesus gave His disciples, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for such is the kingdom of Heaven." Remember, the children are the church's future. The Bible tells us to bring our children up in the way of the Lord, and it shall not depart from them. Another thank you must go out to Pastor Kishino and his three helpers; Mindy, Brianna, and Rob, for making the retreat for our high schoolers on the coast a success. A time of fun and sharing was had by all. Thank you to our young adults who were willing to take time out of their summer break to assist pastor. Briana, Rob, and Mindy: My heartfelt thanks goes out to each of you for hearing God's call and answering it. You are truly a blessing to our church, and it is my prayer that God will continue to sustain each of you as you head back to school. May all of our students have another successful year. Good luck!

Just a special note to you, Daniel... As a veteran sailor, I want to extend my congratulations to you as you embark on the next journey in your life. All the extra hours of homework I watched you do have paid off. While all the Sunday School staff will miss your help each Sunday, I speak for all of us, Thank You! God's peace be with you always.

September bring us "Rally Sunday," a day when we kick off many of our activities in the church, from Sunday School to choir to Bible Study, to name a few. As you feel led, please consider an area that you can help in. Also, coming in October, we look forward to Reformation Sunday. We can all be thankful that Martin Luther (the Paul of our modern day) had the courage to break away from the Catholic Church, to enable us to see and obtain the Gospel as God desired.

God's peace to all,  
John Lowe





Well, hopefully you had as much fun this summer as Pastor Kishino did with all the different group

activities! Between the Beach Trip, Sunday Fellowship, VBS, and Movie Night; Brianna, Rob, Mindy, and Pastor kept you all connected with fun and fellowship. The start of the school year will bring additional group activities for all ages. Retreats, movies, bowling, miniature golf, game night, lock-ins, opportunities for outreach...these are all on the list of possibilities. Please look for upcoming announcements in the bulletin. If you have a fun idea or suggestion you'd like considered, please write it down and give it to Pastor, Jorine, or Margo. Get involved and let's make this a year of growth!



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

### Personal Care Kits

Audrey Flickinger and I would like to personally thank those who brought in donations for the Personal Care Kits. Due to your generosity, we have already received the necessary items to complete 500 kits! You are all such a blessing to us and thank you for all you do to further the ministries in our local community and all around the world.

Now for the fun...We need any and all who are able to join us on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 pm to come to the Fellowship Hall to help us wrap the kits and get them ready to be picked up for shipping. If we have enough help, we can finish this in no time!



### **Please Pray For:**

Trish Walker, Jordan Campbell, Kristin Freeman, Iver Sonnack, Mark Korshavn, Oly Vernlund, Maggie August, Laura Entrekim, Lola Booth, Carole Korshavn, Ikuko Kishino, John Messer, Mike Lund, Fred Gonzalez, Bill Ward, Hannelore Heidinger, Diane Kroh and John Meeks, Scott Ptacek, Donna's family, Karen, Karman Johnson, Mary Lou Ptacek, Connie Lowe, Jim Busick, Marshall Whitney, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Katie Spaulding, Katherine Ward, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford, Arnette Lester; and all others needing God's healing touch.



### **September:**

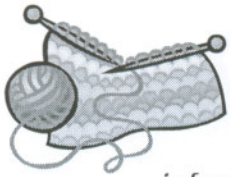
Alyssa Van Hoosier  
Diane Combes  
Karen Ptacek  
Nicholas Shearer  
Robert Nelson  
Barbara Shoemaker  
Chris Silvey  
Lola Booth  
Teri Hilker  
Michael Kline  
Katherine Coutu  
Gary Ellingson

### **October:**

David Johnson  
Hailey Levi  
Gina Yates  
Dale Gardner  
Dirk Gardner  
Marilyn Jackson  
Kurt Kozma  
Oly Vernlund  
Deb Weitenhagen  
Iver Sonnack  
Alex Kozma

*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. ***\*\*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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Through Thrivent Choice®, Thrivent Financial's member-advised charitable grant program, eligible members have the opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funds by directing Choice Dollars®. If eligible, please consider directing Choice Dollars to Lord of Life. Remember that Choice Dollars don't cost you anything. Your eligible amount is based on your individual investments. And here's some good news . . . if you direct Choice Dollars® **ONLINE** between July 1 and Oct. 31, 2013, you will be designated an additional \$25 Choice Dollars. Thrivent is in the process of sending the details of the **ONLINE DIRECTION CAMPAIGN** to eligible members either by email or by letter.

It's easy to direct Choice Dollars online!

- Visit [Thrivent.com/choicedollars](http://Thrivent.com/choicedollars). (You must be registered and have a User ID and password)
- Click on the red "Get Started" button and log in.
- Search for your preferred organization(s)
  - If you have an organization in mind, enter just its name, city and state in the search organizations criteria. Then click the search button!
- Choose where you'd like to direct designated Choice Dollars

If you have any questions about Thrivent or the Choice Dollars program, please contact your financial representative or call 1-800-THRIVENT.

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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.

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