

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 23 No.4

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

September-October 2016

LIFELINE

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

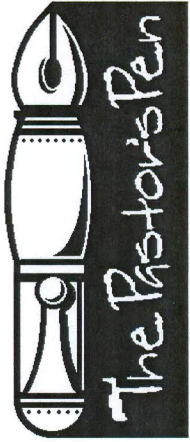
Our Mission Statement

Inviting all to grow in Christ!



Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	P. 2
God's Work. Our hands	P. 3
Installation of Reverend Andrew Taylor	P. 4
Committees.....	P. 4
Rally Sunday.....	P. 5
Creation Sunday/Blessing of the Pets.....	P. 5
Baptism Anniversaries	P. 5
Prayers	P. 5
Thrivent/Simply Giving	P. 6
LSS Walk to Fight Poverty	P. 6



One of the signs of a successful organization is how well they know themselves and where they fit into the greater scheme of things. That is true of churches as well. Every study or report I have ever read concerning declining churches has one common thread.

That thread is a viewpoint that is self centered and focused inward. Conversely, all those same reports and studies agree that an outward focus is common with thriving churches. That said, we can take a look at where we are and what our priorities have become over the years and then make choices for our future.

These are the ponderings of your vacationing pastor. I am stirred by being away and being able to see a bigger picture. I know vacations are supposed to be relaxing, but I think they are also intended to refresh the head and gain a fresh perspective on life.

The kind of studies I referred to above continue to come my way via the Internet and the various writers whose views I follow because they make imminent sense. And it makes me think.

If we have a common goal, then everything we do supports that goal and is measured by that goal. Vague and poorly voiced goals are deadly. Goals that are so all encompassing cannot be sustained. We need to be us, but not the 'us' we think we are, but the 'us' God has called us to be. Yes, we are the beloved of God, but we are also the beloved of God at Lord of Life in Moreno Valley. And that is what we need to figure out together.

What difference does it make that we are the beloved of God? What difference does it make that we are ELCA Lutheran? What difference does it make that we are Lord of Life at Moreno Valley? I wonder if any of us has seriously tried to answer those questions, either for ourselves or for others that may be trying to figure out if they can fit in here.

I don't have any answers here, nor any suggestions. I am only your pastor. I cannot answer these things for you. I can tell you what it means to me, but that may not help you or anyone else. Besides, pastors' opinions are highly overrated. People ought not to blindly ascribe to them, but rather to think and discuss them in relationship with their own opinions and then in relationship with God's plan for them and us together.

So my question, dear ones, is how do we do this? And when do we start?

Shalom,

Pastor Carol



Sunday, shine the light of the cross in our communities," she said.

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Whether your congregation prepares and delivers meals to people rendered homeless to thanking emergency responders, your service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: ***that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.***

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this opportunity and dedicated one day to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all people.

The idea for the dedicated day of service is this: ELCA members are called to plan a service activity in their neighborhood, surrounding community or designated area. While service opportunities are endless, ELCA members and congregations are invited to conduct their own research opportunities for service that makes sense for their local context and the congregation's service capacity. In other words, the idea is to deepen a congregation's and the member's experience in their communities and offer a way for congregations to play a critical part in addressing community needs.

The date for 2016 is **Sunday, Sept. 11.** Mark your congregation's calendar today! If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 11, please consider another time that works best.

The 2016 dedicated day of service will also mark the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2011, terrorist attacks on the United States.

Although the designated day of service is targeted to take place on a Sunday, the service day should not be seen as "replacing worship." You are encouraged to host your service event after worship or you and your congregation can arrange for a brief worship service at the site you're serving and welcome others to worship. Consider partnering with other ELCA congregations in your area! The possibilities are endless.

"The world can be a dangerous place. But there are some who, when disaster strikes, run toward the danger. These are first responders, firefighters, police and EMTs, who live out their baptismal vocation in service to their communities in times of intense need. They do God's work with their hands," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

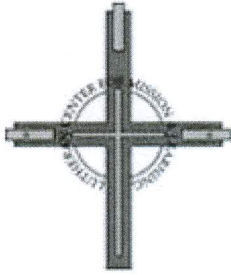
So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! – 2 Corinthians 5:17



On Saturday, September 10th, we want to help make Lord of Life new again and everyone is invited to come with paint brushes in hand and help paint the Fellowship Hall. On September 11th, we would also like to remember our first responders who faithfully serve our community and keep us safe. Please bring them cards and/or goodies to say thanks. If you would like to bring them to the church on Sunday, they will be delivered to the nearest fire stations following the service.

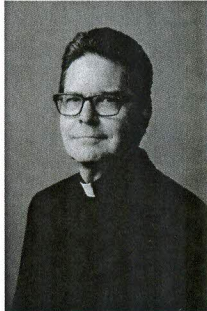
In 2016, "God's work. Our hands." Sunday "will be on Sept. 11," Eaton said. "The Rev. Stephen Bouman, executive director for ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission and former bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod at the time of Sept. 11, recounts this story. He had a pastor in his synod who was a chaplain to the fire department. When the first plane hit the first tower, the chaplain rushed to the site where firefighters were mustering. He prayed with them and then took oil and marked their foreheads with the cross. Then the firefighters rushed into the building. The people who survived said they could see the crosses shining on the foreheads of the firefighters. "In baptism we have been marked with the cross. We are the ones who go into the broken places of the world. We are the ones who, by showing up on 'God's work. Our hands.'

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly
By Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13600 Nason Street, Moreno Valley, California
Volume 23 No. 4 September-October 2016



By the grace of God

the Reverend Andrew A. Taylor



is called as the third bishop

of the

Pacifica Synod

of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

He will be installed

at a festive service of Holy Communion

Sunday, October 23, 2016

at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Hope Lutheran Church

45900 Portola Avenue

Palm Desert, California 92260

the Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

will preside.

Your prayers and presence are requested.

*Reception at the church immediately following
the service.*

Please gather to vest at 3:00 p.m.

The color of the day is red.

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

- Marv Egeland
 - *Worship is evangelism.
 - Evangelism is worship.

2. Education

- open
 - *Lifelong learning — formal and informal

3. Fellowship

- Audrey Flickinger
 - *relay, fellowship meal, small groups, mission festival, special event and personal visit

4. Finance

- Harold Lester
 - *General, building, designated funds and budgets

5. Property

- Jim Cassem
 - *Maintain and monitor all church property

6. Social Ministry

- Jo Lippire
 - *Igniting the fire of faith

7. Stewardship

- Bob Vernlund, Jo Lippire
 - *Growing joyful stewards in your congregation

8. Worship and Music

- Larry Olson
 - *Worship service structure, content, and music

9. Youth

- Audrey Flickinger
 - *Building our future with youth ministry.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

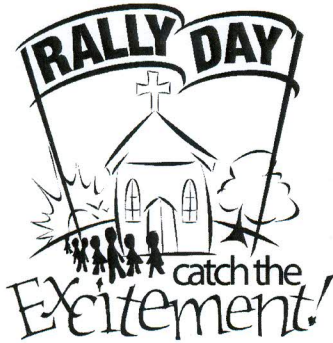


YOU ARE INVITED!



Join us on Sunday, September 11th 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! Have an idea for a new and exciting ministry? Let Pastor Carol or your church council know and see how God can help you share your time and talents!



Harold Lester, Larry Olson, Christina Torres, Cindy Cassem, Oly Vernlund, Harold Lester, Ira and Gene Yoder, Odell Ross, Katherine Ward, Tonni Broussard, David Johnson, Corey Lester, Kathy Youngblood, Laura Entrekin, Jill

Please Pray for:

Rasmussen, the family of Jason Withrow, Diane Kroh, Gail Paddock, Christy Fisher Perry, John Abramson, Carole Horton, Craig May, John Simpson, Donna Messer, Steve Johnson, Brian Kelley, Mike Johnson, Rita Nielsen, Mark Korshavn, Jewel Willis, Brian Kelley, Larry Wilderman, Kathy Bickel, Jeff Sims, Alan Yoder, Audra Ciasullo, Jack Hoffman, Janell Stanford; and all others needing God's healing touch.



Blessing of Pets



This Fall, Lord of Life has a very special event for pet owners. It is the "Blessing of the Animals" or Creation Sunday. This

special service is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. The service is held as close as possible to the St. Francis feast day - which is October 4th.

This year's blessing is scheduled on Sunday, October 2nd. All animals - furry, with fins, feathers, scales - are welcome. Please have them properly leashed or in an appropriate carrier.

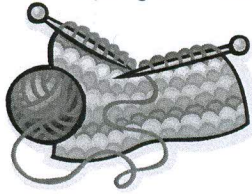
September:

Alyssa Van Hoosier
Karen Ptacek
Barbara Shoemaker
Lola Booth
Teri Hilker
Michael Kline
Greg Van Hoosier
Katherine Coutu

October:

David Johnson
Hailey Levi Campbell
Gina Yates
Dale Gardner
Marilyn Jackson
Olyda Vernlund

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.



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!



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®
Let's thrive:

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 \$16,000.00 in additional donations that have helped Lord of Life further their ministries.*

The Simply Giving® Program

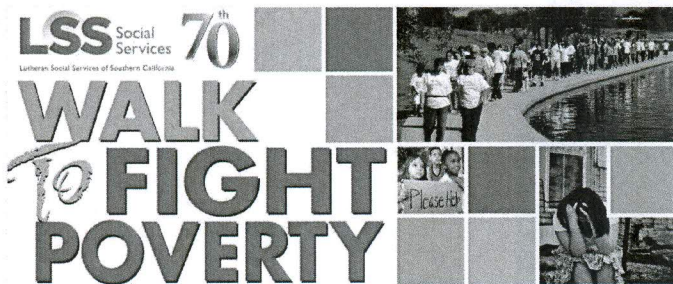
The **Simply Giving** Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank is a simple, reliable way to make your regular contributions to our congregation through automated giving.

An easy, generous choice

The program is designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give financial 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.



Join us on October 1, 2016 at
Hope Lutheran Church
Help us fight poverty in Riverside
Our goal this year is \$12,500

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California's "Walk to Fight Poverty" proceeds will go to those living below the poverty line in our community...The hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, the elderly, single mothers and children will all benefit from this event. Please use this POWERFUL "Friends Asking Friends" website to launch your effort and reach your fundraising goal!