

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 23 No.10

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September-October 2017

LIFELINE

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

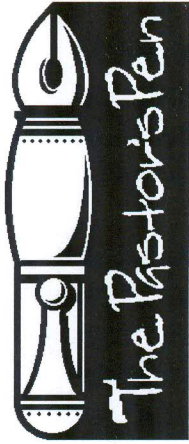
Our Mission Statement

Inviting all to grow in Christ!



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Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century philosopher, poet, author, and essayist, is credited with writing, "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

To be happy is putting the focus on self. Being useful focuses on others. When Jesus commanded us to first love God and then love others, he was also revealing how we are wired by God when we are born. Truly happy people are not focused on themselves. We only need to look at many 2 year olds to get the picture of unhappiness when the child does not get what they want. Today we need look no further than many 'groups' and see the same thing.

God, always wanting the best for each of us, has offered that sage advice to be focused outside of ourselves. I write this in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and while some sad pictures of looters and price gougers are popping up, we are blessed with many more pictures of selfless people helping in a myriad of ways. As years go by, they will remember the devastation - and the satisfaction of helping in some way.

So back here in Moreno Valley, what does all this mean? Here at Lord of Life, your council is studying a book to aid us in our redevelopment. We've just begun, but some interesting stuff has already surfaced. In particular I want to quote something from Chapter 4 of *A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation* by Rich Rouse and Craig Van Gelder.

"...about 65% of the generation born before 1945 consider themselves active members of a Christian-based faith community in the United States, while only 35% of Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) consider themselves to be so. (That drops to) 18% of Generation X (those born 1965 and 1983), and 4% of the Millennials (those born after 1983.)"

Couple that with this: The old church model from northern Europe (our Lutheran roots included) assumes that society and culture supports the church. There is the expectation that the entire population will attend a Christian church, meaning there was no need for outreach. The church primarily served the needs of its own members. The churches were also larger financed through state taxation.

Much has changed over the years! Young people do not find that church model to be relevant, demonstrated by the shrinking percentages above.

Every church wants new members and younger members. We are no exception. Studying this book is showing us why we don't get them - and what to do about that.

The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 2)

Back to Emerson. Today young people are required by our local school system to volunteer a certain number of community service hours as a requirement of graduation. Even our secular education system knows the importance of becoming useful. The missional church knows this as well. It is the single difference between a healthy, vibrant, growing church and only that is muddling along week to week, faithfully offering worship services, but doing little else to demonstrate love for one another. If schools can teach young people to become useful, then what do you suppose churches could do if they encouraged members to likewise be useful to others in the spirit of Jesus command?

That is where we are thus far. There are exciting times ahead, but it will require the active participation of all of us. For some that will mean becoming leaders and planners. For some, it will mean being doers. For some it will mean more financial support. For all of us it mean some of all of that.

This copy of your Life Line includes reports of some of our activities, so you can read what some folks (and who they are!) are doing to BE the church and DO God's work. We will expand that communication as the months go by. Prayerfully support them. Prayerfully consider joining them. And pray for those who are benefitted by their service. Becoming useful will energize us and make us relevant. It will also put us on the same page as young people. And perhaps the church again will be attractive to those who do not currently find it so.

We are small, but that does not mean we cannot be mighty.

Shalom.

Pastor Carol



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 years blessing is scheduled for October 1st. All animals - furry, with fins, feathers, scales - are welcome. Please have them properly leashed or in an appropriate carrier.

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Jan Egeland and Katherine Ward have been overseeing the LORD OF LIFE ANGEL CARD MINISTRY for over a year. We enjoy celebrating all the special occasions with our Lord of Life family, and being there when you need help and encouragement. They send out all the birthday, anniversary, get well, thinking of you & sympathy cards as needed each week.

Because there are so many that we like to keep in touch with on a regular basis, the supply of CARDS & STAMPS is running extremely low. Please consider donating cards, stamps, or making a cash donation to this important ministry so we can continue letting people know that they are loved and thought of.

Thank you all so very much for your help. God Bless & Prayers to all.

Jan Egeland and Katherine Ward



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

**God's work.
Our hands.**

"God's work. Our hands." is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

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.

This year we observe the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The ELCA's anniversary theme, "Freed and Renewed in Christ," reminds us of the gospel's promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. This is work that you do every day – serving your community in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

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.*

The idea for the dedicated day of service is this: ELCA members are called to put their faith into action by engaging in a service activity in their neighborhood, surrounding community or designated area. 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.

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.

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

You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2017!

Lord of Life will be heading to Oak Glen to help plant trees at LRCCC. Please bring work gloves and a shovel. Meet at LOL at 8:30 am to carpool.



Karen Ptacek has graciously agreed to assist the youth with the video ministry. Karen has experience working with youth and production in

ministry, so she will give this team much needed insight and direction. Karen is employed as an art teacher for the Val Verde Unified School District. Thank you for your willingness to lend a hand.



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
 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.



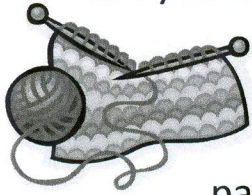
PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH FOR A GOOD-BYE CELEBRATION POTLUCK FOR BOB AND OLY. THEY ARE PLANNING ON MOVING TO TENNESSEE TO BE CLOSER TO THEIR FAMILY. WE WILL MISS THEM AND THE JOY THEY BRING TO SUNDAY WORSHIP. BEST WISHES FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION.



Please Pray for:

Harold & Jeannine Lester, Bob & Oly Vernlund, Connie Lowe, Ira and Gene Yoder, Larry & Alice Olson, Mark Bueker, Katherine Ward, Bill Shulin, Dorothy, Susie Davis, Ona Ellington, Carole Horton, Heather Willis, Wendy Eder, Elaine Walker, Dale Barnes, 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.

We are in serious need of volunteers for Sunday Worship. 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!

