

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 18 No. 5

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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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*I can do everything through
Him who gives me strength. ~
Philippians 4:13*

Pastor Kenneth Davis, Interim

What might God want to accomplish through Lord of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church in Moreno Valley? As a faith community, you may yet have your greatest contribution and best years still ahead of you. Such was the case of Cyrus McCormick, born in 1809. Raised on a farm by an inventor father, Cyrus McCormick sought to invent a mechanical reaper to harvest wheat. His father's attempts at inventing a successful machine had failed until Cyrus, at 22, created one that worked. McCormick had to overcome many setbacks including the loss of his patent 14 years after his first invention. This opened up competition. Then, in 1837 he went bankrupt due to the bank panic of 1837. However, these setbacks did not prevent McCormick from achieving his goals.

He expanded his market by trying to sell his machine to European farmers in 1851. A long series of honors compensated for the lack of recognition and praise from his American compatriots. By 1856, he was not only a world figure but his factory produced more than 4,000 reapers a year.

McCormick was a committed believer. He lived during the time of D.L. Moody and gave \$10,000 to Moody to start the Chicago YMCA in 1869. That building burned along with his Chicago factory in 1871. By this time, McCormick was over 60 and wealthy enough to retire. Before his death in 1884, he had given \$100,000 to help open Moody Bible Institute. His son, Cyrus Jr., was to become the first chairman of the school's board. Cyrus McCormick was a devoted Christian who passed his faith on to his son who later met up with J. Pierpoint Morgan to become the first president of a combined reaper firm, the famed International Harvester Corporation.

What might God want to accomplish through Lord of Life Church? Surely you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

I'm Excited About the Invitation!

By Robert Vernlund

We have adopted a new mission statement that is strong, inclusive, and focused. **“Inviting all to grow in Christ”**. Six simple words that will allow us to focus on who we are, what we are doing, and where we are going. We are a warm and inviting congregation. When someone walks through our doors they know and feel the Spirit of love and compassion that flows through everyone they meet.

- “Inviting” means we are open to others.
- “Inviting all” means every one who walks through the doors of our church and those we come in contact with as we go forth from the church into our community, home, and workplace.
- “To grow” means we are ready to change, to become greater than we are.
- “To grow in Christ” means we will provide the programs and ministries that will allow the growth of everyone in their relationship with Christ.

The year 2007 is a new beginning for our family in Christ at Lord of Life. We are preparing to call a new minister to serve our congregation. Having a new mission statement to focus on is vital to our success. As we start our outreach program to extend an invitation to those that live around us, let us never forget those who currently are living with us in our family in Christ. We all need to grow.

- We are inviting a **minister** to lead our flock.
- We are inviting **new members** of the community to join us.
- We are inviting **current members** to grow in Christ.
- We are inviting **Christ** to “hear our prayer”.



Edgemont Christmas toy Drive

Praise the Lord! Through Him we were once again able to give every child at Edgemont Elementary School a wrapped Christmas toy - proof that prayer is powerful.

Thanks to everyone who donated toys or money - you are all part of all the joy at Edgemont. Lord of Life provided the bulk of the toys (about 550). We also received help from Calvary Chapel Moreno Valley, Edgemont First Baptist Church, Moreno Valley Presbyterian Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Project Angel Tree of the Corona Police Department, West Riverside County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Kyle Hudson's Boy Scout troop 1776.

We were blessed with extra toys this year so we gave the school additional toys in case we made an error in counting or extra students showed up. We were also able to help a family with four children that are currently living in a barn - the Willis' brought the toys to them. Carol Korshavn delivered some toys to a 10 year old boy they've been helping. Cathy Fulgenzi brought some toys to an especially needy family from her school, and the Weitenhagen's delivered the remaining toys to Toys for Tots at March Air Force Base. Rest assured no toys went undelivered!



The wrapping party was such a success. The Willis' had the youth group sort all the toys at their Friday night meeting. This was such a help. It made Saturday's wrapping go so much smoother. Great idea to do it this way this year! Then on Saturday we had help from our own LOL members, students from Valley View HS Jr. ROTC, Allied Health Academy and National Honor Society. They even had their advisor from Allied Health come along. She is a super organizer and was a great help. Some of the students even had family members come along and help. Then to our surprise the Principal of Edgemont and a teacher came and helped wrap presents. We ended up with 75 bags full of joy and blessings for these children.

On December 22nd there were 25 people that distributed the bags of toys. We had our own LOL members, Valley View ROTC and Allied Health Academy to help carry all those bags.

The parents at Edgemont had sorted the bags according to location which made the delivery very swift. Everyone who helped came away with a new found joy. Praise the Lord for He is truly good!

By Martha Mott



Walking with Jesus...

By Jack Pavelich

In the coming weeks we will begin an important journey together. It'll be a journey which will test our "Walk With Jesus." What's this journey all about? Does my life reflect my faith? Do I truly walk with my Lord, or am I just a bystander? How can I improve my relationship with the Savior? Am I really His? My journey is full of potholes – shouldn't my life with Jesus be easier than this? If I were accused of being a Christian, would they have any evidence to prove it?

Sometimes I find myself terribly lost on this not-so-worn path. Am I where I'm supposed to be? Should I ask for directions? The real truth is, God never promised us an easy life; and, sometimes it just seems as though everything goes against the people I most care about. Naw, He never promised easy! ... only blessed.

For the first time in a long time, we're going to conduct an official Stewardship Campaign. The name of this particular program is, oddly enough, *Walk With Jesus*. It'll consume a short 4 weeks of our year and present us with opportunities to spread our wings a little – after being prodded a little – to do a better job of serving God's purpose in our lives. We have a secret special guest being flown in for the final hours of the Campaign – one which I am assured we will enjoy fully. You might want to brush up on your lawyer jokes just to be on the safe side.

So, why now? Why not? Here we are in the midst of some serious evaluations about who we are and where we intend to go in ministry. It would seem to me only fitting that we become an integral part of that vision. It isn't enough that we dream about what might be. It isn't enough that we pray for our faith, and growth, and ministry. It's only appropriate that we kick the dust off our feet and begin this new journey – not just with the vision which stirs us – but with the full use of God's resources (us...) as a platform for all that awaits us.

During those 4 weeks, we're going to spend some time with God – seeking His desire for each of us in the midst of all this vision. We're gonna take stock

of what we are, and who we are – of what we have, and of what we should do with it – taking stock of how each of us should best serve our Lord in the light of how He serves us. In short, we're going to each evaluate our Walk with Jesus.

It's been quoted, from some source, that "What we are is God's gift to us – and what we do with ourselves is our gift to God." We just spent a month preparing for Christmas and all that entails, gathering toys and playing Santa for the 700+ kids at Edgemont School, and stretching ourselves financially and emotionally for the benefit of millions of the world's poorest-hungriest people. It feels great to give! It fulfills our deepest needs to be servants to one another and to others not quite close enough for the group-hug. Funny, when we finish a month just like the one we had, I feel the greatest faith. That's when I feel the closest to Him – because it is in the eyes of those seeking our help that we see the eyes of Christ.

The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'

Mat 25:40

Call Committee is Elected

At a special Congregational meeting that was held on December 10, the congregation elected the following members for the Call Committee:

Dave Allbeck, Jim Cassem, Megan Hudson, Jack Pavelich, Marilyn Jackson and Jan Egeland

Once the Call Committee is installed:

- They begin the process of interviewing candidates and present their candidate of choice to the Church Council.
- The congregation then approves the candidate and compensation package.
- The Bishop presents call document to the candidate.



We continue to work with Pastor Kenneth and the Synod staff as they provide guidance and leadership during this transitional period. Please keep these Call Committee members in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide them in finding the right person to keep the Miracle on Nason Street alive!

Sunday, January 28 at 10:30 AM



- Election of Church Council Members
- Annual reports
- Church Budget



By Robert Willis

Our youth group has been together now for almost three years. We have done many events and have had much time together as a church group. However, I don't see any new faces or even some who have come in the past. Here's a list of our youth who regularly attend; Kim Fulgenzi, Josh Flores (Kim's boyfriend), Craig Fulgenzi, Meggie Hilker and Miche'le (Meggie's friend from school). Josh and Miche'le are not even members of our church. Where are the rest of our youth? I challenge you parents to get your kids involved in the youth group. We meet on Fridays at 7:00 pm. Any questions or comments please call me at my home 657-8673 or my cell 442-5017

Our Sunday school program is growing in numbers so much that we need to split the group into two groups. We need your help once a month to teach a group of ready, willing and able kids about the love that our God has for them. Please volunteer (anyone 14 years or older). Remember, God doesn't always call the equipped, but God does equip the called.

**Over \$5 Million
Raised In 2006!**

Mark your calendar – on February 4th Lord of Life Youth will participate in transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. The Souper Bowl of Caring believes that youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but can also be the leaders of today. It is our hope that by equipping young people with knowledge about hunger and poverty, we are guiding them to a lifetime of service.

A special offering will be received on February 4, Souper bowl Sunday. One hundred percent of those donations will go directly to Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM) in San Bernardino. This will be our 9th year of participating in this event.

- **15,697 groups have registered for 2007!**
- **\$5,009,784.74 reported in 2006!**

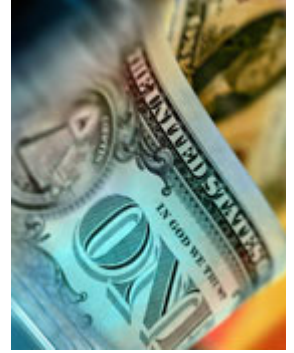
We are grateful to all who join in this partnership of caring.





Contributions Made Easy

Save time, simplify your life, and support our church! Electronic Giving program is an automated program that will allow you to make contributions without having to lift a pen to write a check or reach into your wallet for cash! Several members have told us how much they like the program for its convenience.



January

5-Brittany Luna
6-Paul Mott
7-Troy Davis
9-Jessni Luna
11-Nicole Lee
11-Harold Lester
13-Jason Vance
18-Jacob Avila
18-Cindy Cassem
19-Kaysie Ellingson
19-Greg Jr. Luna
20-Janice Gardner
22-Joshua Jackson
25-Nicole Kozma

February

5-Kimberly Fulgenzi
9-Jeff Egeland
9-Aleyna Harris
10-John Abramson
10-Fred Bueker
10-Stefanie Hood
10-Martha Mott
11-Bryan Slaton
12-Pat Rupert
20-Alison Mott
22-Darlene Bueker
25-Patty Bundura
27-Devin Carroll
28-Jack Hoffman
28-Robert Willis
29-Fred Palestis

January Anniversaries:

1-Kenneth & Cathy Davis (9)
8-Bill & Pat Rupert (30)
28-Tony & Diane Silva (1)
24-Dale & Michelle Gardner (6)

February Anniversaries

24-Dale & Michelle Gardner (6)

Electronic Giving allows your weekly or monthly contributions to be transferred electronically from your checking or saving account or your credit card directly to the church account. While away on vacation, you have peace of mind knowing that your pledge has been received and is contributing to the work of the church, especially during those low cash flow months of the year! One simple and easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount.

Perhaps Electronic Giving is a way to help you achieve your stewardship plan for Lord of Life. You can sign up for Electronic Giving at any time by completing an authorization form. Contact the church office for more details.



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your support and kindness shown to Bill during his illness. Your cards, calls, and visits have been welcomed. And most of all thanks for your prayers; -they helped more than you will ever know. You are like family and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Pat Rupert and Family

Save the Date



May 17-18, 2007

Valley View High School Track

13135 Nason, Moreno Valley

Join Lord of Life's award-winning #1 team in Moreno Valley, "Daisy's Chain". You don't need to be a track star to be a winner in this race for life. At Relay, the idea is to have fun while raising money to fight cancer, and raising cancer awareness in our community.

Relay is much more than a walk around a track – it's an event to remember those lost to cancer, celebrate those who have survived cancer and pay tribute to caregivers. It gives us all the power to help accelerate the American Cancer Society's progress toward a future where cancer doesn't take the lives of our friends and family.

If you are interested in being on the team, being on a committee, being a sponsor or helping out in any way, please contact Pat Rupert, 951/243-1045 evenings, 951/300-1223 days, or e-mail patricia.rupert@cancer.org.

Relay For Life is a family friendly tobacco-free, alcohol-free community event with fun and entertainment for all ages.



"We are the church that takes up the challenge"

Tuesday Family Night Resumes January 9

6:00 – 6:45 PM

Supper served

Cost: \$2/person to help cover the cost of meal

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Adult Bible Study led by Iver Sonnack,
Confirmation and Children's Choir

Tuesday Family Night will be in recess during Lent



**Worship
Schedule
For Lent**

Lenten Wednesdays At Lord of Life

February 21 – March 28

Simple Suppers at 6 PM
Worship at 7 PM

Ash Wednesday, February 21 – soup supper
Holy Communion and Imposition of Ash

Wednesday, February 28 – Taco Supper

Wednesday, March 7 – Finger Food Supper

Wednesday, March 14 – International Supper

Wednesday, March 21 – Salad Bar Supper

Wednesday, March 28 – Chili Supper

Holy Week Events

Maundy Thursday, April 5 – Baked Potato Bar
Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 6 – no supper

Easter Sunday, April 8