

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 19 No. 3

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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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F R O M T H E



PASTOR

**New Day
New Beginning
New Pastor
New Opportunities
Fresh Ideas**

God is on the move and is blessing Lord of Life Lutheran Church. We praise God as we welcome Pastor Shane and his beautiful family.

I think of the "Call Process" as the beginning notes of the prelude to the Worship Service. Now we seek God's will in determining what we can do to assist, enable, and serve God through the leadership/ministry of our recently ordained "called" pastor. Called by God and this congregation!

Through the past year, I have witnessed and rejoiced in God's powerful direction within Lord of Life Lutheran. We can anticipate God's mighty acts of spiritual love and growth in this congregation. I always enjoy sharing some humor with you. Remember those "chain letters?" Here is one for us:

A recent survey has compiled all the qualities that people expect from the perfect pastor. Here we share some of these with you. "Results of a computerized survey indicate that the perfect pastor preaches exactly 12 minutes. He frequently condemns sin, but never upsets anyone. He works from 8:00 am to midnight and is also a janitor. He makes \$60 a week, wears nice clothes, buys good books, drives a new car, and gives about \$50 a week to the poor. He is 28 years old and has been preaching for 30 years. He is wonderfully gentle and handsome. He gives of himself completely, but never gets too close to anyone lest he be criticized.

He speaks boldly on social issues but must never become politically involved. He has a burning desire to work with teenagers; he spends all of his time with the senior citizens. He makes 15 calls daily on parish families, visits shut-ins and the hospitalized, spends all of his time evangelizing the unchurched, and is always in his office when needed. And, of course, he is the perfect husband and father to his wife and children. If you are looking for a

pastoral change, simply send this letter to six other congregations. Then, bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of this list. In one week you will receive 1,643 pastors, and at least one of them should be perfect. Have faith in this letter. One congregation broke the chain and got its old pastor back in three months."

Hope you enjoyed reading "The Perfect Pastor."

God's kingdom can dwell anywhere in the universe. God chose your heart! That's why you're a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

In His Grip,
Pastor Chuck

Greetings brothers and sisters-

I hope this finds you all well. I continue to hold you all in prayer. Recently, I have been asked what kind of congregation Lord of Life Lutheran is. I say very confidently, this is a place where Christ is alive! Christ is alive in the words spoken by the many people I have had a chance to meet, and through the deeds that you do. Lord of Life is a loving congregation eager to help their neighbor, as I have already been able to witness. As a body of believers, there is fantastic ministry opportunity awaiting all of us in the coming years. I am blessed to have been called by you to be pastor among you. There is no question that your faith is strong, especially in light of the long journey you have traveled to get to this point. Our faith will continue to serve as the foundation for reaching out in new ways to be of service to folks we come in contact with that are so hungry to experience God's presence and love. I look forward to seeing you all soon as I build relationships with you. May God's blessings continue to be rich in this place!

Peace,
Pastor Shane

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Tithes... to the pump; or, to the pulpit ...

by Jack Pavelich 6/2008)

I know, I know. I see prices growing all around me. The high demand for fuel coming out of India and China, two major countries who are becoming more and more Western in their own Eastern sort of way, is driving much of the high oil prices we face. If you think you're paying too much for gasoline, check out the price of diesel if you want a real shock – then get a job as a coast-to-coast trucker in a rig that gets 5 miles to a gallon (going downhill) and you'll see what is driving the prices of everything else.

Interesting, I think, that those who have yet to learn the discipline of the tithe because there just wasn't enough to go around have managed to pay double for gasoline without a drastic change to their way of life – except for the few things they have learned to do without. Funny, we can't do without when it came to God's portion of all He gives us, and yet we quickly reset our priorities when it comes to our precious gasoline. Oops – sorry, that's a whole different article for another time.

In retrospect, I find the new cost of things to be a blessing, ultimately. It's easier, you see, for me to count my blessings when I can realize I can do without many of them without changing much about my life. Oh sure, not everyone is in that position, and for that my heart aches. (I would guess, however, that the number of those is much smaller than we are led to believe.) But learning to do with less is a lesson in Global Stewardship we could all learn from.

To be sure, the demand for good ministry is only going to increase with this new economy that lies before us. Those who cannot let go of the "stuff" they crave will have a great need for the fellowship and compassion of the believers. Pastor Shane will have his work cut out for him as people teeter on the edge of their "budget." How are you going to handle it?

My guess is some have already cut back on their giving to the Ministry. Unfortunately, that will ultimately hurt you more than it does the church – see Malachi (it's short, the last book of

the OT, a quick read – and right to the point.) The point is this; God blesses those who obey Him.

So how DO we survive the new economy? I think we need just to evaluate how much we have so that we can get a feel for the excess that we enjoy. Then, having done that, we can make some good choices for life, which will enable us to help our fellow man, serve our community, and provide a healthy place for our neighbor to grow in the knowledge and promise of the Christ. We'll do that through prayer, worship, and study of His Word. Scripture is full of examples of how people thrived when they learned to manage with what they had. On the flip side, it is full of examples of the hardship people face when they lust for stuff, power, attention, etc.

Now is the time for us to make sure our offerings to the work of ministry don't take a back seat to the price at the pump. When we talk about our giving "first to God", we mean it. You see, the blessing of the tithe will be more and more evident during this "crunch" time. But don't take my word for it – talk to the tithers; they will affirm this message.

The choice is always yours – the pump or the pulpit? Which one fills you up more?

Amen?



PLANT A TREE THAT YOU'LL
NEVER SIT UNDER

Can I take a moment to tell you how wonderfully you parishioners at Lord of Life do this at every opportunity! I can't remember a single time that you haven't opened your hearts and your checkbooks in answer to a need. You rarely, if ever, get to witness the end result of your gifts. Indeed, each mission that we support (both community and abroad) is not able to thank us individually. It must be consistent faith in our Lord that makes each of us want to do more to help our fellow man. It matters not that we witness the human need in order to understand it. We are blessed to be in a Christian community that sees a need and strives to address it. We enjoy the rich favor that He has bestowed on us and truly want to share it with those less fortunate. Because you care, Lutheran World Relief distributes hundreds of our quilts and health kits around the world to people whose need is desperate. Because you care, we are able to feed the hungry right here in this community through our Food Bank, Thanksgiving Baskets, and the Souper Bowl for CCLM. We give to World Hunger, combined with our weekly Noisy Offering, and pass it on through the Synod to the needy world wide. In September, 2008, Lord of Life will take part in the Blessed 2 Be 2 Blessings program supporting the Pacifica Synod and its Ethiopian Mission. You'll hear more about this later. Your church council thanks you for your prayers during the past two years while we have been waiting for Pastor Shane. You each are important to the mission of this church and we appreciate the great number of trees that you have planted but will never sit under. For the Council,
Bev Erck



“We are standing on Holy ground”

By Bob Vernlund

I don't think that I have ever felt closer to these words than I have in the past year with **Pastor Chuck**. Each Sunday we start with this beautiful song and end the service shortly after singing the Lord's Prayer. These two events allow us to feel the joy and grace of Jesus “the” Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. **Pastor Chuck** has been an inspiration to all of us. He has brought us renewed strength and happiness. What a wonderful servant of God. We are going to miss hearing his voice as he echoes the verses of this song, or plays a song on the piano from his heart. These will always resonate in our minds and souls as we remember this past year. May God bless him for his service and for doing such a wonderful job of preparing **Lord of Life** for our new pastor and a new chapter in our congregation family.



(almost) Pastor Shane

by Jack Pavelich

This process tested our faith.

In the end, we opened our eyes to God's gift to us. A gift which God prepared for us very methodically and intentionally. The gift: Shane Freiberg... soon to be Pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

God did most of the work – we did most of the worry as we went through four panels totaling 12 candidates seeking the one God had picked for us. There were places along the way where we could have made a mistake and selected a very capable pastor – just not the one He wanted for us. Your prayers for us kept us on track to do the real work of the Calling Process: patience, trust, and Faith.

We need to thank some along the way: the Bishop and his staff of capable guides who helped to keep us focused; Pastor Scott Hewes and the people of Hope Lutheran in Riverside who loaned us their pulpit frequently so we could observe sermons by candidates who traveled great distances to meet with us, the 12 candidates who brought the Spirit into our midst and helped us to keep our vision on God's plan for us.

(almost) Pastor Shane con't.

We need to thank Dave Allbeck, Jim Cassem, Pat Fulgenzi, Jan Egeland, Teri Hilker, Megan Hudson and Marilyn Jackson. We need to thank them for their sacrifices which enabled this process to take place: missed birthdays, changed or delayed vacations, scrubbed schedules, time away from family and family events, road trips, and time away from our Lord of Life Family on the many Sunday's we were "on the road."

Thanks also to our families who put up with us not being around – some probably enjoyed that at first, but it got to be a long 16 months. Thank You!

So now, our work is nearly done. Hundreds of pages of "Pastor Profiles" have been shredded; final arrangements for Pastor Shane's arrival are being completed; our 479 emails which kept us informed along the way have been deleted; and generally, our lives are getting back to normal – except for a few changes. We are more deeply into our prayer life; our attention to the vision of ministry is more focused and deliberate; our place in the family of Lord of Life is more clearly stated; and, our understanding of God's hand in all that we do is clearer than it has ever been before.

Welcome to Lord of Life Church, Pastor Shane. We look forward to celebrating your Ordination, your arrival in the community, your installation as our new Pastor and shepherd, and the work we will do together to bring Christ into the hearts and homes of the people of Moreno Valley. Peace be with you!

"Inviting all to grow in Christ"

By Bob Vernlund

Six simple words comprise our mission statement. We now have an opportunity to make this happen. On the last weekend in **Sept. (26-28) 08**, we are having a "**Lutheran Lay Renewal**" experience where everyone in our congregation will have their opportunity to be involved. Children, youth, and adults of this congregation will be working with volunteers from other congregations who are helping us "grow in Christ".

Lutheran Lay Renewal is more than a program. It is more of a "spark" to get the members of our congregation thinking or rethinking about their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their ministry within His Kingdom on earth. It is a time when the Holy Spirit can spark and stir new renewal fires within our congregation and a means of finding a new joy, happiness, and peace in our Christian walk.

We are starting a new chapter in the life of our congregation with our new pastor. No time could be better than now to focus on our goals and fulfill the "**grow**" in our mission statement.



RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

Vacation Bible School

Are you looking to reach new heights of fun this summer? Then you'll want to come to Lord of Life's Rainforest Adventure Vacation Bible School to be held **July 21-24th from 6-8 p.m.** This exciting VBS is for everyone between the ages of 3 and 13, and for those who are older, we welcome your help! Rainforest Adventure VBS invites kids to share the good news of Jesus' love for us by being caretakers of all that God has given us. Kids will hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, sing fun songs, play zany games, engage in awesome science experiments, eat super snacks, and make lots of new friends! Dinner and a Lord of Life Rainforest Adventure VBS t-shirt are also included! A \$5 donation is requested when signing up. To register, fill out and return the VBS Registration Form located in the narthex to Cathy Fulgenzi or Becci Van Hoosier in the church office. Sign up today!



Cathy Davis, Freiberg family, Diane Combes, Bev Erck, Jerry Dagen, Julie Johnson, Harold Lester, Bonnie Yoder, Bert & Shirley Bryant, Devon Nystrom, Jane Moribito, Pastor Paul Gravrock.



Dave and Carole Korshavn will be celebrating their 50th wedding Anniversary on July 20th with the renewal of their vows. Please join them for a cake reception following the service.



Lord of Life - Once Again a Smashing Success!

Lord of Life Lutheran Church was part of Moreno Valley's biggest community and family oriented weekend event held April 26-27, 2008 at Valley View High School. It was Moreno Valley's 9th annual American Cancer Society – Relay For Life, a 24-hour team event to fight cancer. **You guessed it – we were once again the top fundraising team in the city.** We were presented with an award at the Relay For Life Wrap-up Awards Ceremony held June 2 at the Moreno Valley Senior Center. **Our LOL team, Daisy's Chain, raised \$11,300.** David Korshavn was top individual fundraiser and Jack Pavelich was top online fundraiser. Congratulations to both and to all who participated.

Relay For Life gave us a chance to honor cancer survivors such as those in our congregation, and demonstrate that people do survive cancer. Relay was about fellowship and camaraderie where families, co-workers and churchgoers can bond and know that cancer patients are not alone in their fight. It was also about reflections and spirituality where during a luminary ceremony, we remembered those who have lost the fight and honor those who have won.

Many thanks to the worker bees of our team: Becci Van Hoosier, Co-Captain; Committee members, Deb & Mike Weitenhagen; Audrey Flickinger; Julie McAlister and Connie Lowe. Also our heartfelt appreciation for the support of Pastor Chuck Malloch who led our LOL cancer survivors in the opening ceremonial lap.

We are a representation of what makes Lord of Life a great place to worship – We are a congregation with a big heart! Yes, we were the church that successfully took up the challenge once again with action.

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported and, the goal, that one day cancer will be eliminated. Funds from the event are used to support patient services, educational programs, research and advocacy programs. See you at Relay 2009!

Thanks - Team Members, Friends, Supporters

Lois Allbeck, Helen Bedford, Darlene Bueker, Larry Combes, Mona Daugherty, Arlene & Wendy Eder, Beverly Erck, Audrey Flickinger, Wendy & Daniel Grygar, Sally Haase, Cheryl Hudson, David & Carole Korshavn, Connie & John Lowe, Pastor Chuck Malloch, Julie McAlister, Jessie McMillian, Steve Miller, Tim & Martha Mott, Gabriele Parsons, Jack Pavelich, Patricia Rupert, Connie Skinner, Denise Slayton, Becci Van Hoosier, Deb & Mike Weitenhagen, Gene & Ira Yoder

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