

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 18 No. 1

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LIFELINE

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

Our Mission Statement

We are a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, called by the Spirit into a community of faith and love, nurtured by Word and Sacrament, and empowered by the gospel to be God's instruments of love and grace.



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Sitting at Jesus' Feet

by Pastor Dave

I receive a subscription to Lutheran Partners magazine, published by our ELCA, as a member of the clergy of our denomination. I read a great article entitled, "*Sitting at Jesus' Feet*," in this month's edition that needs to be passed along to all of you.

The author of this article, Bill Decker, speaks of disciples as learners or students and gives particular emphasis to Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha as recorded in Luke 10. Mary is there described as one who *sits at Jesus' feet* listening to Him. Martha is otherwise preoccupied with preparations in the home and seems clearly irritated by Mary's non-participation in these tasks. Certainly both Mary and Martha are disciples of the Lord but Jesus seems to be telling Martha, and you and I as we "overhear" His comments in Luke's telling of the incident, that there are times when we need to take time to listen to Jesus Who is the Lord of Life if we are to truly know what life is all about.

Jesus told Martha that "she was distracted by many things." She was and we often are. Jesus tells her, and you and me if we are listening to Him, "only one thing is needed."

Like the author, I remember the movie, "City Slickers," with Billy Crystal and Jack Palance. It seems that Crystal has left the frantic pace of New York City behind at a dude ranch with two friends. In this working vacation, Crystal literally finds himself, but not before listening to Palance tell him that he's tied up in knots when "only one thing is necessary in life." Crystal is at first, like Martha in Luke 10 and perhaps you and I more often than we choose to admit, perplexed by these words. A little later in the film he rescues a drowning calf in a raging river and needs to be rescued by his friends. In this life and death situation he realizes what the "one necessary thing" is for him – his family.

There he commits to being a better husband and father for the rest of his earthly days.

This movie seems to encourage each of us to seek out that "one thing necessary." It's there that I relate to Mary *sitting at Jesus' feet* drinking in deeply and pondering His words to her and to all of us. I need to be that student, that learner, that disciple, "*sitting at Jesus' feet*."

This Lent you can be that person, that Mary, by participating in our unique Lenten services each week. We will all "*sit at Jesus' feet*," as He teaches us with parables from the Gospel of Luke. Each **Wednesday night** (Yes, it will be Wednesdays this year!) we will study one parable together – all five that we examine are unique in that they are only found in Luke's Gospel. From the Good Samaritan to the Pharisee and the Publican and including the Prodigal Son, we will "*sit at Jesus' feet*" as we **Ponder the Great Parables of Jesus** together. A full page detailing all of this is found on another page of this edition of the Lifeline. I am hopeful that we will all discover, with Mary, "that one thing that is necessary."

I'll introduce all five on Ash Wednesday, March 1. The following five weeks will look at each one as written in the Gospel of Luke. I am asking you one favor this Lent. I want you to **bring your own Bible** to church each week. From March 8 through April 5, you will be able to "*sit at Jesus' feet*," as disciples if you have your own Bible – preferably one you feel comfortable writing in. Or take a few notes home with you.

Remember this year's Lent is **BYOB** at Lord of Life! So bring your own Bible and truly "*sit at Jesus' feet*." Our Praise Team will provide some joyful music for your personal worship as well.

Stretching for Good Health...

By Jack Pavelich

The booklet is written by our Bishop, Murray Finck (and no, Murray is not paying me for this little ad.) In it, the Bishop describes how a few minutes spent each day stretching nearly every muscle in my body can improve my general health and, quite frankly, make me feel better about myself. So, I bought the book out of curiosity, and not just a little bit of interest because the Bishop is one of my favorite people. *Stretch and Pray* has become more than just another exercise book.

I wasn't a bad athlete in my day (a long, long time ago...) But I remember what it took to get into the winner's circle. A lot of hard work! The hard work last month wasn't enough this month if I wanted to be better next month. I stretched my strength, my endurance, my stick-to-it-tiveness as far as I could stretch them without doing me harm. Too much and muscles break. Stretching was the key to daily improvement with winning results. Take myself just a little farther each day and I found that which was impossible a month ago had become routine last week.



We don't have to stretch very far to help others. I asked Carol Korshavn what kinds of things are best for filling our food pantry at church. Many people are fed from our little kitchen. Most of what we gather is distributed to larger food centers, but even then, Julie has helped many people fill bags of food right out of what we keep handy in our little church kitchen. Things like packaged rice or beans (dry) are very helpful, in addition to powdered milk, mac & cheese, and the big surprise – Peanut Butter! Don't forget, on your way out the door for church next Sunday, reach in your bulging pantry and grab a can or a box of something for the food basket. It won't stretch your food budget at all!

It took me and Mary Jean years of stretching before we became tithers. Each year, another half or full percent of our income went to the church.

Funny, I don't remember giving up anything important along the way.

I overheard some of the guys talking about the man putting the new carpet on a section of staging that the altar sets upon. It didn't look like he had enough material to come down the side and around the corners of each piece. But he patiently stretched and fastened, stretched and fastened... ..until it was all done. Look the corners over closely. No seams! How'd he do that? Just stretching, stretching, stretching.

The Bishop's book, *Stretch and Pray*, is one of those things which sets the "tone" for great prayer. When I have time, I use it in the morning to start my day. Add my favorite music, something quiet and meditative. Stretching is meditative. Not hurried. Just gentle, and quiet, and refreshing! The farther along the session goes, the more relaxed and ready I feel for the day to come. What a great opportunity to pray! The setting is perfect!

You've heard the saying, "It'll be a stretch." That means it's not the easiest thing to do. It takes some effort. It takes some discipline! Oh, no – not the "D" word! I hate discipline (which to the kids means doing something you don't want to do at all!) But you and I know it's what makes us good at just about anything. If only I were more disciplined! Now I really do believe in the power of prayer and know first hand how prayer can make things happen. But it's hard to pray for discipline when we don't have the discipline to pray. Oh what a tangled web...

Did you know that 10% of all the dollars you and I give to ministry at Lord of Life, is sent out to support the work of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? Did you know that those dollars bring the Good News to thousands of people in foreign countries by supporting the work of some 307 Lutheran missionaries which are deployed around the world? Now that's what I call stretching the dollar!

I pray that we will be all that God would have us be.
I believe we get there by stretching ourselves a little

more today than we did yesterday.

Amen?

Lenten Wednesdays at Lord of Life

March 1 -- April 5 at 7:30pm

Simple Suppers at 6:30pm



Our Lenten theme for 2006:

“Pondering the Great Parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke”
Bible Study sermons by PD – *Bring Your Own Bible!*

Praise Team leads worship each week! Yes, they're back!

Full Schedule below:

(All services on Wednesday at 7:30 PM this year!)

Ash Wednesday, March 1 – *Soup Supper @ 6:30 PM*

Introducing the five parables

***Note: Imposition of ash available this night with Holy Communion**

Wednesday, March 8 – *Taco Supper @ 6:30 PM*

Parable: **The GOOD SAMARITAN** – Luke 10

Wednesday, March 15 – *Finger Food Supper @ 6:30 PM*

Parable: **The LOST** (including **PRODIGAL SON**) – Luke 15

Wednesday, March 22 – *International Supper @ 6:30 PM*

Parable: **The DISHONEST STEWARD** – Luke 16

Wednesday, March 29 – *Salad Bar Supper @ 6:30 PM*

Parable: **The RICH MAN AND LAZARUS** – Luke 16

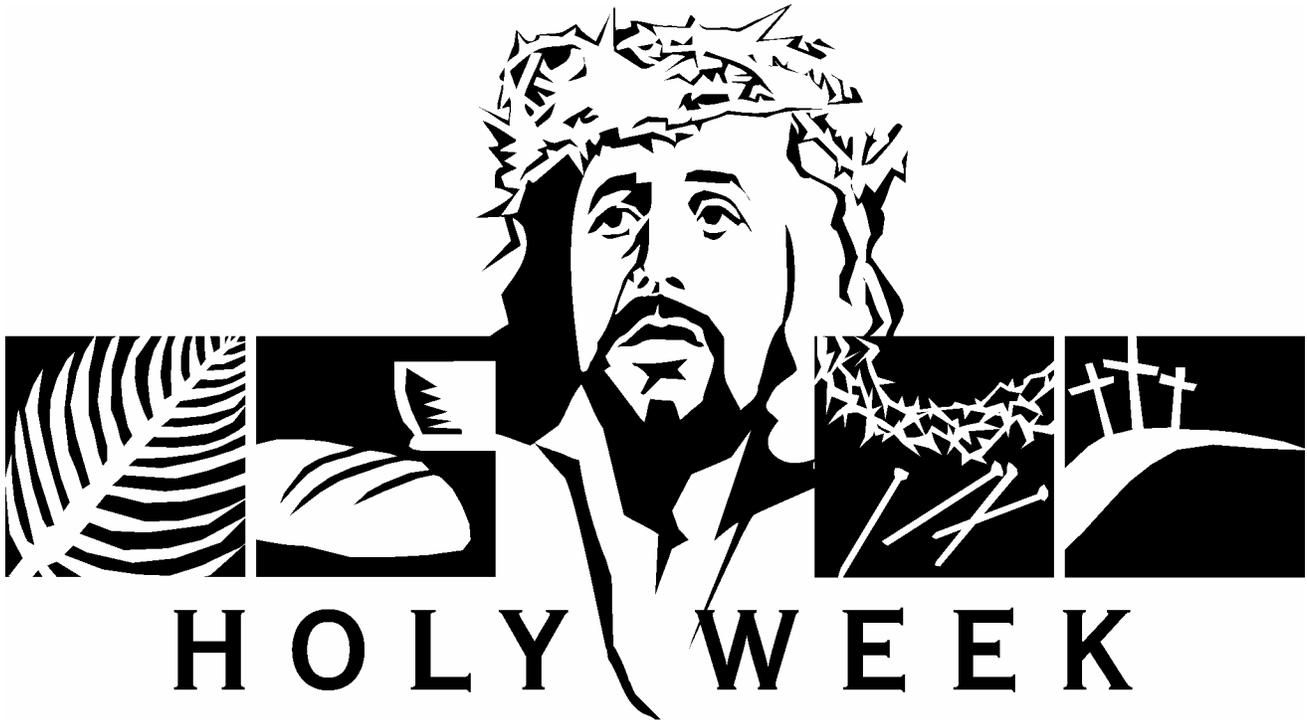
Wednesday, April 5 – *Chili Supper @ 6:30 PM*

Parable: **The PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN** – Luke 18

Join us as we discuss five great Parables of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke.

I will be using the New International Version of the Bible.

BYOB -- Bring your own Bible (all translations OK) – one you can write in!



SERVICES:

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:30pm with Holy Communion

*Note: Last Simple Supper April 13 at 6:30pm
Sermon: "Throwing in the Towel"

Good Friday, April 14 at 7:30pm -_Service of Shadows

Sermon: "Preparing the Vidstone"

Easter Sunday, April 16 at 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Praise Team will lead worship with blended praise service

Easter Sermon: "Finding a Cure for Death"

First Sunday of Easter, April 23 – One Service at 9:00am

Easter Cantata

End of the Spear

From Lois Allbeck

A major film, called End of the Spear is now in theaters. God will use it in a big way. It depicts the effects of the grace of God in very powerful and spectacular ways.

The story begins in 1956, when five Christian missionaries gave their lives in an Ecuadorian jungle, attempting to bring the gospel to the Waodani people. At that time they were the most violent tribe on Earth – and yet they became the most loving and peaceful!

The missionaries made friendly contact, but something went terribly wrong. The Waodani speared them to death. A tragedy? Yes, but God turns everything to good, for the blessing of many and for His glory, and this was no exception.

God used this tragedy to motivate more people to become missionaries. He also used two women to complete the work of the five martyred missionaries, bringing the Waodani to himself. So the deaths of those five men did more to advance the kingdom of God than their lives ever could.

LWR 2006 Mission

Submitted by Beverly Erck

It is “that” time again to begin work on both the quilts and the health kits. LOL has always been deeply involved in these missions and we are anxious to participate again this year. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support that make both so successful!

With Lent fast approaching, we would like to ask your indulgence again where you can bring an item each week for the Health Kits. If you plan to “give up” something for Lent, this is a perfect time to spend the money you would have spent on the item given up, for one that we need for the health kits. These items will be specified in the weekly bulletin. As always, tooth paste (which was the first thing we ran out of last year), hand towels, and nail clippers are the most difficult to accumulate. Please feel free to contribute any item any time – not necessarily during the specified week during Lent.

The quilting has already begun but we never have enough sheets, batting, or seamstresses. Several “new” women have offered to help pin and/or sew

the quilts. But, we need MORE! If you have time to meet with any of the women already involved with the quilts, we would be happy to show you how it’s done and give you the supplies to put them together. Please contact Bev Erck (909-798-7449), Jeannine Lester (951-242-6407) or Lois Allbeck (951-689-0471) and any one of us would be happy to show you the ropes. Each quilt costs \$10.00 or more to construct. If we make 120+ again this year you can see that it is a fairly costly mission. We’d appreciate your financial help to provide the batting and other necessary supplies if you would like to participate in that way.

Another way that Lord of Life is helping our brothers and sisters in far-away lands in their struggle for economic survival is through the Fair Trade Coffee mission. We will have fresh cups of “Fair Trade” coffee available each Sunday along with the regular refreshments. If you like what you drink, it will be available for purchase. We are asking that you drop some money into the coffee kitty for each cup you drink to offset the expense of providing this special coffee. LOL will not gain anything from this mission except the good feelings we get from helping an anonymous coffee grower support his family. Thank you for your generous assistance again this year. May the Lord bless you richly!



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by Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Thank You ... Lord of Life

Dear Pastor Dave and members of Lord of Life,

The sanctuary chairs are such a great blessing for the new Hispanic mission! Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I've included a photo of the chairs arranged in the worship center. Thank you for this precious gift.

Thank you also for all your prayers. They are a source of encouragement and strength for us.
Pastor Marda-Ruth and Lyle Roberts



FRANCES ANN FULLINGIM

Frances, better known as Fran, was born on September 4, 1937 in Jackson, Michigan. Fran was a newly retired teacher who had taught for 46 years in the Moreno Valley Unified School District. In 2001 Fran became a member of **Lord of Life**. One of the activities she strongly supported at Lord of Life was the Relay for Life. On Sunday, February 12, 2006 a tragic auto accident claimed her life. That is when the Lord lifted her up into his arms to bring her home. She is remembered by all her children as a loving mother, who lived out her faith by her actions. She is survived by a daughter, Kathleen Smith (Katie) and her husband Roy of North Carolina; 2 sons, Russell II (Smokey) and wife Tonie of Oregon, Alex and wife Margo of Red Bluff, California; 3 grandchildren, William Truesdayle, Russell Fullingim, III, Soraya Fullingim; great grandchild,

Madison Fullingim; uncle, Sam Treat of Ridgecrest and many friends.



World's Largest Garage Sale!

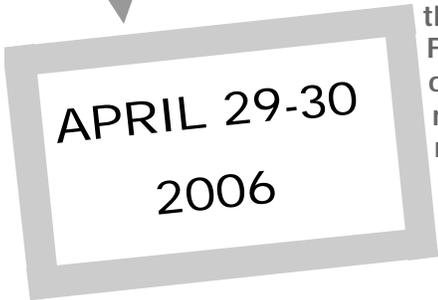
Everyone enjoys a good garage sale, and beginning February 26 you are invited to the largest garage sale in the world!!

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California is partnering with our national organization Lutheran Services in America, its member organizations, and eBay to launch the first annual **Trading Graces** online auction to be held from February 26, 2006 through March 8, 2006.

The proceeds from the sale of these donated items will be used to directly support the programs and services of LSS. We encourage your participation – check-in online daily/hourly/ minutely beginning February 26 to see the store of items that are being offered for sale by LSS and its colleague agencies coast to coast. [Http://www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)

Moreno Valley Relay For Life

Valley View High School
13135 Nason St
Moreno Valley



It's not too late to participate in the fight against cancer. Join Lord of Life's award winning team, Daisy's Chain. Put on your tennis shoes and sign up for a time to walk whether its for a family member, neighbor, co-worker or yourself. The power of Relay is that it allows a community to grieve for those lost to cancer and to celebrate the lives of those who have survived. For the newly diagnosed, the event offers an opportunity to meet someone who has survived the same type of cancer and provides an opportunity to share with others. For the long term survivor, it brings a community's recognition of the struggle and closure to a trying time in life. Caregivers also find hope at Relay. There is a peace of mind knowing that together we can face the challenges ahead.

Team Members – Reminder

- Please turn in your money envelopes, and signed forms before the Relay to Becci
- An individual who raises \$100 or more gets a Relay T-shirt
- Do you have your sign-up time to walk, jog, dance, or wheelchair around the track?
- All Cancer Survivors – please be present to be recognized at the Opening Ceremony with a lap around the track. See your packet for Survivor form.
- Evening Luminary Ceremony – See your packet for form to purchase a white bag filled with sand and a candle and write a message in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of someone. They will light the way for our evening walkers.
- Relay For Life is a family friendly tobacco-free, alcohol-free community event. Fun and entertainment for all ages.

Committee

Becci Van Hoosier, Team Captain
Pat Rupert, Team Advisor
Linda Willis, Logistics Chair
Ann Miller, Survivor Chair
Cindy Cassem, Recruitment
Deb Weitenhagen, Fundraising Ch
Allie Smith, Youth Chair
Helen Bedford, Luminaria Chair
Connie Lowe
Ed & Wendy Shipley
Gene Yoder



“Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.”

Contact: Becci Van Hoosier, Team Captain, 951/488-9222 or
Pat Rupert, 951/300-1223, e-mail: patricia.rupert@cancer.org

We are the church community that will take up the challenge!