

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 18 No. 7

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

March - April 2007

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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*One day the evil spirit
answered them, "Jesus I
know, and I know about Paul,
but who are you?"*

~ Acts 19:15

Pastor Kenneth Davis, Interim

Are we a threat to the devil? If Satan and the demons in hell had a board meeting and your name or mine came before the board, what would they say about us? Would they say that you and I are one of their most feared enemies and they needed to keep many demons harassing and opposing you? Or would they say, "Ladies and Gentlemen, this person poses no threat to our sinful evil activities in the world. Leave him/her alone. He/She needs no help from us." There are millions of church-going, baptized claimed and Spirit filled believers sitting in pews Sunday after Sunday who pose little threat to the devil of the kingdom of evil. If we truly believe that we war against rulers and principalities that cannot be seen, then we must realize that their mandate is to hinder any Child of God who is seeking to walk in the fullness of God. However, "greater is God who is in us, than the devil who is in the world" (1 John. 4:4b KJV).

If we are seeking to fully follow the Lord, It goes without saying that we can expect harassment from the enemy. God permits temptation because it drives us deeper into the soil of God. These times reveal God's power to keep us and walk us through the temptations. Our message becomes fruitful when it is born out of obedience and suffering for the name of Christ. We should not consider it strange if we find ourselves fighting major battles the more obedient we become to Jesus Christ and the words of scripture. God desires each of us to become a feared enemy of hell in order to affect Satan's domain. When we begin to feel harassed, chances are we are beginning to affect the kingdom of the devil, and the devil Satan doesn't like this. My father used to say, the devil does not have to bother those who are already on the devil's side. How many demons do you think are assigned to you?

Anniversary Notes

By Robert Vernlund

Happy 22nd Anniversary!! Many of the original 120 signers of the original charter are still members of this church. We have grown over the past 22 years and we are now a "22 year old young adult" in the terms of our ministries. As we experience the transition year of calling a new pastor, **are we listening?** God is often quoted as saying "this is my Son (Chosen One), listen to Him". That is what our transition is all about. It takes time to hear His will for our church. It takes time to know that it is His will and not our will. It takes time to for the Holy Spirit to work through our membership to know where God wants our congregation to go. The Transition time is as important to us in getting to where God wants our ministry to be as any time in our short 22 year history.

As we reach the month of our 22nd anniversary, we cross a very important milestone. Our mortgage debt has just gone under the \$500,000 mark. By keeping up our current payments, our debt will be paid off in the year 2019. Just think of the fun "burning" the mortgage and using that money to expand our ministries. If we keep our focus on expanding our ministries to do God's will, I'm sure this will happen sooner than later.

There are three good reasons why we need to have an anniversary fundraiser and why everyone needs to support it:

- We started this year with a deficit financial plan for the year 2007 of \$19,800
- We have not added in the cost of moving our called pastor
- We need to remain fiscally healthy (we know this from experience)



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Walk – Listen – Give

By Jack Pavelich

In the last episode, I shared with you my thoughts on the coming Stewardship program, called *Walk With Jesus*, which we will start on April 15th – immediately after Easter. The program itself is pretty simple and down to Earth: If I Walk with Jesus in my daily life journey, and I Listen to all He teaches me along the way, I will most probably Give generously of myself because it is pleasing to God – and it feels good to do!

Walking with Jesus sounds simple enough, but let me assure you there are many obstacles out there which will encourage me to dump Jesus and go the way alone – or with my crowd. You see, Jesus keeps reminding me that I should be focused on something else (normally something besides myself) and that I should be doing good for my neighbor (which He defines as being *everyone* else.) It's a lot more fun to dump all that Jesus stuff and do it my way – after all, don't I deserve better? What's wrong with enjoying the good things life has to offer? What's wrong with looking out for numero uno?

Walking with Jesus is living a life He would have me live. I wish someone would look out after me the same way He expects me to look after everyone else. Sure, I like it when I'm treated with respect; when I'm made to feel significant. I like it when someone helps me out and doesn't expect to be paid back. I like it when people treat me nice all the time and would give me the shirt off their back if I needed it.

Yeah, I guess Walking with Jesus would be me walking the way I expect everyone else to walk.

Listening to Jesus is a lot of things. It's studying His word so that I'll recognize His voice when He calls. Listening to Jesus is using the Scripture (the owners manual) to point to truth and un-truth in my life. It is using the wisdom, the history, the parables, the Gospels, and every word of God to impart judgement and direction in my life.

Listening to Jesus is being silent in prayer-time so that God can get a word in edgewise. It is seeking His will for me rather than just all the healing and fixing I

want *Him* to do. Listening is letting Him tell me which path He wants me on. Listening is hearing and following His voice when I am lost – as do the sheep as they respond to the voice of the Shepherd.

Listening isn't too easy either. The sound of the world around me is deafening, and beacons me to follow where the fun is, where the riches are, where popularity and fame are – where I can be the center of attention once again.

But lest I forget, when He whispers in my ear, I am *His* center of attention!



Giving Generously of all that I am is a clear response to God's great love for me. Can I possibly complete the Good Friday picture and not respond? While you may know His final words to be interpreted as "It is finished," JOHN 19:30 I hear them instead as

I
Love
You.

Giving Generously is His gift to us that we might realize how truly exciting it is to love Him with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our strength.

So, I welcome you now to the journey we will take together as we *Walk With Jesus*.

Amen?

THE GRACE AWAKENING

****An exciting new adult bible study beginning Wednesday, April 18th at 7:00 pm.
Hosted by Pastor Kenneth Davis.****

What is it that causes our Lord to stoop and reach out to us in love? Grace. What is it that frees us to be all He means us to be? Grace. What is it that permits others to be who they are, even *very* different from us? Grace. What allows us to disagree, yet stimulates us to press on? Grace. What adds oil to the friction points of a marriage, freeing both partners from pettiness and negativism? Grace. And what gives magnetic charm to a ministry, inviting others to become a part? Again.....grace.

Grace will conquer the things that steal the Christian's motivation: guilt and shame, legalism and negativism, petty fighting and small-minded intolerance, as well as other's expectations and self-imposed restrictions, to name only a few.

The Grace Awakening is not a series for the fainthearted. It is a bold and needed declaration for pastors, for Christian leaders, for missionaries, for young and old believers alike. It is a compelling call to accept the grace that has been freely given, to enthusiastically embrace and carefully protect the freedom it provides, and to experience the joyful and abundant life that God desires for us.

4/18- Grace:It'sReally Amazing

Selected Scripture

4/25- The Free Gift

Genesis 11:1-9, Romans 4-5, Ephesians 2

5/2- Isn't Grace Risky?

Romans 6:1-15;14

5/9- Undeserving, Yet Unconditionally Loved

2 Samuel 9

5/16- Squaring Off Against Legalism

Galatians 1-2

5/23- Emancipated? Then Live Like it

Romans 6:1-14

5/30- Guiding Other to Freedom

Romans 6:15-23

6/6- The Grace to Let Others Be

Romans 14

6/13- Graciously Disagreeing and Pressing On

Acts 15:36-41

"The Seven Deadly Sins" sermon series beginning Sunday April 15th.

Seven people set sail on what is scheduled to be a three-hour sight-seeing tour on the charter boat *The Minnow*, get caught in a storm and end up stranded on an uncharted desert island together.

The laughter ensues with the failed attempts at escaping the island and the interaction of the very diverse group. Viewers of the venerable series would be correct to ponder the impossible number of guests who visited the islands, the incredible versatility of the common coconut.

Created by Sherwood Schwartz (of "The Brady Bunch" fame), "Gilligan's Island" became a huge hit, mainly due to the escapades of Gilligan, played by Bob Denver.

Using various scriptures from the Bible and the seven cast members from Gilligan's Island, for eight weeks, beginning Sunday April 15th (excluding April 22nd and May 27th), Pastor Kenneth Davis will be preaching a series on the 7 Deadly sins: Pride, Sloth, Jealousy, Lust, Greed, Anger and Excess.

Which character do you believe represents which sin?



Pride_____

Sloth_____

Jealousy_____

Lust_____

Greed_____

Anger_____

Excess_____

1. Gilligan

2. The Skipper

3. Thurston Howell III

4. The Professor

5. Mary Ann

6. Lovey Howell

7. Ginger

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.



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.

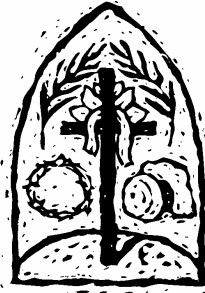


HA!
HA!



Submitted by Ira Yoder

Laughter, which releases endorphins and other beneficial natural chemicals into the bloodstream, is one of your strongest defenses against disease. A good chuckle or two also reduces stress hormones, improves breathing, alertness and memory, heart function, blood circulation and relaxation, according to research studies at Loma Linda University.



Lenten Wednesdays
At
Lord of Life

February 21 – March 28

Worship Schedule For Lent

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

The Testimony of The Tanner

Presented by: Jack Pavelich

Wednesday, March 7 – Finger Food Supper

The Testimony of The Basket Maker

Presented by: Cathy Fulgenzi

Wednesday, March 14 – International Supper

The Testimony of The Blacksmith

Presented by: Kyle Hudson

Wednesday, March 21 – Salad Bar Supper

The Testimony of The Carpenter

Presented by: Deb Weitenhagen

Wednesday, March 28 – Chili Supper

The Testimony of The Stone Mason

Presented by: David Johnson

Holy Week Events

Maundy Thursday, April 5 – Baked Potato Bar
Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 6 – no supper

Easter Sunday, April 8

Walk with *Jesus*

By Jack Pavelich

Every day is a walk with Jesus. We Christians believe life is spent in the presence of our Lord. Therefore, we can talk about every day as a day during which we walk with Jesus. Some days we feel Jesus' presence. Some days we feel quite a distance from Jesus. We boldly proclaim that, regardless of how we feel, Jesus is there. Jesus walks with us every day.

As we who are Lord of Life Lutheran Church consider our financial stewardship over the next few months, you will be asked to think about your use of money and possessions as a part of your walk with Jesus. This is most appropriate, because when Jesus walked this earth with his disciples, he often talked about money and possessions. If money was a part of Jesus' first walk on this earth, it should be a part of our walk with Jesus today.

We believe that everything we have is a trust from God, given to us to manage and care for. What we do with our money is very much a part of our relationship with our Lord. This will be our focus in the weeks immediately following Easter.

For three consecutive Sundays we will read a bulletin insert and hear a talk in worship. For three weeks, we will each receive a letter from the congregation. All of these will focus on our walk with Jesus, and how money plays an important part in this walk.

Then, on Sunday, May 6th, each member of Lord of Life will have the opportunity to complete an estimate of giving card. On this card, each of us will indicate our plan for financial giving to the work of ministry. This financial plan will become our plan for how we will walk with Jesus in the coming year. (Contact Jack Pavelich, 924-5518, for more information.)

The Call Process Update

By Bob Vernlund

In the Pacifica Synod there were 22 congregations involved in the call process as of early Jan. 2007. Three of these had already issued a call, six were interviewing candidates, and 13 were just in the Interim (of which five were willing to consider a part time pastor to fill their needs). Therefore, we are one of eight who are looking for a full time pastor to call. This pastor can come from any one of three sources; the candidates selected by the Synod, a pastor recommended by the congregation, or by any pastor on the ELCA roster who wants to be considered. The process is working well and we must have faith that it will bring a pastor who can lead this miracle on Nason Street. 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!



Moreno Valley Relay For Life

May 19-20, 2007

JOIN
Lord of Life's Team
"Daisy's Chain"
A fun family event

VALLEY VIEW
HIGH SCHOOL
13135 NASON
MORENO VALLEY

**Please contact
Becci or Pat to see
how you can help**

Share HOPE. Save Lives



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, friend, 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

- Pick up your team packet from Becci or Pat
- 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. There are also many other incentive prizes such as a plush blanket, totes, long sleeve shirts, jackets etc.
- 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.
- If you want to pitch a tent and stay overnight, its okay
- Relay For Life is a family friendly tobacco-free, alcohol-free community event. Fun and entertainment for all ages.

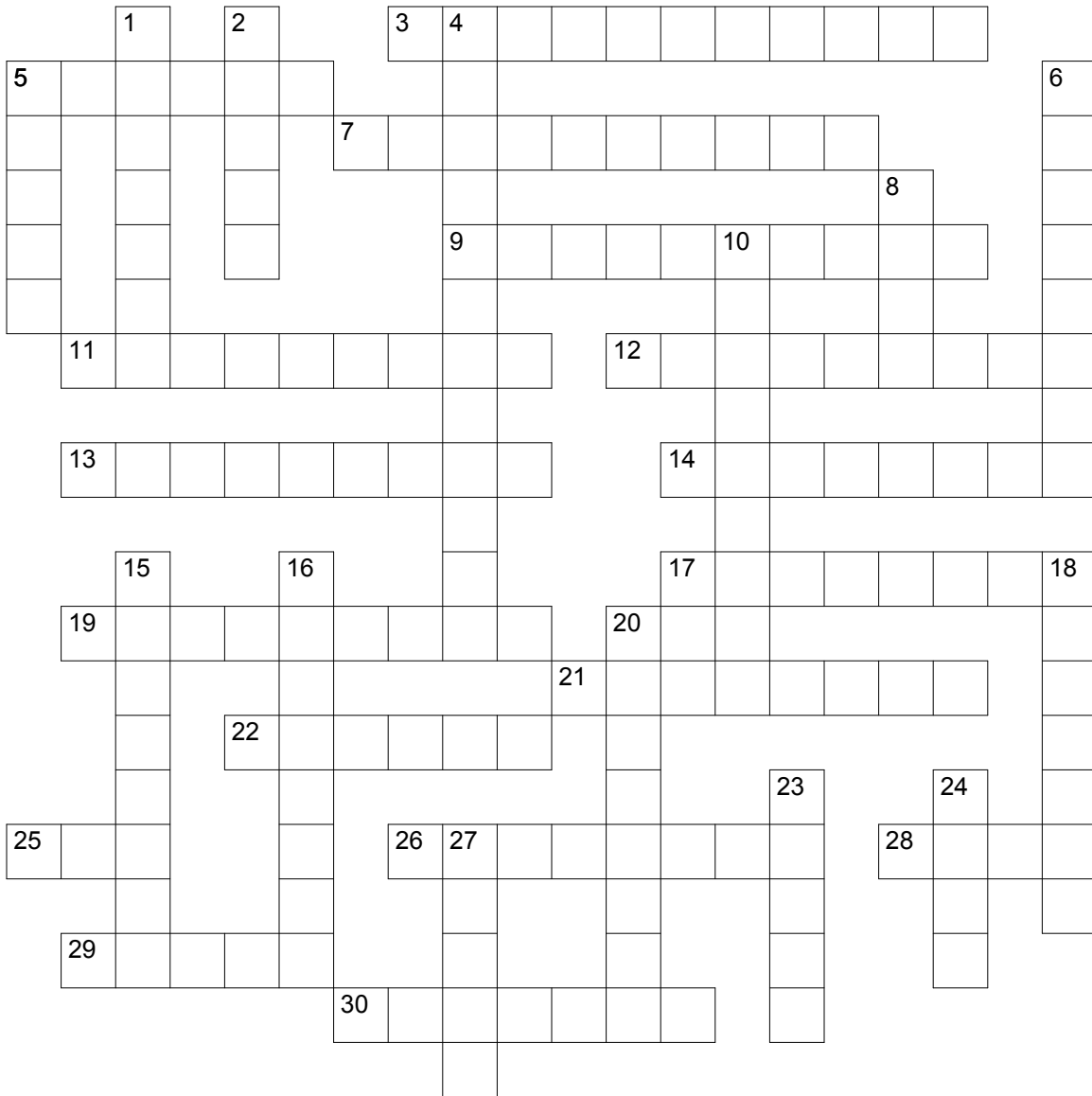
"Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated."

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 takes up the challenge!

Easter



Across

3. Roman form of punishment
5. what the women brought
7. despair; destruction
9. deliverance from bondage
11. the "holy city"
12. Sacred Writ
13. power to command
14. small silver coin of ancient Rome
17. Barrabus
19. Mary -----
21. an agreement
22. to whom Roman taxes were due
25. # of apostles walking to Emmaus
26. Feast of Unleavened Bread
28. what Jesus was dressed in
29. 1st word of Jesus' greeting to his disciples
30. he walked with Jesus

Down

1. argument
2. heard the rooster crow three times
4. rising again
5. resurrected Christ first appeared to him
6. absence of light
8. a young horse
10. to pursue with the intent to injure
15. stone at the top of a wall
16. place of happiness and rest
18. animal that crowed three times
20. "place of the skull"
23. what Jesus broke
24. last resting place
27. ministering spirit

Word List

angel
 authority
 bread
 Caesar
 capstone
 Cleopas
 colt
 covenant
 crucifixion
 darkness
 denarius
 desolation
 dispute
 Golgotha
 Jerusalem
 Magdalene
 murderer
 paradise
 Passover
 peace
 persecute
 Peter
 redemption
 resurrection
 robe
 rooster
 scripture
 Simon
 spices
 tomb
 two