

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 18 No. 2

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

May - June 2006

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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Been There . . . Done That . . . More to Come

By now most of you are aware that I am retiring from full time ministry and resigning my call to Lord of Life as of June 30. If this is not the case, let me just say that I will be relocating to southern Nevada where our son, daughter-in-law and grandson live. It is a very prayed over and heartfelt decision by Ann and me. As I mentioned in a personal letter to all of you, we are very happy to discuss any details of our retirement decision with you both privately and publicly. And we hope that you will share our anticipated joy at the beginning of this exiting new chapter in our lives and the life of Lord of Life as well.

How often have we all said, **'Been there. Done that!'** Well we've been together and there amidst a lot of chapters over more than the past decade. Arriving in December of 1995, I found a disheartened congregation of faithful believers; people who needed to be loved and appreciated, who needed to heal their wounds and be whole again. Together we've been there and we've done that! We encountered an enormous debt on the property – the debt had only risen over the first five years of occupancy in this building and a time of accountability for Lord of Life and the ELCA was at hand. Together we more than met this challenge. First we overcame a more than \$100,000+ arrearage on our mortgage. And we did it before the end of 1996!

Then we attacked this enormous principle of nearly \$900,000. We used more than twenty different methods to raise funds for our indebtedness, none more successful than the offering envelopes you good and faithful stewards filled to overflowing. Now as I leave we are approaching \$500,000 principle and it is already seven years maturing in a twenty year fully amortized mortgage to be fully paid off in 2019! **Been there. Done that!**

So many wonderful memories fill the heart and mind of both Ann and I. Many pastor appreciation celebrations; birthday wishes; healing prayers for Ann when cancer struck and rides to therapy appointments in abundance. You have always been there and done that for us countless times Lord of Life and we, like Paul in his letter to the

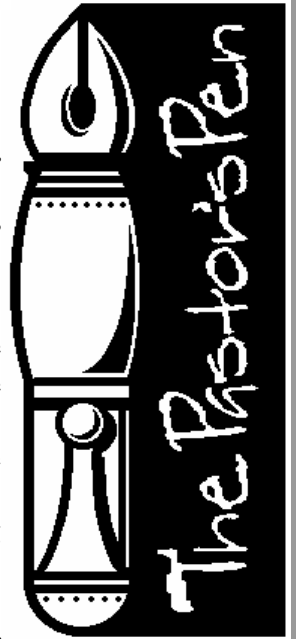
Philippians: *"thank God every time (we) remember you, constantly praying with joy . . . for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."*
Philippians 1: 3-5.

Bible studies from Bethel Bible and many others filled these years with biblical teaching. Sermons preached with the power and authority of Jesus. And so many healing testimonies, more than can be recounted in this brief article. Reaching out to your community in love for Edgemont, LSS, CCLM, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster responses. Your generosity to others is well documented, overwhelmingly so. Musical cantatas, praise teams, vocal groups all contributed to celebrative worship each and every week!

And so many willing servants, many behind the scenes, all doing faithful work in His ministry to make the "miracle on Nason Street" real. We've **been there and done that!**

But like the man who insisted that he be buried with a spoon in his hand anticipating dessert and the best that was yet to come from the Lord of Life, so it will be for you my dear friends in Christ. Your twenty-one years of ministry has prepared you for this moment in time and God, always faithful, will deliver His promises to you once more.

An exciting interim time to continue to evaluate the ministries here that your active church council is already doing is on the way. You will, together as the family of God, identify certain needs and traits that will empower You, through the Holy Spirit, to establish a Call committee and eventually offer a Call to your next pastor. I know he or she will be blessed to be among you as Ann and I have these past ten and one half years.



Pastor's Pen Cont'd . . .

More to come! Moreno Valley and the surrounding area is growing rapidly and this will bring new faces and names into your sanctuary. Welcome them joyfully as you have done to so many. You worked hard to refurbish your sanctuary with pew chairs, chair rails, carpeting and stained glass windows. Your evangelism explosion is underway and your new pastor will partner with you in this exciting time of new mission growth. There is so much **more to come** for you Lord of Life!

Ann and I will be watching and praying with you through all our remaining years. I hope you will invite us back, with your new pastor's permission, for your silver twenty-fifth anniversary in 2010!

For Ann and me, we embrace the next chapter of our lives that has family at the top of the list. We will be living in a Del Webb community for people over 55, in Henderson, Nevada. Our new mailing address: **2500 Sirius Star Henderson, Nevada 89044.** After getting settled in, we hope we have some of you as welcome visitors to our new home in what we often affectionately called, "the Holy City." ☺ For us, there is also **more to come** and we anticipate all of it with joy.

My appreciation for the respect and love you have shown me is beyond measure. You have tolerated my mistakes and forgiven my follies. You've welcomed my ingenuity, humor, energy and spiritual gifts. For all of that and more I am grateful. Again I turn to Paul for God's words and not my own feeble ones: "***I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has . . . spread the gospel.***" **Philippians 1: 12.** Continue to spread it broadly and joyfully Lord of Life. You've **been there . . . done that . . .** and you have so much **more to come!**

With deep felt love and appreciation,
PD and Ann too!

Lifeline is a newsletter published bi-monthly

by Lord of Life Lutheran Church

13600 Nason Street, I Moreno Valley, California

Volume 18 No. 2

May/June 2006

PD's Prayers of the Church

March 19 (Lent 3)

Lord Jesus, come to our church this day. If You find the front door locked or just closed, kick it open that everyone and anyone can enter in. If we seem too cold or aloof set us on fire again with that burning first love feeling for You we once displayed. If our preacher talks too much or too long, shut him up and let Your Word prevail; but if he is too timid embolden him. Whenever we are too concerned about survival at the expense of mission, discipline us. And when we hide behind these sacred walls, find us and push down the walls of indifference and apathy.



Lord Jesus, You have come to our church this day and You brought a whip, not a Bible, not even a hymnal. When You get whip-cracking mad, things can get dicey for all of us. We hear You inside our sanctuary cleansing us and it. My good Lord, you are cleaning house and it's not spring yet! When we think of You only as little Jesus,

meek and mild, forgive us and allow this image of your righteous indignation over injustice to penetrate our lives anew.

Lord Jesus, we see and hear You kicking over tables, destroying birdcages, stampeding the cows, dumping out the drawers of the money changers and throwing these temple rats out into the street where they belong. We hear You shouting to all who would listen then and today, "Stop making my Father's House into a Mall and a street market." We even feel the taste of Your whip on our backsides when we are slow to do the things You ask of us. Continue to chasten us and provoke us to do Your good will for all.

Jesus, drive out our self-contrived demons, whip us into shape, clean us up, dust us off, and then we will be ready to worship You in all Your splendor.

What Do We Do Now?

By Bob Vernlund

We are entering a new phase of our growth as a family of believers in Jesus Christ. Our mission statement says:

- We are a community of faith and love.
- We are God's instruments of love and grace.

Now is the time to cling to that statement and get excited about our future.

Look at our website (<http://www.lolmv.org/>) and find our seven key ministry areas. These are the strengths of our congregation. These are the areas of involvement that:

- let us know that we are loved.
- are open to all.
- provide a purpose to our lives.
- provide us with hope.

We should be proud of all of our congregation's accomplishments during the past decade. But more importantly, we should be excited about where we are growing in the future.

Nobody wants to see Pastor Dave and Ann retire and leave our community, but everyone should be "on their knees" thankful for all that they have given us during their ten years of service and leadership of this family. We need to wish them well and pray for their continued happiness- nobody deserves it more.

Bishop Murray Finck is coming out to meet with our church council and explain the "process" that we need to go through to issue a call for a new pastor. This is a great process that I have had the honor of doing some ten years ago when we issued the call to Pastor Dave. It is not a quick process, but it is a very thorough one. The synod will provide us with an interim pastor while our "call committee" goes through the necessary steps of calling another pastor.

I am excited about our future. Just a quick look at our synod shows there are over 20 congregations with interim pastors and seven additional ones interviewing candidates. We are in a better position than most for three very good reasons:

- We are a "healthy" congregation with a great future.
- we have affordable housing.(compared to LA, Orange, and San Diego counties)
- We are the "Miracle on Nason street".

Your council will continue to review each ministry area. In May we will be looking at Social Concerns and in June, Christian Education and Youth. Both of these areas are very important to our family of faith. Both need our continued support and involvement. Now is the time for every member to look to the future and pray for all the great things we can do to share God's love and grace.

Growth, in loss...

By Jack Pavelich

Retirement!? You've got to be kidding. He's got it made here! Just when we've started to like the guy he pulls up and puts in his papers! What is he doing?

That's what they said about me when I, at age 38, submitted my papers to retire after 20 years with the United States Air Force. I'm sure the Pentagon was very concerned about how the Force would be affected by my loss. Then, our military performance during Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom brought all a sigh of relief. They did it without me! (...and not too badly either. Both battles were quick and decisive.)

Pastor Dave's pending retirement after a life dedicated to ministry will bring on some of the same reactions. I just wish we could roll the clock ahead just a short 5 years (less than half the time David and Ann have blessed us with.) I think we'll see a community ministry which has exploded with compassion here in the Valley. We'll see a fellowship of believers who are revered and respected by all in our little community. I believe that the ministry which has been formed by our Pastors – Jim Shimota, Eric Reinhard, Jay Lane and David Miller – will grow to be rich in discipleship and strong in Christian leadership.

When I left the Air Force, something exciting happened to those I left behind. My young first line supervisors were given an opportunity to advance into positions of increased responsibility and trust. This was made possible only through my vacancy. I left a hole, and those behind me were expected to fill it. One vacancy (mine) resulted in dozens of changes, re-assignments, promotions, and opportunities. Those who had been students of mine for many of those years were about to find out how much they had learned.

In 10 ½ years, Pastor Dave has preached over 500 sermons to us. The teacher has whispered and sung and costumed and crawled and cried and joked and yelled and stood silent – all that we would learn from *The Word*. It seems that now we are about to find out if we were paying attention. He has led our

bible studies and prayer times. He has nurtured our young people in the faith, all the while demonstrating a patience and faithfulness full of love and peace. He and Ann have lived the Gospel in front of us, leading us in every ministry to be all that God would have us be. What have we learned? How much have we grown in those 10 ½ years? We are about to find out. We are like the caterpillar, waiting so patiently, but hesitantly, for permission to grow wings and fly.

The growing of disciples is a most major task of the Church. We will be asked to do a little more while we go through the process of finding another shepherd who will bring *new* gifts and talents to Lord of Life. Many will find themselves with new opportunities to do lay ministry that until now they had only observed in others. Oh what a wonderful opportunity for our little family! We are about to grow our wings and soar!



So, what can we do? There is going to be a lot of activity as we prepare to call a new Pastor to serve Lord of Life. You can help by being open to the possibility of being an active participant in these new activities. These may involve planning, conducting congregation evaluations (or profiles), being a part of the small group which will interview pastoral candidates, being active in bible studies, prayer groups, and neighborhood fellowship gatherings; assisting with worship and Sunday fellowship, office help, telephone calls and many other things which will come our way. And, you will be asked to increase your money contributions to support the anticipated expenses related to bringing a new Pastor to Moreno Valley, while maintaining the commitment to our budget and the many ministries we support.

Meanwhile, we have some weeks left to show our appreciation to Ann and David for the wonderful friendship they have shown us. This is a time for us to be thankful for the partnership we have enjoyed. Don't let them get away without a hug – and etch them into your prayer list for all time. ... after all, they're just family. Amen?

IGLESIA LUTERANA NUEVA ESPERANZA

27340 Big Springs Ranch Road ~ Hemet, CA 92544

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our loving, merciful and forgiving God blesses us in so many ways. Since going forth with a new Hispanic ministry in Hemet we have experienced joys and blessings in abundance. We want to thank you for your encouragement and prayers as well as share with you our joys and delights.

What has transpired since my commissioning? In February Lyle and I were sent by the Division for Outreach to a Church Planting School in Wichita, Kansas. This school is sponsored annually by World Impact and is a five day intensive training experience to prepare church plant teams to develop an urban or ethnic ministry. The experience included singing, worshipping, dialoguing with other participants, setting a vision and goals, fulfilling project assignments, making presentations and sharing in fellowship. It is an understatement to say “we learned a lot!” We both learned how valuable it is to work in and with a Church Plant Team, so that became one of our first goals.

What is a Church Plant Team? It is a group of people who choose to use their God given gifts in order to “plant” a new church. They are people who in response to their faith, share a passion for reaching out to people without a church home and/or who may be overlooked by mainline churches because of their ethnicity, poverty, or circumstance that sets them apart as different. The team works together to develop a ministry in a particular area and commits to serving for a determined period of time. While initially the team members carry on the leadership roles, eventually leadership is transitioned to the new members of this community of faith who will continue to be the church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Who is on our Church Plant Team? Pastor Marda-Ruth (team leader and pastor developer) and Lyle Roberts; Pat and Elaine Barron (Trinity); Ed and Beth Camarillo and daughters Bethanie and Ellea (Trinity). There are others from either Trinity or Spirit of Joy who have been willing to volunteer to help in other specific ways, but who are not part

of the Church Plant team. We thank God for you all!

When do we worship? We do not have a regular worship service at this time! Our priority is gathering people and developing leadership. For this reason the team members gather for Bible study on Sunday, and then share in a pot-luck lunch afterwards prior to having a Church Plant Team meeting. We are strategizing what kind of outreach events may help us interact with Hispanics face to face.

What are some of the events/activities being planned? (1) *Premise* – First generation Hispanics not only struggle with the English language but have financial and/or daily needs as well. Therefore, ‘La Pastora Marda’ is spending one morning a week at the Salvation Army services center to translate and visit with Hispanics coming in for family services. (2) *Premise* - Hispanic moms are interested in seeing to the faith development of their children. Therefore, we want to start a Sunday school for children as soon as possible. If the children come, so will the mothers. (3) *Premise* - Hispanic women with small children may have little opportunity to learn or speak English. Therefore by offering English as a second language classes (with child-care provided) in the morning while older children are in school, we will be meeting an important education need. (4) *Premise* – Hispanic families enjoy gathering in the park. Therefore, holding picnics in the park at one of the many frequented by Hispanic families is another way to get to know the people. The picnic would include singing, games, food, and an opportunity to share information about the church.

Nueva Esperanza has received worship furnishings and supplies from River of Light (Riverside) and worship chairs from Lord of Life (Moreno Valley). Thank you, each and everyone of you who prays for us, supports us financially, or gives time and energy to make this ministry happen. You are a blessing to us and we pray that God may bless you all as well.

Pastor Marda-Ruth Roberts

Come Join Us



As we honor

Pastor Dave and Ann

For 10½ years of dedicated

Service to LOL

And to celebrate

Pastor Dave's retirement

At

Willie Rasmussen Ranch

13935 Pearl Lane

Saturday, June 10 at 3:00 PM

Please bring a salad or dessert

Meat will be provided

Lasting Memories

We plan to create a "Memory Book" for Pastor Dave and Ann. This will give every family an opportunity to say "thanks for the memories". You can do your page with humor, style, photo(s), a letter, a special story, or just a thank you card fastened to a 12 inch by 12 inch scrapbook page. We want a book where "every" member is included. The paper for the scrapbook will be available at the church during the month of May and we need your finished product by Sunday June 4th. If you need more ideas or want to purchase additional products, please contact Brenda Egland at 909-424-0166.

Dear Lord of Life,

I want you all to know how very much I appreciate all the love, prayers and support that you have given me for so many years.

Thank you especially for my beautiful prayer quilt. I will cherish it always as I will cherish all the many, many friends I have in my Lord of Life Family.

Love, Kathy Goos



"Praying on Your Fingers"

Submitted by Michelle Larsen

Many children learn to count on their fingers, but a nurse once taught a child to pray "on his fingers." This was her method:

Your thumb is the digit nearest to your heart, so pray first for those who are closest to you. Your own needs, of course, should be included, as well as those of your beloved family and friends.

The second finger is the one used for pointing. Pray for those who point you toward the truth, whether at church or school. Pray for your teachers, mentors, pastors, and those who inspire your faith.

The third finger is the tallest. Let it stand for the leaders in every sphere of life. Pray for those in authority – both within the body of Christ and those who hold office in various areas of government.

The fourth finger is the weakest, as every pianist knows. Let it stand for those who are in trouble and pain – the sick, injured, abused, wounded, or hurt.

The little finger is the smallest. Let it stand for those who often go unnoticed, including those who suffer abuse and deprivation.

What a simple and wonderful reminder as we pray! What a great tool to use in teaching children how to pray for themselves and others.

Career Opportunities With Thrivent Financial (Riverside County)

Position: Financial Representative

Location: Riverside office (Canyon Crest)

- Full Time – 40 hours/week (how hours are worked is flexible)
- BA recommended but not required
- Provide counsel and sell financial products such as life insurance, annuities and mutual funds to the Lutheran marketplace
- Must be motivated, self starter and have a financial/analytical mind set
- Must be able to travel to clients within Riverside County
- Specific on-the-job training provided
- You do not have to be a Thrivent member to apply.

Salary

First 2 years – guaranteed base plus commissions

After the first 2 years – commissions only

If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about the Financial Representative position, please contact Beth Scott with Thrivent Financial. She can be reached at (800) 490-5433 x 17 or you may e-mail her at beth.scott@thrivent.com

About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit Fortune 500 financial services organization helping nearly 3 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, bank products and more. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial sponsors national outreach programs and activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and needy individuals. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.



Coffee Project

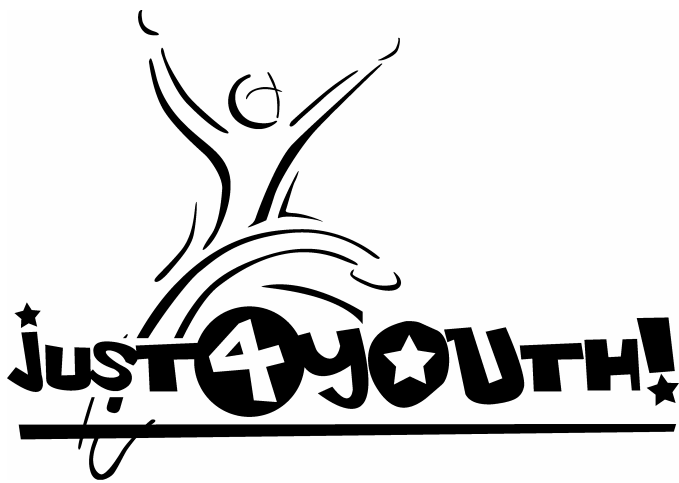
By Bev Erck

A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship hour, celebrations and other gatherings. As one of the most heavily traded commodities in the world, coffee is a direct link between our community and farming communities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Through the LWR Coffee Project, Lord of Life can enjoy great coffee while helping small farmers as they build a better future for themselves and their families. Through this project, farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust; a fair Trade Organization called Equal Exchange. With our support these communities are able to invest in education, health care, and agricultural improvements. With each pound of coffee, cocoa or tea purchased, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to LWR "Small Farmer Fund" to support small farmers and their families. You will enjoy the "good feeling" you get from helping our global neighbors to help themselves.

Please enjoy a sample of coffee (decaf. or regular) every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. We'd be happy to sell you coffee, cocoa or hot chocolate at rock bottom prices. Enjoy!



Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2006 Souper Bowl of Caring a success! Our youth joined others from across the country and over \$4.33 million has been reported so far! Every dollar collected is sent directly to the charity selected by each organization, and we sent our donation of \$1,625 to Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began, more than \$32 million has been generated to help hungry and hurting people throughout this country and the world. For more information, visit www.souperbowl.org.

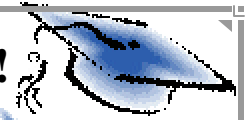


During the past couple of months our youth group met every Friday night at the Church at 7p.m. and had several bible studies. We also began a program with the help of the congregation and their donations to feed the homeless. Personally, I was touched in many ways. One way was the generosity of the congregation and their willingness to give food items and hygiene items to help us to feed the homeless. Secondly, the willing hands and hearts of the youth that participated in assembling the lunches as well as the hygiene kits for the homeless. Thirdly and most important I feel was the distribution of the lunches and hygiene items to homeless folks. The homeless were so appreciative and it made my heart full of joy to know that our little youth group was impacting the lives of people in need. To see the faces of the people that we gave to on the street, in the alleys and in the parks was a true blessing for me as well as, I'm sure for all others who participated in the distribution of the lunches. I hope this is a program that we can continue throughout the year. Please talk to some of your middle school and high school youth who were involved with this and ask them how they felt.

During May on the 12th we are going to go bowling at Sunnymead Bowl. We will meet at the bowling alley at 7 p.m. Also, plans for a youth retreat on July 13th - 15th are in the works. Please look for signups.

God's Blessings to all of you - Robert

Hats off to Our Grads!



Two of our Lord of Life youth will graduate from Canyon Springs High School June 19. **Kaysie Ellingson** has chosen to attend Concordia Lutheran University in Irvine as a business major. **Jarred Endres** will be attending RCC for two years and then transfer to a 4 year college. He plans to be a writer. **Josh Flores** (friend of Kim Fulgenzi) will graduate from Valley View High School. He would like to attend college in the fall and is interested in studying architecture or graphic design. **Nicole Lee** will graduate from Paloma High School. She plans to attend San Diego State University where she will major in Theater and minor in Education. **Garrett Bundura** will also graduate from High School this year.

It is our hope that you, your friends, and all of the graduates will celebrate the completion of this chapter of your life, and succeed in the many future chapters that are yet to come. Congratulations and best wishes graduates. You are each gifted in a special way and we pray that your gifts will continue to positively change the world and society in which we live.

Two Youth Confirmed Pentecost Sunday Confirmation



On the Day of Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit, Lord of Life will honor two of our youth who will affirm their baptismal vows in our rite of Confirmation. On Sunday, June 4th at the 9:00am worship service the following youth will be confirmed:

Karleen Andrea Kerr & Zachary Stewart Coleman

These two will assist Pastor Dave with the worship service that day and will present a special play entitled, "The Search", as part of our celebration. A special reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall. Don't miss this special worship service that honors our Confirmation traditions. And be sure to congratulate these two youth on their individual accomplishments as we welcome them into adult membership in our worship community.

Lord of Life Daisy's Chain

Champs Again!

Our church team Daisy's Chain participated in the American Cancer Society's 24-hour Moreno Valley Relay For Life event held at Valley View High School April 29-30. Our walkers went round the clock in the battle against cancer in honor of friends and loved ones, raising funds in Moreno Valley for the fight against cancer. The team so far has raised almost \$10,000! Ann Miller was our top team fundraiser bringing in over \$4,000.

Relay was much more than a walk around a track – to us it was an event to remember those lost to cancer, celebrate those who have survived and pay tribute to caregivers. It gave 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.

Kudos to our Team Captain, Becci Van Hoosier – we couldn't have done it without her passion. We can't thank our beloved cheer-leader, Pastor Dave, enough. His compassion and commitment is unwavering and inspiring to all. We stood proudly as he gave the Invocation during the Opening Ceremony. With emotion, Jack Pavelich gave opening and closing remarks regarding the American Cancer Society's 60 year anniversary of progress in research. Other team members assisted in spot announcements. Accolades go to: Ann Miller and her team for the gifts they handmade and presented to survivors; Deb and Mike Weitenhagen who went above and beyond the call of duty tending to the campsite and spending the entire 24 hours helping wherever they could; young Allie Smith who helped with the Research Quiz and Drawing.

A big salute to the following team members and walkers: Lois Allbeck, Adele Bey, Jim Cassem, Diane & Larry Combes, Mona Daugherty, Gary & Julie Ellingson, Cathy Fulgenzi, Wendy Grygar, Sally Haase, Marilyn Jackson, Julie & David Johnson, Dolly Kline, Connie, John & Eric Lowe, Ann, David, Daisy & Brittnee Miller, Steve Miller, Tim & Martha Mott, Gabriele Parsons, Jack

Pavelich, Willie Rasmussen, Pat Rupert, Allie Smith, Becci Van Hoosier, Bob Vernlund, Deb & Mike Weitenhagen, Lois White, Gene & Ira Yoder.

And we can't forget our celebrated bassets - Mascot Daisy and her sister Survivor, Brittnee. The crowd went wild as they meandered around the track with tails wagging.

Thanks to our congregation who generously supported the team by donations and participation in our Opportunity Drawing as well as your presence at the event. Without you, this far-reaching monumental undertaking of this mission would not be possible.

Together, we are making progress toward a cancer-free future. Together we will continue our journey until we reach that final destination of living in a cancer-free world. Together we will make a difference.

Let's once again be the church community that takes up the challenge in 2007!

- Submitted by Pat Rupert, Team Advisor

