

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

*"Where There's Life For You!"*

Volume 18 No. 11

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

November-December 2007

# LIFELINE

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

## Our Mission Statement

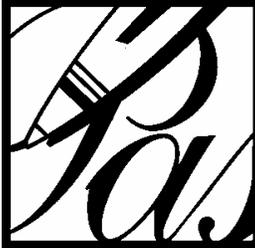
*Inviting all to grow in Christ!*



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FROM THE



PASTOR

“Angels of Mercy” we call them. Reaching out the loving arms of Jesus the Christ through Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Moreno Valley, to people in need everywhere: Lutheran World Relief distributes their quilts and health kits.

Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, our sanctuary was absolutely glowing with 145 colorful comforting quilts blessed during our worship service, as we blessed those had sewn them. “What you give to those in need,” said Jesus, “you give to me.”

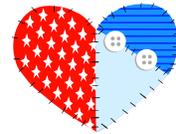
Angels are God’s messengers and helpers, and God calls each of us to these special ministries from time to time. Freely we are given rich blessings and freely let us give: a kind smile, a deliberate act of kindness, an encouraging word, a pat on the back, a can of soup to someone hungry. All of this, says Jesus, “You give to me.”

Jesus told us that heaven is like a great marriage feast which has no end. Every Sunday Worship here, I feel I’m sharing in a foretaste of heaven. We feast on God’s Holy Word and receive communion. We are strengthened in our personal faith through the fellowship of believers as we lift our hearts and voices in hymns and prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God our Savior for this church and for each other.

I’m praising God for my Interim ministry with you. You continue to warm and bless my heart with happiness, peace, and love. Perhaps I’ll be blessed to share both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons with you. I join my prayers with yours as you seek God’s choice for your new Pastor. God’s rich and full blessings to Jack Pavelich and rest of the Call Committee. Some of you may have seen a billboard that is popping up around the country. It features a simple black background with white text with this stark message on it:

“Don’t make me come down there. – God.”  
Peace, Joy, and Blessings!  
In His Grip,  
Pastor Chuck

LWR Giving by Bev Erck



I am reminded about the Grinch who stole Christmas but was unable to stop Christmas from coming. It came after all! And indeed, the ingathering came after all, with even better results than ever before! Through the giving hearts of each of you, **145 quilts** and **500 health kits** were donated for the victims of natural disasters around the world. Your response in 2007 has truly made a difference and families around the world thank you. Your compassion and love are evident. With the wonderful help of the Boy Scouts and their moms or dads, quick work was made of the wrapping and boxing of the health kits. To everyone involved, we are truly grateful! Thanks for a job well done!



Submitted by Lois Allbeck

How does Lutheran World Relief use our Health Kits and Quilts?

Lutheran World Relief has distributed millions of quilts and kits to people living in more than 100 countries around the world. When fighting broke out between Israel and Hezbollah, 10,500 quilts and 18,700 health kits were shipped there for people displaced by the violence.

In 2005, when the 7.6 earthquake destroyed villages in Pakistan, LWR send an initial shipment of 3,750 quilts almost immediately after the quake. Pakistan Airways provided free delivery. Soon, another 11,250 quilts arrived by ship. On April 12, 2007, quilts were sent to flood victims in Zambia. Displaced people in Sri Lanka received quilts and health kits on March 26, 2007.

A quilt is special because it not only brings warmth on a cold night and shelter from the sun, but it becomes a bed, room divider, and backpack to carry belongings. At times, it is even a home. It costs \$2.00 to handle and ship one quilt overseas. LWR seeks lasting solutions to poverty and injustice and, in so doing, compels U.S. Lutherans to put their faith into action.

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## Coming Down the Stretch...

by Jack Pavelich (8/2007)

It can't be much longer now, can it? Pastor Dave retired 16 months ago, then Pastor Kenneth blessed us with a year of his life, and now Pastor Chuck continues the trend of powerful and inspiring spiritual leaders. We continue our search for God's nominee to serve our parish and our community. Lord of Life people! Have you stopped praying???

The Old Testament is full of stories of the people thinking the solution was just around the corner – but God needed to test their will; He needed them to get the old them out from themselves so that He could be their one true God, their only Lord. Sometimes God makes us wait.

In the meantime, what are we doing? Are we still waiting – or are we getting to work to do the good things we have learned over the years?

We are entrusted to the good stewardship of all the gifts we have been given. Some of those gifts refer to our faith and our love for Jesus and the change He has made in our lives. Are we continuing our scripture study and our daily prayer time? Are we reaching out to those in the margins; to those who reach out for help as we make our way around town? Are we being the people God wants us to be – or are we waiting for the new pastor to ride into town?

As we interview candidates for this ministry, they all want to know what we are doing. What are we all about? Are we continuing to maintain and grow all the good things we have been encouraged to do? New pastors want to know that if they, for some reason, don't take the next step – the congregation will likely trample them from behind (rather than to stop in their tracks waiting for their next move.) We have been well prepared to do ministry in this community – so let's be sure we are doing it!

Our Worship time continues to uplift and bless each of us. Thank you to so many who are involved in Sunday mornings. Your work and warmth is noticed and appreciated. Oh sure, we've had a few "rough" Sundays, but we are a

people who love to worship and praise the great Lord of Lords!

... and who would have thought we would all sing the Lord's Prayer so beautifully???

As I talk to congregations who have recently called new pastors, I find we're not taking as long as I thought (believe me, the committee knows we have been at this a long time...) In fact, the quickest call was right at 18 months, but most are closer to 2 years before the new leader moves in to town. I contend this is the waiting time God is using to help us grow; so we can grow in our stewardship – grow in discipleship – grow in faith – grow in personal ministry – grow in our working together – grow in service – and so we can grow in making Him our Lord of all Lords.

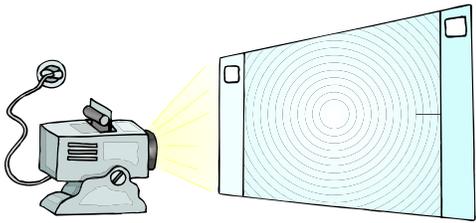
So as we come down the stretch, let me challenge your waiting time:

- if you're not reading some scripture each day, start today. Pick a book you'll like – ask pastor for help picking a starting point.
- If you're not praying every day, start today. Do it your way at your time.
- If you're not involved in a church ministry, contact a council member and ask how you can get involved.
- If you're not worshipping regularly, start this Sunday. Your presence blesses us.
- If you need a hug, let us know. We're good huggers!

As one of Pacifica's favorite congregations, we're being watched by Synod leaders and surrounding congregations and their pastors. Let's let them know that we are healthy and able to do even the waiting with the same excitement and purpose that have come to define us as a people of God.

I thank God for each of you and for all the good work that you do.

Amen?



## **Projection System Approved by Church Council** *Submitted by Bob Vernlund*

We are ready to take a step forward in trying to expand and enhance our worship experience. After extensive research we have agreed upon a projection system that we can use in our Sanctuary that will offer us many new options. The council has agreed to a system with a projected cost of \$8,000 to include installation of the projector, powered screen, a laptop computer, and necessary software. The only stipulation was that this system must be paid for out of funds designated to the projection fund and not come out of our church budget. This is where you come in. We need your support to make this happen!

This system will expand our ability in areas other than our worship service and will include some bible study (youth & adult), music, and other Christian entertainment. It will be connected to our existing sound system and be controlled by a computer that has the ability to play CDs and DVDs. This is a step in faith that should allow us to offer more programs for both our youth and adults. It is not intended to make us a "paperless" congregation, but rather, an enhanced worship experience. After much discussion and prayer, we feel that this is something we must pursue. We would very much like to provide a 30-45 minute period after our worship service for both our youth and adults and this system makes that more possible.

## **Arlene Enters Four Paintings: All Winners!**

Congratulations to our very talented Arlene Eder who entered four paintings in the Southern California Fair at the Perris Fairgrounds. In the Senior Fine Arts Division, Arlene was awarded ribbons for one 1<sup>st</sup> place, two 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and one 3<sup>rd</sup> place. She has graciously agreed to display her painting of Jesus for a short time. We are very proud of you, Arlene! Great Job!



## **Thanksgiving Baskets**

Our goal this year is to provide 50 Thanksgiving baskets with turkey and all the fixings for those families in need. We will not only provide food for those struggling in our area, but for the families at the transitional living shelters at **Amelia's Light** (March ARB) and the **Genesis Shelter** in Riverside. Cash donations as well as the following items are greatly appreciated: turkeys, 10 lb. bag of potatoes, fresh oranges, rolls, dessert mixes (brownie or cake mix & canned frosting), canned yams, stuffing, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, and canned vegetables. Please bring all donations to the church before November 18th. Thank you for your generosity!



## **Anticipation of more blessings!!**

*Submitted by Bob Vernlund*

Are you ready? Advent, Christmas, a new year, a new pastor(?), new ideas, new challenges. Anticipation of these and the many more activities that will occur in the next 60 days make this end-of-year season something to pray and prepare for. When you look back over the past 16 months, this congregation has been blessed. When we stood before you last Jan. at our annual meeting, you approved a financial plan for ministry with a \$20,000 deficit, and we were humbled by your faith. When we presented you with a fund-raiser for our anniversary, we were again humbled by your generosity. You have not lost the faith that we are trying to do what Christ would have us do by the examples of all the outreach programs that continue to grow. We should all be proud of those things that make us a strong congregation and keep us together as we allow Christ to lead us through this interim period of our church's history. We have been blessed with pastors who have prepared us for this interim, led through some challenging times, and continue to lead us with the love and happiness of knowing that the Holy Spirit joins with us each time we gather. Nothing matters more!

Come Worship with us  
Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 7:00 PM

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Pie and coffee will be served  
after worship service in our  
fellowship hall!

# L R C C

Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences



## Winter Retreats

This year's winter retreat  
theme is so enormous, so awe-inspiring, so  
life changing...it needed a gigantic name:

## Godswilla!

Do you know God's will for your life? Are you walking on God's path for your life or asking God to bless the path that you are choosing? That's an amazing question to wrestle with...so, let's wrestle with it together! For information and registration, go to [www.LRCCHome.com](http://www.LRCCHome.com)

## The Big "E" and WII FM

*Submitted by Bev Erck*

You remember, **EVANGELISM** and **What's In It For Me?** Hopefully you'll want to review the rewards one gets from participating in it. They include:

1. You are growing your faith and doing something that Jesus asked you to do. There's an old saying "What God expects, He enables." Let Him lead you to places you've never dreamed.
2. You are impacting someone's life. Be bold, proud and joyful when introducing the word.
3. You are giving someone HOPE for healing through Jesus Christ. Your demeanor will speak for you and your heart will be filled with joy!
4. You are allowing the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and lead you on your own personal evangelistic mission.
5. You are enlarging the church's territory with an increased number of believers who will, themselves, become evalgelists.
6. You, the Evangelist, like a teacher, never know where your influence stops.

Give this Great Commission some thought and prayer. If you would like to learn more and be part of the LOL "E" Team, please contact Jeannine Lester or Beverly Erck. Our learning kit is ready to be opened and put into operation.



"Voices for Jesus" meets every Friday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 PM beginning Nov. 2nd. Children experience fun, Christian music activities with introduction to basic singing and music reading techniques. Children's choir is open to all children who are ready and willing to learn while having fun. Thanks to Jorine Campbell for continuing this wonderful children's ministry.



# Annual Toy Drive For Edgemont Elementary School



There are 750 students (boys and girls between Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade) who attend Edgemont Elementary School - and we would like to provide each of them with a gift for Christmas again this year.

We are looking for toys that keep the kids active or stimulate thinking and creativity. Some suggestions are: basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, skateboards, board games, trucks, and cars. Toys need to be at least \$10.00 in value each. Start early and look for sales so you can spend wisely. *We do ask that no used toys or stuffed animals be given.*



sorted.

All gifts need to be turned in by **December 9<sup>th</sup>** to be counted and



A wrapping and pizza party will be held **Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** from **3-7 PM** at **Lord of Life Lutheran Church**  
**13600 Nason Street**  
(One block south of Cottonwood)

We also need "Elves" to help deliver the gifts to Edgemont Elementary School  
21790 Eucalyptus Avenue  
**Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** at **8:00 AM**



We appreciate all the help we can get. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in any way. You may contact Becci in the church office at 924-4887.

