

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 18 No. 4

e-mail us at: lolmv@verizon.net

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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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FROM THE



PASTOR

My fellow worker at Lord of Life,

The lesson for my first Sunday at LOL was on Salt. Salt the seasoning that brings out the real flavor of the main recipe. Interim: means between, not permanent, temporary, things on gold, maintaining the status quo until a permanent replacement gets here, don't change what's in place, don't start anything new--wait until the "real" pastor shows up. The Apostle Paul was a great example of an interim pastor--jump in, start up, stir up, then move on, then write to remind them what he taught. He wasn't afraid to preach the good news. Not worried about what came before or what was to come. He held up a:

- Mirror to show them what they looked like on the outside.
- Microscope to show them what they really looked like as God saw them
- Telescope to show them who they were as God's children and what heaven held in store for them

Many of the Old Testament Prophets can also be viewed as interim pastor and generally did not fare very well. Sometimes they were ignored, stoned, and generally ridiculed. They were interim's between their present sinful times and the future destruction that would surely happen if they did not turn back towards God.

John the Baptist stayed out in the wilderness and still somebody demanded his head on a platter. Paul's list of beatings, stoning, imprisonment and torture is hard to read about, let alone endure for the sake of telling people about the Savior Jesus. Yes, I can tell you that I have been assured by the church council and all those responsible for my being here that my family and I will receive a kinder and gentler reception at LOL. ☺

Even Jesus was an interim pastor. His interim was between this world and the next. His ministry in this

world lasted just three years. He too was not afraid to tell the story to those who would listen. He did not back down when the established authorities wanted him to be silent and stay out of their business. He called things just like he saw them.

As I thought about it, an interim pastor is free from a lot of the usual worries. He or she appears out of nowhere, stays for an agreed upon time, then rides off into the sunset. Some might even ask as they did on the Lone Ranger (I'm dating myself here) who was that masked man/woman with the clergy collar?

At best, an interim pastor takes a hand to the plow and turns over new soil, breaks it up so that new seeds can be planted and new visions seen. Maybe the soil has become hard and packed in. Maybe the harvest is just not as big as it used to be. We each need to pick ourselves up and dust each other off and get started listening and planning and hoping and dreaming. Paul tells us in Roman 8 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

As your interim pastor I see myself more like a coach than a new CEO who has been called to challenge the entire congregation and transition team to look within to discover your personal and congregational purpose in God's plan? Is this a purpose driven church? It's not about growth, or the number of young families joining, or how many folks came to the pot-luck. But rather, it is about each of us doing our own small part, to pull together as a team, to share our stories and to hear each other's dreams for how this church in this time can be something that God will smile on and say "Well done, good and faithful servants."

So, with those images and models in mind, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I will promise you that every Sunday from this spot I will try my very best to give you information, invitation and inspiration. Information about God's word, invitation to action for faith is also about doing, not just listening. And inspiration, to get us out the door and down the street and all the way till next Wednesday before you start to lose a little steam. I can make these promises with some conviction because I believe that the Holy Spirit is here, right now, locked and loaded and ready to help us move from hello to hallelujah. Right now we are worshipping

From the Pastor Cont'd . . .

approximately 100--but what if each person was linked together in a common purpose for this church in this specific time, united in faith, committed to trusting God?

Finally, if you think about it, we are all just "interim's" in this life. We have no idea what will happen tomorrow. There are news stories every day about people who had plans and dreams for themselves and their loved ones, only to have one moment change their lives. Some people never really take the time to really enjoy life until they are certain it is ebbing away in some terminal disease. There is an old Jewish proverb that says "Men plan. God laughs". God tells us to relax and trust.

I think my job for the time I have covenanted to be with you is not to set a new course that I have chosen for you, but to encourage and inspire you to lift your eyes to the cross and let God's light show you the path that God has chosen for this congregation and for each of you in these next few months. I am going to try my very best to schedule some personal time with each and every one of you (individually or in groups) in the next month or so you can help me see your vision for this church and your role in bringing that vision to pass. My goal is to encourage, equip and energize you to envision what God has planned for you to do in this church and this community.

I promise to love you with all the love God has in me and I hope you will love (my family) and me enough to hold me accountable to the serious work that needs to be done. I hope you will trust me enough to know that I speak from the heart. I hope you will forgive me enough so that my enthusiasm or optimism for making the best use of our time together does not seem out of place or too radical.

If we pray together, play together, pull together, and prepare together, then this interim will be an off-season of conditioning, training and preparing for the new season to come, full of hope and promise and service to God and the Moreno Valley community we serve.

Blessed to be a Blessing, your brother from another mother, Kenneth Davis (KD), Interim Pastor

Dollar And Sense

from Pastor KD

Each week as I read the 7 Month Building/Debt Report in the bulletin, I can't help but notice the receipts, payments, and year to date deficit. In many other respects, Lord of Life is a large enough church to be viable, so this seems to be a matter of each of us understanding the importance of a budget. What are those who share in and receive from this ministry doing to make LOL viable?

I would like to frame this 'viability' challenge in terms cost per member, then it's a matter of our willingness to make the financial commitment to expand the viability of LOL. A quick example of the cost per member equation would be if each member committed to give an additional \$5.00 per month for the last 5 months of 2006. The yield, if there are 100 members would be \$2500 . . . or a cost per member of approximately \$0.17/day. Double it to \$10.00 per month and the church raises \$5000 which would erase the deficit and create a surplus and it costs about \$0.34 per day per member.

Pastor KD's Suggested Books to Read During This Time of Transition:

Who Moved My Cheese? By Spencer Johnson, M.D., Ten Dumb Things Churches Do and How To Avoid Them by Phillip Wiehe, Stopping at Every Lemonade Stand by James Vollbracht, If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out Of the Boat, by John Ortberg.

Pastor's Calendar

9-10	Church Council Meeting
9-17	Cottage Meeting
9-14	Cottage Meeting
9-24	Bishop's Gathering in
10-10	Pastor's Conference Meeting - LOL
10-5	Cottage Meeting
10-8	Church Council meeting
10-17	New Pastors Luncheon - Synod office
10/30 - 11/4	Conference - Luther Seminary, MN

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What does the Each One Reach One motto mean?

The Each One Reach One philosophy promotes the pursuit of spiritual, family, and personal excellence; helps increase spiritual development; and fosters stronger ties among the members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. The main objective of the Each One Reach One program is to cultivate a sense of responsibility to oneself and to the community. It is to be understood as one of our 'EVANGELISM' tools. Each member is being asked to reach one other person with the saving message of Jesus Christ

How does the program operate?

Each One Reach One is a "giving back system" where members reach out and help by inviting new Christian men and women to develop a supportive environment for learning. Visitors will be strongly encouraged to become a part of our faith community if they are not presently a part of a Christian faith community. Long standing members of Lord of Life, who are active act as a support group for those not yet involved, are responsible for introducing them to other members in the congregation, and most importantly for being a friend and assisting in any way they can. Each One Reach One relies on ROADS, the acronym for Responsibility, Order, Attitude, Discipline, and Spirituality.

Five Reasons to Become Active in the Ministry of Lord of Life

Participation says:

- I. **"I belong here,"** and God says that believers belong together. (Hebrews 10:23-25) We believe that God wants you here with the members of **Lord of Life Lutheran Church** at this time in your Christian life.
- II. **"We share a common goal,"** and God says that believers are to be committed to one another for the sake of spiritual impact. (Ephesians 4:16) We believe that Jesus has work to do in and through the lives of the members of **Lord of Life** and around the

world; and we are willing to join with others to see that it gets done.

- III. **"I accept responsibility for a group of fellow Christians,"** and that is God's plan as well. (Galatians 6:1-2, 10) We want you to be a part of a caring network of Christians, sharing one another's joys and sorrows; and helping one another grow through worship, discipleship, and fellowship.
- IV. **"I am accountable to mature Christians for my walk with God,"** and God warns against spiritual autonomy. (Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 18:15-20) We don't want to go it alone in standing for Jesus Christ. We do want to receive the guidance, equipping, and assistance necessary to remain on target.
- V. **"I accept responsibility for how things are done here,"** and God says that's how it should be. (1 Corinthians 12: 20-27) Every member has a voice in shaping the direction, goals, visions, hopes, dream and outcome of the ministry of **Lord of Life** Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Reaching UP ↑
(in praise and worship)

Reaching IN →←
(in discipleship/small groups/service & fellowship)

Reaching OUT ←→
(in evangelism and mission)



This service will be designed for those who prefer praise and worship.

There is limited printed order of worship.

The sermon from the Word will be the same as the 9am Sunday service.

The service will last approximately an hour and 15 minutes.

There is more music - mostly contemporary Christian music.

Worshippers are welcome to clap or raise their hands as they worship.

If you feel that you might enjoy a worship service like this, please let us know.

If you prefer a more traditional worship service, please continue to join us at 9am on Sunday mornings.

Visitors are welcome to participate in all our services without joining the church, but when you are ready to join us in our mission for Christ, we invite you into membership.

Coming Soon!

Saturday Night LIVE!

Contemporary Praise & Worship Service

Contemporary
Worship
5:30-6:45pm

Lift up
your
Hearts
in
Praise!



Transition Team Report

By Cheryl Hudson

The second meeting of the Transition Team took place on the evening of August 23rd. Members present were: Pastor Kenneth Davis, Larry Combes, Jeannine Lester, Heidi Avila, Denise Slaton, Amy Freeman, Wendy Shipley and Cheryl Hudson.

The Transition Team has decided to meet twice a month. It was also decided that at least one other member would accompany Pastor KD to the Cottage Meetings.

Based on the first two Cottage meetings, we get the feeling that members want our church to remain a friendly, loving, closely-knit, worshipful church. We would like to experience some growth and we need to have some type of community outreach, i.e.; door-to-door or mass-mailing of a flyer to let people know we are here. But many feel too much growth would make us lose our closely-knit structure. Also, the need for a better way to contact visitors was expressed, such as a visitor's card they could fill out. And we as a congregation need to contact members we know that haven't been to church for awhile and let them know we miss them and want

them to come back. The need for more fellowship outside of church and for adult Sunday school before church was brought up. At the first cottage meeting, we talked about starting a children's choir, and now, thanks to Mindy Lowe and her helper Megan Hudson, we have one that meets on Wednesday nights here at church at 6:30pm, so please bring your children and yourselves and participate.

There were many ideas for paying down the mortgage and creating a budget everyone could commit to.

The first two cottage meetings have been very fruitful and we hope you attend your scheduled meeting and fill out your questionnaire so you can let us know your thoughts and concerns. Also, please feel free to talk to any of us on the Transition team about any questions you may have about this transitional process.

Transition Team Members are: Dave Allbeck, Heidi Avila, Larry Combes, Cheryl Hudson, Jeannine Lester and Denise Slaton. Alternates are: Daniel Campbell, Amy Freeman, Wendy Shipley

September - October Cottage Meetings

Group #	Date	Time	Host Name	Phone	Address
5	9/7	7 PM	Jeff & Brenda Egeland	909-424-0166	11998 Minona Ct. Grand Terrace, CA 92313
6	9/10	5 PM	Odell & Margo Ross	247-2682	24735 Thornberry Circle Moreno Valley, CA 92557
7	9/14	7 PM	Bill & Pat Rupert	243-1045	16360 Sabina Ct. Moreno Valley, CA 92551
8	9/21	7 PM	Gary & Julie Ellingson	247-9670	9615 Shadow Springs Dr. Moreno Valley, CA 92557
9	10/5	7 PM	Jack Pavelich	924-5518	12881 Sunnymeadows Dr. Moreno Valley, CA 92553
10	10/12	7 PM	Tom & Janice Gardner	242-7772	25850 Fran Lou Dr. Moreno Valley, CA 92557

So that Pastor Kenneth has an opportunity to meet all of our members, we have set up weekly neighborhood Cottage meetings which began August 10th. These meetings will be informal with cookie and coffee fellowship. We will share in discussion about where we are as a congregation, and our vision for the future as the transition team begins their work to prepare for the call of our next Pastor. Please contact your host if you are unable to attend your meeting. You may choose to attend another meeting when your schedule permits.

From Tithes to Bed Bugs . . .

By Jack Pavelich

The week started out like any other. Excited boys and girls from age 8 to 14 filling the camp with laughter, games and singing around the campfire. Moms and Dads were long gone. There's nothing like camp!

From my earliest days in the church, I had been struck by God's expectation that we were to tithe (that means to give a tenth of all we receive) to Him. "Him" in this case being to "His work", or to ministry, or to the maintenance, care and feeding of the church and all those who are needed to run and operate it.

The kids were everywhere. On this first night at camp their energy level is over the top. Counselors have their hands full keeping them productively occupied until "lights out." This day has been important. Each camper needs to get a full briefing on the rules and expectations for their behavior over the next 6 days – all at a time when the child's curiosity is peaking in the midst of the forest land and mountains into which the camp is nestled.



The first shock of camp for the camper is in finding out that "kitchen duty" is one of the expectations of each young camper. ... a full day's kitchen duty! That would never be fun at home – but there's nothing like camp!

I know many who look upon their "tithe" as the total of their contribution to all things beyond themselves. That includes their church, the American Heart Association, our beloved American Cancer Society, Edgemont School, World Hunger, the homeless beggar at the end of the freeway off ramp, and any of hundreds of other groups and agencies asking for our help.

But scripture is pretty clear to me, that our tithes go to God, and our "offerings" go to others whose needs are dependant upon us. In the earliest days, offerings were made to repair the damaged temple, to thank God for healing or blessings, to atone for

sins, and a myriad other instances of generous sacrificial giving . . . all in addition to their tithe!

Finally, the day came to an end, and the lights in each cabin were turned off. Still the muffled voices and laughter of the kids were a backdrop to the rhythmic sound of the crickets, and the wind moving through the trees on this first night at camp. There's nothing like it!

In fact, the expectation is that we honor God by our tithes to the church – the ministry we serve – setting God's immediate work as the focus and priority of our entire lives. Then, as other needs arise, and they do often, these are met in addition to the tithe.

This morning wasn't the same as other mornings. Kids scratching the bumpy little red nubbies on their skin – some on a leg or an arm; others in a lot of places. The smallest ones were crying for Mommy as camp staff applied lotions and medications to the Bed Bug Bites!

The infestation was so great, the camp had to be closed for major, expensive, fumigation. Parents were called to come get junior – and the camp was empty at the start of the week. The call went out, "The camp has bed bugs and has to be closed!"

God's people understand the concept of tithes and offerings. As a result, more than \$1,000 given by you to fight bed bugs made a major impact on the ability of the camp to eliminate the little critters AND to do so while still maintaining your loyal and expected support to our ministry.

In her email to me a few weeks later, Camp Manager Sheryl Matthew said, "Luther Village has been truly blessed by your support and the support of many other churches and individuals. Thank you!"

Expectations are good things. They promote growth in us – both in working toward them, and by meeting them. Our God is very wise! He's known forever that there's no place like camp! Amen?



By Robert Willis

During the past few months, our youth group has continued to meet on Friday nights. The Lord has continued to bless us by allowing us to feed the homeless folks in Moreno Valley. Our youth hope to make this an ongoing effort, which requires donations from our congregation. Items needed are peanut butter and jelly, snacks, such as lunch size bags of chips, granola bars, fruit roll ups, or any other lunch snack you can think of, juices, Christian crafts. Also items for hygiene, such as hotel size soaps, shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, anything else you all can think of will be given out to the homeless in Moreno Valley. God continually blesses each of us abundantly so we can be a blessing to others. Thank you God

High school football will be starting soon and we will go to a game or two. Other events are being planned for the next few months. I'd like to personally invite all the youth from our church to come on Friday at 700 pm and be a part of your youth group. Bring a friend!

On August 3-5, I attended track 3 of Youth Ministry training at Cal Lutheran University. This program is the same program offered at Wartburg seminary for three weeks. Cal Lutheran offers this program over a 4 year period for three days in August each year. When completed, I will be an ELCA recognized Family and Youth minister. My time spent each year at CLU has been filled with much classroom time as well as time in prayer and worship. I have been truly blessed by this program and I am looking forward to putting my training to good use for many years to come here at Lord of Life. Your continued support is evident of your love for our Lord as well as our youth, who are not only the future of our church but, are our church right now. May Gods peace comfort each of you,

Thanks for giving so generously, we raised \$1120 to purchase uniforms for the students at Edgemont Elementary School - and Thrivent matched it with another \$1,000.



Youth Choir Rehearsal

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm
Directed by Mindy Lowe
Assisted by Megan Hudson

Hospitality and You at LOL

Having just read Leave a Candle Burning by Lori Wick, I am reminded that hospitality is one of the things we do best here at LOL. In Ms. Wick's words "... God knows your heart. You don't have to do this every day or even every week. I think it should be as often as you can. We're without excuses if we aren't diligent in this area." You are all familiar with our concern for the less fortunate or those suffering from a natural disaster. And you probably know I am leading up to our yearly quilt drive and Health Kit drive for Lutheran World Relief. Yes, we need more items for both missions. We always welcome sheets, batting, and the thread for the quilts and we still need more items in the following order for the kits: fingernail clippers, tooth paste, hand towels, combs, and band-aids. Yes, we'll be happy to buy the items we need with your monetary contributions. The ingathering is October 19th so please give what you can in the near future. Remember that every item you give will make one life just a little bit better.

With many thanks and prayers. Bev Erck

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Men

Men's Fellowship Survey

In organizing our men's fellowship, we are trying to meet two major objectives: First, engage men in regular study of scripture through varied activities and studies; and also to gather our men in fellowship and typical men's activities so that we can develop friendships among Godly men. Assist us now, by completing this short survey and returning it promptly to the church office.

1. Would you be interested in getting together with other men from the congregation/community if it was at a time and place you could enjoy?

- Yes
- No
- Not at this time

If your answer was **No**, complete the next two questions and the optional last question on the survey. If you answered **Yes** or **Not at this time**, skip to question 4 and complete the survey.

2. What obstacle prevents you from participating? (check all that apply)

- I do not have the time
- I do not want to get involved
- I do not like to study the Bible
- I have never studied the Bible before
- I am not ready to discuss the Bible with others
- You do not offer anything that I am interested in doing
- Other _____

3. If the men's fellowship met once a month to watch a game, eat a meal, or listen to a speaker, would you change your mind?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Please proceed to Question #9.

4. When I get together for fellowship I would like to: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eat | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play games | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review a book | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch a video/DVD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Study the Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to others concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about current events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to a speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about outreach at the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about the future needs of our church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking Food / BBQ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your input will assist us in future planning for the growth and program of our Men's Ministry.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Men

5. I would be interested in joining a small group of men that met once a: (check all that apply)

- week for Bible study at the church
- month at a restaurant for fellowship
- month at the church for a Bible study
- week for Bible study at some ones home
- week for breakfast and Bible study at the church
- week for breakfast and Bible study at a restaurant
- month at a restaurant for fellowship and a speaker
- month at the church for a breakfast and Bible study
- month at a restaurant for Bible study and fellowship
- week for fellowship at some ones home (sports related)
- Other _____

6. The frequency of this fellowship should be: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-monthly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

7. The best day(s) of the week for me would be: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday | |

8. The best time of the day would be: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Morning | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noon | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon | |

9. (Optional)

Additional Comments _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your input will assist us in future planning for the growth and program of our Men's Ministry.