

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 19 No. 4

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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

It is time to eat...

For those of you who do not know this already, this phrase is one of my favorites! I want to unpack this for a moment, because it means more than just filling up Pastor Shane's stomach. When I look down the road I see a huge feast awaiting many in our midst. I see us with great opportunity to feed many; not just with food, but with the presence of the Holy Spirit working in and through all of us, and the resources that we have been entrusted with to do ministry in this part of the Lord's vineyard. The next chapter of our journey together starts right now. 1 Corinthians 12: 12 says, "Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts." With our fall program year just on the verge of taking off, I thought this verse was appropriate. We have many things going on at Lord of Life; some of which took a break during the summer, others that kept braving the heat of the summer. These programs will be ready to go as you read this article. It all begins with Rally Sunday on September 7th. I had the pleasure of taking part in the Sunday school meeting not long ago, and let me tell you I can feel the excitement of what is sure to be a year full of learning and fun not only for our children but also those who teach them! Teachers will be installed and ready to begin class the following week. Rally Sunday will also find the reception of new members as well. Josh Flores along with Kristin, Breanna, Brendan, Brayden, and myself will officially be part of Lord of Life by way of membership. We will celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary on the 7th as well. Joyfully we will lift up this fantastic milestone with Fred and Darlene Bueker. Confirmation will be starting up again as well. There are things on the horizon for our High school youth group too. Our fine Praise Team and choir will again be adding fine musical leadership to our worship time together on Sunday mornings. These are just some of the things going on here at church. I lift these pieces of our ministry up not to show how busy we are, but rather to show the many ways that we are of service for the greater kingdom of God. Just like the verse from the above scripture says; we are one body with many parts. I know first hand the many gifts that God has blessed this place

with. The many conversations I have had make it so clear to me. Have you wanted to use one of your gifts in a way like never before? Have you seen an area of ministry here at Lord of Life that you feel a desire to grow in? It seems to me that this might be a good time to explore something new. To be fed in a new way. Maybe you want to assist Sunday school in some capacity, or maybe singing has been of interest but you have never had an outlet for it in the past. Perhaps you have wanted to assist with worship; let me invite you to help enhance this body of believers by doing so! I embrace the opportunity for all of us to be fed by what you all have to offer. Martin Luther, for which our denomination is named, talks a lot about vocation. Everything we do in our lives, everything we do at church can be an exercise in exploring our vocation as Christians, our calling to be of service to all around us. No one's calling or vocation is any bigger or better than anybody else's. Our vocational exploration not only feeds us, but it also is of benefit for all of those we are around. What is the most important to remember is that we all are part of the same body. My vision for Lord of Life has feeding right at the center of it. As I look down the road, I see many people who do not yet know the special place that Lord of Life Lutheran Church is. The body of Christ has room for all people; our charge is to go out and proclaim the Good News to them. In the Road to Emmaus story the two walking were met by one traveling as well. They had a choice, they could have just kept walking when they met this person; who they realize later on is Jesus, or they could make room for him. I see us with the opportunity to make room for all. At the end of the day the three traveling together pull off the road for a nights rest. Jesus takes his place at the table; blessing the Lord's Supper. I have to believe that was the best meal they ever took part in. These places in scripture hold much value because they both lend themselves to the endless ways that people can be nourished, can be fed.

It is a blessing to have been called to this place. I look forward to many moments of eating and working with you all.

Peace,

Pastor Shane

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... proving faithful

By Jack Pavelich (8/2008)

Each morning, after a quick review of the Sports Page, and on pouring my first cup of hot coffee, I go to my Bible and do my morning Scripture reading. Last week, I came across a scripture verse that I thought would come in handy:

“...it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

1 Cor 4:2

Since I've committed that to memory, I have rolled it over and over in my thoughts a hundred times. It brought to mind the “trusts” I have been given in this life: the responsibility of marriage, the raising of children, and employment expectations to name a few. There are a long list of “earthly” trusts that have come my way – all having to do with my responsibilities to family and friends.



After a few days of those thoughts, I began to think of that verse the way St. Paul did when he sent those words to the Church at Corinth. God has laid trusts upon us also.

My first thought is the story of the Master who gave one man 5 coins, another 2 coins, and a third person 1 coin. He gave them these resources based upon their ability. Remember? The first two invested the coins and made a profit for the Master. The third hid his coin in a hole because he was afraid to lose it. That didn't make the Master very happy – you see, the third person didn't prove faithful in even the one coin he was given which could have earned interest had the man put the coin into a bank.

The point is this – everything God has given us should grow in our proper use of it. (Profit)

This is where I struggled as a young man with a wonderful wife and two small children. It took a long time from when I was first challenged to tithe as a young man to get to the point where the tithe was not just an achievement (the earthly part of man) but a faithfulness to the trust of everything God had blessed me and my little family with (the Godly part of man.)

I cannot explain the profit of the tithe to someone who doesn't know of it except to say the tithe has made me richer in every respect.

I had to rely on the household management skills of my wife in order for us to take those little steps needed each year in our giving – not that our growth giving caused us to sacrifice anything significant. On the contrary! What we had to manage was our attitudes and priorities about money and “things.” That is what takes time – it's like going on a diet and keeping the weight off! All the attention is on the weight – but the work is in the mind.

By investing a small portion (10%) of the trust back into the work of the church, the profit created is in the many others the church can reach with the Good News. The real profit generated is measured in the many lives that are saved for Christ for all time. These are some of the Eternal treasures we strive for.

God gives us blessings according to our abilities. He fully expects that we will use them in such a way as to prove faithful in their use. Our treasure is a simple way to view this concept; but, it is just as important in other things. Our time and talents can be used to nurture the faith of those who surround us. Our outreach to neighbors and co-workers plants seeds of the faith into those whose paths we cross – seeds which will find good soil, and the light and water of life with which to grow.

We are beginning a new chapter in this walk of faith. Let us pursue the journey armed with everything He gives us, trustfully received and faithfully carried out.

Amen?

LET'S WALK LIKE WE'RE GOING



SOME PLACE

by Bev Erck



Some 20 years ago, my brother and I were walking along in deep conversation about the next step needed to place our Dad in a healthy, safe environment where he would be comfortable. I must have been ambling along, or even meandering, or (do you believe it?) perhaps lollygagging! I remember his stern reprimand very clearly, "Come on, Bev, let's walk like we're going some place." And walk we did! Before long, we were able to come to a decision that would take care of our concerns for Dad. Now that we have Pastor Shane to shepherd us, I wonder if we shouldn't set our goal here at Lord of Life, to fulfill the Lord's Great Commission. No more of this walking in place. No more of the aimless steps that have previously proven unsuccessful. And, no more of the futile steps whose voices point out, "Oh, we don't do it that way here," or "Lutherans just don't do that." Instead, let's go for it! We are each given the same Commission and we need to search out the way that God plans to work through us. Ask Him! He hears our prayers and wants to show us the way. If each of us invited one person to come to church with us, we'd soon be finding ways to praise the Lord with twice as many worshipers as we now have. Don't settle for baby steps. Join in the faith journey! Let's each use our faith to the glory of God. Every soul brought to the Lord is a victory! Satan waits for us to slack off. Let's walk like we're going some place!



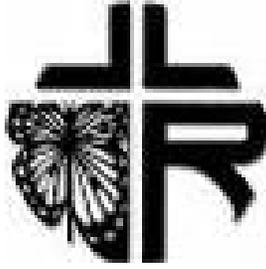
What's new at Lord of Life?

1. The Burden Basket – feel free to release your burdens prior to the start of the worship service. You'll be free to praise and worship without your burden baggage.
2. Blessed to Build Two Blessings (B2B2B) Help support the Pacifica Synod and the Ethiopian Lutheran Church. This mission will be addressed more in September.
3. Lutheran Lay Renewal – Take advantage of this opportunity to enrich your own faith journey. Volunteer and participate September 26-28.
4. Attend a Cottage Meeting. Get involved to help make Lord of Life the church home that you want it to be.
5. Continue to help stock the food pantry. We take food to both CCLM and Genesis Shelter. Due to the current economic situation, each place is unable to meet the needs of the increasing number of families requiring food.
6. Say "Cheese" – The new LOL photo directory pictures will be taken in October.
7. LWR Ingathering – Pick up is scheduled for October 24th. All quilts and health kit materials will need to be at LOL by Sunday, October 19th.
By Bev Erck

SUCCESS...GUARANTEED!

As you have probably heard, LOL will be hosting a Lutheran Lay Renewal on September 26-28. Your prayer committee, Carole and David Korshavn, Joe Broussard, Amy Freeman, Helen Bedford, Jeff and Brenda Egeland, Connie Skinner, Nancy Reining, Bev Erck, and Iver and Ruby Sonnack, wants to support this weekend with much prayer. Please add this concern to your daily prayers. Pray for excitement about the weekend, a spiritual renewal for individuals and our congregation, a dedicated contingent of witnesses from LLR, support from our members, and changed lives. Please plan to take part in a 24 hour prayer vigil on Sept. 25-26. Clear your calendar so you will be able to attend. Watch for information in the weekly bulletin. Remember, prayer changes lives.

By Lois Allbeck



Lutheran Lay Renewal

... is coming



Lutheran Lay Renewal Testimonies

"... blessed us richly as persons and as a parish."

"... among friends we'd never met."

"... joyous over their walk with the Lord..."

"... rewarding and spiritually uplifting..."

"... Holy Spirit moved among (us)..."

"... army of 23 came to minister to us..."

September 26 – 28, 2008

Friday: 6:30 PM... Supper for all*

Saturday: 10 AM... Neighborhood Coffee time*
12 PM... Congregation Luncheon*
6:30 PM... Supper again (...burp)*

Sunday: 9 AM... Worship with Renewal Team*
10 AM... Brunch and Team send-off*

* Intermingled with retreat/renewal activities for all ages...

Who is supposed to come to the lay renewal weekend??? and what to expect.

By Bob Vernlund

We don't use the word "lay" very often when we refer to ourselves. We consider our congregation to be filled with members of a family of believers who worship together and enjoy the experience and fellowship that we share each week. This lay renewal weekend is not for the leaders of our congregation, it is for every member of our family of believers. It's for the young, it's for "elders", it's for everyone. It is for those that come every Sunday as well as those that come but once or twice a year. It is not a bible study, it is not a "revival", it is a renewal of sharing God's love. The visiting team are ordinary men, women, and youth who have encountered the living Christ, come with an attitude of love and acceptance, and whose witness is gracious and positive. They will not pressure anyone, but will seek to communicate love and understanding. They travel at their own expense and only ask to stay in the homes of our members as guests. There will be food and plenty of it during the weekend. Plan on a meal for everyone on Friday night, Saturday noon and evening, and on Sunday after service. The weekend kicks off for the congregation at 6:30 pm on Friday Sept. 26 with a meal followed by an introduction to the weekend. Attend some of it, attend all of it, but attend. You will not regret the experience. If you think this weekend is not for you, you are wrong because you are exactly the person who needs to be there.

What results can we expect? Every congregation is different but the Holy Spirit knows and fills the specific needs of each congregation. Be assured that there will be a positive affect on our congregation. Too often, we chase after stuff, believing it will help us to feel better and make us whole. Instead of giving, we invest our time accumulating things. Jesus reverses the trend by encouraging his followers to give their life away. Our mission statement is

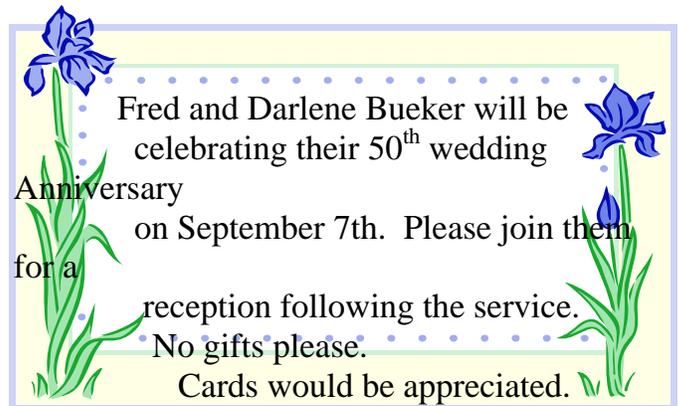
"Inviting all to grow in Christ". That is what this weekend is all about. Do not be afraid of this opportunity for spiritual growth, finding a new happiness or excitement in your Christian life. Even if you think this is for others or for our congregation because you are hesitant to make it personal, your presence alone will help make this weekend a success.

"God loves You, Love One Another"



Please Pray For:

Cathy Davis, Hilker Family, Connie Lowe, Natasha Sinclair, Bob York, Jerry Dagen, Geri Masters, family of Bishop John Schreiber, family of Margaret Wang, Raoul Avila, Ed & Wendy Shipley, Bert & Shirley Bryant, Jane Moribito, Pastor Paul Gravrock.

 Fred and Darlene Bueker will be celebrating their 50th wedding Anniversary on September 7th. Please join them for a reception following the service. No gifts please. Cards would be appreciated.

Dear Lord of Life Family,

We wish to thank you for the beautiful Golden Anniversary cards. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. We were so happy we could celebrate our anniversary with Lord of Life family.

Love in Christ,

Carole and David
Korshavn

