

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"Where There's Life For You!"

Volume 19 No. 7

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

Inviting all to grow in Christ!



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F R O M T H E



PASTOR

Going on a Lenten journey...

When I see this phrase, I can not help but think of the new ways that we will encounter God on this next leg of our walk in faith. Just recently we began our walk on Ash Wednesday. We again were marked with the Cross of

Christ, reminding us again of who it is we belong to. As the days and weeks continue toward the birth of our Savior, I want us all to be intentional about how God is speaking to all of us in new ways. Perhaps He is trying to connect with you in quiet time, in conversation with one of your co-workers, or through your brothers and sisters at church. Allow yourself some space for this encounter to happen. This time is meant to be contemplative, reflective, centering on the one who gives us life each and everyday of our journey here on Earth. I look forward to some fruitful conversation with you all around these new experiences. As part of our Lenten services on Saturday nights, which begin February 28th, we will be using an order of service called Holden Evening Prayer. I am sure some of you have seen this before, but for some this will be something new. As is always the case when we come to worship and focus on our God, treat this new part of our life together with the same openness as you do each and every time you worship our Lord. Each Saturday evening during Lent will begin with a supper before worship. As we gather in community for food and fellowship, continue to give thanks for a God who lives and is present in each of the gathered in your midst. We have a God in our lives who continues to do so much for us; may we give some opportunity to think about those ways, and see those ways put into action around all of us. As you are 'giving up' your favorite food or hobby during this next bit of time, perhaps that time can instead be used focusing on where we ought to be looking all of the time; toward our Lord and the Cross(+).

As you know very well by now, your pastor enjoys food quite a bit! During the times when I have *sacrificed* something, those have been the times my brothers and sisters when I have been fed and sustained the most! I highlight the word sacrifice because: Is what we are sacrificing comparable to what our Lord went through on

behalf of all of us the day he was crucified? I say absolutely not. A handful of us just recently watched the Passion of the Christ, directed by Mel Gibson. And while this is without a doubt one of the most violent movies I have ever seen, it reminds me of the 'sacrifice' that continues to be made for me, and for all of us daily. And so while we may have to suffer without our favorite desert for a little while, I hope things may be put into proper perspective for us all as we walk toward that fantastic Easter morning, when all of us can say with the greatest level of celebration, "He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!"

During this season of Lent, we see a new ministry component beginning here at Lord of Life. I pray that we may be of service to our young people in and through the after school tutoring program starting March 3rd. Please consider this as one more way of giving back to our Lord, and being in relationship with some of our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. During Lent, the crosses in the sanctuary will be located next to many candles. May these candles illumine for you new ways that God is burning brightly on your journey, and on the journeys of all who we come in contact with.

The Spirit is alive and well at Lord of Life, because the Spirit lives in and through all of you! I thank you all for the many ways you continue to serve our Lord. We have much to be thankful for here at Lord of Life! I continually say this, but how true this is; it is a blessing to be in community with you. I embrace your thoughts and your perspectives, and your stories. If something is on your mind, let's share in conversation together. We are ministry partners together in this place. Let us ever be mindful of that. There is room for all of us to continue to grow into our vocational identity together individually and as a worshipping community. I give thanks for all of your callings and for our Lord who has made everything possible. Luke 24:30-31 says, "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight". May this part of your journey be fruitful, and one of great discovery for you all. My continued prayers to you and your family this day forward.

Peace,

Pastor Shane



DEFRIENDING---

Who Knew?

When I first heard this term I was hoping that it was a simple typo for "Befriending". Alas, not so. This verb (actually it is a gerund here) is used

on the internet on pages within Facebook, MySpace, and You Tube. The writer sets up his home page using one of these resources and asks for people to correspond with him. The people that respond are listed on the person's Friends list so that they can get on line easily to share their comments and ideas with the owner of the page. The Friends List grows longer and longer as more and more people respond.

However (Enter The Cop-Out), should the owner decide that one of the friends is too boring, too uninteresting, or does not offer stimulating ideas, he simply deletes that "friend" from his list and the next time the de-friended person tries to share something with the owner, he discovers that his name has been removed and he can never again "talk" to him. The ultimate anonymous rejection has landed on the unsuspecting "friend". He may wonder if he is not worthy of the friendship of the owner. Perhaps he said something that unknowingly offended the owner. Maybe he truly only has dumb ideas. He will never know because of the anonymous nature of the internet. Anonymity is truly an easy cop-out for the owner. It is also wrong! I wonder how Lord of Life would fare if it were suddenly thrust into an anonymous, no faces world?

Would your conversations concerning Lord of Life change? You would feel free to say every annoying, negative thing that crossed your mind. After all, your comments are anonymous! Do you believe our congregation would thrive because we would always be conversing in "truths" as we view them? After all "we are all God's children".

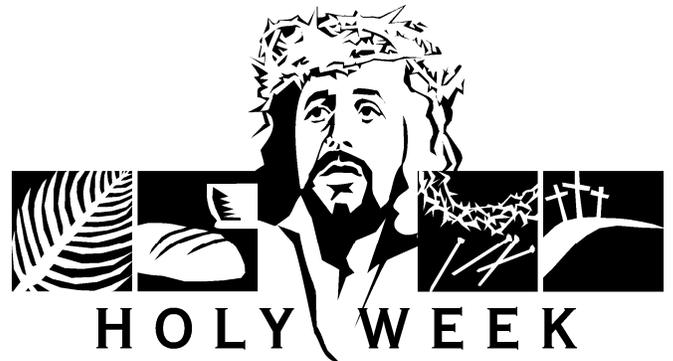
I doubt that any one of you thinks the anonymous world would work at LOL.

We have a wonderfully friendly family of believers here. We all try very hard to live in truth and harmony. And I assure you that you could never say anything so annoying, or so unbelievably mundane, or so incredibly un-stimulating that we would

remove you from our Friends List. No Way! We all respect one another enough that we are willing to listen and consider your ideas. Our Church Council invites you to tell us your thoughts, ideas, and feelings. That is our job: To carry out the mission work of our church. So please, let us hear from you. We are instructed to love one another and we have learned that patient listening is the purest form of love.

No one is anonymous here. We all "wanna be where everybody knows your name".

Defriending...Who knew? Surely not those enlightened souls who share the Lord's message of salvation!



H O L Y W E E K

Services:

Monday-Wednesday:

April 6-8 Morning Prayer Time at 7:30

Maunder Thursday:

April 9 at 7:00 pm

*Note: Last Simple Supper at 6:00 pm

Good Friday:

April 10 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday:

April 12 at 6:30 am & 9:00 am

Please join us for Easter breakfast served from 7:30 am-8:45 am.

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In training ...

By Jack Pavelich (02/2009)

Easter is fast approaching. By the time this arrives in your mailbox, you have probably already looked into the mirror to see the rugged cross outlined on your forehead – the ashes boldly proclaiming the start of a spiritual journey through those “last days of Christ.”

When I was growing up in South Beloit, Illinois (way back in the 1900’s) it was our tradition to “give up” something for lent. As a child I never asked why we did this “giving up”, it was just something everybody did.

So we kids gave up some kid stuff, and I guess the adults gave up some bigger people stuff. Today, we still sacrifice some of the same things: the kids give up candy and sweets (in anticipation of the great Easter morning sugar-fest;) and our moms and dads went on diets, or stopped eating meat, or pledged to read the bible a little every day.

This “giving up” is different than the making of New Year’s Resolutions. For one thing, the 40 days of Lent is a much shorter time frame (and therefore more doable) and as a result, it is more likely to be successful (the “giving up” is more apt to be completed whereas the Resolution is usually corrupted around January 3rd.)

From a spiritual perspective, I see the Lenten sacrifice (the “giving up” something) as a great lesson in self-control. Now, for those of you who just shuttered at that word – control – let me put your mind at ease. You can substitute the word “discipline” if that works better for you. Oh oh....

Does “surrender” work for you? That’s a little more politically correct for today. Finding the right words is so much more difficult, er challenging, than it used to be.

I still do these “giving up” things even in my advanced years. I find it humbling, and uplifting; healthy and strengthening to me in ways physical, mental, and spiritual. Sometimes the discipline practiced during Lent carries over into

the rest of my life – that is how I got into the practice of daily scripture reading.

Sometimes I have used the experience to drop 20 pounds – although I have still not mastered the discipline of keeping the pounds from “growing” back. But then I remember that it took some time to learn that the tithe was a part of my life – and it took some time to learn the value of daily scripture. So I pray for the day when I will be as fit in December as I was in May.

For thousands of years, people have used the festivals, whether they are religious or secular, for personal growth, health, change, and sacrifice. People who are not necessarily religious use the Christmas season (that’s the Winter Holiday in PC language) as a time to be more generous and charitable to the poor and needy. So these kinds of things go way back.

I remember one year we (we? ...some things you just can’t do on your own) gave up meat for lent. Oh, it almost killed me! I never learned much of a lesson from that one except that when you starve yourself from something it’s soooooo much better when you get it back. Why couldn’t we have given up broccoli, or homework?

So, for me, this year is a fitness year. By the time Easter rolls around, I’ll have that centerfold (gasp) physique that the ladies find so attractive. It’s already working! The women are already banging on my door! In fact there were two of them! They claim they just wanted to talk to me about Jesus – but I know better. They even had bible tracts to offer me. Amazing what lengths they will go to hide their true motivations and desires.

Whatever your tradition, I pray your Lenten journey will bear the fruit God has planned for you. I am still a work in progress. These little sacrifices bring a little more of God’s control into my life – and ultimately help me to place Him uppermost and first in my life. After all, I believe that is all He expects from us.

No more candy!

Amen?





Lenten Saturdays At Lord of Life

February 28-April 4 at 7:00 pm
Simple Suppers at 6:00 pm



Please join us
Sunday for a Sunrise service at 6:30 am on the
front lawn. Easter



Everyone is invited for Easter
Sunday Breakfast from 7:30-8:45 am on
Sunday, April 12. Please sign up in the
Narthex.



Cathy Davis & family, Larry
& Diane Combes, Marv &
Jan Egeland, Karen Libbie-
Ptacek, David & Paula
Allbeck, The Hyta family,
Bev Erck, Julie Johnson,
Julie McAlister & family,
Matthew Boese, Natasha
Sinclair, Joe Youngblood,

Sharon Vance, Shirley Bryant, Linda Baginski, Ona
Ellington, Maxine DeMerritt, Karissa Matheason, Lois
White, Frank Rasmussen, Ed & Wendy Shipley, Paul &
Donna Parenteau, Audrey Flickinger.

Sweet Monday on Wednesday



Come and enjoy some great women's fellowship and

hopefully learn some helpful information along the way. We started out the new year with Biblically based resolutions in January and for February (which is also Women's Heart month for the American Heart Association), lessons on how to love and take care of our hearts. Come join us Wednesday, March 11 when the theme will be "Going Green" in honor of St. Patrick's Day. On April 8th, we'll put on our Easter bonnets and get ready to celebrate Easter. Remember, Sweet Monday on Wednesday meets the second Wednesday of each month at Cindy Cassem's house from 7-9 p.m. at 24815 Moonshadow, Moreno Valley. If you have questions or need directions call Cindy at 951-485-9660. Come join in the fun and bring a friend or two.



Join us Palm Sunday, April 5th at 10:15 AM for our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Children ages 1-10 are welcome to join in the fun. Bring your basket and meet in the Fellowship hall at the end of the service. If anyone would like to donate candy and/or filled eggs, please bring them to the church office before April 5th. Thank-you!

Please be sure to check out the new sponsors on the back page of the newsletter. We thank you for your support.



Relay for Life is fast approaching, and we need your help! There are many things to be done in preparation for this event on April 25-26. **There is something for everyone.** We will have an information night on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm at Lord of Life. We need as many folks to come as possible, so that we can make this the most successful year for Daisy Chain. This is the 25th Anniversary of Relay for Life and the ninth year that Lord of Life has participated. There are many celebrations including survivors and remembering those who have lost the fight. In an effort to involve all church members, we would like to invite all age groups, including children, middle school, high school, college, 20-50 something and beyond to join us this year. We need walkers for the full 24 hours of relay. If you wish to walk ½ hour, 1 hour, or longer, that is okay. We are required to have a team member on the track at all times from 9:00am, Saturday to 9:00am Sunday, because Cancer never sleeps. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex. Get your sponsoring envelopes and registration forms from Deb Weitenhagen, Becci Van Hoosier or Pat Rupert. Also, there will be some additional fund raisers this year. We will be recycling ink cartridges and toners. The money received from recycling will be donated to our team. If you have used ink/toner cartridges, please see Deb Weitenhagen. We will have a couple of opportunities to raise funds by eating out at some local restaurants. Farmer Boy's on Perris and Iris will be offering 20% of the purchase price to our team if you bring in the flier on Monday March 23rd and Monday April 6th from 2-9pm. No coupons will be allowed. Additional information will be provided in the near future. Please support Daisy's Chain and Relay for Life in our effort to win the fight against Cancer. See you Tuesday March 10 at 7:00pm.

