



LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE CROSS
 MINISTRIES

Our Family In Christ

A Christian community for all generations

February 2012

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

By Pastor Leland Lantz, Senior Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

How is your prayer life?

Do you find yourself too busy to pray? Do you often go days without reading Scripture or talking to God? Prayer ought to be our first priority. If our prayer life is not in order... then our lives will be out of order. We live in a busy, busy world. You've heard me use the old acrostic for BUSY – Being Under Satan's Yoke. Satan's tail wags when we get ourselves so busy with schedules that are driven by all the activities we pack into the week, the work schedule, the family schedule, the church schedule and topped off by the social media - Facebook, Twitter, etc.

We strive as a church to be Christ-centered and Bible-based – how about being known as a church that relies on prayer? At our recent church council/staff retreat, we discussed focusing on prayer as one of our goals for this year. How about you? Would you agree that prayer is an important goal for all of us? Let us be reminded that Jesus prayed. *Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.* – Luke 5:16 If Jesus prayed, then we ought to make prayer an important part of our lives. As our example, Jesus separated Himself from the crowd of people to take time for prayer. We also know that Jesus became angry with the people... *Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"* Matthew 21:12-13

So many times when I counsel with people going through marital difficulties, or other problems in life, I find that prayer hasn't been a part of the equation. Prayer ought to be our first response for all thoughts and encounters in life. Have you ever thought through why you do not spend more time with God? What aspects of your time and commitment hold you back from prayer? Prayer helps us be lined up to Christ as Lord. In Luke 11:1-4, we are taught by Jesus how to pray...

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught His disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:" "Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation." "During Lent, we will have a 6-week sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's prayer centers our lives to be on Christ and His work in our lives.

The purpose of prayer is not just to get what we want; it is lining ourselves up with His thoughts, ways, and precepts. The focus of our prayers is Christ, His work, and His impact on you, your family, and the world. This is what the Lord's Prayer is about. The main theme of prayer is our vital connection with God as our Lord and Savior, and His empowering us for all we do in life.

If you've ever played a musical instrument and your instrument is not in tune... it sounds bad. You can play all the correct notes but it will never sound good. Without prayer, our lives are out of tune. So, let us get in tune with Him. Let us lean on and dwell in Him so we are infused with His Way rather than clouded and distracted by our ways or the ways of the world.

I would like you to ponder some questions about improving your prayer life... 1. What is in the way of prayer being more momentous in your life? 2. How can you better respond in prayer to your connection to God? 3. What will it take for you to be a "prayer warrior," whose life goal is to make Christ first in all things? 4. How will you make this so in your personal life and in our church?

May LCOTC become known not only as a Bible-based and Christ-centered church, but also a church that relies on prayer.

Prayerfully together with you in Christ,
 Pastor Leland <><



Our Vision Statement

Our vision is for God, through the Holy Spirit, to shape us into a vibrant church that transforms our community and the world with the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
 & ALISO VIEJO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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WWW.LCOTC.ORG



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
 & CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

24231 EL TORO ROAD, LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA 92637
 (949) 837-4673 FAX (949) 829-0215

Lutheran Church of the Cross Aliso Viejo by Pastor John Foss

Jesus said, "My house will be called a house of prayer." (Matthew 21:13)

Blessings to you and your family! I am thankful to God for you and for your prayers for His church and for the world in need. Please continue to pray for those that you know of that are in need. We have had several serious illnesses and families in need that are involved in our church and school ministries. Thank you for caring and for praying! Please let me know how I can pray for you. I hope and pray that the regular, ongoing ministries of our church are and will be a blessing to you and your family.

Sunday morning! Worship services at AV are held every Sunday at 9:30 am, along with Sunday School for children through grade 5. Adult Bible Study (2 Corinthians) and 7th-9th grade confirmation class is held at 10:45 am. We have had a great start in this new year. Thanks for your faithfulness!

Wednesday Family Fellowship Nights at AV continue! You are invited to come and join our Wednesday fellowship nights! A meal is served from 5:30-6:15 pm, and children/ youth/adult programming is held from 6:15-7:30 pm. Adults are currently going through a Bible study on challenges that Christians face, based on the Biblical writings and teachings of author/pastor Max Lucado called "**Max on Life.**" Come and join us as we humbly seek to apply God's timeless truths to real-life situations that we all face. Come and be a part of the family of God at LCC/AV! **A special Ash Wednesday worship service will be held on Wed., Feb. 22, 7:00 pm at AV.** Wednesday night ministries will continue through the Lent season.

Sunday Evening "Refuge" Worship service continues: This worship service continues at LCC/Aliso Viejo, at 7 pm on Sundays. Contact Chris Vecera (chris@lctc.org) for more information.

Please call or email if you have any further questions. Give 'em heaven!

In Christ,
Pastor John Foss, john@lctc.org

New Member Class

Our next New Member Class will be held Sunday, March 18, from 3:00-5:00 pm at Laguna Woods. New members will be received on the weekend of March 31, April 1. Please let the church office know if you can attend and if childcare is needed. Thank you! "*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*" (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Congregational Meeting

Annual Congregational meeting February 12, 11:45 am at LW

Please call the church office at 949-837-4673 with any questions regarding this meeting.

Church Work Days

Please join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month at either campus to work on various projects to keep our church and school grounds beautiful.

Our next work day is **Saturday, February 11, from 8am to 12 noon at LW and AV.** Everyone is invited to come and participate. Middle school students earn community service hours. Thanks to all who contribute their time and talent to the Lord! All help is appreciated.

AVCS Happenings/School Ministries by Kathy Hutchins

It is the mission of our school, as a ministry of Lutheran Church of the Cross, to be a Christ-centered, Bible-based environment which provides academic excellence and nurtures students to become life-long learners who know Jesus Christ and share His Word, His grace and His love with all people. Expected School-wide Learning Results: Courageous and Compassionate Conquerors

Our next PSEO meeting will be on Thursday, February 2, at 8:30am in the MPR. If you have yet to attend a PSEO meeting and would like to come, you are always welcome!

2012-2013 REGISTRATION

You should have received your registration packets for next year. Please return those as soon as you can as our open enrollment will begin on February 8th. Thank you.

BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

The book fair is coming soon and volunteers are needed! The actual dates of the book fair are: Feb. 6 -10, 2012. We definitely need volunteers for set up (2/2 at 1:00pm) and take down (2/10 4-6pm).

Shopping times are as follows:

Monday : 3:10-4:30pm

Tuesday: 2:00-4:00pm

Wednesday: 2:00-6:10pm

Thursday and Friday: 2:00-4:00pm



SAVE THE DATE: You don't want to miss this year's "Jungle Jammin" Father/Daughter Dance on Friday, March 17th

Youth Ministry *by Chris Vecera*

Happy February everyone! Tyler and I are very excited to have a shielded room for the drum set at AV. It has been a wonderful blessing for our Youth Ministries and Sunday services. Our Wednesday night Youth Group and Confirmation programs are going very well. Here are some things to keep in mind:

High School Forest Home Retreat: February 17-20, it's not too late to sign up! Contact me as soon as possible! (cost \$200 – contact me for scholarships)

Confirmation Class: The Confirmation class is going through Luther's Small Catechism. All unconfirmed 7th-9th grade students are encouraged to come to this class with their parents. Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 20th, and all students who go through this Catechism portion of our class will be confirmed on this Sunday.

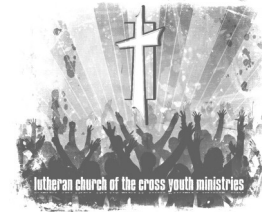
Refuge: This worship service has kicked off, at the regular 7:00pm time. We would love to have all young adults (college and late high school age) come and join us.

I am very excited for all that God is doing through us this winter. Please continue to pray for us and for each other as we continue to do God's work while living in his grace. If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact me at: chris@lcotc.org.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." –Matthew 11:28

In Christ,

Chris Vecera



Men's Ministry *by Ken Whitney*

If you have any questions regarding any Men's Ministry event please contact ken@lcotc.org or (949) 292-1645

Promise Keepers

Saturdays at 7am
(except for third Saturday) in the Laguna Woods Social Hall.

Men's devotional, prayer & fellowship time.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Third Saturday of every month at 8am in the LW Social Hall.

Men's Retreat in April

When: April 20-22, 2012

[Friday evening to Sunday morning]

Where: Palomar Christian Conference Center, Palomar Mountain [south & east of Temecula] (www.pccc.org)

Who: SoCal Churches from LCMC Southern California, Heart of the Father Ministries, Alliance of Renewal Churches

Theme: FIGHT LIKE A MAN: "Humble before God, dangerous before the enemy, real before men"

Contact: Ken Whitney (ken@lcotc.org) for more info!

A Letter of Thanks *Serving* the Homeless at the Armory

Thank you to everyone who helped in making the over 3,500 bundles which were passed out to the homeless at the Fred Jordan Mission on Thanksgiving and to the Orange County Armory when we went there in December to serve the homeless.

In addition, a big thank you to the many children at the Aliso Viejo Christian School who decorated 400 small crosses, which were given out at the armory.

A very special thank you to Charlie and Jean Arnold who were instrumental in helping Pastor Ray Fico in the making of the crosses. We made over 4,000 crosses, which Bob and Darlene Mlodzik were involved in the shaping of the crosses.



Parish Projects

The Dress-A-Girl ministry will continue this spring. Please look for sewing dates in the weekly church bulletin. At this time, we have plenty of pillowcases but need extra-large double-fold bias tape in all colors. The bias tape can be dropped off in either church office. Thank you for your support.



Council Meeting Minder *by Mary Ann Schlesinger*

... *Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.* Matthew 4:10

- ✦ January 6th council met to discuss the State of the Church Address for 2012, and January 7th staff & council met for annual goal setting.
- ✦ David Cramer was voted in as a council replacement for early retiree, Mike Allen.
- ✦ Elected Council Officers: Ted Holmquist, President; Art Adams, Vice President; Kevin Murphy, Treasurer; and Sheila Miller, Secretary.
- ✦ Discussed Constitution proposals received from members, and voted on appropriate changes.
- ✦ Council members picked committees to chair. Fellowship events will be divided between committees as in previous year.

Upcoming events:

Feb. 12th Congregational meeting 11:45am at LW

All requests for facilities usage
need to be sent to the following:

Laguna Woods Campus 837-4673
MaryAnn@lctc.org

Aliso Viejo Campus 389-0300
khutchins@avchristianschool.org



Colt Walker Hays

Passing

Those who have gone home to the Lord
since our last newsletter:

∞ Jean Grubaugh

*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints.*



— Psalm 116:15

Blood Drive

Sunday, February 26 · 7 am-1pm at Laguna Woods

It's time for another blood drive! Sign up on the clipboard in each Narthex if you would like to donate blood on February 26. Appointments can be made from 7 a.m. to as late as 1 p.m. Please consider the idea of giving blood if you are able. Your donation will directly impact another's life and, in a sense, point to the saving Grace that is offered to all through the blood of Jesus Christ!



2011 Offering Statements...

By now you should have received in the mail your 2011 statement of offerings from the church. Should you find a discrepancy, please contact Mary Ann Schlesinger at 949-837-4673 x11 or maryann@lctc.org at your earliest convenience to make corrections. Thank you for your partnership in Christ's ministries at LCC through your faithful stewardship! May God bless this New Year in our Lord, 2012!

Our Missionaries:

Please keep our missionary families in your prayers. Use their e-mail address if you would like to contact them.

- ✦ **Rei + Ramona Abrudan**, in Romania.
Email: Rei.Abrudan@gmail.com
- ✦ **Tomasz + Miriam Chmiel**, in Ukraine.
E-mail: tomasz_miriam@chmiels.com
- ✦ **Brian + Jill Dagen**, in the Czech Republic.
E-mail: bj.dagen@mac.com
- ✦ **Lee + Fai Furney**, in Nigeria.
E-mail: faifurney@gmail.com
- ✦ **Roger + Cherie Hanggi**, Wycliffe Bible Translation. E-mail: roger_hanggi@sil.org
- ✦ **Darwin + MaryAnn Jackson**, in Mexico.
E-mail: darwinwj@gmail.com
- ✦ **Nick + Shannon Kraft**, in Peru.
E-mail: gomissionsinternational@gmail.com
- ✦ **Steve + Robin Ose**, in Minnesota.
Email: ose@softhome.net
- ✦ **Pastor Scott & Cecilia Ryll**, in Budapest, Hungary
Email: mission@fontandtomb.com
- ✦ **Cesar + Cheryl Uribe**, in Mexico.
www.miracleranch.org
E-mail: curibemayen@gmail.com
- ✦ **David + Babs Veneman**, in Liberia.
E-mail: daveandbabs@gmail.com

Kids4Jesus by Bekah Bay

This year's theme for the kid's ministries is: **O.W.L. = Our Wise Lord.**

Proverbs 2:6 "For the Lord gives wisdom."

We are drawing closer to Jesus each week as we study HIS word; memorize scripture and fellowship with one another. Parents and kids be sure to mark all the fun times on your calendars that you can meet with your Christian friends to gain more of the Lord's **WISDOM**, knowledge and truth at Sunday School, Wednesday Kids Nite, Date Nite (Kid's Nite Out), Kids Choir, **NEW!** Tween Xtreme (5th & 6th Grade Youth Group) and many other events planned for YOU! See you there! Happy Valentine's!

***Sunday School – NEW!** 5th & 6th Grade classes offered on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month. The 1st & 3rd Communion Sundays of the month the Tweens go to worship – Their teacher is Janice Simpson and they meet in classroom D – for class! Then, Tweens – be sure to come mid-week to . . .

***THE NEW! Tween Xtreme @ LW (5th & 6th Grade Youth Group)** meet Wednesday Nites in the Youth Room - 6:15 – 7:30 pm – bring your friends for worship, Bible study, fun and fellowship & once-a-month "Off Site Activities (OSA)." It will be Xtreme FUN!

Dates for February are: 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 & 2/29

FEBRUARY OSA: Bowling @ Forest Lanes! Watch for details . . .



***Kids Nite @ LW (3yrs-4th Grades) Veggie Tales:** Come, sing, memorize scripture, play games, make crafts, snack and much more! Bring a friend.

Dates for February are: 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 & 2/29 – 6:15-7:30 pm in the Kids Hub

*** Date Nite (Kid's Nite Out)** (3rd Saturday of every month). Saturday, February 18th **NEW time:** 6:30 pm-10 pm @ LW – Bring your friends and neighbors

***Kids Choir @ LW** – (3yrs. – 6th grade) Meet Sundays 12:30-1:30 pm in the Adult Choir Room. February practice dates are: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19 & 2/26. Come and SING for Jesus w/ Miss Pauline & Miss Bekah

***NEW! MMs – Mom's & Munchkins** – (for preschool age mothers) – will meet @ LW in the Social Hall - (2) Thursdays (9-11am)- a month to hear a speaker, make a craft and share your experiences with other moms with little "munchkins" - *BEGINS in March – watch for more details or contact Miss Bekah if you are interested in joining the fun!

VOLUNTEERS are needed (adult & youth). The kids need you to share your love of Jesus with them. You **WILL** be blessed! Please contact Miss Bekah to volunteer for any Kids4Jesus ministry (LW & AV), bekah@lctc.org or (949) 228-4976. **HOOT! HOOT!**

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Vacation Bible School 2012

SKY-Everything is possible with God!

July 23, 2012—July 27, 2012 (K-5th grades @ AV)

August 1, 2012—August 3, 2012 (Preschool-Pre-K @ LW)

Preschool Corner by Tonya Theveny

"We love because He first loved us." John 4:19

"Jesus loves all the children of the world." February is one of my favorite months at preschool; love is in the air with our Valentine's Day parties, as well as in the focus of our theme, "Jesus Loves the Children of the World". The preschool children will learn that our Lord loves His children wherever they live. Each classroom will focus on various countries/cultures around the world, cultivating an awareness and appreciation for the many different people in God's creation. The theme will also emphasize how our Lord values all people and that we are all created in His image.

We will celebrate Valentine's Day with class parties, as well as sharing Jesus' love with children around the globe with our Love Offerings. The preschool's love offerings will go to Samaritan's Purse – the preschool children will follow a suggested love offering calendar and, at the end of the month, their offerings will be collected and used to purchase much needed dairy goats for poor areas around the world. This is the third special outreach offering our preschool has participated in this school year. Our families continue to be generous and giving in the name of and for the sake of Jesus Christ.



Preschool Registration Plans

Our 2012-13 brochures with details of registration and fees are available now. Please note the following dates to register:

Feb. 1	LCC Members with Returning Students
Feb. 4	Returning Students
Feb. 6	LCC Members with New Students
Feb. 7	Previously Enrolled Families & AVCS Families
Feb. 8	Open Enrollment

Registration begins at 9:00am on all weekday registration dates. Sat. Feb. 4th registration begins at 8:00am.



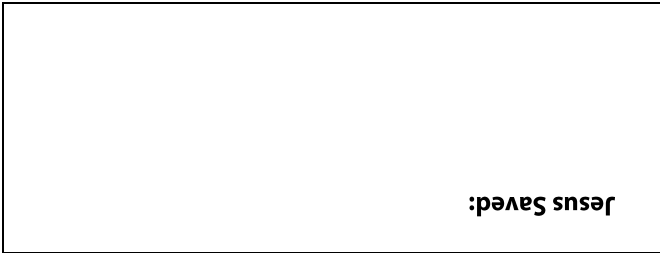
IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

Please call Mavis Wegner, at 830-7028, with prayer concerns.

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS - Local Church Family: Ginger Anderson, Marie Anstadt, Rosemary Ballew, Elfie Bangerter, Janice Barsun, Sally Baxter, John and Dzidra Bititis, Marjorie Blanchard, Amber Brubaker, Alan Cross, Terry Dazey, Cindy Decicco, Marion DeFoy, Judy DeJesus, Mattie Ellis, Sally Hallinan, Bill Kline, Kevin Lentz, Diane Leyerly, Ronile MacDonald, Ann McConkey, Alan Means, Brigitte Meltvedt, Marcine Moen, Beverly Nicholls, Leonard Olson, Doc Pellettieri, Fran Petersen, Don & Virginia Rehder, Jim Robbins, Bill Ross, John Sandrick, Harold Schultz, Alice Sergeant, Janice Simpson, Beverley Smith, Dorothy Swanson, Tirado Family, Marjorie Wilcox, Norma Willoughby, Harry Yamauchi **Mothers of:** Tracey Awwad, Patty Fimreite, Melissa Murphy, Kimberly Tirado, Jeff Vieira, Ashley Vikander **Fathers of:** Joe Abbott, Kathy Evingham, Mandy Jacobs, Sara Martinez, Karin Nielson, Deb Richards, Kerrie Vieira, Dave & Twila Woolworth **Sisters of:** Marie Connor, Phil Copeland, Doc Pellettieri **Daughters of:** Janice Barsun, Valerie Ellis, Jackie Geith, J.K. Hein, Wynn LaLonde **Sons of:** Marion DeFoy, Kristen Harleman, Audrey McCall, Dorothy Schwarzenbach, Beverley Smith, Bob+Mary Stasik **Brothers of:** Norm Gustafson, Mary Ann Schlesinger, Rich Smith, Kimberly Tirado **Other relatives:** Lynn Allen (RStrelow), Frieda Barley (JHein), Robert Cannon & Rob Cannon, Jr. (BShuck), Tad Devlin (EWegner), John Fitzpatrick (KJackman), Julie Gonzales (ESchurb), Olive Gray, Marvin Derrick (GPeldo), Candace Fandino (HBarrier), Terry & Janet Grote (LGrote), September Harris (MAS), Sue Harrington, Ben Helfer (M&EDoka), Judy Horton (MWegner), Ashley Kjos (KDeichman), Christina Riestler (NRiestler), Skip Sanford (L&GByrd), Jody Sherwood (Jlles), Anna Stevens (GYamauchi) **Friends:** John Barns (ARomano, PVickstrom), Warren Bennett (PBennett), Jill Copis (ENorman), Chase Dhaemers (KLinn), Carolyn Deiss (JKruger), Zsaglene Fisk (DBarnum), Margaret Gainhey (CLOobeek), Julie Gonzales (ESchurb), Roger Grago (TGrago), Mikaela Hofkins (GSabherwal), Esther Hamilton, Collin Salisbury (ECollins), George Heidler (DWoolworth), Mark Highleyman, Janelle, Dotti Marconi, Paula Michelson, Monique, Wayne Sewell, Traci Wilder, Cort Kelley (MAS), Barbara McGrath & family (KDeichmann), Noel Nepomuceno (CCheek), Lynn Onley (RPerrett), Michelle Paulhus (MStasik), Quinard Family (CGonzalez), Ken Regnier (DLeyerly), Jackie Russo (ASnider), Joke Schubert (ABrowne), Mr. Shaler (JSimpson), Mary Smith (VJacobs), Van Riley (GBush), Eva Rhodes, Alane Webber (JBarsun), Arlene Weed (BWatkins), Allyson Underwood (DRichards). **Comfort to the friends and family of:** Jean Grubaugh on her passing, Ida Thacker on the passing of her son, Paul, Tammy Walsh on the passing of her husband, Brent, Bill Kruger on the passing of his brother, Vince. **Peace in the Middle East & military family+friends deployed:** Bradley Bollhagen, David Cummings (SCarlson), Matthew Lee (CCarlson), Grant (CPeterson), Graham Hilson, David Mitchell (RGale), David Ramsey (BRamsey), Hadon Rath (TARath), Jon Rundles (LRundles) Devon Staten, Larry White, Rob White, Ryan Wilkinson (SMiller), Josh Mareel (JNShroeder), Matthew Healey (TRBallew). Prayers for imprisoned associates of the Jesus Film in South Asia, Aliso Viejo Christian School, Crean Lutheran High School.

We will keep names on the prayer list for 30 days.
 If you would like to remain on the prayer list please let us know by calling the church office at 949-837-4673.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER BY February 1**



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