



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



March 2025 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

Ash Wednesday begins our journey to the cross. For forty days we look toward the culmination of Jesus' work on earth. It is an introspective time, giving us the chance to look inward at who we are and whose we are. It will give us a chance to see what motivates us in life and how we love others. Often seen as a dark and unhappy season where all the liturgies of worship change often into a minor tone, I hope that this year you can see the hope for the future. This is true for Lent and for the future of God's Church. Even when the times are dark and scary with no clear understanding of the future, we can rely on God, HOPE, that he will bring us a brighter day than today. The ill came to Jesus in the dark days of their illness and hoped for a cure. We too, hope during lent. The hope of Lent is Easter. Remember Easter as the hope of Lent this year. God will provide a future that could be a big surprise. A bright and glorious Day.

Read Mark 1:40-45 and always remember that God loves YOU and so do I.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed

CARNIVAL

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
PRESCHOOL



SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH
11AM-2PM

- *UNLIMITED GAMES*
- *CARNIVAL STYLE FOOD & TREATS*
- *SILENT AUCTION, DJ*
- *PETTING ZOO, FACE PAINTING*
- *BALLOON ARTISTS AND MORE*

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT
ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
PRESCHOOL



The Orion Trio
PRESENTS
A Spring Jazz Event

SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2025 4 PM
LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH
11107 Palmbrush Trail, Bradenton, FL 34202

FEATURING
Scotty Wright - Vocals
Valerie Gillespie - Sax/Vocals
Larue Nickelson - Guitar

AND
THE ORION TRIO
THOMAS PIZZI - PIANO
RICH MacDONALD - DRUMS
BRUCE WALLACE - BASS

Admission \$15 at the Door
Email: Info@LivingLordFL.org
941-753-9365



Don't be a victim...BE SAFE!

Join us on Saturday 3/8/25 as Manatee County Deputy Tom Kaczmarek will be speaking about keeping safe in today's Cyber Environment (ie: Cyber Crime, Fraud and Scams)

We will meet at 10AM on Saturday 3/8/25 in the Activities Hall.

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

The second Thursday of most months, the LLL Lunch Bunch meets for lunch. Our next luncheon however, will be on March 20, 2025 at 11:30. We will meet at the Peridia Golf & Country Club located at 4950 Peridia Blvd. E., Bradenton. This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. There is a signup sheet posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Miller at 616-540-1745.

Palm Cross Making Workshop – Join Us!

As we prepare for Palm Sunday, we invite you to come together and be part of a special tradition: **making Palm Crosses** to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem!

Date: Saturday April 12, 2025 **Time:** 10AM

Location: Activities Hall

This hands-on workshop is open to all ages, and no experience is necessary!

LUTHER SPRINGS' GOD SPA FOR WOMEN

Join other women of faith on April 4-6. A weekend retreat for women of faith to be restored, renewed, and refreshed in the beauty of God's creation at Luther Springs. \$210 for double, \$270 for single, and \$185 to share cabin bunk room. Activities may include faith filled conversation, devotions, music, relaxing and spa-type activities. Come with a group or come alone. For more information or to register, visit luthersprings.org or call Deacon Sue Mendenhall at 352-358-1440.

Council Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2025 - 7pm

Attendees: Pastor Ed Holloway, President Rebecca Powers, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Mike Gutzler, Rich Jones, Patty Kunkel, Stephney Rose, Absent: Mary Hunter, Rhoda Olson. Guests: Diana & George Cubberly

The meeting was called to order at 7pm, with a prayer and devotions by Pastor Ed. Pastor reminded us that Jesus Loves Us, and that we need to spread his message. John 3:17 says that God sent his Son not to condemn the world, but a lot of people do. We should remember what Jesus said on the Cross... Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Always remember that we as a council are doing the best that we can.

Minutes Approval – Everyone had not seen the December minutes so we will wait and approve them at the next meeting.

Pastor's Report – Pastor provided his report which is available in the office. Pastor also shared a thank you card that was received from the staff for the Christmas bonus. An estate check for \$7464 designated for general revenue. As per policy, a motion was made by Rae, seconded by Stephney to accept the gift. The motion passed unanimously.

Call Committee Report - We await word from the Synod regarding a candidate for our new Pastor.

Team Reports - All Team reports were submitted electronically and can be reviewed in the office. A request was made for all team leads to provide council with an update to their functions. We will be looking to make sure there is no overlap and determine if there are things we should be doing, but no one has responsibility for.

Financial Report - A full financial report is available in the office. Both the Church and All God's Children receipts have increased in December. The Church receipts are up \$14,000 over disbursements and AGC receipts are up \$34,000 over disbursements.

Building Improvement - Rich and his team continue to make great progress and are working hard to improve the building. Significant discussion ensued regarding the spending of the funds. When funds are received for campus improvement those funds are restricted to just that campus improvement. If those funds are large and formally accepted by the Council and specifically designated for a particular project within campus improvement, ie, improving the activities hall, improving the Narthex, Sanctuary Hall, etc., those funds are further restricted to be spent on just those activities. The Building committee accounts for the expenditures to ensure they are properly spent. As per Church policy if any single expenditure exceeds \$5000, that purchase is brought to the Council for approval. If any single expenditure exceeds \$15,000 that purchase is brought to the Congregation for approval. In addition, a bid process is used for any large expenditure and other expenditures as appropriate. All expenditures are stated in the Campus Improvement meeting minutes and can be reviewed in the church records.

It has been just over two years since the entire campus Forward in Faith campaign came to an end. Recognizing that we still had work to do, with much needed cleanup and remaining work to the property, parking lot, and buildings, the Council requested that "Forward in Faith" be changed to "Building Improvement Fund" on our giving envelopes and encouraged continued giving toward this effort. In 2024 alone over \$178k has been given to this account. The Council appointed VP Rich Jones to chair a committee to advise the Council as to needed projects and to oversee the appropriate use of this fund. To date, Rich and the committee have done an outstanding job. The Council believes that the words "building improvement" are misleading. Just like Forward in Faith, the Fund is for the entire campus community, grounds, parking lot, buildings, signage, drainage, etc. As a result, giving envelopes starting in April will say Campus Improvement Fund. As always, individual gifts for restricted and designated purposes will be accepted under the current guidelines with no change.

Old Business: The Residential Security Seminar will be held on Feb 8th from 10-noon. The Fraud and Scam Seminar will be held Mar 8th from 10-noon. Reminder the Annual Meeting will be held Jan 26th after the I am service. Our next Council meeting will be February 19th - 6:30pm at LLLC.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully Submitted, Rae Dowling

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of Jan 31, 2025**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2025	Jan 2025 Actuals	Jan 2025 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	34,314.50	31,396.97	2,917.53
Church General Fund Disbursements	21,320.61	28,519.41	7,198.80
Net Church General Fund	12,993.89	2,877.56	10,116.33
Church Restricted Receipts	838.05		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	108.15		
Youth Group Fundraiser	-		
Church Restricted Disbursements	7,398.69		
Net Church Financial Position	6,541.40		
AGC General Fund Receipts	36,740.45	28,480.84	8,259.61
AGC General Fund Disbursements	16,851.99	28,625.02	11,773.03
Net AGC General Fund	19,888.46	(144.18)	20,032.64
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	991.86		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	-		
Net AGC Financial Position	20,880.32		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	71,054.95	59,877.81	11,177.14
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	38,172.60	57,144.43	18,971.83
Net LLLC General Fund	32,882.35	2,733.38	30,148.97
Fundraising Balances	1,100.01		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	838.05		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	7,398.69		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	27,421.72		

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023	Jan 2025 Actuals	Jan -Dec 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	34,314.50	31,803.06	2,511.44
Church General Fund Disbursements	21,320.61	25,847.87	4,527.26
Net Church General Fund	12,993.89	5,955.19	7,038.70
AGC General Fund Receipts	36,740.45	32,434.30	4,306.15
AGC General Fund Disbursements	16,851.99	13,459.68	(3,392.31)
Net AGC General Fund	19,888.46	18,974.62	913.84
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	71,054.95	64,237.36	6,817.59
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	38,172.60	39,307.55	1,134.95
Net LLLC General Fund	32,882.35	24,929.81	7,952.54

Church general fund receipts are \$2,900 more than budget and \$2500 more than last year.
 Receipts are \$5900 more than disbursements.
 AGC is \$20,800 favorable to disbursements.

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010		
YEAR-TO-DATE	2025 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL
January 31, 2025	January 31, 2025	January 31, 2024
\$32,379.03	\$28,546.24	\$28,350.40

FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

It's March – and it's also Cold and Flu season. A variety of viruses, bacteria and even fungi can cause respiratory tract infections. Because they affect the same tissues, they often produce similar symptoms. That can make it difficult to know which illness someone has contracted.

The most common respiratory infections here in the United States are the flu, or influenza, and the common cold. Other possibilities include COVID-19, pneumonia and bronchitis. Unlike during the height of the pandemic, the flu is outpacing COVID-19 this year. Pneumonia, another possible respiratory infection, is not as common as the flu or a cold.

The common cold is caused by a virus, usually rhinovirus and sometimes coronavirus. An identifying characteristic of a plain old cold is that the symptoms it causes occur from the neck up. These include a sore throat, clogged sinuses, a runny nose, sneezing, the production of thick (and seemingly endless) mucus, ear congestion, watery eyes and sometimes a headache. Mild chest congestion and a mild fever are possible, but do not always occur.

Having a cold can be miserable, but it rarely needs medical intervention. One notable exception is if it generates an ear infection. This can occur if bacteria begin to grow in fluid that has built up in the middle ear. Symptoms of an ear infection include pain, muffled hearing, visible discharge and dizziness. If symptoms persist or become severe, it can become necessary to see a doctor for antibiotics to clear up the infection.

That brings us to the flu, which is caused by the influenza virus. Unlike a cold, which typically has a gradual onset, the flu hits hard and fast. Symptoms can be similar to those of the common cold, but are markedly more intense. People with the flu often have a high fever; chills, exhaustion and widespread body aches are common. The infection can also affect the respiratory tract, causing a persistent cough and mucus production.

For both a cold and the flu, recovery begins with rest and supportive care. The symptoms are caused by your immune system's fight against the viral invaders, so you want to help it along. That means drinking plenty of fluids, eating a healthy diet and -- yes, we're repeating ourselves here -- getting plenty of rest. Over-the-counter medications to address fever, cough, sore throat and congestion can be helpful. Most people will begin to recover in three to five days. For those with influenza, the antiviral medication Tamiflu is an option.

Many people ride out these illnesses at home. But if symptoms become severe, consider an office visit with your doctor for evaluation, diagnosis and further treatment. Please stay healthy.

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 John 1:2



The Handicrafts group—"A Stitch and A Prayer"

gives heartfelt thanks for your generous participation in our recent raffle for quilting supplies. The proceeds will mainly go towards batting that we frugally purchase at \$230/60 yards. Aside from your valuable donations of fabric and sheets, our ladies personally cover any other costs. The quilts are distributed to our global and local communities with attached labels - "Made with love by LLLC". This year Lutheran World Relief will receive 64 large quilts. Also, to date, 300 lap quilts have been given to Living Lord member, Steve Pierannunzi, to distribute through visits by his ministry group, Suncoast Comfort Canines 4 Christ. Organizations they've visited include Easter Seals, Casa Mora, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital, Aspire at Sarasota, and Grande Villa Living in Sarasota. Join us Friday mornings at 10:30 to lend a hand and find out more. No experience necessary. Thank you for your continued support!

“Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Visit our web-site—www.livinglordfl.org



“LIKE” us on Facebook.

[Facebook.com/livinglordlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/livinglordlutheranchurch)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel
at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
Search for Living Lord Lutheran
Church Bradenton

Living Lord Lutheran Church
11107 Palmbrush Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202