



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



April 2025 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

The empty tomb is not the only exciting thing about the Easter story. It is basic and important, but it is meant to lead us to the rest of the story. The story continues with Jesus interacting with Mary outside the tomb. Hearing her name on the lips of Jesus motivates her to action from her grief to joy at the truth of the resurrection. Jesus continues to be with us giving us guidance and his love. Jesus did all the work to save us. Now he asks us to work for the good of his kingdom. We need to take the joy of Easter and carry it everywhere we go so that others may see and come to know that He Is Risen and what a difference it makes in our lives. Mary went and did as Jesus told her. We can too! And we do not go alone, for Christ is with you. So, this Easter go and tell the Good News. Jesus is Risen and in your heart.

Read John 20:11-18 and always remember that God loves YOU and so do I.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed



All God's Children Preschool had their 5th annual Spring Carnival Fundraiser on Saturday March 8th. We started planning for this event all the way back in December and our team of parents and staff worked tirelessly to make sure that this was the grandest carnival yet.



We transformed the church and preschool parking lot into a magical carnival full of games, bounce houses, face painters, a photo booth, balloon twisters, a petting zoo, three food stations, and everyone's favorite, a dunk tank. As soon as the carnival started at 11am, many AGC families came through the entrance ready to have fun. It was so wonderful to watch our students, and even children that are not AGC students, play games, laugh together, and play. Our DJ was spinning records the entire day and the music brought another level of joy to the carnival.

Our adult carnival goers also had a great time watching their children, helping them with games, dancing to the music, and of course bidding on our silent auction items. The silent auction was a sight to see. All items were donated by local businesses, ranging from arts and crafts, reading corners for children to orchestra and wine tasting for the adults. We had over 70 items to bid on and there were a few friendly bidding wars.



When our families were hungry, they could stop at our food area and get pizza donated by Marco's, or a Mexican bowl donated by The Guac Shop. We also had popcorn, Italian ice, and delicious cookies. The day could not have been better, the weather was perfect, the decor was colorful and bright, and the sense of community was all around. We could not have been happier with the turn out.

AGC has the spring fundraiser in order to raise money to beautify the school. Thanks to these events, we have been able to update the inside of the education building with new floors, classroom furniture, technology, and so much more. Outside we have been able to add awnings to the building, pavers to our walkway, turf to the playground, add shade structures, and new purchase playground equipment.

There are so many people to thank for the success of this event. We had over 15 corporate sponsors this year, which is the most we have ever had. These businesses are represented with banners on the playground fence. Without our AGP (All God's Parent) organization, this event could have never taken place. Their dedication to planning and executing every detail was crucial and I could not be more thankful for their hard work. The AGC staff and AGC school board were also extremely helpful. We give thanks to Living Lord Lutheran Church for supporting our event, providing a cookie table as well as helping us clean up. AGC is blessed to have so much love and support from our families and community. We hope to see everyone next spring!

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

The second Thursday of the month, the LLL Lunch Bunch meets. April 10, at 11:30. We will meet at the Anna Marie Oyster Bar off 301 in Ellenton. The restaurant is located at 1525 51st Ave. E., Ellenton. This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. There is a sign-up 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.

Join us on Wednesdays for LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS preceding Lenten services at 5:30. Enjoy the fellowship, the soup and then stay for Lenten service at 6:30pm. April 2nd and April 9th.

ANNUAL FLORIDA BAHAMAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Will be held June 12-14, 2025 in Kissimmee, FL. Delegates from each congregation are encouraged to attend. If you would like to participate this year, reach out to Pastor Ed at 941-753-9365.

PARISH LIFE All Parish Life members are requested to attend a social meeting on April 3rd from 10-12 in the Activities Hall. Please bring your ideas and suggestions so we can plan Parish Life events and discuss needs for the year. We will also be updating each team's description in the LLLC Constitution. For some groups, it will mean creating a description for their team since there isn't a write up. A beverage and light lunch will be served.

The Living Lord Chancel Choir - March 2025



CHRISTIANITY

As Told by the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

On, Mondays, IN ACTIVITIES HALL 10:00-11:30 AM.

Learn and experience Jesus, who transcended humble origins, showed us God's love, paid the price for our forgiveness, and transformed his followers forever.

FREE Bring a friend! Because God's gifts are FREE!

Now through April 7: **Understanding New Testament Gospels**

Lectures by professors of Christian theology and history to enhance your reading of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. Discussion of texts.

April 14: MOVIE **"THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"** Come and see this very spiritual movie with our Monday Adult Class. Christopher Plummer narrates the Good News Bible word-for-word. Carefully researching the biblical time of Christ, every aspect of the production—from costume design to ancient architecture and historic music—shows what it was like when the Son of God walked on earth. Henry Ian Cusick portrays Jesus in complex and emotional situations with clarity and insight.

Observe your Holy Week with us at Living Lord.

Easter Monday April 21, 2025 NO CLASS

April 28 and May 5, 2025 TO BE ANNOUNCED (Sacred Journeys?)

Easy to see videos on 85 inch TV. Ruth McConnell 941-751-8053

BENEFIT CONCERT at LLL - Sarasota-Manatee Alumnae Chapter - SIGMA ALPHA IOTA Music Fraternity. Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Will feature the following: The Gulf Coast Flute Choir, Carole Cornman Fetterman, soprano; Brooke Palmtag, soprano; Lily Grigsby, soprano; and Thomas Pizzi, piano/accompanist. Tickets sales between services over the next several Sundays \$15. Proceeds go to music organizations in the community that specialize in creating programs for music education. Such programs include Perlman Music Program of Sarasota, Venice Chorale Young Artists, AMICCO, Sarasota Orchestra and more! Come and learn more about SAI and how we keep the music playing for the community and around the world! For more info call: 941-350-7489.

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of Feb 28, 2025**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2025	Jan -Feb 2025 Actuals	Jan- Feb 2025 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	61,769.58	62,489.70	(720.12)
Church General Fund Disbursements	51,423.17	57,138.10	5,714.93
Net Church General Fund	10,346.41	5,351.60	4,994.81
Church Restricted Receipts	3,109.96		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	187.28		
Youth Group Fundraiser	-		
Church Restricted Disbursements	16,300.21		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(2,656.56)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	83,240.17	56,961.66	26,278.51
AGC General Fund Disbursements	41,608.44	53,844.20	12,235.76
Net AGC General Fund	41,631.73	3,117.46	38,514.27
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	4,883.82		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	2,908.37		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>43,607.18</u>		
Total LLC General Fund Receipts	145,009.75	119,451.36	25,558.39
Total LLC General Fund Disbursements	93,031.61	110,982.30	17,950.69
Net LLC General Fund	51,978.14	8,469.06	43,509.08
Fundraising Balances	5,071.10		
Total LLC Restricted Receipts	3,109.96		
Total LLC Restricted Disbursements	19,208.58		
Net Total LLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>40,950.62</u>		
	Jan -Feb 2025 Actuals	Jan -Feb 2024 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2025 VS 2024			
Church General Fund Receipts	61,769.58	60,667.54	1,102.04
Church General Fund Disbursements	51,423.17	52,606.08	1,182.91
Net Church General Fund	10,346.41	8,061.46	2,284.95
AGC General Fund Receipts	83,240.17	61,440.82	21,799.35
AGC General Fund Disbursements	41,608.44	34,747.08	(6,861.36)
Net AGC General Fund	41,631.73	26,693.74	14,937.99
Total LLC General Fund Receipts	145,009.75	122,108.36	22,901.39
Total LLC General Fund Disbursements	93,031.61	87,353.16	(5,678.45)
Net LLC General Fund	<u>51,978.14</u>	<u>34,755.20</u>	17,222.94

Church general fund receipts are \$700 less than budgeted, but \$1000 more than last year.
 Receipts are \$10,000 more than disbursements.
 AGC is \$41,600 favorable to disbursements.

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010		
YEAR-TO-DATE	2025 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL
February 28, 2025	February 28, 2025	February 28, 2024
\$58,668.38	\$57,088.40	\$55,324.57

FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

April is Sports Eye Safety Month! It's a busy carpool day with the kids' sports practice. Packing safety gear competes with dropping each at practice on time. Your high schooler's got his bucket helmet for lacrosse. Your middle schooler's excited to wear her new shin guards to soccer. For your fifth grader, however, you've not yet invested in those "rec specs" protective glasses the baseball coach wants all team members to wear for eye injury prevention on the field. It's better not to miss practice today; add the protective eyewear to the shopping list for next week.

Eye injuries routinely occur in adult recreational, college and pro sports leagues. As involvement in sports begins at increasingly younger ages and higher levels, however, the highest numbers overall are found among youth (ages < 18) athletes — males (60%) and females (67%).

Ninety percent of the 30,000+ sports-related eye injuries that annually occur in the U.S. could be avoided if protective eyewear were worn. As early spring draws Americans of all ages outdoors to play organized sports, the American Association of Ophthalmology (AAO) recognizes April as Sports Eye Safety Month. This month, the AAO identifies a range of sports involving a higher risk of ocular trauma, as well as preventive practices that are the greatest safeguards to counter the risk of injury inherent to all sports.

- **Compliance is challenging and excuses run the gamut.** "Sports goggles are cumbersome ... they compromise my peripheral vision on the field ... mine fog up when I wear them." Protective eyewear has vastly improved over years of rising attention paid to injury prevention in sports. Wearing protective eyewear consistently is more assured when parents start kids early and adults adopt the practice for themselves.
- **Know whether your sport carries a higher risk of eye injuries.** Basketball is the leading cause of sports-related eye injuries in the U.S. Boxing and full-contact martial arts pose an extremely high risk of serious, even blinding eye injuries. Activities involving projectiles pose the greatest risk for temporary or permanent loss of eyesight. The AAO recommends shatterproof plastic protective glasses called *polycarbonate lenses* for a range of mainstream sports such as basketball, tennis, racquet ball, soccer and field hockey.
- **Athletes who wear contacts or glasses should still wear eye protection.** Contacts and regular eyeglasses are no substitute for the recommended protective eyewear for sports associated with risk of eye injuries.
- **Spectators at sporting events are also at risk.** The odds of ocular trauma for spectators are far lower than for players; nonetheless, they exist. Misdirected or off-course flying balls and/or projectiles can end up in the stands at any time. Keep your eyes on the game and watch the movement of fast-flying baseballs, tennis balls, soccer balls, and ice hockey pucks.

Sports-related concussions can impact vision. Concussions in contact sports can cause temporary or long-lasting damage to eyesight. Many of those affected don't allow ample time for recovery and return to the field too soon. An on-the-field visual test that helps with concussion diagnosis also benefits eye specialists who need to evaluate the negative impacts of a concussion on a patient's eyesight.

The sports world spotlight remains on head and other musculoskeletal trauma as the most common type of athletic injury treated by a dedicated discipline (sports medicine). Nonetheless, among blunt force injuries that cause serious to severe outcomes, sports-related ocular trauma remains highly under-recognized.

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. Matthew 6:22 NIV

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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