



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



July 2025 Issue



We are truly blessed. Not just Living Lord, but all of us who live in the USA. Our foundation is freedom which rings loudly with Christians. We, as Americans, have from of and if we wish, freedom from religion. We as Lutherans are invested in freedom in Christ. So, the 4th of July is not just a day to celebrate the freedom we have in the secular world, but a day to truly recognize the Freedom we have to worship as we please and the freedom we have in Christ. Freed from sin and the freedom to make things better for ourselves and others. Independence Day did not set us free from work to improve our lives. Christ's freedom for us did not set us free from work to make life better for ourselves and others. In fact, the freedoms that we have demand we work for the good of others as well as for ourselves. The Fourth is a time to celebrate and rejoice and remind us to get back to work. Jesus paid the price for our freedom. Let us thank him this 4th of July for all our freedoms.

Read Galatians 5:1-2, 13-14 and always remember that God loves YOU and so do I.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed



All God's Children Preschool is just starting summer camp. We have seven weeks of camp for our current students, graduating students, and children in the community that attend other schools. We always have such an amazing time over the summer, it is so nice to be able to see our AGC families once again as well as meet new families.

We had our first week of camp and the theme was kindness!! What a fantastic way to start off the summer, teaching our children to always be kind and do for others. The campers played team building games, painted beautiful kindness rocks, and made friendship bracelets. We also had Meals on Wheels leave a box for donations during this week. This was a great opportunity to show our campers how we can give back to the community. Our families brought in pantry items each day and we were able to fill an enormous box to donate. This brought so much joy to our campers, staff, families, and the community! The campers also showed kindness to Mr. Jorge with a thank you card.

Our second week of camp is all about cooking, which is always a very popular theme with the students. We have made pudding from scratch, pizzas, decorated aprons and chef hats, and much more. We will be discussing different cuisines and the ingredients you need to make those meals. This is a very hands on week as the campers get to create with food. Hopefully we will have some future Top Chefs out there!

Each Friday, our campers have water/bounce day and we transform our playground into a water park with slides, pools, and bounce houses. It is the perfect way to end the week and cool off from the hot summer sun. It is always a pleasure to watch our campers enjoy one another and learn many new things in a fun way.

Our summer camp staff, Ms. Heather, Ms. Erin, Ms. Colleen, and Ms. Maria, and Ms. Marianne. We also have our teen camp counselors Kendall, Bailey, Morgan, and Gretta who will be working very hard everyday to show our campers how fun summer can be at AGC! We have also had several teen volunteers come and help out as well. It is so wonderful to work with the teens in our community. They love coming to our camp to assist the teachers with lessons, play with the campers, and also learn about having a job and the responsibilities that come along with it. It is a blessing to see our teens engaging with our preschool age children, it's a beautiful relationship! We are looking forward to the awesome



Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes May 21, 2025

Attendees: President Nancy Taylor, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Mike Gutzler, Mary Hunter, Rich Jones, Patty Kunkel, Rhoda Olson Stephney Rose, Scott Smith Absent: Pastor Ed Holloway

The meeting was called to order with the Lord's Prayer by Nancy.

Minutes Approval – A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Beverly to approve the April minutes . The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report- Pastor is on a well deserved vacation, however he did submit a monthly report electronically. It was a busy April!!

Campus Improvement - Work continues to improve the physical campus of Living Lord.

Sanctuary has been painted

The pews fabric may be changed from red to blue

Projectors – we've received prices to upgrade the projectors and have seen a test of what an updated/more powerful projector would look like – clearer and easier to read – hope to have new projectors by fall.

Restrooms – the team is looking at options to provide a family / handicapped restroom.

We've checked with the Fire department and we are able to add a gate (west entry) on our property (fire and police would still have access) to stop the through traffic that cuts from SR70 to LWR Blvd. The team will look at options.

Financial Reports – Full Financial reports were submitted electronically and available in the office for review.

Church general funds receipts through April 30, 2025 are \$9400 less than budget

Direct Deposits are down slightly

Facility usage donations are down almost \$1000

Int/Div \$3000 less than budget due to timing of CD maturities

General fund disbursements are \$7900 less than budget

AGC is \$48,000 favorable to disbursements through April

Tuition for both preschool and summer camp is up

Spring Circus raised \$18,000 for All God's Children

Campus Improvement fund YTD giving has been \$43,000

Total Checking/savings balance \$572,552

All God's Children -

VPK graduated 22 children and had a very successful Graduation Service. More than 75 people attended the festivities.

Kindergarten camp will be July 21-25, when the graduates come back for one week for a last minute refresher before they go off Kindergarten.

The playground will be closed for installation of new shade structure and equipment installation starting May 23rd. This work should approximately 1-2weeks.

May 22nd is the last day of Pre-School for the school year.

Overall All God's Children had a very successful year!!!!

Call Committee -

Jeff Taylor, Call Committee Chair spoke with Pastor Nicole and she assured him that we have a very good request at the Synod and that we've done everything right in our call process. We need to continue to pray and be patient.

Team Reports - All team reports were submitted electronically and are in the office for review. The following are some highlights.

Evangelism – The team provided Nancy with a name of a potential webmaster and she is pursuing this. Also the team has reviewed and updated the procedure books as necessary.

Old Business:

Property valuation was completed and based on the new information we are underinsured and currently have a fairly large deductible policy. We have not had any insurance claims in many years. The insurance team met to discuss options and it was recommended to the council to renew our policy as is and designate the monies that would have gone to pay for more coverage, into the deductible fund so that we have monies available should we have a claim and need to cover the deductible.

Previously our auditing team recommended to the council to improve the bookkeeping of people that we pay for special things (musicians, etc). A sample timesheet was developed and shared. The financial team will review and adjust as appropriate.

New Business:

The executive team met to discuss the early service in early May. It has been proposed in the past to stop having an early service and at that time it was agreed it wasn't the time to do it. However now, in consideration of Pastor's health and the slow summer season we are pausing the 7:45am Sunday service for the summer. We will reevaluate the situation at the end of the summer

Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday June 11th - 4pm

There will be no July meeting

Wednesday August 20th - 4pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Rae Dowling

Campus Improvement projects identified by the Campus Improvement Committee have either been completed or are in the process of being completed. THANK YOU, TEAM FOR A GREAT JOB. Please excuse the inconveniences as they tackle the restrooms next.

Over \$84,000 remains in the restricted fund to complete the projects and the team will continue to oversee the work and the monies needed.

The Council voted unanimously on Wednesday, June 11th, 2025 to direct future Campus Improvement Fund donations after July 1st to the Property Ministry/General Fund, as directed by our Constitution C14.01.02.H05. Please adjust your gifts, offering plate giving and Vanco auto giving donations as needed. There is no change for estate gifts or one-time special gifts when approved by Council.

Money for future necessary projects will be put into the budget under General Fund, Property Ministry, as we do for all our other ministries.

If you have questions please, contact Maggie in the office or a Council Member.

Thank you for your support of Living Lord Lutheran Church.

Mike Gutzler, Treasurer

Sound Person Needed for Sunday Services

Adjusting volumes - Monitoring channels

This position will also require learning the procedures for the entire system, i.e.:
on/off procedures for entire sound system

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

	Jan - May 2025 Actuals	Jan - May 2025 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2025			
Church General Fund Receipts	150,603.00	156,764.89	(6,161.89)
Church General Fund Disbursements	156,602.15	148,256.17	(8,345.98)
Net Church General Fund	(5,999.15)	8,508.72	(14,507.87)
Church Restricted Receipts	34,748.96		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	712.80		
Youth Group Fundraiser			
Church Restricted Disbursements	72,304.41		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(42,841.80)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	173,486.52	163,582.12	9,904.40
AGC General Fund Disbursements	133,326.60	127,701.74	(5,624.86)
Net AGC General Fund	40,159.92	35,880.38	4,279.54
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	15,400.19		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	3,043.37		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>52,516.74</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	324,089.52	320,347.01	3,742.51
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	289,928.75	275,957.91	(13,970.84)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>34,160.77</u>	<u>44,389.10</u>	<u>(10,228.33)</u>
Fundraising Balances	16,112.99		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	34,748.96		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	75,347.78		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position (includes restricted)	<u>9,674.94</u>		
	Jan - May 2025 Actuals	Jan - May 2024 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2025 VS 2024			
Church General Fund Receipts	150,603.00	156,818.81	(6,215.81)
Church General Fund Disbursements	156,602.15	152,967.09	(3,635.06)
Net Church General Fund	(5,999.15)	3,851.72	(9,850.87)
AGC General Fund Receipts	173,486.52	151,801.14	21,685.38
AGC General Fund Disbursements	133,326.60	113,662.95	(19,663.65)
Net AGC General Fund	40,159.92	38,138.19	2,021.73
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	324,089.52	308,619.95	15,469.57
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	289,928.75	266,630.04	(23,298.71)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>34,160.77</u>	<u>41,989.91</u>	<u>(7,829.14)</u>

Church General Fund receipts through April are \$6200 less than last year and \$6100 below budget.

AGC is \$40,000 favorable to disbursements through May

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010

YEAR-TO-DATE
 May 31, 2025
 \$137,436.40

2025 BUDGET
 May 31, 2025
 \$142,711.88

2024 ACTUAL
 May 31, 2024
 \$141,700.63

FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

It's July, and Independence Day is just around the corner. Almost everybody loves a good fireworks display – generally the public kind that is organized by the municipalities – not one put on by their neighbors. Believe it or not, there are SOME fireworks that are legal for individuals to use in Florida. Here's a quick summary:

In Florida, fireworks are legal to use only on three days: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and Independence Day. However, not all types of fireworks are allowed. Specific types, like firecrackers and Roman candles, are prohibited, while others like sparklers, fountains, and ground spinners are permitted.

Fireworks Allowed:

- **Sparklers:** These are permitted year-round in Florida.
- **Fountains:** Small ground-based fireworks that don't fly high are typically allowed.
- **Ground Spinners:** Fireworks that rotate on the ground are also permitted.

Fireworks Prohibited:

- **Firecrackers:** These are generally illegal.
- **Roman Candles:** Fireworks that produce bursts of light and sound are restricted.
- **Any fireworks that are excessively noisy or explode:** These are generally illegal.

Only certain organizations are allowed fireworks launched into the air, and they usually obtain permits before staging firework shows. If you are caught using illegal fireworks in Florida, you could face a first-degree misdemeanor and up to a year in jail. There is also a potential \$1,000 fine.

Important Considerations:

Local Ordinances: Even if fireworks are allowed on a specific holiday, cities and counties may have their own restrictions. It's important to check local ordinances before using fireworks.

HOA Restrictions: Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) may also have rules regarding fireworks, even on holidays.

Age Restrictions: In Florida, you must be at least 18 years old to purchase fireworks.

Permits: While you don't need a permit to use fireworks on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and Independence Day, you do need one for other times of the year.

Safety: Always use fireworks responsibly and under adult supervision. Keep fireworks away from children and pets, and follow safety guidelines.

While the Bible does not explicitly mention fireworks as they are known today, it does contain passages that use fiery displays and loud noises to describe God's power, presence, and coming judgment.

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

The second Thursday of the month, the Lunch Bunch meets.

July 10, at 11:30.

We will meet at the Skillet's Restaurant at 9722 State Road 64 Bradenton.

This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. There is a signup sheet posted in the narthex.

PUB THEOLOGY

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday, July 9th.

Share views about how God interacts in our everyday lives. At the Beef O' Brady's Lakewood Ranch Blvd, 6:30pm.

The format is simple:

beer, conversation, and God.

For more information contact Doug Holst at (813) 447-9917.



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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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