



# Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

## The Voice



September 2025 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

Consider the first believers. They were typically Jewish so the change from living by the law to living by grace was a big change. They went from being the dominant group in the area to outcasts to be killed at the right opportunity. They often became pariahs. The changes that come to them were great and yet, because of their strong faith, they accepted all this change with thanksgiving for what the Lord had done for them. We, too, can celebrate all that God has done for us. We love our congregation. We receive what we need. But, how about those in the community that do not have what they need to truly live? What if they have not heard the Gospel? Who is to bring it to them? If not us? Some things need to change. Please pray about it and think about it. God has a plan for us to grow. Help us to get with God's plan. And this I promise you... it will take change. I am a salesman and I promise you one thing: there will be change. We know it, we have heard it many times and I am going to remind you one more time..... CHANGE happens. When we are young, we absorb change better than when we are old. When we are old, we resist change. What is really important is how we react to change. The world has changed from when we were young. IT continues at a faster pace than we could have imagined. And yet we must change with it to grow this church. We love our congregation. It is comfortable for us. When change comes, we might have to do the uncomfortable. We certainly will have to do something different to grow. Like early Christians let us embrace the changes that come with faith. Changes that bring a better life and the ability to embrace change to grow our faith and our congregation.

Read Acts 9:1-22 and always remember that God loves YOU.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed





As summer nears its end, the AGC staff and families are getting ready to start a new school year. We were very excited to invite all of our families to the school last week for two open house days. The church and education building were full of returning and new AGC families eager to see the school and explore their classrooms. Our staff has been hard at work the last three weeks creating warm, inviting, and fun learning environments for their students. I could not be more proud of our team. They have shown teamwork in every way possible, supporting each other and participating in workshops, meetings, and training classes.

We have an excellent staff at AGC with Erin Bonifate and Heather Amato in administration and staff support. Our VPK team is top notch with Kelly Miles and Marianne Orié getting ready to prepare our oldest students for elementary school. Our three-year-old team is also amazing with Colleen McCready and Maria Ade. Mariska Anthony is teaching a new transitional class for our older 3 year old students, preparing them for VPK. June Seidl is teaching our fantastic two-year-old students, giving our youngest children their first school experience.



Our first week of school is in full swing and the magic is flowing throughout each classroom. The students are learning classroom rules, making new friends, and of course learning through play. We also had a parent event called the "Boo-Hoo/Whoo-Hoo Breakfast" on Wednesday. This was an opportunity for our parents to come together, share refreshments, network and socialize with each other, and learn about our AGP (All God's Parent) group. It was a success and we look forward to many more events like this. I know this year will be special, we are all so excited to be together for another sensational school year.



## Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025

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

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

**Minutes Approval** – A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Rhoda to approve the minutes with a clarification to the handling of the Campus Improvement Fund. "All non-restricted donations to the Campus Improvement Fund will go into the General Fund starting July 1, 2025". The motion passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor had a couple of weeks off in late July / early August. The visitor's we've had during these summer months have been a nice addition to the services.

**Campus Improvement** – The ladies restroom refresh has been completed. There are a couple of small projects – painting the youth room and the small conference room, that will be completed and then we'll take a break for a bit and determine next steps after that.

**Financial Report** – The full financial report has been prepared and is in the office available for review.

General office receipts through July are \$197,423 or \$2,370 less than budgeted.

Facility usage donations are \$1,831 less than budget.

General fund disbursements are \$4,165 less than budget.

All God's Children is \$38,000 favorable to disbursements.

**All God's Children** – School starts for AGC on August 25<sup>th</sup> with 47 students. A new teacher with great experience will be joining the 2year old class. Summer Camp was very successful. Department of Children and Families licensing will begin in October. The VPK contract was approved by the state. Open house for families will be held August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The first Chapel for the school year will be Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup>. Along with a "boo hoo" breakfast for any parents that would like to attend.

**Team reports** – All team reports were submitted electronically and are available in the office. The Sunshine committee is looking to schedule a pot luck lunch after church this fall. The Evangelism team continues to work on improving the website Worship & Music will be hosting a Jazz concert in November. Watch for the date to be announced. Lessons and Carols will be on Christmas Eve with a cantata to be arranged by Tom. The Education team is being newly formed.

**Call Committee** – We continue to pray for Synod to find a Pastor for Living Lord. The Committee keeps in close contact with Pastor Nicole (from Synod) and they are working diligently to find a candidate for us. In addition, there was some discussion regarding a shared ministry with another church. There are many ways a shared ministry could be defined or look, however we will save that continued discussion for another time if that avenue needs to be explored.

**Old Business** – The council determined that the 7:45am service will not be revived until a new Pastor is chosen for the congregation.

**New Business** – There was discussion about the potential for the back driveway to be closed to traffic with school reopening for the year. A review of our deed and the covenants that are attached to the deed need to be reviewed, to ensure we are not violating any agreements. A real estate attorney will be consulted before we move forward with any changes or review. A motion was made by Rae and seconded Rhoda to hire a real estate attorney to explore our rights on the property and a deed search, with a cost not to exceed \$2500. The vote passed 9-2. Nancy will make contact with a lead that we have on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41pm with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting: September 17, 2025 – 4pm**

Respectfully submitted,

*Rae Dowling*

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

<b>OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2025</b>	<b>Jan- July 2025 Actuals</b>	<b>Jan -July 2025 Budget</b>	<b>Favorable/ (Unfavorable)</b>
Church General Fund Receipts	221,139.58	219,348.35	1,791.23
Church General Fund Disbursements	209,294.70	213,460.25	4,165.55
Net Church General Fund	11,844.88	5,888.10	5,956.78
Church Restricted Receipts	49,182.01		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	212.66		
Youth Group Fundraiser			
Church Restricted Disbursements	109,995.91		
Net Church Financial Position	<b>(48,756.36)</b>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	206,661.02	179,628.56	27,032.46
AGC General Fund Disbursements	168,639.08	184,015.10	15,376.02
Net AGC General Fund	38,021.94	(4,386.54)	42,408.48
AGC Restricted Receipts			
AGC Fundraisers	8,307.94		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	20,567.46		
Net AGC Financial Position	<b>25,762.42</b>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	427,800.60	398,976.91	28,823.69
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	377,933.78	397,475.35	19,541.57
Net LLLC General Fund	49,866.82	1,501.56	48,365.26
Fundraising Balances	8,520.60		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	49,182.01		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	130,563.37		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<b>(22,993.94)</b>		
<b>YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2025 VS 2024</b>	<b>Jan- July 2025 Actuals</b>	<b>Jan - July 2024 Actuals</b>	<b>Favorable/ (Unfavorable)</b>
Church General Fund Receipts	221,139.58	212,679.58	8,460.00
Church General Fund Disbursements	209,294.70	208,543.75	(750.95)
Net Church General Fund	<b>11,844.88</b>	<b>4,135.83</b>	7,709.05
AGC General Fund Receipts	206,661.02	172,819.52	33,841.50
AGC General Fund Disbursements	168,639.08	146,130.41	(22,508.67)
Net AGC General Fund	<b>38,021.94</b>	<b>26,689.11</b>	11,332.83
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	427,800.60	385,499.10	42,301.50
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	377,933.78	354,674.16	(23,259.62)
Net LLLC General Fund	<b>49,866.82</b>	<b>30,824.94</b>	19,041.88

Church General Fund receipts through July are \$8400 more than last year and \$1700 above budget  
AGC is \$38,000 favorable to disbursements through July

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

<b>GENERAL OFFERING #4010</b>		
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	<b>2025 BUDGET</b>	<b>2024 ACTUAL</b>
July 31, 2025	July 31, 2025	July 31, 2024
\$197,423.36	\$199,794.20	\$193,207.37

## FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

National Suicide Prevention Month is observed each **September** in the United States. It's a time dedicated to raising awareness about suicide prevention, remembering those lost to suicide, and acknowledging the many individuals and communities affected by this public health issue. The first observance of Suicide Prevention Month was in 2008.

### Key aspects

- **Awareness and Hope:** The month aims to raise awareness about suicide prevention and promote messages of hope and support.
- **Destigmatization:** It's a time to break the silence and stigma surrounding suicide and mental health challenges.
- **Community Involvement:** Individuals, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, and communities come together to promote suicide prevention.

**Resources and Support:** The month highlights the importance of connecting people experiencing suicidal thoughts or in crisis with vital resources and treatment services.

### Resources and activities

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** A national network of local crisis centers providing free, confidential support 24/7. Call or text 988.
- **The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP):** Organizes "Out of the Darkness Walks" in communities across the country to raise awareness and funds for research and prevention programs.
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI):** Provides resources, education, and advocacy for individuals and families impacted by mental illness, including suicide prevention.
- **Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC):** Offers various resources and ideas for individuals and communities to get involved in suicide prevention efforts.

**Social Media Campaigns:** Organizations like the 988 Lifeline and SAMHSA offer downloadable resources and encourage using hashtags like #SuicidePreventionMonth and #BeThe1To to share information and spread hope.

By raising awareness, promoting open conversations, and directing individuals to support systems, National Suicide Prevention Month serves as a critical period to work towards a future where suicide is less prevalent and where individuals feel comfortable seeking help.

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. – 2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV*



### THANK YOU

to everyone who contributed to our Oneco Elementary School outreach last month. We donated tons of backpacks and school supplies and delivered a check for \$2,250 to the new principal, Scott Flynn. He was so appreciative of our continued support of the school. What a blessing for all the children! -- The Outreach Committee



## Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

**Did we finally get a hurricane?** Hurricane Erin was a powerful and sprawling Cape Verde hurricane. It was the 5th named storm, 1st hurricane, and 1st major hurricane of 2025. Moving west near the Lesser Antilles, it had explosive intensification on 16 Aug, reaching its peak at Category 5 with winds of 160 mph and min pressure of 915 millibars (27.0 inches of mercury). It recurved northward producing life-threatening surf and rip currents along the East Coast. It paralleled the NC Coast as Cat 2 hurricane with tropical-storm-force wind field 575 miles across, making it larger than most hurricanes of a similar intensity in the western Atlantic in this century. NC coast had gusts to 54 mph, waves to 20 feet, and storm surge 2-4 feet. Latest NOAA forecasts still call for 13-18 named storms and 5-9 hurricanes, including 2-5 major hurricanes.

**How wet has it been?** August is usually the wettest month of the year. Through 25 Aug, Parrish rainfall is 13.45 inches, 150% of normal. The current wet pattern is set up with moist flow across the Gulf from the WSW and a stationary front in North FL. Some peak 24-25 Aug rainfall totals in inches include Lakewood Ranch 5.50, SRQ 4.49, Parrish 4.23, and Rye Road 4.05. There is minor flooding on the Manatee River at Myakka Head with predicted crest of 11.8 ft on 27 Aug.

**Are there dams in the U.S. at risk of overtopping?** The number of dams in the U.S. at risk of overtopping is increasing with about 250,000 people living downstream of those dams most at risk. The six dams with the highest probability of overtopping and the closest downstream cities were all located in TX, KS, and CA: Whitney Dam : Waco TX (Population: 139,600). Canyon Dam : New Braunfels TX (98,860). Milford Dam: Junction City KS (22,430). Whiskeytown Dam: Anderson CA (11,390). Somerville Dam: Somerville TX (1,329). Kanopolis Dam: Marquette KS (599).

**Was there a record lightning flash?** Scientists on 31 July announced the discovery of the world's longest lightning flash ever detected –a whopping 515-mile bolt that blasted across central U.S. skies from Dallas to Kansas City in Oct 2017. This single, continuous lightning discharge, a type now called a megaflash, is roughly 40 miles longer than the old record. The bolt was entirely in the sky and never hit the ground. Most lightning flashes are limited to less than 10 miles in reach. When a lightning bolt reaches beyond 60 miles, it is considered a megaflash.

**How hot was July?** Tampa had an all-time record high temperature of 100 degrees on 27 Jul with records back to 1890. Some other 100-degree high temps reached 27-29 Jul in Florida include Gainesville, Jacksonville, Leesburg, Orlando, Sanford, and Winter Haven. Upper 90s on 28 Jul caused a 1-hour suspension in Tallahassee of the National High Magnetic Field Lab, or Maglab, due to higher power demands. The current national electric power load is carried by 48% national gas, 17% coal, 13% nuclear, 11% solar, and 5% wind and hydropower.

### **LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION**

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

September 11th at 11:30am.

We will meet at the Speak's Clam Bar 8764 SR 70 Bradenton. This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. There is a signup sheet posted in the narthex. Contact Marsha Holloway for questions.

### **PUB THEOLOGY**

All are welcome on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Beef O' Brady's, Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Share views about how God interacts in our everyday lives. 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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