



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



January 2026 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

A star shone on the Bethlehem plain over two thousand years ago. It highlighted a child and a message. Jesus was that child and the message is still with us today. God is with us in Jesus, Emmanuel. I do not know how many years people have been celebrating his birth but I know each year is the same, not as in boring, but as in comfort and joy. Each year we remember the love that God sent to us on Christmas and how that love is ours forever. Each year we have a chance to embrace that forever love as our own. This is my last article and I want you to remember how Christ brought us together, how good life is with Jesus and each other and how wonderful next year will be in his presence. Something new and different is coming and we need to be excited about it for it will come from God for our good. So, I would like to say “goodbye” in French: “Aurevoir” which means “until we see each other again” for we surely will by the will of God.

Read John 3:16-17 and always remember that God loves YOU and so do I.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed



It is definitely the holiday season, the past few weeks have been very busy for the students and staff at All God's Children Preschool. We have had lots of things to prepare for, as well as making sure that our families had a ton of holiday cheer to take with them through our winter break and into the new year.

We were so lucky to have the Aloha Ukulele Band come to AGC and perform some of our favorite Christmas carols. This really got the students in the holiday spirit, as they danced and sang with the band. We also had visitors from the North Pole this month. All of the classes got to visit and tell Santa their Christmas wish. It certainly kicked off the season.

The teachers at AGC have been working with the students on many skills since August and it is amazing to see how far each class has come. They are working on team activities, individual projects, and really learning how to be in a classroom and have a school routine. We are excited for the new year and teaching even more!

We always end the year with our AGC Christmas Program. The program started with our ballerinas performing some beautiful holiday dances, that got the holiday spirit started. Next our two-year-old students performed a song and jingled some holiday bells. Our three-year-olds performed many festive songs and poems as well. The students put so much energy in their dance moves and really sang out as loud as they could. Our final act was our two VPK classes acting out a live Nativity. All of the VPK students had on adorable costumes, took turns walking towards the Manger and lined up beautifully in front of the altar. They sang some of the classics, like, Away in a Manger, Baby Jesus, and Santa Claus is Coming to Town. After a roaring round of applause from the audience, the entire school came together to wish the families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. After the performance, the families hung out to take pictures and share in desserts and cocoa with the staff. It truly was a memorable day, it certainly got everyone in the mood for Christmas and all of the love, family, joy, sharing, giving, and laughs that come along with it. From the All God's Children Preschool family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year! See you all in 2026!



The Handicrafts group, A Stitch and a Prayer, will be having their annual Holiday Raffle/Silent Auction/Sale starting 11/30 to 12/7. Look for beautiful quilts, shawls, wall hangings and other hand made items to add to your holiday gifts. Raffle tickets will be \$20/5 tickets or \$5 each for raffle items along with items for sale and silent auction with the final drawing after the 11AM service 12/7. All proceeds will go toward materials for future projects. Donations are also always welcome. Thank you for your continued support!



LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION The second Thursday of the month, the LLL Lunch Bunch meets. Our next luncheon will be on December 11, 2025 at 11:30. We will meet at the Remy's, LWR Main Street. 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.

Christianity and World Religions 16-week study Mondays January 5- April 27, 2026

Questions we ask about other faiths.

Fellowship Hall 10:00-11:30 AM Email ruthmccconnell@hotmail.com to sign up and order book (\$10)

World religions have been a popular topic at Living Lord for several years. During this new 4-month study, we will discuss a book by Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton which compares the 5 most influential religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism with Christianity. "Christians need to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel." Additional lectures from *The Great Courses* will provide insightful details to help us respect the practices and beliefs of each tradition. To join us, contact Ruth McConnell 941-751-8053.

Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 22, 2025

Attendees: Pastor Ed, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Mary Hunter, Rich Jones, Patty Kunkel, Stephney Rose, Scott Smith, Karen Symos. **Absent:** Rhoda Olson. Call committee member Pauline Priest.

Opening Prayer & Devotions: Pastor reminded the council that God has a plan for us. We have a future with hope and this should bring us joy.

Minutes Approval: A motion [was made](#) by Patty and seconded by Karen to approve the minutes from the September 17th, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – The full financial report is available in the office.

Church General Fund receipts through September are \$20,300 more than last year and \$4300 about budget.

Church General Fund Disbursements are \$13,500 below budget.

All God's Children is \$15,580 favorable to disbursements through August 2025.

Karen presented to Council two requests to approve moving monies. The first request is to move \$4406.28 from inactive restricted accounts to the restricted account 3716 – Pastoral Call reserve. This action is requested due to inactivity of these accounts for more than 3 years.

1) Inactive Restricted Accounts: 3760-1 - \$785.39 - Non budgeted Receipts and Disbursements

3702-8 - \$320.89 - Mah Jong Club 3800 - \$3300.00 - Various small Memorials Total = \$4406.28

These monies would be moved to the restricted account 3716 - Pastoral Call Reserve. A motion was made by Rae and seconded by Rich and unanimously approved to complete the action.

The second request was to donate monies (\$724.60) from the Outreach account to a specific external non-profit. After discussion a motion was made by Rae, seconded by Rich and approved unanimously to split the donation and move \$350 to Hope Family Services and the remaining \$374.60 moved to Evangelism for use internally in the Church. 2) Account 3771 - Outreach. \$724.60 should be disbursed as follows: \$350 donated to Hope Family Services \$374.60 should be moved into the Evangelism account 4141.

Also, Karen advised us that anyone that is a Thrivent member can apply twice a year for a \$250 grant that can be used by the church for various items. If you are a Thrivent member, see Karen for more details.

Pastor's Report – Pastor provided his written report and advised the council that Bill and Ruth McConnell along with Pastor would be attending the Gulf Coast Synod conference on October 25, 2025.

Team Reports – All team reports were submitted electronically and are available in the office.

Worship & Music – Jazz Concert is November 15, 2025..

Stewardship – A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Oct 26th @ 10am – a light breakfast will be served. Also, a Meet & Greet to introduce our ministries and ways to take part will be held on Sunday November 2nd. Time and talent surveys were sent out and have been requested to be returned by November 16th.

Campus Improvement – The men's room is now complete. A full update of the Campus improvements that have been completed this year will be given at the Town Hall meeting on October 26th.

Education – A Trunk or Treat event for kids will be held on October 25th from 3-5pm.

Widow's Group – Beverly coordinates this group, and they currently have 9 members. The members are appreciative of this ministry, and the group is doing well.

All God's Children – AGC staff will be attending a Preschool conference in Orlando October 16th – 18th, 2025. The website is being updated. A request was made to allow AGC staff to install a new shed in the existing playground area for the storage of toys and other playground equipment. Motion was made by Patty, seconded by Rae, and approved unanimously to allow the new shed.

Old Business: The executive team is working to find people to serve on Council next year.

Next meeting: November 19, 2025, 4pm at Living Lord Lutheran.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Dowling

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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2025	Actuals Jan- Oct 2025	Jan-Oct 2025 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	303,264.73	313,623.54	(10,358.81)
Church General Fund Disbursements	289,343.79	311,436.30	22,092.51
Net Church General Fund	13,920.94	2,187.24	11,733.70
Church Restricted Receipts	51,853.36		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(142.29)		
Youth Group Fundraiser			
Church Restricted Disbursements	106,261.06		
Net Church Financial Position	(40,629.05)		
AGC General Fund Receipts	272,655.78	263,848.80	8,806.98
AGC General Fund Disbursements	253,662.77	265,127.64	11,464.87
Net AGC General Fund	18,993.01	(1,278.84)	20,271.85
AGC Restricted Receipts			
AGC Fundraisers	13,638.79		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	21,469.96		
Net AGC Financial Position	11,161.84		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	575,920.51	577,472.34	(1,551.83)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	543,006.56	576,563.94	33,557.38
Net LLLC General Fund	32,913.95	908.40	32,005.55
Fundraising Balances	13,496.50		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	51,853.36		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	127,731.02		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	(29,467.21)		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2025 VS 2024	Actuals Jan- Oct 2025	Actuals Jan- Oct 2024	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	303,264.73	289,109.16	14,155.57
Church General Fund Disbursements	289,343.79	301,766.44	12,422.65
Net Church General Fund	13,920.94	(12,657.28)	26,578.22
AGC General Fund Receipts	272,655.78	227,510.02	45,145.76
AGC General Fund Disbursements	253,662.77	218,088.22	(35,574.55)
Net AGC General Fund	18,993.01	1,957.00	17,036.01
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	575,920.51	516,619.18	59,301.33
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	543,006.56	519,854.66	(23,151.90)
Net LLLC General Fund	32,913.95	(10,727.29)	43,641.24

Church General Fund receipts through October are \$14,000 more than last year and \$10,000 below budget
Church General Fund Disbursements are \$22000 below budget.
AGC is \$11,000 favorable to disbursements through October

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

PARISH LIFE IS DESPERATE

We have teams with a leader but no additional support.

We need members from the congregation to attach themselves to a team for the following reasons:

To encourage and support the team leader to continue doing God's work.

Act as back-up when needed.

Provide feedback, positive or negative, from the congregation.

PRAY for our continued ministry.

Connect with the team leader monthly to discuss plans for the upcoming month.

We need support for :

Congregational Care

Faith Community Nursing

Christian Life Groups

Fellowship

Outreach

Team leaders are listed on the back of the bulletins or call the church office.

FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

A healthy New Year involves realistic goals focusing on whole foods, regular movement (even short bursts), better sleep, stress management (like gratitude and "me time"), hydration, and regular check-ups, moving away from quick fixes to sustainable lifestyle changes like cooking at home, limiting processed items, and finding joyful ways to be active.

Nutrition & Hydration

- **Eat Whole Foods:** Prioritize fruits, veggies, whole grains, legumes, lean proteins, and healthy fats.
- **Hydrate:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- **Cook at Home:** Control ingredients and portions by preparing more meals yourself.

Limit: Reduce sugary drinks, alcohol, and ultra-processed foods.

Movement & Activity

- **Move More:** Take stairs, walk, stretch, or try enjoyable activities like dancing or biking.
- **Short Bursts:** Even 2-10 minutes of activity adds up.

Integrate: Do squats while brushing teeth or squats while watching TV.

Sleep & Stress

- **Prioritize Sleep:** Aim for 7-8 hours with a consistent schedule, cool, dark room, and no screens before bed.
- **Manage Stress:** Practice mindfulness, meditation, gratitude, or spend time in nature.

⁷**Limit Screens:** Reduce screen time, especially before sleep.

Mindset & Habits





Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

How dry am I? High pressure has been the main weather feature in Florida during most of the Fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) 2025 along with the absence of tropical storm activity. The result is the development of extensive drought. As of 26 Nov, Extreme Drought (D3) and Exceptional Drought (D4) cover most of North Florida with Severe Drought (D2) in most counties along the west coast of the Florida peninsula. The Fall rainfall in Tampa is only 0.88 inches, 9% of normal. Fall rainfall in Tallahassee is 1.59 inches, 15% of normal. Fall rainfall in Parrish is 2.53 inches, 20% of normal, and the driest Fall since we moved here from CA in 2005. Second driest Fall in Parrish was 5.55 inches in 2023. Fall rainfall in our airport (SRQ) is 3.04 inches, 30% of normal. Barring no rain the last few days of Nov, it is the driest fall at SRQ since records began in 1911.

Was it a hot October globally? October 2025 was the third-warmest October on record for the globe. The global surface temperature for Oct 2025 was 2.21 degrees F higher than the 20th century baseline, ranking as the third-warmest October since global records began in 1850. Only two Octobers were warmer (2023 and 2024). All 10 of the warmest Octobers on record have occurred since 2015. Looking at the year-to-date, the Jan-Oct global surface temp was the second highest on record, trailing behind the same period in 2024. Several regions experienced their warmest Oct on record, including North America, the Arctic region, and the Antarctic region.

Are there more Melissa records? Shortly before 28 Oct landfall, Melissa's gusts hit 252 mph, surpassing the 249 mph peak gust recorded by Typhoon Megi in 2010. The Melissa record was set at 700 feet altitude by a NOAA Hurricane Hunter deploying a dropsonde (parachuted weather instrument package). Max sustained surface wind was 215 mph during Typhoon Nancy on 12 Sep 1961 and Hurricane Patricia on 23 Oct 2015. Max wind gust ever recorded in our hemisphere was 231 mph at Mt Washington NH on 12 Apr 1934. Highest recorded tornadic wind speed was 302 mph at the Bridge Creek OK tornado in May 1999. Land speed record of 763.035 mph was set in 1997 by ThrustSSC, a turbofan jet-powered car driven by Andy Green..

Are we losing our glaciers? Glaciers around the globe are disappearing faster than ever, with the last 3-year period seeing the largest glacial mass loss on record. The 9,000 gigatons of ice lost from glaciers since 1975 are roughly equivalent to an ice block the size of Germany with the thickness of 25 meters. Five of the last six years had the largest losses, with glaciers losing 450 gigatons of mass in 2024 alone. Between 2000 and 2023, melting mountain glaciers have caused 18 millimeters of global sea level rise, about 1 millimeter per year. Every millimeter can expose up to 300,000 people to annual flooding, according to the World Glacier Monitoring Service.

How much snow fell on the Corn Belt 29-30 Nov? Snow total in inches from high to low: Fort Dodge IA 16.5, Cedar Falls IA 14.5, Waterloo IA 14.5, Lancaster WI 13, Dubuque IA 12.3, Platteville WI 12, Freeport IL 12, Des Moines IA 10.5, Davenport IA 10.1, Madison WI 9.3, Moline IL 9.2, Aberdeen SD 8.6, Fort Wayne IN 8.5, Chicago IL 8.4, Rockford IL 8, Rochester MN 7.9, Janesville WI 7.8, Milwaukee WI 6.1, Duluth MN 5.8, and Huron SD 5.2.

How much snow fell in the Upper Midwest 26-27 Nov? Hurley WI 29.7, Gile WI 29, Ironwood MI 27, Marquette MI 24.2, Duluth MN 10.6, Aberdeen SD 5.2, and Bismarck ND 4.7.

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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11107 Palmbrush Trail
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