



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



February 2026 Issue

Reverend Linda Fernandez



Pastor Linda recently retired back to Englewood, Florida from the Diocese of Maryland and Maryland-Delaware Synod after 43 years of ordained ministry. A graduate of Seabury-Western Seminary (Chicago), and Gettysburg Lutheran, she has served churches in Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland and Florida. From urban to rural, large to small, contemporary to traditional, many of the parishes that she served have been involved in community ministries. As well as her M. Div degree she also has a Masters in Social Work. She has also been involved with the Lutheran-Episcopal dialogue and served combined parishes in Maryland. She did interim ministry training at Boston University School of Theology and the Florida Bahamas Synod.

Before seminary she was a pre-med major and worked in immunology, cancer and infectious disease research. She has continuing education in preaching, spirituality, congregational development and pastoral care. Currently she assists parishes in church regrowth, vision development and spirituality.

She and her husband Rudy have been married for 45 years and have triplet sons who made their TV debut in several *Baby and You* programs on PBS. Her family now also includes 6 grandchildren, ages 1-6. Pastor Linda grew up in Florida, worked with dolphins and was a member of her college softball and swim teams. She enjoys music, gardening and trying new recipes.



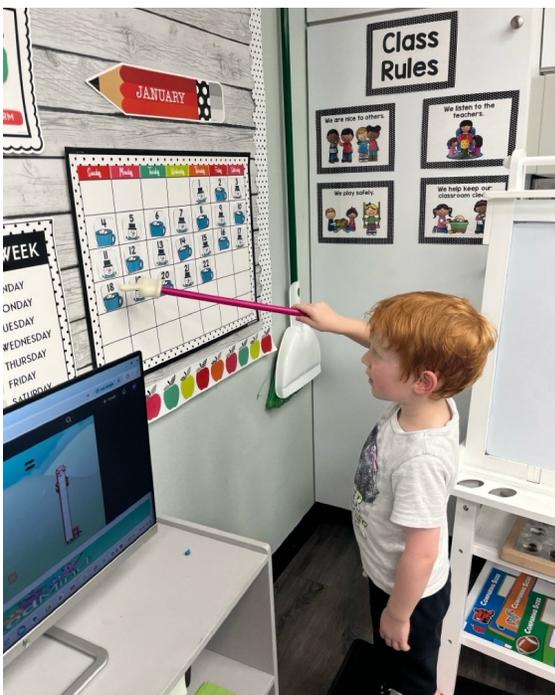
Happy New Year from All God's Children Preschool!

Happy New Year to our church family from the staff, students, and families of All God's Children Preschool! After a refreshing winter break, our classrooms are once again full of joyful learning, laughter, and busy little hands. While returning to routine can sometimes take time, our students were excited and ready to jump right back into school life.

This season is an important time of growth as our teachers thoughtfully prepare students for the next stage of their educational journey. Throughout the school, creativity and curiosity are flourishing. Many classrooms are focusing on winter as a theme, using the season to explore new concepts and expand learning in meaningful ways.

Students are learning about winter weather and snow through hands-on activities that support early math, science, and sensory development. Winter-themed counting games, sorting activities, and sensory play help children understand numbers, textures, and patterns while keeping learning fun and engaging. Art projects featuring snowflakes, snowy landscapes, and winter animals fill the halls, giving students opportunities to express themselves creatively while strengthening fine motor skills.

Teachers are also introducing lessons about Arctic animals and parts of the world that experience cold temperatures and snowfall. These discussions encourage curiosity about God's creation and help students understand how people and animals live in different environments. Even our youngest learners are participating — the two-year-old class created their own "snow" in the classroom, building snowmen and mountains while exploring cause and effect and imaginative play. It was a wonderful learning experience — cool in every way!



FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

In 2026, **National Wear Red Day** will be observed on **Friday, February 6**.



Celebrated annually on the first Friday of February, this day is the cornerstone event of **American Heart Month**. It is designed to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease, which is the leading cause of death for women in the United States.

Key Information

- **Purpose:** To unite people in the fight against heart disease and stroke in women.
 - **Symbol:** The **Red Dress** serves as the national symbol for women's heart health awareness.
- Organizers:** The movement is primarily led by the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women initiative and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

How to Participate

- **Wear Red:** Wear red clothing, accessories, or even red lipstick to show visible support.
- **Share on Social Media:** Use hashtags like **#WearRedDay** and **#GoRedForWomen** to spread awareness.
- **Know Your Numbers:** Use the day as a reminder to check your vital health stats, including blood pressure and cholesterol levels.
- **Donate:** Support lifesaving research and education by donating through WearRedDay.org.
- **Learn CPR:** The American Heart Association encourages families to learn Hands-Only CPR to help save lives during cardiac emergencies.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Deuteronomy 6:5-6

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 ruthmcconnell@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 December 10, 2025

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

Opening Prayer & Devotion: Rae opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 4pm.

Minutes Approval: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Patty, seconded by Rhoda and the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: The full financial report is available in the office for review. General Funds receipts for the Church through November are \$23,000 more than last year and \$4,000 below budget. Church disbursements are \$29,000 below budget. All God's Children budget is \$9,300 favorable to disbursements through November.

Pastor's Report: It's been a busy month for Pastor and this is his last Council meeting. We celebrated his spiritual leadership over the last two years and Thank him for all he has done for Living Lord Lutheran. The Council presented he and Marsha with gift cards to enjoy a little rest and relaxation as he retires again!

Team Reports: Team reports were submitted electronically and available in the office for review. Highlights include:

Evangelism – Advertising for the Christmas Eve services has been placed in various publications in the community.

Worship and Music – Christmas Cantata is December 14 at 10:30am. One service only on that day.

Christmas Eve service at 4pm and 7pm – Lessons and Carols

All God's Children –December 11th 5pm – Parents night out (Babysitting available so parents can go holiday shopping)

December 17th – AGC Christmas program

New Business:

Some groups are experiencing challenges when it comes to finding a room to hold their meetings. Please make sure you are scheduling all your meetings on the calendar in the office.

Just a reminder to please be aware of your surroundings and if you're at the church and no one else is around, be sure to lock the doors and be judicious in letting people in. No issues have surfaced, but it always good to be safe.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 5:17pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Rae Dowling

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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2025	Actuals Jan-Dec 2025	Jan -Dec 2025 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	379,781.39	375,807.00	3,974.39
Church General Fund Disbursements	349,240.73	375,807.00	26,566.27
Net Church General Fund	30,540.66	0	30,540.66
Church Restricted Receipts	53,698.36		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(269.91)		
Youth Group Fundraiser			
Church Restricted Disbursements	106,213.12		
Net Church Financial Position	(22,244.01)		
AGC General Fund Receipts	339,073.08	318,366.00	20,707.08
AGC General Fund Disbursements	323,414.71	318,366.00	(5,048.71)
Net AGC General Fund	15,658.37	-	15,658.37
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	13,719.27		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	22,369.96		
Net AGC Financial Position	7,007.68		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	718,854.47	694,173.00	24,681.47
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	672,655.44	694,173.00	21,517.56
Net LLLC General Fund	46,199.03	-	46,199.03
Fundraising Balances	13,449.36		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	53,698.36		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	128,583.08		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	(15,236.33)		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2025 VS 2024	Actuals Jan-Dec 2025	Actuals Jan-Dec 2024	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	379,781.39	396,266.81	(16,485.42)
Church General Fund Disbursements	349,240.73	361,318.27	12,077.54
Net Church General Fund	30,540.66	34,948.54	(4,407.88)
AGC General Fund Receipts	339,073.08	286,586.24	52,486.84
AGC General Fund Disbursements	323,414.71	271,763.20	(51,651.51)
Net AGC General Fund	15,658.37	14,823.04	835.33
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	718,854.47	682,853.05	36,001.42
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	672,655.44	633,081.47	(39,573.97)
Net LLLC General Fund	46,199.03	49,771.58	(3,572.55)

Church General Fund receipts through December \$16,000 less than last year and \$4,000 above budget
Church General Fund Disbursements are \$26,000 below budget.
AGC is \$15,500 favorable to disbursements through December

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.

I and my family would like to offer a great Thank You to the ladies of our church for their offerings of cookies, bars and for serving the luncheon at Mike's funeral here at Living Lord on January 12th. Our family is so grateful to all who participated in serving Mike's favorites on this day. May God bless you. From Madelyn Tetmeyer, Todd Tetmeyer and family and Denise Burton and family.

THE QUILTING GROUP will display the 80+ quilts made for Lutheran World Relief in the coming weeks. If you notice a quilt that catches your eye and would like to purchase it, contact Sue Chan at (612)743-3010. Proceeds from our previous fundraisers mainly go toward purchasing batting, so donations, especially of fabric and sheets are very welcome. We are running low at this time. Thank you for your continued support!



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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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