



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



March 2026 Issue

I have a saying on my Facebook page which says, Lent: because extroverts can't have all the holidays. In other words, we think of Lent as something quiet and solemn and even negative if we have to give up something. And how many had fish every Friday as a child? And while Lent can be solemn, it also can be a time of healing, a time of wonder and even a time of joy. Because Lent is the season in which we prepare our hearts, and grow closer to God. And we do that in many ways.

Everyone's way of getting closer to God, their spirituality, is different. Not everybody worships the same way or prays the same way or studies the Bible the same way or helps others the same way. Think of what feeds your soul. In Lent, you can go deeper into that, or even add a new method of expanding your relationship with God the Trinity.

Here at Living Lord, we have a class in world religions, Wednesday bible studies and even a book club for those who want to study more. On Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm we are having soup, a short lesson on different ways of praying (some might surprise you) followed by the Holden (sung) evening prayer service. Come for any or all of these offerings.

For those who have trouble getting out, or those who want a more individual experience of God, here are some suggestions:

Listen to Christian Radio. We have Joy FM 88.1 Sing along with the songs you know or make new favorites. There is also, the national station, KLOVE at 91.9 On your cell phones you can also get Hallow, a Roman Catholic sponsored site that has famous people giving daily meditations and prayers during Lent.

The ELCA World Hunger site provides daily meditations during the season. Max Lucado's book, *On Calvary's Hill*, brings you closer to Christ's passion. Or Gary Zimax's book, *Give Up Worry For Lent*. (I think that was written for me).

And for those who like to serve and volunteer, from soup kitchen to hospitals, you are needed.

Its all about preparing our hearts, and getting closer to our Lord.

Pastor Linda

LENTEN SERVICES

will be Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Join Pastor Linda for Lenten services each Wednesday:

Soup Supper at 5:30pm

TALKING WITH GOD: WAYS TO PRAY

March 4th - A.C.T.S

March 11th - The Jesus Prayer, Meditation

March 18th - Prayer of the heart

March 25th - The Psalms

April 1st - Holy Week Healing

Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30pm

LENTEN SOUP Each Wednesday we will be serving a light soup supper at **5:30pm** before our mid-week Lenten services. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex if you would like to contribute to this opportunity for fellowship prior to worship.

PRAYER REQUESTS



★ ★			
★ 03/01	Layrisse	Nicholas	★
★ 03/02	Havey	Billie	★
★ 03/04	Henkelmann	Linda	★
★ 03/05	Van den Bosch	Walter	★
★ 03/06	Byrne	Connie	★
★ 03/06	Dowling	Rae Ann	★
★ 03/07	Lewis	Cynthia	★
★ 03/07	Powers	Dan	★
★ 03/10	Easton	Michelle	★
★ 03/17	Anderson	Lon	★
★ 03/17	DeGeorge	Cathy	★
★ 03/19	Abraham	Julie	★
★ 03/19	Byers	Dennis	★
★ 03/19	Miller	Leslie	★
★ 03/20	Copeland	James	★
★ 03/20	Olson	Noah	★
★ 03/23	Reimer	Katie	★
★ 03/25	Kraus	Les	★
★ 03/26	Holst	Julie	★
★ 03/26	Rogers	Cindy	★
★ 03/27	Ranellone	Patrice	★
★ 03/28	Hunter	Herb	★
★ 03/30	Schillinger	Bernadette	★
★ 03/31	Coffman	Sandy	★
★ ★			



03/18	Miller, Bill & Deb
03/20	Havey, Mike & Billie
03/25	Sahr, Barbara & Craig

Theo Bullington	Josh Myers Behler
Rob Babel	Chris Mork
Susanna Scott	Shirley Smith
Gordy Havey	Will
Liz Howell	Lori Rapp
Wyly Pope	Joe Kitchie
Nancy Woodworth	Becky Berka
June Hartlieb	Tony Zubricky
Ron Silver	Bradley
Brian Brockschmidt	Tracy B.
Kathy Murgatroyd	Denise
Meri Capithorne	Gay Jeffreys
Jan Hillman	Call Committee and Pastor Nicole Eastwood
Ron	Mike
Angie	Troy and family
Connie T.	Sean
Sandy & family	Kyle & Cathy
Bonnie	Resentreter
Gayle	Ronald Hansen
Nan	Family of Gen Huston
Bill and Marty Mork	Alexas and Anaiya
Glenn Price	John and Melody
Lori Norgart	James, Danielle, Lavardo
Lon Anderson	Jacob Kudrin
David Gangnagel	Lisa Keefer
Sarah Mia Rivera	Family of Mike Tetmeyer
Family of Roger	Betty Potts-Cerio
Henkelmann	Tony Preston
Steve Wilson	John
Sarah Reedy	Denise Kleiner and family
Spencer Ely	Berniece Knight
Pastor Ed Holloway	Bruce and Cindy Lewis
Jeanette Johnson	Denny Pyeatt
Joan Beiner	JoAnn Whittom
Kevin Shinn	Tommy
Amanda Rose	Doug Holst
Augie Bottiger	JoAnn Whittom
Kim Wilson	



JOIN US FOR OUR



Enter to Win
SILENT AUCTION

\$25
TICKETS

SPRING CARNIVAL

SATURDAY
MARCH 7TH

11:00AM TO 2:30PM

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT
ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
PRESCHOOL

ALL TICKETS INCLUDE
UNLIMITED GAMES,
CARNIVAL STYLE FOOD,
TREATS & POPCORN
FACE PAINTING,
BALLOON ARTISTS,
PHOTO BOOTH, BOUNCE HOUSE,
DUNK TANK, SILENT AUCTION,
DJ AND 50/50 RAFFLE
& MUCH MORE

CARNIVAL GAMES



PETTING ZOO



CARNIVAL TREATS

FACE PAINT



FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

It's no coincidence that National Nutrition Month is the first month of spring: the days are longer, the temperatures rising, the birds chirping in the morning, the trees and plants starting to bloom.

Springtime embodies the fresh start of healthy habits after the dark and long winter months. This year the National Nutrition Month theme is "Bite by Bite" which supports the philosophy that every bit of nutrition is a step in the right direction.

It's important for people to realize that small changes have an overall effect on health. We want all members of our community to understand that nutrition does not have to be overwhelming.

Here are some small steps you can make that have a BIG impact when it comes to nutrition and health:

Practice mindful eating

Mindfulness refers to paying attention on purpose, non-judgmentally. Think of food as a source of nutrition and energy to fuel your body! Pay close attention to your physical hunger and fullness cues.

Questions to think about

Am I sitting? Eating slowly?

Am I eating because I am hungry?

How hungry am I on a scale of 0-10?

Planning and prepping

Planning and prepping are truly key whether your goal is to just eat healthier or lose weight.

Use a grocery list to shop for healthful foods before going to the store.

Know the menu before you go out to eat so you can make better choices.

Plan healthful snacks/eating while at work, on the go, and traveling.

Remember that eating every 3-4 hours is key to keeping you energized and preventing overeating at meal times!

Eat a variety of foods

Include healthful foods from all food groups, and keep in mind portion sizes:

Starches: One half to 1 cup cooked.

Fruits: Two to three servings daily.

Non-starchy vegetables: At least 1 cup at lunch and dinner or two meals throughout the day.

Protein: 4 oz. minimum. Include at all meals and snacks.

Healthy fats: Include these items as part of a healthy diet for heart health (avocado, nuts, seeds, olive oil). Be mindful of portions, as these are calorie-dense items and add up in terms of calories and fat.

Consult with a registered dietitian

Meeting with a dietitian can help you improve your diet, answer questions about special dietary needs, and develop specific health plans that are right for you.

Studies show that individuals who meet with a dietitian regularly lose more weight, and reach their health goals versus those who do not.

Ask your doctor for a referral, or find a dietitian in your community by visiting eatright.org which provides an online search tool.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:30

Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting January 21, 2026

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

Opening Prayer & Devotion: Rae opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 4pm. Rae also introduced Pastor Linda Fernandez our new Interim Pastor. Pastor provided us with an introduction and a little bit about herself. We welcome her with open arms and grateful hearts.

Minutes Approval: A motion was made to approve the December 2025 minutes by Rhoda, seconded by Rich 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 December are \$16,000 less than last year and \$4,000 above budget. Church general fund disbursements are \$26,000 below budget. All God's Children budget is \$15,500 favorable to disbursements through December.

Pastor's Report: We thank Pastor Tom McGawley for his service to Living Lord for the month of January. Pastor Linda Fernandez will begin her service to the Church on Monday Jan 26th and her first Sunday to preach will be February 1st. We will have a welcome Pot Luck luncheon immediately following the I am service.

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

Worship and Music –

A jazz concert will be held on Saturday January 31st at 4pm.

Ash Wednesday service will be February 18th at 6:30pm and Lenten services will be held on subsequent Wednesday's through March 25th.

Holy Week Services will be held March 29th (Palm Sunday) – April 5th, (Easter).

All God's Children –

Miles for Miles – A Cozy Cocoa Dash fundraiser for the Miles family will [be held](#) on Saturday January 31st at 10am.

The AGC Spring Fundraiser will be Saturday March 7th, 2026. Look for more information soon.

Parish Life –

Quilts made by our "Stitch and a Prayer" ministry will be blessed on Sunday January 25th.

Call Committee –

The call committee will be updating the MSP in February for potential candidates after the election of new council members and our new Interim Pastor.

We continue to pray for a candidate to serve our wonderful congregation.

Discussion Items:

We greeted and introduced ourselves to our new Interim Pastor and we all had an opportunity to get to know Pastor Linda.

Fresh Expressions National Gathering will [be held](#) in Ocala, February 26-28th, 2026. This is a National Gathering of the United Methodist and ELCA Church's. It is a call to co-create a vibrant, inclusive community that reflects the diverse body of Christ, fostering connections across ages, cultures and traditions. Anyone is invited to attend and if you're interested, please contact Rae Dowling.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Rae Dowling

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of Jan 31, 2026**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2026	Actuals Jan 2026	Budget Jan 2026	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	43,586.93	33,584.00	10,002.93
Church General Fund Disbursements	18,984.77	33,023.00	14,038.23
Net Church General Fund	24,602.16	0	24,602.16
Church Restricted Receipts	300.00		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(114.73)		
Youth Group Fundraiser			
Church Restricted Disbursements	1,595.18		
Net Church Financial Position	23,192.25		
AGC General Fund Receipts	34,961.00	34,016.00	945.00
AGC General Fund Disbursements	10,762.74	35,074.00	24,311.26
Net AGC General Fund	24,198.26	(1,058.00)	25,256.26
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	5,860.13		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	-		
Net AGC Financial Position	30,058.39		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	78,547.93	67,600.00	10,947.93
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	29,747.51	68,097.00	38,349.49
Net LLLC General Fund	48,800.42	(497.00)	49,297.42
Fundraising Balances	5,745.40		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	300.00		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	1,595.18		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position (includes restricted)	53,250.64		
	Actuals Jan 2026	Actuals Jan- 2025	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2026 vs 2024			
Church General Fund Receipts	43,586.93	34,314.50	9,272.43
Church General Fund Disbursements	18,984.77	21,320.61	2,335.84
Net Church General Fund	24,602.16	12,993.89	11,608.27
AGC General Fund Receipts	34,961.00	36,740.45	(1,779.45)
AGC General Fund Disbursements	10,762.74	16,851.99	6,089.25
Net AGC General Fund	24,198.26	14,823.04	9,375.22
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	78,547.93	71,054.95	7,492.98
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	29,747.51	38,172.60	8,425.09
Net LLLC General Fund	48,800.42	32,882.35	15,918.07

Church General Fund receipts through January is \$9200 more than last year and \$10,000 above budget.
Church General Fund Disbursements are \$14,000 below budget as we are not funding a full pastor.
AGC is \$30,000 favorable to disbursements through January

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper



EASTER FLOWERS

Help adorn our sanctuary with hydrangeas for Easter. Hydrangeas will be available at \$12 each and can be picked up after the 11am Easter service.

BOOK CLUB Did you know a Giant Pacific Octopus usually lives for 3-5 years? The LLLC Book Club is currently reading REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES by Shelby Van Pelt. Marcellus, the Octopus, is one of the characters that inhabit this story which deals with topics such as family, loss, community, and optimism. Join us in reading this book AND join us for discussion on Wednesday, March 4th, 9:30 am here at church!

LLLC DAY CAMP is scheduled for June 8th - June 12th, 9am to 4pm. Children must have completed kindergarten and are eligible thru the completion of 5th grade. There are limited spaces available, so if you know anyone interested please let them know of this opportunity for a fun-filled, Christian-based week!

Fellowship Time!

We are one body and spirit in Christ. Let's get together on Sunday, March 15th for one service at 10am followed by coffee hour. Come celebrate with all the members of the Living Lord family.



A STITCH AND A PRAYER

84 handmade quilts were recently delivered to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice for shipping to Lutheran World Relief. An additional 11 quilts were also sold for fundraising of batting for future quilts. A Stitch and a Prayer thanks you for your continued support for our ministry. Please look forward to future sales this fall.

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.

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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