



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



April 2026 Issue

Dear Friends in Christ,

Getting the word out.

We often talk about Jesus' resurrection and the empty tomb when we think of Easter. After all it is the star of the show. But another important part of the Easter story is the women and men who went to the tomb. And spoke about what they had seen there and that the tomb was empty. This is a critical part of the story: sharing the good news. Without sharing, the story of Jesus would have kept a smaller audience for a longer period. But instead by joyous and fearful words, the invitation to come was given, and people went to see it.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate seeing the empty tomb and knowing that resurrection has happened. But then it's our turn to be the story, share that good news with joy and awe, and invite others to see the miracle. We need to remind people of the miracles that Jesus did and still does, as well as the promises that he made to us that are still being fulfilled.

Our worship and music committee is working on our social media, especially our web page and Facebook page. Social media is an important place for people to find us and to hear what we are about. We would be happy to have others join us in this important ministry so if you have a grandchild or child or even yourself that is good working with these pages we'd love to have them on board.

But it is still the personal invitation we give from ourselves to another person or people to come and join us to see the miracle of Easter season and the divine presence of the empty tomb. Take a moment to think of those people in your life who need that hope. Invite them to our web page and to church. Because Easter isn't just a Day. It is a season of our lives.

Have a blessed Easter
Pastor Linda+

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION CLASS

Tuesday April 14th at 6:30pm. Everyone is invited to attend. For those who wish to become members of Living Lord you will be received on Sunday April 19th, 2026.



All God's Children Preschool proudly hosted its **6th Annual Spring Carnival Fundraiser** on Saturday, March 7th—and what an unforgettable day it was! Months of planning began back in December, with a dedicated team of parents and staff working tirelessly to bring this vision to life. Their commitment, creativity, and countless hours of preparation truly paid off, making this year's carnival the most spectacular one yet.

The church and preschool parking lot were completely transformed into a vibrant, magical carnival atmosphere. Families were welcomed into a space filled with excitement and joy—complete with classic games, colorful bounce houses, talented face painters, a lively 3D photo booth, balloon twisters, a delightful petting zoo, and even a crowd-favorite dunk tank. From the moment the event kicked off at 11:00 a.m., the energy was contagious as AGC families and community members poured in, ready to celebrate.

One of the most heartwarming parts of the day was seeing children—both AGC students and visitors—laughing, playing, and connecting with one another. The sound of laughter echoed throughout the grounds, creating a truly special environment of friendship and fun. Our DJ kept the celebration alive all day long, spinning upbeat music that had children and adults alike dancing and smiling from start to finish.

Parents and adult guests had just as much to enjoy. Whether they were cheering on their children at the game booths, joining in on the dancing, or browsing the silent auction, there was something for everyone. The silent auction was a standout feature of the event, showcasing over 80 incredible items generously donated by local businesses. From children's activity sets and beach wagons to orchestra experiences and wine tastings, there was a wide variety of items to bid on. The excitement grew throughout the day as friendly bidding wars broke out over some of the most popular packages.



When it came time to refuel, guests had plenty of delicious options to choose from. Families enjoyed pizza generously donated by Marco's, yummy barbecue, as well as flavorful Mexican dips provided by The Guac Shop. In addition, carnival treats like popcorn, ice cream, and freshly baked cookies added to the festive experience. The food area became a hub for families to relax, recharge, and connect with one another.

The day itself could not have been more perfect. With beautiful weather, bright and cheerful decorations, and a strong sense of community spirit, the carnival truly embodied what makes AGC so special. The turnout exceeded expectations, and the joy shared throughout the day was a testament to the strength and warmth of our school community.

This annual spring fundraiser plays a vital role in supporting ongoing improvements to our school. Thanks to events like this, AGC has been able to enhance both indoor and outdoor learning environments. We would love to be able to expand our school, so raising this money will play an important part in that plan.

There are truly so many individuals and organizations to thank for making this event such a success. This year, we were thrilled to have 20 corporate sponsors—the highest number we’ve ever had—whose support was proudly displayed on banners along the playground fence. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and commitment to our mission.

A special and heartfelt thank you goes to our AGP (All God’s Parents) organization. Their dedication to planning, organizing, and executing every detail of the carnival was absolutely essential. Their passion and teamwork made this event possible, and we are deeply appreciative of all they do for our school.

We would also like to thank the AGC staff and school board for their continued support and involvement, as well as Living Lord Lutheran Church for graciously hosting us, providing a wonderful cookie table, and assisting with cleanup efforts at the end of the day.

All God’s Children Preschool is truly blessed to be surrounded by such a caring, generous, and engaged community. Events like this remind us of the power of coming together for a shared purpose—and the incredible things we can accomplish when we do.



The Orion Trio
PRESENTS
A Spring Jazz Event
SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 4 PM
LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH
11107 Palmbrush Trail, Bradenton, FL 34202
FEATURING
Scotty Wright - Vocals
Valerie Gillespie - Sax/Vocals
AND
THE ORION TRIO
THOMAS PIZZI - PIANO
DAVE MORGAN - DRUMS
ISAAC MINGUS - BASS
Admission \$15 at the Door
Email: Info@LivingLordFL.org
941-753-9365

FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

During the month of April, as well as throughout the entire year, it's important to raise the issue of child abuse and the well-being of children around the world to maximize the impact of Child Abuse Awareness Month.

The main categories of Child Abuse are Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect/Negligent Treatment, and Sexual Exploitation & Abuse.

Save the Children has been built on the fundamental belief that all children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and exploitation. As a child rights and social justice organization promoting the education, health and protection of children, *Save the Children* works in some of the most complex contexts across the globe to deliver programs and activities to the world's most vulnerable children.

By 2030 *Save the Children* is committed to ensuring that violence against children is no longer tolerated and that the most vulnerable children around the world are protected.

To achieve these ambitious goals for children, their families and communities, we work to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. However, when violence does occur, we respond by ensuring children receive the support they need to recover and return to a supportive and protective environment. We do this by:

- Strengthening families & caregivers with knowledge and skills to protect children;
- Working with governments to develop & implement protective policies for children;
- Supporting relevant duty bearers and other partners, like social workers, clinic staff, teachers, and police, to effectively implement and coordinate appropriate services for children; and
- Listening to and involving children in their own protection.

Save the Children is on the ground every day protecting children from harm, including abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, while promoting a safe family environment for every child. *Save the Children* protects children from violence and advocates for others to do the same. We lead the world in protecting children in conflict and war zones, identifying their needs, advocating for their safety, and giving physical and mental health support, particularly when they are displaced and alone.

PRAYER BEADS

On March 18th at the Lenten Soup Supper Pastor Linda introduced us to the Lutheran Prayer Beads, a set of 18 beads each with a specific meaning (e.g., God, baptism, silence, me, love, secrets, night, resurrection). They can be used during personal devotion, prayers often focus on small catechism, like confession or the Lord's Prayer, they often include a cross for the Apostle's Creed and a mix of beads.

First we will need beads from your broken necklaces. Choose an evening for the workshop. Stephney will supply materials like scissors and string. Each bead should have a specific meaning. Be sure to give some contemplation of your prayer beads.

If anyone is interested in a workshop to make our own Prayer Beads, please sign up in the narthex or see Stephney Rose.

LLLC Church Council 2/24/2026 Meeting Minutes

1. **Present:** Pastor Linda Fernandez, Rae Dowling, Rich Jones, Patty Kunkel, Andrew Mueller, Pauline Priest, Lisa Pyeatt, Stephney Rose, Scott Smith, and Shannon Van den Bosch

2. **Opening Prayer & Devotion** Pastor Linda Fernandez

3. **Officer and Council role determination.**

Council Positions for 2026 were filled by the following council members who have been selected in the January 2026 Congregation.

- A. President Rae Dowling
- B. Vice President Scott Smith
- C. Secretary Rich Jones
- D. Treasurer Andy Mueller
- E. Administration Pauline Priest
- F. Education Shannon Van den Bosch
- G. Evangelism Patty Kunkel
- H. Parish Life Stephney Rose
- I. Worship and Music Lisa Pyeatt
- J. Property Since Rob Gerdes was unavailable to attend, he was given this

team as the Team Leader. Rich will assist him using the Campus Improvement Team.

4. **Treasurer's Report....** Karen Symos explained that the monthly financial report has been put in each of the Council team leaders' box across from Maggie's desk. Karen stated that January's giving was good but was better than usual in that one member gave their giving for the whole 2026 year.

5. **Pastor's report** was handed out, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

6. **Team Reports** *All team reports are submitted electronically and are available for review in the office. Below are highlights of the reports.*

a. All God's Children

i. Mary Hunter reported that they are going to renovate the interior of their current building to accommodate additional students..

ii. Because of AGC renovation happening in the AGC building during the time of church camp, the Education team and AGC team will work together to assure there are no issues for either team.

b. Worship & Music ... They have scheduled a join service at 10 AM on March 15 with a buffet after the service The purpose is so that members from each service can get to know each other better. After much discussion it was discussion that:

i. It was too quick to coordinate the buffet.

ii. It was recognized that if we were going to something like this, it needs to be done before the "Snowbirds" go back.

iii. It was decided that the function should be a Coffee and Donuts gathering only.

7. **Call Committee Update.**

a. Another Pastor had agreed to consider our church but withdrew their interest before we got to interview him.

8. **Future Council Meetings**

- a. March 30- 4PM
- b. May 20- 4PM
- c. June 17- 4PM
- d. July 15- 4PM.
- e. August 19- 4PM
- f. September 16- 4PM
- g. October 21- 4PM
- h. November 18- 4PM
- i. December 7- 4PM

9. **Closed with the Lord's Prayer**

BOOK CLUB Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6th, at 9:30am. We are reading THE BOOK CLUB FOR TROUBLESOME WOMEN by Marie Bostwick. We meet at the church and enjoy small bites with fabulous conversation. Pick up the book, read the book, and join us for discussion.

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of Feb 28, 2026**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2026	Actuals Feb 2026	Budget Feb 2026	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	80,926.64	67,176.00	13,750.64
Church General Fund Disbursements	43,014.60	64,938.00	21,923.40
Net Church General Fund	37,912.04	0	37,912.04
Church Restricted Receipts	1,410.94		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(12.32)		
Youth Group Fundraiser			
Church Restricted Disbursements	4,601.15		
Net Church Financial Position	34,709.51		
AGC General Fund Receipts	88,853.00	68,032.00	20,821.00
AGC General Fund Disbursements	39,002.06	35,074.00	(3,928.06)
Net AGC General Fund	49,850.94	69,920.00	(20,069.06)
AGC Restricted Receipts			
AGC Fundraisers	6,441.49		
AGC Restricted Disbursements			
Net AGC Financial Position	56,292.43		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	169,779.64	135,208.00	34,571.64
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	82,016.66	100,012.00	17,995.34
Net LLLC General Fund	87,762.98	35,196.00	52,566.98
Fundraising Balances	6,429.17		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	1,410.94		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	4,601.15		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	91,001.94		
	Actuals Feb 2026	Actuals Feb- 2025	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2026 vs 2024			
Church General Fund Receipts	80,926.64	61,769.58	19,157.06
Church General Fund Disbursements	43,014.60	51,423.17	8,408.57
Net Church General Fund	37,912.04	10,346.41	27,565.63
AGC General Fund Receipts	88,853.00	83,240.17	5,612.83
AGC General Fund Disbursements	39,002.06	41,608.44	2,606.38
Net AGC General Fund	49,850.94	41,631.73	8,219.21
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	169,779.64	145,009.75	24,769.89
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	82,016.66	93,031.61	11,014.95
Net LLLC General Fund	87,762.98	51,978.14	35,784.84

Church General Fund receipts through February is \$19,000 more than last year and \$13,700 above budget.

Church General Fund Disbursements are \$21,900 below budget as we are not funding a full pastor.

AGC is \$56,000 favorable to disbursements through February

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

LLC 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!

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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11107 Palmbrush Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202