



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



May 2026 Issue

Dear friends in Christ

Happy Eastertide! We had a wonderful celebration of Easter and thank you to everyone who gave their time and talents and came and joined the worship! Christ is alive Hallelujah!

Now we are in the season where we read about the development of the early church, and how the story of Jesus's resurrection and the deeds that he did was spread far and wide. Acts reminds us that daily numbers of people were added to their fellowship.

That's why Easter is the time of year where we talk about baptism, welcoming new members, and bringing visitors into the church. Beginning with Easter vigil, people had been prepared for baptism. And then they continued studies, And were brought to the crossroads to meet other fellowship groups, where bishops confirmed their baptism. Today we call Confirmation, Affirmation of Baptism, for this reason

Each new member here, who comes into our church, whether through baptism, confirmation, or welcoming of your members, strengthens us with their presence and their gifts. In reality, we strengthen each other! In the world today the church is where we can provide hope, show God's love, pray for one another, and see to each others' needs .

If you are not yet a part of the Living Lord Family and wish to be, please let me or any of the members know. If you are online and need us, again, contact us and let us know how we can minister to you.

We are truly the family of God

In Christ name, Pastor Linda

SAVE THE DATES

May 24th – Pentecost: join us for a celebration of the Spirit!
Wear Red

June 14th – Celebration of Pastor Linda's 45th Anniversary of Ordination and
Maggie's 20th anniversary with Living Lord.
Combined one service at 10am with brunch following.



Springtime has brought bright, sunny days to All God's Children Preschool, along with a season full of growth, discovery, and joy. Our teachers have been guiding students through exciting lessons about life cycles, gardening, and changing weather patterns. In honor of Earth Day, children have also been learning about recycling and the importance of being kind to all creatures, big and small.

The classrooms and bulletin boards are bursting with colorful artwork, reflecting the creativity and enthusiasm of our students. Hands-on activities have been a highlight this season, including scavenger hunts, bird watching, litter collection, and planting flower beds in the AGC garden. Through these experiences, children are developing important skills such as math and counting, color recognition, imagination, fine motor coordination, and—most importantly—teamwork. As the days go by, we see our students growing and learning more with each new experience.

Our VPK students recently enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Hunsader Farms, where students, parents, and teachers spent the day exploring and participating in fun, farm-themed activities. It was a memorable outing filled with laughter, learning, and shared experiences that everyone will cherish.

As we approach the end of the school year, we are committed to making the most of every moment with our students. There are still many fun and meaningful activities ahead, and we look forward to finishing the year strong with our AGC family.



FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month. This is an opportunity to explain what hypertension is, what you can do to monitor it and what risk factors can predispose you to it.

According to the World Health Organization, hypertension, or elevated blood pressure, is a condition that affects 1.13 billion people worldwide. It occurs when there is increased pressure in the blood vessels that carry blood from your heart to the rest of your body. As a result, elevated blood pressure makes more work for the heart to get blood to where it needs to go.

Often times hypertension goes untreated because it does not cause symptoms. Some patients may experience headaches, blurred vision, or ringing in the ears, but elevated blood pressure often goes undetected.

The simplest way to diagnose hypertension is by monitoring your blood pressure. The most current guidelines state that normal blood pressure is 120/80mmHg. Hypertension is diagnosed when your blood pressure is consistently greater than 130/80mmHg.

Two aspects of blood pressure are measured: systolic (the upper number) and diastolic (the lower number). Levels are categorized as follows:

- **Normal:** systolic less than 120 mmHg **and** diastolic less than 80 mmHg.
 - **Elevated:** systolic 120 -129 mmHg **and** diastolic less than 80 mmHg.
 - **Stage 1 hypertension:** systolic 130 -139 mmHg **or** diastolic 80 - 89 mmHg.
- Stage 2 hypertension:** systolic 140+ mmHg **or** diastolic 90+mmHg.

There is no one cause of hypertension. However, many risk factors can predispose you to elevated blood pressures. These include:

- *Inactivity
- *Poor dietary habits
- *Smoking
- *Genetic predisposition
- *Age
- *Medical conditions such as sleep apnea, obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease

By implementing certain lifestyle changes, you can lower your risk of developing hypertension. These include:

- *Following a heart-healthy diet, low in sodium
- *Avoid alcohol and smoking
- *Exercise for at least 30 minutes per day

Preventing hypertension will lower your risk of developing serious medical conditions in the future, such as heart disease, stroke and kidney disease.

A heart at peace gives life to the body, Proverbs 14:30a

PARISH LIFE MUSINGS

Many members in the congregation may be worried about the lack of a permanent pastor. The volunteers for Parish Life are not. The skills and depth of knowledge in this congregation is vast and we are grateful for the time and talents given. We wish more people would volunteer. Under the skilled tutelage of Ruth McConnell we have almost completed another course on world religions. January thru May we studied "Christianity and World Religions" comparing and contrasting other belief systems paying attention to how they relate to current global events. Ruth is a valued member of our congregation.

Parish Life is serving the community in many ways. Most months there is a different event to show our support of our community:

February – Lutheran World Hunger-Souper Bowl

March – Our Daily Bread Food Collection

May – Hope Family Services

July – Oneco Elementary School Supply Collection

November – Salvation Army Angel Tree

Our Crafting/Quilting friends meet weekly to create beautiful quilts and creations for donation to local rehab facilities and Lutheran World Relief.

Christian Life Groups meet regularly to learn together and share fellowship.

Our greeters, ushers and all of our worship team members pitch in every week to make worship happen for all of us.

We need volunteers to initiate social groups similar to ones you may have come from in other churches. All volunteers are very much appreciated. Consider joining a group to help our current volunteers while awaiting our permanent pastor.

HOPE FAMILY SERVICES

The next Outreach project will be Hope Family Services. May 3rd - May 17th. The mission of Hope is to provide safety, strength and well-being for those affected by domestic violence in Manatee County. They need everything for families to start a new life. Everything from baby and children items to adult and home items. There are lists of urgently needed items attached to a poster in the narthex. They also welcome gift cards.

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 March 31, 2026

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2026	Actuals Jan-March 2026	Budget Jan-March 2026	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	113,393.49	105,760.00	7,633.49
Church General Fund Disbursements	77,662.19	96,664.00	19,001.81
Net Church General Fund	35,731.30	9,096.00	26,635.30
Church Restricted Receipts	12,655.94		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	287.68		
Youth Group Fundraiser			
Church Restricted Disbursements	4,735.12		
Net Church Financial Position	43,939.80		
AGC General Fund Receipts	126,499.40	102,046.00	24,453.40
AGC General Fund Disbursements	75,523.93	105,019.00	29,495.07
Net AGC General Fund	50,975.47	(2,973.00)	53,948.47
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	22,044.61		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	-		
Net AGC Financial Position	73,020.08		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	239,892.89	207,806.00	32,086.89
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	153,186.12	201,683.00	48,496.88
Net LLLC General Fund	86,706.77	6,123.00	80,583.77
Fundraising Balances	22,332.29		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	12,655.94		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	4,735.12		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	116,959.88		

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2026 vs 2025	Actuals Jan-March 2026	Actuals Jan-March 2025	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	113,393.49	98,353.61	15,039.88
Church General Fund Disbursements	77,662.19	85,153.42	7,491.23
Net Church General Fund	35,731.30	13,200.19	22,531.11
AGC General Fund Receipts	126,499.40	114,304.81	12,194.59
AGC General Fund Disbursements	75,523.93	77,296.79	1,772.86
Net AGC General Fund	50,975.47	37,008.02	13,967.45
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	239,892.89	212,658.42	27,234.47
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	153,186.12	162,450.21	9,264.09
Net LLLC General Fund	86,706.77	50,208.21	36,498.56

Church General Fund receipts through March is \$15,000 more than last year and \$7600 above budget.
Church General Fund Disbursements are \$19,000 below budget as we are not funding a full pastor.
AGC is \$50,900 favorable to disbursements through March

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!



Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

How dry are we? The past 8 months have been the driest for that period since we arrived here in 2005. The total rainfall Sep-Apr in Parrish is 14.61 inches, 56% of normal. Total rainfall Sep-Apr at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport is 11.94 inches, 52% of normal. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 71% of Florida is in the top two most severe categories of drought. Much of North Florida is suffering from Exceptional Drought (D4). Manatee and Sarasota Counties have continued with Extreme Drought (D3). Rainfall deficits this year have reached 10.5 inches in Pensacola and 9.8 inches in Tallahassee. Florida wildfires doubled in size in 2 days, reaching 21,000 acres on 22 Apr. Wildfires in southeast Georgia destroyed at least 100 homes.

Are drought fears growing across the West? Much of the nation is in drought already, but the headwater of the Colorado River is among the driest places, along with south Texas and the Southeast. Longtime western water expert Brad Udall said it's hard to put into words just how bad things are. He said the early ski closures will likely be followed by ranchers selling off cattle, and then skies darkened by wildfire smoke as dry vegetation burns. For more than two decades, Udall has been studying how climate change is altering the West's water resources. He said 2026 may go down as the worst year for Colorado River flows in recorded history. Huge portions of the West are served by the Colorado River, which starts high in the Rockies before flowing downstream through Lake Powell, Lake Mead, and ultimately into California. Some water experts say Lake Powell could hit its lowest level ever later this summer.

Was March 2026 another warm month globally? March 2026 was the 4th warmest March on record behind 2025, 2024, and 2016. Global average was 2.61 F above the 1850-1900 average. In March 2026, elevated temperatures were present in most regions. These were especially prominent across the United States, Europe, most of Asia, parts of Antarctica, and parts of both the Pacific and Atlantic. Cooler temperatures were present in Northern Canada, part of Northern Asia, and Australia. 5.6% of Earth's surface experienced a record high March monthly average. Pacific Ocean is trending warmer with a strong El Nino likely to develop mid to late 2026.

What is the hurricane outlook for 2026? The Colorado State Univ forecast predicts a below-average season with 13 tropical storms compared to a typical year average of 14 storms. They predict 6 hurricanes against the average of 7 hurricanes. The developing El Nino can bring weather patterns that disrupt hurricane development. The nation's top hurricane forecaster said El Nino doesn't necessarily protect the U.S. from hurricane danger. Remember that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season. Analog seasons are 2006, 2009, 2015, and 2023. Those 4 seasons featured few memorable landfalling storms. The most significant hurricane of the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season was Hurricane Melissa with landfall as a Cat 5 hurricane in Jamaica with \$9 billion in damage and 95 fatalities across the Caribbean.

How wet was Spring in the Great Lakes? Record spring precipitation (Mar/Apr) in inches include Chicago 10.63, Toledo 10.36, Grand Rapids 9.86, Buffalo 9.01, and Madison 9.01. Record April rainfall includes 9.13 inches at Milwaukee and 8.27 inches at Green Bay. Marquette MI had one of their snowiest winters with 274.1 inches. Major flooding occurred on the Grand River MI, Menominee River WI, Wolf River WI, and Wisconsin River WI.

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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