



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



April 2023 Issue

Pastor Terry's Reflections

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia! A blessed Easter to all of you!

Easter is the centerpiece of our faith! Throughout all of scripture, one of the most important things we learn is that God is faithful to God's promises. In raising Jesus from the dead, God fulfills God's ultimate promise – salvation for the world, for all people.

Time and time again, God saves God's people. Time and time again, God's people rejoice and praise God for God's saving acts. And yet, time and time again, God's people, we, turn away from God and seek our own paths.

Praise God that our salvation doesn't depend on us. It is only through God's unconditional love and grace for us that we have received the promise of eternal life.

And praise God for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus! While it remains a mystery to us, Jesus was fully human and fully divine. In Jesus, God became one of us and experienced life the way we experience it.

Jesus experienced trials and temptations, sorrow and grief, pain and suffering, and Jesus experienced happiness and joy.

Most of all, Jesus taught us and showed us what the kingdom of God is truly like and how God intends and desires us to live our lives.

From the very beginning, God created us in God's image and designed us to be in a right relationship with God and with one another. For whatever reason, God also gave us free will.

I like the way that the Encyclopedia Britannica defines free will - the supposed power or capacity of humans to make decisions or perform actions independently of any prior event or state of the universe.

The reality is that once God's unconditional love for us transforms us, we really don't have a choice but to respond in the same manner to all that life throws our way.



Obviously, we don't always succeed because we are human. As Paul writes, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) But because our lives have been transformed, we repent (turn back to God) and are forgiven. Our relationship is restored.

Jesus' consistent message, through his actions and his words, is a message of love for all people. If we look hard enough, we can see that the message throughout Scripture (Old and New Testament) is a message of God's love and desire to be in a relationship with all that God created. This is the Good News.

At the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples and we have been commissioned to carry out the mission and ministry that Jesus started. In John 14:12, Jesus says, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father." (NRSV)

As "Easter" people and as disciples of Jesus we have but one true purpose – to make disciples of all nations. We most commonly do this through our actions – serving selflessly and living faithfully.

A very happy and blessed Easter to all of you!

Pastor Terry

HUNGER PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

How can you feed the multitudes without a miracle? Join us at 10am on April 15 to pack nutrient-dense meals for the hungry and homeless. We will work on a meal packing assembly line brought to the church by the Bradenton Kiwanis Against Hunger program. Every volunteer will work about 2 hours and pack enough food for a year for one person. Each assembly line is staffed by 10-12 volunteers and we are trying to get enough people to fill three lines. The ingredients are pre-purchased and all we do is measure, fill, pack, and seal. It will be a marvelous fellowship opportunity and provide a benefit to the community. We can designate where our food goes, and some will go to Our Daily Bread in Bradenton and some will be designated for hungry kids and families in the area. Normally this costs \$125 per volunteer, but a few generous members of Living Lord have already privately donated all the money needed to get this project kicked off. Anyone (volunteer or not) who wishes to donate towards this event can donate to the Outreach Care Bags Fund to help defray expenses for our next meal packing event. We hope to do this at least once or twice a year. There will be a signup list in the narthex for this event - please help us fill all three lines!

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

On Thursday April 13, 2023, you are invited have lunch at Outback, located at 4510 East SR 64. This luncheon is open to all who want to attend. The signup sheet is posted in the narthex. May we suggest that you purchase Script gift cards to pay for your upcoming lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Miller at 616-540-1745.

SCRIP is available in the narthex after each service. "What is SCRIP?" you may ask. It's an ongoing fundraiser designated towards the purchase of an electronic sign. Your part in this effort is to purchase gift cards at our table for face value. A percentage of every purchase goes toward our goal. The success of this fundraiser depends on your continued support, not just for gifts, but for your everyday expenses such as groceries, gas, entertainment and much more. Pick up a catalogue at our table, listing over 500 selections. Orders are placed every week for pick-up the following week. Checks or cash payment accepted.

We Are Praying For You



The staff prays for 7 church families or individuals every week and then sends out postcards letting them know that they have been prayed for. You are invited to join with us in praying for these families and individuals as well. This month we prayed for the following:

Elaine Cockfield
Sandy Coffman
Diane Cohen
Cheryl Columber
Arlene Conaghan
Jimmy, Sue and Sami Copeland
Bill and Debbie Corn
Pastor Terry and Ann Courter
Charles and Loni Croatman
George and Diana Cubberly
William and Ella Mae D'Aprix
Mark and Jan Dahlstrom
Beatrice Daly
Carol Daly
Doretta Davidson
Cathy DeGeorge
Bob and Abbey DeLosh
Lee and Judith DeLosh
Shawn DeLosh
Darrel, Loraine and Dawn Dinger
Bob and Carole Dodge



Living Lord Lutheran Church Children & Youth News

Apr. 2

- 10:00 am Set up for Eggstravaganza
- 10:10 am Elementary Faith Formation
- 12:15 pm Youth lunch & Hide Eggs
- 2:00 pm Easter Eggstravaganza

Apr. 9

Easter: No Faith Formation or Activities

Apr. 16

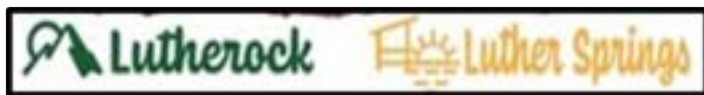
- 10:00 am Youth Peer Ministry Training
- 10:10 am Elementary Faith Formation

Apr. 23

- 10:00 am Youth Sunday Prep
- 10:10 am Elementary Faith Formation
- 12:15 pm Lunch & Confirmation Class

Apr. 30

- 10:00 am Youth Peer Ministry Training
- 10:10 am Elementary Faith Formation
- 12:15 pm MS & HS Youth: Lunch
- 12:30 pm Confirmation Class &
HS Youth Group
- 1:30 pm Youth Sunday Rehearsal



Seven Elementary, MS, & HS Youth will be participating in the following & Summer Camps

June 18-23: HS Southwest FL Disaster Relief Mission Camp in Sarasota

July 16-21: Elementary Discoverers & Horseback Riding Camp at Luther Springs

July 22-29: HS Free Climb at Lutherock in NC



Register at www.myvbs.org/LivingLordFL



YOUTH equipped with
SKILLS for caring, welcoming, and affirming
LIVED every day, everywhere, in every
relationship

LOVING because Christ first loved us

Sundays, 10:00 – 10:55 am

Meets in Deacon Tara's Office

Apr. 2 Set up for Eggstravaganza

Apr. 9 Easter: No Class

Unit 2: Helping Leadership

Apr. 16 PMT: Decisions

Apr. 23 Youth Sunday Prep

Apr. 30 PMT: Journey

May 7 Youth Sunday

May 14 PMT: Well Aware

May 21 PMT: Plan



Sunday Mornings, 10:05 – 10: 55 am

Meets in the Activities Hall

Leader: Ruth McConnell

April 2 & 9: No Class

April 16-30: Study on Modern Judaism's
Traditions and Beliefs



Sundays, 10:10 – 10:50 am

Meets in the Conference Room

April 9: Easter, no class

During this Lenten season, the Education Team encourages you to participate in #pictureLent 2023. Subscribe at www.picturelent.com

Send pictures to Deacon Tara to post on a large mural in the Sanctuary Hall. You can also post pictures to your own social media page using #pictureLent. DeaconTaraFriedrichs@gmail.com



COME JOIN US FOR THE

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN PRESCHOOL

CARNIVAL

SATURDAY • APRIL 22ND

★ 11:00AM - 2:00PM ★

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH



\$5 - ADULTS
\$20 - CHILDREN
*TICKET PRICES INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

UNLIMITED CARNIVAL GAMES

FOOD - PIZZA, HOT DOGS & POPCORN

SILENT AUCTION • LIVE MUSIC

PETTING ZOO • FACE PAINTING

BALLOON ARTIST & MORE

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT ALL GOD'S CHILDREN PRESCHOOL
TICKETS ON SALE AT AGC BEGINNING APRIL 3RD



Congregational Council Minutes Feb 8, 2023, 7:00pm

Attendees: Pastor Terry Courter, Rebecca Powers, Tara Friedrichs, Rich Jones, Mary Hunter, Patty Kunkel, Michael Gutzler, Shari Medley, Stephney Rose, Brooke Palmtag, Beverly Brockschmidt Absent: Susan Stodghill, Rae Dowling, Rhoda Olsen

The meeting was called to order at 7pm

Pastor Terry opened the meeting with Opening Prayer and Devotions.

Approval of minutes – - Discussion about clarification regarding AGC role and responsibility for installing and maintaining the security system, to read that the vendor will install the system and this vendor relationship and coordination will be managed by AGC to include any future maintenance of the system.

-Forward in Faith Tom Jeffreys was misspelled - Meetings held 21st and 25th not the 23rd

Meeting minutes were approved with the above changes.

Pastor's Report—Pastor will be on vacation Feb 13-19 – substitute pastor in line

Newer members were provided clarity on Pastor's report

Deacon Tara's report

Youth attended TreeUmpf and Rock the Universe in Orlando

Peer Mistry training will be held during Faith Formation, so Deacon Tara will cut back on worship responsibilities on those mornings to focus on youth training

East Egg Extravaganza Palm Sunday

Youth Sunday May 7

VBS

4 – youth attending disaster response in Sarasota in June

3 youth attending Luther Rock in July

1 elementary at Luther Springs

AGC Report—Team is busy conducting tours of school

Only 1 opening in 3 yr old class

VPK full

State inspection was conducted - passed with no write ups

Shade is ordered for the playground will be installed in concrete. Will be installed on a Saturday.

Mary handed out brochures to provide information on purpose and fees.

We will find out more information later on any preparations the church may have to do for installation of the sun shade on the playground.

Executive Team

Council Dinner will be held Feb 10th

Council Retreat Feb 11th 9am-12pm

Be prepared to discuss the following: Who are we as a community of faith?

Who do we want to be as a community of faith? Are we who we want to be? If not, what are some things we need to do to get there?

Discussed Council Meeting dates for the year – working to solidify Jun and Sep dates

Open Council Position – Administration

Financial Reporting – MTD, YTD Mike Gutzler read financial report and proposed for council to think about best ways to capture this information for the congregation. Discussed that Lynn Fisher will attend council retreat to answer specific questions regarding the budget and financial reporting processes

Financing of remainder of Phase I of expansion project is TBD based on recommendations by the expansion team

One-minute Roundtable was held for team leads to provide any additional information

Rebecca Powers provided a recap of the Worship and Music report

Patty Kunkel discussed that FB page needs updating and the team will take pictures at installation, website needs updated and Brooke Palmtag has asked to help with website updating

Parish Life – looking for recommendations for team members and would like to have youth participate as well

Expansion team is still working through options on how to close out current work efforts

New Business

The council approved that the increases for the staff would be effective starting the pay period of 1/29-2/11. Patty Kunkel moved, Mike Gutzler second, all were in favor, motion passed.

Next Meeting – March 8 – 7:30pm in person

Patty reminded the team that Lenten service is at 6:30pm, so we will change the time of the church council meeting to 7:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned with Lord's Prayer at approx. 8:30pm

April is “National Donate Life” Month

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. (Proverbs 3:27 NIV)

National Donate Life Month (NDLM) was established by Donate Life America and its partnering organizations in 2003. Observed in April each year, National Donate Life Month helps to raise awareness about donation, encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors, and to honor those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

Make a Splash for Donate Life Month!

For National Donate Life Month (NDLM) 2023, Donate Life America was inspired by the natural world of a pond coming to life in the spring. Frogs (and toads!) are a sign of healing and renewal, and water lilies represent hope. The lily pads we see on the surface of a pond are part of a much larger plant rooted below the water. The water lily plant reminds us of the support and collaboration needed for hope to bloom.

This National Donate Life Month, we ask you to be a part of this interconnected life-sustaining community by registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor; becoming educated about living donation; and championing the Donate Life cause. Did you know that:

Another person is added to the waiting list every 9 minutes.

Seventeen people die each day waiting for an organ transplant.

One organ, eye and tissue donor can save and heal more than 75 lives.

Please join in your local community: <https://donatelife.net/how-you-can-help/take-action/get-involved-locally/>.

You can also join on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DonateLife/>

Help us honor donors, recipients, and their families and caregivers. We will also be recognizing the clinical teams continuing their dedicated work during this time to help honor the gift of donation and save the lives of those waiting for a second chance at life.

Your Faith Community Nurses

7 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 14:13 (NIV)

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2023**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2023	Jan - Feb 2023 Actuals	Jan -Feb 2023 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	73,342.00	72,776.00	566.00
Church General Fund Disbursements	64,495.53	62,229.58	(2,265.95)
Net Church General Fund	8,846.47	10,546.42	(1,699.95)
Church Restricted Receipts	1,388.33	-	
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	99.04		
Youth Group Fundraiser	2,015.00		
Forward in Faith Receipts	7,610.00		
Church Restricted Disbursements	2,137.32		
Forward in Faith Capital Disbursements	157,149.13		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(139,327.61)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	63,754.60	55,100.00	8,654.60
AGC General Fund Disbursements	34,271.13	35,326.14	1,055.01
Net AGC General Fund	29,483.47	19,773.86	9,709.61
AGC Restricted Receipts	41,698.80		
AGC Fundraisers	2,183.61		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	13,586.15		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>59,779.73</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	137,096.60	127,876.00	9,220.60
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	98,766.66	97,555.72	(1,210.94)
Net LLLC General Fund	38,329.94	30,320.28	8,009.66
Fundraising Balances	4,297.65		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	50,697.13		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	172,872.60		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>(79,547.88)</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2023 VS 2022	Jan - Feb 2023 Actuals	Jan - Feb 2022 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	73,342.00	59,532.94	13,809.06
Church General Fund Disbursements	64,495.53	55,932.62	(8,562.91)
Net Church General Fund	8,846.47	3,600.32	5,246.15
AGC General Fund Receipts	63,754.60	50,606.56	13,148.04
AGC General Fund Disbursements	34,271.13	30,789.52	(3,481.61)
Net AGC General Fund	29,483.47	19,817.04	9,666.43
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	137,096.60	110,139.50	26,957.10
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	98,766.66	86,722.14	(12,044.52)
Net LLLC General Fund	38,329.94	23,417.36	14,912.58

Church receipts through Febuary were \$13,000 more than last year.

Expenses are a bit more than budget. Our receipts are \$8800 more than expenses at this point.

AGC is starting the year strong due to tuition and registration payments.

They are approximately \$10,000 favorable to budget.



Lynn Fisher, bookkeeper

Who do I contact If I am interested in a particular ministry?

Church Council

President	Rebecca Powers	913-306-5415
Vice President	Rich Jones	614-570-6540
Treasurer	Mike Gutzler	978-857-7172
Secretary	Rae Dowling	741-8335
Evangelism	Patty Kunkel	748-6669
Education	Shari Medley	920-313-0488
Property	Bill Hoth	914-523-8425
Member At Large	Beverly Brockschmidt	352-464-1177
Stewardship	Karen Symos	410-370-8666
Worship & Music	Rhoda Olson	201-6304
Parish Life	Stephney Rose	782-8005
Youth Rep	Brooke Palmtag	252-646-8801
Faith Community Nurses	Karen Hansing	748-5806
Fellowship	Ellen Hanson	981-9048
Outreach	Elaine Seamon	351-0863
Stephen Ministry	Helen Howe	213-9702
New Members	Patty Kunkel	748-6669
Altar Guild	Marlene Saum	753-1393
Youth Ministry	Tara Friedrichs	813-947-9789
Worship Assistants	Karen Symos	219-617-3458

Theo Bullington	Josh Myers Behler
Roy & Cindy Wells	Chris Mork
Rob Babel	Shirley Smith
Kristine Mylett	Jeanette Knight
Susanna Scott	Cason Pope
Gordy Havey	Will
Janet Castner	Ivory Anderson
Liz Howell	Nan Fisher
Wyly Pope	Calvin
Linda Henkelmann	Tony Zubricky
Jacob Rodriguez	Deanna Anderson
Suzanne Dietzel	Joe Kitchie
Joanne Mayer	Rade Mallkovich
Cleo Neynaber	Sharlene Jones
Family of John Pinkerton	Shirley Kitsmiller
Nancy Woodworth	Linda Couch
Sue Pinkerton	Gene Rahn
Richard Overstreet	Ray Rankl
June Hartlieb	Sophia Sahr
Albert Poirier	Jimmy Woodworth
Bill and Janet Burkman	Joan Jones
Ron Silver	Lori Rapp
Andrew Catanese	Jim and Sandy Kudrin
Family of Roger Masch	Becky Berka
Laura Apeathy	Jim Pinto
Andreas & Anaiya	Debbie Skelly
Frankie Vasquez	Jim Morrison
Steve Long	Anne Davis
Family of Dick Bernard	Nancy Lint
Nayda Rivera	Jeanne Thum
Family of Susan Stodghill	Valerie Walden
Family of Claudia Gorder	Diane and family
Elaine Truitt	Lofgren Family
Ralph Hanson	Peggy Smith
Allen Brooks	Lynn Echols
Family of Gloria Depas	Family of Lowell Welke
Shirley Arana	Brenda Moore
Gary Graham	Tracy Allen
Cindy Lewis	Jeff Shaw
The Gorski Family	Kevin McClosky
Steve Pyeatt	Dawn Schaeffer





Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

Are we in drought? The U.S. Drought Monitor of 23 Mar shows our local counties in Moderate Drought (D1). My Parrish rain gauge has 0.21 inches in Feb and 0.13 inches in Mar through the 28 th with no rain in sight. The two-month total of 0.34 inches is the driest for any two-month period since 2006. For Exceptional Drought (D4), look at Southwest Kansas where Garden City had only 5.03 inches of rain in 2022 and 0.55 inches so far this year. Looks like no winter wheat crop there last year or this year. Exceptional Drought in TX extends from San Antonia to Austin.

How warm was February 2023? It was Earth's 4 th warmest February since global records began in 1850. It was 0.97 degree Celsius (1.75 F) above the 20th century average. Ice-cover on the Great Lakes dipped to record lows in mid-February. Arctic sea ice extent in Feb was the 3 rd lowest in the 44-year satellite record. Antarctic sea ice extent in Feb was the lowest on record. It was the 5th warmest Feb on record at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport with an average temp of 69.4, 4.6 degrees above normal. It was the 9th warmest winter at the airport with an average temp of 66.2, 2.1 degrees above normal. It was the 5th driest Feb at the airport with 0.15 inches.

What happened in Somalia? A new report says an estimated 43,000 people died amid the longest drought on record in Somalia last year, and half of them likely were children. It is the first official death toll announced in the drought withering large portion of the Horn of Africa. At least 18,000 people are forecast to die in the first six months of this year. Somalia and neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya are facing a sixth consecutive failed rainy season.

Do tornadoes happen in Southern California? Two tornadoes in SoCal were part of a series of wild weather events from the 11th atmospheric river of the season. A weak, narrow tornado briefly touched down in Carpinteria on 21 Mar. It was rated EF0 (75mph) and damaged 25 mobile home units. On 22 Mar a small tornado briefly touched down in an industrial park and warehouse district in Montebello. It was rated EF1 (110 mph) with damage to 17 structures. It was the strongest tornado to hit the LA area since Mar 1983 according to the NWS.

What happened in San Francisco? On 21 Mar, a rapidly deepening low pressure area just west of San Mateo County produced a record low pressure for March at the San Francisco Airport of 985 millibars (29.09 inches of mercury). Toppled trees from gale-force winds killed at least 5 people in the Bay Area. Heavy rain fell at Berkeley with 4.39 inches. Heaviest rain in SoCal was 8.22 inches at Lytle Creek. Heaviest SoCal snow was 46 inches in Snow Valley at 7500 feet.

How much snow fell in the West? After Pacific storms late Feb-mid Mar, the Sierra was buried in snow with most roads and parks closed. Huge snowfall 22 Feb-2 Mar in the San Bernardino Mtns made roads impassable for days. Storm totals in inches include Snow Valley 130, Bear Mtn 122, Lake Arrowhead 109, Mt Baldy 107. It is the second snowiest season on record at the Central Sierra Snow Lab with 692 inches. Mammoth Mountain set a seasonal snowfall record with 667 inches. Rising snow levels and 9 inches of rain on 10 Mar in the southern Sierra produced a flood emergency at Springville in Tulare County. In Monterey County, a Pajaro River levee failed, flooding the town of Pajaro, forcing a mass evacuation. As of 24 Mar, Sierra snow water percent of normal includes North 182, Central 230, South 286, Statewide 228.

“Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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