



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



May 2023 Issue

Pastor Terry's Reflections

Have you noticed that the traffic has calmed a bit? We are entering the time of year when the Snowbirds return to the north and toward the end of this month, the schools will be letting out and the traffic patterns ease a bit more.

While we certainly will miss seeing our friends who travel north for the summer, our Livestream of both worship services will help them and us to stay connected during this time.

The month of May holds a lot of activity for us. May 7th is Youth Sunday. Our youth will be fulfilling the leadership roles for our worship at the 11:00 service.

May 14th is Mother's Day and on Friday, May 19th, at 11am, the VPK students from All God's Children (AGC) will graduate from preschool. These students are among the best prepared for entry into Kindergarten.

Sunday, May 21st, is set aside to recognize our high school seniors. This year's recognition includes - Jennifer Schillinger, Anja Schwarzbauer and Alyssa Trompke.

In addition to recognizing these students, LLLC provides a \$1000 scholarship for graduating seniors who will be going into college. This fund was originally established by Mike and Madelyn Tetmeyer and is maintained by your contributions to this fund.

Then on May 28th, Pentecost, we will celebrate the Confirmation of two of our youth – Luci Palmtag and Logan Pope. These students spend 3 years in Catechism, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, learning the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's prayer along with Luther's explanation of each. In addition, they learn about the Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion), the books of the Bible, and information about the Lutheran Church and worship.

Lastly, May 29th is Memorial Day, a time when we remember those who lost their lives in defense of democracy and the freedoms we enjoy.



After all of this excitement, we welcome in the rainy season and hurricane season. There never seems to be a dull moment in Florida.

All of these activities are reminders of how blessed we are as a community of faith. I have said it many times, "We were created to be in a relationship with God and in a relationship with one another."

It is wonderful to see the growth not only of our youth, but of our entire community of faith. The growth that I am referring to is our spiritual growth. This is especially evident in our Education programs – AGC, Faith Formation, Monday morning Bible Study, my Wednesday afternoon Bible study, and all of the Christian Life Group studies contribute significantly to this growth.

Lastly, the Church Council has devoted time to grow spiritually and to discern more clearly where God is leading us. They are doing this in light of our new mission and vision statements.

They are addressing the questions of Who are we? Who do we want to be? And How do we get there? Please pray for the members of the Church Council just as you promised at their installation.

Always remember, the tomb is empty, God loves you, and so do I.

Pastor Terry

Expansion Update:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the prayers towards our Forward in Faith expansion project. As we heard earlier this year, our path on this journey is leading us in a different direction than what we had originally planned. Due to market fluctuations and our financial position with the Forward in Faith campaign, it was decided to stop the project and regroup to decide how we should move forward.

Recently, the Expansion Team held its final meeting and presented the Executive Team with a proposal to bring the space that was prepared for the building expansion to a usable condition. I am happy to say that we feel we can improve the space and bring it to a condition in which our members will benefit. This proposal includes the following enhancements:

- Additional grading for the yard and parking lot to ensure proper drainage
- Landscaping that will include sod for the space between the Activities Hall and the work shed
- Paved parking space where the current gravel lot is located
- Concrete pad for the trash bin
- Sidewalk from the church building to the new paved parking area

Through your generous giving to the Forward in Faith campaign, as well as generous gifts that were designated for expansion improvements, we will be able to fund most of this work. We are still working through the additional financing of about \$20k to complete this project, but we feel this additional work is necessary to bring our church space back to a condition that makes the space usable. The Forward in Faith campaign will continue to cover these expenses and the Executive Team continues to explore ways in which to fund this additional work.

Once we finalize the details of the expansion work, we will move into addressing the enhancement of the existing building. We will look to form a Building Improvement committee to prioritize enhancements we want to make for the church. I ask for your prayers as we move into the next phase of this journey.

Thank you again for your prayers and support of our Expansion Project and I look forward to beautifying our church grounds as we move Forward in Faith!

God Bless!

Rebecca Powers

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:

Linda Dolan

June Dolly

Rae Ann, Joseph and Melissa Dowling

Carol Driscoll

Bob and Marcia Dryjowicz

Don and Audrey Duck

Karen Dwyer

Gary and Barb Dzumela

Peter, Heidi and Michelle Easton

Barbara Ehnes

James and Susan Eicken

Herb and Faye Emmel

Carole, Miles and Melody Fetterman

Greg and Lynn Fisher

Debbi Fredericks

Anna Frei

Deacon Tara Friedrichs

Diane Frohling and Harris Hostager

Matt, Margi and Shannon Furey

Don and Barb Gangnagel

Don and Sally Garrison



Living Lord Lutheran Church Children & Youth News

May 7

- 10:00 am Youth Sunday Prep
- 10:10 am Children's Faith Formation
- 11:00 am Youth Sunday
- 12:30 pm 8th grade Lunch & Confirmation Class

May 16

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

May 21

- 10:00 am Youth Peer Ministry Training
- 10:10 am Elementary Faith Formation
- 11:00 am Graduate Recognition Sunday
- 12:30 pm Senior/Youth Family Lunch
- 1:00 pm Confirmation Class
- 2:00 pm Final Youth Peer Ministry Training

May 24

- 6:00 pm Confirmation Dinner

May 28

- 11:00 am Confirmation Sunday



Sunday, May 21

11:00 am Worship Service

2023 High School Graduates

Jennifer Schillinger – Lakewood Ranch HS

Anja Schwarzbauer – Sarasota HS

Alyssa Trompke—Palmetto HS

Youth Family Lunch

May 21, 12:30 pm

Middle & high school youth families are invited to gather for lunch in celebration of our high school graduates and the end of the school year. Bring an ice cream topping to share.

Please RSVP to Deacon

Tara by May 19.



Sunday, May 7

11:00 am Worship Service

The Middle and High School Youth will lead the 11:00 am worship service on May 7

Practice: April 30, 1:30 pm & May 7, 10:00 am



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

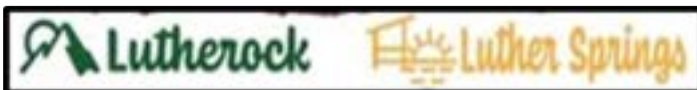
Meets in Deacon Tara's Office

May 7 Youth Sunday Prep

May 14 PMT: "Journey"

May 21 PMT: "Well Aware" at 10:00 am

PMT: "Plan" at 2:00 pm



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



Luciana Palmtag and Logan Pope
will Affirm their Baptism
in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May
28 during the 11:00 am worship service.



May 7 - 28

The Education Team is sponsoring a Hurricane Relief Supply Drive for Luther Springs' SW FL Hurricane Relief Mission Camps in Sarasota County this summer. Five of our youth and Deacon Tara will be attending one of these camps the week of June 18 – 23.

Supplies needed: Paint Brushes and Rollers, Paint Trays, Plastic Drop Cloths, Buckets, Large Sponges, Work Gloves, Protective Eye Gear, Bottled Waters, Heavy Duty Outdoor Garbage Bags, Squirt Bottles, Yard Tools (Rakes, Shovels, Spades, etc.), & Gift Cards to Home Depot or Lowes.



Sundays, 10:10 – 10:50 am
Meets in the Conference Room
Last class is May 21

Day Camps, June 12-16



Register at www.myvbs.org/LivingLordFL

Interested in volunteering,

Contact DeaconTaraFriedrichs@gmail.com

(Check-in, Check-out, Snacks, Lunch,
Elementary or MS Crafts, MS Games,
MS Lesson helpers, Photographer)

Donations Needed: Peanut & nut-free snacks, Capri-sun juice pouches, bottled waters, empty water bottles, plastic bottle caps & lids.

Gift cards for Counselor Meals:

Wendy's or Culvers, Chick-fil-A or PDQ,
Panera, Subway, or Jersey Mike's,
Texas Roadhouse or Bob Evans,
Publix, Winn-Dixie, or Walmart,

One Homecooked Meal (Sunday-Thursday)



All God's Children Preschool had their 3rd annual Spring Carnival Fundraiser this past Saturday. We started planning for this event back in December and our team worked tirelessly to make sure that this was the grandest carnival yet.

We transformed the church and preschool parking lot into a magical carnival full of games, bounce houses, face painters, a photo booth, balloon twisters, a petting zoo, and everyone's favorite, a dunk tank. As soon as the carnival started at 11am, we had AGC families coming through the entrance ready to have fun. It was so wonderful to watch our students, and even children that are not AGC students, play games, laugh together, and play. Our DJ was spinning records the entire day and the music brought another level of joy to the carnival.

Our adult carnival goers also had a great time watching their children, helping them with games, dancing to the music, and of course bidding on our silent auction items. The auction had so many items and they ranged from children's activities to adult fun with things like play dough and squish mellons pillows to baseball and concert tickets. We had over 60 items to bid on and there were a few bidding wars. If our families were tired or hungry, they could stop at our food area and get pizza, hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, and ice cold beverages. This carnival was so well done and I could not have been happier with the turn out.

AGC does the spring fundraiser in order to raise money to beautify the school. Thanks to these events, we have been able to update the inside of the education building with new floors, classroom furniture, a new diaper room, and so much more. Outside we have been able to add awnings to the building, pavers to our walkway, turf to the playground and our next project is adding a shade structure to the sunny end of the playground.

There are so many people to thank for the success of this event. Without our AGP (All God's Parent) organization, this event could have never taken place. Their dedication to planning and executing every detail was crucial and I could not be more thankful for their hard work. AGC is blessed to have so much support and love and it showed on Saturday!



Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes March 8, 2023

Attendees: Pastor Terry Courter, President Rebecca Powers, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Tara Friedrichs, Rich Jones, Mary Hunter (AGC), Patty Kunkel, Michael Gutzler, Shari Medley, Rhoda Olsen, Brook Palmtag, Stephany Rose.

The meeting was opened by Pastor with Prayer and Devotions at 7:22pm. (after Lenten Service)

Approval of the minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and they were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor submitted his report electronically. Emily Holst is working on an Instagram presence for the Church. Stephany Rose and Marilyn Jones are working hard on Parrish Life.

Deacon Tara's Report: Tara's full report was submitted electronically. Camp is coming up. VBS will be held June 12-16, here at LLLC and volunteers will be needed. Peer ministry is going well.

All God's Children: Summer session is nearly full and the Fall session is already full. Program is doing well financially. The shade covering has been ordered. The school directors attended a State Pre-School conference at Braden River High School. Spring Break is Mar 10 – 17th, 2023. The teachers and directors will all be getting bonuses and funded with grant monies received. The camera company is not installing the cameras, however Erin is working on this issue with Maggie.

Financial Report:

- Receipts are a little ahead of last year.
- AGC is doing very well financially
- Current LLLC surplus is \$90,000
- Current estimate is that we need approx. \$100,000 to finish building project where we stopped it.
- Interest rates on money markets vary from 2% - 6 ½ - 6 ¾ % unsecured. More info to be gathered and we'll make a decision next meeting.
- External Audit has not been done in ~20 years, Mike to investigate what other churches have done and bring it back next month.

Team Reports: All teams submitted reports electronically.

Evangelism: We'll be advertising in the Parrish Village News.

Worship & Music: Spring Jazz Concert will be March 11 at 4pm. A Palm Sunday Cantata will be put together by Greg Fisher with actors from the congregation.

Parrish Life: Stephany Rose and Marilyn Jones have been working enthusiastically and working to increase the dynamicism of the committee!

Youth: Youth are helping with our social media presence, instagram and website. THANK YOU YOUTH!!!

Old Business: HR Policy Review: HR dispute policy – in progress with Exec Team.

New Business: Volunteer Recognition: Discussion on how we might better recognize volunteers. We have a couple of long time volunteers who are stepping aside and we need to do a better at recognizing their valuable contributions. Rae Dowling will put together a spreadsheet with teams and their volunteers and then Stephany, Beverly and will begin to put together a process/plan for volunteer recognition.

Council Meeting format: Rebecca will be working with Pastor to enrich the spiritual aspects of our Leadership roles on the Council.

Council next meeting dates: April 12th, 2023 – 7pm – at Living Lord Lutheran. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rae Dowling

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2023**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2023	Jan - Mar 2023 Actuals	Jan - Mar 2023 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	108,451.63	109,451.00	(999.37)
Church General Fund Disbursements	108,681.68	96,096.04	(12,585.64)
Net Church General Fund	(230.05)	13,354.96	(13,585.01)
Church Restricted Receipts	5,814.33		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	218.66		
Youth Group Fundraiser	3,115.00		
Forward in Faith Receipts	8,650.03		
Church Restricted Disbursements	4,945.32		
Forward in Faith Capital Disbursements	243,976.45		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(231,353.80)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	103,181.50	85,105.00	18,076.50
AGC General Fund Disbursements	60,621.54	55,785.59	(4,835.95)
Net AGC General Fund	42,559.96	29,319.41	13,240.55
AGC Restricted Receipts	41,698.80		
AGC Fundraisers	3,173.13		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	13,586.15		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>73,845.74</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	211,633.13	194,556.00	17,077.13
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	169,303.22	151,881.63	(17,421.59)
Net LLLC General Fund	42,329.91	42,674.37	(344.46)
Fundraising Balances	6,506.79		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	56,163.16		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	262,507.92		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>(157,508.06)</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2023 VS 2022	Jan - Mar 2023 Actuals	Jan - Mar 2022 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	108,451.63	113,693.68	(5,242.05)
Church General Fund Disbursements	108,681.68	91,047.74	(17,633.94)
Net Church General Fund	(230.05)	22,645.94	(22,875.99)
AGC General Fund Receipts	103,181.50	74,342.48	28,839.02
AGC General Fund Disbursements	60,621.54	48,732.86	(11,888.68)
Net AGC General Fund	42,559.96	25,609.62	16,950.34
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	211,633.13	188,036.16	23,596.97
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	169,303.22	139,780.60	(29,522.62)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>42,329.91</u>	<u>48,255.56</u>	(5,925.65)

Church receipts through March are \$5000 more than last year.

Expenses are a bit more than budget. Our receipts are about even compared to disbursements.

AGC is starting the year strong due to tuition and registration payments, including summer camp.



Lynn Fisher, bookkeeper

From your Faith Community Nurses – May 2023

Proverbs 3:24 *When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*
(NIV)

May is known as Better Sleep Month. The Better Sleep Council (BSC) aims to raise awareness about all of the benefits that come with better sleep and how lack of sleep can disrupt your everyday life. It is recommended that you get about 7.5 to 8.5 hours of sleep a night because refreshing sleep is critical for optimizing your health. Sleep was found to be vital for physical, mental, and emotional health.

When you get inadequate sleep, the long-term effects it can have on the body are an increase in stress hormone production and high blood pressure. The body's stress levels rise when it does not get enough sleep. The more stress hormones that get released, the harder it is to fall asleep, which helps perpetuate the negative feedback loop of unhealthy sleep cycles. Some consequences of continued poor sleep include mood swings, reduced concentration, a weakened immune system, and irritability.

Sleep deficits are closely associated with weight gain, diabetes, high blood pressure, and a lower tolerance of chronic pain. When this issue becomes severe, poor sleep can be linked to serious sleep disorders such as restless leg syndrome, sleep apnea, insomnia, and narcolepsy.

Here are some great tips to help you get a better-quality night's sleep:

- **Stick to a sleep schedule:** go to bed and get up at the same time everyday
- **Relax before sleeping:** limit stimulating activities like exercise and work; do relaxing activities like reading or meditation
- **Create a bedtime ritual:** Doing the same thing every day gives your body a signal it's time to wind down
- **Create an optimal sleeping area:** The room should be cool, dark, and quiet. Get off of all electronic devices, consider using black out curtains, and soundproof earplugs as well
- **Pay attention to what you eat/ drink:** Don't go to bed hungry or stuffed
- **Limit naps during the day:** Long naps can interfere with nighttime sleep. Limit them to 10-30 mins
- **Daily physical activity:** This helps to promote falling asleep faster and has you get a deeper sleep

Psalm 3:5 *I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.* (NIV)

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

On Thursday May 11, 2023, you are invited have lunch at Linger Lodge located at 7205 85th Street Court East, Bradenton, FL 34202. This luncheon is open to all who want to attend. The signup sheet is posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Miller at 616-540-1745.



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- ★ 05/04 Campbell Torrie Ann ★
- ★ 05/07 Bohlmann Sam ★
- ★ 05/07 DeLosh Lee ★
- ★ 05/10 Jones Marilyn ★
- ★ 05/10 Symos Lou ★
- ★ 05/11 Fisher Lynn ★
- ★ 05/11 Saum John ★
- ★ 05/12 Daly Carol ★
- ★ 05/12 Frei Anna ★
- ★ 05/12 Wells Don ★
- ★ 05/14 Taylor Jeff ★
- ★ 05/15 Gangnagel Barb ★
- ★ 05/16 Graham Cheryl ★
- ★ 05/19 Bond Tracey ★
- ★ 05/19 Dodge Bob ★
- ★ 05/20 Morrison Ellen ★
- ★ 05/23 Marino Thomas ★
- ★ 05/24 Johnson Sherry ★
- ★ 05/25 Raddatz Carmen ★
- ★ 05/27 Chan William ★
- ★ 05/27 Tomasso Allison ★
- ★ 05/28 DeLosh Bob ★
- ★ 05/29 Black Tricia ★
- ★ 05/29 Duck Donald ★
- ★ 05/30 Anuszewski Peggy ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ♥
- ♥ 05/02 Langsen, Bruce & Kate ♥
- ♥ 05/02 Mastrangelo, Gary & Annette ♥
- ♥ 05/03 Viney, Donna & Earl ♥
- ♥ 05/06 Pinsonneault, Janice & Wayne ♥
- ♥ 05/13 Rupp, Sheryl & Tom ♥
- ♥ 05/18 Duck, Audrey & Donald ♥
- ♥ 05/27 Gieschen, Paul & Mary ♥
- ♥ 05/29 Fetterman, Carole & Robert ♥
- ♥ 05/30 Copeland, Susan & James ♥
- ♥

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE MARCH 2023

	Online People Reached	In-Person Attendance	Totall
5-March	251	218	496
12-March	260	168	428
19-March	289	172	461
26-March	385	162	547

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.

Ed & Marsha Holloway

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	410-370-8666

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	Joe Kitchie
Suzanne Dietzel	Rade Mallkovich
Joanne Mayer	Sharlene Jones
Cleo Neynaber	Shirley Kitsmiller
Family of John Pinkerton	Linda Couch
Nancy Woodworth	Gene Rahn
Sue Pinkerton	Ray Rankl
June Hartlieb	Sophia Sahr
Bill and Janet Burkman	Jimmy Woodworth
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	Jeanne Thum
Nayda Rivera	Valerie Walden
Family of Susan Stodghill	Diane and family
Family of Claudia Gorder	Peggy Smith
Elaine Truitt	Lynn Echols
Ralph Hanson	Family of Lowell Welke
Allen Brooks	Brenda Moore
Family of Gloria Depas	Tracy Allen
Gary Graham	Jeff Shaw
Cindy Lewis	Dawn Schaeffer
The Gorski Family	Rhoda Olson
Steve Pyeatt	Doreen Quirk
Randy Hanson	Richard
Bob Ready	





Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

What does the 2023 hurricane season look like? On 13 April, Colo State Univ hurricane researchers predicted a slightly below average Atlantic hurricane season in 2023, citing the likely development of El Nino as a primary factor. Given the conflicting signals between a potentially robust El Nino and anomalously warm tropical and subtropical Atlantic waters, there is more uncertainty than normal with this outlook. The increased upper-level winds from an El Nino result in vertical wind shear which can tear apart hurricanes as they try to form. The CSU team is predicting 13 named storms during the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from 1 Jun-30 Nov. Of those, researchers expect 6 to become hurricanes and 2 to reach major hurricane strength (Category 3,4, or 5). The average is 14.4 named storms, 7.2 hurricanes, and 3.2 major hurricanes. But please remember that it only takes one hurricane to ruin your day or your year.

How much rain fell on 17 Apr in Manatee County? In about a 2-hour period, there was 3.05 inches in Parrish, 2.75 on Rye Road, 2.48 at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, 2.11 at Lakewood Ranch, and 1.33 inches at Palmetto. There was very little rain north of Manatee County, so the Drought Monitor was raised to Extreme Drought in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus Counties. Severe Drought continues in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. The drought ended in Southeast FL with heavy rain 10-12 Apr. There was 25.91 inches of rain in 7 hours at the Fort Lauderdale Airport on 12 Apr with record flooding closing the airport for two days.

How warm was March? It was the 7th warmest Mar on record at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport with an average temp of 71.6 degrees, 3.5 degrees above normal. It was the 3rd driest March on record at the airport with 0.18 inches of rain. Globally, it was the 2nd warmest March on record with an average temp 0.51C above normal. Drought in Spain now affects 60% of the Spanish countryside, with wheat and barley likely to fail in 4 regions. Three years of very low rainfall and high temps put Spain officially into long-term drought. Last year was Spain's 6th driest year, and this year had the warmest March in 60 years. In contrast, temps in Winnipeg, Canada remained below freezing throughout all of March, something reported only once before, in 1899.

Where were seasonal snowfall records? Some seasonal snowfall records in inches include Alta UT 901, Mammoth Mtn CA Summit 885, Flagstaff AZ 163.1, Duluth MN 139.9, Bayfield WI 94.4, and Brainerd MN 89.3. It was the second heaviest season at the Central Sierra Snow Lab CA with 737.2 inches and Bismarck ND with 101.2 inches. Minneapolis MN had its 3rd heaviest with 90.3 inches. Some other seasonal snowfall totals in inches include Marquette MI 232.6, Sault Ste. Marie MI 156.7, Buffalo NY 133.6, Caribou ME 133.4, and Great Falls MT 96.2.

How many tornadoes in 2023? There have been 496 tornadoes in the U.S. from 2 Jan-20 Apr. Total fatalities have reached 64. Strongest storms were EF4 tornadoes at Rolling Fork MS on 24 Mar and Keota IA on 31 Mar. Tornado deaths are almost 3 times higher than 2022 with 23.

How is the runoff? Major flooding is occurring on the Mississippi River from Minneapolis south to St Louis. The river is expected to be the highest in over 20 years. Heavy rain drowned thousands of acres of farmland in the CA Central Valley this winter. And when the triple normal snowpack melts, the flooded area could triple in size by summer, costing billions in losses.

“Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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