



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



July 2023 Issue

Pastor Terry's Reflections



Synod Assembly was held on June 8-10 in Orlando. Ann Courter, Doug and Emily Holst, Deacon Tara and I were all delegates. Please take the opportunity to talk to them about their experience.

What follows are my notes from the keynote speaker, Bishop Patricia Davenport, the first African-American female Bishop in the ELCA and Bishop Suarez' reflections on the theme Renewed In Christ.

The centering Bible verse was Hebrews 13:6-8, "6 So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" 7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (NRSV)

Bishop Davenport placed an emphasis on our recovery as a church from the pandemic. She began by saying that it is imperative that we remember our leaders. And she was not just talking about pastors but lay leaders in the church as well. She noted that all leaders in the church have had their faith pushed to the limit. This reminded me of the importance of our efforts to recognize our volunteers – our leaders.

Bishop Davenport highlighted the prefix of the assembly slogan stating that the "re" in renewed means again. She discussed how many churches are bemoaning how people are not returning to in-person worship, the lack of volunteers, people leaving the church, etc. Some are asking the question – where is God in the midst of all of this?

She reminded us that the action of God is accompaniment not destruction. God isn't causing all of this to happen but is walking with us through it all. We find ourselves regenerating, rebuilding, restarting, renewing, refocusing, resetting, recommitting and a host of other re- words. And that we find ourselves telling Christ's story to a weary world.

She went on to say that we're in a time where we are learning to speak to a new generation. And that we should at all times continue to imitate Jesus and those of faith who have mentored us and those who are leading us. This reminded me of what we talked about at the retreat in regard to leadership – that you are not just the "business" leaders of the church, but also the spiritual leaders.

Bishop Suarez reflected on this text as well and commented that as leaders we need one another and that we should strive for unity in the spirit, not uniformity. He noted that the reality is that some people are not returning, decline continues in the church, and snow birds are now returning to the north for the summer. In some cases, those who have retired to Florida are now getting older and moving away to be closer to their grandchildren. He commented on how we are somewhat in the business of recycling retirees. Some retirees die or move away, and new ones come. He told us to remember that we are to go and invite others and begin to build new relationships.

God loves you! And so do I!

Pastor Terry



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR ONECO SCHOOL

The Outreach Team will be collecting school supplies from July 9-30. Every student at Oneco School qualifies for the free lunch program and 95% are at poverty level.

Supplies and cash donations are appreciated. Place cash donations in the collection tray and mark Oneco School.

Boxes will be in the Narthex for supplies. A suggested supply list is available on the Manatee County School Districts website: <https://www.manateeschools.net/domain/3345>.

Thank you for your kind donations. Any questions contact Elaine Seamon 941-351-0863.

Seeds Monthly is an e-Newsletter designed to equip leaders and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with important updates from the church wide organization, helpful resources, ideas for ministry and more – all in one place.

Go to: elca.org/resources/seeds

On the right hand side of the page is a blue box to click and sign up for the Seeds Monthly Newsletter email.

If you are interested in receiving more information from the Synod you can go to fbsynod.com. Subscribe to the newsletter at the bottom of the page.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will be suspended for the months of July and August.

We will resume after summer.

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:

Ed and Marsha Holloway

Doug, Julie and Emily Holst

Harold Holter

Bill Hoth

Larry and Helen Howe

Herb and Mary Hunter

Karyn Hurst

Sherry Ireland

Tom and Gay Jefferys

Dale and Sherry Johnson

Gary and Leslie Johnson

Rich and Marilyn Jones

June Jorgensen

Barbara Josephson

Marty and Paula Kane

Al Kersten

Robert and Christine Kirchner

Joe and Karen Kitchie

Jeanette Knight

Charline Kolbe

Tom Korineck



Living Lord Lutheran Church Children & Youth News

We had a great time at Day Camp June 12-16.
There were 24 kids, 4 youth helpers,
6 adult volunteers, & 3 counselors.



Please pray for our youth that will be participating in the following Summer Camps.

July 16-21: Elementary Discoverers & Horseback Riding Camp at Luther Springs (Hayden Hall & Emily Olson)

July 22-29: HS Free Climb Camp at Lutherock in NC (Emily Holst, Noah Olson, & Logan Pope)



Day Camp Donations & Volunteers

Thank you for all the generous donations including day camp scholarships; gift cards for counselor meals; and snacks & craft items. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped during the week.



Day Camp Service Project

Do you have any old, broken, or unwanted crayons? Don't fill the landfills, bring them to church to recycle! The Day Camp children started a collection of old crayons. We will continue to collect crayons through the summer. They will be sent to **The Crayon Initiative**.

A collection box is by Deacon Tara's Office.

The Crayon Initiative recycles millions of used crayons that would otherwise go to landfills—and gives new, remanufactured crayons to kids in hospitals across the United States

**SW FL Hurricane Relief Camp
June 18-23**

**Gardening, Painting, & Debris Removal
Faith Lutheran Church in Lehigh Acres**



Galdiolus Food Pantry in Ft. Myers



All Faith's Food Bank in Sarasota



Faith Lutheran Food Pantry in Sarasota



All God's Children Preschool is just starting summer camp. We have seven weeks of camp for our current students, graduating students, and children in the community that attend other schools. We always have such an amazing time over the summer, it is so nice to be able to see our AGC families once again as well as meet new families.

We had our first week of camp that was out of this world, literally, it was space camp. We did space crafts, made galaxy slime, learned about the planets and how we can keep our planet healthy and safe.

Fun is what the campers at All God's Children preschool are having everyday! This week we are learning about all of God's creatures that hop, fly, buzz, and crawl. It is bug week! All of our weeks have different themes from woodworking to cooking this summer. Our campers will be busy doing science experiments, cooking, baking, scavenger hunts, creative crafts, and of course playing with all of their friends before school begins again. Each Friday, our campers have water day and we transform our playground into a water park with slides, pools, and water tables. It is the perfect way to end the week and cool off from the hot summer sun. It is always a pleasure to watch our campers enjoy one another and learn many new things in a fun way. Our summer camp staff, Ms. Andrea, Ms. Erin, Ms. Colleen, Ms. Maria, Miss Kendall, Miss Mya, and Mr. Nico will be working very hard every day to show our campers how fun summer can be at AGC! We are looking forward to the awesome adventures ahead!



Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes May 10, 2023

Attendees: Pastor Terry Courter, President Rebecca Powers, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Tara Friedrichs, Patty Kunkel, Michael Gutzler, Rhoda Olson, Brook Palmtag, Stephany Rose. Absent: Rich Jones, Mary Hunter, Shari Medley. Guest: Karen Symos

The meeting was opened by Pastor with Prayers and Devotions at 7:02pm.

Approval of the minutes: March minutes were approved unanimously as presented. April minutes were approved after minor corrections to spelling, unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor submitted his report electronically. Feedback has been positive regarding sitting at the end of service to enjoy the postlude.

May 13th – funeral service for Susan Stodghill

May 21st is Graduate Sunday (3 graduates)

May 28th is Confirmation Sunday (2 confirmands)

June 3rd – funeral service for Lowell Welke

June 8th – 10th – Synod Assembly

Deacon Tara's Report: Tara's full report was submitted electronically. Youth Sunday is May 7th, and Peer ministry continues. If you have a scripture you'd like highlighted in the graduate bibles, please get those to Tara by May 15th.

Day camp is scheduled for June 12 – 16th - 9am-4pm – only a couple of spots still available.

All God's Children: Current enrollment is 56 students. Nineteen children will graduate from VPK on May 19th. \$15K was raised at the Springtime Carnival. May 26th is the last day of school.

Financial Report: A \$78K CD earning 1% interest matured in April. With approval from the Council, the Treasurer added \$22K to it for a total of \$100K and reinvested in a new CD at 5.5% interest for 6mos.

An internal audit was completed for 2020 & 2021. Conclusion: Based on audit work performed in the traditional financial categories, the books and records of Living Lord Lutheran Church for 2020 and 2021 appear to be materially accurate in all respects. Testing performed also found that the controls governing financial processes to be in place and operating as intended. The committee has created a management report to church council of a few recommendations for future improvements. The full report is available in the church office.

The council accepted the recommendations and accepted the audit unanimously.

A full external audit is planned for the fiscal year 2023 and will be budgeted and performed in 2024.

Stewardship Report:

Karen Symos was introduced and gave a report on the proposed Stewardship Sunday in October. The stewardship team will set up for all ministries to have a table to explain what they do and invite anyone that would like to volunteer to learn more about a particular ministry. (Altar Guild, Property, Music and Worship, Education, etc.) Refreshments and handouts will be available.

Team Reports: All teams submitted reports electronically.

Evangelism: The team continues to update the website.

Parish Life: A representative from the Sheriff's office will be speaking to the small groups about crime prevention. – More to come on this.

Continued on page 8

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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2023	Jan - May 2023 Actuals	Jan -May 2023 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	191,126.29	182,711.00	8,415.29
Church General Fund Disbursements	190,327.03	175,787.50	(14,539.53)
Net Church General Fund	799.26	6,923.50	(6,124.24)
Church Restricted Receipts	7,221.48		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	411.31		
Youth Group Fundraiser	2,025.15		
Forward in Faith Receipts	125,880.37		
Church Restricted Disbursements	11,639.62		
Forward in Faith Capital Disbursements	252,450.80		
Forward in Faith Fundraising Disb	644.48		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(128,397.33)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	149,325.20	138,020.00	11,305.20
AGC General Fund Disbursements	109,690.25	110,253.47	563.22
Net AGC General Fund	39,634.95	27,766.53	11,868.42
AGC Restricted Receipts	41,698.80		
AGC Fundraisers	(630.34)		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	16,746.45		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>63,956.96</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	340,451.49	320,731.00	19,720.49
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	300,017.28	286,040.97	(13,976.31)
Net LLLC General Fund	40,434.21	34,690.03	5,744.18
Fundraising Balances	1,806.12		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	174,800.65		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	281,481.35		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>(64,440.37)</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2023 VS 2022	Jan - May 2023 Actuals	Jan - May 2022 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	191,126.29	189,565.07	1,561.22
Church General Fund Disbursements	190,327.03	163,896.16	(26,430.87)
Net Church General Fund	799.26	25,668.91	(24,869.65)
AGC General Fund Receipts	149,325.20	127,483.55	21,841.65
AGC General Fund Disbursements	109,690.25	93,153.35	(16,536.90)
Net AGC General Fund	39,634.95	34,330.20	5,304.75
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	340,451.49	317,048.62	23,402.87
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	300,017.28	257,049.51	(42,967.77)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>40,434.21</u>	<u>59,999.11</u>	(19,564.90)

Church general fund receipts through May are \$1500 more than last year and \$8400 more than budget. Expenses are \$14,000 more than budget. Our receipts are within \$1000 of disbursements. AGC receipts are \$40,000 favorable to disbursements.



Lynn Fisher, bookkeeper

From your Faith Community Nurses – July 2023

July is recognized as UV Safety Awareness Month and serves as a reminder that exposure to ultra-violet rays is the most important preventable risk factor for skin cancer.

UV rays come not only from the sun but from sunlamps and tanning beds. There are two types of UV rays that can reach and damage your skin: UVA and UVB.

Here's how you can help reduce your risk of skin cancer:

Minimize your exposure to the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the hours when UV rays are strongest.

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen before you go outside. Use a water-resistant, broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor, or SPF, of at least 30. Broad-spectrum means the sunscreen protects against both UVA and UVB rays. Apply it to all areas of your body that will be exposed to the sun.

Reapply sunscreen every two hours, even on cloudy days. Reapply after swimming or sweating.

Wear sunglasses with a UV coating (the label should say 100% UVA/UVB protection). This will reduce the amount of UV rays that reach the eye and protect your eyelids and the eye itself.

Wear clothing that covers your body and shades your face. Wear a long-sleeved shirt, pants, and a wide-brimmed hat. Hats should provide shade for the face, ears, and back of the neck.

Don't use sunlamps or tanning beds.

Protecting children from the sun

Skin damage from UV rays early in life can lead to skin cancer later in life. Keep children from too much sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the hours when UV rays are strongest. Apply a generous amount of sunscreen often to children 6 months and older. Keep babies younger than 6 months out of direct sunlight. Dress your baby in hats and lightweight clothing that covers most of the skin. The American Academy of Pediatrics approves using sunscreen on babies younger than 6 months if clothing and shade don't provide enough cover. Apply a small amount of sunscreen. Use it only on your baby's exposed areas such as the face and back of the hands.

Take care around sand

Sand and water reflect UV rays, even under a beach umbrella. If you're on the beach, cover up and use sunscreen.

Have a Safe Summer

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” *1 Peter 2:9*

Old Business: Forward in Faith: Final work is being completed. Still waiting for the estimate for the final grading for the drainage and the parking area. The sidewalk in front of the church will be extended to the shed across the new parking area.

Volunteer Recognition: A reminder was given on the spreadsheet that was distributed and instructions on how to quantify who volunteers and how long they have volunteered, so that we can determine how we will recognize all that people that do volunteer for the church. Please fill those spreadsheets out and return them to Rae Dowling.

New Business:

After discussion on how to proceed with the remainder of the work that is needed around the church, it was moved and seconded that a Building Improvement Committee will be formed by June 1st. President and Vice President will put that committee in place. New donations for church improvements will be designated for the Building Improvement Fund.

The meeting continued with a discussion of our spiritual journey.

Council next meeting dates: June 14th, 2023 – 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm with the Lords Prayer.

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		
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	Pam Lange	404-358-1124
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
Nancy Woodworth	Linda Couch
Sue Pinkerton	Gene Rahn
June Hartlieb	Ray Rankl
Bill and Janet Burkman	Sophia Sahr
Ron Silver	Jimmy Woodworth
Andrew Catanese	Lori Rapp
Family of Roger Masch	Jim and Sandy Kudrin
Laura Apeathy	Becky Berka
Andreas & Anaiya	Jim Pinto
Frankie Vasquez	Debbie Skelly
Steve Long	Jim Morrison
Family of Dick Bernard	Anne Davis
Nayda Rivera	Jeanne Thum
Family of Susan Stodghill	Valerie Walden
Elaine Truitt	Diane and family
Ralph Hanson	Peggy Smith
Allen Brooks	Lynn Echols
Family of Gloria Depas	Family of Lowell Welke
Gary Graham	Brenda Moore
Cindy Lewis	Tracy Allen
The Gorski Family	Jeff Shaw
Steve Pyeatt	Dawn Schaeffer
Randy Hanson	Doreen Quirk
Bob Ready	Richard
Brian Brockschmidt	Family of Katherine Hoth
Family of Brian Schmidt	Barbara Kunkel
Kim, Isabelle and Erika Schmidt	Trina Pundrus & mother





Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

How many tropical storms so far in 2023? On Fri/23 Jun, Tropical Storm Cindy formed behind Tropical Storm Bret, in the first case of two storms in the tropical Atlantic in June since record keeping began in 1851. Unusually high sea surface temperatures aided in this rare development. Cindy is expected to head north-west and weaken over open waters. Bret dissipated on Sun/25 Jun. On 22-23 Jun, Bret moved across the Windward Islands with its center passing north of Barbados and over St Vincent and the Grenadines with damage to 35 homes and no injuries. Tropical Storm Arlene had a brief life over the central Gulf of Mexico on 2-3 Jun. With such warm water over the Atlantic and Gulf, remain alert as the hurricane season runs 1 Jun-30 Nov.

Was it a warm spring in 2023? It was the warmest spring (Mar/Apr/May) on record at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport with an average temperature of 75.4 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal. Records began in 1911. May 2023 was the third warmest May for the globe in NOAA's 174-year record with a surface temp 1.75 degrees above the 20th -century average. With 4.62 inches of rain on 31 May, the Parrish total for May was 7.81 inches, 256% of normal. The May rainfall total for the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport was only 2.27 inches, 88 % of normal.

Has Tulare Lake reached its peak in California? The revived lake came to life in March, flooding roads, farms, and even homes, and has continued to grow as record snow from the Sierra Nevada has melted into rivers that feed the basin in the San Joaquin Valley. State water experts are now saying the historic Tulare Lake likely reached its peak size on 8 June, avoiding additional flooding. The size reached is 178 square miles, nearly the size of Lake Tahoe.

Are ski resorts still open in the Sierra Nevada? Mammoth Mountain is still open and likely will remain open until late July. Snow depth ranges from 58 inches at the base to 116 inches at the summit. At the Central Sierra Snow Lab at Donner Summit, the snow level reached zero on 25 June. The seasonal total of 753 inches was second only to the record 812 inches in 1952.

Have major CA reservoirs recovered? Lake Oroville hit 100% capacity on 13 Jun after undergoing dramatic recovery from drought. Formed by the tallest dam in the country, Lake Oroville reached 126% of its historic average for this time of year. Lake **level rose 240 feet.**

Is there drought in the Midwest? As of 23 Jun, drought has rapidly intensified across the Midwest region over the last five weeks. According to the Drought Monitor, 58% of the Midwest is now in moderate to extreme drought. Looking at examples for 1 May-25 Jun, Omaha NE rainfall of 1.44 inches is 17% of normal. Ottumwa IA rainfall of 2.04 inches is 21% of normal. Rainfall is crucial to alleviate drought, particularly as corn pollination begins in early July.

How hot was it in Texas? All time high temperature records were set with 115 degrees at Laredo on 19 Jun, 115 at Del Rio on 21 Jun, and 114 at San Angelo on 20 Jun. Record highs over 100 degrees were common over South and Central Texas from 9 to 26 Jun.

Which state just lost all drought? Colorado! Gulf moisture triggered T-storms and heavy rainfall 1 May to 26 Jun with 14.69 inches at Colorado Springs (371% of normal), 14.65 at Centennial (387% of normal), and 10.68 at Denver (276% of normal). Also in the Texas Panhandle, Borger had 13.02 (276% of normal) and Dalhart had 11.24 (256% of normal).

“Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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