



# Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

## The Voice



September 2023 Issue

### Pastor Terry's Reflections



This is my last newsletter article before I retire. If you are unaware, I am retiring at the end of September and my last Sunday will be September 24.

During the five years that I was with you, we encountered some great things and some challenging things just like every community of faith faces.

Relative to great things, a couple of accomplishments stand out. The first is administrative organization. When I first arrived, much of the "official" records and information was being kept in the homes of various members. Most, if not all, of this information has been centralized in the office and on the server where it is backed up on a regular basis.

Second is home visits. To my surprise, there was no list of members who were homebound and no regular visits to bring them Holy Communion. I worked with the Stephen ministers to identify these folks and established regular monthly visits to these folks.

Lastly, we began the practice of having the staff pray for the members of the congregation such that we prayed for the whole membership in a year's time. We also listed these members in the Voice and encourage others to pray for them as well.

I would remind you of words I shared with you at the beginning of my ministry here. You may or may not remember them – "Pastors come and go, it is you, the people of God in this place, you are the church, you are the ones who support and "do" the ministry."

On the challenging side of things, this can be summed up in one word "Pandemic." Many of the challenges of the pandemic were not unique to us. They affected almost every church and

every denomination.

These challenges included lower worship attendance and thus lower giving. This includes both people staying home and watching church online as well as people who decided to become members at other churches.

However, the effects of the Pandemic were not all bad. We began livestreaming worship and reaching more people online than were showing up in person before the pandemic. We were and are reaching more people with the good news of the Gospel.

Overall, this community of faith is improving its connectedness and beginning to deepen relationships with one another. I have witnessed this in the Bible study that I led on Wednesdays and in the recent church council in its work to create a new mission and vision statement and working on how that impacts the congregation as a whole.

As you transition and prepare to call a new pastor, please continue to focus on the essence of ministry. This is summed up in Jesus' explanation of the greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-39, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (NRSV)

Above all, I pray that you will remember, "You are a child of God, called and gifted to make a difference in the world."

God loves you! And so do I!

*Pastor Terry*



## **PASTOR TERRY'S RETIREMENT LUNCHEON**

In case you have not heard  
Pastor Terry is

retiring and his last Sunday with us will be  
September 24th. We want to send him off to the  
Golf Course and more than likely to spend more  
time with that darling granddaughter. We will be  
serving lunch on the 24th at noon and we want  
everyone to come!!!!

In order to help us plan for the food we are  
asking that you sign-up on the list in the narthex by  
Sunday, September 17th, and please indicate how  
many in your family will be attending.

You can also call the Church at (941)753-9365 and  
Maggie or Marianne will add you to the list.

Retirement is a happy time and we need all of  
you to help him celebrate and to let him know how  
much he has meant to Living Lord. He will be  
missed!!!!

Fellowship Committee

### **God's Work Our Hands Sunday**

**September 10, 12:30 – 3:30 pm**

### **Congregational BBQ & Church Property Clean-up**

Join us on Sept. 10 for a Congregational BBQ at 12:30  
pm, followed by a Church Property Clean-up. We will  
work together to improve the outside of our church facili-  
ties. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided for  
lunch. Please bring chips, a salad, side, or dessert to  
share. You may also want to bring shovels, rakes, lop-  
pers, brooms, gloves, and other yard tools. We will have  
a few projects inside for those who are not able to work  
outside.

**Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex by  
Sept. 3 for lunch and/or cleanup.**

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for providing a grant to  
help support this project.

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Please join us as we continue for the summer.  
We will be meeting at noon on **Sept 14th** at  
Station 400. No sign-up necessary.

### **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:

Kathy Kotowski

Tracy Kotowski

Patty Kunkel

Hadley and Alice Kurtz

Michael Kvenberg

Pam Lange

Kate Langsen

Eric, Desiray, Madison & Brooke  
Laschke

Ruby Laudig

Donna, Nicholas & Alexandra Layrisse

Guy & Jan LePare

Bruce and Cindy Lewis

Roger & Sharlot Lofgren

Valerie Lowe

Jim, Linda and Elizabeth Lustgarten

Gene Mann

Helen Marr

Glenda Masch

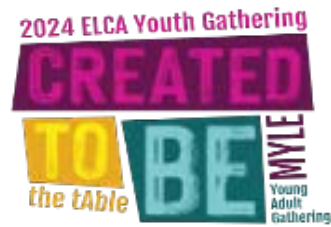
Gary & Annette Mastrangelo

Bill & Ruth McConnell

Marty & Shari Medley



## Living Lord Lutheran Church Children & Youth News



**July 16-20, 2024  
New Orleans, LA**

**For Youth in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Registration and \$150 Deposit due Oct. 1**

### ACCOMPANIMENT

We will work alongside the people of New Orleans in a service, justice, or advocacy project.

### INTERACTIVE LEARNING

We will learn about ministries of the Church through a variety of hands-on experiences in the Convention Center.

### SYNOD DAY

We will participate in worship, Bible study, and community building with other congregations in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

### MASS GATHERING

Each night, we'll gather in the Superdome where we will further explore the day's theme with worship, speakers, and guest musicians.

### THEME: CREATED TO BE

\* We are created to be **brave**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.

\* We are created to be **authentic**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.

\* We are created to be **free**, to be transformed by the gospel.

\* We are created to be **disruptive**, to work for justice for all our siblings.

**Sept. 3** No Faith Formation or Activities

### **Sept. 10**

10:05 am Faith Formation: K-3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>  
HS Peer Ministry

12:30 pm God's Work our Hands:  
Cookout & Church Cleanup

### **Sept. 17**

10:05 am Faith Formation: K-3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>  
HS Peer Ministry

12:15 pm MS & HS Youth Group: Lunch,  
Devotion & Paint Pumpkins

### **Sept. 24**

10:05 am Faith Formation: K-3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>  
HS Peer Ministry

12:30 pm Lunch for Pastor Terry

2:00 pm Set up for Painted Pumpkin  
Raffle



### **Youth Activity**

### **Painting Pumpkins**

**September 17, 12:15 pm**

MS & HS Youth will have lunch and paint pumpkins after church on Sunday, September 17.

Bring pumpkins of any size to paint.

**Raffle Tickets will be sold between services on October 1 & 8.**

The drawing will be October 8 after the 11:00 am service

“Are You a Morning Person?”  
The Importance of Secure Attachments  
By: Erin Bonifate

Have you ever heard someone say, “I am not much of a morning person?” Not only do I hear people use that expression, but I hear it said about me all the time. It has become a little bit of a joke at the preschool where I have been the director for the past five years. “Don’t ask Erin any questions first thing in the morning,” is something that I hear my employees chuckle about when they come in my office. While I chuckle along with my staff most mornings, I also wonder to myself, is this how I would like to be known as a person, as a leader? It might be time for a change. “What does this story have to do with the importance of secure attachments?” you may be asking yourself. Well, after reflecting on some of the children in my preschool, I might not be the only one who is not a “morning person.”

Being a preschool director one part of my job is answering lots of emails, paperwork, meetings, and time spent at the computer making sure the school is running efficiently and that the staff’s needs are met. The other part of my job, my favorite part, is interacting with the students and parents. One way that I do this is by making sure that I am at the door every morning to greet each child by name. I want to make sure that every student enters the school feeling safe and secure. It is the best part of my day, but I have noticed that many of the students tend to walk right past me without saying hello or good morning. Usually, I would just think, that child must not be a morning person and continue my routine. After learning about secure attachments and the emotional bond between young children and their caregivers, maybe there is more to it. Do the children feel like my preschool is a secure base, a place to safely explore, play, and learn? After all, that is the main goal when running a preschool.

After much reflection on the subject, I thought that I might change my daily routine and leave the office a bit more to engage with the students and get back to the fun part of being a director. I wanted to see if I could build bonds with the students, so they would feel comfortable. I started a schedule and made sure that I was available to be in each of the six classrooms during a time when the students were engaging in conversation. This may have been at circle time, for the 2-year-old students, lunch time, for the 3-year-old students, and recess for the 4- and 5-year-old students. Whatever the time, I wanted to insert myself into the classroom and be more available for the students to get to know me better. What a blast I had talking to the students, sharing stories about my children, and listening to stories about what they did over the weekend. On the playground, I was playing ball, musical chairs, and sitting at the picnic table chatting with the girls. I was having such a wonderful time and the students were starting to look at me as more than the “boss” or “principal” of the school. I started to have students come to my office and invite me into the classroom for a special project or for story time. I feel like I had accomplished so much and earned the trust of the students, I was making secure relationships with them.

My final challenge was to see if I could get those children that were “not morning people,” to start to return my greeting at the front door. I noticed a change in myself since switching up my daily schedule, but did the students feel the change? I am happy to report that many of the students that were not engaging with me in the morning, started saying hello, giving me high fives, and I even started getting some hugs. This did wonders for my self-esteem, and I can only hope that it had the same effect on the children. I learned that forming these relationships is the most important part of my job and can be most effective in a child’s life. I can make my preschool safe physically by making sure the policies are followed, the playground is safe, and the doors are always secure and locked. I can also make sure the school is emotionally safe, a place where the students can be themselves, explore, use their imaginations, and most importantly feel loved.

This is still a work in progress, there are still students that buzz past me in the morning, but I feel like I am on the right path and am excited to continue my journey, wish me luck!



AGC ended the summer with a kindergarten camp for our VPK graduates this month. Miss Crystal and Miss Heather had most of our VPK graduates come back to AGC for one final week. They were busy reviewing some of the things they learned through the year in order to be ready for the "big school". It was so wonderful for the students to be able to have one more week together to play, do activities, learn, and spend time with their teachers. This camp was a HUGE success and our AGC staff is so proud of our graduates and wish them a magical school year!

We are finally starting the new school year, welcoming new families from far and wide as well as our wonderful returning families. The past few weeks have been full of teamwork, energy, positivity, creativity, and thoughtfulness as the AGC staff took so much time preparing their classrooms, creating lesson plans, and guiding each other in every way. It was a blessing to watch the teachers share ideas and support each other. We know that this year is going to be a fun adventure and that our team will go above and beyond for our AGC students and families.

We will open our doors for two days and welcome our families in to meet their teachers and explore the classrooms. We are looking forward to having the laughter and joy back in our building. This will be an opportunity for our new and returning families to meet their teachers and their classmates, tour the school, and get familiar with the classrooms. The teachers will have the chance to talk about their daily schedules, lesson plans, and calendar, as well as give a background of their teaching experience. This is an important day for both staff and families and a great way to kick off the new school year!

We are excited to introduce the AGC (All God's Parent) group this year. This will be a group of parents that want to help organize school events, assist the administration with fundraising, as well as helping new families within the AGC community network with one another. They have already planned a fun ice cream social in September for the students and parents. I am looking forward to these parents bringing their amazing energy to AGC!

I am so pleased to introduce our 2023/2024 AGC staff, this team is one of the best that I have seen in many years and I am excited to watch them grow with each other this year. We are blessed to have Crystal Fulk (VPK), Heather Amato (VPK), Kelly Miles (3 year olds), Colleen McCready (3 year olds), Maria Ade (3 year olds), and Erin Bonifate (administration), back this year. Many of these teachers have been with AGC for at least four years and some over ten years. AGC welcomes two new members to the team this year and they could not be a better fit. Susan Gutzler (2 year olds), and Britlee Yant (support staff), are joining our staff and what a blessing they have been to this school. They have jumped right into the swing of things, creating gorgeous classroom environments. They are very much looking forward to sharing their gift with our children.

Let this new year serve as a new adventure for our staff, students and parents as we will continue to learn and grow everyday. Please keep AGC in your prayers for a healthy and happy school year. Enjoy the picture of the newest Kindergarten class being silly as they finish their week of camp!



## Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Update

As summer draws to a close, I hope that all of us can look back on the summer with some great memories. This summer also brought us news of a very significant change for LLC with the announcement of Pastor Terry's retirement. With this retirement announcement, it is a time for us to reflect on the blessings Pastor Terry has brought us as the Living Lord congregation. Pastor Terry led our congregation through many good times as well as many trying times. As I look back, how far we have come since the onset of a global pandemic when none of us knew what the future may hold. Through that, Pastor Terry led us through uncertainty, and we were able to endure as a congregation with him as our spiritual leader. We will always be thankful for his leadership and spiritual presence in our lives.

As we take time to reflect, I'm sure many of you are asking "what's next?" "What does this retirement mean for our congregation?" Transitions can be a time of joyful anticipation or for some it may bring on anxiety and confusion around the process to take place. All emotions during a time of transition are valid and it is my goal to provide some clarity around the next steps for us as a congregation. The one thing I ask from all of you is prayers and patience as our congregation goes through this time of transition. There are several steps in calling a new pastor and none of these steps are time bound. The timing and length of each step is in God's hands and we will pray for his guidance as we move through each step of the process. I do want to share with you the steps of the Call process.

Step 1: Current Pastor resigns and we celebrate his ministry together

Step 2: Congregation receives a transition or interim pastor

Step 3: A Ministry assessment and discernment process occurs

Step 4: The call process begins and a call committee is formed

Step 5: Congregational Ministry Site Profile is created

Step 6: A call list is formed

Step 7: Interview of candidates by call committee

Step 8: Primary candidate identified and interviewed by congregation council

Step 9: Congregation meets primary candidate

Step 10: Congregation votes to extend a call; pastor accepts or declines

Step 11: Installation

Step 12: Evaluation of the process

As you can see, there are a lot of steps in this transition process. We are currently at the beginning of Step 11! I ask that our focus be as follows for the next few weeks:

- 1) Reflect on and celebrate Pastor Terry's ministry and assist him and Ann in their time of transition
- 2) Pray for our church council and congregation as we embark on the Call process

Communication will be very important throughout this transition and I plan to update the congregation at least monthly as to how we are progressing through the call process. More to come as we embark on this journey. I wish the best for Pastor Terry and Ann as they move into the next chapter of their lives and am thankful that God brought them both into my life and the lives of all members of our congregation and community.

Blessings

Rebecca Powers

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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2023	Jan - July 2023 Actuals	Jan - July 2023 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	245,518.04	245,830.00	(311.96)
Church General Fund Disbursements	261,521.07	244,496.35	(17,024.72)
Net Church General Fund	(16,003.03)	1,333.65	(17,336.68)
Church Restricted Receipts	9,247.18		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	877.36		
Youth Group Fundraiser	1,979.16		
Forward in Faith Receipts	126,505.37		
Church Restricted Disbursements	16,544.73		
Forward in Faith Capital Disbursements	250,050.80		
Forward in Faith Fundraising Disb	644.48		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(144,633.97)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	167,399.22	141,935.00	25,464.22
AGC General Fund Disbursements	138,026.77	135,924.83	(2,101.94)
Net AGC General Fund	29,372.45	6,010.17	23,362.28
AGC Restricted Receipts	74,678.80		
AGC Fundraisers	(399.16)		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	21,424.74		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>82,227.35</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	412,917.26	387,765.00	25,152.26
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	399,547.84	380,421.18	(19,126.66)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>13,369.42</u>	<u>7,343.82</u>	<u>6,025.60</u>
Fundraising Balances	2,457.36		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	210,431.35		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	288,664.75		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>(62,406.62)</u>		
<b>YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2023 VS 2022</b>	<b>Jan - July 2023 Actuals</b>	<b>Jan - July 2022 Actuals</b>	<b>Favorable/ (Unfavorable)</b>
Church General Fund Receipts	245,518.04	242,736.04	2,782.00
Church General Fund Disbursements	261,521.07	231,043.92	(30,477.15)
Net Church General Fund	(16,003.03)	11,692.12	(27,695.15)
AGC General Fund Receipts	167,399.22	137,013.55	30,385.67
AGC General Fund Disbursements	138,026.77	115,554.10	(22,472.67)
Net AGC General Fund	29,372.45	21,459.45	7,913.00
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	412,917.26	379,749.59	33,167.67
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	399,547.84	346,598.02	(52,949.82)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>13,369.42</u>	<u>33,151.57</u>	<u>(19,782.15)</u>

Church general fund receipts through July are \$2700 more than last year and \$300 under budget. Expenses are \$17,000 more than budget. Our disbursements are \$16,000 more than receipts. AGC receipts are \$29,000 favorable to disbursements.



Lynn Fisher, bookkeeper

## BETTER BREAKFAST MONTH

There is no better time to celebrate breakfast than during the entire month of September. It's Better Breakfast Month! Breakfast is considered the most important meal of the day. Eating breakfast has many health benefits. Eating a regular morning meal helps control weight and can guide us towards eating healthier meals regularly throughout the day.

It's that time of year again. Kids are getting back to school, and everyone is beginning to prepare for the winter months ahead. It's important to take stock of how to start off the day. Consuming a well-balanced breakfast in the morning gives our bodies energy to get our day started the right way. Kids who have a healthy meal before school starts consistently perform and behave better at school. Having breakfast as a family every morning to talk about daily plans and promotes healthy eating. Breakfast is essential, but don't skip the fun of preparing breakfast with your kids!

Breakfast food can be anything you want it to be, within reason of course. Cereal is the most common breakfast food. However, if you wake up with a hankering for a slice of leftover pizza, enjoy it! Pizza is good for you when consumed in moderation. For years, eggs got a bad rap on the food pyramid. Recently, eggs have been proven to provide essential vitamins and minerals needed to promote a healthy diet.

A complete breakfast should contain a balance of all the major food groups. Protein, dairy, fat, and carbohydrates. These elements are vital to maintaining stamina and fending off hunger throughout the day. Though carbs and fats are needed in the daily intake of nutrients, it's important to not over-indulge in these two areas. However, a little bit won't hurt you.

### HOW TO OBSERVE #BetterBreakfastMonth

Start your day with a complete breakfast. Set a time aside for the family to grab a quick bite to eat before everyone heads out the door. Share recipes with friends and family on healthy ideas for breakfast.

Celebrate Better Breakfast Day on September 26.

### BETTER BREAKFAST MONTH HISTORY

Originating during World War I, the United States government encouraged citizens to eat a Better Breakfast. The program gained momentum again during World War II. Then, in 1951, the Cereal Institute promoted Better Breakfast Month for the first time in September. Research gathered by the institute suggested that breakfast was the most important meal of the day. They selected the month to coordinate with children returning to school and businesses gearing back up after the lull of summer vacation. As a result, September became the ideal time to promote the benefits of a healthful and delicious breakfast.

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians, 10:31 NIV)*

Source: [NationalDayCalendar.com](http://NationalDayCalendar.com)

Save the Date: Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 10-11am

Meet and Greet Your Teams

Have coffee with your committee heads and get further information on Living Lord's ministries

What do they do?

How often do they meet?

What help do they need?



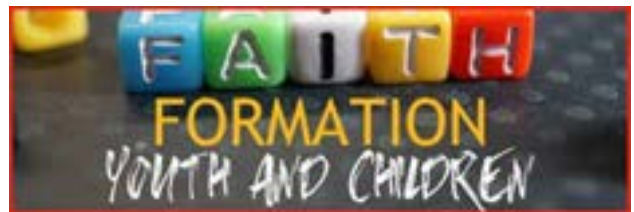


09/02	Scitirro	Monica
09/02	Zipay	Doug
09/03	Dowling	Melissa
09/04	Morrison	Jimmie
09/05	Parker	Carole
09/05	Zipay	Natasha
09/07	Griffon	Alyssa
09/08	Bostrom	Liz
09/08	Hanson	Ellen
09/08	Powers	Robert
09/09	Marino	Eva
09/09	Seamon	Ken
09/09	Wixson	Nancy
09/10	Courter	Terry
09/10	North	Russell
09/10	Symos	Karen
09/12	Schimmoller	Kathy
09/13	Beach	Karen
09/15	Behler	Douglas
09/17	Richter	Glenn
09/19	Pinsonneault	Kyle
09/21	Mylett	Anna Marie
09/22	Emmel	Faye
09/24	Fetterman	Carole
09/26	Copeland	Samantha
09/26	Wells	Toni
09/27	Dzumela	Barb
09/27	Masch	Glenda
09/27	Morsches	Becca
09/28	Kunkel	Pat
09/28	Ronning	Maureen
09/29	Marr	Helen
09/29	Trompke	Steven
09/30	Laschke	Brooke
09/30	Polk	Barbara
09/30	Salmon	Linda

09/06	Laschke, Desiray & Eric
09/07	Anuszewski, Peggy & Michael
09/10	Marino, Thomas & Jennie
09/16	Corn, Debbie & William
09/17	Andersen, Walter & Marcia
09/24	Polk, Barbara & Arthur
09/26	Scholten, Duane & Kay
09/26	Trompke, Tamara & Steven
09/28	Sanders, Carol & Edward

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE JULY 2023

	Online People Reached	In-Person Attendance	Total
2-July	367	109	476
9-July	382	111	493
16-July	433	112	545
23-July	321	90	411
30-July	212	106	318



**Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class:** The early elementary students will use Whirl All Kids Curriculum. They will learn Old Testament stories in the fall, then stories about Jesus and the early church during the winter and spring.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class:** The older elementary/ middle school students will use Connect Curriculum and will complete an in-depth study of the Old Testament this school year.

**High School Faith Formation Class:** The high school youth will finish Peer Ministry Leadership Skills then transition to topical Bible Studies.

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

### Church Council

<b>President</b>	Rebecca Powers	913-306-5415
<b>Vice President</b>	Rich Jones	614-570-6540
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Gutzler	978-857-7172
<b>Secretary</b>	Rae Dowling	741-8335
<b>Evangelism</b>	Patty Kunkel	748-6669
<b>Education</b>	OPEN	
<b>Property</b>	Bill Hoth	914-523-8425
<b>Member At Large</b>	Beverly Brockschmidt	352-464-1177
<b>Stewardship</b>	Karen Symos	410-370-8666
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	Rhoda Olson	201-6304
<b>Parish Life</b>	Stephney Rose	782-8005
<b>Youth Rep</b>	Brooke Palmtag	252-646-8801
<b>Faith Community Nurses</b>	Karen Hansing	748-5806
<b>Fellowship</b>	Pam Lange	404-358-1124
<b>Outreach</b>	OPEN	
<b>Stephen Ministry</b>	Helen Howe	213-9702
<b>New Members</b>	Patty Kunkel	748-6669
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Marlene Saum	753-1393
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	Tara Friedrichs	813-947-9789
<b>Worship Assistants</b>	Karen Symos	410-370-8666

Theo Bullington	Josh Myers Behler
Roy & Cindy Wells	Chris Mork
Rob Babel	Shirley Smith
Kristine Mylett	Cason Pope
Susanna Scott	Will
Gordy Havey	Ivory Anderson
Janet Castner	Nan Fisher
Liz Howell	Calvin
Wyly Pope	Gene Rahn
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	Jim Pinto
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	Debbie Skelly
Frankie Vasquez	Jim Morrison
Family of Dick Bernard	Jeanne Thum
Nayda Rivera	Valerie Walden
Family of Susan Stodghill	Diane and family
Elaine Truitt	Peggy Smith
Ralph Hanson	Lynn Echols
Allen Brooks	Family of Lowell Welke
Family of Gloria Depas	Brenda Moore
The Gorski Family	Tracy Allen
Steve Pyeatt	Jeff Shaw
Bob Ready	Dawn Schaeffer
Brian Brockschmidt	Family of Katherine Hoth
Family of Brian Schmidt	Tom Bowles
Wendy Kinka	John Saum
Denny Gilpin	Family of Marty Smith
Kathy Rodd	Family of Jeanette Knight
Tom Jefferys	Family of Dick Gross
Family of Marty Smith	Leroy Hurst
	Dan





## Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

**Was July a record warm month?** It certainly was! The July 2023 monthly average temperature of 86.2 degrees was the warmest July and the WARMEST MONTH since records began in 1911 in the Sarasota-Bradenton area. Record high of 99 was set on 5 July. The previous record for the warmest July and warmest month on record was set in July 2020 at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport with the average temperature of 85.8 degrees. Other locations with all time warmest months on record include Fort Myers, Lakeland, Plant City, Punta Gorda, Tampa, and Venice.

**Was July a record warm month globally?** The average global surface temperature in July 2023 was 2.02 degrees F above average, ranking as the warmest July in NOAA's 174-year record. Because July is the globe's warmest month of the year from a climatological perspective, July 2023 was also likely Earth's warmest month on record. For the 4th consecutive month, the global ocean surface temperature hit a record high. July 2023 set a record for the lowest July global sea ice coverage on record. Antarctic sea ice coverage ranked lowest on record for a 3rd consecutive month. Heat waves impacted much of the U.S. and brought record temps to the Southwest.

**Are we still in drought?** Using the 24 Aug U.S. Drought Monitor, Extreme Drought (D3) continues along the coast of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Severe Drought (D2) continues in the remainder of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Hopefully, rainfall from Hurricane Idalia can ease the drought situation. Using data back to 1958, the Parrish July total of 1.89 inches is the driest on record. The July total of 1.10 inches at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport is the second driest on record. Rainfall total this year at the airport through 26 Aug is only 16.00 inches, driest on record. Parrish Aug rainfall through 26 Aug is only 1.31 inches in our rain gauge, a little more than a mile north of the Manatee River bridge on Fort Hamer Road. Aug rainfall has been much more on Rye Road, North River Road, Highway 64, Highway 70, and in Lakewood Ranch.

**Is El Nino getting stronger?** In July, El Nino continued with above-average sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean with as much as plus 3.4 degree C anomaly on the coast of Ecuador. Forecasters are now more confident in a strong El Nino event, continuing through the Northern Hemisphere winter. During a strong El Nino, there is a tendency in our area for below normal summer rainfall and above normal winter rainfall. One of the wettest winters in Parrish was with the strong El Nino of 1997-98 when rainfall Nov-Mar was 42.79 inches, 356% of normal. Our summer rainfall deficits might be associated with the 2023 El Nino. Strong El Ninos are also associated with wet winters in CA and weaker than normal monsoons in India.

**How unusual was Hurricane Hilary?** Hilary was a large, potent Category 4 Pacific hurricane in Aug 2023 which brought torrential rains and gusty winds to the Pacific Coast of Mexico, Baja CA Peninsula, and the Southwest U.S., resulting in widespread flooding and mudslides. The National Hurricane Center issued an unprecedented Tropical Storm Warning for Southern CA. Hilary entered the U.S. with tropical force winds late on 20 Aug south-southwest of Palm Springs. Death Valley with 2.20 inches of rain had its all-time wettest day on 20 Aug. Heaviest CA totals include 11.74 at Mount San Jacinto and 11.73 at Raywood Flats. Wettest single summer day records include 3.18 at Palm Springs, 2.48 at Los Angeles, and 1.82 at San Diego.

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