



# Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

## The Voice



January 2024 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

WOW! What an opportunity. We have a whole new year ahead of us to make things new...or at least different. In case you have missed it, change is inevitable. Our whole lives have been filled with change. My mother lived from 1914 to 2011. Her life was filled with change. From no phones to cell phones. From no electricity to cheap electricity. From horses to electric cars. Still, she hated change. We need to embrace change. Not just change for change sake, but find the enduring changes that are open to the new in the future. We cannot make changes that then become tradition that blocks change in the future. Jesus brought us a good change when he came to earth. What he brought was a new life guided by love for others and not self-interest. He showed us the way to live that life and gave us the Holy Spirit as comforter and guide. He gave us the power to live a life of joy and peace and love and forgiveness when we mess up. We have an opportunity, again, to live in the fullness of Jesus whose birth we just celebrated. Go and live the life you were intended to live.

Read Proverbs 3. And may God's Wisdom be your guide.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Ed

Thank you to the youth and the adult volunteers for creating the Nativity to celebrate Jesus' Birthday!



# PRAYER REQUESTS

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Theo Bullington         | Josh Myers Behler        |
| Rob Babel               | Chris Mork               |
| Kristine Mylett         | Shirley Smith            |
| Susanna Scott           | Cason Pope               |
| Gordy Havey             | Will                     |
| Janet Castner           | Ivory Anderson           |
| Liz Howell              | Nan Fisher               |
| Wyly Pope               | Calvin                   |
| Sue Pinkerton           | Gene Rahn                |
| Linda Henkelmann        | Tony Zubricky            |
| Jacob Rodriguez         | Joe Kitchie              |
| Suzanne Dietzel         | Rade Mallkovich          |
| Cleo Neynaber           | Sharlene Jones           |
| Nancy Woodworth         | Shirley Kitsmiller       |
| June Hartlieb           | Linda Couch              |
| Bill and Janet Burkman  | Jim Pinto                |
| Ron Silver              | Ray Rankl                |
| Andrew Catanese         | Sophia Sahr              |
| Family of Roger Masch   | Lori Rapp                |
| Laura Apeathy           | Jim and Sandy Kudrin     |
| Frankie Vasquez         | Becky Berka              |
| Family of Dick Bernard  | Debbie Skelly            |
| Nayda Rivera            | Jim Morrison             |
| Elaine Truitt           | Jeanne Thum              |
| Ralph Hanson            | Valerie Walden           |
| Steve Pyeatt            | Peggy Smith              |
| Bob Ready               | Lynn Echols              |
| Brian Brockschmidt      | Family of Lowell Welke   |
| Family of Brian Schmidt | Tracy Allen              |
| Denny Gilpin            | Jeff Shaw                |
| Kathy Rodd              | Dawn Schaeffer           |
| Rich Jones              | Family of Katherine Hoth |
| Clifford Finholdt       | John & Marlene Saum      |
| Terrie Dale             | Family of Marty Smith    |
| Jill and Amy            | Family of Dick Gross     |
| Schrand Family          | Leroy Hurst              |
| Mary                    | Dan                      |
| Family of Helen Marr    | Family of Tom Widmann    |
| June Jorgensen          | Olivia and Barb Sahr     |
| Julianna                | Linda                    |
| Dawn                    | Karen Hansing            |



December has come and just as quickly is coming to an end. The past few weeks have been very busy for the students and staff at All God's Children Preschool. We have had lots of things to prepare for, the most important of which was our AGC Christmas program that took place on December 20th.

The church was jammed packed with parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings all excited to watch their special student perform a holiday song. Our classes started practicing their songs and poems weeks ago, so the school has been full of Christmas music and cheer.

The program started with our ballerinas performing some beautiful holiday dances, that got the holiday spirit started. Next our two-year-old students got on the altar and performed Jingle Bells, with bells in hand and smiles from ear to ear. After that, our three-year-olds sang "I'm a Little Snowman", "I'm A Little Pine Tree", "Dance Like a Snowflake", "Go Tell it on the Mountain", and Rudolph. The students put so much energy in their dance moves and really sang out as loud as they could. The final act in our program was our three VPK classes acting out a live Nativity. All of the VPK students had on adorable costumes, took turns walking towards the Manger and lined up beautifully in front of the altar. They sang some of the classics, like, Away in a Manger, Baby Jesus, and Santa Claus is Coming to Town. After a roaring round of applause from the audience, the entire school came together to wish the families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



We have also been blessed to share chapel with Pastor Ed who has been so kind and has really shared some wonderful messages with our students on Wednesdays. He also showed us his musical instruments that he has acquired over the years. Our students loved playing his drums!

From the All God's Children Preschool family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year! See you all in 2024!

## FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

Family Fit Lifestyle Month in January is an inspirational month that can completely evolve the way you and your family's lifestyle. To achieve this, you will need to follow fitness guidelines, eat healthily, and get active! Yes, this may sound tough, but incorporating fitness into your lifestyle will not only improve the quality of your life but will also help in elevating your overall mood. In addition, you will be able to fit into that pair of jeans you thought you would never wear again. And guess what, it's not impossible because you will have the entire family to support you! So set out some goals and get active today.

### FAMILY FIT LIFESTYLE MONTH ACTIVITIES

**Go for a run together** Completely free of cost and easy, running in the park together as a family is a perfect way to celebrate the month. Whether it is once a week or maybe just on the weekends, take time to get fit together — it will not only strengthen your body but will allow for quality time with your family.

**Cook something healthy** Take the time to create a healthy menu that you and your family will enjoy. You can do this at the beginning of the week to plan for meals for the rest of the week. Each member of the family can then contribute to cooking a dish.

**Go cycling** Slightly easier and less stressful than running, cycling is a recreational activity that is perfect for any family looking for healthy activity. Besides being fun, cycling works almost every muscle in the body and is, therefore, a perfect group activity.

### FIVE FACTS ABOUT BEING HEALTHY

**The importance of breakfast** Breakfast is essential because it provides your body and mind with the necessary nutrients and energy to keep you going throughout the day.

**Sleep time** Sleep is important for the body as it is during this time that the body undergoes growth and development.

**The problem with preservatives** Foods with preservatives have chemicals that deteriorate your body.

**No exercise** The death rate of smokers is almost the same as those who do not exercise.

**Physical activities you need** Aerobic exercise is especially beneficial for a healthy body as it promotes flexibility and muscle movements.

### WHY WE LOVE FAMILY FIT LIFESTYLE MONTH

**It encourages people to stay fit** The month is essential since it highlights the unfit lifestyles of many and encourages families to focus on fitness together. The holiday is celebrated at the beginning of the year so that people see the need for being fit and continue their activities the whole year-round.

**This leads to healthy family activities** During this month, family activities that add to everyone's fitness levels are encouraged. Exercising alone can sometimes be boring, but doing so with the family will be fun as you all will be encouraging each other along the way.

**It improves health** Since the month spreads awareness regarding the health of people of all ages in a family, people tend to shift slightly towards leading a healthy lifestyle. Family Fit Lifestyle Month is a great way to encourage and educate your not-so-active family members about the importance of being fit and improving their quality of life.

*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)*

**Living Lord Lutheran Church**  
**Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2023**

<b>OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2023</b>	<b>Jan - Nov 2023 Actuals</b>	<b>Jan - Nov 2023 Budget</b>	<b>Favorable/ (Unfavorable)</b>
Church General Fund Receipts	356,971.78	378,937.00	(21,965.22)
Church General Fund Disbursements	393,417.71	392,982.16	(435.55)
Net Church General Fund	(36,445.93)	(14,045.16)	(22,400.77)
Church Restricted Receipts	17,421.18		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	1,045.23		
Youth Group Fundraiser	2,340.36		
Forward in Faith Receipts	130,123.37		
Church Restricted Disbursements	28,384.65		
Forward in Faith Capital Disbursements	284,560.80		
Forward in Faith Fundraising Disb	644.48		
Net Church Financial Position	<b>(199,105.72)</b>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	260,245.27	238,700.00	21,545.27
AGC General Fund Disbursements	236,173.96	236,171.93	(2.03)
Net AGC General Fund	24,071.31	2,528.07	21,543.24
AGC Restricted Receipts	88,101.87		
AGC Fundraisers	11,535.42		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	76,080.98		
Net AGC Financial Position	<b>47,627.62</b>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	617,217.05	617,637.00	(419.95)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	629,591.67	629,154.09	(437.58)
Net LLLC General Fund	(12,374.62)	(11,517.09)	(857.53)
Fundraising Balances	14,921.01		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	235,646.42		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	389,670.91		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<b>(151,478.10)</b>		
<b>YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2023 VS 2022</b>	<b>Jan - Nov 2023 Actuals</b>	<b>Jan - Nov 2022 Actuals</b>	<b>Favorable/ (Unfavorable)</b>
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Church general fund receipts through November are \$21,000 less than last year and \$21,000 less than budget. Expenses are \$400.00 more than budget. Our disbursements are \$36,000 more than receipts. AGC receipts are \$24,000 favorable to disbursements.

Lynn Fisher, bookkeeper

## Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 11, 2023

Attendees: Pastor Ed Holloway, President Rebecca Powers, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Rich Jones, Mary Hunter, Patty Kunkel, Rhoda Olson, Stephney Rose, Kathy Schimmoller, Mike Gutzler, Karen Symos.

Absent: Brook Palmtag

The meeting was opened, by Pastor with Prayers and Devotions at 7:00pm. Chapter one of Max Lucado's "Traveling Light".

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from our special meetings July, 11<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup> and our August council meeting approved unanimously with minor changes (attendee corrections).

**Team Reports:** All reports were submitted electronically. The following are additional notations.

Evangelism: Please spread the word about the Jazz Concert on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mike G. will plan to have it added to the Peridia October newsletter for \$75

Parish Life: The Quilting & Sewing team would like to have a silent auction to raise money for materials and supplies. Council approved the request. The evangelism team will put together advertising with assistance from the Parish Life team.

Education: All is ready for the Fall Festival. It will be a great event – Plan to attend on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Music and Worship: We are advertising for a Handbell Director. December Christmas Eve Services will be 10am, 4pm and 7pm. The team will revisit the continuation of the Sunday 7:45am service after the new year.

**Volunteer Recognition** – Rae, Beverly and Stephney have put together a plan to recognize volunteers on Stewardship Sunday (10/15) during each of the 3 services.

**All God's Children:** - All God's Children's parents have formed AGP – All God's Parents, that is a 'PTA like' group.

- Picture day was October 11<sup>th</sup>

- There is a staff conference for all staff in Orlando Oct 10 – 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Fall Festival is Oct 28<sup>th</sup>,

- State of Florida did a surprise visit and review of the program and AGC passed with Straight A's – Great Job AGC!!!!

A trike-a-thon will be held on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> with proceeds benefiting St. Judes.

The island in front of AGC entrance will be redone.

**Financial Report:** The budget process is underway. All team leads have been provided worksheets for 2024 budget request. Those should be returned to Lynn/Mike by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Forward in Faith accounting was reviewed with the team and 2 remaining items (dumpster enclosure and electric power to the shed) will be complete by the end of the month and FIF will be closed out. Any new contributions will be deposited in the Building Improvement Fund.

The new bookkeeper John VonSchurr, has begun shadowing Lynn Fisher 2 months early. Since this is part time until he takes over full time, the council agreed to pay him 1/2 of the stipend that he will receive beginning in Dec. We will pay him \$200 per month for Oct and November.

## **PUB THEOLOGY**

Pub Theology will meet on Wednesdays January 10, 24 and 31 at 6:45pm at the Beef O'Brady's on Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Join us to share views about How does God interact in our everyday lives? The format is simple: beer, conversation, and God. You might remember that Martin Luther and Katie brewed beer. Good things happen when we sit around the table together and talk about things of our lives that matter, and what better setting than at the pub, over a pint. For more information about this contact Doug Holst at (813) 447-9917.

**Call Process:** The executive team is working on plans for a Congregational Retreat in early 2024  
Congregation updates will be provided on the first Sunday of each month going forward. Except Oct 2023, which will be done on Oct 15, 2023.

Transition Checklist – Rich Jones will be the administrative keeper of the checklist and make sure we stay on track. Mike Gutzler will oversee the financial items on the checklist.

There are 5 policies on the checklist that all council members must review. They should be done by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please advise Rich when you have completed the review or he will followup with you.

**Constitution Update:**

The Synod Model Constitution changes have been incorporated into the LLLC constitution. Those changes will be voted on by the Congregation at the Annual meeting in January, and then forwarded to Synod for acceptance.

**New Business:**

- The worship and music team, recommended that the 7:45am worship service be discontinued, however after discussion with the Council, it was agreed that we will keep the service as is, and revisit the topic in the Spring.

- An anonymous donor provides scholarships to each graduating senior in the spring, and the donor would like to increase the amount of the scholarship to \$2000 per graduation senior. The Executive Team agreed to the addition gift.

- Youth and Family ministry update – the work that Deacon Tara did for the Church was extensive and could be overwhelming for volunteers. The Youth families have put together a plan to continue Youth activities as least through the end of the current school year. We have options for hiring a replacement for the remainder of Deacon Tara’s duties and Pastor Ed is exploring those options.

We will continue to discuss and work to get to the best solution for the volunteers and the congregation.

- Pastor Ed will be out of town for 2 weeks in November. He will check with Synod to see what our options are for guest Pastor while he is away.

Council next meeting dates:

November 15, 2023 – 7pm – at Living Lord Lutheran.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rae Dowling

**LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION**

The second Thursday of every month the LLLC lunch bunch will be meeting at Station 400 at 11:30 am. The next luncheon will be on Thursday Jan 11, 2024. Station 400 is located at 8215 Lakewood Main Street behind the Starbucks. This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. The signup sheet is posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Miller at 616-540-1745.

## Living Lord Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 15, 2023 - 7pm

Attendees: President Rebecca Powers, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Rich Jones, Patty Kunkel, Rhoda Olson, Stephney Rose, Mike Gutzler. Absent: Brook Palmtag, Pastor Ed Holloway, Mary Hunter

The meeting was opened with Prayers at 7:00pm by President Powers.

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the Oct 2023 meeting were approved with one correction to include specific information from the Worship and Music team.

**Team Reports:** All reports were submitted electronically. The following are additional notations.

**Evangelism:** Always looking for new ideas to bring in new members.

**Parish Life:** 2 new opportunities for fellowship have been created: Widows community that will meet monthly and Mat making committee. Look for information for both in the bulletin. The team is also working to logistically better coordinate transportation for members as needed.

**Education:** Fall Festival was very successful. Many new faces and lots of friendly ones! J

**Worship & Music:** December Christmas Eve Services will be 10am, 4pm and 7pm. The Spring Jazz Concert will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm.

**All God's Children:** Mary Hunter was unable to be with us, however Mike Gutzler reported all was well.

**Financial Report:** Current Offerings are \$18,000 under budget

General Fund receipts are \$12,000 under budget

Expenses are favorable to budget

Insurance costs are \$8,000 over budget

Property costs are \$10,000 over budget

Bottom Line : YTD we are \$10,000 over budget

It's 2024 Budget time and all worksheets are in. The finance team will now meet and put together their recommendation. Pledges for next year are \$170,000.

A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Rhoda to have Lynn Fisher continue as our bookkeeper for 3 additional months with a stipend of \$600/mo. The Council agreed unanimously.

**Call Process:** The executive team is working on plans for a Congregational Retreat on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm at Perida Clubhouse.

Transition Checklist – Rich Jones reviewed the list and made sure everyone knew their responsibilities. All is on track and we continue to move through the process.

**Youth and Family Ministry:** The council is looking to potentially fill Deacon Tara's position with a part time person. More discussion to come.

**New Business:** The Building Improvement Fund is alive and well and donations are being accepted for additional work that is needed to the existing building. Security – A discussion began regarding the potential need for different security during the week and during Sunday services. Nothing has happened to specifically spur the discussion other than the way the world continues to change all around us. More discussion regarding what, when, how, etc. will be needed.

There has been some chatter regarding the request to be seated after the final hymn / during the postlude. It was agreed that the worship and music team would add a sentence or two to the bulletin, for everyone to be seated during the postlude, as we reflect on the message and the service before we go about our busy lives for the next week. Similar to how we prepare our hearts for the service during the prelude.

Council next meeting dates: December 13, 2023 – 7pm – Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rae Dowling



THANK YOU to everyone who helped with  
Project Hunger!  
It was a huge success and we look forward to this  
important community ministry event next year!



Many thanks to all who participated in the recent holiday raffle and silent auction. Your generous support will enable us to supply approximately 14 bolts of batting for future projects for Lutheran World Relief and our local community. Volunteers, materials and donations are always welcome. Join us Fridays at 10:30am in the Activities Hall.

The Handicrafts Ministry—  
"A Stitch and A Prayer"



Quilts created for members at  
The Haven Residence.





## Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

**Was this a busy hurricane season?** The 2023 Atlantic hurricane season was the fourth-most active Atlantic hurricane season on record with 20 named storms, tied with 1933. Among them, 7 became hurricanes, with 3 reaching major hurricane strength. This season had the most storms for an El Nino year on record, largely due to record-warmth sea surface temperatures across the Atlantic. Despite the above-normal activity, El Nino-enhanced wind shear prevented most storms from significantly strengthening. Additionally, the El Nino event weakened the Bermuda High, allowing systems to curve northward or take more easterly tracks out to sea. Just 3 systems made landfall in the U.S. Hurricane Idalia on 30 Aug caused significant damage across the Big Bend region of Florida. A feeder band on 29-30 Aug dumped 6.51 inches of rain on Parrish.

**Was November another warm month globally?** Nov was the 6th month in a row of record-warm weather, according to a new analysis that finds 2023 will almost inevitably end as the hottest year ever recorded. Nov 2023 measured on average 1.75 degrees C (3.15 degrees F) warmer than the preindustrial era. The hottest Nov comes on the heels of the hottest Oct, Sep, Aug, Jul, and Jun. This reflects a warming world and a strong El Nino. There is a 60% chance that El Nino will continue through Apr-Jun 2024.

**Have there been many costly weather/climate events?** There have been 25 confirmed weather and climate disaster events in the U.S. in 2023, each with losses exceeding \$1 billion. These disasters include 19 severe storm events, 2 flooding events, one tropical cyclone, one winter storm, one wildfire, and one drought and heatwave event. The 2023 Southern/Midwestern drought was the most costly event during the first 11 months of 2023 with losses exceeding \$10 billion. The total cost of the 2023 events exceeds \$81 billion with 482 fatalities.

**How goes the drought?** Using the 19 Dec U.S. Drought Monitor, Extreme Drought continues along the coast of Manatee and Sarasota Counties with Severe Drought elsewhere in our counties. SRQ in 2023 through 26 Dec is 26.97 inches, 55% of normal, deficit of 21.70 inches. Parrish rainfall in 2023 through 26 Dec is 37.68 inches, 70% of normal, deficit of 16.29 inches. It was the driest Autumn (Sep, Oct, Nov) on record at SRQ with 3.25 inches, 31% of normal. Records began in 1911. Autumn rainfall in Parrish was 5.55 inches, 44% of normal.

**How serious is the Brazil drought?** In late October, the Brazilian state of Amazonas reported a new low record near the port of Manaus, where the Rio Negro and the Amazon River meet. Water levels at the port fell to 13.59 meters (44.6 ft), four meters below last year's level, breaking the previous all-time low record set in 2010. The governor of Amazonas said it is the worst drought in history. Communities dependent on the Amazon rainforest's waterways are stranded without supply of fuel, food, or filtered water. Dozens of river dolphins perished.

**How wet was the storm of 16-19 Dec?** Maine had serious flooding with as much as 7 inches of rain. Heaviest rain was 14.59 inches at McClellanville SC with flooding in that area. Locally, Port Manatee had a storm surge of 3.06 feet. Rainfall on 16 Dec included 2.80 inches at Lakewood Ranch, 2.50 inches at SRQ, and 1.72 inches in Parrish. Heaviest FL totals in inches include Ocala 7.08, Gainesville 5.03, Jacksonville 4.13, and Daytona Beach 3.88. Tampa set a record for low pressure in December on 16 Dec with 997.4 millibars or 29.45 inches of mercury.

“Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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