



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



March 2024 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

From death to life. This seems kind of backwards. We are born, we live and grow and then die. We know this order of life pretty well. What is this backwards statement about? It is not about physical life. I think we have that down pretty well. It is about our spiritual lives. We are dead to Christ in sin because we cannot find a way out on our own. Because of what Jesus did on the cross and through resurrection, the way out of sin is given and we can move from death to live through Jesus. Holy week is a great reminder of how much God loves us and what is willing to do to show that love. When Easter comes, cast off your worries and embrace the all-powerful and wonderful love of God as he embraces you.

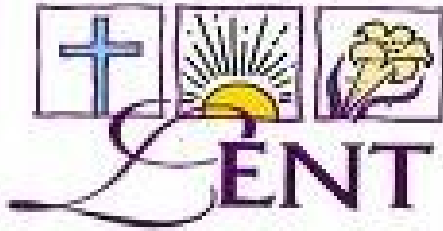
In Christ's love:

Pastor Ed

Read John 20:1-18 and remember that God loves you always.

P.S. Wednesdays in Lent: 5:30 Soup, 6:30 Worship – Women in the Bible 2/28 – 3/20

Sundays in Lent: God's Promises



Living Lord Lutheran Church is warmly inviting the community, as well as our members, to our Wednesday Lenten Services, which will feature a series called "Women of the Bible".

All services will be at 6:30pm.

Wednesday February 28 biblical rehab will be discussed showing how the Lord uses us all.

Wednesday March 6 biblical Deborah is the focus with "Here comes the Judge".

Wednesday March 13 will feature biblical Elizabeth "Thanking God for Life" as we play a part in God's story, sometimes without knowing what part.

Wednesday March 20, biblical Priscilla will be discussed as "A Teacher of Spiritual Things", and a woman who went against the culture at that time by giving spiritual advice to a man.

The series ends on Maundy Thursday March 28 with Mary, Sister of Lazarus "The Preparation for Jesus Burial", which is teaching us to care for one another. We hope to see you there for this fascinating series and worshipful services.

Palm Sunday is March 24.

On Friday March 29 we will have Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm.

Easter services will be at 7:45am, 9:00am and 11:00 am.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

on Sunday March 10th to vote on the Call Committee slate of members. There will be voting after each service.

The Parish Life Team

will meet Sunday March 3, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary Hall. We will be discussing upcoming events and needs for each Parish Life Team. We hope a representative from each team will be able to attend.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Theo Bullington	Josh Myers Behler
Rob Babel	Chris Mork
Kristine Mylett	Shirley Smith
Susanna Scott	Cason Pope
Gordy Havey	Will
Janet Castner	Nan Fisher
Liz Howell	Calvin
Wyly Pope	Gene Rahn
Sue Pinkerton	Jim Pinto
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	Jeanne Thum
Ron Silver	Ray Rankl
Andrew Catanese	Sophia Sahr
Family of Glenda Masch	Lori Rapp
Laura Apeathy	Jim and Sandy Kudrin
Frankie Vasquez	Becky Berka
Nayda Rivera	Debbie Skelly
Elaine Truitt	Jeff Shaw
Ralph Hanson	Valerie Walden
Steve Pyeatt	Peggy Smith
Bob Ready	Lynn Echols
Brian Brockschmidt	Tracy Allen
Family of Brian Schmidt	Dan
Kathy Rodd	Dawn Schaeffer
Clifford Finholdt	Family of Katherine Hoth
Terrie Dale	John & Marlene Saum
Schrand Family	Family of Marty Smith
Family of Helen Marr	Family of Dick Gross
June Jorgensen	Leroy Hurst
Cierra	Linda
Nan	Family of Tom Widmann
Kathy Murgatroyd	Roger Henkelmann
Carol Driscoll	Family of Margitta Rizzo
Meri Capithorne	Marco
Alexa	The Craig Yarborough
Deb Miller	Family

CARNIVAL

All God's Children Preschool



Saturday • March 9th

11 AM - 2 PM



• **Unlimited Carnival Games** •

Food - Pizza, Popcorn & Hotdogs

Silent Auction • DJ

Petting Zoo • Face Painting

Balloon Artist & More



\$10 Adults
\$20 Kids



All proceeds support All God's Children Preschool

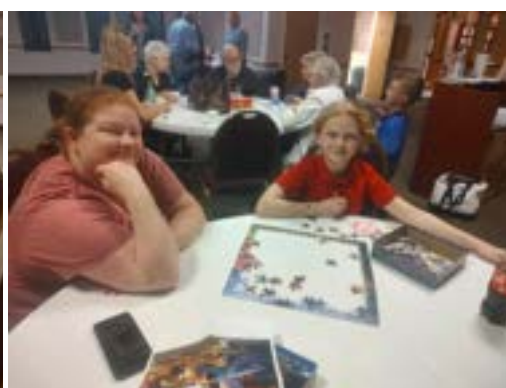
Family Fun Night

On February 9th we held a Family Fun night and it was a big success! For a first-time event we didn't know what to expect. We counted 23 people in total - 9 of them visitors. We enjoyed "walking" tacos, cookies, brownies and soft drinks. There were puzzles, games, music, and conversation. This is great venue to invite guests. It is meant to be simply a night of fellowship. Our hope is to meet once each month. Friday is great for families with kids because they don't have to get up for school the next day.

As we are in lent, this can be a good time to reflect on our spiritual disciplines. Fellowship with God and our neighbors is a spiritual discipline that builds-up the body of Christ.

Our next Family Fun Night is scheduled for March 15th, from 6:30 to 8:00. The current plan is to have spaghetti with a few sauce options, soft drinks and some treats. It's possible we may have some new activities too. We encourage you to invite friends. If you wish to bring something to share please contact Kris (lwr.kris@verizon.net) or Roger (lwrrunner@hotmail.com).

Sign-up in the narthex or let the office know you can come.



Pancake Breakfast –Youth Fundraiser

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11th was part of a busy weekend at Living Lord Lutheran Church. In-between the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services we held a pancake breakfast to raise money for our Youth. In-particular, funds were raised that will help get 2 high school youth and 2 chaperones to New Orleans for the ELCA-wide National Youth Gathering, July 16th-20th. We are so proud of all our youth and the adult volunteers that came to help prepare food and serve others. What a witness to the people of Living Lord.

Thank you all so much for supporting our youth representatives with your generous donations. While the food and fellowship were wonderful, it was your generous hearts that really shined God's light through at this event. We received a substantial grant along with the cash and check donations for a total of \$1531.

Again, Thank You so much on behalf of all our youth.



Living Lord Lutheran Church DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes January 10, 2024 - 7pm

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

The meeting was called to order by President Powers at 7:02pm.

Pastor Ed led us in prayer and devotions from "Traveling Light" by Max Lucado.

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

Pastor's: Pastor and Maggie have been working on Mission IN-Site on the Synod website and will have some great information for the transition process very soon. We will have Pastor Sweet as our facilitator for the Retreat on Feb 10th. Fee is \$300 plus mileage. Conversation will be flexible and go where the congregation leads as appropriate.

Music and Worship: The Spring Jazz Concert will be March 2nd at 4pm.

All God's Children: - A big thank you for those who attended the Children's Christmas Program and for the Staff Christmas gifts. - Spring Carnival will be March. This will be a fundraiser with games, food, animals, etc. - Summer Camp will be 6 weeks in the summer for 3-6 year olds. - School is closed Jan 15th and Feb 19th for federal holidays.

Financial Report: Karen Symos has agreed to take on the Bookkeeper position. She has started the transition with Lynn Fisher. The detailed financials have been submitted electronically. Current Offerings are down, expenses are favorable to budget and overall we are in a neutral position. 2023 was the 4th year in a row that the general offering was less than the year before. This is the consequence of a decline in membership and fewer giving units. In 2023 our insurance costs and property maintenance and supplies were 47% over budget - \$16,700.00. Our investment income for the year, and savings in pastoral contract and church staff wages in the 4th qtr kept us close to budget.

Call Process: The executive team is working on plans for a Congregational Retreat on February 10th from 9am-2pm at Perida Clubhouse. Goals for the retreat include looking at our past, learning from it and determining how we want to move forward into the future. Sign up sheets are in the narthex for the Retreat. Please sign up. Transition Checklist – All is on track and we continue to move through the process. Council has completed the items that they are responsible for. The Annual meeting will allow the congregation to vote on the model constitution updates and also the budget. When they are approved we will officially move to step 3 of the checklist. To date 8 people have expressed interest in being a member of the call committee. We need 6 members to be on the committee and we will convene that team after the retreat.

Annual Meeting: The meeting will be after the I I am service on January 28. We will provide a look back at 2023, our accomplishments, vote on council members, the budget and model constitution and lay out our plans for 2024.

New Business: - A council retreat will be scheduled after the Congregational Retreat.

- The Building Improvement Fund is alive and well and donations are being accepted for additional work that is needed to the existing building. If you are interesting in serving on Building Improvement Committee, please reach out to Rich Jones.

- AGC Statue approval. The All God's Children board has requested permission to install a cast bronze garden statue bench in the island outside of AGC entrance.

Terms include: - ACG will purchase the bench - the island must have ground cover that is coordinated with and acceptable to the Property Committee

- if mulch is selected, the church will be responsible for maintenance of the mulch ground cover after the initial installation. The council approved the statue plan for AGC unanimously. AGC provides a maintenance payment to the church monthly, however there is no written agreement for what that payment is to be used for.

President Powers will work with AGC to put together a division of responsibilities.

Council next meeting dates: February 13, 2024 – 7pm – at Living Lord Lutheran.

5 Meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer at 8:35pm. Respectfully submitted, Rae Dowling

Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2024

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2024	Jan 2024 Actuals	Jan 2024 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	31,803.06	37,002.60	(5,199.54)
Church General Fund Disbursements	25,847.87	28,678.88	2,831.01
Net Church General Fund	5,955.19	8,323.72	(2,368.53)
Church Restricted Receipts	347.90		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	236.50		
Youth Group Fundraiser	-		
Church Restricted Disbursements	837.50		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>5,702.09</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	32,434.30	32,794.60	(360.30)
AGC General Fund Disbursements	13,459.68	13,939.47	479.79
Net AGC General Fund	18,974.62	18,855.13	119.49
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	1,678.43		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	5,300.99		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>15,352.06</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	64,237.36	69,797.20	(5,559.84)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	39,307.55	42,618.35	3,310.80
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>24,929.81</u>	<u>27,178.85</u>	<u>(2,249.04)</u>
Fundraising Balances	1,914.93		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	347.90		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	6,138.49		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>21,054.15</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023	Jan 2024 Actuals	Jan 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	31,803.06	38,865.79	(7,062.73)
Church General Fund Disbursements	25,847.87	32,076.35	6,228.48
Net Church General Fund	5,955.19	6,789.44	(834.25)
AGC General Fund Receipts	32,434.30	35,948.60	(3,514.30)
AGC General Fund Disbursements	13,459.68	14,848.02	1,388.34
Net AGC General Fund	18,974.62	21,100.58	(2,125.96)
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	64,237.36	74,814.39	(10,577.03)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	39,307.55	46,924.37	7,616.82
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>24,929.81</u>	<u>27,890.02</u>	<u>(2,960.21)</u>

Church general fund receipts for January are \$7000 less than last year.
 Receipts, however, are \$5900 less than disbursements.
 AGC is \$18,000 favorable to disbursements for January.



Lynn Fisher, bookkeeper



The Orion Trio

PRESENTS

A Spring Jazz Event

SATURDAY MARCH 2, 2024 4 PM
LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH
11107 Palmbrush Trail, Bradenton, FL 34202

FEATURING

Scotty Wright - Vocals
Daniel Jordan - Sax/Flute

AND

THE ORION TRIO

THOMAS PIZZI - PIANO
RICH MacDONALD - DRUMS
BRUCE WALLACE - BASS

Suggested Donation \$15
Email: Info@LivingLordFL.org
941-753-9365

From Your Faith Community Nurses

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, only behind lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute estimates that 153,020 people in the United States received a diagnosis of colon or rectal cancer in 2023. Approximately 52,550 died of it.

Colorectal cancer awareness is important because many cases of cancer of the colon or rectum are preventable. Screening by colonoscopy can prevent this cancer because precancerous polyps found during the procedure can be removed at the same time. Furthermore, colonoscopy can also detect the cancer at early stages, when treatment is more likely to be successful.

The five-year relative survival rate for cancer localized to the colon or rectum is 90.9 percent, according to the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program. The survival rate drops significantly as the cancer spreads beyond those organs.

Cancer of the colon or rectum is more common in men than women. It is also more common among African Americans than people of other races. The median age of diagnosis in the United States is 66 years, while about 78 percent of newly diagnosed patients are aged 55 and older.

The AACR's Cancer Progress Report 2023 reported on the rise in early-onset colorectal cancer — defined as a diagnosis before age 50. The incidence of early-onset colorectal cancer has increased about 2 percent per year in recent years. Ominously, it now accounts for about 12 percent of all colon or rectal cancer cases. The AACR blog, Cancer Research Catalyst, discusses this trend here: Seeking Clues to Early-onset Colorectal Cancer.

Doctors are even seeing more cases of metastatic cancer in people in their twenties and thirties. AACR's magazine Cancer Today discussed the unique challenges that come with facing cancer in the prime of life.

People of African descent who receive genetic testing for colon or rectal cancer have fewer actionable mutations compared with the Caucasian population. Consequently, this suggests they have fewer treatment options.

Colorectal cancer awareness has led to greater use of at-home screening tests like Cologuard and FIT. These widely-used tests are equally effective. However, FIT is a fraction of the cost of Cologuard.

SOURCE: *American Association for Cancer Research*

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. ³ John 1:2

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

Meets the second Thursday of every month at 11:30 am. The next luncheon will be on Thursday March 14, 2024 at Station 400, located at 8215 Lakewood Ranch 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.

OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD DRIVE

Our Daily Bread Food Drive is the March outreach project. Beginning March 3rd, grocery bags will be handed out and available for pick up at church (or you may use your own). Attached to each bag is a suggested list of food items. (see below)

Our Daily Bread is an outreach to help feed the homeless in our area.

Cash donations are also appreciated.

*Cash donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent to LLLC office.

Please label your donation for Our Daily Bread.

Filled grocery bags can be returned to church Monday – Friday (9:00 – 4:00) or at a Sunday service throughout the month of March. Bags can be left inside the church in the Narthex.

Return bags by March 31st.

Thanks for your continued support of this ministry.

With gratitude, Outreach Team

If you any questions regarding the project, please contact Sue Copeland at 941-243-5329 copelandfamily1992@gmail.com or Mary Torke at 941-356-5510 mtorke@comcast.net

Our Daily Bread Loaves & Fishes Suggested Pantry Items

Rice

Beans

Jelly/Jam

Canned Meats

Canned Fruit

Canned Vegetables

Canned Soup

Mac & Cheese

Powdered Milk

Boxed Cereal

Oatmeal



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★ 03/01	Layrisse	Nicholas	★
★ 03/02	Havey	Billie	★
★ 03/04	Henkelmann	Linda	★
★ 03/06	Byrne	Connie	★
★ 03/06	Dowling	Rae Ann	★
★ 03/07	Lewis	Cynthia	★
★ 03/07	Powers	Dan	★
★ 03/10	Easton	Michelle	★
★ 03/12	Olson	Amy	★
★ 03/17	Anderson	Lon	★
★ 03/17	DeGeorge	Cathy	★
★ 03/18	Haneberg	Rise	★
★ 03/19	Abraham	Julie	★
★ 03/19	Byers	Dennis	★
★ 03/19	Miller	Leslie	★
★ 03/20	Copeland	James	★
★ 03/20	Olson	Noah	★
★ 03/20	Zipp	Janice	★
★ 03/22	Holloway	Marsha	★
★ 03/23	Reimer	Katie	★
★ 03/26	Holst	Julie	★
★ 03/26	Rogers	Cindy	★
★ 03/27	Ranellone	Patrice	★
★ 03/28	Hunter	Herb	★
★ 03/30	Schillinger	Bernadette	★
★ 03/31	Coffman	Sandy	★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★			

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
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	OPEN	
Stephen Ministry	Helen Howe	315-427-9513
New Members	Patty Kunkel	748-6669
Altar Guild	Marlene Saum	753-1393
Youth Ministry	OPEN	
Worship Assistants	Karen Symos	410-370-8666



♥ ♥		
♥ 03/18	Miller, Deb & Bill	♥
♥ 03/20	Havey, Billie & Mike	♥
♥ 03/20	Raddatz, Carmen & Roger	♥
♥ 03/25	Sahr, Craig & Barbara	♥
♥ ♥		

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2024

	Online People Reached	In-Person Attendance	Total
7-Jan	380	140	520
14-Jan	530	141	671
21--Jan	214	130	344
28-Jan	467	140	607



Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

Was January a warm month? The January global surface temperature was 2.29F (1.27C) above the 20th - century average of 54.0F (12.2C), making it the warmest January on record. This was 0.07F (0.04C) above the previous record from January 2016. It was the 31st warmest January at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport with an average temperature of 63.0 degrees, 0.6 degree above normal with records beginning in January 1911. The average U.S. temperature for January was 31.8 degrees, 1.6 degrees above normal, ranking in the middle third of the 130-year record.

Are we still in drought? The U.S. Drought Monitor of 20 Feb showed Moderate Drought (D1) on the coast and Abnormally Dry (D0) inland of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. This was the same as last month as it reflects the long-term nature of the drought with record dryness in the summer and fall. But the El Nino pattern has brought us winter rainfall with a total of 11.19 inches of rain Dec to 24 Feb which is 159 percent of normal at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. El Nino also brought us below normal Feb temps following above normal temps past 13 months.

Has El Nino peaked? The 8 Feb El Nino discussion indicates that the ocean-atmosphere system reflects a weakening El Nino. But expect the effects of a southerly storm track to continue through March. This strong El Nino, thought to be the 5th most powerful on record, is expected to shift to its counterpoint, La Nina, by summer. There is a historical tendency for La Nina to follow strong El Nino events. In 1998, an abrupt shift from a strong El Nino to La Nina brought severe drought to Florida in May and June with wildfires in Brevard County. La Nina plus warm ocean waters may also increase chances for an active hurricane season in the 2024 fall.

Were there tornadoes in Wisconsin? Prior to 2024, Wisconsin had never seen a tornado in the month of February. On the evening of 8 Feb, there were two tornadoes in southern Wisconsin. There was an EF-1 tornado east of Monroe with a path of 8 miles. And there was an EF-2 tornado with a path of 26 miles from Evansville to Lake Koshkonong. There was one injury.

What happened in Chile? With record heat In Feb 2024, wildfires broke out in Chile, affecting multiple regions including Valparaiso, O'Higgins, Maule, Biobio, and Los Lagos. The most severe incidents occurred in the Valparaiso Region. The Chilean government labeled the fires as the country's worst disaster since the 2010 Chile earthquake. At least 131 people were killed in the fires. And at least 14,000 houses were affected by fires in Vina del Mar and Quilpue.

Was there record snow in Alaska? Anchorage has received 113.6 inches of snow since October, the snowiest water year (Oct 2023-Sep 2024) on record. In Juneau, the airport received 76.2 inches of snow in January, the highest January total on record and second highest monthly total.

How stormy was California? In early February, two atmospheric rivers brought record rainfall, extensive flooding, high winds, and power outages to portions of CA. Los Angeles recorded 300 mudslides with 5 buildings crushed on 4-5 Feb. Three people were killed by fallen trees on 4 Feb in Yuba City, Carmichael, and Boulder Creek. Peak wind gusts reached 102 mph at Pablo Point. Storm totals reached 12.01 inches at Bell Air Hotel and 15.45 inches at Middle Fork Lytle Creek. Records were set in LA with 4.10 inches on 4 Feb and 2.93 inches on 5 Feb. The 2-day total of 7.03 inches was the third wettest since records began in 1877. Flood waters closed Santa Barbara Airport on 5 Feb. Five-day snowfall totals reached 59 inches at Snow Valley near Big Bear Lake.

“Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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