



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



April 2024 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

Every Sunday in the month of April is another Sunday in the Easter Season. Yes, we celebrate Easter for more than just one Sunday. In fact, EVERY time we worship, we are celebrating the rising of our Lord from death to life as a sign that this, too, is our destination. Why are we reminded of this so often? Shouldn't one day a year be enough? Apparently not. We need to be reminded over and over and over again of the love God has for us. We take communion every Sunday to remind us of God's forgiveness. We ask for forgiveness over and over to remind us of the need for forgiveness. And, so often we still forget. This cycle of forgetting, sinning, and remembering, forgiveness happens all through the Bible, and in our own lives. May every day in the Easter season be filled with reminders of God's love for you and each Sunday lift up that love so your days are more remembering than forgetting bringing you closer to the One who loves you always.

Read Romans 8:31-39 and always remember that God loves YOU.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed

PRAYER REQUESTS

A Stitch and A Prayer

The handicrafts group will be having a spring raffle of handmade items April 14th. Tickets of 5 for \$20 or \$5 each will be sold April 7 and 14 between services with the drawing at noon on April 14th. Proceeds will go towards a new Living Lord sign.

These pics are just a few of the items that will be available for raffle.

Thank you for your support!



Theo Bullington	Josh Myers Behler
Rob Babel	Chris Mork
Kristine Mylett	Shirley Smith
Susanna Scott	Will
Gordy Havey	Nan Fisher
Janet Castner	Calvin
Liz Howell	Gene Rahn
Wyly Pope	Lori Rapp
Sue Pinkerton	Jim Pinto
Linda Henkelmann	Tony Zubricky
Jacob Rodriguez	Joe Kitchie
Suzanne Dietzel	Rade Mallkovich
Family of	Sharlene Jones
Cleo Neynaber	Shirley Kitsmiller
Nancy Woodworth	Linda Couch
June Hartlieb	Jeanne Thum
Bill and Janet Burkman	Ray Rankl
Ron Silver	Sophia Sahr
Andrew Catanese	Jim and Sandy Kudrin
Family of Glenda Masch	Becky Berka
Laura Apeathy	Debbie Skelly
Frankie Vasquez	Jeff Shaw
Nayda Rivera	Valerie Walden
Elaine Truitt	Peggy Smith
Ralph Hanson	Dan
Steve Pyeatt	Dawn Schaeffer
Bob Ready	Family of Marlene Saum
Brian Brockschmidt	John Saum
Family of Brian Schmidt	Family of Marty Smith
Kathy Rodd	Family of Dick Gross
Clifford Finholdt	Leroy Hurst
Terrie Dale	Linda
Schrand Family	Family of Tom Widmann
Family of Helen Marr	Roger Henkelmann
June Jorgensen	Family of Margitta Rizzo
Cierra	Marco
Nan	The Craig Yarborough
Kathy Murgatroyd	Family
Carol Driscoll	Bradley
Meri Capithorne	Ben
Alexa	Tracy B.
Deb Miller	



Spring is almost here and at All God's Children Preschool that means FUN! We have so many exciting activities and events planned for the spring semester. Our classes have been learning about gardening, flowers, spring critters, and much more. The classrooms are decorated in spring colors and custom student artwork. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny. All of our students are growing so quickly and coming into their own as well as forming positive relationships with their peers and teachers. It is a blessing to be able to experience each day with our AGC family.

Spring also means that the classes go on fieldtrips and our VPK classes went to Hunsaders Farm and had a wonderful time. This was not only a way for the students to get to play with their classmates outside of school but a fantastic learning experience as they were able to get a taste of farm life and all the wonders that come along with it. It was a very special day for not only the students but the parents and teachers!

Finally, AGC had their 4th annual Spring Carnival Fundraiser this past month and what a magical day it was. We had so many families attend along with members of the community all in support of All God's Children Preschool. We had carnival games, a petting zoo, face painters, balloon artists, yummy carnival food, a DJ, and of course an amazing silent auction with over sixty items. There were smiles around every corner at Living Lord Lutheran Church. It was a day full of memories and pure joy! Thanks to everyone that supported our event, we appreciate you very much. From all of us at AGC, Happy Easter to all!



FAMILY FUN NIGHT - JOIN US FOR THE NEXT EVENT- APRIL 19th at 6:30pm

Our next Family Fun Night is scheduled for April 19, from 6:30 to 8:00. The current plan is to have dinner, 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 (lw.kris@verizon.net) or Roger (lwrunner@hotmail.com).

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

9 children joined us for the Easter Egg hunt. Everybody had fun on a beautiful Palm Sunday.



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

The meeting was called to order by President Powers at 7:00pm.

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

Minutes Approval: A motion was made to approve the December 2023 minutes by Rhoda and seconded by Patty and they were approved unanimously. A motion was made to approve the January 2024 minutes by Patty and seconded by Rhoda and they were approved unanimously.

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

Pastor’s: Roger Raddatz will preach on March 3 at all 3 services. Pastor will baptize Eva on March 17th at the I I am service

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

Evangelism: Advertising has been done for the Jazz concert and the AGC Carnival

Parrish Life: The lead for the sunshine team has resigned. Stephney is looking to revamp the team and will come back to the council with a plan in future.

Property: Rich is working with a contractor on 2 items. We’re having problems with animals in the ceiling in the preschool building. The entry point has been identified and is being remedied. In addition, the water pipes are shaking in the ceiling as well and a solution is being worked on.

Rich is also looking for volunteers to be on the Building Improvement Committee, if you’re interested please see Rich Jones.

All God’s Children:

Enrollment opened to current families for the fall and the all slots were filled in 2 hours.

There was a surprise visit by the state regulatory agency and A’s and A+’s were earned in all categories. They were noted as an A+ organization for their skills and cleanliness.

The Early Learning Coalition was granted AGC with and \$8,000 grant to install a sensory wall on the playground.

The Spring Carnival is March 9th from 11am – 3pm.

Financial Report:

The January treasure’s report was filed electronically and is available in the office for review.

The average general fund receipts were slightly higher in January - \$5900 higher than disbursements.

Call Process:

Pastor Jeannine Sweet lead us through a very productive retreat.

The first part of the retreat was explaining the call process. How it needs to be a process that gives both congregation and candidates information that is available nation-wide, uniform in addressing pertinent issues such as demographics, ministry goals, needs and issues, financial aspects and goals. It was an overview of the whole Call Process organized around the church's goals and operations including – Spiritual, Organization (administration) and Ministry - and how they overlap.

The second part of the retreat was bringing awareness that discernment of choosing depends on God's plan and listening to the congregation as a whole. While individual preferences and experiences are the lens through which we process, we can and must exercise vision and imagination to perceive where the whole congregation is focused.

A full synopsis of the day was provided by Pastor Sweet and is available in the office.

We have received interest from many people to serve on the Call Committee. Per the Church's by-laws a slate will be presented to the congregation on March 17th for a vote on who will be selected for the Call Committee and the very important work they have ahead of them.

One of the many items on the call committee's to do list is to design a survey for the entire congregation to respond to, to define who we are as a congregation and what characteristics we want for our new Pastor.

New Business:

- The worship and music team has asked for financial support for a new Handbell Director. After discussion it was decided that the W&M team lead would discuss the potential for a stipend with prospective candidates, and would bring back to the council a specific amount. Approx 10 hours per month, at xx hourly rate.

Council next meeting dates:

March 6, 2024 – 7pm – at Living Lord Lutheran.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Dowling

Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of February 29, 2024

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2024	Jan -Feb 2024 Actuals	Jan - Feb 2024 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	60,667.54	71,412.17	(10,744.63)
Church General Fund Disbursements	52,606.08	58,154.10	5,548.02
Net Church General Fund	8,061.46	13,258.07	(5,196.61)
Church Restricted Receipts	3,217.93		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	120.89		
Youth Group Fundraiser	521.06		
Church Restricted Disbursements	837.50		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>11,083.84</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	61,440.82	59,054.60	2,386.22
AGC General Fund Disbursements	34,747.08	34,801.82	54.74
Net AGC General Fund	26,693.74	24,252.78	2,440.96
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	5,441.41		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	5,496.86		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>26,638.29</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	122,108.36	130,466.77	(8,358.41)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	87,353.16	92,955.92	5,602.76
Net LLLC General Fund	34,755.20	37,510.85	(2,755.65)
Fundraising Balances	6,083.36		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	3,217.93		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	6,334.36		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>37,722.13</u>		
	Jan -Feb 2024 Actuals	Jan - Feb 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023			
Church General Fund Receipts	60,667.54	73,342.00	(12,674.46)
Church General Fund Disbursements	52,606.08	64,495.53	11,889.45
Net Church General Fund	8,061.46	8,846.47	(785.01)
AGC General Fund Receipts	61,440.82	63,754.60	(2,313.78)
AGC General Fund Disbursements	34,747.08	34,271.13	(475.95)
Net AGC General Fund	26,693.74	29,483.47	(2,789.73)
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	122,108.36	137,096.60	(14,988.24)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	87,353.16	98,766.66	11,413.50
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>34,755.20</u>	<u>38,329.94</u>	(3,574.74)

Church general fund receipts through February are \$11,000 less than last year. Receipts, however, are \$8000 more than disbursements. AGC is \$26,000 favorable to disbursements through February.

Lynn Fisher

Lynn Fisher, bookkeeper

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

April is “Stress Awareness Month”. Stress symptoms may be affecting your health, even though you might not know it. You may blame sickness for that annoying headache, your sleeping troubles, feeling unwell or your lack of focus at work. But stress may really be the cause.

Common effects of stress

Stress symptoms can affect your body, your thoughts and feelings, and your behavior. Knowing common stress symptoms can help you manage them. Stress that's not dealt with can lead to many health problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, obesity and diabetes. This table lists some of the common effects of stress on your body, your mood, or your behavior.

On Your Body	On Your Mood	On Your Behavior
Headache	Anxiety	Overeating or undereating
Muscle tension or pain	Restlessness	Angry outbursts
Chest pain	Lack of motivation or focus	Drug or alcohol misuse
Fatigue	Memory problems	Tobacco use
Change in sex drive	Feeling overwhelmed	Avoiding friends and staying at home
Upset stomach	Grumpiness or anger	Exercising less often
Sleep problems	Sadness or depression	
Getting sick easier due to a weaker immune system.		

Act to manage stress

If you have stress symptoms, taking steps to manage your stress can have many health benefits. Check out many possible stress management tips. For example:

- Get regular physical activity on most days of the week.
- Practice relaxation techniques. Try deep breathing, meditation, yoga, tai chi or massage.
- Keep a sense of humor.
- Spend time with family and friends.
- Set aside time for hobbies. Read a book, listen to music or go for a walk. Schedule time for your passions.
- Write in a journal.
- Get enough sleep.
- Eat a healthy, balanced diet.
- Stay away from tobacco and alcohol use, and use of illegal substances.

Aim to find active ways to manage your stress. Idle ways to manage stress that don't get you moving may seem relaxing. But they may make your stress go up over time. Examples are watching television, going on the internet or playing video games.

When to ask for help

If you're not sure if stress is the cause, or if you've taken steps to control your stress but you keep having symptoms, see your health care provider. Your health care provider may want to check for other potential causes. Or think about seeing a counselor or therapist, who can help you find the sources of your stress and learn new coping tools. And if you are concerned about harming yourself, call 911 or a suicide hotline.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

Source: MayoClinic.org

DAY CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Our annual Day Camp will be held from **June 10th -14th** right here at Living Lord. We have already secured Luther Springs Counselors to run the programming, but we need a chairperson to coordinate the event and volunteers to help with meals, crafts, registration, nursing, and security. Please contact the office if you can help. Day Camp Registration begins in April.

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

Meets the second Thursday of every month at 11:30 am. The next luncheon will be on Thursday April 11th 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.

SCRIP is available in the narthex after each service.
 "What is SCRIP?" you may ask. It's an ongoing fundraiser designated towards the purchase of an electronic sign. Your part in this effort is to purchase gift cards at our table for face value. A percentage of every purchase goes toward our goal. The success of this fundraiser depends on your continued support, not just for gifts, but for your everyday expenses such as groceries, gas, entertainment and much more. Pick up a catalogue at our table, listing over 500 selections. Orders are placed every week for pick-up the following week. Checks or cash payment accepted.
 Ed & Marsha Holloway

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY 2024

The Call committee has had their first meeting and they will continue the process for calling a new Pastor for Living Lord.

The following church members will be our Call Committee:

Look for their pictures and bios coming soon.

- Jeff Taylor
- Sherry Ireland
- Tom Marino
- Ruth McConnell
- Steve Pierannunzi
- Pauline Priest
- Barb Sahr
- Carolyn Scott

	Online People Reached	In-Person Attendance	Total
4-Feb	503	144	647
11-Feb	440	211	651
18-Feb	180	195	375
25-Feb	200	0	200



Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

Was February a cool month? It was cooler than normal in most of the Florida Peninsula. The average temperature at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport in February was 63.4 degrees, 1.4 degrees below normal. This was the first below normal temperature month since Dec 2022. This was an El Nino influence in Florida with the subtropical jet stream farther south than normal.

Are we still in drought? The U.S. Drought Monitor of 19 Mar still shows our coastal regions to be Abnormally Dry (D0). However, drought disappeared as there were three consecutive months of above normal rainfall in Dec, Jan, and Feb at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. The total rainfall for those three months was 11.19 inches, 159 % of normal, with surplus of 4.15 inches. Has El Nino peaked? Sea surface temperature anomalies reflected a weakening El Nino. A transition from El Nino to ENSO-neutral is likely by Apr-Jun 2024 (83% chance), with the odds of La Nina developing by Jun-Aug 2024 (62% chance). La Nina plus above normal Atlantic Ocean temperatures may increase chances for an active hurricane season in the 2024 fall.

Was February a warm month globally? The February global surface temperature was 1.40 C (2.52F) above the 20th -century average of 12.1C (53.8F), making it the warmest February on record. Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri ranked the warmest February on record. Has the Texas wildfire been contained? On 16 Mar, the final update on the Smokehouse Creek fire said the inferno's size was 1,058,482 acres. The blaze, sparked 26 Feb in Hutchinson County near Stennett, grew to become the largest wildfire in state history. A cluster of wildfires in the region burned across several counties, killing at least 2 people, destroying hundreds of homes, and killing thousands of cattle in the region that's home to more than 80% of Texas' cattle.

Did the Northeast finally get a snowstorm? Peak snowfall totals 22-23 Mar include 33.0 inches at West Windsor VT, 26.5 inches at Paulet NY, 26.0 inches at Lebanon NH, and 25.0 inches at Bryant Pond ME. Freezing rain amounts were as high as 0.75 inches at Latham NY. Did the Sierra Nevada get needed snowfall? From a deep trough of low pressure along the West Coast, heavy snow fell in the Sierra 28 Feb-3 Mar. Some storm totals in inches of snowfall include Sugar Bowl 89.0, Donner Peak 87.0, Soda Springs 84.0, Central Sierra Snow Lab 78.0, and Truckee 41.7. Peak wind gusts were as high as 145 mph at the 8700 foot level of Palisades Tahoe Ski Base. Snow water equivalent reached 104% of normal in the Sierra by 5 Mar.

How much snow fell in the Southwest? A deep, closed upper low remained in place over the Southwest with heavy snow over the Four Corners region and Front Range of the Rockies 13-17 Mar. Some storm totals in inches of snowfall include Aspen Springs CO 61.5, Centennial WY 56.1, Manitou Springs CO 44.0, Air Force Academy CO 26.9, Boulder UT 21.0, Los Alamos NM 20.0, Flagstaff AZ 19.5, Colo Springs CO 12.9, and Denver CO 11.0.

Did the northern states finally get some snow? A cold, upper level system spread snow from the Southwest to Minnesota 23-26 Mar. Some storm totals in inches of snowfall include Fort Garland CO 20.2, Marion IA 6.2, Tasco KS 7.5, Chassell MI 11.0, Duluth MN 21.6, Anselmo NE 13.5, Tahoe Ski NM 31.0, Killdeer ND 8.0, Dupree SD 12.0, and Birnamwood WI 14.5.

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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