



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



September 2024 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

Consider the first believers. They were typically Jewish so the change from living by the Law to living by grace was a big change. They went from being the dominant group in the area to outcasts to be killed at the right opportunity. They often became pariahs. The changes that come to them were great and yet, because of their strong faith, they accepted all this change with thanksgiving for what the Lord had done for them. We, too, can celebrate all that God has done for us. We love our congregation. We receive what we need. But, how about those in the community that do not have what they need to truly live? What if they have not heard the Gospel? Who is to bring it to them? If not us? Some things need to change. Please pray about it and think about it. God has a plan for us to grow. Help us to get with God's plan. And this I promise you... it will take change. I am a salesman and I promise you one thing: there will be change. We know it, we have heard it many times and I am going to remind you one more time..... CHANGE happens. When we are young, we absorb change better than when we are old. When we are old, we resist change. What is really important is how we react to change. The world has changed from when we were young. IT continues at a faster pace than we could have imagined. And yet we must change with it to grow this church. We love our congregation. It is comfortable for us. When change comes, we might have to do the uncomfortable. We certainly will have to do something different to grow. Like early Christians let us embrace the changes that come with faith. Changes that bring a better life and the ability to embrace change to grow our faith and our congregation.

Read Acts 9:1-22 and always remember that God loves YOU.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed



As summer is nearing the end, the AGC staff and families are just getting ready to start a new school year. It was exciting to invite all of our families to the school this week for two open house days. The halls were filled with returning and new students, eager to see the school and explore their classrooms.

Our staff had been hard at work the last three weeks creating warm, inviting, and fun learning environments for their students. I could not be more proud of our team. They have shown teamwork in every way possible, supporting each other and participating in workshops, meetings, and training classes.

We have an excellent staff at AGC with Erin Bonifate and Heather Amato in administration and staff support. Our VPK team is top notch with Kelly Miles and Marianne Orié getting ready to prepare our oldest students for elementary school. Our three-year-old team is also amazing with Colleen McCready, Maria Ade, and Mariska Anthony working together to make the best sure our students have fun and age appropriate activities all year. There is also our fantastic two-year-old teacher, Stacy Piazza, who is ready to take our youngest students on an adventure this year. I know this year will be magical. We are all so excited to get started!



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	Nancy Taylor	717-891-8791
Youth Ministry	OPEN	
Worship Assistants	Karen Symos	410-370-8666



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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2024	Jan -July 2024 Actuals	Jan - July 2024 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	212,679.58	247,081.69	(34,402.11)
Church General Fund Disbursements	208,543.75	229,000.01	20,456.26
Net Church General Fund	4,135.83	18,081.68	(13,945.85)
Church Restricted Receipts	81,149.57		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	126.31		
Youth Group Fundraiser	521.06		
Church Restricted Disbursements	61,743.16		
Net Church Financial Position	24,189.61		
AGC General Fund Receipts	172,819.52	156,188.20	16,631.32
AGC General Fund Disbursements	146,130.41	137,551.02	(8,579.39)
Net AGC General Fund	26,689.11	18,637.18	8,051.93
AGC Restricted Receipts			
AGC Fundraisers	11,480.04		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	10,880.53		
Net AGC Financial Position	27,288.62		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	385,499.10	403,269.89	(17,770.79)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	354,674.16	366,551.03	11,876.87
Net LLLC General Fund	30,824.94	36,718.86	(5,893.92)
Fundraising Balances	12,127.41		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	81,149.57		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	72,623.69		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	51,478.23		
	Jan -July 2024 Actuals	Jan - July 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023			
Church General Fund Receipts	212,679.58	245,518.04	(32,838.46)
Church General Fund Disbursements	208,543.75	261,521.07	52,977.32
Net Church General Fund	4,135.83	10,588.21	(6,452.38)
AGC General Fund Receipts	172,819.52	167,399.22	5,420.30
AGC General Fund Disbursements	146,130.41	138,026.77	(8,103.64)
Net AGC General Fund	26,689.11	32,945.91	(6,256.80)
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	385,499.10	412,917.26	(27,418.16)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	354,674.16	399,547.84	44,873.68
Net LLLC General Fund	30,824.94	13,369.42	17,455.52

Church general fund receipts through July are \$32,000 less than 2023 and unfavorable \$34,000 to budget
Disbursements are about \$4000 less than receipts and under budget by \$20,000.
AGC receipts are \$27,000 favorable to disbursements.

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010		
YEAR-TO-DATE	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL
July 31, 2024	July 31, 2024	July 31, 2023
\$193,207.37	\$227,641.69	\$224,936.70

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

Attendees: Pastor Ed Holloway, President Rebecca Powers, Beverly Brockschmidt, Rae Dowling, Mike Gutzler, Rich Jones, Patty Kunkel, Rhoda Olson, Stephney Rose Absent: Mary Hunter Guest: Jeff Taylor, Call Committee Chair

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 June minutes by Rhoda and seconded by Patty. They were approved unanimously.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor had a “nice” busy month in June. He regularly has between 6-10 non member meetings each month, which could ultimately end in new people joining the church, regardless its another great ministry here at LLLC.

Call Committee Update: Jeff distributed the Ministry Site Profile and Ministry Site Profile Supplement. (both are available at the office for review) for council review. Discussion included that both documents were very well written. The supplement conveyed an honest and fair representation of the congregation, including the past and present activities and situation as it currently exists. There are a few updates to benefits section that will be done, and then the Call Committee will distribute the new document to the Council and we will approve for final submission to the Synod.

Team Reports: All reports were submitted electronically.

Financial Report:

General offering - YTD May 31, 2014	- \$165,348
2024 Budget - YTD May 31, 2024	- \$201,228
2023 Actual YTD May 31, 2024	- \$198,519

We are managing our expenditures to the receipts we have.

Other Business:

Building Improvement Committee

The work on the Activity Hall continues and it is expected to be complete by Fall

All God’s Children maintenance agreement.

The AGC board of directors will provide the council with a draft agreement for review and acceptance

Safety and Security – The next safety seminar will be August 3rd and will focus on Emergency Response. There will be 20 training slots available and the training will be repeated as long as there are people signing up to attend. In October Red Cross Training will be held.

Watch the bulletin board in the Narthex for dates, sign up and more information.

New Business: None

Council next meeting dates:

August 21st, 2024 – 7pm – at Living Lord Lutheran.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lords’ Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Dowling

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	Online People Reached	In-Person Attendance	Total
July 2024			
7-July	273	98	371
14-July	280	92	372
21-July	287	91	378
28-July	319	104	423

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

September 2024 is National Cholesterol Education Month. Likely, you've heard the word "cholesterol" mentioned throughout your daily life, but do you understand what it is and why it's important to human health? Were you aware that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), almost 94 million people (aged 20 and older) in the United States have cholesterol numbers that are already bordering on "high" (as in higher than 200 mg/dL)? These cholesterol numbers could already be putting people at risk for serious health complications in the future if left unchecked. Considering there's now a whole month dedicated to getting the word out, it seems likely that you're not the only one who is a little confused about why cholesterol is a big deal.

What is Cholesterol? According to The American Heart Association, cholesterol is a "waxy" entity in your blood. The human body requires cholesterol to create cells, hormones, and vitamins. While not all cholesterol is bad, it's essential to know where "bad" cholesterol comes from. The liver produces the cholesterol that the human body needs. The rest comes from the food we consume (primarily animal products such as dairy and meat). There are two kinds of cholesterol — HDL cholesterol (also known as "good cholesterol") and LDL cholesterol (also known as "bad cholesterol").

According to The National Heart and Lung Institute, the most common cause of high cholesterol is unhealthy lifestyle choices. However, uncontrollable factors such as genetics, age, sex, race, certain medical conditions, and certain medications can also have an effect on your cholesterol levels.

Unhealthy lifestyle choices that increase your risk of high cholesterol include: ♦Smoking, ♦A sedentary lifestyle, ♦Eating foods high in saturated fats, ♦Stress, and ♦Drinking too much alcohol.

The following medical conditions can increase your risk of high cholesterol: ♦Being overweight or obese, ♦Diabetes, ♦HIV infections, ♦Kidney diseases, ♦Sleep apnea, ♦Lupus, and ♦Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS).

What are the dangers of high cholesterol? If your blood contains too much LDL cholesterol and/or not enough HDL cholesterol, then over time, the cholesterol will build up in your blood vessels and arteries, increasing the risk of blocking proper blood flow. Considering that your organs need adequate blood flow to oxygenate and keep your body functioning, this can quickly become serious (or even deadly). According to the CDC, the most significant risk of high cholesterol is heart disease, heart attack, and stroke caused by these blockages. Heart disease is currently the leading cause of death in the United States.

When considering the danger of high cholesterol, you may be interested to know that there are *almost no warning signs* that your cholesterol is high. The CDC reports that some people may not realize they even have high cholesterol until they experience angina (chest pain caused by blockages), a heart attack, or a stroke. *This is why it is so vital to take preventative measures to ensure that your cholesterol levels are within a healthy range.*

How to lower cholesterol Because high cholesterol can cause serious health problems, the CDC emphasizes that you should get your cholesterol levels checked *regularly* at least every five years). Outside of the doctor's office, you can also make heart-healthy choices to reduce your risk of high cholesterol by lowering your LDL numbers.

These are steps that you can take to lower LDL cholesterol: ♦Maintain a healthy weight, ♦Get regular exercise, ♦No smoking, ♦Limit alcoholic beverages, ♦Reduce your intake of unhealthy saturated fats and trans fats, ♦Increase your intake of fiber and healthy fats (unsaturated fats), and ♦Talk to your doctor about whether cholesterol medication could benefit you.

Don't let high cholesterol sneak up on you and cause serious health issues. By knowing your risk factors, regularly getting your blood tested, and following a heart-healthy diet, you can avoid the risks of high cholesterol. Seriously consider making an appointment with your primary care physician to have your cholesterol levels checked. This way, you and your doctor can go over the best plan of attack against high cholesterol for you.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7



Ask The Weatherman

By: Bill Mork

Was Hurricane Debby mostly windy or mostly wet? Mostly wet as Debby was a slow-moving and erratic Category 1 hurricane that caused widespread flooding in Southeastern U.S. The 4th named storm and second hurricane of 2024; Debby developed from a tropical wave first noted on 26 Jul. The disturbance organized into a tropical depression early on 3 Aug and became tropical storm Debby later that day in the Florida Straits. It moved northward, gradually reaching Category 1 hurricane status west of Tampa Bay, and made landfall near Steinhatchee FL early on 5 Aug. Debby weakened and slowed down over Southeastern U.S., causing widespread flooding from heavy rain. Debby re-emerged in the Atlantic on 7 Aug before slowly moving northward and making landfall in SC early on 8 Aug, then weakening to post-tropical on 9 Aug.

How wet was Debby? A band of showers and thunderstorms, moving south to north, with hourly rainfall rates of one inch per hour, developed over Manatee and Sarasota Counties 4-5 Aug. Storm totals in inches include downtown Sarasota 19.87, Parrish (unknown location) 18.86, 3.5 miles east of Lakewood Ranch 17.64, Rye Road (Bill Miller) 15.88, Fort Hamer Road (Bill Mork) 14.18, Lakewood Ranch (near our church) 13.84, and Sarasota-Bradenton Airport 11.06. The SRQ total was limited by a power outage. Sarasota had major flooding from Philippi Creek which pushed several feet of water into subdivisions such as Laurel Meadows. Flooding from the Braden River brought over a foot of water into homes in Summerfield Bluff in Lakewood Ranch.

How is the Manatee River? The Manatee River hit a record level of 20.12 feet at Rye Bridge at 9:15 PM on 5 Aug after major water releases were made the same day. This caused flooding of residences downstream from the dam. It also created pressure on Gamble Creek with water showing up on Rye Road, Jim Davis Road, Golf Course Road, and in Twin Rivers. Damage from Debby has topped \$100 million in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Manatee County once again released water from Lake Manatee during a 6-inch storm on Wed/21 Aug and forced the closure of Waterline Road. There were over 500 high-water rescues in Sarasota County and over 200 in Manatee County from Debby. Peak wind gust at SRQ was 63 mph on 4 Aug. Lowest pressure from Debby was 979 millibars or 28.91 inches of mercury. Local fatalities reached 10. The Climate Adaption Center in Sarasota pegs Debby as a 200-year flood event.

How warm was July? It was the 4th warmest July on record at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport with an average temperature of 84.3 degrees, 1.2 degrees above normal. And it was the 10th warmest month of any month since records began in 1911. July rainfall total at the Sarasota Bradenton Airport was 7.55 inches, 102% of normal. July 2024 was the warmest July on record for the globe in NOAA's 175-year record. The July global surface temp was 2.18 degrees F above the average of 60.4 degrees F. This was the 14th consecutive month of record-high global temperatures, a new record monthly streak. On 15 July, a derecho that spawned 32 tornadoes broke the Chicago-area record for tornadoes in a day. Alaska had its wettest July on record.

Did Hawaii break its drought? It certainly did on the Big Island. Hurricane Hone passed south of the Big Island on 25 Aug as it moved westward. Very heavy rain fell across the Big Island with flash flooding. The greatest rainfall occurred in Hakalau with 27.50 inches, the 4th highest known total in the history of tropical storms passing through or near the islands of Hawaii.

Hey members of Fellowship, Celebration of Life, Sunshine Committee, Outreach and Handicrafts Ministry, Stephen Ministries, Faith Community Nurses, Christian Life Groups, Pub Theology!

The Parish Life team will meet on September 1st at 3pm. It will be an afternoon tea at Stephney Rose's home 6445 Blue Grosbeak Cir Lakewood Ranch.

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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