



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



December 2024 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

I do not suppose there is really much I can say to you that is terribly new about Christmas. So let me tell you something old. I wish to you a Christmas like my fifth Christmas. We were going to an aunt's house and I saw Santa walking along the road with a bag filled with what I could only presume was gifts. I was so excited to see Santa in my neighborhood. Also, another aunt gave me an "s" gage American Flyer Train set which I still have to this day. I was a wonder. AND this was the first year I remember knowing that Christmas was actually Jesus' birthday. I remember marveling at this fact and that I got lots of presents on His birthday.

I still marvel at the fact that Christmas is Jesus' birthday and we receive the King of all creation as a gift each year. Love comes down each year to supply our needs of love and caring.

I hope this Christmas you have my five year old Christmas filled with wonder and marvel at the gift we receive: the Christ-child, Jesus. Have a blessed and wondrous Christmas.

Read Luke 2:1-7 and always remember that God loves YOU.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed



Theo Bullington	Josh Myers Behler
Rob Babel	Chris Mork
Susanna Scott	Shirley Smith
Gordy Havey	Will
Janet Castner	Nan Fisher
Liz Howell	Calvin
Wyly Pope	Gene Rahn
Roger Henkelman	Lori Rapp
Linda Henkelmann	Jim Pinto
Jacob Rodriguez	Tony Zubricky
Suzanne Dietzel	Joe Kitchie
Nancy Woodworth	Rade Mallkovich
June Hartlieb	Sharlene Jones
Ron Silver	Shirley Kitsmiller
Andrew Catanese	Linda Couch
Laura Apeathy	Jeanne Thum
Frankie Vasquez	Ray Rankl
Elaine Truitt	Jim and Sandy Kudrin
Ralph Hanson	Becky Berka
Bob Ready	Debbie Skelly
Brian Brockschmidt	Jeff Shaw
Kathy Rodd	Valerie Walden
Terrie Dale	Peggy Smith
Schrand Family	Dan
Kathy Murgatroyd	Dawn Schaeffer
Meri Capithorne	Family of Marlene Saum
Alexa	John Saum
Peter Aument	Linda
Jan Hillman	Family of Margitta Rizzo
Family of Gisele Phipps	Bradley
Ron	Tracy B.
Angie	Family of
Connie T.	Charlie Croatman
Sandy & family	Denise
Marty Mork	Gay Jeffreys
Donnie Simonson	Call Committee
Debbie Carsile	Mike
Family of Jim Reardon	Troy and family
Glenn Price	Family of Merle Hanson
Lori Norgart	Sean
Lon Anderson	Kyle & Cathy
	Resentreter



The autumn months are ahead, the first three months of school have gone by so quickly. It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us. This season starts with Thanksgiving, this is a very important time for our teachers to teach our students the true meaning of the holiday. It is also a time for us to reflect on the many blessings that we have and give thanks for our task as educators. AGC has been full of beautiful fall decorations crafted by all of our students. We have had parents coming into the classrooms to help with fun fall activities and of course, we are hearing lots of fall storytelling within the classrooms. The classes also had Thanksgiving feasts with their friends and talked about what they are thankful for!

AGC is starting the season off the right way as we took part in our 14th annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Trike-A-Thon. This is an event that everyone looks forward to as it is a day for the children to get outside and ride their bikes with their classmates.

The teachers also talk about bike safety and awareness before the event. They also talk about how important it is to be kind to all children. On the day of the event, which was 11/15/24, as our students rode, they were raising money for St. Jude so that the families never have to receive a bill for the care of their loved ones. Our Trike-A-Thon has raised almost \$5000 thus far and I could not be more proud. This is the most money this event has ever raised and for a school with only 53 families, it is quite amazing. Our students did such a great job and everyone truly had a fun day. We had a fantastic turn out, with all of our parents showing up in support with signs, pom-poms, music, and cheer! We truly have the BEST parents and families at AGC, they are always so supportive of anything that we want to do or try. The weather was outstanding and it was one of the most joyous days that I have witnessed in a long time. Thank you to LLC for letting us overtake the parking lot for this important cause.



From everyone at All God's Children Preschool, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Christianity

As Told by the Evangelists

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Beginning January 6, 2025 on Mondays

In Activities Hall 10:00-11:30 AM

In 18 weekly classes we will learn and experience Jesus,
who transcended humble origins,
showed us God's love,
paid the price for our forgiveness,
and transformed his followers forever.

This course is free. Because God's gifts are FREE!

January 6, 13, 20, 27 2025:

Peter and Paul and the Christian Revolution.

What happened to the disciples after the crucifixion of Jesus?

Would Jesus disappear from history? Video and readings in Luke's book of Acts, where the church began.

February 3 through April 7:

Understanding New Testament Gospels

Lectures by professors of Christian theology and history to enhance your reading of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. Discussion of texts.

April 14: **MOVIE The Gospel of John**, read by Christopher Plummer, 2 hours

Easter Monday April 21, 2025 NO CLASS

April 28 and May 5, 2025 TO BE ANNOUNCED (Sacred Journeys?)

Documentaries, Bible Readings, Instructional Videos, Lesson Summaries, Discussions, and your Questions. *Just like college!* Videos easy to see on 85 inch TV. Ruth McConnell, leader

Living Lord Lutheran Church - Council Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2024

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

The meeting was called to order at 7pm, with a prayer and devotions by Pastor Ed. Traveling Light by Max Lucado. Fear is an anchor – don't focus on it, look for an opening away from it and trust in Jesus to lead us out of the way of fear.

In our prayers we especially pray for Maggie's daughter in her time of medical need.

Minutes Approval - The September minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report – Pastor has had an increase in the number of office visits as well as home visits. A new member class will be held October 30th and the new members will be brought into the church in November.

The quilting group has requested time for a craft sale and auction in November. All agreed this would be great. Pastor is reaching out to Mary Magdalene Church to collaborate on a Thanksgiving service.

The Gideon's have requested time to speak on a Sunday and we agreed after the first of the year would be fine. Pastor will be attending the Mid Gulf Conference on October 26th at Grace Lutheran in Sarasota.

Call Committee Report - All paper work has been submitted to the Synod and it is currently under review. We await word from the Synod regarding a candidate for our new Pastor.

Team Reports - All Team reports were submitted electronically and can be reviewed in the office.

Financial Report - A full financial report is available in the office. We continue to keep pace with previous years giving and expenses. Sunday October 27, a discussion regarding gifts will be presented. When you're not in church, like during hurricanes or vacation of many other reasons we miss you and the gifts we receive from you. Electronic giving is an option and it helps with the financial health of the church to even out the receipts, because as we know the expenses don't stop. Check with Maggie if you're interested E-giving. The 2025 budget will be presented at the November meeting.

Building Improvement - Rich and his team continue to make great progress and are working hard to improve the building. Many changes are still coming. The storms have impacted some things but we're still moving forward with projects.

Safety and Security - An AED /CPR training will be scheduled soon. 20 person max per class \$10 per person. Watch for details. The security seminar's schedule was modified due to the storms – current plan is as follows. This will be a three-part series presented by Deputy Tom

Completed in October - Surveillance Awareness November 2, 2024 - Active shooter

February 2025 - Fraud, Scams & Home Security – (watch for the exact date)

All seminars are from 10am - noon. Our security policy was last updated in 2017. After review by Beverly, she has suggested that staff and a small team of volunteers would be better suited to provide input and fully revise this document as needed.

All God's Children – A \$1000 grant was received from the Early Learning Coalition to be used on playground equipment that was damaged/lost in the storms. Thank you ELC, the gift will help a lot.

An Operations and Maintenance agreement with All God's Children has been developed by Mary and the AGC board. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding this document, which appeared to be more than just an O&M agreement. Some items appear to be better placed in the constitution. We will continue to discuss this agreement at our next meeting.

New Business: Stewardship Sunday is November 10th.

A nominating committee for new officers was developed with Rich and Mike taking the lead.

Our next Council meeting will be November 20, 2024 at 7pm at LLLC.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rae Dowling

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

The second Thursday of every month the LLL lunch bunch meets for lunch. Our next lunch will be on December 12th at 11:30. We will meet at Station 400 located at 8215 Lakewood Main, Lakewood Ranch, FL. This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. There is a sign up sheet posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Miller at 616-540-1745.

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

	Jan -Oct 2024 Actuals	Jan -Oct 2024 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2024			
Church General Fund Receipts	289,109.16	330,289.15	(41,179.99)
Church General Fund Disbursements	301,766.44	327,943.75	26,177.31
Net Church General Fund	(12,657.28)	2,345.40	(15,002.68)
Church Restricted Receipts	169,093.48		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	498.86		
Youth Group Fundraiser	521.06		
Church Restricted Disbursements	105,714.55		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>51,741.57</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	227,510.02	219,434.76	8,075.26
AGC General Fund Disbursements	218,088.22	206,442.74	(11,645.48)
Net AGC General Fund	9,421.80	12,992.02	(3,570.22)
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	15,627.68		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	14,214.08		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>10,835.40</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	516,619.18	549,723.91	(33,104.73)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	519,854.66	534,386.49	14,531.83
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>(3,235.48)</u>	<u>15,337.42</u>	<u>(18,572.90)</u>
Fundraising Balances	16,647.60		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	169,093.48		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	119,928.63		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>62,576.97</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023			
	Jan -Oct 2024 Actuals	Jan - Oct 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	289,109.16	301,613.33	(12,504.17)
Church General Fund Disbursements	301,766.44	329,191.88	27,425.44
Net Church General Fund	<u>(12,657.28)</u>	<u>(27,578.55)</u>	14,921.27
AGC General Fund Receipts	227,510.02	196,337.58	31,172.44
AGC General Fund Disbursements	218,088.22	170,092.42	(47,995.80)
Net AGC General Fund	<u>9,421.80</u>	<u>26,245.16</u>	(16,823.36)
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	516,619.18	497,950.91	18,668.27
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	519,854.66	499,284.30	(20,570.36)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>(3,235.48)</u>	<u>(1,333.39)</u>	<u>(1,902.09)</u>

Church general fund receipts through October are \$12000 less than 2023 and unfavorable \$41,000 to bud
Disbursements are \$12,600 more than receipts
AGC receipts are \$9000 favorable to disbursements.

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010		
YEAR-TO-DATE	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL
October 31, 2024	October 31, 2024	October 31, 2023
\$264,276.08	\$303,305.15	\$301,210.16

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

The Christmas season is filled with white lights, glad tidings, joyful music, and – oh, let's be real; the season is filled with plain old busyness! As December 25th approaches, we fall prey to that seasonal bug of busyness. With all the decorating, sorting, baking, wrapping, and attending Christmas performances and activities – our schedules are never fuller.

But in the midst of it all, we know that your frantic preparations are for something far greater than to simply make our holiday celebrations "picture perfect". When we allow ourselves to pause for just a second, we remember that the Christmas season is about preparing our hearts to celebrate, once again, the wonderful and miraculous coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

So, whether it's at dinner on Christmas Eve, before opening presents on Christmas day, or waking up on December 26th, reading a short Christmas devotion is a great way to focus our hearts and minds on the true meaning of the season:

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And the angel of the Lord came upon them, and said, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. *Matthew 1:21*

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B I. B L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

When you are about to share this to others, the devil will discourage you.

Great response!!

“Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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