



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



January 2025 Issue



Dear Friends in Christ:

New Year, same God. We often make a big deal of the new year. Lists of great people, events, deaths and wonders from the year before lead to the anticipation of what might come in the next year. We make resolutions that we do not keep. I would like you all to make hundreds of good willed and faithful resolutions so you, like me, can keep a few! Some see the new year with dread. What might happen – badly. I see each new year as a time of great anticipation. What wondrous things will happen this year? We, at Living Lord, need to see this coming year as a time for us to call a new pastor and begin a different direction in our ministry. God is leading us into his future. What could be more exciting than that? 2025 is here and we need to look forward with anticipation and excitement because we are walking into the future God is providing!!!

Read Jeremiah 29:11 and always remember that God loves YOU.

In Christ's love: Pastor Ed



It is definitely the holiday season. 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, as well as making sure that our families had a ton of holiday cheer to take with them through our winter break and into the new year.

We were so lucky to have the Aloha Ukulele Band come to AGC and perform some of our favorite Christmas carols. This really got the students in the holiday spirit, as they danced and sang with the band. We also had visitors from the North Pole this month. All of the classes got to visit and tell Santa their Christmas wish. It certainly kicked off the season.

The teachers at AGC have been working with the students on many skills since August and it is amazing to see how far each class has come. They are working on team activities, individual projects, and really learning how to be in a classroom and have a school routine. We are excited for the new year and teaching even more!

We always end the year with our AGC Christmas Program. The program started with our ballerinas performing some beautiful holiday dances, that got the holiday spirit started. Next, our two-year-old students performed a song and jingled some holiday bells. Our three-year-olds performed many festive songs and poems as well. The students put so much energy in their dance moves and really sang out as loud as they could. Our final act was our two 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. After the performance, the families hung out to take pictures and share in desserts and cocoa with the staff. It truly was a memorable day, it certainly got everyone in the mood for Christmas and all of the love, family, joy, sharing, giving, and laughs that come along with it.

From the All God's Children Preschool family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year! See you all in 2025!



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

Council Meeting Minutes November 20, 2024 - 7pm

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

The meeting was called to order at 7pm, with a prayer and devotions by Pastor Ed. Pastor changed it up this meeting and provided definitions for various words starting with the letter "T" from the Lutheran Dictionary! ie., Treasurer: Keeper of the purse strings. Tie: Thin sliver of material worn in church.

Minutes Approval – Approval of the October minutes was motioned by Beverly and seconded by Rhoda. They were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report – The storms in October have impacted the schedule of Pastor including his support of All God's Children, home visits, etc. Things are back on track now. Pastor participated in a zoom call with the other Pastor's in the area. Gloria Dei church on AMI was severely impacted by both storms - Helene and Milton. They have hundred's of thousands of dollars in damage, time will tell what happens there. In the meantime they are worshipping with Redeemer Lutheran in West Bradenton. St. Armand's Lutheran on Lido, was also damaged however they are back worshipping in their building.

Pastor is proud of all of the work, missions and activities that LLLC does in the community. For our size, we are very active!!

Thanksgiving Eve service was held November 27th at 6:30 and Advent Services will be December 4th, 11th, and 18th also at 6:30pm.

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday November 30th 10am.

Call Committee Report - All paper work has been submitted to the Synod and it is currently under review. We have defined the salary range to a maximum \$120K all inclusive. 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.

Security Seminars scheduled: February 8, 2025 Residential Security

March 8, 2025 Scams and Fraud

TBD (Jan?) Stop the Bleed–Emergency Response w/Bleeding–Hosted by Blake Hospital

All God's Children – Great things continue to happen with the kids in the All God's Children program. Mary will work with Erin and Maggie to have more information included in the Voice for everyone to know and celebrate.

Financial Report - A full financial report is available in the office. We continue to keep pace with previous years giving and expenses. General Funds receipts are \$12,000 less than same time in 2023. All God's Children budget is \$8,000 favorable to receipts.

The 2025 budget was presented at \$393K including the full amount of the teams request for next year. Based on pledges received with anticipate \$378K in receipts. Mike and the financial team will continue to revise and present it at our next meeting for approval.

Building Improvement - Rich and his team continue to make great progress and are working hard to improve the building. Floors were all cleaned and polished Nov 21st. Items still scheduled include: lighting improvements and flooring in Sanctuary Hall

Old Business: We've had a very nice response from the congregation regarding new council members. A slate will be presented in January and we will vote on our new members at the Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

There will be an executive council meeting November 30 at 9am and our next Council meeting will be December 18, 2024 - 7pm at LLLC.

Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of Nov 30, 2024

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2024	Jan- Nov 2024 Actuals	Jan -Nov 2024 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	316,793.68	355,517.47	(38,723.79)
Church General Fund Disbursements	332,259.75	357,585.22	25,325.47
Net Church General Fund	(15,466.07)	(2,067.75)	(13,398.32)
Church Restricted Receipts	177,499.48		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	117.63		
Youth Group Fundraiser	521.06		
Church Restricted Disbursements	117,807.14		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>44,864.96</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	259,584.34	245,854.00	13,730.34
AGC General Fund Disbursements	245,907.60	235,808.90	(10,098.70)
Net AGC General Fund	13,676.74	10,045.10	3,631.64
AGC Restricted Receipts	-		
AGC Fundraisers	15,351.16		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	14,274.08		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>14,753.82</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	576,378.02	601,371.47	(24,993.45)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	578,167.35	593,394.12	15,226.77
Net LLLC General Fund	(1,789.33)	7,977.35	(9,766.68)
Fundraising Balances	15,989.85		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	177,499.48		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	132,081.22		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	<u>59,618.78</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023	Jan- Nov 2024 Actuals	Jan -Nov 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	316,793.68	356,971.78	(40,178.10)
Church General Fund Disbursements	332,259.75	393,417.71	61,157.96
Net Church General Fund	(15,466.07)	(36,445.93)	20,979.86
AGC General Fund Receipts	259,584.34	260,245.27	(660.93)
AGC General Fund Disbursements	245,907.60	236,173.96	(9,733.64)
Net AGC General Fund	13,676.74	24,071.31	(10,394.57)
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	576,378.02	617,217.05	(40,839.03)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	578,167.35	629,591.67	51,424.32
Net LLLC General Fund	(1,789.33)	(12,374.62)	10,585.29

Church general fund receipts through November are \$40,000 less than 2023 and unfavorable \$38,700 to budget. Disbursements are \$15,000 more than receipts. Expenses are \$25,000 less than budget. AGC receipts are \$13,600 favorable to disbursements.

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010		
YEAR-TO-DATE	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL
November 30, 2024	November 30, 2024	November 30, 2023
\$289,391.95	\$326,998.47	\$325,393.48

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

January is the beginning of a new year and the perfect time to start the year celebrating National Blood Donor Month.

Due to increased seasonal illnesses during the winter months and inclement weather conditions, donations of blood and platelets decline, and demand increases. The American Red Cross and Blood Banks of America encourage everyone who can to donate or continue their donations. Those who have never donated, to make an appointment. Blood donation is safer than ever before and saves lives. Millions of people including cancer patients, organ recipients, and victims of accidents; rely on blood donations from people like you and me.

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalBloodDonorMonth

Give blood. Don't wait for a disaster. Someone needs blood now! Contact the American Red Cross or your local blood bank for more information. Use #NationalBloodDonorMonth and #GiveBlood to share on social media. Here are some of the biggest reasons giving blood is so important.

1. About 36,000 units of red blood cells and 7,000 units of platelets are needed every single day in the U.S.
2. The most requested blood type by hospitals is type O. This kind of blood can be transfused to patients of all blood types, so it's always in great demand and very short supply. Only 7% of people in the U.S. have type O.
3. A single-car accident victim may need up to 100 pints of blood to survive.
4. About 6.8 million people donate blood every year in the U.S.
5. 38% of our population is eligible to donate, but less than 10% actually do.
6. Donating blood is a simple, safe process. All you have to do is register, take a mini-medical history test, donate, and then accept free refreshments like water, Gatorade, granola bars, etc.

A single donation from a single patient can help more than one person.

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH HISTORY

President Richard Nixon proclaimed January as National Blood Donor Month for the first time on December 31, 1969, as requested by Senate Joint Resolution 154.

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. Leviticus 17:11

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

The second Thursday of most months, the Lunch Bunch meets. Our next gathering will be on January 9, 2025 at 11:30. We will meet at Rosedale Country Club located at 5100 87th St. E, Bradenton. The country club and restaurant is off SR 70. This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. There is a signup sheet posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Miller at 616-540-1745.

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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