



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Make disciples, Serve selflessly, Live faithfully

The Voice



February 2025 Issue



Love one another.

Dear Friends in Christ:

February is for lovers. In the north, it certainly was nice to have someone to snuggle with just to keep warm. Maybe we need that here too. Love is a great word that means many things. If you love ice cream, it is not the same as loving your spouse or children or friends. We really need our friends and family. We were made to be in community with others. We were made to love. Loving people is not easy. It means forgiving and being forgiven. It means giving second and third and many chances. It means caring even when we disagree. It means my soul connected to yours. Loving is a difficult verb requiring energy and action on our part. It means caring even when the other hates us. Fortunately, we have a great example of God's love and how we need to live in the person of Jesus the Christ. He loved us so much that he died to save people from their sins and bring us into community with him. Jesus loved us so much he died for me and you. We need to channel that love of Jesus in our own lives so others can see how much they are loved. May the love of Christ bless us to be a blessing for others.

Read 1 Corinthians 13 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	Calvin
Liz Howell	Gene Rahn
Wyly Pope	Lori Rapp
Roger Henkelman	Jim Pinto
Linda Henkelmann	Linda Couch
Jacob Rodriguez	Tony Zubricky
Suzanne Dietzel	Joe Kitchie
Nancy Woodworth	Rade Mallkovich
June Hartlieb	Sharlene Jones
Ron Silver	Shirley Kitsmiller
Andrew Catanese	Jeff Shaw
Laura Apeathy	Jeanne Thum
Frankie Vasquez	Becky Berka
Elaine Truitt	Debbie Skelly
Ralph Hanson	Valerie Walden
Bob Ready	Peggy Smith
Brian Brockschmidt	Dan
Terrie Dale	Dawn Schaeffer
Kathy Murgatroyd	Linda
Meri Capithorne	Bradley
Alexa	Tracy B.
Peter Aument	Family of
Jan Hillman	Charlie Croatman
Ron	Denise
Angie	Gay Jeffreys
Connie T.	Call Committee
Sandy & family	Mike
Marty Mork	Troy and family
Donnie Simonson	Sean
Glenn Price	Kyle & Cathy
Lori Norgart	Resentreter
Barb Kunkel	Family of Malcolm Doyle
Barbara VanBuren	Ronald Hansen
Lon Anderson	Edward Smith
Martha Illg	Barb & Olivia Sahr
Family of Debbie Carsile	Dale Jones
David Gangnagel	Jeanette Johnson
	Maria Ade

CARNIVAL

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
PRESCHOOL



SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH
11AM-2PM

- *UNLIMITED GAMES*
- *CARNIVAL STYLE FOOD & TREATS*
- *SILENT AUCTION, DJ*
- *PETTING ZOO, FACE PAINTING*
- *BALLOON ARTISTS AND MORE*

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT
ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
PRESCHOOL





WHEN: Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10AM

Manatee County Deputy Tom Kaczmarek will be speaking about keeping safe in today's environment (ie: Cyber Crimes, Fraud and scams).

Deputy Kaczmarek has over 20 years experience serving 7 years as a detective. While serving as a detective, Deputy Kaczmarek investigated numerous cases that involve fraud, elderly exploration contractor fraud, property crimes and criminal statewide trends. Deputy Kaczmarek holds 2 designations from the Attorney General's office of Florida. Deputy Kaczmarek through his investigations, has seen many cases successfully prosecuted not only in Manatee County but in other jurisdictions. The topics covered will be from his experience in interviews with suspects, who typically commit these crimes against citizens in our area .

The Handicrafts group—"A Stitch and A Prayer" gives heartfelt thanks for your generous participation in our recent raffle for quilting supplies. The proceeds will mainly go towards batting that we frugally purchase at \$230/60 yards. Aside from your valuable donations of fabric and sheets, our ladies personally cover any other costs. The quilts are distributed to our global and local communities with attached labels - "Made with love by LLLC". This year Lutheran World Relief will receive 64 large quilts. Also, to date, 300 lap quilts have been given to Living Lord member, Steve Pierannunzi, to distribute through visits by his ministry group, Suncoast Comfort Canines 4 Christ. Organizations they've visited include Easter Seals, Casa Mora, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital, Aspire at Sarasota, and Grande Villa Living in Sarasota. Join us Friday mornings at 10:30 to lend a hand and find out more. No experience necessary. Thank you for your continued support!



LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

The second Thursday of most months, the Lunch Bunch meets. Our next gathering will be on February 13, 2025 at 11:30. We will meet at Remy's on Main. located at 8138 Lakewood Main Street. This luncheon is open to all who wish to attend. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Miller at 616-540-1745.



Join us at church if you would like to enjoy a game of Euchre or Cribbage.

Stay tuned for next date and time.

Council Meeting Minutes December 18, 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, Nancy Taylor, Jeff Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 7pm, with a prayer and devotions by Pastor Ed.

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

Pastor's Report – Pastor provided his numbers report which is available in the office, and he also commented on how a few members have commented to him on how our congregation is positive and joyful congregation. Nothing is perfect but all is mostly good!!

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.

The Parish Life Committee has been reorganized to spread the work across more people and improve communication for the many facets of this large committee.

Financial Report - A full financial report is available in the office.

General Funds receipts are less than same time in 2023. All other receipts will be favorable to last year by years end. We've set aside \$30,000 in reserve funds to assist in calling a new pastor. All God's Children budget is \$13,000 favorable to disbursements.

The 2025 church budget was presented and approved unanimously by the council and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on Jan 26, 2025.

The 2025 AGC budget was also presented and approved unanimously.

Building Improvement - Rich and his team continue to make great progress and are working hard to improve the building. Lights in the Sanctuary Hall will be replaced beginning early January. The Sanctuary Hall will also see popcorn ceiling replaced, vinyl plank floors added, and painting completed in early 2025. All paving has been completed. Murals have been hung. More artwork and "life" needs to be added in the Activities Hall. In the 1st quarter of 2025, the Building committee will begin discussion and planning for what and how things might need to be changed, updated or improved in the Sanctuary.

As the Building Improvement Committee has improved the Church building with the restricted funds that we have, they see a need for the entire campus to be improved. As a council we concur and want to see the entire campus taken care of with the same focus and attention.

Discussion ensued regarding the funds that have been received over the last few years. It has been just over two years since the entire campus Forward in Faith campaign came to an end. Recognizing that we still had work to do, with much needed cleanup and remaining work to the property, parking lot and buildings, the Council requested that "Forward in Faith" be changed to "Building Improvement Fund" on our giving envelopes and encouraged continued giving toward this effort. In 2024 alone, over \$178,000 has been given to this account. The Council appointed Vice President Rich Jones to chair a committee to advise the Council as to needed projects and to oversee the appropriate use of this fund. Rich and the committee have done an outstanding job.

The Council believes the words "building improvement" are misleading. Just like Forward in Faith, the fund is for the entire campus community, grounds, parking lot, buildings, signage, drainage, etc. As a result, giving envelopes starting in April will say Campus Improvement Fund.

As always, individual gifts for restricted and designated purposes will be accepted under the current guidelines with no change.

New Business—The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26th immediately following the 11am service. Our next Council meeting will be January 15, 2024 - 7pm at LLLC.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Rae Dowling

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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2024	Jan- Dec 2024 Actuals	Jan -Dec 2024 Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	396,266.81	387,455.00	8,811.81
Church General Fund Disbursements	361,318.27	391,955.00	30,636.73
Net Church General Fund	34,948.54	(4,500.00)	39,448.54
Church Restricted Receipts	183,209.48		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	748.83		
Youth Group Fundraiser	521.06		
Church Restricted Disbursements	138,563.59		
Net Church Financial Position	80,864.32		
AGC General Fund Receipts	286,586.24	274,200.00	12,386.24
AGC General Fund Disbursements	271,763.20	272,500.00	736.80
Net AGC General Fund	14,823.04	1,700.00	13,123.04
AGC Restricted Receipts	4,000.00		
AGC Fundraisers	15,153.72		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	32,186.49		
Net AGC Financial Position	1,790.27		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	682,853.05	661,655.00	21,198.05
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	633,081.47	664,455.00	31,373.53
Net LLLC General Fund	49,771.58	(2,800.00)	52,571.58
Fundraising Balances	16,423.61		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	187,209.48		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	170,750.08		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position(includes restricted)	82,654.59		

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2024 VS 2023	Jan- Dec 2024 Actuals	Jan -Dec 2023 Actuals	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Church General Fund Receipts	396,266.81	392,458.57	3,808.24
Church General Fund Disbursements	361,318.27	420,485.54	59,167.27
Net Church General Fund	34,948.54	(28,026.97)	62,975.51
AGC General Fund Receipts	286,586.24	282,660.83	3,925.41
AGC General Fund Disbursements	271,763.20	255,383.02	(16,380.18)
Net AGC General Fund	14,823.04	27,277.81	(12,454.77)
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	682,853.05	675,119.40	7,733.65
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	633,081.47	675,868.56	42,787.09
Net LLLC General Fund	49,771.58	(749.16)	50,520.74

Church general fund receipts for 2024 are \$8,800 more than budget, thanks to a member's generous donation in December. Disbursements are \$35,000 less than receipts.
AGC ended the year \$14,800 favorable to disbursements.

Karen Symos, Bookkeeper

GENERAL OFFERING #4010		
YEAR-TO-DATE	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL
December 31, 2024	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
\$362,631.00	\$355,000.00	\$352,905.01

FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

It's February – American Heart Month – a time when the nation spotlights heart disease, the Number 1 killer of Americans.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, among the millions of people in the country who'd had heart attacks, issued the first proclamation in 1964. Since then, U.S. presidents have annually declared February American Heart Month.

Throughout the month, the American Heart Association's "Heart to Heart: Why Losing One Woman Is Too Many" campaign will raise awareness about how 1 in 3 women are diagnosed with heart disease annually.

The first Friday of American Heart Month, Feb. 5, is also National Wear Red Day as part of the AHA's Go Red for Women initiative. Coast to coast, landmarks, news anchors and neighborhoods go red to raise awareness and support for the fight against heart disease. For more information on the event and other activities during the month, visit [**GoRedForWomen.org**](https://www.GoRedForWomen.org).

This year, the federally designated event is even more important due to the impact of the coronavirus on the public's heart health, including potential harmful effects on the heart and vascular system, according to recent research.

Also, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have delayed or avoided going to hospitals for heart attacks and strokes – netting poorer outcomes and prompting the AHA to create "Don't Die of Doubt," a national awareness campaign that reminds people that hospitals are the safest place to go when you have symptoms.

And while in lockdown, more people have engaged in unhealthy lifestyle behaviors, such as eating poorly, drinking more alcohol and limiting physical activity, that can contribute to heart disease.

Meanwhile, heart disease continues to be the greatest health threat to Americans and is still the leading cause of death worldwide, according to the AHA's Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2021 Update.

The update, published in the association's flagship journal *Circulation*, reports that nearly 18.6 million people across the globe died of cardiovascular disease in 2019, the latest year for which worldwide statistics are calculated. That's a 17.1% increase over the past decade. And 523.2 million cases of cardiovascular disease were reported in 2019, a 26.6% increase over 2010.

During American Heart Month, the AHA and other organizations reinforce the importance of heart health, the need for more research and efforts to ensure that millions of people live longer and healthier.

In most cases, heart disease is preventable when people adopt a healthy lifestyle, which includes not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, controlling blood sugar and cholesterol, treating high blood pressure, getting at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week and getting regular checkups.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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11107 Palmbrush Trail
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