



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Living Lord's VOICE

Volume 23, Number 1

January, 2010

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

Matthew 6:33

A group of friends attended a banquet held in honor of their mutual friend. As the food came around, one friend said: “I really like these potatoes and gravy....but I do not like this chicken, I hate white meat.” Another friend said: “I happen to like white meat....but I think that these rolls are stale. Another friend said: “I like these rolls...but I prefer cream-based gravy. Finally, one of the friends said to another who had no comments on the food: “Hey, what do you think?” “Oh, I am sorry,” he said, “my mind is not on the food, I am just happy that they are honoring my friend.”

Everybody at the table had an opinion, based upon taste. But one friend did not allow his opinion to stand in the way of the purpose, that being to honor their friend.

In light of the above illustration, what does this say about the way we come into worship? Certainly there are as many opinions as there are people, all with different tastes. How does this affect our worship experience? Are we caught up on externals and distracted by our taste and opinions? Perhaps we need to refocus and remember that our variety of tastes and opinions are fine, so long as they do not distract us from our purpose, which is to worship.

We have a new facility and it is gorgeous. We cannot wait for the dedication service when the Bishop will be here to celebrate with us in our new building. We have not only increased worship space, but fellowship space as well. This is exciting!

Let us not forget that our opinions, however precious we may think they are, may not be exactly alike. But our focus can, must, and always should be squarely upon the worship of our Lord Jesus. He is the guest of honor; let us not be distracted by the externals.

AMEN.

Pastor

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Our Vision
 Loving, Learning and Living
 In Christ

In this edition of Voice:

It's been suggested that providing an index of the contents of Voice would make it easier for folks to find particular information. We're not listing everything but here are, at least a few important things you might want to access:

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President's Message

Rejoice, Rejoice, And Rejoice!

We are finally worshipping in our new sanctuary addition and it is a joy. How fitting that we will be able to have our Christmas services in it and not have to turn visitors away. It has been a long and challenging road for us to get to this point. And I acknowledge that we are not yet finished with the project. But we can be proud of the fact that we were able to come together and accomplish it, that we did it without taking out a loan and adding more debt. Further, we were able to make difficult decisions that did not make everyone totally happy, but we all had to compromise to make it work with the money that was available. We know that a lot of finishing still needs to happen and it will. Through continuing contributions we will have carpeting and kneeling pads and all the other items that will complete the sanctuary.

All of this has happened because we all really believe in giving of our Time, Talents, and Treasure to Living Lord. I can't possibility name all of the folks who have been involved in this project to whom we are eternally grateful. Clearly, without them we might not have been able to accomplish it.

That said, where do we go from here? So we can be better prepared for the future, we need to work to pay down our mortgage and begin to make plans for any future expansions. We now have the momentum, let's not drop the ball.

Peace to all of you for the coming year

Better Late than Never...or Better Never Late?

Oops, the following article was submitted for last month's Voice and I inadvertently neglected to include it. I apologize and extend my gratitude along with Cheryl...**thank you to all who helped!**

I want to thank everyone who baked, made a craft or gave a donation that made the craft and bake sale a huge success. We raised \$856 and Thrivent matched this with an additional \$800. Kathie Brown and daughter Alyssa helped at the tables, and sold \$39 worth of coffee to benefit the Manatee Children's Center. I want to thank Gail Canario, from the Center, for speaking at all three services. I also want to thank Marla Sherry, the daughter of Marty Eldredge, Marla is not a member of our church but she made afghans and sold them plus made baked goods and helped at the tables. Bless you all and thank you Thrivent for your generosity. Cheryl

Sanctuary Dedication Service, Pot-luck, Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 31, 2010:
10:00 AM - Dedication Service, 11:30 AM – Lunch, 1:00 PM Annual Meeting**

What a day this will be! First things first; we give thanks to our Lord for the successful completion of our building project to increase our sanctuary size, provide for more fellowship space and enable us to expand our ministries. Please come to the ONE service that will be celebrated that day, at 10:00 AM. There will be several special features, like music from By Grace, the Chancel Choir and the Chimes group. In addition we are honored to have Rev. Bishop Edward R. Benoway participating in this service. What a joy for our entire congregation to be able to worship at one time, in one place!

And what would a celebration be without food?! After the service, we will nourish our bodies with offerings by our members. Have you signed up yet to provide that special dish you will share? Please find the sign-up sheet in the narthex and let us know how many in your family will attend (you can invite friends too) and what you will bring.

Then, finally, we will conduct our annual congregational meeting. This is an important event and all confirmed members are encouraged to attend. As always, budget challenges will be a major topic but in addition, we will elect our council members for the coming year. If you don't attend and let your voice be heard, how can you comment on what happens through the rest of the year?

Treasurer's Report

There is no Treasurer's Report this month. For information regarding our finances, please refer to the Council Minutes, Paragraph C.1. A full report will be available at the annual meeting on January 31.

Stewardship Corner

The initial response to our 2010 commitment drive, "Overcoming Barriers to Growth – Building Disciples for Christ", has been encouraging. As of December 14th, we have received 89 commitments from our 306 giving family units, for a total of \$170,000. Twenty one of these responders have pledged to bring one friend or neighbor to church in 2010. We give praise and thanks to God for these commitments.

If you have not yet turned in your commitment form, now is the time. Your support will be greatly appreciated and is still needed if we are to reach our goal of \$357,000, our proposed budget for 2010.

At our annual meeting on January 31, one of the most important agenda items we will address is approval of the budget for the coming year. We all have areas WE think are essential and WE want/expect those items to be funded. Please prayerfully consider what YOU can do to help us fund all our important ministries. Pledging is the way to help our congregation's leaders know our projected income, so they can plan to pay for our projected expenses.

We have truly grown as a church and are ready for full discipleship: and our budgetary goal can be reached with your help. Mail your response card to the church office today, or bring it with you and place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Your Stewardship Team, Al Kersten, Larry Eichert, Mel Lestock, Bill Mork, Sue Farence,
Randy Hanson

Church Council Minutes

Dec 8, 2009

Members Present: Pastor Gross, Lisa Hahn, John Moyer, Mike Seminick, Skip Wegener

Guest Present: Kristen Hitchcock, Jim Lustgarten

President called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. Pastor followed with a prayer thanking the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to serve Him.

A. Reports

1. Previous Month's Minutes

LLLC council minutes for Nov 2009 were reviewed and approved

2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer is on a six week vacation. No report.

3. Ministry Team Reports

- a. Evangelism: Associate members, Larry & Trudy Wagner, requested active membership. **Motion**: To accept new active members. *2nded and carried.*
- b. Worship & Music:
 - (1) Organ may need periodic maintenance soon.
Council recommendation: final determination should be made after organ's pedal-board mechanism has been thoroughly cleaned after relocation to its permanent location in the new sanctuary.
 - (2) To reduce narthex congestion between 9:00 and 9:15 a request was made to move the 9:15 and 10:45 services to 9:30 and 11:00.
Council recommendation: item should be tabled for several months until congregation adjusts to the new sanctuary & fellowship hall.
- c. Education:
Several Sunday school teachers have requested we consider moving Sunday school to the 10:30 hour as they (and other potential teachers) enjoy attending the 9:15 service.
Council recommendation: item tabled. Council would support the move if a significant majority of teachers would prefer to make the change.
- d. **Motion**: To accept ministry team reports received. *2nded and carried.*

4. President's Report

President congratulated the congregation for pulling together on its drives over the past many years to entirely fund our new sanctuary without need of a mortgage. This momentum needs to continue into the immediate future to fund furnishings, materials for the woodwork, and possibly a room divider. Plus we need to pay down our mortgage. Our mortgage on the original sanctuary is still so high; we are a poor credit risk. LLLC could not qualify today for an affordable mortgage to fund our next expansion project.

5. Pastor's Report

Pastor praised the congregation for coming together to raise funds to build our new larger Sanctuary.

B. Old Business**1. Building Project Update**

Project is nearly complete; we passed the building final inspection, so we just need fire & zoning. Projected CO by Dec 10.

2. Constitution Amendment Update

Draft as approved at Oct meeting went to FB Synod on Oct 15. Repeated follow-ups to synod have produced no tangible results. No review date could be estimated, although the Assistant to the Bishop who finally called this afternoon acknowledged his willingness to work over the phone to coordinate changes needed so Council can present the final at the annual meeting.

3. Council Membership

Council projects three vacancies as of the annual meeting, Jan 31, 2010. **Motion:** To request volunteers in the bulletins and Voice. *2nded and carried.*

C. New Business**1. Stewardship Challenge**

Team leader reported current results of the challenge: 74 pledges are in, totaling \$147K. 48 current members who pledged last year have not yet pledged this year. If that 48 average their same pledge as last year, they'll pledge \$84k. The resultant \$231K is 50% more than the total pledged for 2009 and nearly 25% more than the total pledged for 2008. Progress thus far would seem to bode well for the recovery of LLLC's budget recession in 2010.

- a. Stewardship will contact the 48 to remind them to please submit soon to be included in the presentation at the annual meeting.
- b. He additionally recommended that considering the success of the current building drive that the congregation should begin a new drive with the new year to relieve itself from the burden of paying tens of thousands of dollars a year in interest. Just think where we could be in our ministry now if we'd had some of that interest money to work with!

Note: Since taking out the original mortgage in July '93, our congregation has paid about \$623,000 in mortgage interest. Although we have refinanced twice to improve our rate, this year we're paying about \$30,000 in mortgage interest.

2. Dedication Service, Ceremony & Celebration for New Sanctuary

All preparations are underway. No issues foreseen.

3. Annual Report

Secretary will request each team leader provide annual report input by January 4th in order to assemble the report and distribute it to the congregation on time.

4. Child Abuse Prevention Policy Draft Review

Council sub-team of persons experienced in child protection requirements could not meet this month to finish review and edit of the draft prepared by the LLLC administration team. Some policy elements will require an expenditure of funds not previously budgeted. **Action Item:** Council sub-team to work together again over next month and meet with document drafters to produce a final draft for review at the next council meeting.

At 8:36 p.m. the meeting adjourned and Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Wegener

Has the Lord asked you lately if you shouldn't try a term on Council? We have several openings this year and would love to have you join us...yes, YOU! Whether you're still in high school, in the prime of life, or enjoying your golden years, please thank the Lord and call or email Maggie. It's been said that citizens get the government they deserve; and participation is the key. Please consider contributing to the leadership of our congregation by letting your voice be heard.

Weather Corner

Looking for a last minute gift for a special person this Christmas? When searching for that special gift, consider giving a potentially life-saving NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio. These radios sound a special tone alarm when National Weather Service forecasters issue a warning for severe weather, such as a tornado or flash flood. NOAA All Hazards Weather Radios are sold in electronic stores, discount stores, and online retailers. Prices vary by model and available options, but typically range from \$20 to \$80. Many units are small, portable, and travel easily. The pocket radio model is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts, such as boaters and hikers. Battery backup power allows for portability and continued service during power outages when radios, televisions, and computers would be out. I have asked Santa for one of the pocket radio models. I hope he comes through.

What is El Nino? It is a periodic warming of the water in the tropical Pacific Ocean, usually peaking in December, accompanied by changes in air pressure and winds that can influence weather worldwide.

Why is El Nino important to us in Florida? First, the strong westerly flow associated with the El Nino phenomena tended to shear apart developing tropical storms in Fall 2009. Thanks in part to El Nino, the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season officially ended on November 30 with the fewest named tropical storms and hurricanes since 1997. And for the first time in three years, no hurricanes hit the U.S. However, things look different for next hurricane season as Colorado State University forecasters on December 9 called for above average Atlantic basin hurricane activity for 2010. The current El Nino event is expected to dissipate by the 2010 hurricane season, and warm sea surface temperatures are likely to continue being present in the tropical Atlantic during 2010, conditions that contribute to above average seasons.

The second reason El Nino is important to us has to do with the strong low latitude jet stream and active storm track which develops across the Gulf of Mexico and into Florida from November to March. The wet rhythm of El Nino in Florida has already begun in Parrish as in November my rain gauge received 4.28 inches, over twice the normal of 2.02 inches. The best example of the strong El Nino signal for heavy rainfall in Florida was during the strong El Nino of 1997-98 when Parrish had its wettest November to March in 60 years of records with 42.78 inches of rain, over three times normal.

Our recent rather unusual fog pattern has been caused by warm, humid air from the Caribbean moving northward over cool waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Sea fog then develops over the Gulf and moves inland during the night and morning over Manatee and Sarasota Counties. The fog then retreats back over the water as the land warms into the 80s during the afternoon. This pattern of sea fog is even more tenacious in northwest Florida where dense fog at Eglin AFB hangs in all day with temperatures in the 60s.

Bill Mork, Meteorologist

Living Lord's Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch met at the home of Carol Eichert for a lovely Christmas luncheon. There were ample casseroles and desserts plus Betty at the piano for Christmas singing, making for a very festive afternoon. The ladies collected \$150.00 to give six \$25 gift cards for the Hope family Services. We give a great, big thank you to the Lunch Bunch. The next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Renaissance Senior Center in Bradenton. We will meet at the church at 11:30 to carpool. All information will be posted in the narthex. All ladies are invited. Call the office for more information.

AGC News

Miss Simone's 3 year old class baked 16 dozen cookies, 4 large snowman cookie cakes, and 8 banana bread loaves to sell for a fundraiser for All God's Children Preschool. The children in her class; Nic, Michael, Ricardo, and Cayden all helped bake and sell. They were so excited to sell and sing for the parents! How adorable are they! When asked what they wanted to buy from their sale, they said "new toys for the playground"! I think they are well on their way to some new toys! Miss Simone stated that while baking, the lesson was that at Christmas time, we should always remember to make something from the heart. Good job Miss Simone's class!



Give Thanks for our Altar Guild

Many thanks go out to our faithful Altar Guild members of 2009 who provided Living Lord with such dedicated service: Louise and Pastor Ken Baar, Sue Farence, Kay and Sun Kim, Linda and Bob Lencke, Linda and Jim Lustgarten, Nancy and Jim Martinsen, Cleo and Cliff Neynaber, Anne and Al Novotny, Pat and Oz Smith, Shirley and Don Wild, and Carol and Doug Rose. Thank you also to the new members who have volunteered to be on the Altar Guild in 2010: Ellen and Randy Hanson, Katrie Kalb, and Helen Marr. You are indeed a blessing to the congregation!

Please be an Ambassador!

It's "Season" and our church attendance is increasing. Pastor Jeff and our Evangelism Team asks that you continue to be Living Lord's Ambassadors by welcoming the stranger. Here are some reminders.

1. Welcome that person sitting next to you, whether you know them or not. By welcoming them you are making him/her feel at home.
2. Use your senses to communicate. Body language will speak volumes.
3. Don't tell them about fellowship, bring them to fellowship, or at least tell them you will meet them there.
4. Some people are not comfortable introducing themselves to strangers, but an Ambassador does.
5. Remember the stranger. When you see them in the community, talk to them.

Please be an AMBASSADOR and welcome all to our church.

You are a Bunch of Real Angels!

I want to thank every one who took an angel off the tree. We gave 97 children and 20 families a much happier Christmas. Our acts of caring and generosity made a real difference in the lives of these families. I also want to thank the people who shopped, packed the gifts, and who helped deliver all the items to Adopt-A -Family. Without you, this could not have been done. You are so giving and always ready to help those in need. Also, we thank Thrivent. This year Thrivent gave us \$1000.00 to help with the angel tree. Not all the angels were taken so this money bought gifts for the ones that were left. Bless you all, Cheryl Graham

Worship and Music Considers Facebook

Do you "Facebook"? Some of us love it, some don't and others really don't know what it is. At this past month's meeting, the subject came up at the Worship and Music Team meeting. If you have thoughts on this, why not approach one of this team and let them know what you think.

Outreach is Ready for 2010

At their December meeting, the Team reviewed and approved the 2010 proposed Outreach projects. Ursula Williams proposed one new project; collecting clothing for the Manatee Shelter for Abused Women. Watch for the year's schedule of projects and please participate as you can.

A Final Thought for the Ending of 2009 And Looking Forward to the Promise of 2010

This life, therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness;
not health but healing; not being but becoming; not rest but exercise.

We are not yet what we shall be but we are growing toward it.

The process is not yet finished but it is going on; this is not the end but it is the road.

All does not yet gleam in glory but all is being purified.

Martin Luther

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Blessings and best wishes to January's celebrants!

January Birthdays

Harkins, Shirley	1
Loken, Tom	3
Neynaber, Cleo	3
Bohlmann, Todd	4
Kohring, Bob	5
Trompke, Alek	5
Martinsen, James	6
Stone, Sharon	7
Wells, Cindy	7
Forristall, Anthony	8
Forristall, Michael	8
Walker, Renata	8
Quaid, Mary	10
Cross, Andrew	11
Trompke, Alyssa	11
Neynaber, Cliff	12
Dowling, Benjamin	13
Bernard, Vidra	14
Miller, Margaret	14
Novotny, Al	14
Tomasso, Sue	15
Cassel, Ethel R.	16
DeRosia, Duane	16
Burner, Matthew	17
Tetmeyer, Madelyn	17
Walker, Herb	17
Ryan, Annabel	19
Schillinger, Jennifer	19
Weiss, Don	21
Frohling, Al	22
Johansen, Michael	23
DeRosia, BJ	24
Davis, Jack	25
Eiken, Henry	25
Gallagher, Bob	26
Black, Dan	27
Morrissey, Lori	29
Williams, Ursula	29
Baar, Mary Jo	30
Pinsonneault, Wayne	30
Smith, Randee	30
Rupp, Sheryl	31

January Anniversaries

Michael & Bobbie Turnbeaugh	1/1/1982
Carol & Leland Whitfield	1/2/1976
Steve & Mari Scituro	1/16/1988
Roger & Linda Henkelman	1/17/1969
Herbert & Mary Hunter	1/22/1967

Congregation Leaders

While this information is provided each week in the bulletins, we thought it might help to provide the following, here in the Voice, as well. Communications is a vital need in our congregation, and it goes both ways. If you have any concerns, questions or praise to offer, please contact any of the following people who lead our congregation. Some of these names will change with the (hopefully) addition of new Council members but if you want to talk with any of these people now, please feel free!

MINISTRY TEAMS

President – John Moyer – 794-8350 – johnmoyer@verizon.net

Treasurer – Bea Daly – 751-3415 – bea.daly@yahoo.com

Secretary – Skip Wegener – 896-5863 – barb-skip@mindspring.com

Council Member – Jackie Riordan – 755-4240 – jackieriordan@hotmail.com

Council Member – Mike Seminick – tsemini@yahoo.com

Pastor – Jeffrey Gross – 753-1477 – pastorjeff@livinglordfl.org

Organist – Carol Whitfield – docmom97@msn.com

Evangelism Ministry Team Leader

Evangelism – Pat Kunkel – 748-6669 – pattykunkel@aol.com

Publicity – Mary Schwab – 751-5734 - manasag@tampabay.rr.com

Outreach – Ursula Williams – 201-4467 – ursulagwilliams@aol.com

Stewardship – Al Kersten – 351-5082 – amandcmk@verizon.net

Social Ministry Team Leader

Lisa Hahn – 322-2092 – lisa@hahnassociates.com

Youth Director – Kristen Hitchcock – 407-257-2068 – kristen@livinglordfl.org

Worship – Karen Hansing – 748-5806 – KLJ8660@aol.com

Administrative Ministry Team Leader

Todd Bohlmann – 758-1132 – tbohlmann@msn.com

Administration – Don Wild – 729-6853 – wild9006@verizon.net

Sue Farence – 727-8757 – sfarence@aol.com

Fellowship – Norine Eckstrom – 758-3460 – n_eckstrom@hotmail.com

Billie Havey – 756-3375 – snoflk1@aol.com

Property – Gary Graham – 744-2742 – gncgraham@yahoo.com

Altar Guild – Carol Rose – 729-7005 – cndrose@tampabay.rr.com

Choir Director – Barb Miller – 776-1142 – millepix@aol.com

Choir Accompanist – Betty Meuser – 739-2061 – marbetmeu@att.net

Voice Editor – Marianne Moyer – 794-8350 – voice@livinglordfl.org

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	2
3	4 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	5 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	6 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Team Night	7 6:45 PM By Grace Rehearsal 6:45 PM Chime Choir 7:00 PM BUDS 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	9 8:00 AM Work Day
10	11 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	12 11:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilting 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	13 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Youth Group Dinner 6:30 PM Youth Group	14 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch 6:45 PM By Grace Rehearsal 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	16
17 No Sunday School	18 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	19 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	20 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Group	21 6:45 PM By Grace Rehearsal 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	23
24	25 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	26 1:00 PM Quilting 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	27 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Group	28 6:45 PM By Grace Rehearsal 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	30
31 Annual Meeting New Sanctuary Dedication						

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**Living Lord Lutheran Church
“Loving, Learning, Living in Christ”**

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All God’s Children Preschool: 941-739-2776
Youth Director, Kristen Hitchcock 407-257-2068 cell

Sunday Worship:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:00 AM | Traditional Worship |
| 9:15 AM | Contemporary Worship |
| 10:45 AM | Alternating Traditional/Contemporary Worship |

Sunday school: Sunday school begins at the 9:15am service in the church. After the Children’s sermon, the children move to the Education Building for their lessons. Nursery Service is available during all services.