



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Living Lord's VOICE

Volume 23, Number 4

April, 2010

He is Risen...He is Risen Indeed!

When is Easter this year? The answer to that question determines everything that happens between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost, roughly February through June. To make a simple question complex, the actual answer is: The first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring Equinox. It is a tale of two calendars, our Gregorian calendar and the Hebrew Calendar. The date of Easter corresponds with Passover, which is determined by the Hebrew lunar Calendar. Easter also must correspond with the first day of Spring, which is determined by our Gregorian solar calendar. And, because Jesus' resurrection occurred on a Sunday, Easter is always on a Sunday. The complexity is staggering.

My favorite answer is "Every Sunday is a little Easter." Every time we gather to worship we acknowledge the power of the resurrection. We come to experience more than just the teachings of Jesus, the wisdom of the prophets, the legacy of God's faithfulness, but the resurrected Lord himself who comes to us in the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments.

But Easter is here and we celebrate the Resurrection. It doesn't matter how the date was determined, though it is interesting. What is not up for debate is the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and gave us the gift of eternal life. The celebration doesn't end when the sun goes down on April 4th, it just begins.

Let us celebrate the Resurrection EVERY DAY!

Happy Easter,

Pastor Jeff

Pastor

Jeffrey R. Gross, B.A., M. Div
pastorjeff@livinglordfl.org

Secretary: Maggie Hammond
maggie@livinglordfl.org

Newsletter:
voice@livinglordfl.org

Website:
www.livinglordfl.org

Our Vision:
Loving, Living and Learning 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:

President's Message	5
Treasurer's Report	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	11
Church Council Minutes	Not in this issue

Treasurer's Report

The total net financial position for Living Lord Lutheran Church as of February 28, 2010 is:

	<u>Feb 2010</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Receipts			
Church Receipts	66,110.19	69,573.00	-3,462.81
Church Disbursements	<u>53,375.98</u>	<u>62,502.00</u>	<u>-9,126.02</u>
Net Church Financial Position	12,734.21	7,071.00	5,663.21
AGC Receipts			
AGC Receipts	25,024.49	38,454.00	-13,429.51
AGC Disbursements	<u>26,837.90</u>	<u>36,667.00</u>	<u>-9,829.10</u>
Net AGC Financial Position	-1,813.41	1,787.00	-3,600.41
Total LLLC Receipts	91,134.68	108,027.00	-16,892.32
Total LLLC Disbursements	80,213.88	99,169.00	-18,955.12
2010 Total LLLC Financial Position	10,920.80	8,858.00	2,062.80
2009 Total LLLC Financial Position	14,281.84	10,931.50	3,350.34

All God's Children Preschool had February receipts of \$7,826.24 that did not get recorded until March. This was because the Florida VPK payment of \$4,818.24 was credited to the bank account on Friday, February 26, after the Treasurer had left for the day. Additionally, \$3,008 in February tuition was not deposited until March.

The following financial data is provided to keep everyone up-to-date on the building funds:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>
Memorial Donations	18,845.18
Solar Equipment	520.00
Planting the Seeds	13,868.65
Restricted Building Funds:	
Kitchen	381.40
Audio Visual Equipment	6,393.47
Sanctuary Chairs/Furnishings	144.81
Donation-Mah Jongg Club	76.00
PTS Giving Tree	<u>10,285.24</u>
Capital Fund Drive Total	50,514.75

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Farence, Treasurer

Chime Choir Resumes

By Louise Baar

The Chime Choir has been reactivated and looks forward to playing on Easter morning. We are always looking for people who would like to join the group. We meet on Thursday nights at 6:45 pm and are finished by 7:30. For more information, please call Louise Baar 727-1878. Come and be a Chimer.

We're Listening to YOU!

By Patty Kunkel

As our congregation continues to grow and our service space is now more spacious to accommodate our worshipers; some people have asked if we actually are seeing an increase in worship attendance. So here are our attendance figures for recent weeks. Next month we'll also provide some historical information for comparison.

Sunday	8:00	9:15	10:45	Total Attendance
February 7	50	128	156	334
February 14	54	136	128	318
February 21	47	117	135	299
February 28	55	140	142	337
March 7	61	130	124	315

Living Lord Lutheran Church Signage ("Lord, Show Us a Sign")

By Bea Daly

At the January 2010 Annual Meeting, I volunteered to raise the funds for a new sign for our Church. I have found a donor that is willing to match any donations for signage, up to \$6,000.00, so I'm asking for you to consider making a donation to meet this challenge. I have contacted two sign companies and have preliminary estimates of between \$11,000 and \$14,000, depending on what type of sign we choose. If you are interested in helping get signage for the Church, place your donation in an envelope clearly marked "Signage" and place it in the offertory plate.

Also, if you are interested in helping with this sign project, please call Bea Daly on 751-3415.

Upcoming Outreach Projects

By Ursula Williams

In May, we will hold our annual drive to collect clothing and diapers for homeless children and infants. These items will benefit Meals on Wheel Plus, who will distribute these items to homeless people as they visit for food. Jeri Schultz handles this program.

June will be the time for another food drive; the #10 large can collection; which is also for Meals on Wheels. Ursula Williams is coordinating this project.

It's Tea Time!

By Norine Eckstrom

Please join us for the 2nd Annual **Daughters of Our Lord High Tea**. This year's event will take place on Sunday May 2nd at 2pm. There will be a catered lunch and a program in our new fellowship space with room for everyone. Invite your daughters, mothers, mothers-in-law, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, and friends. Sign up and ticket information will be in the Narthex very soon. Please plan to attend. If you have any questions please call Norine Eckstrom at 758-3460 or Billie Havey at 756-3375.

HOPE Family Services

Helping Victims of Domestic Violence

By Ursula Williams

The mission of HOPE Family Services is to promote safety, strength, and well-being for those affected by domestic violence in Manatee County. Victims of domestic violence tend to be mostly women and often their children, who have witnessed abuse, suffer intense fear and anger. HOPE provides a safe environment to those in these devastating situations; providing shelter, counseling to develop better coping skills, professional training, and comprehensive advocacy. Since 1979, HOPE has provided a lifeline to those who are in desperate need.

Our Outreach Team will set aside the weeks of April 11 and April 18 for donations of items and/or money (money donations should be put in separate envelopes and marked for HOPE) for the shelter. Some of the items needed:

Towels (light colored for bleaching)

Single bedding sheet sets (white)

Single bed spreads

Used cell phones that can be reprogrammed to make 911 calls only

Infant and small children diapers, underwear, socks

Any used outside patio furniture or children playground items for the shelter's outdoor area patio (clean out your garages or donate when purchasing new furniture)

Used car seats for shelter transportation of children and infants

Please call Ursula Williams, 941 201-4467 for more information or to arrange for large item pick-up.

Building and Property Update

By The Planning Team

There is a lot still going on with the new and old parts of God's house. The altar rail is being constructed by Skip Wegener and John Moyer at Don Schindler's work shop. It is going to be beautiful when it is completed and stained and should be in place by Easter or shortly thereafter. The altar kneeling cushions are almost completed and the material is here for the eight pews to be recovered. There are still some small projects that need work, but they are coming along. We are still in need of help to fund room dividers to put between the new part and the old sections. We have some money from the giving tree for this but not enough for the whole project. We hope what has been completed pleases you. Without your help none of this could have been done.

Farewell and Godspeed, Jim

We are sorry to say good bye, to Jim Fath. He will no longer be our church Sexton so that he can concentrate on regaining his health. He's had multiple surgeries and hospitalizations and we will remember him in our prayers. We'll miss his smiling face and spiritual demeanor.

Welcome to Mike Seminick who will be our new Sexton.

From Our Council President

By John Moyer

What to write this month? Well, I could talk about the ongoing incremental improvements to our building project. Or, I could say how excited I am about our Media Team's progress as we move toward using our projectors and screens for worship. Then again, I could wax poetic about the generosity of givers who are keeping our budget in the black while continuing to contribute to Outreach projects, the Youth Group's fundraising and our many other ministries.

But you know all these things. So allow me to just say that I echo Pastor Jeff's message that we are blessed to celebrate a little Easter every Sunday, and every day of the year for that matter.

Thanks be to God for this marvelous gift!

Meet Some New Members

John and Marlene Saum have been married 40 years and have two sons and four granddaughters. They spend six months in Williamston, MI and six months in Bradenton at Peridia Golf and Country Club. John is a University of Michigan graduate and retired engineer from the automotive industry. Marlene is a Michigan State University graduate and retired office manager in the insurance industry. They enjoy golfing, bridge, reading, the beach and solving puzzles. They are looking forward to meeting new friends at Living Lord. So there is your invitation! Go, say *HI* to them!

The Lunch Bunch

By Louise Baar

The Lunch Bunch met on Thursday, March 11th at the Heritage Harbor Club House for a delightful lunch. Fourteen ladies were present which accounted for a lot of conversation. Carol Eichert has proposed to offer to organize a Lending List for Living Lord. She will have an article in the VOICE explaining how it will work. Watch for it. Our next gathering will be on April, 8, the week after Easter. We will meet at the Country Pancake House in the San Marco Plaza. Meet either at church at 11:30 to car pool, or go directly to the restaurant by noon. The sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. All ladies of the church and friends are welcome. Come and join us. If you need information, call Louise Baar, 727-1878, or Maggie at the church office.

It's time for Spring Cleaning!

All God's Children Preschool will hold a yard sale on Saturday May 1st and needs items to sell! Please consider cleaning out your closets and garage (or that 're-gift' box we all have) and consider donating gently used and unwanted items. The Yard Sale and AGC Family "Fun" Raiser will be held on the Church and AGC grounds. All proceeds will benefit the children and families of All God's Children Preschool. Please bring in any items you wish to donate between the hours of 9:00-3:00 beginning Monday, April 5th. Thank you!

Chili Cook-Off Draws Large Crowd March 7

By Billie Havey

Over 70 members, relatives and friends gathered at noon to enjoy the tasty creations from our members. Twelve different varieties of chili ranging from: mild, White Chicken, Southwestern, Chili with beans, Chili without beans, with vegetables or without and your favorite “heat” level! There was one for every taste preference. The chili was accompanied by salad, breads, and cornbread and was followed by yummy desserts! What fine culinary talents we harbor in our congregation!



So many chilis...which one to choose?



Members enjoy food and fellowship!



Andrea Eckstrom and friend try all the varieties.



A good time was had by all!



Vacation Bible School is Coming!!!

By Kristen Hitchcock

This year our theme for VBS is the High Seas Expedition. VBS will be held here August 2-6 from 9:00am-Noon. We are in need of various forms of help. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kristen Hitchcock or sign-up on the Kingdom Kidz bulletin board. This board is located in the hallway near the restrooms.

In keeping with the High Seas theme, we need Ocean/water items: fishing nets, buoys, life preserver, life jackets, fishing poles, small plastic buckets and shovels etc. If you have any of these items you can lend us or donate, please let me know.

The success of our VBS program depends on the help of our volunteers. We need volunteers to help lead different aspects of the program. The team leader is someone who will be in charge of a specific area within the program and the team helper is someone who will assist that team leader. Volunteers are needed for the following positions:

Team leader for registration (sign-in/sign-out)	Team helper for decorations
Team leader for decorations	Team helper for Games
Team leader for Games	Team helper for Bible Story Time
Team leader for Bible Story time	Team helper for snack
Team leader for snack	Team helper for Arts and Crafts
Team leader for Arts and Crafts	

Closer to VBS week we will need donations of snack items. Keep watching for more information on what we will need.

Worship and Music News

by Karen and Bill Hansing

The Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 PM on April 2. The Good Friday service will be at 7:00 PM on April 3. Easter morning services will be at our regularly scheduled times of 8:00, 9:15 and 10:45. Additional seating will be available for the expected crowd!

New Member Sunday is Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010. It was suggested that future New Member Sundays be held during a 10 AM combined worship service.

We will invite the Youth Groups to be worship assistants at the fifth Sunday services on May 30th and August 29th. Thank you to Matt Hitchcock for this suggestion.

The Eternal Candle will be converted to electricity when our supply of three candles is depleted. This will save the church about \$200.00.

We suggest the church consider separate budget items for the purchase of new music for the organist, By Grace, chancel choir, chime choir and music license fees. Also, we should consider adding a stipend for choir director, choir accompanist, and chime choir director to the budget.

Look Up, Look Up!

By Marianne Moyer

You've probably noticed that the two screens and projectors are in place in the front of the sanctuary. We're not quite ready to start using them but it won't be long. Most of the work that's being done to prepare us for seeing our services on the screens is going on behind the scenes. The Media team is meeting with our music groups and other congregation leaders to define and document our needs and wants. Wiring is being pulled, equipment is being ordered and timelines are being finalized.

Here's the important information we'd like the congregation to know. First, we will be putting our services and music on the screens for two main reasons; to save the huge paper expense (and waste) of printing bulletins each week, and also to be more user-friendly for both visitors and members.

We know there are some of you out there who just aren't sure about how you feel about this. In order to help allay your concerns, in a few weeks we will be offering some "get acquainted" sessions with the system, to various groups and at various times. Please watch for either notices in the good old paper bulletins and/or an e-mail message. All will be welcome. We'll do everything we can to address your comments and questions.

One thing we plan to do that is a departure from what many churches do; we plan to not only display the words to songs and hymns but also the melodies to them. While this means a bit more work for those of us preparing the services, it will make it much easier for the congregation to sing (and there's that "Look Up" suggestion!)

If you have questions or concerns that you'd like to express now, please contact Marianne Moyer by e-mailing to Marianne.moyer@verizon.net.

Ask The Weather Expert

By Bill Mork, Meteorologist

"How cold was it?" In the weather world, the winter months are defined as December-February. At the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, the average winter temperature this year was seventh coldest at 58.6 degrees. Coldest winter was in 1976-77 with 56.0 degrees. With December temperatures near normal, this winter was highlighted by very cold temperatures in January and February. It was the sixth coldest January, 6.2 degrees below normal at 55.4 degrees, and the fourth coldest February, 7.5 degrees below normal at 55.5 degrees. But the real sense of this winter was the prolonged cold and the fact that it never seemed to give us any warm days. There were 21 winter days when high temperatures were 60 degrees or less; this was second only to 1978 with 25 days. The first half of March continues cool with average temperatures 8 degrees below normal. In Parrish, there were lows of 34 degrees with frost on March 5, 6, and 7! Brrrrrr!

"Why do I have to pay such high prices for my morning OJ?" After enduring the "freeze that would never end", Florida citrus growers finally received some good news. The industry came through the freezing conditions in better shape than expected. The USDA increased the orange crop forecast on March 11 by 2 million boxes. But despite the good news, consumers will still see higher

prices for orange juice. Pepsico Inc. announced that it will shrink its most popular sizes and/or increase the prices on them. Don't you just hate it when they do that?!

“What about rain?” After below normal rainfall in much of Florida during February, beneficial rains fell on March 11-12. As is typical in an El Nino winter/spring, an enhanced subtropical jet stream became established over the Gulf of Mexico and Florida. This jet, combined with disturbances moving across the area and abundant moisture, led to heavy rainfall across much of the State. Local rainfall totals include 2.55 inches at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, 2.40 inches in Parrish, and 2.35 inches in Palmetto.

“Do I need to worry about weather between now and the start of Hurricane Season?” YES! Remember, severe thunderstorms are often associated with El Nino. There were two confirmed tornadoes in Central Florida on March 11. The most serious was an EF-1 tornado (winds 95 mph) about 4.8 miles southeast of Haines City. Path length was 1.3 miles; path width was 70 yards. There were no fatalities/injuries. There were 28 buildings damaged; 8 were multifamily condos. Five buildings were uninhabitable. Tornadoes and lightning storms can happen at any time. Watch out, and listen to your weather radio or the local TV news when skies are threatening!

Church Council Minutes

Due to a mutually agreed-to decision by the Secretary and Editor, the minutes will not be in this month's Voice. Sorry for the inconvenience but we'll get them to you next month.

Easter Story Cookies

To Be Made the Night before Easter Sunday

(Recipe designed for families with young children but...aren't we all God's Children?)

You will need:

1 cup whole pecans

3 egg whites

1 cup sugar

1 tsp vinegar

pinch of salt

Tape

Zipper Baggie

Wooden Spooie

Bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees

Place pecans in baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19: 1-3.

Put the vinegar into a mixing bowl. Let each child smell the vinegar. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19: 28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us new life. Read John 10: 10-11.

Sprinkle some salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it then brush the rest into the mixing bowl. Explain that salt represents tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of sin. Read Luke 23: 27.

Explain that so far the ingredients aren't very appetizing. Now add the sugar to the bowl. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him. Read Psalms 34: 8 and John 3:16.

Beat the mixture on high speed for 12 – 15 minutes or until stiff peaks are formed. Using a tablespoon, drop the mixture onto a cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27: 57-60.

Put the cookie sheet into the oven, close the door and turn the oven **off**.

Give each child a piece of tape and let them seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed with a big rock. Read Matthew 27: 65-66.

Go to bed. Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight, just like the despair Jesus' followers felt when His tomb was sealed. Read John 16: 20-22.

On Easter morning, have the children remove the tape and open the oven door. Give everyone a cookie. Take a bite. Notice that the cookies are hollow. And they are sweet. On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. He has risen! He has risen indeed! Read Matthew 28: 1-9. Now, go to church to celebrate His glorious resurrection!

New Members Joining Living Lord on March 28, 2010

Jesse and Terry Atkins
2005 153rd Court East
Bradenton, FL 34212

Gerald and Debra Gerth
3210 6th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221

August and Patricia Bottiger
6611 Tailfeather Way
Bradenton, FL 34203

Jorgen and Mary Jo Hansen
6450 Watercrest Way, Apt #403
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Greg and Lynne Byrd
12307 Winding Woods Way
Bradenton, FL 34202

Randy and Janice Hermanson
12606 Cara Cara Loop
Bradenton, FL 34212

Mike Connelly and Meg Mahoney
1930 Datura Street
Sarasota, FL 34239

John and Lucinda Hokanson
9605 Summer House Lane
Bradenton, FL 34212

Lou and Jan Courtney
7 Desoto Avenue
Palmetto, FL 34221

Art and Sally Kolling
518 River Cane Street
Bradenton, FL 34212

Tom and Linda Loken
4818 88th Street east
Bradenton, FL 34211

A Closing Stewardship Prayer

Lord, I am grateful for a church which constantly challenges me to realign my life with Christ in every way. I want to carry my end of the work. But keep me aware that my share in my church's programs and expenses will take care of itself if I take care to give you your share of my treasures. May I be a Christ-like steward of all of my life. Show me what to do and I will do it. Amen

Celebrations!

April Birthdays

Easton, Heidi	2-Apr
Seminick, Jacob	2-Apr
Gross, Tori	3-Apr
Hepburn, Vivian	4-Apr
Holt, Jerry	4-Apr
Thomas, Morgan	4-Apr
Vayda, Sylvia	4-Apr
Wegener, Barb	4-Apr
Lustgarten, Linda	7-Apr
Gross, Dorothy	8-Apr
Mayfair-Drennen, Sean	8-Apr
Keegan, Linda	9-Apr
Lindsay, Alice	10-Apr
Pinsonneault, Janice	12-Apr
Saum, Marlene	13-Apr
Stanz, Nancy	14-Apr
Tomasso, John	15-Apr
Cassel, Leroy	17-Apr
Slicker, Geraldine	17-Apr
Kelby, George	18-Apr
Rose, Doug	19-Apr
Masera, Hayden	21-Apr
Muller, Emery	21-Apr
Hammergren, Kirstin	22-Apr
Hanson, Randy	23-Apr
Eckstrom, Mark	24-Apr
Farence, Sue	24-Apr
Hahn, Christopher	24-Apr
Alcox, Kevin	25-Apr
Okland, Margunn	26-Apr
Baar, Matthew	27-Apr
Mork, Martha	27-Apr
Pope, Lynn	29-Apr
Whitfield, Leland	30-Apr

April Anniversaries

John & Bernadette Schillinger	4/3/2002
August "Augie" Bottiger	4/5/1987
Mike & Madelyn Tetmeyer	4/8/1967
Don and Barb Gangnagel	4/11/1970
John and Marlene Saum	4/12/1969
Larry & Carol Eichert	4/17/1988
Dennis & Linda Byers	4/19/1969
Paul and Marie Sankowski	4/21/1979
James & Rosemarie Hansen	4/22/1999
Brian & Katherine Brown	4/23/1988
Chris and Jackie Riordan	4/23/1997
Kent & Janet Larsen	4/27/1957
John & Marianne Moyer	4/28/1974

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11120 State Road 70 East
Bradenton, FL 34202
(941) 753-9365

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

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
11120 State Road 70 East
Bradenton, FL 34202
Telephone: 941-753-9365
FAX: 941-758-9015
E-mail: info@livinglordfl.org
Web site: www.livinglordfl.org
Living Lord *Voice*: voice@livinglordfl.org
Marianne Moyer, Newsletter Editor: 941-794-8350
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.