



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Living Lord's **VOICE**

Volume 23, Number 6

June, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I love any occasion when I can report something exciting about the ministry of Living Lord Lutheran Church. The weekend of May 14th and 15th we conducted a leadership retreat, more accurately called a seminar or conference, when we had the occasion to collect our thoughts, observations, concerns, and visions and form the vision that will launch Living Lord into the 21st century.

Those who attended brought with them diversity of age, experience and vision, but came together for the purpose of forming a collective and cohesive vision for Living Lord's next phase of mission.

Now, we all know our strengths and weaknesses, and details are NOT my strength. But it is the strength of many who attended the seminar. Details will come with many opportunities to engage all the members of our church.

I will say this, as your pastor. We are blessed with many resources of people within our church and those who attended the seminar saw just how blessed we truly are. I believe that there is a gold mine of talents and gifts that have yet to be discovered. It is my hope that this journey is, among other things, one of continuing discovery.

As for God's role in this endeavor, enough cannot be said. As a creator alone, he has blessed us. As our redeemer, he gave us the good news to share; our mission. And, as the spirit, he empowers our gifts with his presence. Our Lord is a Living Lord who loves us with the totality of the Trinity.

I want you to experience the same blessing we all experienced. Pay attention to the details that will come down the pike. Please carefully read John Moyer's "President's Message" below as well as the article on Page 3, which provides even more detail about what was accomplished this weekend and more importantly what we are committed to doing in the coming months and years. In the mean time, be excited. God is at work and I cannot wait to see what he has in store for us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff

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President's Message

By John Moyer

Our church retreat was held at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Sarasota on May 14 and 15. While the number of members attending was less than we had hoped for, the results were gratifying. Pastor Bob Zimmer retired from St Armand's was our facilitator. Saturday, we divided up into multiple work groups to address: assessing our strengths and weaknesses; seeing our opportunities and threats, and identifying critical issues and future choices. We ended the day by reviewing and prioritizing these issues and setting goals. One of the interesting points of the exercises was that in all of the groups there were many common threads.

The top six issues were;

- Encouraging young families
- Add staff (rostered)
- Creating future vision
- Improve communications
- Growing Lay ministries
- Build community within LLLC

Everyone present volunteered to work on one or more of the above issues but we need more input and help from each of you in our congregation. A big concern is that we get input from those who attend each service. If you see an issue listed above that sparks your interest, please contact anyone listed as part of that group. (The complete list of issues and contact people is in the article on Page 4). This is your chance to be a part of the growth and ministry of Living Lord. Please let your voice be heard.

Our Next Fellowship Event: All are welcome!

What: An Old Fashioned *Inside* Picnic Potluck (Hey this is Florida: an outside picnic could be rained out or even worse, be on such a hot day no one would want to come! And of course, now we have a wonderful new fellowship area in which to celebrate this meal!)

When: Saturday, June 19, 6PM

Who: Like the headline above says, all are welcome. Bring the whole family and also, this would be a great time to invite a friend or neighbor to come to Living Lord. Let them see what a great family of believers we are!

Entertainment: Movie: The Pink Panther with Peter Sellers

Pop corn will be provided

Cost: \$2.00 to cover pop corn, beverages, paper, etc.

Sign up in the narthex to bring: Salad, Vegetable, Meat or Dessert

Mothers' Day High Tea

By Louise Baar

Living Lord's second annual High Tea was held on Sunday, May 2. It was a pleasure to have this event in our new, large fellowship area. Our tables were beautifully decorated with garden flowers. The committee provided the lovely china plates, serving pieces, china tea pots, and husbands who served us in grand style. The food was catered and very good. Entertainment by our girls: Sami Copeland, Lauren Horne, Lexi Harkins, and the Chime choir, was enjoyed by all. The Fellowship Committee who organized this event are: Billie Havey, Norine Eckstrom, Ellen Hansen, Heidi Easton, Sherri Medley, and Louise Baar. We look forward to the 3rd annual High Tea in 2011.

Treasurer's Report

The total net financial position for Living Lord Lutheran Church as of April 30, 2010 is:

	Jan - Apr 2010	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Church Receipts	126,265.79	149,402.00	-23,136.21
Church Disbursements	115,945.31	118,715.00	-2,769.69
Net Church Financial Position	10,320.48	30,687.00	-20,366.52
AGC			
Receipts	62,226.76	68,206.00	-5,979.24
AGC Disbursements	62,208.71	72,555.00	-10,346.29
Net AGC Financial Position	18.05	-4,349.00	4,367.05
Total LLLC Receipts	188,492.55	217,608.00	-29,115.45
Total LLLC Disbursement	178,154.02	191,270.00	-13,115.98
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	10,338.53	26,338.00	-15,999.47

During the month of April, 2010, LLLC had a \$6,893.77 positive financial position. AGC had a negative financial position of \$2,462.54. This was due to income of \$4,652.50 received late in April and not recorded until May.

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>
Solar Equipment	540.00
Planting the Seeds	37,554.85
Restricted Building Funds:	
Kitchen	381.40
Audio Visual Equipment	4,123.48
Sanctuary Chairs/Furnishings	144.81
Donation-Mah Jonng Club	176.00
PTS Giving Tree	7,554.58
Signage	1,130.00
Capital Fund Drive Total	51,605.12

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Farenc, Treasurer

Lunch Bunch News

The Lunch Bunch met Thursday, May 13, at the Stingray restaurant. Two large tables held our ladies as we enjoyed great conversation and fun as well as a superb lunch. Our next gathering will be Thursday, June 10 at the Red Elephant pizza and grill. It is located 5231 University--near Kohls. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex--please indicate whether you will meet at church at 11:30 a.m. or at the restaurant by noon. All ladies and friends are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Maggie in the church office or Louise Baar on 727-1878.

Retreat Summary

By Marianne Moyer

You have seen what both Pastor Jeff and John Moyer have said about the inspiring activities that took place during our Leadership Retreat/Seminar or Conference. (A rose by any other name...) Now it's time to give you some specifics about the issues we identified and more importantly, committed to work on in the coming months and years. Is one of these YOUR issue? Great! Contact one of the people's names who appear next to it. You don't see what you think is important? Sorry but these represent those who did come to the weekend event. Maybe you will consider re-reading these issues and finding one you would like to help address.

This list summarizes the top six issues in priority order as selected via "red dot" voting. Contact names are the people who are already on these teams.

1. Enhance the worship and church membership experience for young families; expand youth involvement in the church; work to transition AGC children into full church and LLLC membership. **Contacts:** Kristen Hitchcock, Bea Daly, Todd Bohlmann, Jim Lustgarten, Lisa Hahn, Louise Barr. Kristen is point person for this team (407.257.2068)
2. Begin the process to add additional rostered staff to help Pastor Jeff; also create better contingency plans when existing staff must be away. **Contacts:** Randy Hanson, John and Marianne Moyer, Bill Hansing, Pastor Jeff.
3. Create new vision strategies (short and long term); engage additional, more diverse people in decision processes. **Contacts:** John Howard, Carol Whitfield, Jessie Ventimiglia, John Braun
4. Improve communications in all areas: website, social networking, media team, signage, advertising, etc. **Contacts:** Bob Daly, Marty Mork.
5. Grow Lay ministries like Stephen Ministries: **Contacts:** Pat Kunkel, Mary and John Braun, Bill Musser.
6. Build community within LLLC; including fellowship activities, small groups and Christian education experiences for all age groups. **Contacts:** Sue Farence, Al Kersten, Marilyn Howard, Matt Hitchcock.

So there you have it. Someone once said that people get exactly the government that they deserve; ie if they are involved in it and vote; they will reap what they have sowed. The same could very well be said of your church. Yes, it is YOUR church. You DO have a 'say-so'. Your input is valuable. Give it!

Changing the Face Of Hunger... The Food Bank of Manatee

Too many of our neighbors, suffering through this economic nightmare, are dependent on our generosity in providing daily meals and food for their families. The Food Bank is a critical link to provide this help. In June we will once again ask for your food donations, this time in form of #10 food cans. The large #10 cans are a big help in preparing large meals. Cans of this size are not always available at our usual grocery stores, but may, however, easily be found at Wal-Mart, BJ's and Sam's. Our #10 can food drive will be held from June 6 to June 10. Needed food items include vegetables, fruit, spaghetti sauces, tomatoes, or other food products.

Two years ago, our #10 food can drive yielded enough cans to build a pyramid as tall as Pastor Jeff; let's strive for that goal again! For additional information please contact Ursula Williams. God bless our generous church family!

Stewardship Corner

By Al Kersten

Ask, Thank, Tell is a book by Charles Lane that has been the guide for how we have been working to grow our Stewardship Ministry over the past four years or so. The Bible talks a lot about stewardship; and very little about the need for an institution to get its bills paid. Rather, when the Bible talks about stewardship, it almost always refers to how an individual handles the talents he has been given (stewardship matters) and that person's relationship with God. I want to make the case that stewardship is all about discipleship; that generous giving is one of the basic acts of discipleship with Jesus Christ.

You may recall the parable of the talents where at the landowner goes on a journey and entrusts his property to each of his three servants, with a different amount of talents being given to each according to that man's ability. The servant who was entrusted with the most went out at once, put the money to work, and he doubled what was entrusted to him, The second servant who was given less went out and did the same, while the third servant who was given even less went out and buried his one talent.

The purpose of this article is to describe for you what three servants at Living Lord did with the talents that were entrusted to them. (Note: This is the "thank" and "tell" part of the first line of this article.)

If you go to the front of the church, please notice the new communion rail. This completes another phase of our building project. Especially notice the superb craftsmanship and the quality of the wood and the woodworking. For this we can thank three members of our congregation who labored long and hard putting their talents to work – John Moyer, Skip Wegener, and Don Schindler.



I am sure that when they embarked on this project, they did not anticipate being used as real life examples of the parable of the "talents", but it is one of the precepts of the Stewardship Team that we "Tell" others when a key stewardship activity takes place. We now ask you, the readers, and members of our church family to carry out the "Thank" phase. Can you imagine how will feel when you thank them personally for what they did? Besides possibly embarrassing them, you get to feel gratified for the good deed you carried out. Won't you take just a few moments to do this? In doing this our congregation will take yet another step toward what our Savior wants us to become – True Disciples!

The "Ask" phase of the article headline will culminate again this fall.

We are ‘Paying Down’ our Mortgage!

One of the many blessings of our recent building project was that our congregation shared the vision of paying cash for it. This was no small accomplishment! We gave approximately \$350,000 and most importantly, did not incur any additional debt or mortgage. That’s the good news. The not-so-good news is that we DO still have a mortgage on our building, in the amount of about another \$389,000. Our church council has a vision that before we begin another capital campaign, we should make every effort to reduce the principal amount of this mortgage. To this end, Bea Daly created pew envelopes that you are encouraged to use. This money will go for nothing but mortgage pay down! For those of us who have ever had the joy of paying off a home mortgage, we know how good this feels.

We are off to a moderately successful start: between April 25 and May 16, we received \$166.00.

Please consider doing one of two things to help this effort: First, when you write your regular checks for the General Fund or Planting the Seeds, write just one more; even for \$10 or \$20 and bring it to church to place in one of the envelopes in the chair backs. Secondly, if that’s too much trouble, when you are sitting the chairs before service begins on Sunday, reach into your wallet and bring out a bill or two. Place this in the envelope. Every dollar counts! AND, every dollar we give now is one less on which we will have to pay interest in the future! Oh yes, there is a third thing you can do; pray that everyone in the congregation sees the wisdom of this plan and participates!

Outreach Reaching Out!

By Ursula Williams

The Outreach Team completed its April drive to assist HOPE Family Services in its mission to Help Victims of Domestic Violence. HOPE provides a safe environment to those who suffer devastating violence that affects entire families. Children, who often witness abuse, suffer intense fear and anger. HOPE offers a variety of help to these victims by providing shelter, counseling, professional training, legal advocacy, and options for family relocation.

Our Church, as always, responded generously in providing items the shelter needs. We collected numerous sets of bedding, towels, used and new children’s and adults’ clothing, and outdoor furniture. HOPE had an urgent need for old cell phones to be used for emergency calls. We collected 18 cell phones that will truly become a lifeline for those who desperately need immediate help.

We are grateful for our wonderful church community for its support and contributions of every outreach project we, all too often, ask you to support. Many blessings to all of you. For more information on HOPE or any other Outreach Team projects please contact Ursula Williams, 201-4467, email Ursulagwilliams@aol.com.

We thank the Rosedale community members (where Ursula resides) who donated many items, filling Ursula’s station wagon.

Youth Group News

By Kristen Hitchcock

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Easter pancake breakfast a success for our youth. With your help, we raised \$708 towards Lutherock.



Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are looking for Sunday School teachers for the 2010-2011 school year. We need two teachers per group ranging from pre-school – 5th grade. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Kristen.

Adult Education Teachers Needed

This year we would like to offer an Adult Education class. If you are interested in teaching a several week class during the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Kristen.

Vacation Bible School is Coming!!!

Registration is now open for this year's VBS. Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the hallway next to the restrooms. Come join us for an exciting adventure on the High Seas, August 2-6. The cost is \$20 per person (\$15 for additional children in the same family).

VBS Helpers are always needed!!!

In order to make VBS a success this year, I need your help. There are many service opportunities both before and during VBS. Please check out the bulletin board and see if there is an area you can help with.

LOMF Day Camp is Coming!!!

LOMF will be running our Day Camp again this year, June 28-July 2. Space is limited to 30 kids, between the ages of completed Kindergarten – completed 5th grade. The cost is \$30 per person (\$25 for additional children in the same family).

If you are interested in providing lunch or dinner for the staff while they are with us please sign-up for a specific day on the bulletin board.

All God's Children News

Summer Camp Registration is still going on for Summer Camp at AGC. Camp begins June 14 and runs 7 consecutive weeks through July 30. The cost is \$35 for registration and \$90 per week. Come join the fun! Call Crystal at 739-2776 for more details on how to get registered!

All God's Children held their first Yard Sale on Saturday, May 1. It was a HUGE success. Due to the overwhelming response to donations for the sale we decided to have it in the Sanctuary. This turned out to be a great idea as it was very hot that day and people enjoyed "shopping in the cool air". The sale itself was not supposed to start until 10:00 but we had our first customer at 7:20 AM! I would like to thank those who donated and helped with the sale. Because this was so successful, we plan to make this an annual event! Customers told me that we just HAD to do this again and it was one of the best sales they had ever been to! What we did not sell, we gave to Mothers Helping Mothers organization and Goodwill; so many people benefited from the event. Thanks to everyone who was involved!
Crystal Shreve – Assistant Director, All God's Children

The Weather Man takes a month off!

Considering the fact we are in a quieter period of transition into our summer/wet pattern, the fact we introduced the 2010 hurricane season last month, and the fact Bill has been working six days a week in his census job, he asked to rest the weather letter for a month. After all, the weather highlights over the past month have been rather far removed from Florida. So, next month we should have the seasonal outlook for hurricanes from the National Hurricane Center. And we will have a discussion about the beginning of our wet summer pattern.....which began May 16.

Sunday Worship Attendance, April, 2010

Sunday	8:00	9:15	10:45	Total Attendance
April 4 (Easter)	112	223	239	574
April 11	50	88	99	237
April 18	50	83	101	234
April 25	50	107	81	238
Average for April, 2010	66	125	130	321

Previous Years' Average Sunday Worship Attendance April 2005 - 2009

Year	8:00	9:15	10:45	Avg. Total Attendance
2009	55	143	138	336
2008	48	109	109	266
2007	58	123	132	313
2006	61	141	140	342
2005	53	107	117	277

Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2010

Members Present: Todd Bohlmann, Bob Daly, Sue Farence, Cheryl Graham, Lisa Hahn, Randy Hansen, John Moyer, Cameron Murphy, Jackie Riordan, Skip Wegener

Visitor Present: Julie Murphy

A. Reports

Treasurer's Report for April 2010. The item showing AGC behind on income relates to several deposits that were not made in April. Earlier deposit would have reflected a surplus of over \$4,600. Report approved.

Ministry Team Reports

Ministry team reports provided by Evangelism, Outreach, Worship & Music and AGC were reviewed.

a. Evangelism requested Council action on prospective members received on 3-28-10. **MOTION:** That the following be formally accepted as baptized members of LLLC: August Bottiger; Mike Connelley & Meg Mahoney and Kate & Erin; Ernie & Linda Ovitz; Paul & Marie Sankowski; John & Marlene Saum; Sindy Vongkorad & Keanen Bafekr (son); Mel & Caroline Zang; Alyssa Otterness (baptized)...that Don & Mary Anne Dandy be formally accepted as associate members...that Bob & Linda Lencke, Al Novotny, and Walter Kunkel be removed. **2nded and carried.**

b. AGC reported a very successful yard sale fund raiser held in early May: roughly \$2,800.

c. Worship & Music: \$200 is needed to repair the organ. Of note, the budget line item for repairs is currently over-spent. Council decided to hold funding that repair until the fall since the organ will not be used until the fall, or until such time as funds are donated for the repair.

d. **NOTE:** Team night will move to the first Tuesday of each month beginning June 2010.

1. President's Report

- a. President welcomed Randy Hansen to the meeting and thanked him for agreeing to become a member of Council.
- b. **MOTION:** Accept Randy Hansen as member of council. **2nded and carried.**
- c. President thanked Bea Daly for making the pew envelopes to afford people a vehicle & reminder to help pay down the mortgage.

2. Pastor's Report

President reported for Pastor that all preparations for the leadership retreat had been completed for the venue and leader, and that Pastor was anticipating an inspiring event for those who attend.

B. Old Business

1. Financial Update for Memorials

An issue relates to memorials donated to the church. Some gifts sit in limbo because we lack a policy to help people designate memorial donations. Some well-meaning givers leave a donation for a specific item that the congregation does not need, while we have needs that go unmet. With a simple written policy we can use when a gift is pledged, we can utilize all memorial gifts. Bea

Daly wrote a draft policy. Council made a motion on Mar 13, 2002: “all memorial funds received would be gifts to the Church. A Memorial Ministry Team will be established, to determine what gifts would be accepted and which would not, and to develop ideas on uses of the funds. They could and should include the donating family’s suggestions and any from the Congregation.”

OPEN ACTION ITEM: Skip & Bob agreed to write a formal policy.

2. Child Abuse Prevention Policy Draft Review

Discussion of a new-found requirement from our liability insurance underwriter revealed that LLC must have a documented background check on file for any person not legally related to any child on a trip who would serve as a chaperone on that trip.

OPEN ACTION ITEM: Council team to review new background check requirement and background check service provider options.

C. New Business

1. Facility Use Policy

Discussion regarding the renting of our new facility opened. The current LLC Facility Use policy needs revision. For example, it stipulates that we disallow for-profit organizations from renting our facilities, the fee structure is inadequate, it requires that customers interface with the “LLC wedding coordinator,” and it is generally in need of major update. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Admin team liaison will pass a copy of the current policy to the Admin team for action update.

2. Bank Account Signatories:

Action Item: Secretary to go to Regions Bank to get new council members added and former council members removed as account signatories.

UPDATE: Action in progress. Bank requested specific motions made this meeting and documented in meeting minutes to delete and add signatories.

MOTION: Delete current signatories Bea Daly and Don Wild from Regions bank account number 0059326026. *2nded and carried.*

MOTION: Add the following council members as signatories for Regions bank account number 0059326026: Sue Farence, Cheryl Graham, Randy Hanson, and Jackie Riordan. *2nded and carried.*

3. Property & Liability Insurance

Initial quotes indicate potential savings, however, not all quotes are in. Since our current policy will expire before next council meeting, item was tabled pending consideration of all quotes received before our policy expires. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** President to call an ad hoc council meeting to review the quotes received before our current policy expires.

4. Stewardship Campaign 2010

Stewardship team is planning the 2010 annual drive and has pledged to help congregation with special drives to fund unbudgeted needs after they come to light.

Respectfully submitted,
Skip Wegener

This Month’s Thought to Consider...

Patience with others is **love**.

Patience with yourself is **hope**.

Patience with God is **faith**.

June Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

Birthdays

Griffith, Randy	1-Jun
Hartlieb, June	1-Jun
Kim, Sun	1-Jun
Eicken, James	2-Jun
Pinsonneault, Amy	2-Jun
Graham, Aaron	3-Jun
Mantone, Michael	3-Jun
Sankowski, Paul	3-Jun
Fowler, Joanne	8-Jun
Daly, Robert	9-Jun
Gross, Nathan	9-Jun
Davis, Raymond	10-Jun
Lencke, Bob	10-Jun
Brown, Katherine	11-Jun
Marra, Drew	11-Jun
Scituro, Mari	14-Jun
Hammergren, John	15-Jun
Lanier, T. Preston	17-Jun
Mork, Bill	17-Jun
Riordan, Jackie	18-Jun
Shaw, Jack	18-Jun
Lanier, Todd	19-Jun
Trompke, Lee	20-Jun
Gugliemetti, Elizabeth	22-Jun
Vongkorad, Sindy	23-Jun
Miller, Barbara	24-Jun
Hansing, Karen	25-Jun
Henkelman, Roger	27-Jun
Howard, John	27-Jun

Anniversaries

Mel and Caroline Zang	6/4/1945
Keneth & Louise Baar	6/13/1953
Ron Schultze	6/1/1957
Peter and Gloria McMahon	6/1/1963
Gary L. & Cheryl A. Graham	6/6/1964
Barbara Miller	6/1/1968
Barry & Ruth Hough	6/15/1968
Perry and Margie Fulkerson	6/13/1970
Dan & Patrica Black	6/5/1971
Joseph and Rae Ann Dowling	6/30/1979
Jim & Denise Gross	6/8/1985
Mary Schwab	6/9/1990
Richard & Sherry Burner	6/20/1992
James & Mary Jo Baar	6/20/1992
Rev. Jeffrey & Victoria Gross	6/14/1997
Ray and Sheila Wild	6/17/2006

Media Team is up and running!

By the time you read this, we will hopefully have had our first prototype of a 'slide show' detailing the work of the Leadership Retreat and the priority areas identified. Stay tuned for additional new features. We know it's been a long process but we would like to do this job right the first time. Please be patient with us...

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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	Traditional 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.