



Living Lord Lutheran Church
Living Lord's VOICE

Volume 23, Number 8

August, 2010

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (NIV) Exodus 3:14

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (NIV) John 8:58

Two important things happened in John 8:58. First, Jesus identified himself with God. Second, Jesus takes his angry audience from the past tense: "before Abraham was," to the present tense: "I am."

The sacred name of God, YHWH, is so sacred that it is replaced by the name "Adonai," which translates as "LORD." And yet, that sacred name is simply the present tense Hebrew phrase "I am who I am." I refer to this as "The God of the present tense."

What makes the present tense so special? Let me respond with two other questions: "What makes the past tense so special?" and "What makes the future tense so special?"

People who cannot bury the past have a hard time moving forward. You know people who live in the past tense. Things were ALWAYS better yesterday. "What ever happened to the "good old days?" "Why can't things be like they used to be?" The hard fact is, the past is in the past and there is no way we can go back.

And yet, there are those who wait for tomorrow. "Some day I will do this." Or "Some day I will get around to doing that." So on and so forth. Procrastinators never get around to it. That is a hard fact. Only when a procrastinator "seizes the moment" will a procrastinator break the habit of taking tomorrow for granted.

The future is uncertain and the past is in the past. What we have is *today!* God has given us the present tense because God is the God of the present tense. This moment is the only one we can count on.

Carpe Diem; seize the moment! Have you ever thought that maybe, just maybe, this is God's rallying cry for the church? So important is the present tense to God that God's very name is "I am."

Living Lord Lutheran Church: God, "I am" says to us "Seize the Moment." Going backwards is not an option; neither is taking the future for granted. What God has given us is this moment. Let us embrace it for what it is, a gift.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

President's Report

John Moyer

In another part of this newsletter, you will see our statistical report on Sunday worship attendance during June, including a comparison to the previous five years. I confess that I find some of our numbers to be a bit alarming. It is natural to expect some decline in church attendance during the summer but our attendance seems a bit lower than even this expectation.

Why do you think this is happening?

Did everyone take their family vacation in June? That would actually be cause for celebration. The family time and refreshment resulting from getting away is a wonderful balm for our stressed bodies and weary minds. But could there be another cause?

Is there something that is bothering you that makes you feel less eager to get up and come to worship on Sunday morning? If that is the case, please speak to someone like the Pastor or a Council member to let us know of your concern. We can't fix it if we don't know about it.

And if it's just a case of the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer", I understand. And I do hope that once you've been able to sleep in for a few weeks, you will miss us as much as we miss you...and as Arnold would say, "you'll be back!"

New Members

Pat Kunkel

With joy, we will be receiving new members on **Sunday October 10th** at all services. There will be two orientation classes on Wednesday **September 22nd and 29th** at 6:30. If you are interested in becoming a member of Living Lord, please fill out a "New Member Information Sheet". To receive one, please contact the church office at 753-9365 or Pat Kunkel at 748-6669. If there are any questions please speak to Pastor Jeff or Pat. We look forward to you joining our church family!

What's in YOUR Wallet?

Receipts to date for our mortgage pay-down total \$1,156. Keep up the good work everyone! Remember that there are envelopes in the pew/chair-backs every Sunday. Think about opening your wallet and pulling out a few stray bills (you won't even miss that \$5 or \$10 bill) and put it into the envelope. Every little bit helps. Thank you!

The Lunch Bunch

Louise Baar

The Lunch Bunch met at the Stingray restaurant on July 8 with 12 ladies enjoying a lovely lunch and great conversation. Our next gathering will be on Thursday, August 12. We will be going to Applebee's restaurant on SR 70. We meet at 11:30 to car pool from church or at noon at the restaurant. An added treat is a drawing for a special prize. Pat Smith won in July. All ladies of the church and their friends are invited to join us. It is a great way to get acquainted. For information, call Louise Baar 727-1878. A sign up sheet is in the narthex. See you on August 12.

Treasurer's Report

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

	Jan - Jun 2010	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Receipts			
Church			
Receipts	174,279.95	194,094.00	-19,814.05
Church Disbursements	170,640.10	180,364.00	-9,723.90
Net Church Financial Position	3,639.85	13,730.00	-10,090.15
 AGC			
Receipts	94,678.50	85,528.00	9,150.50
AGC Disbursements	92,447.23	105,184.00	-12,736.77
Net AGC Financial Position	2,231.27	-19,656.00	21,887.27
 Total LLLC Receipts	268,958.45	279,622.00	-10,663.55
Total LLLC Disbursements	263,087.33	285,548.00	-22,460.67
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	5,871.12	-5,926.00	11,797.12

During June, the church's and AGC's disbursements exceeded receipts. However, year-to-date, we are in a positive financial position.

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

Description	Total
Solar Equipment	153.15
Planting the Seeds	39,067.09
Kitchen	381.40
Audio Visual Equipment	4,350.14
Sanctuary Chairs/Furnishings	144.81
Donation-Mah Jongg Club	326.00
PTS Giving Tree - Building Interior	7,452.45
Signage Receipts	1,630.00
Capital Fund Drive	53,505.04

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Farence, Treasurer

Stewardship Message

Stewardship Team

In Faith and in Doubt

The disciples told Thomas the unbelievable news that Jesus, whom they had all seen crucified, was alive! And, of course, Thomas did not believe it. He might have thought his friends delusional or mad with grief. He might have thought that some colossally cruel practical joke had been played on them by the authorities. Whatever he thought, clearly he could not buy what they were selling. So he might have left them, sadly and in great despair.

But, we are told that a week later he was still hanging out with them. *A week!* Even though they were ecstatic with joy and he was deep in disbelief, he stayed with the community, and they remained available to him. Then Jesus appeared again and the one who doubted found faith.

Thank God Thomas had a place and a group of people with whom he could abide in the night of doubt and sadness. They carried him through until his relationship with Jesus was restored and strengthened. Is not that still the role of the church? We maintain our buildings and hold our worship services, prayer meetings, Bible Studies and community events and host support groups of all kinds so that we can hold each other in faith and in doubt. We are there for each other and for our neighbors in all circumstances of life and spirit. We give time, talent and treasure to the church, not to support an institution but to nurture a community of believers and doubters faithing each other into stronger relationships with Jesus, just as those disciples did with Thomas. Remember how the church held you when you were in a ‘Thomas week’ in your life...and be thankful!

Did you ever want to be Clark Kent?

Marianne Moyer, Voice Editor

OK so being faster than a speeding bullet or able to leap tall buildings at a single bound are not likely goals for most of us. However, there is one Clark Kent activity you can try and that is being a news reporter!

Each month a group of dedicated congregation members provide articles, statistics and reports for the Voice; all intended to keep you, our members and friends informed. As Editor, I receive, insert and sometimes modify their input to make this as interesting, timely and readable as possible. Then our wonderful church secretary, Maggie, reads, edits again and sends this out via either e- or snail mail.

Perhaps you have wondered, “Why didn’t Voice publish an article on this or that?” Maybe you think you could do a great job of telling us about something your ministry team or family has done.

Well, what are you waiting for? If you would like to submit an article (regularly, occasionally or just once), I encourage you to do so! Just send your submission to voice@livinglordfl.org and watch for your ‘byline’ in the next issue!

Youth News

Kristen Hitchcock

12 youth and 4 adults attended summer camp at Lutherock in Newland, NC, June 11-20, 2010. I expected the youth to grow in their faith and come back fired up for the Lord, but they exceeded my expectations by leaps and bounds. Many of the youth came back expressing their interest in working as a camp counselor in the future so that they can help kids have the same experiences they did.

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth and this trip. Without your help and prayers, the youth would not have been able to afford to attend this camp. We have decided to go back to Lutherock next year and hope to bring even more youth with us. Please be on the look out starting in late August for ways you can again, help and support the youth of Living Lord.

LOMF Day Camp

The LOMF day camp staff members were here June 28 – July 2. We had 24 campers participating in the program that ran from 9:00am – 3:00pm each day. The activities ranged from dressing up as super heroes and wearing our pajamas, to water day and making tie-dyed shirts.

Back to School Bash

There will be a Back to School Bash on Saturday August 21 at 6:00pm. Evan LeFloch with Smallfish will be coming to perform. Evan has been traveling the country for years sharing his gift of music to youth at retreats, camps and concerts. Following the concert the youth will be having a lock-in and will be playing “Minute To Win It” style games. The youth will attend the 8:00am service. The cost for the concert is \$10. All new 6th graders are invited to this event.

Sunday School News

I am excited to announce some positive changes that will be happening with our Sunday School program this year. We will be using a new curriculum by Augsburg Fortress called Spark. This program is very easy to use and follows the lectionary calendar so that the children will be hearing the same message as that which is heard in church. The children will be released for Sunday school following the Children’s sermon and will return following communion. We will offer two classes for Sunday school; a lower elementary group for pre-school through 2nd grade, and an upper elementary group for 3rd through 5th grade.

We still need Sunday School teachers in a variety of capacities. We would like to have 2 teachers for each group to work on a Two-Sunday a month schedule. This allows each teacher to attend the 9:15 service twice a month. In addition to these teachers, we need to build our substitute list.

If you think you won’t make a good teacher ask yourself these questions:

- Do you enjoy sharing the love of Christ?
- Do you enjoy working with kids?
- Can you follow easy step-by-step lessons?

If you answered yes to these questions but still feel hesitant, please contact Kristen. If you can be a Sunday School or substitute teacher please contact Kristen Hitchcock at kristenlouree@gmail.com.

Sunday School teacher training class
August 17, 7:00-8:30pm

The training class is for everyone interested in being a Sunday School Teacher. We will be going over a typical day, flipping through the curriculum, answering questions and getting to know the other teachers. There will be a sign up sheet located on the Kingdom Kidz bulletin board.

Mark you calendars for Rally Day on August 29, 2010.

Ask the Weatherman

Bill Mork

How goes the hurricane season thus far? Hurricane Alex was the only tropical cyclone during June and the first June Atlantic Basin hurricane since 1995. It was also the first Category Two June hurricane since 1966. Alex made landfall along the northeast Mexican coast late on June 30 as a Category Two hurricane. There was little wind damage in Deep South Texas, but there were rainfall totals of 9 inches in the Brownsville area. Rains from Hurricane Alex and recent rains from Tropical Depression Number Two have triggered record floods on the Rio Grande River. The National Hurricane Center expects an active hurricane season with the development of La Nina conditions in the equatorial Pacific, so be prepared during the peak hurricane months of August and September.

How is the rainy season doing? We had our first good rain, about 1 inch, on June 13. Then it seemed that the monsoon had arrived with daily rains across the area from June 16 through July 7. June rainfall ended up pretty close to normal with 6.5 inches in Parrish and 6.3 inches at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. Things dried out from July 7 through July 13. A half inch of rain in Parrish, and more in Lakewood Ranch, broke the dry spell on Wednesday, July 14 with some extraordinary cloud to ground lightning. Airport July rainfall through July 14 is 2.4 inches; Parrish received 4.6 inches.

What changes were made to our watering schedule? Due to recent heavy rain and rising rivers and aquifers, the Southwest Florida Water Management District has lifted its once-a-week watering restrictions for lawns in the area. Manatee County and Bradenton have since implemented rules allowing lawns to be watered twice a week, but Lakewood Ranch has not. That's because Braden River Utilities, provider of Lakewood Ranch's irrigation water, holds a permit separate from Manatee County and, for now, has no plans to change its terms. If your Manatee County address is EVEN, water on Thursday and/or Sunday during the hours of Midnight to 10AM or 4PM to Midnight. ODD addresses water Wednesday and/or Saturday. There are no restrictions on hand watering, drip-irrigation, fountains, car washing, or pressure washing. Water Citations are issued ONLY if citizens have received a warning notice and are observed watering 10AM to 4PM (\$100 plus costs).

Was it hot in June? Yes, it was. The Sarasota-Bradenton Airport had its second warmest June on record with an average temperature of 83.5 degrees. As you recall, we had a hot May. Put those two months together and you have the warmest May/June on record with an average temperature of 81.5 degrees. Hottest June temperature was 98 on June 12.

Summer Camp = Summer Fun



It seems like just yesterday when the first week of All God's Children's seven week Summer Camp began. But here there is still time to join the fun. If you know a child who would enjoy a week of Camp before starting back to school (August 23rd), please call Crystal Shreve at 739-2776 for additional information.



Outreach News and Activities

10 Can Food Collection for Our Daily Bread

The Outreach Team collected more than 50 large #10 cans of food during the month of June. The food will go toward preparing daily meals by Our Daily Bread. In addition to this generous contribution by church members, we expect to receive Thrivent funds of \$600 for the purchase of additional food. We thank everyone who contributed to help feed the hungry in our community.

Collection of personal hygiene items for Our Daily Bread

We encourage members to bring in their travel samples collected over the spring and summer. Such items as hotel samples, disposable shavers, combs, toothpaste, shampoos and lotions, deodorants and other hygiene items are urgently needed to hand out to the homeless. These items are very much appreciated and will make the needy feel personally much better. For those who don't travel, please pick up small personal hygiene items the next time you are shopping. For more information please contact Ursula Williams at 941 201-4467, email UrsulaGWilliams@aol.com

Sunday Worship Attendance, June, 2010

Sunday	8:00	9:15	10:45	Total Attendance
June 6	43	93	75	211
June 13	41	75	56	172
June 20	46	64	69	173
June 27	36	84	53	173
Average for June, 2010	40	79	63	182

Previous Years' Average Worship Attendance June 2005 - 2009

Year	8:00	9:15	10:45	Avg. Total Attendance
2009	30	84	65	179
2008	37	91	69	197
2007	35	88	79	202
2006	34	80	73	187
2005	41	73	81	195

Important notice to all members that have access to the church out of normal hours

Recently, we had to pay the Sherriff's office a fee for dispatching on a false alarm. This has happened more than once and is starting to cost us money.

Most recently on a Sunday afternoon, someone entered and DID NOT disable the alarm system. It is IMPERATIVE if you enter the building when it is alarmed that you enter the alarm code at the keypad otherwise the alarm system thinks there is a break-in and signals the alarm company which notifies the Sheriff's office.

The second part of this notice is that the building must be secured (locked) and the alarm set when the last person leaves.

This means on Sunday especially, the ushers on duty are responsible to make sure the doors and windows are closed and locked, all lights are off and the alarm system is set. If this is not done, one day we will have a major break-in and a lot of valuable equipment could be stolen. This is even more necessary now that we have just purchased a lot of very valuable audio equipment.

I ask your help in preventing this from happening. It is the responsibility of all of us to help protect our building and its contents. Thank You in advance for your help. John Moyer

Happy Celebrations to You!

Do you have a birthday or anniversary in June? If so, have a wonderful celebration. Greetings to:

Birthdays

Hitchcock, Kristen	2-Aug
Dryjowicz, Bob	3-Aug
Rupp, Tom	3-Aug
Seminick, Michael	3-Aug
McKeen, Marcia	4-Aug
Wickham, Sean	4-Aug
Pope, Wyly	6-Aug
Wixson, Gerald	6-Aug
Davis, Grace	7-Aug
Lanier, Mary	7-Aug
Holt, Nancy	8-Aug
Schimmoller, Ralph	8-Aug
Okland, Lilly	9-Aug
Behrends, Lily	10-Aug
Eckstrom, Joseph	10-Aug
Harkins, Lexi	13-Aug
Harkins, Cord	13-Aug
Hansing, Kori	14-Aug
Lestock, Mel	14-Aug
Thomas, Lori	14-Aug
Baar, James	15-Aug
Ovitz, Ernie	15-Aug
Welke, Shirley	15-Aug
Schwab, John	17-Aug
Smith, Debbie	20-Aug
Swartzendruber, Derek	20-Aug
Baar, Kenneth	21-Aug
Dinger, Loraine	21-Aug
Fisher, Irene	21-Aug
Hahn, Drew	21-Aug
Bower, Virgil	22-Aug
Byers, Linda	23-Aug
Horne, Lauren	23-Aug
Medley, Martin	24-Aug
Vogler, Tina	24-Aug
Graham, Gary	25-Aug
Walden, Gladys	26-Aug
Silver, Ron	27-Aug
Slicker, Richard	28-Aug
Wagner, Larry	29-Aug
Morrissey, Michael	31-Aug

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard & Vidra Bernard	8/28/1979
Robert & Carole Dodge	8/29/1959
Irene & Henry Eicken	8/23/1946
Allan & Carlyn Kersten	8/15/1964
Martin and Shari Medley	8/13/1993
Martin & Betty Meuser	8/9/1952
John & Margaret Ann Miller	8/13/1960
Michael & Lori Morrissey	8/12/0000
Rasmus & Margunn Okland	8/10/0000
Joe and Debra Pascarella	8/30/1980
Ken & Elaine Seamon	8/31/1957
Paul & Sharon Stone	8/10/1963
Gerald & Nancy Wixson	8/17/1957
Doug & Elsie Zipay	8/13/1989

Church Council Meeting

July 13, 2010

Members Present: Sue Farence, Cheryl Graham, Pastor Gross, Randy Hansen, John Moyer, Jackie Riordan, Skip Wegener

President called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Pastor followed with prayer thanking the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to serve Him. Council conducted the following business:

A. Reports

1. Previous Month's Council Meeting Minutes

LLC council minutes for June 2010 were reviewed. Report approved.

2. Treasurer's Report for June 2010

The treasurer's report for June 2010 was reviewed. Attendance and offerings were significantly down during June. Treasurer Report approved.

3. Ministry Team Reports

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

a. Evangelism announced a plan to provide gift bags for new visitors which include info on LLC. Ushers would hand these out when new visitors are recognized at announcements. Team also expressed a need to consider enhancing our web site to bring in new people.

b. AGC reported the imminent expiration of their copier contract. They solicited three bids, and the provider for the church office copier came out the winner...church secretary is very happy with that product and vendor.

c. Worship & Music: Organ repair was made through the generous gift of a congregation member since the budget line item had been overspent to date.

d. Media Team: The team will begin pulling wires this month to prepare for the new equipment.

MOTION: To accept ministry team reports received. *2nded and carried.*

4. President's Report

a. Electric bill. The most recent church electric bill topped \$1600. Council debated ideas to better control thermostats: it seems they may still be adjusted inside our "tamper-proof" boxes. Team also underlined the need to review the fee schedule we charge for facility use to better charge users for the utilities they use (see old business item B3).

b. Audio Visual Equipment. We currently have \$4,600 available for the equipment we need, and based upon a consultant's estimate we need \$8,400.

5. Pastor's Report

Pastor related that often people bring issues to him for resolution that should be handled by our ministry teams. Since the people have come to him directly, pastor often finds himself working the issue when he should be working on his own responsibilities. If LLC had a policy pastor could refer to that would channel the requestor toward the applicable ministry team, it would lighten his burden. Council adopted the protocol to have persons with issues relating to ministry team responsibilities referred directly to the applicable ministry team leader.

B. Old Business

1. Financial Update for Memorials

A Memorial Ministry Team will be established, with the responsibility to help donors give gifts needed. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Skip & Bob agreed to write a formal policy. **STATUS:** Bob &

Skip met and drafted a formal policy. Council reviewed it. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Skip and Sue agreed to meet and edit the draft to make it more 'donor' friendly. **STATUS:** Skip & Sue edited the draft. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Skip to send it out to council for review...Council to review and provide feedback prior to next meeting.

2. Child Abuse Prevention Policy Draft Review

Discussion of a new 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, 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. **STATUS:** Completed. Also completed is a presentation for briefing & teaching volunteers child protection. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Policy must now be amended to include a requirement for non-related chaperones for off-campus trips and overnight activities to have a county background check. Additionally, an LLC point person must be designated. **STATUS:** Kristen provided a list of concerns for the policy as drafted. Council discussed each issue. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Jackie to meet with Kristen to discuss council's determinations. Jackie to finish draft and send it out to council prior to next meeting.

3. Facility Use Policy

Discussion regarding the renting of our new facility opened, as we now have an attractive facility suitable for renting. 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 their action to recruit volunteers to update. **STATUS:** No update. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Admin team needs to consider a set fee for AA groups, too.

4. Bank Safe Deposit Box Fee

Treasurer questioned why we pay \$35 per month for our safe deposit box. Secretary, who works with the bank once a year to update signatories, could not recall such a fee in our agreement. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Secretary to confirm the fee with the bank, and if verified, to remove the documents and bring them to the church safe. **STATUS:** Fee is an annual fee. Item closed.

5. Residual Balance from Building Fund Drives

Jim L requested council determine what to do with the remaining \$42k left from the capital campaigns. Suggestions discussed ranged from a new sign (for which we have a donor who pledged to match up to \$7k), to audio visual equipment, to a new kitchen, to paying down our mortgage. Council formed an ad hoc team to review options: members are Randy H, Jim L & Todd B. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Team will meet and prioritize suggestions prior to next council meeting. **STATUS:** Team met and prepared a list of suggested projects to fund. Council debated the items, and while all were worthy of consideration, council collectively determined it would be best to identify all of the projects that are still needed to complete our worship facility. **OPEN ACTION ITEM:** Team to revise list and send it out to council prior to next meeting.

At 8:54 p.m. the meeting adjourned and Council closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Wegener

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“Loving, Learning, Living in Christ”

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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: There is no Sunday school during the summer.
Nursery Service is available during all services.