



Living Lord Lutheran Church

Living Lord's **VOICE**

Volume 23, Number 2

February, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Between the winter solstice and spring equinox, between Advent and Lent, Christmas and Easter, and during the season of Epiphany, February 2nd, is a little known holiday called "Groundhog's Day." In communities across the United States and Canada are celebrations, the biggest one in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. If the groundhog doesn't see his shadow, winter ends soon. If the groundhog does see his shadow then there will be six more weeks of winter.

The groundhog stands on the threshold of winter and spring and the rest of us ask: "Will he see his shadow?"

Last year at our annual meeting, the week before Groundhog's Day, we stood on the threshold of winter and spring. We could have canceled our building project and retreated back to hibernation or we could have moved boldly toward spring and scale down our original plans. On that day we saw our shadow and put winter behind us. That was a day to remember.

Now, in our new sanctuary, soon to be dedicated and near completion, we worship in the fulfillment of our collective faith. Few people remember that threshold. For me, it is hard to forget. Now I thank the good Lord every day for the bold and courageous step forward that we took.

February is here and, once again, we stand on the threshold. What direction shall we go? Hibernation is not an option. With a newly elected council, members old and new, let us go forward!

Happy Groundhog's Day and don't be afraid of your shadow. The future is bright; winter is behind us; spring is ahead.

AMEN.

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

President's Message

Dedication Sunday, January 31, is Right around the Corner!

On Sunday, January 31 we will realize the culmination of literally years of hopes, dreams, plans and most importantly, our faith made real. Remember we only have one service that day, at 10AM; come and meet people with whom you usually do not have the opportunity to worship. At 11:30 join us for a pot-luck as we are able to fit everyone into one place at one time. And then, stay and let your voice be heard as we plan for the coming year, when our annual meeting begins at 1 PM. (If you have one, please wear your nametag!) I'll see you there.

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	Page 1
Treasurer's Report	Page 2
Church Council Minutes	Page 10
AGC News	Page 9
Birthdays and Anniversaries	Page 13
Calendar	Page 15

Treasurer's Ledger

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This will be my last report as your Treasurer, as I will be leaving Council in 2010. I wish to thank each of you for your continued devotion in the support of Living Lord Lutheran Church and its ministries. You have been a generous and loyal congregation. You have consistently stepped forward in faith and given of your time, talents, and treasures to make our ministries successful. It has been a privilege and honor to have served you since 2006 as your Treasurer. May God bless and keep each of you in health, happiness, and prosperity.

As of December 31, 2009, the total financial position of Living Lord Lutheran Church is as follows:

	<u>Jan thru Dec 2009</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Receipts			
Church Receipts	328,500.85	306,945.00	21,555.85
Church Disbursements	310,822.79	306,945.00	3,877.79
Net Church Financial Position	17,678.06	0.00	17,678.06
AGC Receipts	204,923.07	232,094.00	(27,170.93)
AGC Disbursements	208,975.09	232,080.00	(23,104.91)
Net AGC Financial Position	(4,052.02)	14.00	(4,066.02)
LLLC Total Receipts	533,423.92	539,039.00	(5,615.08)
LLLC Total Disbursements	519,797.88	539,025.00	(19,227.12)
2009 Net Total LLLC Financial Position	13,626.04	14.00	13,612.04
2008 Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>(10,351.58)</u>	<u>19.00</u>	<u>(10,370.58)</u>

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! The Church ended 2009 in a positive financial position of \$17,678.06. Thanks to the generosity of our members, associate members, friends, and visitors during December, we were able to cover all 2009 expenditures and recover the \$10,351.58 shortfall in 2008.

For the first time since 1996, All God's Children Preschool (AGC) ended 2009 with a shortfall of \$16,263.64. AGC covered \$12,621.62 of this shortfall exhausting their operating reserves saved from prior years' operations, thus resulting in a net \$4,052.02 loss. The reasons for this negative financial position are as follows:

- The general down-turn in the economy caused enrollment to drop over 35% in September 2009, as many families who had lost jobs moved from the area or simply pulled their children out of AGC to reduce family expenses;
- The State of Florida, without any prior notification, initiated a policy change in the method of reimbursement for Voluntary Pre-kindergarten students. In the past, the State pre-paid provider schools for each student. In September 2009, they started to reimburse providers in the month following services. Thus, reimbursement for our December 2009 classes will not be received until late January 2010, which crosses fiscal/budget years; while expenditures are recorded in the month incurred; and,
- AGC registration and tuition rates are established 12 months prior to the school year and remain in effect for approximately 18 months thereafter. For example, rates developed in October 2009, presented to Council for review in November 2009, and approved by the Congregation in January 2010 remain in effect until June 2011; therefore, unforeseen shortfalls, can not be recovered in the fiscal year incurred.

In September 2009, when it appeared that a negative financial position might materialize, AGC took the following steps to reduce variable costs:

- AGC reduced its staff by 9 members, which represented a 40% reduction;
- All training costs were eliminated;
- Supplies purchases were limited;
- After-hours staff meetings were eliminated;
- The AGC Board of Directors initiated a hiring freeze and a moratorium on pay raises;
- AGC initiated an AM/PM Care Program where parents can bring students in for before and after school care; and,
- AGC, in September 2010, will expand its hours of operation to correspond with Manatee County School system, at which time a rate increase will go into effect.

AGC has cut their variable costs to the bone. However, fixed costs, such as mortgage, insurance, utilities, etc., can not be reduced.

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

<u>Description</u>		<u>Total</u>
Building for the Sun – Capital Fund Drive	\$0.00	
Building Fund Memorial Funds	18,845.18	
Planting the Seeds – Capital Fund Drive	74,177.37	
Restricted Building Funds:		
Solar Equipment	500.00	
Kitchen	381.40	
Audio Visual Equipment	8,000.00	
Sanctuary Chairs/Furnishings	144.81	
Donation – Mah Jonng Club	750.00	
PTS Giving Tree – Interior	<u>26,191.25</u>	
		<u>\$128,900.01</u>

We were able to pay cash for the new expansion of our Sanctuary through the pledges and additional contributions received during 2009. Additionally, we started the Planting the Seed Giving Tree and the Congregation stepped forward in faith and we have been able to begin finishing the Sanctuary.

Many of you pledged for five (5) years to the Planting the Seeds building fund. Even though we have paid for our expansion, please continue your pledges. We still have projected expenses including furnishing and completing the Sanctuary. So we still have a way to go!

To all of you who have heeded the call to share your blessing with our Church, God bless you! To those still praying on it, remember all that we have comes from God.

Respectfully submitted, **Bea Daly, Treasurer**

New Member Invitation

With joy, we will be receiving new members on **Palm Sunday March 28th** at all services. There will be two classes on Wednesday evenings **March 17th and 24th** right after Lenten services at 7:30. 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!

Worship and Music Happenings

Lent - Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM on February 17, 2010. Lenten services will be held Wednesday: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2010 at 7 PM. Please join us!

Easter Lilies will be ordered for Sunday, April 4.

An Audio Visual Team comprised of Marianne Moyer, Roger Raddatz, and his son Kurt has formed to implement the projection of scripture, music, and announcements during worship services. Anyone interested is welcome to contact Marianne at Marianne.moyer@verizon.net or Roger at LWRRunner@hotmail.com or Kurt at LWR.Kurt@verizon.com

A book and bible study centered on the book "Have A Little Faith" by Mitch Albom is being planned. Start reading now.

February 7th is Souper Bowl Sunday!

Let's fill our Soup Pot with coins to benefit Lutheran World Hunger Relief.

Join over 11,000 congregations in the US who will be taking up Souper Bowl collections. Last year Souper Bowl Sunday collected over \$3,500,000 for the hungry around the world.

On Sunday, February 7, drop your loose change or penny jar and piggy bank contents in our special collection pot. (Of course you can give bills or checks also!) All money collected will be sent to Lutheran World Hunger.

Outreach Team News

Looking back on what the Outreach Team accomplished in 2009, we are grateful that despite the state of our country's economy, our congregation has generously supported every Outreach project we organized to help the needy in our community and worldwide. Our church volunteers and Outreach members engaged in labors of love to make each project a success. We are indeed blessed to be part of the LLC community and Outreach Team. The 2010 Outreach Team program is already in full swing as outlined below. We encourage church members to volunteer to join the Outreach Team as a regular member or to partake in individual projects. For more information please contact Ursula Williams, Tel. 941 201-4467 or email: UrsulaGWilliams@aol.com Happy New Year.

2010 Outreach Program Schedule

<i>Month</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Cordinator</i>
January	Free Trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolate Sales for Florida Seminarians	Kathie Brown
February	LWR Souper Bowl Collection for ELCA	Marianne Moyer
March	Haiti Collection	Ellen Weiss
April	Our Daily Bread (ODB) Food Collection	
May	Clothing, Baby Food Collection for Homeless	Jeri Schultze
June	#10 Can Food Collection for ODB	
July	Samoset Elem. School Supplies Collection	Pam Griffith
August	1. Hygiene Products Collection for ODB 2. Clothing Collection for Abused Women's Shelter	Ursula Williams
September	1. Braden River Challenge Day Peanut Butter and Jelly Collection 2. Manatee Animal Shelter Supplies	Marianne Moyer Ursula Williams
October	Craft and Bake Sale for Manatee Children's Center	Cheryl Graham
November/	Adopt a Family Angel Tree	Cheryl Graham
December	ODB Food Collection	
Ongoing:	1. Altar Flowers Delivery to Shut-Ins 2. Scheduling food servers for ODB	

Living Lord Lutheran in the Community

By Matt Hitchcock

On Tuesday, December 1, several members and staff of LLLC took time from their schedules and participated in Challenge Day at Braden River High School. These adults acted as facilitators in small group settings to offer support to students as they were faced with difficult topics.

The adults from LLLC included Pastor Jeff Gross, Maggie Hammond, Lisa Hahn, Kristen and Matt Hitchcock, Marianne Moyer and Skip Wegener, who was joined by two of his four-legged friends, Colt and Clay. Colt is a trained therapy dog from SEGDI.

Challenge Day is an organization that travels around the country working with high school students about bullying and respecting others. Over the course of three days, freshman students were given a day off from classes in order to participate. The students were literally challenged to break down the barriers they have put up and take the opportunity to learn more about themselves and their classmates that they may not have gotten along with in the past.

The day started off with fun, high-energy activities to allow for the students and adults to get comfortable with each other. Eventually, the students were split up into small groups led by volunteer adults, where they were invited to speak more openly about their feelings. After lunch, the group participated in an emotionally-charged activity known as the Power Shuffle. This activity invited students and adults to cross a line on the floor if they or someone close to them had been affected by topics like bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, divorce, welfare and other such issues. The day concluded with students given the opportunity to take the microphone and publicly express how they would bring about change so that these issues would not be as profound an issue as they are today. Some students took the opportunity to address their fellow classmates and publicly apologize for the way they had been treating each other.

Emotionally and mentally, the day was truly a challenge as a variety of subjects were addressed, yet many of the students and adults came away from the day with a renewed vigor. For more information about Challenge Day, visit www.challengeday.org.

Living Lord Lutheran in the Christmas Spirit

By Matt Hitchcock

On Wednesday, December 9, the middle and high school youth groups went to Countryside Manor, where they visited patients suffering from Cerebral Palsy. The youth took turns reading a story to the group and shared in the Christmas spirit as they sang Christmas Carols. The evening concluded with brownies and juice for everyone.

We Gave to Help our Haiti Brethren

In response to the devastating earthquake that crippled Haiti, our congregation mobilized quickly. On Sunday, January 17 we took up special collections at each service and sent \$2,007 to the ELCA World Relief efforts. While we know that many people want to send clothes, food and other supplies, we know from experience that for this poor nation, often money is the best donation. And by contributing through ELCA established processes, we can be sure that our donations will be quickly and efficiently used to help Haitians who will be struggling to recover, for a long time to come.

The Weather Corner

By Bill Mork, Meteorologist

“Hey Bill, what happened to our Florida weather last month?”

Our recent historic cold spell began with a strong cold front on New Year’s Day and was reinforced by an arctic front on January 9. Record low maximum temperatures were set on Saturday, January 9 as clouds and rain kept the day very cold with arctic air moving in. High temperature that day at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport was 44 early in the morning, but afternoon temperatures peaked at only 38 degrees for one of the coldest days in memory. Clearing skies then led to some of the coldest temperatures in decades across Central and South Florida on Sunday, January 10 and Monday, January 11. Low temperatures on January 11 dropped to 28 at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport and 22 in Parrish. It remained cold on January 12 with lows of 28 at the Airport and 25 in Parrish.

There were hundreds of daily temperature records set in Florida from January 6 to January 12 but no all-time record lows. Locally, the coldest all-time record low was 18 at Parrish on January 13, 1981. Other local all-time record lows include 20 at Bradenton on December 26, 1983, 21 at the old Bradenton Experimental Station on February 4, 1917, and 22 at Sarasota on December 13, 1962. So it was not the extreme cold that made this cold spell special, it was the LENGTH of the cold spell that was memorable and historic! We had a record 11 consecutive days with overnight lows below 40 degrees in Manatee and Sarasota Counties from January 3 through January 13, 2010. The previous record was 10 consecutive days from December 30, 2000 through January 8, 2001.

Freezing temperatures with major damage to crops were reported over much of interior South Florida on January 10 and 11. Unofficial readings of 32 degrees right to the beaches of Dade and Palm Beach Counties would be the first time these areas had freezing temperatures since December 25, 1989. The cold wave reached historic proportions in Key West. The record low of 42 on January 11 shattered the previous record low for the date by 6 degrees and was the second coldest temperature ever recorded at Key West with records dating back to 1873. The all time record low was only one degree colder at 41 set on January 13, 1981 and January 12, 1886. Key West also had the longest streak of days with lows less than 50 degrees ever recorded, 7 days from January 7 through January 13, 2010. The old record was 6 days, December 1-6, 1876.

Our recent cold snap has had a significant impact on the Gulf water temperatures near our coast. There have been reports of dying green sea turtles and manatees, as well as numerous fish kills up and down the Florida Gulf Coast. The Gulf water temperature at Venice of 49.6 degrees on January 12 was the lowest since the sensor became operational in May 1986. The Gulf water temperature at Clearwater Beach of 48.2 degrees on January 11 was the lowest since 48.0 degrees on January 4, 2001.

Some of the extreme low temperatures in Florida during the recent cold spell include Crestview 12, Brooksville and Tallahassee 14, Lakeland 23, Plant City 24, Tampa 25, Winter Haven 26, Bartow 27, Orlando 29, Fort Myers 31, Naples 32, and Miami 35.

“Thanks Bill, I’m not sure I really WANTED to know this but thankfully it’s all ancient history now!”

NEW TAX BENEFITS WITH SCRIP

In July 2009 the IRS issued a Private Letter Ruling (PLR) which further clarified the tax consequences for charitable organizations which operate scrip programs. One unanticipated aspect of the ruling directly benefits you as purchaser of scrip. As you know, Living Lord purchases scrip cards from a national organization at a discount, which varies in amount by retailer. We then sell those cards to you at face value, thereby generating a small profit (average of 2-7%) which we use to purchase equipment for our church. The IRS has ruled that they consider that discount percentage a contribution and **you can now claim that amount as a part of your charitable donation deduction on your income tax returns!**

The next time you order or purchase scrip at the window, you will be asked if you want to sign a scrip program agreement form. This form directs the discount percentage from your cards to be donated to Living Lord. We will track your purchases and the percentages and report the amount as a separate contribution line on your quarterly contribution statement. You can report this amount as part of your charitable donation deduction on your income tax return. We can not report your contribution amount and you can not claim the deduction unless we have the agreement form on file. So, the next time you order or purchase scrip, make sure you fill out and sign the agreement!

As an example: You order one \$25 Walmart card. Living Lord buys it from the scrip center at a 2% discount for \$24.50 and sells it to you at face value of \$25. The scrip program makes \$.50. You also order one \$25 Outback card. Living Lord buys it from the scrip center at a 7% discount for \$23.25 and sells it to you at face value of \$25. The scrip program makes \$1.75. So, Living Lord makes a total of \$2.25 from the sale of these two cards. As long as we have your agreement form on file, this amount will be listed on your quarterly contribution statement and **you can report that dollar amount as a charitable contribution deduction on your income taxes!** So, your purchase of scrip is an easy way to financially support Living Lord while also receiving tax benefits!

Red Cross-Manatee “Boogies at Mixon’s”

On Thursday, February 11 join your friends and neighbors at Mixon’s Fruit Farms’ Concert in the Grove with Gumbo Boogie Band - "**Florida's New Orleans Party Band**". Mixon’s is located at 2712 26th Avenue, East. The concert is from 6PM to 9PM. There is plenty of seating and a great dance floor!

The concert is FREE! Parking is \$5. There will be a 50-50 drawing to benefit American Red Cross-Manatee County Chapter. Also there will be door prize drawings!

Mixon's holds concerts--rain or shine--in their beautiful covered pavilion. Food, beer and wine are available for purchase. No coolers, please

One More “Thank You”

The Planning Team would like to THANK everyone who gave monies for the Giving Tree wish list. Soon the altar will be finished and there will be carpeting on the floor. If it wasn't for all of you, none of this would be possible. We still have projects to be completed so please continue to give what you can. Thank you again and bless you all.

Needed: New Event Coordination Team

Are you willing to serve? Food, that is. Recent events and our beautiful new addition have pointed out that we need a new team to plan and organize events to make use of our new/or old fellowship space to meet the needs of our congregation. If you are willing to occasionally help with setup, shopping, serving, baking, cooking, clean-up, or whatever may be needed for an event such as a wedding or a memorial service, please plan to attend our organizational meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3rd. Belonging to this team won't require regular meetings, but we need to get plans in place to meet future needs of the church. If you can't attend the meeting, but are willing to be involved and considered part of the team, please call or email one of the following:

Sue Farence **727-8757** **sfarence@aol.com**
Carol Rose **729-7005** **cndrose@tampabay.rr.com**
Norine Eckstrom **758-3460** **n_eckstrom@hotmail.com**

Otherwise, we will see you on February 3 at 7 PM!

Lunch Bunch News

The January meeting of the Lunch Bunch was held at Renaissance on 9th in Bradenton. Nineteen ladies enjoyed a meal that was prepared by the Renaissance chef, which ended with delicious cookies. We had a wonderful tour of the facilities, which offer a library, a gift boutique, workout room, pool room, ceramics and computer classes, as well as areas for cards and games such as Mah Jongg. They also have a ballroom that is used for weddings and special programs. This room can also be divided, which it was for us, into separate rooms for private parties. The Renaissance Center is completely non-profit, and supports Meals on Wheels. All the activities are for Seniors. They also have a nice Bistro, which anyone can stop by to enjoy lunch. We want to thank the staff at the Center for the wonderful tour and making us feel so welcome. If you have a chance, stop by and check the center out for yourself. It is located across from McKechnie field at 1816-9th Street West.

Our February Lunch Bunch outing will be on the 11th, at the Pepper Mill Eatery in the Twelve Oaks plaza, where Publix is, just west of I-75 on State road 70. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Remember, all ladies are welcome, members or visitors.

AGC Opens Registration for 2010-2011 School Year

All God's Children Pre-school has opened registration for the 2010-2011 school year which begins on August 23, 2010 and follows the Manatee County School Board calendar. Children aged 18 months through Pre-kindergarten are eligible. If you know anyone who would be interested in having their child attend a Christian pre-school, please have them call the school's office at 739-2776 for more information or to arrange a tour of our facilities.

Also, All God's Children Preschool Is Pleased to Announce free VPK, (beginning August 2010) from 9 am – 12 pm Monday through Friday. There are **No** Monthly Tuition Fees; **No** Registration Fees. Lunch bunch is available from 12:00 – 1:00 plus Before and After Care Available.

All God's Children is an established, private, Faith based preschool serving families with children ages 18 months – 5 years for the past 11 years! Register now to secure your child's spot for the upcoming school year

Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2010

Members Present: Todd Bohlmann, Bea Daly, Bob Daly, Pastor Gross, Lisa Hahn, John Moyer, Jackie Riordan, Mike Seminick, Skip Wegener

President called the meeting to order at 7:11 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 Minutes:** LLLC council minutes for Dec 2009 were reviewed and approved
2. **Treasurer's Report for Nov & Dec 09:** We finished 2009 in the black after a superb burst of giving during the month of December. AGC had carried the congregation from spring through summer during deficit months of dwindling plate offerings. Since school started in September, Manatee County withheld reimbursements to AGC months in arrears. At year end county still had not reimbursed AGC for December, thus AGC ended the fiscal year - \$4,052. Despite that deficit, our overall position at the end of the fiscal year is +\$13,612.

Motion: For the congregation to loan AGC \$4,052 at 0% interest to cover its loss at fiscal year end 2009 until such time as AGC's financial position improves to repay the loan. *2nded and carried.*

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's reports. *2nded and carried.* The books are now closed for 2009, and they are ready for audit.

Open Action Item: President to task Audit Team to perform the audit and report.

3. Ministry Team Reports

Ministry team reports provided by Evangelism, Outreach, and Worship & Music were reviewed. None had Council action.

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

4. President's Report

President congratulated the congregation for pulling together to build our new sanctuary. Many have given of their treasures over many years, and some also have given selflessly of their time and talents this year...all to complete the project without having to burden ourselves with a higher mortgage. One of President's goals this year is to lead a campaign to help us pay down the mortgage on our original sanctuary: it is still so high, LLLC is rated a poor credit risk and could not qualify for a good loan to help fund our next major project. Another goal is to find the best home(s) for our surplus pews.

5. Pastor's Report

2009 was a banner year for Living Lord: we built God's house large to support a larger community of God's people, and we built it entirely within our own means in the midst of the worst economic depression in generations. In 2010 let us work to improve communication: good communication is critical to the welfare of our congregation. Poor communication tears down relationships, while effective communication builds relationships stronger and fosters goodwill within our community. Finally, please let us keep Sundays for worship: let the business of the church be conducted Mondays through Saturdays. Efforts made to conduct church business on Sunday morning, even if well intentioned, distract us from our ministries. We all need the blessings that come from full, worshipful experiences on Sundays.

B. Old Business

1. Building Project Update

Our project is complete. The county granted us a CO on Dec 11th, we held our first service on Dec 13th, and we did it while meeting our budget of \$342,590. Council members agreed that this entire project would not have been completed without the drive, leadership, and countless hours dedicated by Jim Lustgarten.

Motion: President to contact LLLC insurance underwriter to advise them of the CO on the new addition. *2nded and carried.*

2. Constitution Amendment Update

Draft as approved in our Oct meeting went to FB Synod on Oct 15. Synod approved the draft on Dec 17th thereby permitting us to provide the document to the congregation for review a month prior to the annual meeting. The month for review, mandated by our constitution, provides members of the congregation time to study the draft before a vote at the annual meeting to accept the changes. Since mid December, notes in bulletins announce the posting of the draft on the LLLC website main page and ten copies of the document are kept in the narthex for review.

3. Financial Update for Memorials

Action Item: Treasurer to contact the givers of non-specified memorial gifts to determine their wishes to specify utilization of their gifts.

4. Child Abuse Prevention Policy Draft Review

Council team experienced in child protection requirements met 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 team to meet with document drafters to produce a final draft for review at the next council meeting.

5. Dedication Service, Ceremony & Celebration for New Sanctuary

All preparations are underway. No issues foreseen. The bishop has accepted our invitation to attend and has agreed to preach.

6. 2010 Budget Update

Treasurer presented the 2010 proposed budget. Largely the same as 2009, except 2010 budget includes funding youth activities, staff raises of 2%, and expenses associated with new addition.

Motion: Tentatively approve the 2010 budget and present it to the congregation for final approval at the annual meeting. *2nded and carried.*

C. New Business

1. Council Membership

Council projects three vacancies as of the annual meeting, Jan 31, 2010. Sue Farence and Cheryl Graham have volunteered.

Motion: Accept nominations and present to congregation at annual meeting. *2nded and carried.*

2. Planning Team

Pews or chairs for the choir and the width of the altar rail decisions need firming.

Motion: To determine choir's preference on the seating and to have Planning Team meet soon to solidify plans. *2nded and carried.*

At 9:15 p.m. the meeting adjourned and Council closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Wegener

Upcoming events of interest and that ‘do good’ in our community. Please support them!

Mark Your Calendars

The Gamble Plantation Preservation Alliance (GPPA) will conduct its 10th Annual Plantation Festival on February 6th and 7th from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Gamble Plantation Historic Park in Ellenton. Admission, parking, and tours of the mansion are free. Enjoy the 1850’s era cooking demonstrations, crafts, food, and more! Stop by the Art Exhibition tents and see Bea and Bob Daly who have arranged for 14 Manatee Elementary Schools to submit art work from Kindergarten through fifth grades. These submissions will be judged by professional artists and ribbons will be presented to First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention winners in two categories: Kindergarten through Second grades and Third-through Fifth grades. There will also be one Peoples Choice Award voted on by attendees of the Festival on Saturday, February 6th. Come by, cast your vote and see how the rich lived in 1850’s Manatee County

Do You Want to Help a Wounded Hero?

Soldiers’ Angels is a wonderful organization that supports our troops in so many ways. **Check them out at www.soldiersangels.org**

When military personnel are injured or wounded, treatment and transportation occur with such speed that sometimes their gear and personal items never catch up with them. They are often evacuated wearing the same clothing they wore when they were wounded--clothing that is often damaged in action or removed during treatment--and soon find themselves without easy access to basic supplies.

To address this situation, Soldiers' Angels created the First Response Backpacks in partnership with The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and Minimus.biz. The backpacks provide a full set of travel-sized toiletries and accessories (such as toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, shampoo, and soap), an international calling card, and a handmade Blanket of Hope. Each backpack includes clothing specially-designed by Sew Much Comfort to be easily donned by those with serious wounds and to give relief from drafty hospital gowns. We also include a zippered, hooded sweatshirt with the Soldiers' Angels logo. Since the First Response Backpacks program started, this partnership has resulted in the distribution of more than 15,000 backpacks for the wounded.

If you would like to donate any items, please contact Bobbie Turnbaugh at bobbieturn@yahoo.com or 941-531-3825. Or you can send them directly to Soldiers’ Angels.

Slippers* ***PLEASE, no used clothing**

Cards and Letters of Encouragement

T-Shirts, solid grey or black*

Lounge Pajamas *

Hand-held Games CD Players

Snacks and Goodies CDs and DVDs

Personal hygiene items (deodorant, shampoo, etc)

Lip Balm (Chapstick)

Lotions

Backpacks

Bug Repellent

Magazines



I cannot tell you how happy I was to open a bag and find clothes that I could put on and feel human again. The weirdest thing was not getting the clothes, but rather the feeling of being at home again. Over here everything smells “Army.” You can ask any veteran and they will tell you that the military has a certain smell that comes with it. This bag for a few minutes helped me forget about the pain and everything else going on over here and made me feel like I was back at home in Kansas with my wife and kids.

SFC G.

HAPPY CELEBRATIONS TO YOU!!!

Do you have a birthday or anniversary this month? If so, we hope you have a wonderful celebration.
Greetings to:

February Birthdays

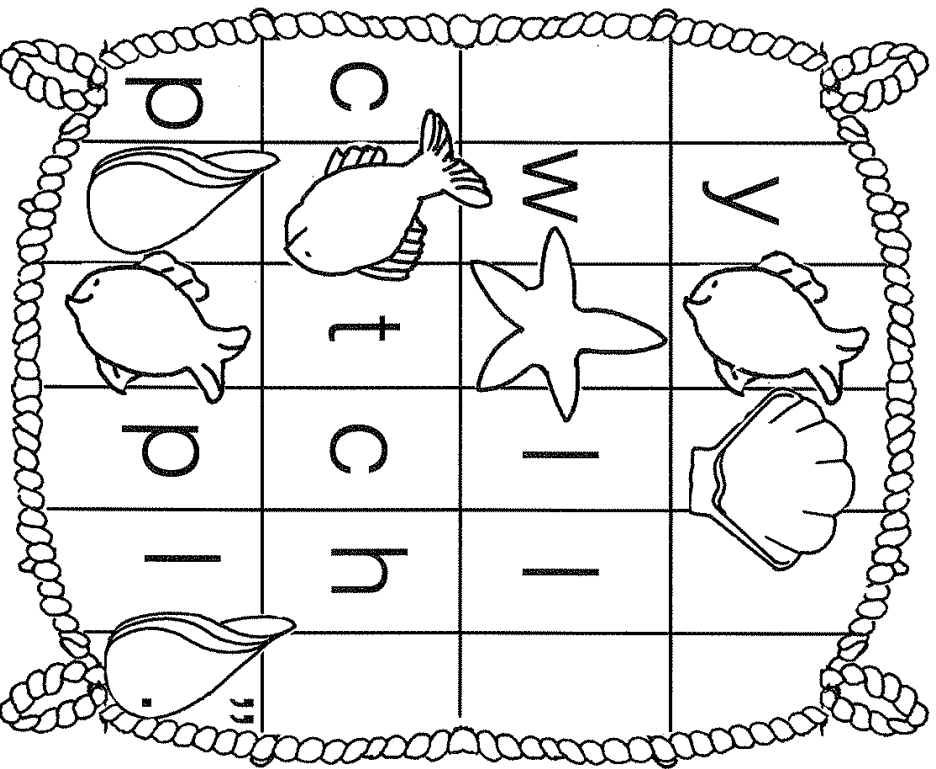
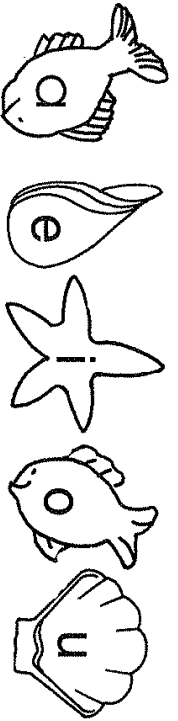
Eckstrom, Andrea	1-Feb
Alcox, Liam	3-Feb
Dowling Jr., Joseph	4-Feb
Larsen, Kent	4-Feb
Eiken, Irene	5-Feb
Polk, arthur	5-Feb
Schaus, Arnold	6-Feb
Wells, Roy	6-Feb
Fulkerson, Perry	7-Feb
LaFontaine, Jean	7-Feb
DeMotte, Emily	8-Feb
Seminick, Jessica	8-Feb
Quaid, Bill	9-Feb
Eldredge, Martha	12-Feb
Howell, Rebecca	12-Feb
Daly, Beatrice	15-Feb
Thomas, Bret	15-Feb
Vogler, Harold	15-Feb
Hahn, Daniel	16-Feb
Lestock, Linda	16-Feb
Bagge, Margaret	18-Feb
Moyer, Marianne	18-Feb
Nicholson, Ellen	18-Feb
Torke, Mary	19-Feb
Turnbeaugh, Bobbie	19-Feb
Welke, Lowell	21-Feb
Hitchcock, Matthew	24-Feb
Murphy, Meghan	24-Feb
Heuss, Vanessa	27-Feb

February Anniversaries

Bob and Marcia Dryjowicz	2/2/1984
George & Rev. Ellen Cross	2/9/1986
Ron and Leslie Silver	2/11/1983
Bob & Janet Gallagher	2/18/1967
Roy & Cindy Wells	2/25/1994

Jesus told Simon, "From now on ..."

Use the puzzle pieces code to finish what Jesus said.



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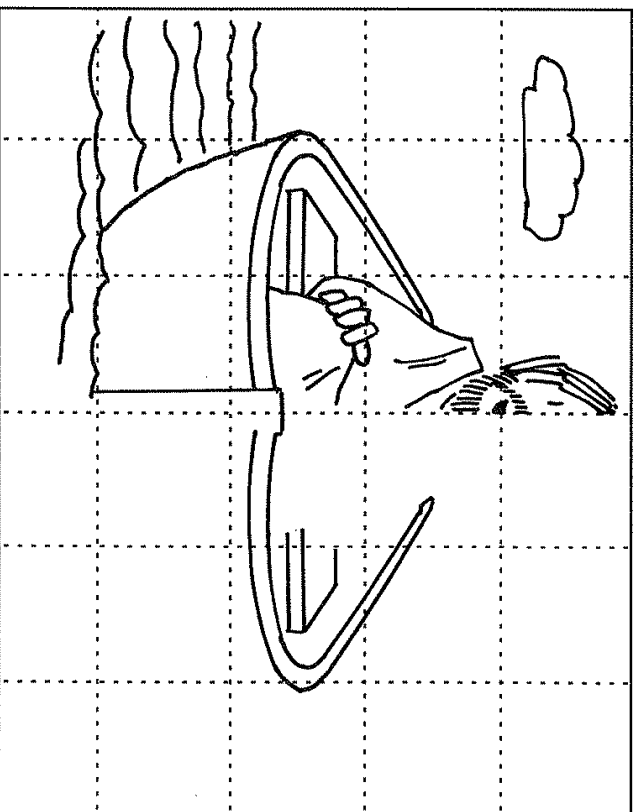
Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 3-6

February 7, 2010 • Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

Jesus taught the people from Simon's boat.



Finish the drawing. Add some fish in the water.

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1</i> 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<i>2</i> 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	<i>3</i> 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Team Night	<i>4</i> 4:00 PM Brownies 6:45 PM By Grace 7:00 PM BUDS 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<i>5</i> 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Church Services 8, 9:15 and 10:45 SOUPER Bowl Sunday Collection Subs for Super Bowl Pick Up Youth Carraba's Sale	<i>8</i> 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<i>9</i> 11:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilting 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	<i>10</i> 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM High School Youth Dinner 6:30 PM Youth Group	<i>11</i> 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 6:45 PM By Grace 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<i>12</i> 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> Church Services 8, 9:15 and 10:45 No Sunday School SCRIP Order Due Youth Carraba's Sale	<i>15</i> 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<i>16</i> 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	<i>17</i> 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	<i>18</i> 4:00 PM Brownies 6:45 PM By Grace 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<i>19</i> 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Church Services 8, 9:15 and 10:45 Youth Carraba's Sale	<i>22</i> 1:00 PM Mah Jong 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<i>23</i> 1:00 PM Quilting 7:00 PM Promises - AA Mtg	<i>24</i> 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM AGC Board Meeting 7:00 PM Lenten Service	<i>25</i> 6:45 PM By Grace 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<i>26</i> 6:00 PM Journeys - AA Mtg	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Carraba's Lunch Church Services 8, 9:15 and 10:45						

Living Lord Lutheran Church
11120 State Road 70 East
Bradenton, FL 34202
(941) 753-9365

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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.