



Living Lord's Voice

Living Lord Lutheran
Church

Volume 25, Number 1

January 2012



From the Pastor's Desk:

The New Year is here! It has been a great and productive year and the year 2012 is going to be even better.

I am real excited about small group ministries both at home and at church, like the men's group. I am excited about the number of people active in bible studies. Between small groups and existing bible studies we have many options for spiritual nourishment. And I will speak more about spiritual nourishment in just a minute.

For now, I want you to consider nourishment from a strictly physiological point of view. Many of us are aware of what happens when one gets plenty of nourishment but not enough exercise.

Now consider this. What happens when an athlete gets plenty of exercise and no nourishment? This path is equally destructive.

Moving from the physiological to the theological, one may see the work of the church being similar to putting one's faith into exercise. We have many opportunities to put our faith into exercise, whether it be serving on a team, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir of *By Grace*, serving on church council or working on the church property.

If you are putting your faith into exercise, are you receiving spiritual nourishment as well? If you are doing the Lord's work and depleting your energy, where are you getting replenishment? I want to see all of the hard working members of Living Lord Lutheran Church, who are currently not a part of a small group or bible study, join a small group, bible study or both. And that is because I want to prevent you from the burn out.

May this year be one of spiritual nourishment and fulfillment.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jeff



A Message from the Council President...

SINCERITY

For the New Year, I will try very hard to follow the poem of the above word, "Sincerity".

I wish I were big enough honestly

To admit all my shortcomings:

Brilliant enough to accept praise

Without it making me arrogant;

Tall enough to tower above deceit;

Strong enough to welcome criticism;

Compassionate enough

To understand human frailties;

Wise enough to recognize my mistakes;

Staunch enough to stand by my friends;

Human enough to be thoughtful of my neighbor, and

Righteous enough to be devoted to the love of God.

Wishing all a blessed 2012.

Randy Hanson, Council President

**The Living Lord
Lutheran Church**

**Annual
Congregational
Meeting will be
held on Sunday,
January 29th at
noon.**

As we look to the new year, we have many things we can do to improve our physical and mental well-being:

- * Get enough sleep
- * Get 10-20 minutes in the sun daily (always use sunscreen)
- * Have regular health exams
- * Write a medical history for yourself to include past as well as present surgeries, medications and conditions.
- * Extend yourself to others: (neighbors, friends, and those needing company or help)
- * Volunteer at your local library, Our Daily Bread, All God's Children Pre-school, Living Lord Lutheran Church or go to volunteermatch.org for other local opportunities.
- * Get out and about:

Attend Farmer's Markets getting fresh air and fresh produce.


Learn about other local events and activities daily in your local newspaper.

If you find yourself in any need of support, please call the church office or contact one of your Parish Nurses.

As you take care of yourself: resolve to let go of grudges and forgive...And then let "gentleness, kindness, temperance, goodness, faith, longsuffering, meekness, love, joy and peace" be your aim Galatians 5:22

Take care and God bless,

Faith Community Nurses



April 15, 2012

LLLC Gala 25th Anniversary Celebration

Commitment Sunday – January 29, 2012

Commit to the Lord Jesus Christ

Reminder: -as we move through this busy, and sometimes hectic Christmas season into the relative calm of January, take time to reflect on the “giving information” on the chart and the tabular data that has been displayed in the gathering space in front of the sanctuary since the end of November entitled “*First fruits or leftovers.*”

Ask yourself these questions:

Where am I on this chart?

Where could I be?

If you haven't looked introspectively at the chart, it will remain in the gathering space the remainder of December and all of January.

Then take time to have a conversation with God, who has blessed you throughout your life with your time, with your talents, with your treasure. Then, prayerfully ponder the answer you receive.

The Stewardship Team

Church Directory

Don't Miss the Final Picture Taking Day!

As previously announced, we will be publishing a new Living Lord Lutheran Church directory early in 2012. Several members have taken individual photographs in November and December. For those of you that missed the previous dates, the final date to have your pictures taken:

January 22 – After each Service

The pictures will be taken on a volunteer's digital camera, so if you like your picture, you can make a donation to the Youth's Camp Scholarship account, and we will provide you with a copy of your picture via email or on your transfer device. You may print your picture at home or take it to your favorite developer.

If you have any questions, please call Bea Daly on 941-751-3415.

**Revisit the Joy and Wonder of Childhood by
volunteering to spend time with the children of**

All God's Children Preschool

Some examples of volunteer opportunities include:

Talking about your Job or Hobbies

Sharing your Talents or Abilities

Sharing a Special (child friendly) Family Pet

Free Style Story Telling (children's literature or Bible stories)

Reading Stories (children's literature or Bible stories)

Singing Songs

Leading/Assisting with a Special Art or Craft Project

Sharing your Love of Gardening/Watching Things Grow

It's endless..... Sharing opportunities are only limited by your
imagination!

One time visits or scheduled daily/weekly/monthly visits
appreciated.

Volunteer as much or as little time as you would enjoy committing!

If you have any talents or interests that you would like to share
with the children, please let us know by calling Jeri or Crystal in
the preschool office between 9:00 and 1:00pm at 739-2776 or
email us at agc@livinglordfl.org! We would love to hear from you.

All volunteers welcome and appreciated.

We do have a few specific areas that volunteers are needed. Our
specific needs include:

Music and/or Movement

Gardening

Grant writing

Media Specialist - to increase public awareness of AGC, photograph
and publish "special events" for community
awareness and the "VOICE".

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2012
at 3pm**

**"Music for a Sunday
Afternoon"**

**Presented By
Chancel Choir,
"By Grace" Praise Band
& Chime Choir
Plus More!**

**DIABETIC? -
PREDIABETIC?**

Do you have a map to man-
age your diabetes? Have you
ever seen one? Sign up for a
free diabetes care mapping
program presented by Faith
Community Nurses (FCN) on
January 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2012
from 10:30am to noon at our
church. Call Karen Hansing,
RN at 941-748-5806 or De
Olson, RN at 941-896-6576
to sign-up. (Spouses or sig-
nificant others are also wel-
come).

WALL NEWS

“Where God leaves his mark!”



Danielle Tomasso

Danielle is a 17-year-old Junior at Lakewood Ranch High School. One of her favorite things to do is play volleyball both for school and other travel leagues. When Danielle grows up she wants to be a physical therapist. She is really looking forward to going to college soon. Danielle’s role model is Joey Baar because he is the strongest, bravest little boy she has ever met.



Shopkeepers Nancy Holt (far left) and Rae Ann Dowling (second from left) serve tea to Mary Jane Coulter and Lauren Horn at the tea and spice shop.

“A Night in Bethlehem” is a night to remember

A big Thank You to all those who volunteered their time and talents to make “A Night in Bethlehem” such a success in our inaugural year. Our expectations were far exceeded as we had more than 300 people sign the census.

Plans are already well underway in planning our next Night in Bethlehem event in 2012.

WHAT DOES WALL MEAN?

WALL is an acronym and it stands for Wild About Living Lord. A special thanks to Quentin Murphy for the design of the t-shirts and to Michele Bohlmann for the phrase, “Where God leaves his mark!”

January Events

January 8
High School youth group
12:00-2:00,
\$2

January 15
8th grade and up
Girls only
12:00-2:00,
\$2

January 22
Middle School youth group
12:00-2:00,
\$2

January 29
Middle and High Ice Skating
1:00-3:00

Living Lord Lutheran Church

December 13, 201

Council Minutes

Members present: Randy Hanson, Tom Widmann, Pastor Jeff, Sue Farence, Ernie Ovitz, Bob Daly, John Moyer, Mel Lestock & Cheryl Graham.

Absent: Todd Bohlmann, & Randy Griffith

Visitors: Bea Daly, Jim Lustgarten and Al Kersten

President called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Pastor Jeff opened with a prayer.

Reports:

The council minutes were approved.

The treasurer's report was discussed and approved.

Bea Daly addressed the Council on the Policies & Guidelines for Youth Ministries that she and Jim Gross wrote for the protection of our youth, volunteers and staff. A few changes were made and council approved the guidelines. A copy will be with the minutes.

Al Kersten delivered his plan for the 2012 Stewardship Drive. There was a lengthy discussion on the six phases he recommends.

Youth:

Ernie Ovitz gave the report on the youth. Their upcoming events and future plans. A copy will be with the minutes.

All God's Children:

Bob Daly gave a report on AGC. The Christmas pageant will be this Wednesday at 11:00 am, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there.

AGC is looking into grants to help the school with their new financial needs. The school will have a deficit in 2012 of \$28,707.00.

Old Business:

The sign company has let the church know they received the permit from the County. The ditch can be dug for the electric and soon we will have the sign.

New Business:

The Church council approved the Youth Director to have a Sam's card.

The council spent the rest of the meeting going over the budget.

After extensive discussion,

Sue will make suggested revisions and redistribute proposed budget.

The Church Council adjourned at 9:50 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Graham

Cc: All reports with minutes.

	Sunday Attendance			November 2011	
	Sunday	8:00	9:15	10:45	Total Attendance
November 6	57	133	79	269	
November 13	50	128	59	237	
November 20	53	109	85	247	
November 27	43	117	89	249	
Average Per Service	51	122	78	251	

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals, held at LLLC on October 1, was a resounding success. The event brought together over 40 dogs and cats and their owners and families for a special blessing by Pastor Jeff Gross. It was an uplifting experience and a lot of fun to watch the dogs, and a few slightly nervous cats, mingle and play with each other. The Humane Society of Manatee County and the Southeastern Guide Dogs were on hand to talk about their various projects. Beautiful Ambassador dogs and a special care puppy in training from the Southeastern organization were much admired by our visitors. Both organizations received generous cash donations, and so did our Youth Group which served hot dogs and cookies. The Humane Society received donations of over 100 different product items, many that were donated during our two week donation drive, as well as \$250 in cash. Our special thanks to our LLLC volunteers from the Outreach Team and all of our other Church ministries who helped put this event together. Individuals covered the cost for various items such as publicity flyers and signs, hot dogs, soft drinks etc. The publicity efforts certainly resulted in the big attendance and much to our pride the Herald Tribune featured a follow-up article with photos of the Blessing of the Animals. Finally, a big thanks to Pastor Gross who enthusiastically supported us and seemed to enjoy himself as much as everyone else. After blessing each animal we passed out a printed special animal prayer by our Pastor to each attendant.

The Sunshine Ministry is a care giving ministry of Living Lord Lutheran Church. If a member of the congregation is in short-term need of assistance with such things as meal preparation, light tasks, transportation, shopping, etc..., please call the church office at 941-753-9365 or Marie Sankowski at 941-752-0967 for assistance.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome for this ministry. If you are able to help in any way, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call Marie.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch ladies enjoyed a lovely Christmas party at the home of Carol and Larry Eichert on Dec. 15. Covered dishes of many varieties were enjoyed plus great desserts. After our luncheon, we sang Christmas carols with Trish Black at the piano. A lovely time enjoyed by all.

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, January 12, at the new restaurant in the River Club clubhouse, called the Caddyshack. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. at church or either directly to the restaurant by noon. The sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex after the New Year. We welcome all ladies of the church plus friends to join us.

HELPING HANDS FOR THE HUNGRY

Have you ever gone without food? Many people in our area go hungry everyday. We are asking that you fill a grocery bag and return to the church by January 29. Bags can be picked up at the church on January 15 and January 22. Each bag has a suggested list of foods.

May God bless each of you for your generous donations to "Our Daily Bread" and "Meals on Wheels." If you have any questions regarding this project please call Elaine Seamon at 941-351-0863.

~ January 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Church Services 8, 915 and 1045	2 Happy New Year! Office closed Bible Study 1030am Mah Jong 1pm	3 Team Night 7pm Promises AA Mtg 7pm	4 Bible Study 1pm Youth Group 630pm	5 By Grace Rehearsal 615pm Chimes Rehearsal 645pm BUDS 7pm Choir Rehearsal 745pm	6 Journeys AA Mtg 6pm	7
8 Church Services 8, 915 and 1045 Scrip order Due HS Youth Group 12-2	9 Bible Study 1030am Mah Jong 1pm Boy Scouts 7pm	10 Ladies Bible Study 11am Sewing 1pm Council Meeting 7pm Promises AA Mtg 7pm	11 Bible Study 1pm Youth Group 630pm	12 Lunch Bunch 11:30am By Grace Rehearsal 615pm Chimes Rehearsal 645pm Choir Rehearsal 745pm	13 Journeys AA Mtg 6pm	14 Work Day 8am
15 Church Services 8, 915 and 1045 8th grade girls 12-2pm	16 Bible Study 1030am Mah Jong 1pm Boy Scouts 7pm	17 Promises AA Mtg 7pm	18 Bible Study 1pm Youth Group 630pm	19 By Grace Rehearsal 615pm Chimes Rehearsal 645pm Choir Rehearsal 745pm	20 Journeys AA Mtg 6pm	21
22 Church Services 8, 915 and 1045 MS Youth 12-2pm	23 Bible Study 1030am Mah Jong 1pm Boy Scouts 7pm	24 Sewing 1pm Promises AA Mtg 7pm	25 Bible Study 1pm Congregational Care Mtg 2pm Youth Group 630pm	26 By Grace Rehearsal 615pm Chimes Rehearsal 645pm Choir Rehearsal 745pm	27 Journeys AA Mtg 6pm	28
29 Church Services 8, 915 and 1045 Annual Congregational Meeting - 12pm Youth Ice Skating	30 Bible Study 1030am Mah Jong 1pm Boy Scouts 7pm	31 Promises AA Mtg 7pm				

Living Lord Celebrations!

We wish all these people a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary during January 2012!

BIRTHDAYS

Baar, Mary Jo	30-Jan
Bernard, Vidra	14-Jan
Black, Dan	27-Jan
Bohlmann, Todd	4-Jan
Bottiger, Augie	17-Jan
Burner, Matthew	17-Jan
Coulter, Carson	2-Jan
Coulter, Mary Jane	31-Jan
Cross, Andrew	11-Jan
Davis, Jack	25-Jan
DeRosia, BJ	24-Jan
DeRosia, Duane	16-Jan
Dowling, Benjamin	13-Jan
Eiken, Henry	25-Jan
Frohling, Al	22-Jan
Gallagher, Bob	26-Jan
Harkins, Shirley	1-Jan
Holst, Douglas	6-Jan
Johansen, Michael	23-Jan
Johnson, Mary Lee	10-Jan
Kohring, Bob	5-Jan
Martinsen, James	6-Jan
Miller, Margaret	14-Jan
Morrissey, Lori	29-Jan
Neynaber, Cliff	12-Jan
Neynaber, Cleo	3-Jan
Pinsonneault, Wayne	30-Jan
Quaid, Mary	10-Jan
Rupp, Sheryl	31-Jan
Ryan, Annabel	19-Jan
Schillinger, Jennifer	19-Jan
Smith, Randee	30-Jan
Stone, Sharon	7-Jan
Tetmeyer, Madelyn	17-Jan
Tomasso, Sue	15-Jan
Trompke, Alek	5-Jan
Trompke, Alyssa	11-Jan
Weiss, Don	21-Jan
Wells, Cindy	7-Jan
Whitman, Shirley	1-Jan
Williams, Ursula	29-Jan
Zang, Caroline	15-Jan

ANNIVERSARIES

Roger A & Linda M Henkelmann	1/27/1968
Herbert & Mary Hunter	1/22/1967
Steve & Mari Scituro	1/16/1988
Michael & Bobbie Turnbeaugh	1/1/1982
Carol J & Leland Whitfield	1/2/1976



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

1st Sunday of the month in the hallway by the water fountain.



PROPERTY WORK DAY

Come out on Saturday, January 14 and help spruce up the church grounds.

If you can't help this month, there is a property work day on the second Saturday of every month.

Treasurer's Report
by Sue Farence

The total net financial position for Living Lord Lutheran Church as of November 30, 2011 is:

	<u>Jan - Nov 2011</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Overview			
Church Receipts	316,825.44	317,384.00	-558.56
Church Disbursements	<u>318,225.05</u>	<u>342,524.84</u>	<u>-24,299.79</u>
Net Church Financial Position	-1,399.61	-25,140.84	23,741.23
AGC Re- ceipts	137,864.03	157,130.00	-19,265.97
AGC Disbursements	<u>157,475.19</u>	<u>158,996.00</u>	<u>-1,520.81</u>
Net AGC Financial Position	-19,611.16	-1,866.00	-17,745.16
Total LLLC Receipts	454,689.47	474,514.00	-19,824.53
Total LLLC Disbursements	<u>475,700.24</u>	<u>501,520.84</u>	<u>-25,820.60</u>
Net total LLLC Financial Position	-21,010.77	-27,006.84	5,996.07

Year to date expenditures exceeded receipts by \$21,000 (down from \$22,000 last month) with the bulk of it due to AGC. Enrollment in AGC is down from last year's and funds received from the State has been reduced.

AGC has informed the council that it will be unable to cover the 2012 mortgage payments for our education building as they have in the past years. This means the church will have to cover this \$25,000 expense for 2012. This has serious budget implications as it can be seen above, with only one month left, the church's receipts did not increase to meet our budget disbursements. We will therefore have to decrease the church's disbursements even lower or continue to take money from reserves to cover expenses unless additional money is received.

Other items of note from the Restricted Funds report:

Money available in:

 Planting the Seeds \$14,960.78

Mortgage paydown receipts in 2010 \$ 4,377.00

Mortgage paydown receipts in 2011 \$ 5,453.00

The complete monthly report is available in the office for your review.

Ask The Weatherman

By Bill Mork, Meteorologist

Is the hurricane season finally over? The 2011 Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1 and ended on November 30. Out of 19 tropical storms, 7 became hurricanes, and 3 became major hurricanes. The season featured an above average number of tropical storms with a near normal number of major hurricanes. First was Tropical Storm Arlene, developing on June 28, while the last was Tropical Storm Sean, dissipating on November 12. The most intense storm, Ophelia, was a Cape Verde-type hurricane that became a Category 4 hurricane at an unusually high latitude. The season's first hurricane, Irene, was a powerful Category 3 hurricane that made landfall in North Carolina as Category 1, causing significant damage and record flooding in the Northeast United States. The season tied 2010, 1995, and 1887 for the third highest number of tropical storms.

Do we have La Nina conditions this winter? During November 2011, below average sea surface temperatures associated with La Nina conditions continued across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean. A majority of the atmospheric models predict a weak or moderate strength La Nina to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter and then gradually weaken after peaking during the December to January period. With La Nina conditions during this winter, there is an increased chance of above average temperatures in the southeastern and south central U.S. and below average temperatures over the western and north central U.S. Also, drier than average conditions are more likely across the southern tier of the U.S. while above average precipitation is favored across the northern tier of states, excluding New England.

Does our recent weather in Florida reflect La Nina? Yes it does. Florida and local rainfall was below average in November with 1.10 inches in Parrish, 55 percent of average, and 1.06 inches at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, 53 percent of average. Rainfall the first half of December was well below average with only 0.19 inches in Parrish and 0.14 inches at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. The average temperature for the first half of December was 68.2 degrees at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport which was 3.6 degrees above average. Long-term drought conditions still continue over North Florida with 6 percent of the Panhandle under an extreme drought.

Is there less snow and cold across the U.S. this winter? What a difference a year makes as far as who will likely see a white Christmas this year compared to last year. In 2010, about 50 percent of the country had a white Christmas, much more than is expected this year. At press time in the middle of December, only about 25 percent of the country has snow on the ground. Some of the big Midwestern cities with a white Christmas last year and none likely this year include Chicago, Indianapolis, Detroit, St Louis, and Minneapolis. There was a lot more cold air established across much of the country last year. The second factor this year is the main storm track from the Southwest into the Central Plains, favoring snow cover in the Southern Rockies, Arizona, and New Mexico.

How is the Florida orange crop doing this year? Florida's orange crop will be 2 percent larger than the October forecast because of bigger fruit size, the Department of Agriculture reports. Summer rains and warm weather have favored fruit development.

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Youth Director, Kristen Hitchcock: 407-257-2068

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