



Living Lord's Voice

Living Lord Lutheran Church
(941) 753-9365
www.livinglordfl.org

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Love for Enemies

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
Matthew 22:43-44

Some of you may remember when Valentine's Day was referred to as St. Valentine's Day. So who is this St. Valentine and what does he have to do with Love?

There is a legend that St. Valentine was a Christian martyr who lived in Rome during the reign of Claudius II. While he was in jail for his faith, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter after he healed her of her blindness. The legend continues with a note that he wrote to her, who is simply referred to as "beloved," and ended that note with "your Valentine."

There is another legend that Emperor Claudius II liked Valentine and desperately tried to convert him from his Christian faith back to the pagan faith of the Romans. Not only did Valentine refuse, but he tried to convert Claudius II to Christianity. Valentine died at the hands of an enemy that Valentine loved. He died trying to save the mortal soul of his enemy.

Romantic love is wonderful. We celebrate this love as the gift from God that it is. But is loving the loveable really that remarkable?

Jesus pushes us, just as he pushed Valentine, to love our enemy. This love is not easy and requires much more from us than any other kind of love, whether it be between family, friend or spouse. It is this kind of love that changes the world.

Let us therefore follow Valentine's example and love.

Blessings,
Pastor Jeff

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Ash Wednesday Service

February 22 at
7:00 pm

Lent Services

February 29, March 4,
11, 18 and 25
7:00 pm

Palm Sunday

April 1

Easter

April 8

Twelve months ago I was elected your church council president with many concerns about how would I lead a membership of persons who had been members of Living Lord Lutheran much longer than I. Even though I have served in several different Lutheran churches in leadership positions I had always been a member much longer than I have been at Living Lord. What I found was a whole bunch of persons lending support and providing much information about the history and where we should be heading to expand our identity in the Lakewood Ranch area. Former council presidents and council members have given so much great advice that it would be hard for anyone to not feel happy and proud to be a part of leading in the progress of letting people know that we are a Christ centered church. Do you know how great you are in serving our Lord? I have learned how great you are this year and very proud and happy to have been able to serve as a servant to you, members of Living Lord Lutheran Church.

God loves you and so do I

Randy Hanson

It's Souper Bowl Time Again!

February 5 is not only a meeting of the top two football teams in the country, it's when our generosity meets the needs of the hungry in the world! And everyone wins!

Please plan to raid your piggy banks, penny jars and space between the sofa cushions and make it a long pass with those coins for a touchdown in our soup pot! Traditionally on 'Souper Bowl' Sunday we collect miscellaneous coins but this year the need is even greater. So please consider writing a check or at least dropping some folding money into the pot. If you make your check to Living Lord, we will combine all funds received into one check and send it to ELCA World Hunger. Please help us make it a great big check!

And may your favorite team win too!



Save the Date!

April 15, 2012

LLLC Gala 25th

Anniversary Celebration

More details next month!

<u>Sunday Attendance</u>			<u>December 2011</u>	
Sunday	8:00	9:15	10:45	Total Attendance
December 4	46	106	80	232
December 11	46	94	98	238
December 18	39	166	104	309
December 25	30	43	45	118
Average Per Service	40	102	82	224
December 24	146	192	123	461

THE YEAR IN SCRIP

Thank you to everyone who supported our scrip program by purchasing cards during 2011. With your support, we sold over \$17,000 worth of cards. A special thanks to our scrip volunteers, Cheryl Graham, Mary Torke, and Denise Gross, who were at the scrip window every Sunday to assist the congregation with purchases and orders.

For those not familiar with the scrip program:

--We sell gift cards at face value (face value column)

--We receive a percentage of the face value from the retailers. It's a different percentage for each retailer so we report the monthly average percentage (average % column)

--We pay a flat rate shipping cost to get the cards (shipping cost column)

--The total paid is the amount we send to the scrip company. It is the discounted cost of the cards plus the shipping cost

--Our revenue (revenue column) is the amount we make on the sales, after shipping.

You will notice that there are no numbers for the months of January, March, June, and August. Our sales for those months were low, so to avoid a loss to the program for the month (remember, we have to pay a shipping cost), those month's orders were held and combined with the order for the next month.

The total revenue generated by the program, including weekly sales at the window as well as the monthly orders, was \$601.97 for the year.

New Member Invitation

With joy, we will be receiving new members on **Sunday April 22nd** at all services. There will be two classes on **Wednesday** evenings **April 11th and 18th** at 6:30. If you are interested in becoming a member of Living Lord, we will need you to fill out a "New Member Information Sheet". When completed, return it to the church office for review. To receive one, please contact the church office at 752-9365 or Pat Kunkel at 748-6669. If there are any questions please feel free to speak to Pastor Jeff or Pat. We look forward to you joining our church family!

The Results are in and the Winner is---

The contest to name our two Fellowship Halls ended December 31, 2011. An anonymous selection committee reviewed the many entries and after much discussion selected two entries submitted by Tina Starnier. The new hall will be named the Sanctuary Hall and the old fellowship hall will be called the Activities Hall. In the words of the Selection Committee, "These names were selected on the basis of hall location, function, brevity, and ease of remembering their names." The new names were approved by the Church Council at its January 10, 2012 meeting.

Congratulations to Tina and all the others who participated in this fun exercise. Appropriate signs will be placed over the entrance doors as reminders. If you plan to conduct a meeting or some other type of activity, please specify which Hall you will be using.

Bob Daly

Chime Choir

The Chimes Choir will have a few weeks of rehearsal off. We will resume February 9 as we prepare for our portion of the Musicale at Living Lord on Sunday, February 12, at 3:00. Anyone who would like to be part of this choir, please call Louise, at (941) 727-1878.

Tampa Bay Lightning names Matthew Baar “A Community Hero”

On Sunday, January 15th, Matthew Baar went to his first professional hockey game as he cheered on the Tampa Bay Lightning in their game against the Pittsburgh Penguins. Before the puck dropped, Baar was the real winner as he received a \$50,000 donation from the Lightning Foundation and their Community Heroes program for his “Change for Change” campaign. The money will be divided among All Children’s Hospital and Children’s Dream fund, as both organizations have played a vital role in the medical treatment of his brother, Joey.

While many of us in the congregation are familiar with the medical challenges that Joey has faced over the last few years, Matthew has been hard at work collecting loose coins in the hopes of providing Joey and other children under treatment at All Children’s Hospital with electronic games and toys. Matthew originally set a goal of \$2500, but quickly exceeded that through the generosity of friends and family.

In addition to his “Change for Change’ campaign, Matthew is in the process of starting a “Change for Dreams” campaign to benefit Children’s Dream Fund, an organization that once granted Joey’s wish to spend a week at a theme park. Baar hopes to raise enough money to give at least 3 other children the opportunity to have a similar wish granted.



February 12 – 26th 2012, has been designated by Living Lord Lutheran Church’s Outreach team as the dates for support of EGLISE LUTHERIENNE D’HAITI (ELH) which is the Lutheran Church of Haiti.

ELH has proved to be a foundation of hope for Haitians since the devastating earthquake two years ago by serving the people in the communities where ELH’s 14 congregations are located.

A flier and gift envelop will be enclosed with the February 12th bulletin. This flier will update you on the activities and programs ELH has, and is, providing to the people of Haiti. (The envelopes can be placed in the offering or returned to the church office anytime between February 12th and 26th. Checks are to be made payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church.)

Pastor Joseph Livenson Lauvanus, the Haiti Task Force, the Florida Bahamas Synod, and most of all the people of Haiti appreciate the outstanding support of Living Lord Lutheran Church for ELH.

As always, 100% of your gift goes directly to serve the Eglise Lutherienne D’Haiti congregations.

Thank you and blessing to all.
Ellen Weiss

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Quentin John Murphy

Quentin is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Sarasota Christian School. Some of his favorite things to do is run track, draw, and watch TV. Quentin is most looking forward to learning how to drive and attend college. Quentin says his role models are his parents.

WALL NEWS

“Where God leaves his mark!”



VBS 2012 is coming!!!!

June 11-15, 9:00am-12:00pm

Keep watching for more details.

Sweet Tomatoes Fundraiser

The youth group will be hosting a fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes February 20-24. Please bring your flyer into the Sweet Tomatoes at 5407 University Pkwy. Bradenton, FL 34201 and present it at the time of check out. We will receive 15% of each sale made with our flyer. Sweet Tomatoes does have rules and our flyers can NOT be passed out in the parking lot or vicinity of Sweet Tomatoes or our fundraiser will be voided. Please pass out flyers to your neighbors, friends and coworkers and invite them to dinner. You can even meet up with congregation members on Wednesday February 22 before Ash Wednesday Service. Thank you in advance for your continued support and helping send our youth to summer camp

WHAT DOES WALL MEAN?

I've had a lot of questions recently about the kids and their new youth group shirts. 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!”

February Calendar

5 MS and HS youth group 12:00-2:00

15 Deadline to pay for River Rat Ramble

20-24 Sweet Tomatoes fundraiser

26 MS and HS youth group 12:00-2:00

Future Events

River Rat Ramble
March 3-5

Volleyball Marathon
March 30-31

Deadline to register for Summer Camp
March 7

25th Anniversary Polo shirts

In honor of our church turning 25, the youth group will be selling polo shirts. These polo shirts will be the same as the blue ones we previously sold. This edition will be red and have “25th Anniversary” added to it. The polo shirts come in men's and lady's size S-3X. We will be taking pre orders for these shirts at the end of the month so keep watching for more information.

Council Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2012

Members present: Randy Hanson, Ernie Ovitz, Todd Bohlmann, Pastor Jeff, Sue Farence, , Bob Daly, Mel Lestock, Kristen Hitchcock & Cheryl Graham.

Absent: Randy Griffith, John Moyer & Tom Widmann

Visitor: Al Kersten

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

A. Reports:

1. The Council Minutes were approved.
2. The treasurer's report was discussed and approved.

B. All God's Children report:

1. Bob Daly reported that All God's Children has a new student. This makes 39 at this time.
Bob also reported that Tina Starner won the contest for naming the new and old fellowship rooms. The new room will be named Sanctuary Hall, and the old fellowship room will be named Activities Hall. A sign will be above each door.

C. Al Kersten gave his implementation plan for the Stewardship drive. The Council wanted a few changes made to this. The Stewardship drive will start this month.

D. Old Business:

1. The sign is having another delay. The Company was to start on Monday but didn't show up. This is being looked into.
2. The 2012 Church Budget was looked over and finalized. The Council approved the revised budget.

E. New Business:

1. We have 5 church members running for church council this year:
They are: Linda Lustgarten, Shari Medley, Jack Shaw, Dutch Schultze, & Al Kersten.
2. Plans have started for Living Lord's 25th Anniversary. This is going to be held in April.

F. Youth:

1. Kristen reported there are plans for another Super Bowl Sunday. The youth are also going to sell red polo shirts for the 25th Anniversary.

The Council adjourned at 8:10 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Graham

Treasurer's Report

by Sue Farence

The total net financial position for Living Lord Lutheran Church as of December 31, 2011 is:

	Jan - Dec 2011	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Overview			
Church Receipts	349,203.82	358,167.16	-8,963.34
Church Disbursements	346,389.05	371,100.00	-24,710.95
Net Church Financial Position	2,814.77	-12,932.84	15,747.61
AGC Receipts	152,630.66	175,245.00	-22,614.34
AGC Disbursements	170,808.97	175,245.00	-4,436.03
Net AGC Financial Position	-18,178.31	0.00	-18,178.31
Total LLLC Receipts	501,834.48	533,412.16	-31,577.68
Total LLLC Disbursements	517,198.02	546,345.00	-29,146.98
Net total LLLC Financial Position	-15,363.54	-12,932.84	-2,430.70

The church ended the year in a surplus position. However, AGC ended with an \$18,000 deficit.

Other items of note from the Restricted Funds report:

Money available in:

Planting the Seeds \$15,345.78

Mortgage paydown receipts in 2010 \$ 4,377.00

Mortgage paydown receipts in 2011 \$ 5,689.00

The complete monthly report is available in the office for your review and more details in the annual report.

**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!**

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Bible Study 1pm</i> <i>Youth Group 630pm</i> <i>Men's Group 7:30pm</i>	2 <i>Anniversary Mtg 5pm</i> <i>BUDS 7pm</i> <i>By Grace 615pm</i> <i>Choir 745pm</i>	3 <i>Journeys—AA Mtg 6pm</i>	4 <i>1st Communion Class 10:30am</i>
5 <i>Service Times 8, 915 and 1045am</i> <i>HS Youth Grp</i>	6 <i>Bible Study 10:30am</i> <i>Mah Jong 1pm</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7pm</i>	7 <i>Team Night 7pm</i> <i>Promises—AA Mtg 7pm</i>	8 <i>Bible Study 1pm</i> <i>Youth Group 630pm</i> <i>Men's Group 7:30pm</i>	9 <i>Lunch Bunch</i> <i>By Grace 615</i> <i>Chimes 645</i> <i>Choir 745</i>	10 <i>Journeys—AA Mtg 6pm</i>	11 <i>1st Communion Class 10:30am</i>
12 <i>Service Times 8, 915 and 1045am</i> <i>Music Presentation 3pm</i>	13 <i>Bible Study 10:30am</i> <i>Mah Jong 1pm</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7pm</i>	14 <i>Council Mtg 7pm</i> <i>Promises—AA Mtg 7pm</i>	15 <i>Bible Study 1pm</i> <i>Youth Group 630pm</i> <i>Men's Group 7:30pm</i>	16 <i>By Grace 615</i> <i>Chimes 645</i> <i>Choir 745</i>	17 <i>Faith Community Nursing Mtg</i> <i>Journeys—AA Mtg 6pm</i>	18
19 <i>Service Times 8, 915 and 1045am</i> <i>First Communion</i>	20 <i>Bible Study 10:30am</i> <i>Mah Jong 1pm</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7pm</i> <i>Sweet Tomatoes</i>	21 <i>Promises—AA Mtg 7pm</i>	22 <i>Bible Study 1pm</i> <i>Youth Group 630pm</i> <i>Men's Group 7:30pm</i>	23 <i>By Grace 615</i> <i>Chimes 645</i> <i>Choir 745</i>	24 <i>Journeys—AA Mtg 6pm</i>	25 <i>Choir Festival Harvest United Methodist Church 7pm</i>
26 <i>Service Times 8, 915 and 1045am</i> <i>MS Youth Group</i>	27 <i>Bible Study 10:30am</i> <i>Mah Jong 1pm</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7pm</i>	28 <i>Promises—AA Mtg 7pm</i>	29 <i>Bible Study 1pm</i> <i>Youth Group 630pm</i> <i>Men's Group 7:30pm</i>			

Living Lord Celebrations!

We wish all these people a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary during February 2011!

BIRTHDAYS

Alcox, Liam	3-Feb
Bagge, Margaret	18-Feb
Daly, Beatrice	15-Feb
Dowling Jr., Joseph	4-Feb
Dryjowicz, Marcia	29-Feb
Eckstrom, Andrea	1-Feb
Eiken, Irene	5-Feb
Eldredge, Martha	12-Feb
Ganshirt, Linda	20-Feb
Hahn, Daniel	16-Feb
Hart, Carol	3-Feb
Heuss, Vanessa	27-Feb
Hitchcock, Matthew	24-Feb
Howell, Rebecca	12-Feb
LaFontaine, Jean	7-Feb
Larsen, Kent	4-Feb
Lestock, Linda	16-Feb
Moyer, Marianne	18-Feb
Murphy, Meghan	24-Feb
Nicholson, Ellen	18-Feb
Otterness, Alyssa	9-Feb
Polk, arthur	5-Feb
Quaid, Bill	9-Feb
Root, Morgan	7-Feb
Schaus, Arnold	6-Feb
Seminick, Jessica	8-Feb
Thomas, Bret	15-Feb
Torke, Mary	19-Feb
Turnbeaugh, Bobbie	19-Feb
Vogler, Harold	15-Feb
Welke, Lowell	21-Feb
Wells, Roy	6-Feb

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

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch ladies met January 12 at the Cad-dyshack restaurant. We all had a delightful lunch along with fellowship.

Our next gathering will be Thursday, February 9 at Lee Roy Selmon's restaurant. We will either meet at church at 11:30 or directly at the restaurant by noon. Sign-up sheet will be posted on the board in the narthex. We welcome all ladies and friends to join us. For more information, call Maggie at the church office, 753-9365.



PROPERTY WORK DAY

**Come out on Saturday, March
12 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.**

LLLC Men's Ministry New Session Starting Up!

Men, we are starting our next session of our Men's Ministry gatherings with a new DVD series entitled "Forgotten God", which deals with our neglect of including the Holy Spirit in our faith lives. Our prayers and spiritual lives regularly address God and Jesus, but do we include or think about the Holy Spirit, and it's place in our lives. This 7-session DVD series is intended to help us rediscover the Holy Spirit's power in our lives. This series is the product of, and led by Francis Chan, a nationally recognized speaker and pastor, who founded and nurtured one of the largest churches in

California. Pastor Chan is married, with four children, and is a compelling speaker and Christian writer. Pastor Chan believes in and teaches about "what the Bible says, and about us really living our lives that way"! Come and join us for this interesting series of DVD

presentations and discussions. Sessions are facilitated by Bill Musser, and will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm beginning on 2/1/12.

When you see our new members be sure to say "hello" to Tim and Paula Cornell. They were both born and raised in Oshkosh, WI but are now full time residents of FL. They were high school sweethearts and have been married for nearly 38 years. They have 2 grown children, one granddaughter and another grandchild due in the fall. Paula is a retired first-grade teacher and Tim works full time as a financial planner with Mass Mutual. They enjoy walking, biking, reading, their dog, Oreo, and golfing. They are avid packer fans!! **Welcome Tim and Paula!!**



Blood pressure screenings were conducted on Sunday, January 15 in the hallway by the water fountain. The number of people taking advantage of this service is increasing. Thirty nine persons took advantage of this service in both December and January.

Karen Hansing and De Olson attended a Diabetes Training Session on October 6th at the Carillon Outpatient Center in St. Petersburg. They received teaching tools to facilitate a four session Diabetes Education Program at LLLC. The training was conducted in January with eight members participating. Supplies are provided by MERCK Pharmaceutical and there is a large map for each of the four classes. Titles of the four classes are 1) On the Road to Better Managing Your Diabetes 2) Diabetes and Healthy Eating 3) Monitoring Your Blood Glucose 4) Continuing Your Journey with Diabetes.

There is a bulletin board in the Sanctuary Fellowship hall with health education information. Please stop and read it when you have a few moments.

Our February FCN Board meeting will be 1:30 pm on Friday the 17th in the Activities Fellowship Hall.

We have visited some members in homes, nursing homes and hospitals in response to referrals from Pastor Jeff and other members. Please tell us when you know of a member to be visited.

How cold was it in early January? Parrish had low temperatures of 26 on January 4 and 28 on January 5. Other low temperatures in the area on January 4 include 18 at Brooksville, 19 at Crystal River, 21 at Zephyrhills, 24 at Valrico, 25 at Myakka City, 26 at Arcadia, 30 at Lakeland, 31 at MacDill AFB, and 32 at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. Damage from this freeze was minimal as protection was provided at nurseries and by farmers. You probably recall the major freeze in January 2010 which was very damaging to agricultural interests across the state. Lowest temperatures locally were on January 11, 2010 with 22 in Parrish and 28 at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport.

Was December a warm and dry month? It certainly was. December 2011 had 18 days with high temperatures of 80 degrees or higher at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. The average temperature in December was 67.5 degrees, 4.0 degrees above normal. It was among the top 10 warmest Decembers on record. Parrish rainfall in December 2011 was 0.34 inches, 14 percent of normal. Rainfall at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport in December was 0.17 inches, 7 percent of normal.

What is the drought situation in Florida? Drought conditions continue to worsen over the entire state with each dry day. The first half of January has produced rainfall of only 0.07 inches in Parrish and 0.30 inches at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. Currently, the U.S. Drought Monitor shows 92 percent of the state under abnormally dry conditions. It is estimated that we need 12-15 inches of rain across Northwest Florida to relieve the long-term drought. Northeast Florida needs around 9-12 inches and other areas of North Florida and Coastal Southeast Florida need 6-9 inches. These conditions are forecast to persist or intensify across North Florida through the winter months, and drought conditions are likely to develop across the Peninsula. With continuation of dry weather, the wildfire threat will likely increase across the state.

How much rain did we get in 2011? Total 2011 rainfall at Parrish was 50.72 inches, 96 percent of normal and at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport was 40.60 inches, 77 percent of normal. This continues the 5-year trend of greater rainfall inland across Manatee County. Average annual rainfall in Parrish 2007-2011 was 51.63 inches. Compare that to an annual average of 37.08 inches at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport for the same period. The greatest disparity was in 2009 with 69.29 inches in Parrish and only 32.77 inches at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. Such disparity seems unusual since the 30-year normal rainfall is 52.70 inches at Parrish and 53.01 inches at Sarasota-Bradenton Airport.

How cold has it been in Alaska? On January 14, Fairbanks dropped to 48 degrees below zero with a high of only 39 degrees below zero. Galena had a record low of 54 degrees below zero on January 7. Nome reached 40 below zero on January 5 for the first time in nearly 13 years. The city of 3,500 didn't get its last pre-winter barge fuel delivery because of a massive November storm. After a 10-day voyage through ice-choked seas, the Russian tanker Renda reached Nome with emergency fuel supplies on January 13. Transfer of fuel to storage tanks near the harbor began on January 16 and would take up to 5 days. Farther south, a record 290 inches of snow has fallen so far this winter at Valdez. Cordova had 175 inches of snow in 24 days with 20-foot drifts.

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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