



Living Lord's Voice

February 2017

Living Lord Lutheran Church
Pastor Pam Wellons, Interim Pastor

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E-mail: info@livinglordfl.org
Web site: www.livinglordfl.org
Living Lord *Voice*: voice@livinglordfl.org

Sunday Worship Services at:
8:00 AM - Traditional Worship
9:15 AM - Contemporary Worship
11:00AM - Traditional Worship
Sunday School at 9:15 AM
September—May

Loving, Learning, Living in Christ

Our Mission Statement

We are a Christ centered community of believers who welcome all people to share with us as we actively love, learn, live and serve in joyful celebration of God's grace.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

Thanks to the folks who came to the meetings to find out more about the transition process. I have put up an overview of the Transition process in the narthex. The Congregation Council and staff have been working hard on the items on the Transition Process checklist. A few more items need to be wrapped up but we are getting really close to moving out of Step 3. I have put up in the narthex an overview of the Transition Process.

The Congregation Council will be receiving the draft constitution at their next meeting. The synod has already reviewed the draft. "When the council is satisfied with the draft document, the council should recommend the draft to the congregation and call a congregation meeting for its adoption. Copies should be made available to the congregation so that the draft constitution and bylaws can be studied prior to the meeting. The process for approval by the congregation of the revised constitution and bylaws will be controlled by the provisions of the existing constitution." - Administrative Handbook for Congregation Councils.

So that is one congregation meeting coming.

And then... the Office of the Bishop reviews the completed checklist with the Council President and the Interim Pastor to move forward with the call (Step 4)! I'm attaching Guidelines for Choosing Members of the Call Committee. It lists general characteristics and expectations of ALL persons who serve on the committee. The call committee meets weekly. Please read and prayerfully discern who you think would represent the congregation and send your names to the Council. The call committee will include a member of the council and a non-voting alternate. The Council will call a congregation meeting to select a call committee.

So that is a second congregation meeting coming. I told you it would be the year of meetings, good meetings, here at Living Lord Lutheran Church.

Finally, Connie Schmucker, ELCA Deacon, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, will be worshipping with us February 26 at all three services and available for you between the services. She will be meeting with the Council following the 11:00 am service.

Peace,
Pr. Pam

TRANSition

Guidelines for Choosing Members of the Call Committee

Those responsible for selecting persons as nominees for the call committee have a very important task and should prayerfully approach their work seeking God's guidance. The constitution should be reviewed to determine any restrictions relating to the number of persons to serve on the committee, the method of election or appointment, whether alternates will be selected, and the nominating process that may be required. It is never wise to simply solicit volunteers for a call committee. Rather, a careful and thoughtful discernment process should be followed to ensure that the best possible candidates are considered and selected to serve:

General characteristics and expectations of ALL persons who serve on the call committee include the following:

- **Strong evidence of faith** - Faithful worship participation should be a prerequisite for any person chosen to serve on the call committee. These people should be persons of prayer who will faithfully and carefully seek to discern God's will for this congregation.
- **Active in the life of the congregation** - call committee members should be involved the life and ministry of the congregation beyond worship, and familiar with its programs and activities. They will represent the importance of these ministries to potential pastors.
- **Positive and enthusiastic spirit** - The call committee will represent the congregation to the pastoral candidates during the interview process. They should have a deep sense of the vision and mission of the congregation. This is not a place for chronic complainers.
- **Faithful stewards** - Those who serve on the call committee should recognize that all that they have and are belongs to God. As good stewards, they are persons who share their gifts of time, talent and treasures in the ministry of God's Kingdom.
- **Commitment and follow-through** - The call committee is charged with a significant responsibility on behalf of the whole congregation. Meetings may be frequent and a willingness to share and participate faithfully in the work of the committee is critical.

Further, the call committee should be as representative of the whole congregation as is possible. Special consideration should be given to including:

Newer members and longer term members; Older and younger members, perhaps including a youth; Ethnic and cultural diversity; Balance of female and male members; Representation of various ministries and programs of the congregation.

Special notes:

1. Congregation members who are also employees or staff members of this congregation should not serve on the call committee because of potential conflict of interest.
2. Rostered persons, active or retired, or their spouse/partner should not serve on a call committee. There are other ways for these folks to share their input. An exception is that the senior pastor serves on the call committee to call an additional rostered leader.
3. It is not necessary for council members to serve on the call committee, and if desired, the maximum should be one; the council president should not serve on the call committee.

Youth Happenings



Five of our confirmation youth attended the spring confirmation retreat at Luther Springs in January. The theme of the retreat was New Testament and completed their retreats for the confirmation year.

Save The Dates for VBS/VBS E

- Vacation Bible School...June 5-9.
- Vacation Bible School Extreme ...June 12-16.

Registration for both programs will open mid-March.

Soup Mix Fundraiser

The youth group will be holding a Soup Mix fundraiser from February 12-26. You will be able to pre-order or purchase your dry soup mix kits following all three Sunday services from February 12-26. All proceeds from this program go to support our summer trips.

Upcoming High School Retreat

Equip – High School Leadership Retreat

When: Feb 17-19 at Luther Springs

Energize! Question! Understand! Intercede! Proclaim! This event is for high schoolers who are ready for more than your average youth event. EQUIP will challenge students to become energized in their faith, question what they have learned, gain further understanding of Lutheran theology, Intercede through prayer, and proclaim the good news. They will explore theological issues, discern their gifts for leadership, and be challenged!

Upcoming Youth Group Retreat

Decathlon

When: Feb 3-4

Middle and high school youth get ready for a night of insanity! We changed our regular Volleyball Marathon fundraiser to an all night Decathlon! Volleyball will still be in the lineup but so will other sports, brain teasers and Biblical challenges. (One challenge will require that a member of your group be asleep at all times!)

Youth groups, start practicing! Will your group take home the first Decathlon trophy? The night is sure to be full of fun, fellowship, worship, and plenty of crazy games! Please bring 1-2 chaperones per team. This fund-raising event for Luther Springs will make sure every child who wants to go to camp, gets there! Groups are asked to bring snacks/drinks to share. Breakfast provided.

Summer Camp News

Summer camp registration is underway. If your youth or child is interested in attending one of these summer camp programs please see Kristen Hitchcock for information on how to register.

Discovers Camp

This program is for our completed 3rd-5th grade kids. The date of the program is July 23-28. **Early bird registration deadline is Sunday, March 12th.**

Gator Camp

This program is for our completed 6th-8th grade youth. The date of the program is June 18-23. **Early bird registration deadline is Sunday, March 12th.**

Miami Mission Trip

This program is for our completed 9th-12th grade youth. The date of the program is July 16-21. **Early bird registration deadline is Sunday, March 12th.**



All God's Children Preschool welcomes 2017 with open arms! All of our students and teachers were so ready to get back into the routine of school after a long break. The teachers at AGC are excited to start new adventures and create memories for the new year. The teachers are always thinking of new ways to teach our students letters, numbers, shapes, colors and patterns. (Just to name a few) Miss Janice's 3 year old class was learning the letter "P" so she came up with a yummy lesson plan. She made chocolate

chip pancakes for her students. The students got to help mix the batter and then got to enjoy the delicious pancakes all while learning about the letter "P"!!



Miss Amber's 3 year old class was busy over the past few months with a cool science experiment of their own. They received tadpoles and kept them in aquariums in their classroom. Over 3 months, they observed the tadpoles by measuring their size, charting the changes of how the tadpoles looked and even helped clean the tanks out when needed. It was a great experience for the students to learn how to nurture animals and use many counting and writing skills along the way. Just another way AGC's awesome teachers can make learning as fun as playing!!!



All are Invited!!!



Church Picnic

**COME JOIN IN THE FUN, FOOD,
AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE 2017
LIVING LORD LUTHERAN
CHURCH PICNIC!!**

Free Will Offering!

Get acquainted with members you don't know
– get re-acquainted with members you do!

- **SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH, FROM 12:30 – 3:00 PM**
- **AT SUMMERFIELD PARK**
- **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX**

Hamburgers &
Hot Dogs!



Bring a friend –
share the fun!

Council Meeting Minutes — December 13, 2016

Council Members Present: Pastor Pam, Tom Jefferys, Al Kersten, Karla Schrand, John Saum, Herb Hunter, Ruth McConnell, Jen Butler, Greg Fisher, and Isabelle Schmidt, Bob Scott, Steve Long, John Saum, Ruth McConnell, Jen Butler, Greg Fisher. **Absent:** Bob Scott, Bill Hansing
Guests: Lynn Fisher, Patty Kunkel, Mark Dahlstrom, and Dan Powers.

Opened at 7 pm by Tom Jefferys, followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Pam Pastor; Tom then read the covenant.

Updates—Parish Life Team/Annual Meeting/Nominating Committee:

- Mark Dahlstrom has agreed to take over the Parish Life committee for the remainder of the year for Bill Hansing. A motion was made by John Saum and 2nd by Herb Hunter for Mark to take over Parish Life. Motion carried unanimously by council.
- Annual meeting to be held January 29th @ 10:20 between the 9:00am and 11:00am services.
- Nominating Committee consists of Tom Jefferys, Patty Kunkel, and Matt Palmtag.
- Reports for the annual meeting are due no later than January 6th.
- Someone has shown interest in purchasing a piece of our property on the west end. Tom Jefferys, Herb Hunter, and Mike Seminick will look into it along with an alternative to the thru road for emergency vehicles.

Pastors Report:

- Pastor Pam inquired about the feedback council had been getting about the transition. She urged council to urge the congregation to go to the cottage meetings.

Membership:

- Patty stated that by year end we should have 467 baptized members. Also, 17 address corrections were made.
- John Saum, Ruth McConnell, and Greg Fisher are at the end of their first term. They all agreed to continue if the congregation wishes. Sami Copeland was nominated for Youth Representative and Jen Butler for Education. Tom Jefferys term will end in January and is not looking to extend it.

Expansion:

- Greg Fisher indicated that the Expansion Team met on Monday, December 12th. The next step is to have a financial assessment. He hopes to have a proposal for council at the next meeting. He is looking at having a Congregational Meeting on February 19th, to get approval to start a Capital Campaign.

2017 Budget Proposal:

- There was great discussion and several changes made to the proposed budget. There will be a short Council Meeting later this month to approve the budget with changes that were discussed.

Spring Picnic:

- Dan Powers identified either February 26th or March 5th for the Spring Picnic. Fellowship committee is to coordinate.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Special Council Meeting Minutes — December 21, 2016

Council Members Present: Tom Jefferys, Al Kersten, John Saum, Karla Schrand, Pastor Pam, Jen Butler, Greg Fisher, Herb Hunter, and Ruth McConnell. **Absent:** Steve Long, Bob Scott, Mark Dahlstrom **Guests:** Lynn Fisher

Special meeting called to order at 3:31 pm, followed by a prayer by Pastor Pam.

2017 Budget Proposal:

- Al Kersten motioned to approve the Church Only revised budget with an increase of \$1,000 to the Evangelism Team, along with raises for maintenance and the youth director. John Saum 2nd. Motion carried unanimously by council.
- Herb Hunter motioned to approve the All God's Children Budget. Ruth McConnell 2nd. Jen Butler abstained. Motion carried.

Staff Gifts:

- It was decided to change the staff gifting to Sunday December 25th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51pm with the Lord's Prayer.

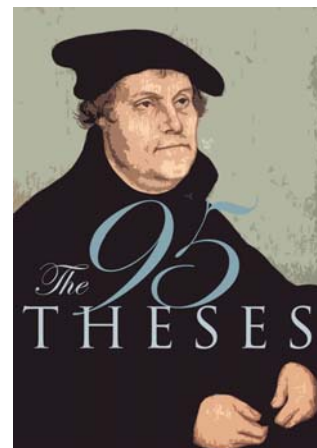
Lunch Bunch Invitation

You are invited to have lunch with us on Thursday, February 9th at noon at **Leon's House of Omelets**, 7246 55th Avenue East. It is located in Twelve Oaks Plaza. We were there once before and enjoyed it. You could either have breakfast or lunch — your choice. This is open to all ladies of the church — members, visitors, and seasonal friends. See the sign up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions you can call Patty Kunkel at 748-6669. We hope to see you there!

Show Your Lutheran Pride

This year Christians worldwide will observe the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his "Ninety-Five Theses" on the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. The posting of these theses is considered the beginning of the Reformation, and no one expected the breadth of evangelical reforms in Christian teaching and practice that followed.

Sunday School will be selling special commemorative t-shirts between services in the weeks to come. Proceeds will go toward camp and retreat scholarships and for activities of our SS kids aged 3 through 5th grade. Shirts, a real bargain, will sell for \$15.00. Buy several and give them to your Lutheran friends! Get them early and wear them all year long to celebrate!



Our Men in Action!

Living Lord's Men's Ministry has launched a service for our congregation. We have men of the congregation that are willing to help with the "Honey Do" lists of our widows, single mothers, and elderly. If there are shrubs to be trimmed, holes to be patched, furniture that needs moved, and other small jobs that need taken care of we'd like to help. Note that we will **NOT** be doing any tasks that would require a licensed contractor. If you're in need of help with those tasks around the house, please contact Steve Long by phone at 342-1859.



A message from your Faith Community Nurses

What is a Heart Attack?



A heart attack occurs when the flow of blood to the heart is blocked, most often by a buildup of fat, cholesterol and other substances. This then forms a plaque in the arteries that feed the heart (coronary arteries). The interrupted blood flow can damage or destroy part of the heart muscle. A heart attack or myocardial infarction can be fatal, but treatment has improved dramatically over the years. It's crucial to call 911 or emergency medical help if you think you may be having a heart attack. Common symptoms include :

- pressure,
- tightness,
- pain,
- a squeezing sensation in your chest or arms that may spread to your neck, jaw or back.
- Nausea, indigestion, heartburn or abdominal pain.
- Shortness of breath
- Cold sweat
- Fatigue
- Lightheadedness or sudden dizziness

Act immediately. Some people can wait too long because they don't recognize the important signs and symptoms.

- Call for emergency medical help.
- Call 911 or your local emergency number.
-

If you don't have access to emergency services, have someone drive you to the nearest hospital. If you encounter someone who is unconscious, first call 911. Then begin CPR to keep the blood flowing. Push hard and fast on the person's chest — about 100 compressions per minute. It's not necessary to check the person's airway or deliver rescue breaths unless you have been trained in CPR. The compressions are key.

And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

Women's Connection

The next **Women's Connection** meeting will be on Monday, February 6th at 7 pm. We will be having Mr. Tom Scully teach us some self defense techniques. This meeting is for women of all ages. Wear comfortable clothing and join us to learn something new and have some fun at the same time.

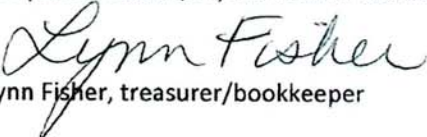


Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2016

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2016	Jan - Dec 2016 Actual	Jan - Dec 2016 Budget	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	422,696.05	456,725.00	(34,028.95)
Church General Fund Disbursements	432,782.20	456,686.02	23,903.82
Net Church General Fund	(10,086.15)	38.98	(10,125.13)
Church Restricted Receipts	84,321.47		
Church Restricted Disbursements	88,775.37		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(14,540.05)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	177,989.50	173,258.00	4,731.50
AGC General Fund Disbursements	174,477.82	173,060.00	(1,417.82)
Net AGC General Fund	3,511.68	198.00	3,313.68
AGC Restricted Receipts	17,100.75		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	20,584.57		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>27.86</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	600,685.55	629,983.00	(29,297.45)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	607,260.02	629,746.02	22,486.00
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>(6,574.47)</u>	<u>236.98</u>	<u>(6,811.45)</u>
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	101,422.22		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	109,359.94		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>(14,512.19)</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2016 VS 2015	Jan - Dec 2016 Actual	Jan - Dec 2015 Actual	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	422,696.05	413,560.54	9,135.51
Church General Fund Disbursements	432,782.20	413,778.59	(19,003.61)
Net Church General Fund	(10,086.15)	(218.05)	(9,868.10)
AGC General Fund Receipts	177,989.50	172,306.43	5,683.07
AGC General Fund Disbursements	174,477.82	175,537.09	1,059.27
Net AGC General Fund	3,511.68	(3,230.66)	6,742.34
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	600,685.55	585,866.97	14,818.58
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	607,260.02	589,315.68	(17,944.34)
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>(6,574.47)</u>	<u>(3,448.71)</u>	<u>(3,125.76)</u>

Church receipts reflect a 2% increase in giving over last year at the same time. Our budget called for a 9.5% increase in giving. Disbursements are 5% under budget but are \$10,000 more than receipts. Currently our overall financial position is \$9600 behind last year. AGC is showing positive results with receipts higher than disbursements by \$3500.

Our surplus fund/savings balance is \$29,200 which is \$700 less than at the end of 2015. We paid an extra \$10,245 toward our mortgage principal leaving a balance of \$160672.03.


Lynn Fisher, treasurer/bookkeeper

Ask the Weatherman

By: Bill Mork



Was it a warm and wet 2016? With records dating back to 1911, 2016 was the warmest year on record at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport with an average temperature of 75.3 degrees, 2.4 degrees above normal. Jul 2016 was the warmest of any month on record with an average temperature of 85.4 degrees, 3.0 degrees above normal. It was also the warmest Sep on record with an average temperature of 83.9 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal. It was the second warmest Aug and third warmest Jun and Oct. It was the warmest summer (Jun, Jul, Aug) on record with an average temperature of 84.5 degrees, 2.7 degrees above normal. Even though there was a record dry Nov and below normal Dec, the wet summer (133 percent of normal in Parrish) allowed the year in Parrish to finish above normal with 60.63 inches, 112 percent of normal. The local airport was somewhat drier in 2016 with 49.11 inches, 93 percent of normal.

Was 2016 the warmest year on record in the United States? It was the second warmest year in 122 years of record-keeping in the U.S. with an average temperature of 54.9 degrees F, 2.9 degrees above normal. This is the 20th consecutive year the annual average temperature exceeded the average. Every state in the contiguous U.S. and Alaska experienced above average annual temperatures, according to NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

Did the Earth set another temperature record in 2016? Marking another milestone for a changing planet, scientists reported on 18 Jan that the Earth reached its highest temperature on record in 2016, trouncing a record set only a year earlier, which beat one set in 2014. It is the first time in the modern era of global warming data that temperatures have blown past the previous record three years in a row. In 2015 and 2016, the planetary warming was intensified by El Nino, in which the Pacific Ocean released a huge burst of energy and water vapor into the atmosphere. While the Arctic had more extremes, drought and starvation afflicted Africa. On 19 May, Phalodi lived through the hottest day in the recorded history of India, 123.8 degrees F.

How many deaths occurred in the latest tornado outbreak? There were at least 20 deaths from 29 confirmed tornadoes in the 21-23 Jan outbreak. In the early morning of 21 Jan there were 4 deaths in Hattiesburg MS. Greatest damage in Georgia was in the early morning of 22 Jan at Adell and during the afternoon in the Albany area. The 15 deaths in Georgia were mostly from mobile home parks. Late on 22 Jan there was one death at Lake City FL. There were numerous reports of wind damage across Florida as a squall line moved across the Peninsula late on 22 Jan. Florida rainfall includes 3.13 inches at Crestview, 2.57 at Panama City, 2.25 at Tallahassee, 1.10 at Ruskin, 0.43 at Parrish, and 0.18 inches at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. Heavy rains in Georgia include 6.25 inches at Valdosta, 4.92 inches at Savannah, and 4.07 inches in Atlanta.

Has the drought been broken in California? We think so, as two series of Pacific storms, 7-11 Jan and 19-23 Jan, brought record monthly rain and snow totals across California. That first storm produced up to 30 inches of precipitation at Incline Village in the Tahoe area. So far in January, Alpine Meadows received 220 inches of snow against the monthly average of 70 inches. In the southern Sierra, Mammoth Mountain has a seasonal snowfall total of 344 inches. Bucks Lake, Feather River basin, has 39 inches of rainfall so far in January. Long Beach had a record 3.87 inches of rain on Sun/22 Jan. Palomar Observatory received 10.78 inches in 5 days ending 23 Jan. California seasonal rainfall ranges from 190 percent of normal north to 153 percent south. Sacramento exceeded their entire seasonal rainfall average with 18.52 inches by 20 Jan.



Allen, Shannon	4-Feb
Bagge, Margaret	18-Feb
Dahlstrom, Jan	13-Feb
Daly, Beatrice	15-Feb
Dowling Jr., Joseph	4-Feb
Eckstrom, Andrea	1-Feb
Eiken, Irene	5-Feb
Eldredge, Martha	12-Feb
Endler, Joan	4-Feb
Fisher, Greg	3-Feb
Ganshirt, Linda	20-Feb
Heuss, Vanessa	27-Feb
Hitchcock, Matthew	24-Feb
Howell, Rebecca	12-Feb
Johnson, Rylee	16-Feb
Larsen, Kent	4-Feb
Layrisse, Donna	17-Feb
Lestock, Linda	16-Feb
Moyer, Marianne	18-Feb
Murphy, Meghan	24-Feb
Otterness, Alyssa	9-Feb
Otterness, Lauren	14-Feb
Polk, Arthur	5-Feb
Poole, Will	16-Feb
Quaid, Bill	9-Feb
Sanders, Carol	16-Feb
Seminick, Jessica	8-Feb
Torke, Mary	19-Feb
Vogler, Harold	15-Feb
Welke, Lowell	21-Feb
Wells, Roy	6-Feb

Bob & Marcia Dryjowicz	2/2/1984
Gary & Leslie Johnson	2/27
John & Kathleen Murgatroyd	2/28/1973
Ron & Leslie Silver	2/11/1983
Roy & Cindy Wells	2/25/1994

Sunday Attendance

	8:00	9:15	11:00	Total
December 4	58	110	97	265
December 11	59	103	97	259
December 18	75	176*	101	352
December 25	n/a	n/a	62	62
<i>Average</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>235</i>

* Sunday School Christmas Program

Christmas Eve Attendance

	4:00	7:00	10:00	Total
2014	210	195	104	509
2015	237	257	123	617
2016	232	138	85	455
<i>Average.</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>527</i>

“Loving, Learning, Living in Christ”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Visit our web-site—www.LivingLordFL.org



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