



Living Lord's Voice

May 2017

Living Lord Lutheran Church
Pastor Pam Wellons, Interim Pastor

11107 Palmbrush Trail, Lakewood Ranch, 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

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.

I was asked how do we get three days in the timeframe of Good Friday to Easter? Some may think it's two days but it's really three days - Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We need to think days not hours. We need to remember God raising Jesus from the dead. In the church year we celebrate Easter for seven weeks. In the church we celebrate Easter every Sunday. Easter deserves every Alleluia! Easter like you mean it! Peace,
Pr. Pam

You God who terrified the waters,
who crashed your thunder,
who shook the earth, and scared the wits out of chaos.

You God who with strong arm saved your people
by miracle and wonder and majestic act.

You are the same God to whom we turn,
we turn in our days of trouble, and in our weary nights;
we look for steadfast love and are dismayed,
we wait for your promises, but wait in fatigue,
we ponder your forgetfulness and lack of compassion,
and we grow silent.

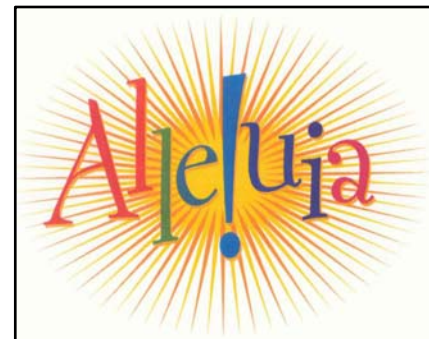
Our lives, addressed to you,
have this bitter-sweet taste of loud-clashing miracles and weak-kneed doubt.
So we come in our bewilderment and wonderment,
deeply trusting, almost afraid to trust much,
passionately insisting, too timid to insist much,
fervently hoping, exhausted for hoping too much.

Look upon us in our deep need,
mark the wounds of our brothers and sisters just here,
notice the turmoil in our lives, and the lives of our families,
credit the incongruity of the rich and the poor in our very city,
and the staggering injustices abroad in our land,
tend to the rage out of control, rage justified by displacement,
rage gone crazy by absence, silence, and deprivation,
measure the suffering, count the sufferers, number the wounds.

You tamer of chaos and mender of all tears in the canvas of creation,
we ponder your suffering,
your crown of thorns, your garment taken in lottery, your mocked life,
and now we throw upon your suffering humiliation, the suffering of the world.

You defeater of death, whose power could not hold you,
come in your Easter, come in your sweeping victory, come in your glorious new life.
Easter us, salve wounds, break injustice, bring peace, guarantee neighbor,
Easter us in joy and strength.

Be our God, be your true self, lord of life,
massively turn our life toward your life
and away from our anti-neighbor, anti-self deathliness.
Hear our thankful, grateful, unashamed Hallelujah!
Amen.



Prayer by Walter Brueggemann, March 29, 1994

Call Committee Update

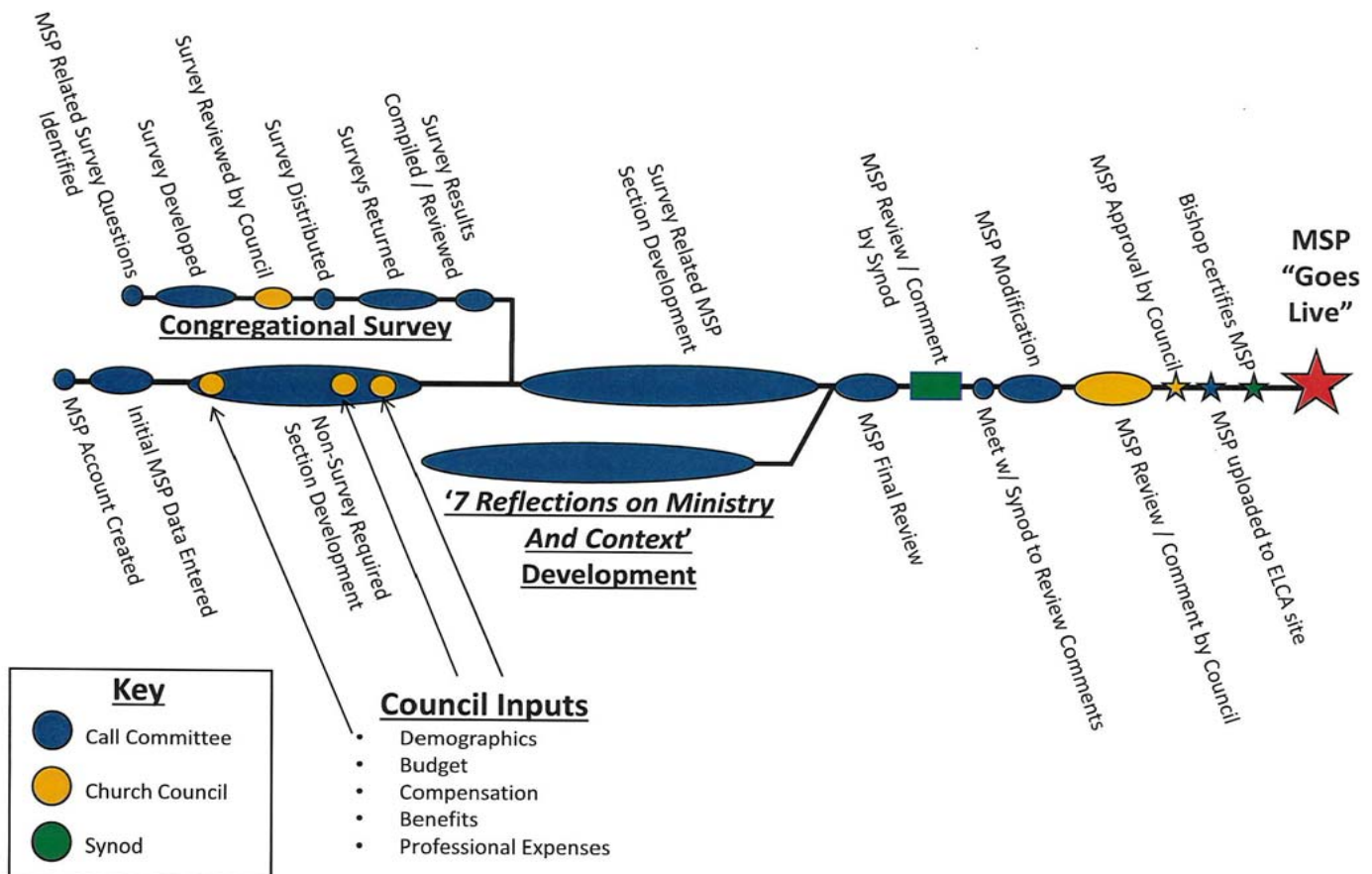
The Call Committee is in the process of completing the Ministry Site Profile, which is an ELCA document that summarizes who we are as a congregation for potential pastors. It also states which characteristics and gifts we seek in our next pastor.

By now you should have received either an email with a link to the electronic survey or a paper copy in the mail. Your feedback will help us to accurately describe to potential candidates our community of faith and expectations for the position. The electronic survey portal will close on **Monday, May 1st**; if you choose to complete the paper copy survey, you may drop it off in the designated box in the Narthex, fax, or mail to the church by **Monday, May 1st**.

We have created a flow chart (below) in order to help you understand the MSP development process. Once the MSP is completed and certified by the bishop, it is uploaded to the ELCA's Mobility Database System (MDS), "Going Live". The MDS allows the information from the MSP to be searched by and shared with potential pastors. Think of it as an online job search engine for the 65 synods of the ELCA.

We ask that you continue to pray for the Call Committee as this journey continues. May God continue to lead us on the right path according to His will. The positive energy and interest from the congregation is much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the call process, please contact Dan Powers at powersdr@msn.com or (913)306-5391.

Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Flow



Thanks to all who helped read the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday. You were a blessing! Since you were so bold, why not consider reading the regular Sunday lessons?

Speaking of reading the Sunday lessons, I keep forgetting to email the worship teams about the changes to announcing and concluding the readings. The changes came from ELCA revisions to the hymnal. I got curious to see what previous hymnals and hymnal supplements said.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006)

Announced: A reading from_____.

Concluded: "The word of the Lord." **OR** "Word of God, word of life."

With One Voice (1995)

Announced: A reading from_____.

Concluded: The word of the Lord.

Lutheran Book of Worship (1978)

Announced: The first lesson is from the _____ chapter of _____.

Concluded: Here ends the reading.

Service Book and Hymnal (1958)

"The Minister may read the appointed Lesson from the Old Testament saying:

'The Lesson is written in the _____Chapter of _____, beginning at the _____Verse.'

The lesson ended he shall say: 'Here endeth the Lesson.' or 'Here endeth the Epistle for the Day.'"

..... and they say Lutherans don't change.

Pr. Pam



A Good Problem To Have! VBS is SOLD OUT!

We are 6 weeks away from VBS and all of our spots are full!

But wait...there's more...

We have 6 kids already on a wait list!

WHAT NEXT??

In order to open more spots for kids, we need more adult volunteers.

Please consider volunteering to help and grow our VBS program.

VBS is June 5-9 from 9am- noon.

If you can help, please contact Kristen Hitchcock so we can open VBS to even more kids!!

kristenlouree@gmail.com or 941-753-9365

Haven't heard your favorite hymn in a while?

The Worship and Music committee requests your favorite hymn or 9:15 service song choices that we will work to incorporate into Sunday worship services this summer. Please email your hymn title and hymn number or song title to Maggie@livinglordfl.org or call the church office at 753-9365.



Youth Sunday is coming!!!!

When you come to church on Sunday May 7th you will be blessed by the youth group as they lead all 3 worship services! This is surely going to be a blessed day!



VBS Extreme

When: June 12-16, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Who: Completed Kindergarten – 8th grade

This is a fun filled week that is run by staff from Luther Springs. Luther Springs is a Lutheran Camp located outside of Gainesville, FL. The Luther Springs staff is made up of college-age young adults that spend their summer sharing the Good News of Christ to children and youth all over our synod. Campers are asked to bring a lunch and refillable water bottle with them each day. Registration is limited to 25 kids so register early. Registration forms are located in the office or you can register online by visiting the registration link on our church Facebook page.



A Very Veggie VBS

When: June 5-9, 9:00am – Noon

Who: Age 3 – completed 5th grade

Come spend a week with us as we learn from our Veggie Tale friends how to listen for God's voice, show kindness and love our neighbor. Snack is provided for our kids, but please send your child with a refillable water bottle. Registration forms are located in the church office or you can register online by visiting the registration link on our church Facebook page.

Volunteers are needed to help make our VBS and VBS Extreme programs a success! Listed below are the service areas for both programs.

VBS – June 5-9

- Bible Story Teller
- Snack leader
- Preschool Helper
- Arts and Crafts Helper
- Sign-in/Sign- out table attendant
- Set-up/Decoration Crew



VBS Extreme – June 12-16

- Lunch Host – Provides lunch to the Luther Springs staff one day. Days needed are Sunday – Friday
 - Dinner Host- Provides dinner to the Luther Springs staff either in your home, out or providing gift cards for them. Days needed are Sunday – Thursday
 - Host Home – Provide housing for the week to the Luther Springs staff. Must be able to accommodate 2 staff members. Days needed Sunday night – Thursday night.
- For more information or to sign-up for one of these service opportunities please contact
Kristen Hitchcock – kristenlouree@gmail.com

A note from the Youth Director:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." This is the time of year that brings about big milestones in the lives of our youth and their families. Some of us have kids that are moving from Elementary school to Middle school, or Middle school to High school. Some of us are about to watch the babies we used to rock to sleep at night, walk across the stage and graduate from High School or College. All of these exciting milestones bring celebrations but they can also bring about some fears. Our youth that are graduating are feeling excited because Yes, we finally finished school. But, they are also feeling a little nervous because everything they knew for the past 13 years of their lives is about to change. And then we have the parents that are going to finally let those babies spread their wings and fly off into the world of adulthood where they will be heading to college or the workforce.

This milestone is one of those seasons that God spoke about. God is here with us now during this celebration of next steps for our children. God is with us when we have fears and uncertainties about what the future will bring and provides to our hearts the peace that is needed. So to the parents of our High school and College graduates, Good job mom and dad you did it!. To the youth that are graduating, I am so proud of the young adults you have become. Cling to your faith foundation you have formed and when you get nervous find solace in the arms of your Creator. Congratulations to the class of 2017!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017!!!

Sam Bohlmann, Isabelle Schmidt and Jennifer Seminick are all graduating from Lakewood Ranch High School. Please stop by the bulletin board in the hall to check out their senior pictures and to see what their future plans are. We will be recognizing and celebrating our graduates on Sunday May 14th during the 9:15 service!

Additionally, we have had some college graduations too!

Danielle Tomasso graduated from Florida State University in December with a ----BS in Psychology. Danielle is currently working on fulfilling requirements before applying to Physical Therapy school.

Michelle Bohlmann is graduating this May from Florida State University cum laude with a BS in Exercise Physiology. Michele also scored in the 98 percentile on the MCAT.

Meghan Neu is graduating this May from the University of South Florida cum laude with a BS in Elementary Education.

Summer Camp Fundraisers

This year the youth group worked really hard to raise funds for camp and ended up raising just over \$3,000. We have 11 kids and youth that will be spending either a week at Luther Springs or a week on a mission trip in Miami. Despite their hard work they have come up \$1,500 short of their fundraising goals. If you would like to help our kids and youth reach their goals by giving a donation, please attention your gift to "Youth Group Fundraiser"



"Pasta With a Purpose" Benefiting All God's Children Preschool:

What an absolutely AMAZING event again this year! It was so enjoyable to spend the evening with our AGC families and watch our kiddos dancing, playing and getting transformed into butterflies, princesses, superheroes and animals. We have so many people that we need to thank for making this event as successful as it was. First and foremost, an ENORMOUS thank you to our AGC families, without your continued support and enthusiasm for this event, it would not even be a possibility. You help make AGC the magical preschool that it is and we are grateful every day! The parent involvement this year was through the roof! It was so fun to work with so many parents and see the creativity that you all have. Thanks for sharing your time and ideas!



We would also like to thank Living Lord Lutheran Church for lending their gorgeous Church space to us. WE also want to give a huge thank you to the parishioners who year after year come to this event and support All God's Children Preschool. Many thanks!!!!

We are so proud to announce that we raised a record breaking *\$10,000.00* this year. Not too bad for a school with only 44 students total. The money raised will go directly to All God's Children Preschool for improvements to classrooms and playground as well as continuing education for the AGC staff, just to name a few things...



Our VPK students took a fun field trip to the South Florida Museum this month. They got to meet Snooty the manatee and got to observe the many wonders of the Planetarium. This was a very educational field trip filled with lots of fun and learning for our students.



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

Emotional well-being is impacted by mental and spiritual balance. This can affect our physical well-being also. The care of the whole person, body, mind and spirit was taught by Jesus when he sent his disciples to not only preach the Kingdom of God but also to heal the sick. (Luke 9:2)

What happens in churches is just the sort of thing that helps people stay well; opportunities to build friendships, help through prayer, music, and worship; opportunities to serve and in turn be served by others. All of these help create an attitude of gratitude and hope and are known to contribute to a person's total health.

Consistent and daily prayer will help keep a Godly perspective so that when obstacles and challenges occur, you will be able to overcome them and grow in character. "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

On April 21, 15 RN Faith Community Nurses from congregations of various faiths throughout Sarasota and Bradenton Counties were guests of Living Lord Lutheran Church for the annual day-long education session. This was led by the Faith Community Nurses Team from St Anthony's Hospital in St Petersburg. This includes the recertification of CPR and the AED machine. We suggest that the congregation be aware of the location of the AED machine which is located across from the water fountain. Blood pressures are taken in the same area on the first and third Sunday of the each month before and after each service.

We are thankful for the support of the Faith Community Nurses Program by our Pastor, congregation, and the Church Council of Living Lord Lutheran Church. The prayer that was prayed on this recommitment Day for the Faith Community Nurse is:

Dear Lord,

You are the Alpha and the Omega. You are the Creator of All and Your Love is without measure. Thank-You for the opportunity You have given me to serve as a Faith Community Nurse. Please guide me to sustain me as I care for Your people. Help me to focus on the intentional care of the spirit as I promote wholeness of the body. In all these things, I give You the glory and praise. Amen

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers are trained Christian volunteers who are available to support you when dealing with deep personal issues. Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting, encouraging, praying, being dependable and trustworthy and maintaining confidentiality in their care giving. A Stephen Minister gives one-to-one, lay Christian care.

One-To-One: Stephen Ministers meet privately with one care receiver of the same gender.

Lay: Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised lay volunteers, not professional counselors, therapists, pastors, or physicians. Stephen Ministers are not authorized to give legal, medical, financial, or any other advice, but Bible-based encouragement.

Christian: Stephen Ministers are Christians who care in the name of Christ. They are willing to talk about spiritual issues but won't force them.

Confidential: Stephen Ministers keep personal information confidential. You can feel free to share with your Stephen Minister without worrying that everyone else will know about it.

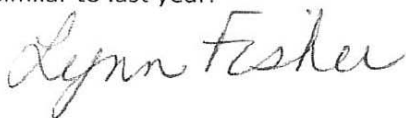
How do I know if I need a Stephen Minister? Share your personal issue with Pastor or ask to speak with a Stephen Leader. Contact the church office at 941-753-9365 for more information.

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2017**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2017	<u>Jan -Mar 2017 Actuals</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 2017 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Church General Fund Receipts	101,359.67	130,225.98	(28,866.31)
Church General Fund Disbursements	102,571.74	111,932.29	9,360.55
Net Church General Fund	(1,212.07)	18,293.69	(19,505.76)
Church Restricted Receipts	10,886.08		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(1,363.75)		
Youth Group Fundraiser	2,458.37		
Church Restricted Disbursements	7,600.00		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>3,168.63</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	58,997.46	56,428.00	2,569.46
AGC General Fund Disbursements	44,169.14	45,852.14	1,683.00
Net AGC General Fund	14,828.32	10,575.86	4,252.46
AGC Fundraisers	4,196.12		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	1,682.75		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>17,341.69</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	160,357.13	186,653.98	(26,296.85)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	146,740.88	157,784.43	11,043.55
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>13,616.25</u>	<u>28,869.55</u>	<u>(15,253.30)</u>
Fundraising Balances	5,290.74		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	10,886.08		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	9,282.75		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>20,510.32</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2017 VS 20156	<u>Jan -Mar 2017 Actual</u>	<u>Jan -Mar 2016 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Church General Fund Receipts	101,359.67	127,688.39	(26,328.72)
Church General Fund Disbursements	102,571.74	114,828.23	12,256.49
Net Church General Fund	(1,212.07)	12,860.16	(14,072.23)
AGC General Fund Receipts	58,997.46	59,022.50	(25.04)
AGC General Fund Disbursements	44,169.14	44,788.17	619.03
Net AGC General Fund	14,828.32	14,234.33	593.99
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	160,357.13	186,710.89	(26,353.76)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	146,740.88	159,616.40	12,875.52
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>13,616.25</u>	<u>27,094.49</u>	<u>(13,478.24)</u>

Church receipts are \$29,000 under budget and 21% lower than last year. This is an improvement over last month. Also Easter was in March last year. We have received \$6495 in "Fill the Gap" contributions year to date. Our surplus/savings balance is \$57,700.

AGC is showing positive results with receipts higher than disbursements by almost \$15,000, very similar to last year.



Lynn Fisher, treasurer/bookkeeper

Ask the Weatherman

By: Bill Mork



Is the drought getting worse? The 18 Apr U.S. Drought Monitor puts Manatee, Sarasota, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties plus most of Southwest and East Central Florida in an area of Severe Drought (D2). Assuming we get no rain the remainder of the month, the Nov-Apr total of 4.68 inches (29 percent of normal) in Parrish is the driest 6-month total since we moved here in 2005. Florida rainfall was mostly below normal in Mar 2017, ranging from 3.92 inches in Miami to 0.07 inches at Brooksville. Through 23 Apr, there has been no significant rainfall this month in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Heavy rains in the Bay Area on 6 Apr (St Pete 2.10 inches) did not move south into Manatee County. Heavy rainfall in North Florida on 3-4 Apr dropped 6.54 inches at Panama City, 2.93 inches at Tallahassee, and 2.36 inches at Pensacola. Heavy rain fell on South Florida 22-23 Apr with 4.43 inches at Hollywood, 3.86 at Fort Myers, 3.70 at Fort Lauderdale, and 3.45 inches at West Palm Beach. Temperatures continue well above normal with a record high of 88 degrees on 3 Apr at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport.

How will the drought impact Manatee and Sarasota Counties? Falling water levels and the continuing dry conditions led the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board to issue on 17 Apr a water shortage warning to all 8.1 million residents in the agency's 16 counties. The purpose of this warning is to urge South Florida families to voluntarily conserve more water, said Board Chairman Dan O'Keefe. This effort will help the water supply to last through the remainder of the dry season. If voluntary water conservation efforts prove insufficient, the Governing Board may consider further mandatory water use restrictions to equitably distribute the remaining water supplies and prevent serious harm to water resources.

How serious are the Florida wildfires? At least 126,000 acres have burned in wildfires across Florida so far in 2017, surpassing the 5-year average of acreage burned in a typical year. Ag Commissioner Adam Putnam has described this year as the most active season since 2011. As of 23 Apr, there were 120 active wildfires in Florida. Evacuation orders remain in place for 6,000 structures in Collier County where a 5,500-acre wildfire has destroyed 9 homes, despite rain on 22 Apr. The Collier County fire was only 20 percent contained as of 23 Apr. In Lee County, a 400-acre wildfire was 90 to 95 percent contained after destroying or damaging 13 homes.

What does the first hurricane forecast tell us? The first hurricane forecast of 2017 from Colo State University's Department of Atmospheric Science calls for a slightly below average season and 11 named storms this year. Researchers believe the formation of storms will be suppressed by an impending El Nino, the phenomenon of warmer-than-average water temps in the eastern and central Pacific. Other negative factors include colder North Atlantic temps, while tropical Atlantic temps plummeted from warmer-than-normal to cooler-than-normal in recent weeks.

How about last year? Colo State's initial forecast last year underestimated what turned into a hyperactive storm season, which included Hurricane Hermine, the first hurricane in 11 years to make a landfall in Florida. Hermine, a Category 1 storm when it came ashore in Apalachee Bay on 2 Sep, caused serious damage to shore towns like Cedar Key. The storm killed two people and caused an estimated \$550 million damage. Weeks later, Hurricane Matthew tore thru the Caribbean as a Category 5 storm and skirted Florida's Atlantic coast on 7 Oct. There were 585 deaths linked to the storm, more than 90 percent in Haiti. There were 34 deaths in the U.S., with two in Florida. The \$10 billion of U.S. damage made it the 10th most destructive hurricane.



May Birthdays

May Anniversaries

Baar, Joseph	11-May
Black, Patricia	29-May
Bohlmann, Sam	7-May
Bond, Tracey	19-May
Campbell, Torrie Ann	4-May
Chan, William	27-May
Cornell, Paula	12-May
Daly, Carol	12-May
Davis, Anne	15-May
DeLosh, Bob	28-May
DeLosh, Lee	7-May
Dodge, Bob	19-May
Dowling Sr., Joseph	21-May
Duck, Donald	29-May
Fisher, Lynn	11-May
Frei, Anna	12-May
Gangnagel, Barb	15-May
Graham, Cheryl	16-May
Kushner, Joan	11-May
Morrison, Ellen	20-May
Morrissey, Shannon	17-May
Myhre, Kenneth	29-May
Norgart, Austin	22-May
Quaid, Eleanor	21-May
Raddatz, Carmen	25-May
Saum, John	11-May
Schultze, Ron	24-May
Schwarzbauer, Alexander	25-May
Shaffery, Connie	24-May
Sine, Maria	4-May
Starner, Isabelle	11-May
Suprina, Dick	16-May
Tomasso, Allison	27-May

James & Susan Copeland	5/30/1992
Tim and Paula Cornell	5/25/1974
Don and Audrey Duck	5/18/1963
Larry and Helen Howe	5/27/1989
Lloyd and Heidi Karg	5/18/1991
Kate & Bruce Langsen	5/2/1981
Wayne & Janice Pinsonneault	5/6/1983
Robert & Norma Querido	5/15/1954
Tom & Sheryl Rupp	5/13/1972
Earl and Donna Viney	5/3/1985

Sunday Attendance

	8:00	9:15	11:00	Total
March 5	71	119	112	302
March 12	60	112	98	270
March 19	57	103	86	246
March 26	62	106	84	252

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

We had a delightful meal at the Whetstone in April. Glad you all could make it.

For May we will be going to **Miller's Dutch Kitchen, 3401 14th Street West at noon.** The date is **May 11th** and they are always the 2nd Thursday of the month. We will be opening our luncheons to **women, men, family and friends.** What a great way to meet and greet new people. For any questions please contact Patty Kunkel at 941-748-6669.

“Loving, Learning, Living in Christ”

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



Visit our web-site—www.LivingLordFL.org



**Living Lord has a fan page on
Facebook. Make sure you
“LIKE” Living Lord Lutheran**

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