



Living Lord's Voice

June 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.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST “the fiftieth day”

This festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed fifty days after Passover as an agricultural festival and the presentation of the Law to Israel through the prophet Moses. On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites.



I like Pentecost as a reminder. In some churches I served, Pentecost was the day of Confirmation, a time for young people to affirm their baptismal vows. It's at our baptism that the God, the Holy Spirit, enters in. Let's take a confirmation moment to look at the third article of the Apostle's Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.

The Third Article: On Being Made Holy (Sanctification)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

What is this? or What does this mean?

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Several weeks ago we had the reading from Acts 2:43-47. ⁴³“Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

The Lord added to their number. I need the reminder that growth is the work of God. I need the reminder that growth is in the hands of God. It's not up to me. It's not up to the new pastor. It's not up to programs. God is in charge.

The call committee has finished the congregation's profile and uploaded it to the ELCA database. Please continue to keep in prayer the congregation, the call committee, the Office of the Bishop and all ELCA pastors hearing a new call. God is in charge. Blessed Pentecost!

Peace, Pr. Pam

Call Committee

The Call Committee has completed all required forms to put out information about who we are, and what we are asking God to give us in a Pastor. The forms have been approved by our Conference Dean, Pastor Brian Armen, our Council and Synod. This means our Synod will put our forms through the ELCA to all Synod Bishops so any prospects they feel are a fit for us can then be a candidate for us. We can now look forward to those God sends to us to interview. When we start receiving names of candidates we must maintain confidentiality. "Pastor candidates place a great deal of trust in the ability of members of the Call Committee to keep confidences so as not to hinder their present ministries if they were not to receive a new call." (Quote from the Florida-Bahamas Synod instructions to Call Committees.)

It may seem like the process is taking to long, but our Synod was surprised at how quickly we have done all that is required. Yes, your Call Committee would also like to see a shorter process, but after doing what was asked, we have learned the necessity for each of the steps required.

As we move forward toward the interview process we ask for your prayers to have God lead the process. We must be patient and trust in God's timing in providing the best Pastor for Living Lord Lutheran.

Randy Hanson
Call Committee



Thank you Living Lord Congregation

All the members of the Church Council want to express our gratitude to those of you who so generously supported the Special Appeal and to all those who have increased their weekly and monthly giving. The Special Appeal goal of \$20,000 by Easter has been far exceeded with contributions to date of over \$29,000.

Additionally, the treasurers report as of the end of April shows that with all the variables such as the number of Sundays in a third of a year, prepayments, and deferred payments, etc., Living Lord is now about \$8000 ahead of last year at the same time (not behind), as we were at the end of March.

While the Special Appeal has been successfully concluded, we will continue to need the support of all members to keep up their increased level of giving, especially as we enter the 5 lean months of summer!

Congratulations mom and dad, you made it through another school year. Now it is summer and time for some great family time. As families start to head out on vacations and beach days I wanted to give you some ideas for how to keep faith in the home going during these summer months.

There will be worship tool kits for all children to use during services. Inside the bag you will find tools and activities for your kids to use during the service that will help them engage with the service and feel like a part of the service. These worship tool kits will be located by the usher table.

When you sit down to have dinner each night many families enjoy sharing their highs and lows of the day.

Try adding some of these questions to your dinner conversations:

Where did you see God today?

Did you help someone today? Did someone help you today?

How did you show kindness today?

What is something you prayed about today?

When you are traveling add in a service activity like picking up trash at the beach or connecting with a soup kitchen in the city you are visiting. Another idea is to give your kids the opportunity to do a random act of kindness for someone.

Faith in the home doesn't have to be a big sit down. You can easily sprinkle in faith moments throughout your day and week for your family. It leaves the doors of communication open between you and your children, it helps your children start thinking about their own faith and looking for things throughout their day that they want to share with you, and it gets them comfortable with sharing their faith so that when harder things happen as they get older, they already have a strong foundation of faith to lean on.



A "Very Veggie VBS" is happening June 5-9 and the staff from Luther Springs is coming to run VBS Extreme June 12- 16. If you happen to find yourself at the church during the program time you will be surrounded by the laughter and smiles of children that will be learning more about growing their faith from our wonderful volunteers and counselors from Luther springs. At print, we have 70 kids registered for our VBS week (15 more than we have ever had before) and 24 registered for VBS Extreme week!

Gator camp

Our middle school youth will be heading to Luther Springs June 18-23 for Gator Camp. This is a traditional week of camp with a twist. Each day the campers will start and end their day 2 hours later than the day before. By the end of the week they are waking up at 2:00pm and eating dinner at 11:00pm.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members received at services on May 14:

Michael Meckl

Julie Abraham

Vaughn and Linda Williams

Louis and Eileen Mezzo

Vaughn and Linda recently moved to Sarasota full time after being "snowbirds" for 14 years. They lived all of their 55 years of marriage in Marion, Ohio.

They have 2 adult children and 2 grandchildren.

They were lifelong members of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Marion, Ohio.

Linda is a retired Nursing Professor and Vaughn is a retired High School Principal.

Together, they spent 72 years devoted to the field of education.

They are happy to have found a new Church Home.



Linda Williams

MEZZO BIOGRAPHY

Louis and Eileen Mezzo were born and raised in New Jersey. We have lived in various places in NJ before moving here, to the Preserve at Tara, fulltime in October 2015. We visit NJ often, as our family resides there.

Lou and Eileen have three married children and five grandchildren. We have been married 52 years, and have been retired since 2010. Lou enjoys playing golf, and we enjoy socializing and meeting new friends. We look forward to being members of Living Lord Lutheran Church.

LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION INVITING ALL TO JOIN US

We had a delightful meal at Miller's in May. One gentleman joined us. For **June 8th** the group decided to go to **Mattison's City Grille on Bradenton River Walk**, 101 Riverfront Blvd. We will meet there at noon or 11:15 at church to car pool there. See the sign up sheet in the narthex. All are welcomed to join us. Any questions, please contact the church office or Patty Kunkel at 748-6669

MS BIKE RIDE THANK YOU

I would like to thank this congregation once again for your generous donations to my charity bike ride. Our team raised over \$30,000.00 for MS research. One of my dear friends was diagnosed with MS 5 years ago. 5 years ago, she could barely function. She rode 100 miles with us this year!!! That's progress! Thanks again and God's blessings to all of you.



Every May AGC gets a visit from the Fire Station. This year we had three wonderful firemen from East Manatee Fire Rescue come to speak to our students about fire safety. The student sat and listened to all of the things that you should do in case of a fire. Our student had many questions for the firemen and knew many of the answers to the fireman's questions.



After the talk was over, each class got to tour the fire truck and sit in the driver seat. They got to explore all the hoses, ladders, knobs and tools that were on the outside of the fire truck. The student had a blast and learned some very important information along the way. Thanks to East Manatee Fire Rescue for taking the time to educate our AGC students on fire safety!

Each year, our VPK classes have a butterfly project in May. The VPK classes each get their own caterpillar and nurture them until they turned into butterflies. Tents are set up in the VPK classrooms for this process, so that once the caterpillars formed their chrysalis, they can hang them and observe the changes. Once all of our butterflies have hatched we are ready for our annual VPK Butterfly Release. The VPK classes decorated and wore beautiful butterfly wings and prepared to release their butterflies in our garden. Each graduate was given a flower and their butterfly was placed on the flower so the graduate could watch their butterfly fly off into the sky. All of the students at AGC watched the butterflies be released into the garden where some stayed and some flew off. We all hope that the butterflies will return to the AGC Garden to visit our students as we hope that our graduates will do as well!!



Church Council Meeting Minutes April 4th, 2017 - 7:00pm

Council Members present: Al Kersten, Greg Fisher, John Saum, Karla Schrand, Pastor Pam, Ruth McConnell, Jen Butler, Dan Powers, Steve Long, Larry Howe, Bob Scott, and Sami Copeland.

Called to order @ 7:04 pm Opening Prayer by Pastor Pam Reading of covenant by Al Kersten

Youth Report: Sami read the youth report.

Approval of previous Council meeting(s) minutes - Approved as emailed.

Pastor's report: Pastor asked about the Palm procession for Palm Sunday. Congregation would proceed to into the Sanctuary from the Narthex.

Council Treasurers report: The plea to the congregation raised over \$23,000. \$10,000 was raised on Sunday, April 1st.

Call Committee report - progress to date and next steps

Dan advised that the Call Committee had their first meeting with Connie Schmucker on the 16th of March. They have been meeting weekly for about 2 hours. They are working on completing the Mission Site Profile (MSP). Their priority is developing a survey for the congregation to answer so that the results can be used for the MSP. Shortly, they will need a Defined Compensation amount from Council. The survey will be emailed to all members that have an email address, along with all the people that receive The Voice by email and mail. The survey is not limited to members, they want the views of all that attend. After the completion of the MSP, they want to have some mock interviews with council. Some concerns they expressed were that they were wanting to have a "who we are" video made to show to potential pastors. In the video that want to highlight the Easter service with both contemporary and traditional services. The website needs to be updated to include pics and short bios of Council and the information for each team needs to be accurate and up to date. There was talk about mentioning in the bulletin who the point person is for the Call Committee.

Action on Nursery Attendant situation: Marie has resigned. Proposing to eliminate the Nursery Care during the summer months due to the resignation. This would be from about June until Labor Day. Ruth motioned to discontinue nursery attendant position at the end May until Rally Day. 2nd by Dan Powers. Motion carried with 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

Property Purchase situation - prepare counter offer.

10,500 sq ft of property located in the Northwest corner of our lot was appraised at \$ 10/sq ft. Recommend a plat survey be completed at the buyer's expense. Al Kerstan will draft a letter requesting plat survey.

Discussion of Council regarding potential cost control measures and revenue enhancement opportunities during remainder of call process. This to be discussed at May meeting.

Appointment of Mark & Jan Dahlstrom as Co-Chairs of the AGC Board: Al recommend that they be appointed co-chairs of the AGC Board. Steve Long motioned to approve Mark and Jan Dahlstrom as co-chairs. 2nd by Bob Scott. Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Other Team Reports where action is needed: Steve motioned to approve the dual system summed to 7.5 tons. 2nd by Dan Powers. Motioned carried unanimously.

Administration – Title change for Youth director: Larry Howe motioned to change the title of Youth Director to Director of Youth Ministries. 2nd by Bob Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business: Church Gift List to be reviewed and discussed at May meeting. Possibly review gift policy of other churches.

Announcements: We are currently looking for a new Fellowship Team chair. Carrie Schwarzbauer is the Sunshine Ministry Team Lead.

Motion to adjourn @ 9:09 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

about the lutherans

Martin Luther: Monk to Reformer

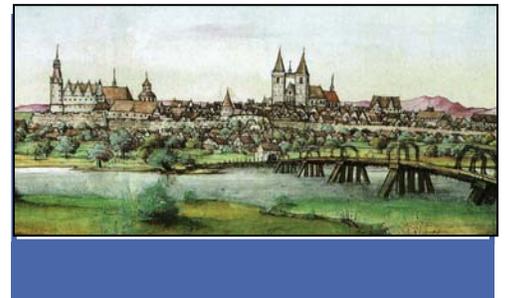
We live in an era when fame is highly desired. Whether it's getting hits on social media, getting invited to desirable gatherings, or making it big in Hollywood or Nashville, people want to be known, to be memorable—often for the wrong reasons. It's noteworthy, then, that in 2017 the Lutheran church—and the world—marks a big anniversary involving one of our own (our founder, actually). Martin Luther didn't intend to become famous, and yet he changed the world, helping to usher in the modern era.



This little sheet doesn't have room to detail Luther's life and accomplishments, and you will probably be hearing a lot about them from many sources, so this will just provide a brief overview.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 in what is now central Germany but then was a separate principality called Saxony. His parents tried to give him a good education and hoped he would become a lawyer.

Instead, when he was twenty-one he became a Catholic monk. He wanted to earn God's love but was tormented by the sense that he could never be good enough. He punished himself mercilessly until finally a wise mentor sent him to study and teach Bible at the then new University of Wittenberg.



Not long after he arrived there, he became incensed by the church saying, in effect, that if people bought a certain document—an indulgence—it would provide God's forgiveness for their (or a loved one's) sins. Being a university professor, he wrote a list of ninety-five sentences to debate about the topic. That list, the Ninety-Five Theses, stirred up a hornet's nest in the church and began the Reformation. He made them public on October 31, 1517—coming up on five hundred years ago.

For challenging the church and refusing to back down, Luther was called before the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, at a meeting in the imperial city of Worms. Asked to take back what he had written, he refused and was declared an outlaw. Anyone could have captured him and killed him or turned him in to authorities, in which case his death was likely. Fortunately, his own prince protected him, hiding him out in a castle where he began translating the Bible into German. In the process, he helped create the standard German language.

Luther wrote many influential books, most of which are still valued today. He created the Small Catechism to guide ordinary people in learning about God. He wrote hymns such as "A mighty fortress is our God." He was a passionate, sometimes crudely mannered man, and in later life he wrote terrible, cruel things about the Jewish people, statements for which the Lutheran church has apologized.

Yet Luther was a remarkable man, helping to create the modern notion of what it means to be an individual, not just an atom in a sea of molecules, and, of course, reviving and reforming the church. He is a man worth celebrating!

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2017**

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2017	Jan -Apr 2017 Actuals	Jan - Apr 2017 Budget	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	174,558.77	164,731.28	9,827.49
Church General Fund Disbursements	135,189.14	148,117.58	12,928.44
Net Church General Fund	39,369.63	16,613.70	22,755.93
Church Restricted Receipts	11,866.58		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(1,040.84)		
Youth Group Fundraiser	3,403.84		
Church Restricted Disbursements	14,732.00		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>38,867.21</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	78,636.45	77,739.00	897.45
AGC General Fund Disbursements	55,223.19	58,571.30	3,348.11
Net AGC General Fund	23,413.26	19,167.70	4,245.56
AGC Fundraisers	7,300.99		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	1,682.75		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>29,031.50</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	253,195.22	242,470.28	10,724.94
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	190,412.33	206,688.88	16,276.55
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>62,782.89</u>	<u>35,781.40</u>	<u>27,001.49</u>
Fundraising Balances	9,663.99		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	11,866.58		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	16,414.75		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>67,898.71</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2017 VS 20156	Jan -Apr 2017 Actuals	Jan -Apr 2016 Actuals	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	174,558.77	159,616.86	14,941.91
Church General Fund Disbursements	135,189.14	146,918.66	11,729.52
Net Church General Fund	39,369.63	12,698.20	26,671.43
AGC General Fund Receipts	78,636.45	79,268.55	(632.10)
AGC General Fund Disbursements	55,223.19	56,482.50	1,259.31
Net AGC General Fund	23,413.26	22,786.05	627.21
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	253,195.22	238,885.41	14,309.81
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	190,412.33	203,401.16	12,988.83
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>62,782.89</u>	<u>35,484.25</u>	<u>27,298.64</u>

Church receipts are \$8900 over budget due to the generous \$29,390 in "Fill the Gap" contributions. Our disbursements are \$13,000 less than budget putting us \$22,000 better than budget. Our net financial position is \$26,000 better than last year but it does include 1 extra week for comparison purposes. AGC is continuing to show positive results through April.



Lynn Fisher, treasurer/bookkeeper

Ask the Weatherman

By: Bill Mork



Is the drought still getting worse? The 16 May U.S. Drought Monitor puts Manatee, Sarasota, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties plus most other counties along the west coast of Florida in an area of Severe Drought (D2). Most of the 5 counties east of us in the middle of the Florida peninsula are now part of an area of Extreme Drought (D3). The only areas in Florida without drought are the Southeast Coast and Panhandle. Florida rainfall was mostly below normal in Apr2017, ranging from 6.54 inches at Tyndall AFB near Panama City to a trace at Orlando and Brooksville. The Nov-Apr total of 4.70 inches (29 percent of normal) in Parrish is the driest 6- month period since we moved here in 2005. May continues dry, although there has been an increase in late-day showers over the past week. May totals through 18 May include 0.49 inches in Parrish and only 0.08 inches at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. Bring on the rainy season!

How hot has it been lately? The high temperature at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport on Thu/18 May was 100 degrees, a record for the month of May. That was the first 100-degree day since 101 on 13 Aug 2007, the all time record high. Other 101 degree days were on 23 Jul 1971 and 1 Aug 1972. Other recent record highs include 97 on 17 May and 95 on 16 May. Jan-Apr 2017 were the warmest first four months of the year in Florida since the late 1800s. The statewide average temperature of 66.6 degrees broke the previous record set in 1895. The Florida average high temp of 78.6 degrees was also a record for the first four months. Record warmth and drought have brought ideal conditions for Florida fires with more than 2,100 wildfires in 2017. State officials say 170,000 acres in Florida have burned so far this year. More than 127 active fires were burning in Florida as of Mon/15 May. Through 17 May this year, Manatee County had 22 wildfires, the most since 2012. During the same period in 2016, there were 7 wildfires.

Was April a wet month in other parts of the country? Apr 2017 was the second wettest April on record for the United States with average precipitation of 3.42 inches. This record is second only to Apr 1957 and nearly a full inch more than the average for the month in the 20th century. Several strong and long-lasting storms brought excessive amounts of precipitation to the Pacific Northwest, the Great Plains, and parts of the Southeast. In Seattle, a record 45.9 inches of rain have fallen since Oct 2016. Some Apr rainfall totals which led to flooding late in the month include 17.93 inches at West Plains MO (400 percent of normal), 12.86 at Fayetteville AR, 12.27 at Carbondale IL, 12.03 at Springfield MO, 11.24 at Joplin MO, 11.02 at Chattanooga TN, 7.72 at St Louis MO, 7.66 at Dodge City KS, and 7.28 inches at Wichita KS.

How about California? Northern California had its wettest winter on record with several strong winter storms pushing the state's reservoirs to near full-capacity. The state's last official snow survey in the Sierra Nevada measured snow levels at 190 percent of normal for 1 May. Squaw Valley just announced that for the first time, the resort will stay open through the summer for skiing and snowboarding as long as the snow lasts. Squaw Valley had 714 inches of snow this winter with a monthly record of 282 inches in Jan 2017. The Northern Sierra 8-Station Precip Index had a record 93.3 inches for the winter season; previous record was 88.5 inches in the winter of 1982-1983, the first winter of my 23 years as Californian State Meteorologist. Some impressive winter precip totals include 114.18 inches at Blue Canyon and 93.68 inches at Crescent City. The melting of this year's snowpack is creating problems with flooding in Yosemite National Park and fast-moving high water drowning 5 people in Tulare County.



June Birthdays

Brown, Katherine	11-Jun
Daly, Robert	9-Jun
Fowler, Joanne	8-Jun
Graham, Aaron	3-Jun
Griffith, Randy	1-Jun
Hansing, Karen	25-Jun
Hartlieb, June	1-Jun
Henkelmann, Roger	27-Jun
Kim, Sun	1-Jun
Kurtz, Hadley	29-Jun
Kushner, Jim	25-Jun
Layrisse, Alexandra	1-Jun
Miller, Barbara	24-Jun
Miller, Deb	26-Jun
Mork, Bill	17-Jun
Mulligan, Julia	30-Jun
Pinsonneault, Amy	2-Jun
Poole, Johnny	27-Jun
Poole, Susan	22-Jun
Powers, Katie	30-Jun
Reimer, Sindy	23-Jun
Reinoehl, Judy	14-Jun
Riordan, Jackie	18-Jun
Sanders, Edward	14-Jun
Sankowski, Paul	3-Jun
Schwarzbauer, Carolyn	12-Jun
Schwarzbauer, Emma	8-Jun
Sciturro, Mari	14-Jun
Scott, Carolyn	2-Jun
Serra, Virginia	12-Jun
Shaw, Jack	18-Jun

June Anniversaries

James & Mary Jo Baar	6/20/1992
Kennth & Louise Baar	6/13/1953
Dan & Patrica Black	6/5/1971
Richard & Sherry Burner	6/20/1992
Bill and Sue Chan	6/7/1981
Joseph and Rae Ann Dowling	6/30/1979
Gregory and Lynn Fisher	6/26/1993
Gary & Cheryl Graham	6/6/1964
Jim and Robin Hanusa	6/16/2012
Dave and Donna Klosterman	6/11/1967
Jim and Joan Kushner	6/15/1957
Mike and Jean Zenner	6/2/1995

Sunday Attendance

	8:00	9:15	11:00	Total
April 2	52	114	117	283
April 9	80	130	116	326
April 16	89	225	211	525
April 23	55	108	90	253
April 30	46	83	86	215

“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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