

Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ
500 YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Living Lord's Voice

November 2017

Living Lord Lutheran Church
Pastor Pam Wellons, Interim Pastor

11107 Palmbrush Trail, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
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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 and Serving 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.

Women and the Reformation



Argula von Grumbach

“I am prepared to lose everything, even life or limb. May God stand by me.” So wrote Argula von Grumbach (1492–1563/68?) from Bavaria, who found Martin Luther’s message of Christian freedom and equality empowering. This noble woman challenged an entire Catholic university in Ingolstadt in defense of Lutheran faith and a student persecuted for “Lutheran heresy.” This best-selling lay author with her letter-treatises eventually disappeared under pressure from male authorities. Luther considered her a valiant hero of faith.

The Protestant principles “scripture alone,” “grace alone,” and “priesthood of all believers” inspired women just like men to reengage Christian faith and find renewed spiritual meaning in their daily voca-

tions. With the newly written catechisms and hymns, women were equipped to teach the revived faith to their households, where they exercised significant leadership in matters of religious practice. Women lost the monastic option as convents were closed in Protestant areas, but they benefited significantly from the education provided even for peasant girls.

Whereas the Reformation theology proclaimed equality in Christian love and freedom from human-made bonds, women were forbidden to preach or teach in public. Motherhood was presented to women as the holiest of callings, on a par with that of apostles and bishops. So women used creativity in embracing their domestic calling and the authority it brought along.

Katharine Schütz Zell (1498–1562), a widely published lay author who had no children of her own, identified herself with a calling of a “church mother.” In this role she exercised pastoral authority by the side of her pastor-husband in Strasbourg, even daring to preach at funerals. Her scintillating writings in defense of marriage may have caused an uproar, yet her pastoral texts and a hymnbook demonstrate her desire to promote ecumenical unity and to empower Christians to sing the gospel with new voices. Like von Grumbach, she also corresponded with Luther.



Another associate of Luther was Duchess Elisabeth von Braunschweig (1485–1555), who used her authority as the “mother of the people in her land” to implement Lutheran faith through legislation. Like her own mother earlier, Elisabeth had suffered exile from her Catholic husband and children once she confessed her faith in public by receiving the sacrament in a Lutheran rite. Her advice to her son, whom she groomed as a Lutheran ruler, was that he should obey God, the emperor—and his mother.

Of all the Reformation mothers, the most famous is Luther’s beloved Katharina von Bora (1499–1552). She won the heart and admiration of Luther, who had orchestrated the escape of Katharina and eleven other nuns from their convent. As his equal “partner in calamity,” Katharina mothered their six children and managed the intricate finances and other affairs of their bustling household. Luther admitted that next to the Holy Spirit, he obeyed his wife-“lord,” Katharina.

These and other mothers of faith took significant risks and endured criticism if not even persecution for their choices. Their involvement was crucial for the new faith to take root.

Kirsi Stjerna



BLESSINGS to our 2017 Confirmands

Jacob Eugene Byrd

Matthew Ryan Powers

Jacob Michael Seminick

*Join us after the 9:15 service on Sunday October 29
for cake and fellowship.*



**PASTOR PEDRO SUAREZ ELECTED
BISHOP OF FLORIDA -BAHAMAS SYNOD**

Pastor Pedro Suárez was born and raised in Venezuela. He attended Seminario Evangélico Asociado in Maracay, Venezuela and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He has served St. Mary's Hope Lutheran Church in Chicago, St. Francis Lutheran Church in Aurora, IL, St. Andrew's Lutheran in West Chicago and Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, WI. He developed Latino ministries at most of these congregations.

Rev. Suarez has also served on Synod Staff at the South Central Synod of Wisconsin as Assistant to the Bishop and Mission Director; and as the Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop in the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. Now he serves as the Pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Pastor Suárez is fluent in English, Spanish, and Papiamentu (the language of the Netherlands Antilles), and understands some Portuguese. He is a musician, a liturgist, is passionate about evangelism, and brings gifts as a Lutheran bi-cultural leader. Pastor Suarez and his wife Aura have two adult children, Rafael and Melinda.

The installation of the Bishop will be on January 20, 2018 at noon at St. Mark the Evangelist in Tampa FL.

Living Lord Launches Give+

We are excited to announce the introduction of **Give+** on the *Living Lord* web site. This online giving opportunity provides the same convenience as other online payment opportunities for those who want to faithfully and consistently make a financial donation or gift to *Living Lord*.

Giving online is safe, easy, and flexible with **Give+**. You can give on your desktop computer, tablet, and mobile device, making one-time and recurring contributions by bank withdrawal, credit or debit cards. When you set up a recurring contribution, you decide when giving starts and the frequency of recurrence (weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually).

You can also contribute anonymously or create an account. With an account, you can

- View your giving history
- Add a credit or debit card
- Change credit or debit card information
- Manage your recurring contribution
- Make one-time gifts to a variety of special funds

Is it safe to give online? Yes. In many ways giving online is safer than writing a check in that an electronic gift cannot be lost or stolen. Online giving transactions are processed through a secure service provider. All transactions go directly to the church's bank account.

Can you give using your credit or debit card? Yes. While we do not encourage the creation of debt to support *Living Lord*, we do acknowledge that many of our members follow sound financial management principles and this is a viable option for them. Many credit card companies have rewards programs (rebates, mileage points, etc.) that our members utilize regularly.

Are there any church administration fees involved with online giving? Yes. *Living Lord* pays a nominal \$0.20 per transaction fee plus 1/2% for each online gift from a checking or savings account. We also pay \$0.45 per transaction plus a normal 2.95% merchant fee for each online gift from a credit or debit card. Because of this fee, we would discourage the use of credit or debit cards when making very large gifts if you have other payment options available. The **Give+** system does provide the option for you to add a nominal fee to the amount given to help offset a portion of the fee that the church will incur.

How can I get started? Go to our church website - www.LivingLordFL.org - and on the home page simply click on the **Give+** button at the top of the page. From there, just follow the on-screen instructions.

If you have any questions about **Give+**, you can contact our Stewardship chair, Steve Long.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Since Christmas Eve falls on Sunday night this year, the members of the Worship and Music Committee and the Church Council have been grappling with planning church services for that day. Typically we have been having three services on Christmas Eve, at 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM and with a late service at 10:00 or 11:00 PM. Additionally we normally have our three Sunday morning services each Sunday. Obviously in the interests of all we do not wish to have six services in one day on Christmas Eve. Consequently the church Council has decided to hold three services on Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24th. We will have our traditional Advent service at 11:00 AM. In addition we will have a service at 4:00 PM at which the band will play, and we will have another service at 8:00 PM, involving the vocal choir and bell choir. We know that some church members will be disappointed that we are not holding a late service this year; in the upcoming years where

NEW MEMBER INVITATION

With joy, we will be welcoming new members on **December 3rd**. If interested in becoming a new member, please contact Pastor Pam at 753-9365.

On All Saints Day, November 5, during service, Pastor Pam will lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died in the last year. There is a sheet in the narthex on the Welcome table for the names of your loved ones who have died since All Saints' Day 2016.

JOIN US!

As part of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, LLLC is having a



Sunday, November 5th, beginning at 4:30PM

**We will be holding a BBQ / Potluck dinner at Church
followed by a screening of
Rick Steves' new documentary *Luther and The Reformation*.**



Fall is upon us and at AGC we are so excited to experience all that the season has to offer! Our teachers have been getting ready to celebrate Halloween, have Harvest celebrations and talk about the meaning of Thanksgiving and how we can give thanks for all of our blessings.

Soon the school will be decorated with all things fall! As part of our fall season at All God's Children Preschool, the classes love to go on field trips and visit the local treasures that our area has to offer. This gives our students and their families a chance to spend the day together while the students are still learning and having fun at the same time



Our 2 year old and 3 year old classes went to Fruitville Grove Farm this past month and got to feed goats, pick a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and go on a fun hay ride with their teachers and parents. They had an exciting time playing at their enormous playground and huge sand pile. What a blast for everyone and a great way to start the season!

Our VPK classes took a visit to Dankin Dairy Farm for a fun but educational field trip. They got to watch the process of how milk is produced. They were able to see the cows get a bath and experience the sites and smells of the farm. Piglet races, feeding goats, making butter and a hay ride rounded out their visit along with a picnic lunch and a visit to the playground to let their imaginations run wild! All in all it was a fantastic day had by everyone!!



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

Bullying and How to Respond to It

It is important to recognize bullying versus teasing. A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself. So bullying is aggressive unwanted behavior, a pattern of this behavior happens over time and involves an imbalance of power or strength. Bullying can take on many forms. There is verbal bullying including derogatory comments and bad names. Bullying can be seen in lies and false rumors as well through social exclusion. Physical bullying includes hitting, spitting, kicking, biting and shoving. Having money or other things taken or damaged is another form of bullying. There is also racial bullying. In this time in our world cyber bullying is "popular" with the use of cell phones and the internet. Why do people bully? In the context of school, students who bully have strong needs for power and dominance. They find satisfaction in causing injury and suffering to other students. Some students who bully are often rewarded in some way for their behavior with material or psychological rewards. Bullies usually feel powerless in their own lives. They are usually from dysfunctional families, are looking for attention and need to be in control. So how to beat bullying? Take action!! Stand up for those who are being bullied. Bullies often want an audience and approval. Some schools have an anti-bullying pledge or contract that the students sign. Speak up! Talk to teachers, the principal and your parents. For anyone who has been bullied you know the pain of verbal and/or physical abuse and it is not the way to be treated or to treat others.

Ephesians 4:31-32 *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to each other, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

Love in Christ is what we are to be about in our congregation, community and our daily lives. So as said above let's Take Action! With love in Christ from the Nurses of Living Lord

LUNCH BUNCH

"Give Thanks Together"



Gentlemen Invited Too

**Lunch Bunch will dine at Whetstone Restaurant
At Manatee Technical College Campus on SR 70**

Thursday, November 16th, at 11:30 Please note the starting time is earlier than usual!

Meet at church at 11:00 or at the campus at 11:30

The menu will be posted the Sunday before the luncheon!

Council Members present: Al Kersten, John Saum, Karla Schrand, Pastor Pam, Herb Hunter, Ruth McConnell, Dan Powers, and Steve Long. Greg Fisher via telephone. Also present: Patty Kunkel for Bob Scott

Called to order @ 7:00 pm Opening Prayer by Pastor Pam

Approval of August minutes—Herb Hunter motioned to approve August minutes as amended. Dan Powers 2nd. Motion carried unanimously,

Reading of covenant by Al Kersten

Call Committee Report —The Call Committee has interviews scheduled in the near future. Dan Powers motioned to increase the Defined Compensation to the MSP to \$80,000. Steve Long 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

Education — Pastor Pam read an email she received from Jen Butler with a letter of resignation. Dan Powers motioned to continue the exception for her as she is now a full time AGC employee with the stipulation that she continue to recues herself from voting on AGC matters. Steve Long 2nd. Motion carried unanimously. Since the meeting with Sue Mendenhall was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma it will be rescheduled.

Property Purchase Update—The facts are being compiled and will hopefully be presented at the next council meeting.

Church Gifting Policy—Tabled for later.

Budget—John Saum stated that teams need to begin working on next year ' s budget numbers.

Evangelism—Oktoberfest is cancelled. Dan Powers to draft a proposal for a Potluck dinner at the church on November 5th.

Pastor ' s Report— Sue Tomasso will be unable to run Night in Bethlehem.

Old Business - The website is ready to accept credit cards, just waiting for authorization.

New Business—A card will be sent to Mike and Maggie thanking them for going above and beyond during the hurricane with a gift card.

Next meeting is October 11th at 7:00 pm. Adjourned at 9:21 pm with Lord ' s Prayer

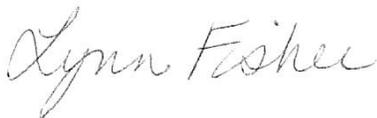
Respectfully submitted,

Karla Schrand

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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2017	Jan -Sept 2017 Actuals	Jan - Sept 2017 Budget	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	314,690.93	332,503.32	(17,812.39)
Church General Fund Disbursements	304,195.96	330,835.72	26,639.76
Net Church General Fund	10,494.97	1,667.60	8,827.37
Church Restricted Receipts	21,002.31		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(1,301.31)		
Youth Group Fundraiser	829.05		
Church Restricted Disbursements	35,956.42		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>(4,931.40)</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	129,533.41	115,948.50	13,584.91
AGC General Fund Disbursements	117,701.65	121,010.61	3,308.96
Net AGC General Fund	11,831.76	(5,062.11)	16,893.87
AGC Fundraisers	8,117.59		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	1,682.75		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>18,266.60</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	444,224.34	448,451.82	(4,227.48)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	421,897.61	451,846.33	29,948.72
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>22,326.73</u>	<u>(3,394.51)</u>	<u>25,721.24</u>
Fundraising Balances	7,645.33		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	21,002.31		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	37,639.17		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>13,335.20</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2017 VS 2016	Jan -Sept 2017 Actuals	Jan -Sept 2016 Actuals	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	314,690.93	322,176.26	(7,485.33)
Church General Fund Disbursements	304,195.96	330,770.30	26,574.34
Net Church General Fund	10,494.97	(8,594.04)	19,089.01
AGC General Fund Receipts	129,533.41	123,141.41	6,392.00
AGC General Fund Disbursements	117,701.65	118,689.94	988.29
Net AGC General Fund	11,831.76	4,451.47	7,380.29
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	444,224.34	445,317.67	(1,093.33)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	421,897.61	449,460.24	27,562.63
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>22,326.73</u>	<u>(4,142.57)</u>	<u>26,469.30</u>

Church receipts are \$18,000 under budget and disbursements are \$27,000 less than budget putting us \$9,000 better than budget overall. Our church net financial position is \$19,000 better than last year due to lower expenses than budgeted, despite cancelling services due to the hurricane. AGC is continuing to show positive results through September and is \$17,000 ahead of plan.



Lynn Fisher, treasurer/bookkeeper

Ask the Weatherman

By: Bill Mork



Why was Hurricane Maria Such a Catastrophe in Puerto Rico?

Two weeks before Maria, Irma with its 185 mph winds spared Puerto Rico by mere miles, as its eyewall tracked just north of the north coast. Despite that, up to 1.5 million customers were without power from Irma's graze of Puerto Rico. After pummeling the islands of Dominica and St. Croix, the eye of Hurricane Maria came ashore near the town of Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, on Sep 20, as a Category 4 hurricane with max sustained winds of 155 mph. Maria was the strongest Puerto Rico landfall since the Category 5, Sep 1928 San Felipe/Lake Okeechobee hurricane. Hurricane-force winds raked the entire 100-mile long by 35-mile wide island. Wind gusts were as high as 137 mph at Isla Culebrita. Countless trees were downed, blocking roads, falling on power lines, knocking out power to the entire island. Since winds in a hurricane's eyewall are typically strongest from 1,000 to 2,500 feet above the ground, wind damage was particularly intense in the hills and mountains. Up to 35 inches of rain over mountainous Puerto Rico, with rainfall rates of up to 5 to 7 inches per hour, triggered destructive flash flooding. Roads and bridges were washed out and landslides dragged homes down hillsides and left many other areas isolated. River levels in the Rio de la Plata Basin rose at least 20 feet in a matter of hours on 20 Sep, near the town of Comerio. The Rio Grande de Manati near Ciales shattered its previous record by over 17 feet.

How has the weather been since Maria? What brought some to their breaking point was the prospect of weeks of heat and high humidity. Four days after Maria, San Juan had a record high of 94. Nighttime offered little relief as daily lows did not cool below 81 for six straight days,

22-27 Sep. Now consider standing in long lines for water or trying to sleep in a damaged home or shelter without air conditioning. As of 18 Oct, barely 10 percent of customers in Puerto Rico had electricity restored, and about 1 million residents did not have drinking water.

How much rain fell from Hurricane Harvey? A slow-moving Harvey produced record breaking rainfall totals of 45 to 50 inches on 25-29 Aug in southeast Texas. Top 5-day totals include 51.88 inches at Cedar Bayou, 49.84 inches at League City, and 49.80 inches at Mary's Creek. Some peak 2-day totals include 31.55 inches at Beaumont, 30.48 inches at League City, and 24.94 inches at Houston International. Top single day totals include 26.01 inches at Beaumont, 16.08 inches at League City, and 16.07 inches at Houston International. The top record monthly total was 54.74 inches at Beaumont, 10 times the Aug normal of 5.38 inches.

What are the loss estimates for the recent hurricanes? As of 23 Oct, dollar loss estimates for the recent hurricanes include \$65-190 billion for Harvey, \$50-100 billion for Irma, and \$45-95 billion for Maria. Irma caused an estimated \$2.5 billion in damage to Florida agriculture. The orange crop estimate for 2017-18 is 31 million boxes, lowest level since 1942. In the season that ended on 30 Sep, orange crop output was 68.7 million boxes, lowest since 1964 according to the U.S. Dept of Agriculture. The record low was 4 million boxes in 1918. Data goes back to 1913.

How much rain fell in the rainy season? The wettest months of Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep produced 52.84 inches of rain at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, 167 percent of normal, and 42.87 inches of rain in Parrish, 132 percent of normal.

November Birthdays

Allen, Nicholas	13-Nov
Baesman, Richard	29-Nov
Brown, Brian	3-Nov
Brown, Hunter	4-Nov
Burner, Sherry	2-Nov
Copeland, Susan	12-Nov
Engel, Bev	2-Nov
Griffith, Pam	8-Nov
Ireland, Sherry	17-Nov
Johnson, Gary	24-Nov
Karg, Josh	21-Nov
Kitchie, Karen	4-Nov
Langsen, Kate	20-Nov
Mulligan, Jennifer	15-Nov
Mulligan, Kayte	1-Nov
Ovitz, Linda	21-Nov
Pisoni, Marcia	11-Nov
Poole, Joseph	16-Nov
Quaid, Dylan	15-Nov
Raddatz, Roger	3-Nov
Suprina, Barbara	24-Nov
Swartzendruber, Andrew	13-Nov
Trompke, Tamara	4-Nov
Weldner, John	29-Nov



November Anniversaries

William and Janet Burkman	11/23/1978
Matt & Anne Davis	11/29/1997
Jim & Linda Lustgarten	11/24/1990
Kenneth & Margaret Myhre	11/1/2009
Jerry & Sue Tomasso	11/5/1988
Skip and Barb Wegener	11/5/1988

Sunday Attendance



	8:00	9:15	11:00	Total
Sept 3	40	56	79	175
Sept 10	0	0	0	0
Cancelled				
Sept 17	37	94	65	196
Sept 24	42	80	70	192

“Loving, Learning, Living and Serving in Christ”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Visit our web-site—www.LivingLordFL.org



**Living Lord has a fan page on
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