



Living Lord's Voice

December 2017

**Living Lord Lutheran Church
Pastor Pam Wellons, Interim Pastor**

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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.

I like Advent. I like the four week season. It's not a countdown to Christmas. Advent is the reminder of Jesus coming in all his glory.

The color blue represents hope. I like to get creative and make my own version of an Advent wreath. I like seeing the candles burning down showing the passage of time. I like the smells of myrrh and frankincense in the air. I like the music of the season such as hearing a mournful clarinet or cello reminding me of God's people clinging to hope in the midst of exile.

<https://youtu.be/iO7ySn-Swwc>

I like hearing the word of the Lord coming through the prophets that God's promises come true. A Savior born to save. If I put Christmas into perspective, I have a part of the story of Jesus but not the whole story. <https://youtu.be/gPy6k8hhzxl>

A Savior who died for us. A God with us - Emmanuel. A God who raised Jesus from the dead. The promises of the fullness of God's kingdom. Alpha and Omega - a beginning and an end. Jesus, our hope and salvation, rules. The glorious possibilities await as we wait. The feast to come. All of God's creation living in peace with no fear. Good news, great news of great joy!

A blessed Advent! Peace, Pastor Pam



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

December 3 First Sunday of Advent services

December 6 7 pm Midweek Advent Service

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent services

December 13 7pm Midweek Advent Service

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent services

December 20 7pm Midweek Advent Service

December 24

11:00am ONLY 1 morning service Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm Christmas Eve service with carols, communion and candlelight

8:00 pm Christmas Eve service with carols, communion and candlelight

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

The Reformation Spreads in Europe

Martin Luther is, deservedly, receiving most of the attention as we mark the beginning of the Reformation in Saxony. But with remarkable speed, those teachings spread to other countries in Europe. How did that occur? Largely through the work of some courageous leaders. Let's look at how the Reformation came to a few countries whose descendants have helped shape the ELCA.

In **Sweden**, two brothers, Olavus and Laurentius Petri, spearheaded the Reformation. Both had studied theology with Luther in Wittenberg. They returned to Sweden around the same time King Gustav I Vasa was creating an independent nation. He made Olavus pastor of the city church in Stockholm, where he translated the New Testament into Swedish, created a catechism, published an order of worship, and provided a Swedish hymnal. Meanwhile his younger brother, Laurentius, was made the first Lutheran archbishop of Sweden; he and Olavus jointly produced a complete Bible in Swedish.



Statue of Olaus and Laurentius Petri

In **Denmark**, too, the Reformation came early. As in Sweden, it was led by a young man who had studied under Luther in Wittenberg—Hans Tausen. The ruler at the time, Frederick I, was formally opposed to Reformation ideas, but he protected Tausen and tolerated Lutheran writings. The next king, Christian III, stripped the Roman Catholic Church of its wealth, and Luther's pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen, made a journey from Wittenberg to crown the king and help organize the Danish church.

Norway was, at the time, ruled by Denmark, and initially the spread of the Reformation there was slower. Christian III tried to encourage its growth there, but at first there wasn't much popular support; it was more of a top-down reformation. Nevertheless, pastors such as Jorgen Eriksson, who would become bishop of Stavanger, preached Lutheran teachings, and the Reformation gradually took hold.

Mikael Agricola was yet another student of Luther, and it was he who led the Reformation in **Finland**. At that time, Finland was ruled by Sweden. The first Lutheran bishop of Turku (and thus of Finland), Martinus Skytte, left most Roman Catholic orders in place. Agricola's ministry as the next bishop, though, mirrored much of Luther's: he translated the New Testament into Finnish, and in the process created the Finnish literary language. He prepared a prayer book in Finnish, created a vernacular order of communion, and collected Finnish hymns. He was also the first married bishop of Turku.



Mikael Agricola

Moving southeast from Wittenberg, **Slovakia** is another area where the Reformation took hold. Two visionary people must receive much of the credit. Jan Hus lived about a century before Luther and ministered in neighboring Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), but his reforming teachings influenced Slovak Christians, as they did Martin Luther himself. So the way was prepared for the Reformation from Wittenberg. And in the early seventeenth century, another graduate of the University of Wittenberg, Jir'ı (or Juraj) Tr'novsk'ý, helped cement the Reformation in Slovakia by translating many hymns and collecting them into a hymnal called *Cithara Sanctorum* ("Lyre of the Saints").

Lutherans from these lands and many others came to America, establishing first separate enclaves, but gradually merging with other Lutherans into church bodies, including our current Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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A letter to Living Lord's members,

In each of our weekly and monthly newsletters, there is a "Prayer List" with two columns of names. You may or may not look over these names each time you see them and you may or may not know all the people on the list. I'd like to tell you about one who, most likely, none of you know.

The name is David Dye and he is my 51 year old son. He is from my first marriage; he has no siblings and his father died several years ago. David lived with his father and me for the first eight years of his life and then when his father remarried and established a 'stable family', I relinquished custody and my son went to live with his father, stepmother, brother and sister.

David enlisted in the Army right out of high school and served honorably, in the US, Germany and Korea. When he 'mustered out' from Ft. Hood in Texas, he met a girl, got married and had a daughter. David and his wife have since divorced and his life began to go downhill. He joined a motorcycle gang, the Bandidos, just one step in violence and crime from Hells Angels. It was my worst nightmare, even though he repeatedly swore that he personally was not involved in any crimes. I did not believe him.

Three years ago this month, on a lonely road in Arizona, David was arrested. Apparently a 'friend' had asked him to drive a truck from California to Texas and he'd be paid a large amount of money. He got as far as Arizona where a state trooper thought he looked suspicious and pulled him over. David, who has never been a good liar, caused the cop think the truck deserved a second look. You guessed it. A dog sniffed narcotics and David was arrested and put in a county jail. It's a long story from there but now, he is serving a six-year sentence in a minimum security state prison (even the AZ state could tell he was not a hardened criminal; just a dummy who made an incredibly stupid decision that will haunt him for the rest of his life.)

So this guy, for whom you are offering your prayers, may or may not be someone who rouses your sympathies. He made a really dumb decision and now he's living in a box with 200 other dummies, until he merits parole or serves his full six years. Either way, he faces the rest of his life as a convicted felon. And yet, he is still my son. So I love him, I write to him weekly and I try to visit him at least a twice a year. I will also be the one doing the hardest praying for him. May I ask that you please continue to remember him in your prayers as well? Thank you.

Signed, a Living Lord member who may be sitting next to you in church next Sunday!



ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS

Give something
unexpected
this Christmas.

Goat \$50

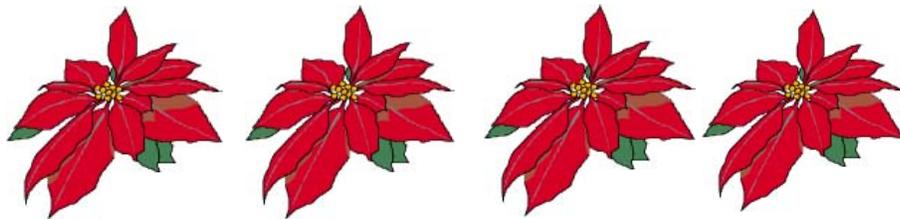
SHOP NOW

A photograph of a small white and brown goat standing and wearing a string of colorful Christmas lights around its neck and body.

As Christmas nears, ELCA Good Gifts can be a useful tool for your holiday shopping. All gifts can be given in honor of friends and loved ones, and each gift comes with a free card for you to share the news. The 2017 catalog features a handful of new additions: water filters \$30, solar powered lanterns \$30 and sending a young person with disabilities to the ELCA Youth gathering \$300, to name a few. The 2017 ELCA Good Gifts catalog is in the narthex for you to take.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday December 17th at 4:00 the combined musicians of Living Lord and St. Mary Magdalene will present our third annual Service of Lessons and Carols. This year it will be at St. Mary Magdalene and will consist of nine Bible readings, from the prophecies foretelling Jesus' birth through the nativity, with music, including carols sung by the congregation, in between. It will be one hour and refreshments will be served afterwards.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST UPDATE

The youth group would like to thank you for your generous contributions to the youth pancake breakfast fundraiser. Because of you, we were able to raise \$600 for our program. Your donations will be used to support valuable youth program events.





Miss Jen has been very busy with her 2 year old students this year. Their progress has been outstanding! They are our youngest students and have never been to preschool. They feel right at home in her cozy classroom. She is always doing such interesting activities and exciting crafts. Here is a picture of them playing so nicely and taking turns in a sensory bin that Miss Jen created!



Miss Dianne's VPK class had a very special visitor this week. Katie Foltz, who is an AGC Mom but also a chef. She came into the class and prepared a special surprise for the students. Each student got to make their very own Pumpkin Mouse Tart. They mixed the ingredients, filled the pie shells and covered the pies with homemade whipped cream and chocolate chips. We love when our parents are able to share their talents with the school, this one was a huge hit!! If that was not enough, they also got to make their own chef hats. Thanks so much Katie, please come back any time!!

Each year at All God's Children Preschool, we love to have our students and staff dress up in their cutest and scariest Halloween costumes and celebrate with a parade. This year was no different. Each class lined up and paraded out of the church and through the parking lot while parents and family members cheered for them and took dozens of pictures! We ended the parade in the AGC playground where the staff had treats for the students to collect in their bags that they created in class. We had some awesome costumes this year, Elvis, Army Rangers, Princesses, Super Heroes and even a donut. The students had such an amazing time with their classmates and families. What a super special treat for everyone!!



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

The December Topic is Holiday Depression.

My best memories of Christmas is going to church on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus. After church, the family got together. All the Aunts, Uncles and cousins and had a meal together. It was a happy time to be with family. However, the Christmas Holiday does not always bring us a cheerful, merry, or joyful feeling. Many of us have gotten a bit lost in the hype of the celebration. Be it pressure that our society puts on us to start buying gifts, decorating, cookie baking, writing Christmas cards, making fancy meals, endless holiday parties, overeating, overdrinking, overspending, overtired, and so on. Or, sadly, we simply are going through a difficult time in our life and find it hard to participate in all the holiday glory, God does not delight in us making ourselves distressed or weary in order to celebrate. He wants us to be balanced and uplifting. Volunteering may be a way to feel good about the holiday. It is easy to hand out a small token to a homeless person. Perhaps the homeless person has not experienced random acts of kindness in a long time and it can be uplifting to someone who really needs it. Finding a way to make the holidays joyful in a balanced way. Show love and give hope to others. That is a true blessing.

It is also a time of the year for sadness due to the loss in the family. We must not forget our Savior. He is with us always with us through the tough times. He cares for us and loves us. Don't forget to talk to Him about your problems daily. God Loves You.

Guide us Father through this holiday season. Keep us safe and healthy. Thank you for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Thank you to everyone who came to the potluck and movie night. All of the food was really yummy starting with the burgers and hotdogs (thanks Greg Fisher for cooking) right down to all of the dishes that the congregation brought. After dinner the movie was enjoyed by everyone. We appreciate everyone who helped set-up and clean-up.

The Fellowship committee has decided in order to simplify the purchasing of general kitchen supplies for functions and fellowship everything will be purchased and kept in the kitchen for the congregation's use. In order to make this work we need your help. If you are planning a function we will need to know in advance in order to purchase items for you. Also, if you notice items such as forks, napkins, cups, etc. are almost gone please call Ellen Hanson at 981-9048 or email at randley.hanson@verizon.net so that the items can be replenished.

We now have three couples along with Randy and I that are setting up coffee fellowship on Saturdays. A huge thanks to Cheryl and Gary Graham, Bonnie Walker and Denny Gilpin and Paula and Marty Kane. We can always use more volunteers to help with fellowship on Sunday mornings if you are interested please contact either Ellen Hanson or Dan Powers.

Living Lord Lutheran Church Council October 10th, 2017 - 7:00pm

Council Members present: Al Kersten, John Saum, Greg Fisher, Karla Schrand, Pastor Pam, Herb Hunter, Ruth McConnell, Dan Powers, Larry Howe, Sami Copeland and Steve Long. Also present: Patty Kunkel

Called to order @ 7:00 pm Opening Prayer by Pastor Pam Covenant read by Al Kerstan

Approval of September minutes: John Saum motioned to accept minutes as amended. Herb Hunter 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Report: The confirmation retreat was canceled. There is a meeting for the youth and their parents October 11th. Confirmation dinner will be on October 25th. Parent help is needed for confirmation classes. There are 3 being confirmed on October 29th at the 9:15 service.

Pastor's report: Staff evaluations will begin shortly. Due to Hurricane Irma a checklist may be needed along a walk-through and/or drill with the Property/Worship and Music Committees with staff.

President Report: Steve Long motioned to accept the resignation of Jen Butler with regret. Dan Powers 2nd. Motion carried unanimously. Ruth McConnell motioned to have Matt Palmtag replace Jen Butler for the Education Team Lead with no oversight of Adult Education until next congregational meeting. Greg Fisher 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

Call Committee report and update: The Call Committee is currently awaiting a new slate of candidates.

Finance Report: Marie Sankowski is added to the list of potential Audit volunteers.

Worship & Music Report: Larry Howe motioned to have an 11 am traditional Advent service, 4 pm traditional service with Bells/Choir, and 8 pm service with the band. Steve Long 2nd. Motion carried with 6 ayes and 2 nays. Larry Howe motioned to accept the Congregational Gift Policy with changes of Gift Policy 2.g. by replacing personal with including but not limited to, and Gift Policy 3 by replacing our congregation with Church Council Executive Committee, and Gift Policy 6 by replacing MONTH with Feb and YEAR with 2021. Greg Fisher 2nd. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Howe motioned for the Mission Endowment Fund be tabled for 1 (one) year at which time council to review. Greg Fisher 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

Parish Life: Dinner & Movie on November 5th is moving forward.

Stewardship: The Stewardship campaign will be limited to 2 (two) Sundays, November 12th and 19th, there will be no pledge/estimate of giving forms.

Property: No action needed.

Old Business: At the annual Congregation meeting it will be added to appoint lay person(s) for the Synod Assembly with 2 primaries and alternates.

New Business: The Nominating Committee is being put together.

Night in Bethlehem is cancelled due to lack of person to oversee.

Give + Church is an app that is now available in Google Play and Apple Store.

Adjourned at 9:24 pm with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

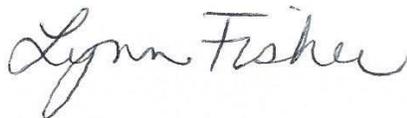
Karla Schrand

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

OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2017	Jan -Oct 2017 Actuals	Jan - Oct 2017 Budget	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	344,394.41	364,435.12	(20,040.71)
Church General Fund Disbursements	331,763.60	369,380.01	37,616.41
Net Church General Fund	12,630.81	(4,944.89)	17,575.70
Church Restricted Receipts	25,402.26		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(260.08)		
Youth Group Fundraiser	962.05		
Church Restricted Disbursements	36,268.07		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>2,466.97</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	150,775.01	131,541.00	19,234.01
AGC General Fund Disbursements	133,259.46	137,911.66	4,652.20
Net AGC General Fund	17,515.55	(6,370.66)	23,886.21
AGC Fundraisers	8,393.90		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	1,682.75		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>24,226.70</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	495,169.42	495,976.12	(806.70)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	465,023.06	507,291.67	42,268.61
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>30,146.36</u>	<u>(11,315.55)</u>	<u>41,461.91</u>
Fundraising Balances	9,095.87		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	25,402.26		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	37,950.82		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>26,693.67</u>		
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2017 VS 2016	Jan -Oct 2017 Actuals	Jan -Oct 2016 Actuals	Difference
Church General Fund Receipts	344,394.41	353,261.31	(8,866.90)
Church General Fund Disbursements	331,763.60	362,886.72	31,123.12
Net Church General Fund	12,630.81	(9,625.41)	22,256.22
AGC General Fund Receipts	150,775.01	141,037.23	9,737.78
AGC General Fund Disbursements	133,259.46	135,131.76	1,872.30
Net AGC General Fund	17,515.55	5,905.47	11,610.08
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	495,169.42	494,298.54	870.88
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	465,023.06	498,018.48	32,995.42
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>30,146.36</u>	<u>(3,719.94)</u>	<u>33,866.30</u>

Church receipts are \$20,000 under budget and disbursements are \$37,000 less than budget putting us \$17,000 better than budget overall. Our church net financial position is \$33,000 better than the same time last year due to lower expenses than budgeted.

AGC is continuing to show positive results through October and is \$24,000 ahead of plan.



Lynn Fisher, treasurer/bookkeeper

Ask the Weatherman

By: Bill Mork



Is air pollution in India worse than in China? Yes, it certainly is. For the third straight day, 7-9 Nov, thick toxic smog enveloped New Delhi, forcing schools to shut down, halting traffic on highways, and sending residents scurrying to buy air purifiers and filtration masks. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, leader of the mega-city of 20 million people, called the capital a “gas chamber” as his government sought meetings with adjoining states to address the issue. The deadly level of carcinogenic pollutants in New Delhi’s air was roughly 10 times the reading in Beijing, a city globally infamous for its air pollution. “This is the worst that I have seen in my 35 years in New Delhi”, said Arvind Kumar, a lung surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Is there a new world record for lowest barometric pressure? A study published in the Oct issue of the journal *Weather* (British Royal Meteorological Society) has proposed that the central pressure of Super Typhoon Haiyan, which ravaged the Philippines in 2013, fell to 860 millibars (25.40 inches of mercury) on 7 Nov 2013. If true, this would establish a new world record for lowest sea-level pressure yet observed or estimated on Earth’s surface, surpassing the currently accepted figure of 870 millibars (25.69”) attributed to Typhoon Tip on 12 Oct 1979. Routine aerial reconnaissance of Western Pacific typhoons ceased in 1987, and since then a variety of methods have been used to estimate intensity of these storms. In the *Weather* article, the authors based their conclusion by comparing pressure gradients actually measured across the eyewalls of Patricia and Megi to that of Typhoon Haiyan, based upon the 910-mb measurement observed at the Guiuan site on Samar Island when the eye of Haiyan was still 28km away. The storm destroyed the station after this final measurement was made at 2100 GMT on 7 Nov 2013.

Was this a busy hurricane season? The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season has been hyperactive, featuring 17 named storms, tying it with 1936 as the fifth-most active season since records began in 1851. All ten of the season’s hurricanes occurred in a row, the greatest number of consecutive hurricanes in the satellite era. In addition, it is the costliest season on record, with a preliminary total of over \$316.51 billion (USD) in damages, nearly all of which was due to three of the season’s major hurricanes-----Harvey, Irma, and Maria. This season is also one of only six years on record to feature multiple Category 5 hurricanes. Irma’s landfalls on multiple Caribbean islands and Maria’s landfall on Dominica make 2017 the second season on record (after 2007) to feature two hurricanes making landfall at Category 5 intensity. In addition, Irma was the strongest hurricane ever recorded to form in the Atlantic Ocean outside of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. In late Aug, Hurricane Harvey became the first major hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. since Wilma in 2005, while also setting the record for costliest tropical cyclone on record, as well as the most rainfall dropped by a tropical cyclone in the U.S.

What is the latest citrus crop forecast? The Florida citrus crop was hurt by Hurricane Irma, but just how much remains uncertain. Latest USDA citrus forecast projects Florida will produce 50 million boxes of oranges during the 2017-18 season. This was a 7 percent decrease from the October forecast of 54 million boxes. Citrus growers in Manatee County may have experienced less-severe losses than growers in counties to the east. It is estimated that groves at Lakewood Ranch lost 10 percent of their fruit. But the long-term fallout could be worse. Violent shaking of trees damaged root systems and seemed certain to increase fruit loss in the future.

December Birthdays

Adams, Diane	6-Dec
Berka, Rebecca	7-Dec
Burner, Dick	1-Dec
Chan, Susan	11-Dec
DeGeorge, John	30-Dec
Dinger, Darrel	10-Dec
Dodge, Carole	3-Dec
Driscoll, Carol	25-Dec
Eckstrom, Norine	3-Dec
Eichert, Carol	29-Dec
Frohling, Diane	27-Dec
Gangnagel, Don	18-Dec
Greendonner, Heather	6-Dec
Greendonner, Carolyn	28-Dec
Hartlieb, Ken	31-Dec
Heuss, Phil	9-Dec
Howe, Larry	14-Dec
Johnson, Leslie	30-Dec
Karg, Emily	31-Dec
Klosterman, Bradley	1-Dec
Klosterman, David	29-Dec
LaFontaine, Jack	17-Dec
Long, Beth Ann	17-Dec
Martin, James	13-Dec
Mulligan, Jay	31-Dec
Mundt, Larry	2-Dec
Pinsonneault, Laura	15-Dec
Pisoni, Ron	12-Dec
Schillinger, John	11-Dec
Schmidt, Isabelle	1-Dec
Starnier, Tina	11-Dec
Tomasso, Danielle	17-Dec
Vid, Mildred	2-Dec
Viney, Earl	16-Dec
Viney, Donna	20-Dec
Walden, James	27-Dec
Wegener, Skip	21-Dec
Wood, Donald	19-Dec



December Anniversaries

Lon and Lois Andersen	12/18/1971
Darrel & Loraine Dinger	12/28/1956
Peter & Heidi Easton	12/27/1977
Dick and Dorothy Gross	12/18/1966
Ed and Marsha Holloway	12/18/1970
Martin and Paula Kane	12/29/2012
Matthew & Karen Kitchie	12/3/1983
Bill & Marty Mork	12/30/1961
Dan and Rebecca Powers	12/23/2000
Corky and Susan Taylor	12/12/2009

Sunday Attendance

	8:00	9:15	11:00	Total
October 1	47	91	75	213
October 8	52	81	58	191
October 15	51	87	73	211
October 22	57	75	71	203
October 29	46	103	93	242

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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