



# Living Lord's Voice

January 2018

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

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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.



“See to it that you do not treat the gospel only as history, for that is only transient; neither regard it only as an example, for it is of no value without faith. Rather, see to it that you make this birth your own and that Christ be born in you....Of what benefit would it be to me if Christ had been born a thousand times, and it would daily be sung into my ears in a most lovely manner, if I were never to hear that he was born for me and was to be my very own?”

*Martin Luther*

“Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!”

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The staff and I would like to thank you for remembering us this Christmas. You're a blessing. Merry Christmas and a blessed and exciting New Year to all of you!

Peace, Pr. Pam

Looking forward in the church year, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord on Sunday, January 7, 2018. The Ash Wednesday service will be on February 14 at 7 pm.

You are invited to attend the following services of installation:

The Rev. Ashley Nicolls will be installed to the Office of Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sarasota on January 14, 2018 at 3pm.

Bishop Pedro Suarez will be installed on January 20, 2018 at noon at S. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, New Tampa, Florida

## about the lutherans

# Lutherans Come to North America

Most of us know that Lutheranism had its start in Germany with Martin Luther. But when and how did it come over to North America? The story begins with the arrival of a pastor with a distinctive name, at least to our ears. On April 17, 1640, Swedish pastor Reorus Torkillus arrived in Fort Christina, near present-day Wilmington, Delaware. The Swedish government was developing a small settlement there and needed someone to attend to the spiritual needs of the Swedish immigrants.

If we wish to see a sustained presence of Lutherans, though, we must wait about a hundred years. Germans had begun arriving in America in the 1680s, with most settling in Pennsylvania and upstate New York but others heading for Louisiana and the southeastern colonies. Many were fleeing poor conditions in Germany, and though they brought their beliefs from home, there was, at first, no provision for Lutheran pastors. But in 1741 Lutherans in Pennsylvania issued a call to a thirty-year-old pastor in Saxony, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1742. Muhlenberg turned out to be an excellent choice. Not only was he untiring in his pastoral work, but he laid the foundations for what would become the Lutheran church in America. He helped more congregations to organize and call pastors. He called into existence the first North American organization of Lutherans, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He helped prepare a standard Lutheran liturgy and create a constitution. He even contributed deeply to a hymnal published in 1786.



*Henry Melchior  
Muhlenberg*

Lutherans kept coming from different European lands. Swedes and Norwegians settled largely in the upper Midwest; Danes were more widespread. German immigrants were concentrated in a band across the northern part of the country, but they also established concentrations in places like Missouri and Texas. Slovaks, heirs to Luther's predecessor Jan Hus, also arrived. Often these groups set up their own separate church systems, such as the Augustana Synod, the Norwegian Synod, and the German-based General Synod. Then there were groups that formed in opposition to teachings of the earlier groups, like the Hauge Synod and the Missouri Synod. Mergers have occurred, but so have divisions. Currently the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is by far the largest Lutheran body in the United States, followed by the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and many smaller bodies.



But the story doesn't end with the first immigrations from northern Europe. The nineteenth century brought increased missionary activity to the scene, and in time some of those who had been taught by these missionaries also came to North America, bringing their own Lutheran customs. So now our mix includes heritages such as Ethiopian, Nigerian, Liberian, Korean, Chinese, Indian, Palestinian, Brazilian, and many more. Where can your congregation trace its roots?



Our VPK class took a very exciting field trip this month. They went to the Manatee Performing Arts Center to see a play called "Fairytale Follies". This play had all of the characters from the popular fairytales that the AGC students love to read about in school. They were so thrilled to get to see them up close. It was such a wonderful way to introduce them to the arts and they were so engaged in the performance that you could not hear anything but their wonderful laughter! The classes got to meet several of the cast members after the show. Smiles all around!!



Every year around the holidays the AGC staff offers a "Parent's Night Out" for the wonderful AGC parents. This is an opportunity for them to have a night out to shop for Christmas or just go to dinner and a movie. The parents were able to drop off their AGC student to the school at 5:30pm and pick them up at 8:30pm. Within that time, the children were making Christmas ornaments, decorating holiday brownies, eating pizza and creating beautiful Christmas tree ornaments. The night ended with a holiday movie and popcorn. It was a really fun night had by all, the students got a chance to see what it is like to be at school at night, which they thought was pretty cool! Our parents got a chance to leave their children with the awesome AGC teachers for the night and not have to worry and just enjoy the night. A true success!!!!



Of course, everyone is super excited for Christmas and if you walk around AGC you will see how each teacher has taken so much time decorating their room. They are making sure that the children are having extra fun in their special holiday centers and decorating their own Christmas trees as well as learning the true meaning of the season with Nativity scenes. Miss Valerie's class created their very own "Gingerbread Land" and each student created their own character to live in the village. I have never seen such creativity from elves to princesses and so much more. A great way to get ready for all of the fun the net few weeks has to come!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to the Sunday school students and our wonderful parents, helpers and Minister of Music for a great Christmas pageant!



## Strengthening Your Marriage

We recently had the opportunity to participate in a getaway weekend for marriage enrichment. This weekend was sponsored by Family Life and was appropriately named *A Weekend to Remember*. There were over 250 couples in attendance, ranging from newly engaged, newlyweds, all the way up to one couple that had been married for 56 years. All of us were there for a reason. Some were there to learn the basics of married life, other to find ways to enrich and understand how to cope with issues as both individuals and as a couple. We are sure that for some of the couples there was the hope of saving a failing marriage relationship.

There is no way that we can describe every wonderful aspect of each of the speakers. Here are but a few morsels of insight, some of which you may have heard in your life. Even if you have, who doesn't need a little refresher now and again!

Marriage is not to make me happy, but to make me holy.

My spouse is not my enemy - Satan is!

He or she is my gift from God.

When a couple fails to make the necessary adjustments towards oneness, the result is isolation.

We all know that communication is paramount in any relationship. In marriage that embodies not only speaking but sometimes more importantly listening. Loving looks, tender touches, and the gift of service also communicate — sometimes more than an in-depth conversation. We must allow each other the freedom for differences in our communication styles. After all, we all know that men are from Mars and women are from Venus. We can promote healthy communication by adjusting our style to honor each other. This ultimately honors and blesses the One who created us.

Walking this oneness requires faith. Faith is putting our trust and confidence in God. Praying together, having devotional time, spending time in each other's interests can grow your marital relationship.

Remember that the Bible is not a book of do's and don'ts. — it is a book of life!

With Love - Beth & Steve Long

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5: 22-23*

**The Call Committee is pleased to announce that they have picked a primary candidate and have given that name to the congregational council. They will now continue the call process. The name will be held in confidence until the candidate agrees to move forward.**

## FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

### Joy and Laughter in This New Year

Recently I read an article by Debbie Przyblyski and will use it in part for this article.

*"Create a habit of happiness and laughter instead of a habit of worry. When you laugh, it lowers stress hormones and relieves stress. Laughter also boosts the immune system, protects the heart and improves overall health. Ten belly laughs a day are equivalent to getting a good aerobic exercise workout, and they are the ultimate 'stress buster.'" says Don Corbert MD.*

As we enter this New Year, it is critical that we maintain a good heart attitude in life. If you look around, many people are stressed and without hope, worrying daily about the future. Many are burdened in this New Year, fearing what will happen rather than really living life to the fullest. Is this really what God wants for us?

Did you know that laughter helps promote good health? A laugh can help lower your blood pressure, boost your immune system, improve your brain function, elevate your mood, reduce your stress, help you relax, and protect your heart. As it increases your feel-good hormones, it keeps you squarely in the moment. It helps you reframe and feel thankful. Then you will see negative events in a more positive light.

In Proverbs 17:22 the Bible says: *"A cheerful heart is good medicine."* Nehemiah 8:10 says: *"Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."* The Bible supports the fact that cheerfulness and joy promote good health. Is it possible to rejoice always? Paul certainly did and he was imprisoned. Struggles are not easy, but Paul says to pray about everything with thanksgiving as we present our requests to God. Prayer is the key to the ability to rejoice always. Perhaps prayer is also key to finding joy and laughter as we enter this New Year. It certainly is not easy to rejoice in certain circumstances of life, but there is a choice we can make of how we view them. God has an answer for everything, even if we can't see it through our human eyes. He knows the beginning and the end, and it's our choice if we want to link with Him or not. The world is negative and tries to squeeze us into its mold, but God has a way we can walk through our circumstances and our whole life victoriously.

Philippians 4:4-6 says *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

The Nurses of Living Lord wish you a blessed and happy new year!

Beth Long



Living Lord Lutheran Church Council November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 7:00pm

Council Members present: Al Kersten, John Saum, Greg Fisher, Karla Schrand, Pastor Pam, Herb Hunter, Matt Palmtag, Ruth McConnell, Dan Powers, Sami Copeland, Bob Scott, and Steve Long.

Additional Attendees: Tom Jefferys Lynn Fisher, and Patty Kunkel

Called to order @ 7:00 pm Opening Devotions by Pastor Pam Reading of the Covenant by Al Kersten  
Approval of October 10 Meeting Minutes

Dan Powers motioned to approve minutes as amended. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Scott.

Youth Report – Sami Copeland

There will only be 3 more youth group meetings this year on 11/15, 11/29 (thanksgiving dinner), and 12/6 (Christmas party). Pancake breakfast will be held on 11/12, headed by Donna Layrisse.

Property Purchase Team- Tom Jefferys

There is an offer on the table for \$100,000, with several issues that need to be ironed out. Dan Powers motioned to pursue the sale of land per the survey date 6/20/17. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Scott, carried unanimously. A congregational meeting will be held December 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 9:15 service.

Education Team – Matt Palmtag

Herb Hunter motioned to proceed to fill the vacant position of Director of Youth and Family. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Palmtag, carried unanimously.

Financial Resources – John Saum

Audit team will be meeting next week.

Stewardship- Steve Long

Estimate of giving forms are available. Time and Talent survey is online with paper copies available.

Evangelism/Parish Life

The potluck had a cost of \$296 with about 70 people in attendance. Night in Bethlehem needs to have a designated lead person. New members will be received on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Call Committee Report- Dan Powers

The call committee has received a new call list.

Pastor Pam's Report

The weekly bulletin, Link, and the power point slides information needs to be submitted by Wednesday afternoon. The newsletter deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The meeting time for the Council meeting is moved to after the Advent service.

Property Report- Herb Hunter

The ant issue has been addressed with a professional spray. The riser discussion was tabled for later.

Old Business

Synod Assembly nominations have been added to Nominations committee.

New Business

Possible security cameras discussion tabled for later.

Adjournment. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Schrand

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

<b>OVERVIEW YEAR TO DATE 2017</b>	<u>Jan -Nov 2017 Actuals</u>	<u>Jan - Nov 2017 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Church General Fund Receipts	373,682.57	398,526.43	(24,843.86)
Church General Fund Disbursements	359,454.49	405,912.53	46,458.04
Net Church General Fund	14,228.08	(7,386.10)	21,614.18
Church Restricted Receipts	26,682.26		
Facility Fundraiser (Scrip)	(1,498.67)		
Youth Group Fundraiser	1,661.05		
Church Restricted Disbursements	38,951.62		
Net Church Financial Position	<u>2,121.10</u>		
AGC General Fund Receipts	170,505.32	149,919.00	20,586.32
AGC General Fund Disbursements	148,664.84	152,209.16	3,544.32
Net AGC General Fund	21,840.48	(2,290.16)	24,130.64
AGC Fundraisers	8,356.25		
AGC Restricted Disbursements	1,682.75		
Net AGC Financial Position	<u>28,513.98</u>		
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	544,187.89	548,445.43	(4,257.54)
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	508,119.33	558,121.69	50,002.36
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>36,068.56</u>	<u>(9,676.26)</u>	<u>45,744.82</u>
Fundraising Balances	8,518.63		
Total LLLC Restricted Receipts	26,682.26		
Total LLLC Restricted Disbursements	40,634.37		
Net Total LLLC Financial Position	<u>30,635.08</u>		
<b>YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON 2017 VS 2016</b>	<u>Jan -Nov 2017 Actuals</u>	<u>Jan -Nov 2016 Actuals</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Church General Fund Receipts	373,682.57	384,255.76	(10,573.19)
Church General Fund Disbursements	359,454.49	392,231.27	32,776.78
Net Church General Fund	14,228.08	(7,975.51)	22,203.59
AGC General Fund Receipts	170,505.32	159,267.70	11,237.62
AGC General Fund Disbursements	148,664.84	149,916.98	1,252.14
Net AGC General Fund	21,840.48	9,350.72	12,489.76
Total LLLC General Fund Receipts	544,187.89	543,523.46	664.43
Total LLLC General Fund Disbursements	508,119.33	542,148.25	34,028.92
Net LLLC General Fund	<u>36,068.56</u>	<u>1,375.21</u>	<u>34,693.35</u>

Church receipts are \$24,800 under budget and disbursements are \$46,000 less than budget putting us \$21,600 better than budget overall. Our church net financial position is \$22,000 better than the same time last year due to lower expenses than budgeted.

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

 Lynn Fisher, treasurer/bookkeeper

## Ask the Weatherman

By: Bill Mork



**Has it been a warm year?** Florida is one of 8 states that reached record warmth for the first 11 months of 2017. Year-to-date, the average temperature in Florida was 73.7 degrees, making it the warmest year since 2015 with a 2.5 degree departure from normal. Climate Center officials say that 2017 could beat 2015, currently the warmest year on record. It's a continuation of a trend seen over the last 3 years, with nothing but above normal temperatures for the most part. The last 21 consecutive months in Florida have all been warmer than normal. Through Christmas Day, the Dec average temperature is 66.7 degrees, 2.8 degrees above normal, at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. For 2017, the average temperature is 74.6 degrees, 1.7 degrees above normal. Every month in 2017 was above normal, except Sep which was 0.1 degree below normal at the airport. The only Dec cold weather was 10-11 Dec with lows of 40 degrees at the local airport. Coldest in the state was 25 degrees at Crestview and Cross City. Only significant Dec rainfall was on 9-10 Dec with 1.24 inches in Parish and 1.04 inches at the local airport.

**Has winter weather arrived in the Great Lakes and Northern States?** Arctic air interacting with open waters of the Great Lakes brought heavy lake-effect snows to much of the Great Lakes and historic snowfall to Erie PA. A new all time daily snowfall record was set at Erie with 34 inches of snow on Christmas Day. A 2-day record snowfall for the state of Pennsylvania was set at Erie with 60.5 inches of snow on 25-26 Dec. Erie set a new all time monthly snowfall record with 99.5 inches so far in Dec. Other lake-effect snow storm totals included 53.5 inches at Mayville NY in Chautauqua County and 62.9 inches at Redfield NY in Oswego County.

**How cold was it?** On Wed/27 Dec, below zero temperatures (with coldest for each state) were reported across all of North Dakota (Minot -27), South Dakota (Aberdeen -19), Nebraska (Alliance -21), Minnesota (Embarrass -39), Iowa (Pocahontas -17), and Wisconsin (Black River Falls -28). Other cold state lows include minus 14 at Memphis MO and minus 14 at Aurora IL.

**Was there snow in the South in early December?** Record snowfall fell in South Texas on 7-8 Dec with 2 inches at Victoria and one inch at Corpus Christi and Laredo. Snow fell from the South to New England on 8-9 Dec with 5 inches at Jackson and Meridian MS and 4 inches at Birmingham AL. Heavy snow included 10 inches at Asheville NC, and 12 inches north of Atlanta.

**How big was the fire in Southern California?** The Thomas Fire earned its place in history as the largest CA fire on Fri/23 Dec when it reached 273,400 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The Thomas Fire outpaced the previous record holder Cedar Fire in San Diego County in 2003. The Thomas Fire was at 65 percent containment on 23 Dec. The focus is now a controlled burn in the Rose Valley area of the Los Padres National Forest north of Santa Barbara. The threat of the blaze was winding down with the lifting of all mandatory evacuation orders which began when the fire broke out north of Santa Paula on 4 Dec. The Thomas Fire destroyed more than 1,000 buildings, including 775 single-family homes. Two people died as a result of the Thomas fire. The total cost of fighting the fire is estimated at \$177 million so far. There has been no rainfall over 0.1 of an inch since last Feb. Santa Ana winds spread the fire through dry brush. Special masks were worn by our son David in Santa Barbara due to smoke pollution.

## January Birthdays

Baar, Mary Jo	30-Jan
Behler, Davene	28-Jan
Bernard, Vidra	14-Jan
Black, Dan	27-Jan
Bohlmann, Todd	4-Jan
Bottiger, Augie	17-Jan
Davis, Jack	25-Jan
DeLosh, Shawn	12-Jan
Dowling, Benjamin	13-Jan
Duck, Audrey	13-Jan
Frohling, Al	22-Jan
Gilpin, Denny	17-Jan
Herchen, Arthur	12-Jan
Holst, Douglas	6-Jan
Klosterman, Mike	4-Jan
Miller, Bill	4-Jan
Morrissey, Lori	29-Jan
Mulligan, Kiley	13-Jan
Neu, Meghan	27-Jan
Neynaber, Cleo	3-Jan
Pinsonneault, Wayne	30-Jan
Powers, Matthew	19-Jan
Quaid, Mary	10-Jan
Rupp, Sheryl	31-Jan
Schillinger, Jennifer	19-Jan
Stone, Sharon	7-Jan
Tetmeyer, Madelyn	17-Jan
Tomasso, Sue	15-Jan
Trompke, Alyssa	11-Jan
Wells, Cindy	7-Jan
Zang, Caroline	15-Jan



## January Anniversaries

John and Cathy DeGeorge	1/23/1954
Bob and Beverly Engel	1/11/1959
Roger and Linda Henkelmann	1/27/1968
Herbert and Mary Hunter	1/22/1967
Steven and Beth Ann Long	1/29/1972
Jimmie and Ellen Morrison	1/23/1965
Steve and Mari Scituro	1/16/1988

## *Sunday Attendance*

	<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Total</b>
November 5	49	98	83	230
November 12	50	92	81	223
November 19	49	117	79	245
November 26	42	66	72	180

Please mark your calendar for January 28, 2018 at 10:15, immediately following the 9:15 service, to join us for the LLLC Annual Congregational Meeting. This is our annual church business meeting that all members, seasonal members and visitors are welcome to attend. The Annual Report will be available on the bulletin table on Sunday January 14.

“Loving, Learning, Living and Serving in Christ”

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Visit our web-site—[www.LivingLordFL.org](http://www.LivingLordFL.org)



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