

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2725 58th Avenue

Vero Beach, Florida, 32966

Tel: 772-778-1500

www.livinglordlutheran.com

livinglord@comcast.net



est. 1986

Our Mission Statement

“Living Lord Lutheran Church is a family of believers, renewed through the Holy Spirit, to be the real presence of the Risen Christ in this place, our community, and the world.”

PASTOR

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves, ELCA

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Adria Ryan

MUSICIAN EMERITUS

Pamela Wilcox

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

Living Lord Lutheran Church is a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org.) With over 9,100 congregations and 4 million members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

We believe and teach that Christ’s body and blood are truly present and are really given in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Communion at present is given in one kind – that is, the consecrated Body of Christ. It is given, along with the words spoken by the Presiding Minister, “The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ.” Children and adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing if you do not wish to receive the Sacrament.

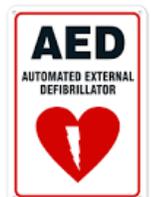
Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers, as well as those returning home to Living Lord today. We do not consider newcomers to be visitors. This is the church of Jesus Christ, and there is a place for you here. We invite you to join the conversation, participate fully in the spiritual life of this community, and proclaim with us the Good News to all the world. Again, welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. If you are visiting today, please inform an usher or the Pastor. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the lobby of the church.

Pastor Greg’s contact information

email: gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com

mobile phone: 610.295.9774

In the event of emergency, an AED device is located in the lobby/narthex of the church. You will find it on the wall leading to the restrooms



Sunday, September 4th, 2022
Service of Holy Communion
Pentecost 13



WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY

As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.

+ *Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY *Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSEMBLY SONG *"O Beautiful For Spacious Skies"*
ELW #888

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.



The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

+ P: In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen.**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Presiding Minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

+ENTRANCE HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
ELW #836

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(The assembly prays together. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.)*

C: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated...

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



READING: Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from Hebrews.

The reading may be concluded:

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ASSEMBLY SONG

“The Old Rugged Cross”
see p. 11

PSALM: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Tone

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able as we welcome the gospel among us.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Verse 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things.
Shall be added unto you.
Alleluia!

Verse 2

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev’ry word that proceeds
From the mouth of God
Alleluia!

Verse 3

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleluia!

+ GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th Chapter.

The reading may be concluded:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Neal Hively

Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

ELW #742

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are said responsively. The worship leader follows each petition with these or similar words: “God of grace”. The assembly follows with “Hear our prayer”.

A: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors. Give us faith to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered. The Presiding Minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words...

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

+THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**
The peace is shared. The service continues with the Offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates as they are passed among the assembly. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.

OFFERTORY

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of abundance:
you have set before us a plentiful harvest, and have welcomed us all.
As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all people,
in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister offers the Words of Institution over the bread and wine...

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presiding Minister continues...

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught us to pray:

+LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.
The assembly is seated...

The Sacrament is distributed.

As the Presiding Minister offers these words, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and the Assisting Minister offers these words, “The blood of Christ, shed for you” each is invited to respond with “Amen.”

During the distribution of the Sacrament, the assembly is invited to sing below:

COMMUNION HYMN

**“Just As I Am”
ELW # 592**

After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...

+ P: The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God,

through this meal you have bandaged our wounds

and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger,

that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



+BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: The God of peace,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

C: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements...

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand for the Sending Hymn, as you are able. ...

SENDING HYMN

**“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”
see p. 12**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 4, 2022

LECTIONARY 23

The Fine Print of Discipleship

A lot can go wrong in our lives. If you ever have any doubts, just read the fine print in a contract, where every worst-case scenario is spelled out. Sometimes we appreciate having those challenges hidden away. When we are jumping into something new, it may be easier to take the leap if we don't dwell too much on what can go wrong.

But that's not the approach Jesus takes when describing the commitment of discipleship. Instead, he uses big, bold terms to emphasize the struggles and conflicts ahead. Discipleship with him will mean taking up a cross. It will mean confronting our most deeply held commitments—our possessions, relationships, and identities. In fact, the cross at the center of discipleship will be so burdensome that it will seem impossible to shoulder.

Jesus' words might scare us off if we miss the other half of the agreement. He doesn't ask us to carry our cross alone. He will be with us as a partner who has already taken the journey from death to resurrected life. In discipleship, Christ leads us and brings the power of God to meet our challenges. Yes, Christ will call us to share the pain of his cross. He will call us to die to old habits, stuck ways of thinking, and broken relationships. But he will also share with us the victory of his cross and the power to rise to new life.

At baptism, we were marked with the cross of Christ forever. That cross marks all of the deaths we will face, but it also marks the beginning of an eternal life with God. Every time we gather in Christian worship, we participate once more in Christ's journey from death to life. Around the table, we gather as Christ's disciples, sharing the overwhelming burden of his cross but also its even more abundant victory. Here, our crosses are transformed by the community in which they are held and by Christ, who leads our way.

Thank You!

Many thanks to Pastor Neal Hively for presiding at worship today. Pastor Greg was asked to preside at the funeral of the Pastor Emeritus at his former congregation in Reading, PA this weekend. The service was yesterday, September 2nd.

