

April 22, 2021

## **LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN VERO BEACH**

Living Lord Lutheran Church celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Vero Beach community on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The church was founded in March of 1985, from a combination of individual contributions, and a grant from the (former) American Lutheran Church, one of several larger churchwide Lutheran bodies in America at the time. A total of 61 people gathered for its first worship service on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> of that same year, at the old Cox-Gifford Funeral Home. The Rev. William Wolfe was the church's first pastor, serving served Living Lord until his retirement in January, 1995. The Rev. Jeremy Freye, of Advent Lutheran Church in Melbourne, FL, and Dean of the Space Coast Conference of Lutheran Clergy, presided at the worship service, representing Bishop Pedro Suarez of the Florida/Bahamas, who was unable to attend.

In addition to celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Rev. Gregory Shreaves was formally installed as the church's 5<sup>th</sup> called pastor. Shreaves had served the congregation at its Interim Pastor from September 2017 to February 2020, when he retired to the MD area. He moved back to the Vero Beach area shortly thereafter and was called by the church to serve as pastor. He comes after nearly 4 years of clergy serving the church in an interim capacity. "We're delighted to have Pastor Shreaves back with us as our newly-called pastor", Lisa DeFrances, the church's council president said recently.

Living Lord Lutheran Church is one of nearly 175 congregations that comprise the Florida/Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and nearly 10,000 ELCA congregations throughout the US and its territories.

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