

# 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Congregation

(August 1, 2009–July 31, 2010)



Produced in September 2010 for the Annual Congregational Meeting held Sept. 19, 2010.

**Living Lord Lutheran Church & Preschool**  
1044 Congress Drive, Bartlett, Illinois 60103  
630.830.3630 / [www.livinglordlutheran.org](http://www.livinglordlutheran.org)

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**LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**30TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**AGENDA**  
**Sunday, September 15, 2010 / 11:30 AM**

Call to Order

Declaration of Quorum

Opening Prayer

Elections

Council Members

2011 Nominating Committee

Reports

Pastor's Report

President's Report

Team Reports

Financial Business

FY 2009–2010 Treasurer's Report

Proposed FY 2010–2011 Budget

Report of the Tellers

Living Lord Lutheran Church Constitution Ratification

Unfinished Resolutions

New Business

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

**LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1044 Congress Drive, Bartlett, Illinois 60103-5757  
(630) 830-3630 / [www.livinglordlutheran.org](http://www.livinglordlutheran.org)

**2009-2010 CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Executive Team**

Bob Mollis, President  
Jeff Jurs, Vice President  
Bob Gorski, Treasurer  
Patti Foss, Council Secretary  
Joy Pauling, Financial Secretary

**Members-at-Large**

Denise DeBoe  
Heidi Sandler  
Dan Schmidt  
Rudy Amling  
Nancy Flynn

**CHURCH STAFF**

Lead Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Interim Associate Pastor  
Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Administrative Assistant  
Director of Communications Ministries  
Office Assistant  
Director of Preschool & Sunday School  
Choir Director

Rev. Sue Allen  
Rev. Jean Marie Durán  
Jennifer Fisher  
Bob Esmail  
Susan Rankin  
Kris Mainellis  
Laura Christensen  
Nancy Collins  
Senja Morgan

## Lead Pastor's Report

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

The seasons come and go, and although we tend to recognize them by changes in weather, there are also seasons to life and our life together. Having been with you 16 months now, we are still in the spring of our relationship; a time of new possibilities with the buds of new growth and the awakening of new birth.

During the first year of our time together, I have watched, prayed, and listened, discerning this church's patterns, traditions, and possibilities. While you have been coming out of a time of transition due to pastoral vacancy, the church is almost always in a state of transition — a time of continual "becoming," as we shape ourselves to the mission that God sets before us. Pauline Kezer wrote, "Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights."

Our roots here are firmly in the Lutheran traditions of grace through faith, the important role of scripture, and Luther's belief in the priesthood of all believers. The branches of change will stretch and grow us to live these out in the world of today and the community here in Bartlett.

I want to thank the Church Council of Living Lord. Under the guidance of President Bob Mollis, they have been a tremendous asset to the church both in their faithful lives and their leadership in the church. As Bob retires from the Council this year, please give him your thanks for a job well done in sometimes uncertain circumstances. Also, Heidi Sander retires from Council this year. Her passion for the young people of this congregation will continue as she works with Sunday school and Midweek MANIA, but we'll miss her on Council.

Our church staff also deserves your thanks. Bob Esmail has returned from the summer whirlwind tour of the mission sites as well as Leadership Lab and still has a smile on his face! Nancy Collins has begun another year of caring for our youngest learners in FAITH QUEST Sunday school and Living Lord Preschool, and her gentle way with all of them is much appreciated. Kris Mainellis makes sure we cross our t's and dot our i's in our all publications, and we certainly appreciate her making us all look good! Sue Rankin has kept the office running smoothly and makes sure we have our accounts straight! Laura Christensen is new to the office, and her pleasant ways greet phone callers and visitors with warmth. Thanks to you all! Ministry here could not happen without you!

My colleague, Pastor Jean, has stepped up to fill many vacancies during the transition time, and unfortunately, it has taken a toll with her own personal health. She has been a stabilizing presence at Living Lord and I thank her for her outstanding contributions to the ministry here. As of this Annual Report she is on a leave of absence and we continue to pray for her as she seeks the healing she needs.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we have exciting things to get ready for! There are some new additions and some changes to our Faith Stepping Stones program, we look forward to increasing our music programs to enhance worship, and we look forward to increasing participation of all our members in active ministry and study.

We also will continue to emphasize and build upon the Core Values we identified last year:

- Being Centered on God

- Living together in Community
- Being Prayer Focused
- Seeking Excellence in all we do
- Serving Others through our gifts and resources

In order to present a realistic budget to the church this year, staff changes have been made. Staff job descriptions in some cases have increased or changed responsibilities; some hours were cut as well as salaries decreased. This reflects the current needs of our congregation as well as our financial capabilities. We have an overall decrease in the personnel budget of approximately 9 percent. We will continue to closely monitor the financial status of the congregation and bring back hours and salaries when we can. Our current challenge is meeting our mortgage and vendor obligations while at the same time providing staffing that meets our needs. In some cases we have been relying on staff to cover ministry that can and should be done by all of us. We look forward to training more and more people to do ministry that God has gifted them to do. Please be watching for how you can put your gifts and skills to work for God.

This past year has been an exciting time getting to know you and together discovering the path that God has planned for us here at Living Lord. I look forward to continuing our ministry together and seeking ways to serve wherever God leads us.

In Christ,

Pastor Sue Allen

## Associate Pastor's Report

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9*

The apostle Paul tested the limits of faith and found out that there are no limits! He endured every hardship that was seemingly possible: imprisonment, being beaten and left for dead, stoned, shipwrecked, bad weather, robbers, the wilderness, thirst and hunger, cold and exposure, stress from his work, and some kind of chronic physical condition. He wrestled with God and pleaded for perfect provision and health, but God didn't answer Paul's prayers... in that way. Paul testified that in the midst of his weakness, he discovered a well-spring of strength in God's grace. God's grace was "sufficient."

This past year we have seen many kinds of hardships, individually and as a congregation. Our faith has been tested and tried, and I pray that we too have learned, along with the apostle Paul, the "sufficiency of grace." In our "weakness," have we found a harbor of strength in the grace of God which is always available to us? My prayer is that each one of us will rally to this grace and that as a congregation we will find that our strength lies not in our abilities and resources, but that our identity and our hope lie in our relationship with God and His call upon our lives to make a difference in the world. Health, income, relationships, work, possessions — these all come and go, but God's grace is a solid rock that can sustain us when all else fails. When we are weak, God offers to be our strength. Are we willing to place our lives into God's hands to discover this source of power?

Personally, I have been wrestling with what this means. Maybe you have been too. What does it mean that God's grace is sufficient? How can we experience God's strength and power when we are feeling beaten and overwhelmed by life's circumstances?

This past year, as I've struggled with health issues, I have had to jump into the pool of God's grace to have the strength and fortitude to continue each day. The things that I have thought ordinarily define who I am, and what I do, have been turned upside down. I know many of you have also experienced this as you have lost jobs, gone bankrupt, lost your homes, experienced health challenges, and suffered in relationships. We have experienced this as a church in the aftermath of the ELCA vote last summer, 2009. It has been painful as many families have left our church family as a result of that vote and their absence has left a gap in our relationships and in our ministry as they have removed their time, talents, and treasures. I have cried as each family has left and asked Jesus to be "sufficient" in this loss.

A new opportunity faces us as we name our weaknesses and needs and as we turn to God's grace and rely on it as our leading force, individually and as a congregation. The community around us is also hurting and we have a power to share with them the power of faith, which is indeed limitless and "sufficient."

My prayers are with you all. May the grace of God sustain, carry, and lead you each day in this next year. As God's grace strengthens you, may you turn around and carry God's grace into your families, work places, schools, neighborhoods, and organizations that you belong to. What a joy it is to be used by God for such a wonderful job! And, what a joy it is that we are not alone in this task, but that we have our church family to work with together, side by side, in this life of faith. It has been my joy to work with you all for these 10 years and I thank God for each and every one of you.

Blessings!

Pastor Jean Marie Durán

## President's Report

In reviewing this year's Church Council meeting minutes, I am reminded of all the challenges and blessings of everything that we discussed and discerned. I feel like the Church Council leaders have heard God's words of wisdom and allowed the Holy Spirit to move us in the direction that He leads us. For every challenging issue we discussed, we were also presented with a new blessing.

- There was the ELCA's adoption of the Human Sexuality resolution and the caring way this congregation handled the topic through "Church in Conversation."
- The congregation held open discussions and agreed on our Core Values and the creation of a renewal process and team.
- The congregation was blessed in our music programs and worship experience with the hiring of our Music Director Senja Morgan and the continuing commitment of our part-time substitute Organist Jayne McElfresh.
- As the country goes through tough economic times, we have depleted our church's cash reserves; however, by working with Mission Investment Fund, we were able to adjust our monthly mortgage payments down for an interim period.
- We have had to ask our office staff to continue to do their duties in fewer hours; they have all graciously accommodated the request.
- Pastor Jean had a need for healing time and a leave of absence from her ministries, but then we were introduced to Pastor Jennifer and her ministries for the interim period.

Yes, the year has been a mixture of good and bad, but it is truly amazing that as challenges were presented along our path, God has provided answers and direction.

As the difficult economic times continue, we are particularly challenged going into our new fiscal year. Many of our members struggle to make ends meet. Our church, like many other churches, has had to cut costs and reduce programs. This year we are planning on a budget that has not grown and will match the actual income and expenses of last year. This year we will have no cash reserves going into the year. That has meant that we have had to cut approximately \$45,000 from our personnel and ministry expenses. This has come in the form of reducing our pastors' compensation and pension contributions. The lay staff's hours were further reduced and hourly wages frozen. We have had to eliminate our Confirmation director position and further reduce church office hours. Like all employers today, we are asking our staff to do more with less in order to live inside of our means.

Now, more than ever before, we will need our members to step up and volunteer their time and talents to the ministries of the church. We won't have enough staff or staff hours to do all the ministries that we hope to accomplish.

My prayer for Living Lord Lutheran Church is that we will all grow in our spiritual life and that God will continue to provide us with a clear path to growing ministries here in Bartlett and beyond. I pray that each of you is touched in some way to serve and to get involved in this congregation's ministries. As a believer in God's hands at work among us, I know He has a plan for Living Lord Lutheran Church and our ministry here in this time and place. It is our responsibility to hear His plan and use the talents that He has given each of us to fulfill this plan.

Thank God for our many blessings, and may He move the Serving Spirit in you,

Bob Mollis  
Council President

## Treasurer's Report

Business in the United States has changed significantly, but the characteristics of a successful business remain intact even today. A successful business needs a strong management team, quality staff, and strong cash flow. Organizations that do not excel in these areas struggle and often fail. The business of Living Lord Lutheran Church is not unlike other businesses.

Organizations that do survive employ a strong management team. Under the leadership of Bob Mollis, Council president, and Pastor Sue, the business of the church this past year was skillfully handled. Last year, Bob and Pastor Sue made a special offering appeal. This year, Bob and Pastor Sue negotiated the mortgage and successfully decreased expenses. The reduced mortgage payments will result in a net benefit to the church of \$35,000 from April 2010 to July 2011.

If you have ever been a committed volunteer of an organization, you will quickly admit that despite your passion for the work, you find times when things get forgotten or left undone. I cannot say enough about the work of the staff because they cannot let the work go unfinished. On top of that, the staff is constantly being asked to do more with less. It is a true blessing that this church has the staff it does. In particular, I want to thank Sue Rankin, the administrative assistant for all of her hard work maintaining the finances of the church. It is her behind-the-scenes activity that keeps the bills paid and the vendors from shutting down services to the church.

As many of you know, I have made a commitment in my professional life to work in the not-for-profit sector. I have been involved in organizations from every aspect, whether it is at a board of directors' level, senior management, entrepreneur, or staff. Not a single organization that I have been affiliated with has been like another except for one common ingredient. Every not-for-profit organization is dependent on its donors for survival. It has been and will continue to be your generosity that allows God's business to be conducted.

This year's budget was reduced by 23 percent in order to line up with current levels of giving. As you know, the largest area of expense for any organization is in personnel. The Personnel Committee convened in order to make a recommendation on the personnel budget. It was decided that to balance the budget, the majority of the cutbacks had to be in the area of personnel. Hard as it is to do, unfilled positions were eliminated, and staff hours and salaries were reduced. Professional expenses and continuing education were also eliminated. I ask that you pray about this budget, and look for ways that you can help the church with your time, talent and (not or) treasure.

While it is sometimes hard to think of our church as a "business," we still have to follow certain legalities that put us in that category. Thankfully, the "business" of the church is what God wills for us to do. In a for-profit company, the more cash they have, the higher the dividend payment. In God's business, your generosity will lead to dividends you can't even imagine!

In His Love,

Bob Gorski  
Treasurer

**Balance Sheet**  
**As of July 31, 2010**



## Statistics Requested by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<b>Membership at the end of 2008</b>	<b>Membership</b>
	1266
<b>Members received in 2009</b>	
Child baptisms	28
Adult baptisms	0
Affirmation of faith	11
Transfer from other ELCA congregations	14
Statistical adjustments	0
<b>Total received this year</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Members removed</b>	
By death	6
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	14
Statistical adjustment	86
<b>Total removed this year</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Members at the end of 2009</b>	1213
Number of people confirmed in 2009	32
Total confirmed membership	975

### Statistics in Our CDM+ Database as of July 31, 2010

Active Members	1185
Baptized	1428
Confirmed	975
Inactive Members	107
Transferred	286
Moved	16
Removed	1762
Households	368
Receives Newsletter	410
Visitors	86
Prospects	188
Giving Units	354

### Worship Attendance

Year	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
No.	295	343	365	396	438	451	445

# Personnel and Administration

The Personnel and Administration Committee serves to assist Church Council and the Lead Pastor in the administration of personnel matters that occur throughout the year. We met several times over the year to address a number of matters. The committee's mission and vision statements provided the guidance we needed to be supportive of the overall mission of Living Lord Lutheran Church and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mission:** The mission of the Personnel and Administration Committee is to provide support for the work of the Congregational Council under the rule and authority of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Personnel and Administration Committee is to ensure that the church's professional and lay staff are providing for the spiritual and administrative needs of the congregation by providing a fair and equitable work environment that adheres to all federal/state employee regulations and synod guidelines.

## Responsibilities

- Evaluate and assess the roles and responsibilities of each member of the staff to ensure that they are aligned with the mission and financial status of the church.
- Recruit and hire the most qualified person for each position in the church through the use of sound business practices and ensure that they are selected in the absence of prejudice or discrimination.
- Develop and maintain a personnel policy manual, the contents of which comply with state and federal employment laws. Establish and implement a process whereby all staff members receive a copy of the manual and are provided with an opportunity to participate in a training session to ensure that they have a clear understanding of all policies.
- Affirm and strengthen the mission of the congregation and ministry of the staff by providing, on a quarterly basis, an opportunity to meet with the committee to (1) listen and clarify, (2) share and communicate, and (3) review and reflect the status of any/all concerns that they have as a result of their role in the church.
- Ensure that a collaborative performance management program is in place and implemented appropriately to meet the needs of the Congregational Council.
- Provide additional support as deemed necessary by the Congregational Council.

## Accomplished Committee Efforts

- Completed revisions to several personnel policies and made recommendations to Church Council for action.
- Reviewed recommendations by lead pastor to re-title several job positions.
- Participated in recruitment of new choir director.

- Reviewed revisions to church secretary position and recommended to Church Council that it be reclassified as office assistant.
- Participated in recruitment and selection of office assistant.
- Facilitated leave of absence for associate pastor.
- Prepared and submitted to Church Council the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 personnel budget.
- Participated in recruitment and selection of interim associate pastor.

**Goal Statement for 2011**

The Personnel and Administration Committee looks ahead to grow the body of Christ at Living Lord Lutheran Church, as finances permit, with additional lay, professional, or volunteer personnel who will, in return, help our congregation grow in faith, fellowship, and stewardship.

**Committee Members:** Bob Mollis, Steve Schwarz, Diane Dubois, Martha Vanourek, Sherry Bor-mann, Jon Anderson, and Dan Maloney

# Youth & Family Ministries

*Our Mission: Enriching Faith to Build the Family of Christ*

It's been a busy year for Youth and Family (YaF) Ministries. Here's some of what we've been up to as we work to connect families and youth to each other through Christ:

- In September 2009 we had our second parents-vs.-youth softball game.
- In February 2010 we put on another Mystery Dinner Night.
- In July 2010 we held our first Ice Cream Social.
- We continue to have Donut Sunday on the first and third Sundays of the month.

We continue to offer big events for the whole family to enjoy together. Things to look forward to in the upcoming year: a tailgate party and chili cook off.

## Youth Development and Mission Activities

Our youth have been very busy. In June, some of our college-age youth went to the Sabbath Center, in Lanark Ill., for our fourth annual Young Adult (YA) Mission Trip. We worked with Neighbor Works in Freeport, Ill. We painted a house for a Vietnam veteran.

In late June, our high school youth found out what "Real Love" (our mission theme) is, as we went to Cleveland, Ohio. We took 40 youth and nine adults on our High School Mission Trip. This was our second mission trip that we arranged completely by ourselves. Some of the things we did on this trip included running a vacation Bible school for a local Cleveland church; cleaning out a warehouse so the church could house a clothing ministry; building a stage for a mission church, Spirit of Joy; and creating two murals for Spirit of Joy.

Then in July, I took two high school students to Leadership Lab at Augustana College, where they learned some valuable leadership skills. This was really a great trip. I hope to take more youth next year.

In August, we took 16 junior high students and four adults (three who had never been leaders on a trip before) to Louisville, Ky., for the Junior High Mission Trip. There we helped paint a house; worked at a Boys and Girls Club; helped teach English to Haitians; worked at a food bank; and peeled a whole lot of potatoes. This was a YouthWorks-planned trip and the theme was "More Jesus, Less Me." All in all, we had a great year.

I would like to thank all the adult leaders who went on our trips:

**High School** — Dan Schmidt, Kelly Kolton, Steve Kolton, Patti Foss, Nancy Flynn, Mary Kish, Kim Stancl, and Bill Johansen

**Junior High** — Cindy Schwarz, Julie Becker, and Melissa Miller

I would also like to thank the members of the YaF Team: Mike Smith, Daria Smith, Patti Foss, Nancy Collins, and Mary Ellen Ricci.

Peace,

Bob Esmail

# Sunday School

We had 160 children enrolled in FAITH QUEST, from preschool through sixth grade.

Our Preschool Son Seekers program went very well, thanks to our dedicated teachers and helpers. This year, we will need more parents to join the team of preschool teachers.

The Bible Trekkers (Kindergarten–4<sup>th</sup> grade) were in the rotation workshops. This was our fourth year using the rotation model. Every year we make a few changes, and the program keeps getting better. The children enjoy learning the stories and lessons through the different workshops, and we have found that this interactive, multidisciplinary approach is highly effective in keeping the kids engaged and excited about learning about God.

The Bible TREK lessons included: (1) Jacob’s Ladder (God watches over us wherever we go); (2) The Ten Commandments; (3) The Magi (journey of the Wise Men); (4) Psalm 8; (5) Jesus Forgives Peter (God forgives us); and (6) Jesus’ Baptism (God’s love). On the fifth week of each round, the children sang in worship and had a review of the lessons they had learned in the different workshops for that round.

This year we incorporated two Family “Sundays.” On these special Sundays, families with children of all ages participated in the worship service as greeters, ushers, readers, and communion helpers, and some blessed us with their gift of music.

The Bible TREK year ended with a celebration and review of all the lessons from the year.

The CrossRoads program for fifth and sixth graders had another successful year as well, due to the efforts of our wonderful teacher-mentors. We will need more parent help with this program as well.

Two of our goals from the previous year were met this year. They included the children singing in church more often and Family Sundays. Volunteer recruitment and participation is an aspect of the program the FAITH QUEST Planning team will be working on in the year to come. We are looking forward to another great year of reaching out to all our children with the love of Jesus.

Thank you to the FAITH QUEST Planning Team and all the parents and youth who volunteered their time, gifts, and talents this past year.

In Christ,

Nancy Collins  
Sunday School Director

## **Living Lord Lutheran Preschool**

The Preschool ran in a somewhat different format for the 2009–2010 school year. Though we conducted our morning 3- and 4-year-old classes in the traditional manner, we did not have enough students to run afternoon classes. We did, however, have 10 bright 4-year-olds who were up for a challenge, and from this we were able to provide our first Pre-K class. Mrs. Collins developed a curriculum that develops the skills the children will use in Kindergarten and will foster confidence when the concepts are encountered later in elementary school. All the classes were successful in teaching about Jesus' love for us.

The Preschool sponsored several service projects this year. We collected food for the Hanover Township Food Pantry and participated in our church's Giving Tree in December, providing Christmas gifts for needy seniors in a nursing home. We also raised \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital during our Trike-A-Thon this spring. The children really felt good about being able to help the kids at St. Jude's and talked a lot about raising the most money! We also had another successful fundraising campaign selling Butter Braids pastries. Many of our families and church members have asked us to contact them for future sales.

This was our third year of running week-long summer camps for each month of the summer. They were very well attended, and the children had a lot of fun exploring recycling with "Green Week" and enjoying the excitement under the Big Top with "Circus Week"! The summer camps allow us some summer marketing opportunities and to reach children who may not be able to attend our preschool programs during the year.

Entering into the 2010–2011 school year, we are again challenged with lower enrollment. To date we are only running morning classes: one 4-year-old class, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and one 3-year-old class, on Tuesday and Thursday. Due to this abbreviated schedule, we have decreased our staff. We were sorry to have to lose two great teachers — Becky Small and Tracy Wetherton, and we are so thankful for the many ways they blessed our program and the children whose lives they touched. However, this change will allow us to remain solvent for the coming school year as we continue our efforts to market our preschool and reach out to families with preschool-age children both in our church and our community.

We look forward to this coming 2010–2011 school year and praise God for allowing us to continue our mission of teaching preschoolers about His love!

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Dunne  
Preschool Board President

## **Vacation Bible School 2010: 'SonQuest Rainforest'**

"SonQuest Rainforest" Vacation Bible School was held June 14-18 and was very successful, with 190 children and 90-plus adults, many coming from outside our church family. The program continues to reach out to the community, bringing in children from all over the area. Every day the children learned a different parable and how it relates to our lives, including the parable of the Sower (living God's word every day), the Lost Sheep (be found by Jesus and become part of God's family), the Good Samaritan (share God's love with others), the Friend at Midnight (peace comes from praying), and the Talents (love God by doing your best). These lessons were enforced through music with Captive Free (West Lake Team), crafts, stories, games, and more. On Thursday, students in fourth through sixth grade spent time enjoying fellowship with Captive Free while eating pizza and playing games. Unfortunately, the high school bonfire with Captive Free was cancelled due to bad weather and a resulting power failure.

This year the Mission Project offering went to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative for mosquito nets. The children donated pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars throughout the week for a total of \$483. The children also brought in items to prepare health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Each kit contained a wash cloth, towel, soap, toothbrush, comb, and nail file. After expenses, all remaining funds were given back to the church.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the week a success. Thank you also to the families who provided housing for Captive Free and everyone who provided meals or gift cards for them. With everyone working together, our goal of "it's all for the children" was met and exceeded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Collins

# Loving Hands Quilters

## Facts and Statistics

- Twenty-one people are on our active roster list, with an average of 17 participating each Tuesday.
- **Quilt donations for October 2009 through mid August 2010 (except where noted):** Sherman Hospital (79 baby and children's quilts), nursing homes (47 lap size), Fox Valley Pregnancy Center in Elgin (9 small), Warm Wishes (57 large and 22 small, from October 2009 through May 2010), Lutheran World Relief (72 quilts, from May 2010 to mid August 2010), and other requests (7 quilts).
- Our quilts are donated to many different organizations, but Warm Wishes and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) are our main recipients.
- The quilts we make from October through May go to Warm Wishes.
- LWR receives the quilts we make from June through September.
- Sadly, one of our members, Juanita Gutierrez, passed away this year.

## Highlights

- Camille Jensen made Bible covers for all the Confirmation students in 2009.
- In August 2010, the quilters presented a quilt as a thank-you and going-away gift to Pastor Jennifer Fisher, who helped with Living Lord's ministries over the summer of 2010.
- During the summer, the granddaughters of one of our quilters come and work on a Christmas quilt that is given to the Elgin Women's Connection for their fall project, to their mission program.
- Watch for the beautiful display of quilts in the Sanctuary during the first weekend of October. They will be blessed during worship and then sent off to LWR, which sends them to people all over the world who are in need of comfort and warmth.
- Thanks to Ben Wilson for taking the boxed LWR quilts to Elgin, which is the first step in their journey throughout the world.

The quilters meet on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Sewing skills are not required. If you like to work with colors and patterns or can use a scissors or tie a knot, feel free to stop in any time we're here. We can always use more hands. ***Donations are always accepted:*** material, blankets, sheets, etc.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lin Seyller

# Property

The Property Teams made a difference with the help of volunteers providing their time, talents, and treasures. Thank you to the Property Team, the Green Team, the Gardeners, the MAP (Maintenance, Aesthetics, and Presentation) Team, and the Security Team for your vision and commitment to the safety, maintenance, and appearance of our building and property.

## Safety:

- 1) Fire alarm system and wireless connection backup batteries replaced.
- 2) Parking lot security light bulbs replaced for the north drive and east section.
- 3) Obtained a Bartlett Police comprehensive security evaluation of the building and grounds. The findings were reviewed and recommendations will be implemented where possible to improve the security in and around the building.
- 4) Repaired the hinges and closures of the entrance/exit doors to the Narthex and exit doors of the Sanctuary and vestibule by the restrooms.

## Green:

- 1) Nine "Exit" signs changed from incandescent to LED illumination (40 watts each to 2 watts each) that are powered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 2) Four "Exit" signs changed from incandescent to CFL illumination (40 watts each to 10 watts each) that are powered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 3) Set-back thermostats maintained weekly for heat/cool only in occupied areas.

## Grounds:

- 1) Lawn maintenance performed as needed – Thank you, Joel Teesdale, for your continuing service to maintain the church lawn.
- 2) Landscaping materials, tools, and services for a day in May 2010 donated by Park Place Landscaping. Thank you Dave Smith and the Park Place Team.
- 3) Gardens/islands divided into 18 areas maintained by volunteer individuals & families known as "the Gardeners" – Thank you to Laura Hardy, Kelly Lovewell, Dick Draffone, Sherry Bormann & Gene Giesecke, Mary Ellen & Steve Ricci, Cindy & Dan Maloney, Donna Thompson, Christie Christiansen, Ernie & Arlene Timmermann, Ronnie Esmail, Brad Baker, and Matthew & Diane Fitzgibbon.

## Mechanical:

- 1) Programmable thermostat & related shielded computer cable replaced and refrigerant in second stage recharged for Sanctuary south HVAC system.
- 2) Igniters replaced in Sanctuary north and work room area HVAC systems.
- 3) Furnace repaired and air handler adjusted in Preschool room HVAC system.

## Interior Appearance:

- 1) Nonfunctioning CFL floodlights replaced in Sanctuary.
- 2) Nave floor refinished (deep clean and wax).
- 3) Nursery painted – Thank you, Roger Stavnem.
- 4) New carpet, paint, and trim for two offices – Thank you, Chuck Vanourek and Roger Stavnem.
- 5) New audiovisual booth for Sanctuary – Thank you, Chuck Vanourek and Scott Mainellis.

## Improvements (Under Consideration for 2010 and beyond):

- 1) New Church Sign
- 2) Parking Lot permanent repair

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay L. Hinkle  
Property Team Leader

# Music

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."*  
--John 15:5

*"The trees of nature fruitless be, compare with Jesus Christ the apple tree"*

-- Choral anthem by Smith/Poston

One year ago I began serving in music ministry at Living Lord as choir director for the Praise Singers. My duties during each 10-month term also include congregational music planning for the 9 o'clock Sunday morning service as well as recruiting instrumentalists for occasional worship services throughout the seasons.

I first felt drawn to Living Lord Church by meditating on the Vision and Purpose statement, found on the website.

*Our vision and purpose can be represented by a tree. We see ourselves growing like a tree with roots, a trunk, branches, and fruit. ... We are grounded in God's Word and Sacraments, through which God's amazing grace flows and grows all of our ministries and missions. The primary purpose of all our ministries is to help members of our faith community experience the grace of God flowing through them and producing fruits of the Spirit in their lives. ...*

As the tree graphic shows, ministry is one of the main branches of the tree. Therefore, our foremost responsibility as musicians is to abide in Christ, and allow Christ to abide in us, so that we may produce fruits of the Spirit. The music goals I found already outlined on the Living Lord website are compatible with the church's Vision:

***Music*** is the tool through which our musicians reach into our hearts and convey the true presence of Jesus Christ during our worship experience.

***The goals*** of our music program are to share the Word of our Lord through music, inspire the congregation to greater levels of spirituality, heighten the congregation's sense of communion with God and each other, and add beauty to our worship services.

***Musical variety*** is as important as the music itself. People have different tastes, so we provide a variety of types and styles of music to enrich worship at Living Lord. All our musical groups work hard to reflect the mood and emotion of each church season in their music.

It's important to review our purpose and goals often. My ministry objectives include helping those with gifts in music find a place of service in worship. The choir and instrumental program is gradually growing as a community of faithful musicians, leading congregational music and musical offerings to their fullest potential.

It has been a year of transition for me, and for the music ministry. Last October, Mark Kohlmeier felt called to complete his position as organist for Living Lord. On Reformation Sunday we bade him a musical farewell and the congregation gave a gift of a "musical quilt" for his five years of wonderful service. Since last fall, Jayne McElfresh has been serving as a permanent substitute accompanist with her excellent talent on the organ.

Thanks go to many volunteers serving in music ministry beyond the choir program: To Denise De-Boe for her work with the Hand Bell Choir and a zillion other ways she and son Ryan serve! To Pete Marinelli, his son Andrew, Jay Hinkle, Dan Shauver, Brad Baker, and many other instrumentalists who served in worship. To Sarah Duran and Jazmine Martinez, Steve & Mary Ellen Ricci, and several others who have served with the children in music. To all the worship teams who sing and play at the 10:30 AM service — too many for me to list! Special thanks go to Martha Vanourek, Pam Hanlon, Lin Seyller, and Sharon Martin for spending several hours reorganizing the music library. This list is by no means complete for all who have served in music ministry — THANK YOU AND PRAISE GOD!

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Senja Morgan, Choir Director

# **2010–2011 RESOLUTIONS**

## **Suggested resolutions for the Thirty First Annual Congregation Meeting of Living Lord Lutheran Church in Bartlett, Illinois.**

1. Be it resolved that the congregation accept and adopt the staff, officer and council reports as submitted.
2. Be it resolved that the congregation accept the operating budget for fiscal year 2010 and 2011 as submitted and further pledges to support it through their contributions.
3. Be it resolved that the congregation ratify the adopted constitution and by-laws of Living Lord Lutheran Church.
4. Be it resolved that the 2010/2011 Church Council review for approval the minutes of this meeting.

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