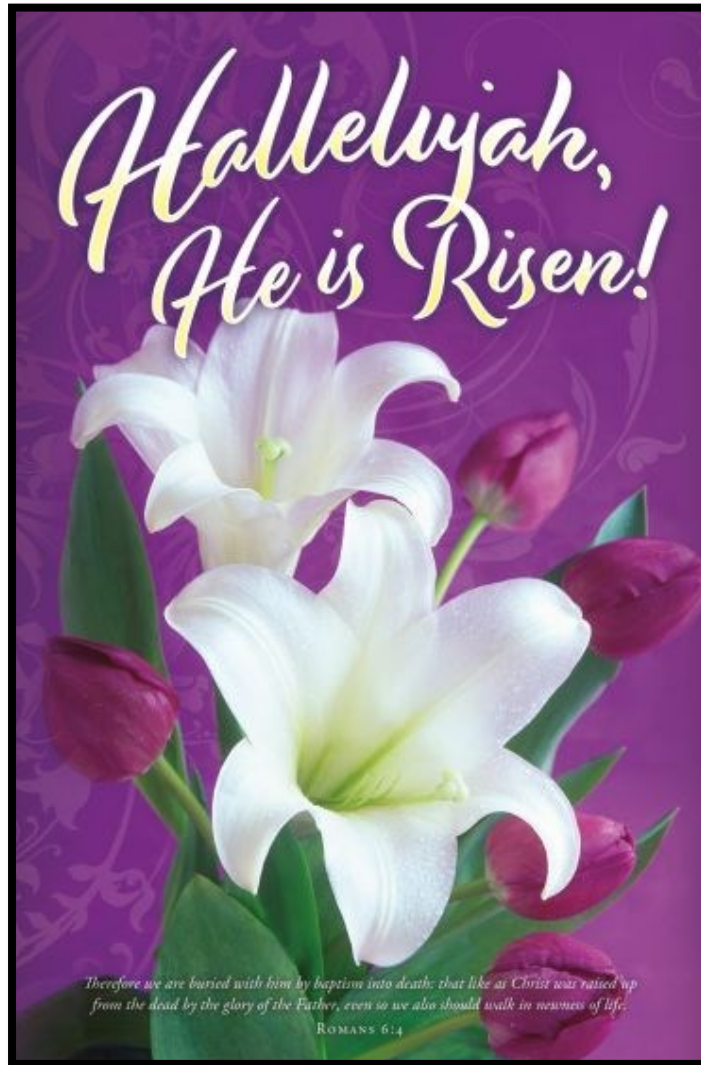


Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



The Messenger

April 2024



8401 W. Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa FL 33615

www.lcostampa.org~813-884-1232

www.facebook.com/lcostampa

Email~lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com

Our Vision

Through LCOS all come to know the unconditional love of God, grow in their faith, and share their love and faith with others.

Our Mission

That all may experience the love of Jesus Christ, we reach up, through worship celebration. We reach out by sharing our faith; and we reach in through prayer and study.

THIS IS LCOS

**Sunday Worship Celebrations
Bible Study: 8:30 am
Worship Service: 9:30 am
Fellowship after service 10:30 am
Confirmation classes 10:30 am**

Church Council

**Heidi Richters, President
Kim Jordan, Vice Pres.
Sara Berge, Secretary
Kristi Saligame, Financial/Treas.
Barbara Beauregard
Eddie Forte
Danielle Kearney
Charlie McCoy
Lynne O'Reilly
Don Richardson
Gail Smeach
Mike Watson**

Church Staff

**Rev. Stephen Kauffman, Pastor
Steve Smeach, Deacon
Naoko Okada, Minister of Music
Charlie McCoy, Accountant
Sara Anderson, Publishing & Communication Coordinator**

Mission Team Leaders

Acolytes & Crucifiers

Adult Education

Don Richardson

Kent Chetlain

Altar Guild

Gail Smeach

AV Team

Barbara Beauregard

Coffee Hour

Lynne O'Reilly

Counters

Martin Stewart

Liturgists & Communion Asst.

Roger Swain

Heidi Richters

Facilities & Grounds

Barbara Beauregard

Fellowship

Don Richardson

Food Bank

Martin Stewart

Information Technology

Kristi Saligame

LAFFS

Rita Blyden

Lay Pastoral Care Team

Kent Chetlain

Newsletter/Bulletin

Lynne O'Reilly

Note Folks

Steve Smeach

Ushers

Sara Anderson

Website & Social Media

Diane Tolzman

Martin Stewart

Eddie Forte



EASTER OPENS A NEW FUTURE

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Like many of you, I've experienced resurrections big and small—moments when I was reminded that God is always bringing new life out of death, always snatching hope from the jaws of despair.

The good news on Easter Sunday is that God is still speaking and resurrection is indeed all around us. The spirit of the risen Christ is in our midst even now. And what can we do, but run from this place, like Mary, to testify, "I have seen the Lord."

In times of great loss, we often need to *see* something. When the Malaysia Airlines flight 370 disappeared grieving family members demanded to see more evidence. Somehow *seeing* the debris -- or *finding* the black box -- promises closure for many people. For many of us, seeing brings closure to the cycle of confusion and loss. Or so we believe.

The truth is no one path accounts for the emergence of hope and new life. The Beloved Disciple can believe without seeing, a pattern that's highly valued in John's Gospel (1:50; 20:29). Mary needs a personal touch. She believes when Jesus calls her name (20:16-18). And Peter, having encountered the risen Jesus at least twice, has yet to fully believe.

Of one thing we can be certain. Those of us who have been touched by the resurrection will never be the same. Christ, as the apostle Paul says, is the first fruit of the resurrection in which we all participate. "Do not hold onto me", says Jesus, "I am ascending to my father and your father, my God and your God". What is mine, in other words, is yours as well. Let go of me, that God may grab hold of you.

The resurrection is not a return to the past, but a movement to the future. Neither Mary nor we nor our congregations can hold on to the past after resurrection. We look to the even greater future that God has in store for us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed, Happy Easter to everyone!



Dear Congregation,

It is official! Pastor Kauffman was voted unanimously to move from Interim Pastor to part-time Pastor of LCOS. He will be with us till Pentecost 2026. We thank you for your commitment to LCOS and for the sacrifice you're making with your family. We thank you for your leadership and enjoy your sermons and youth lessons on Sundays. Although we would love to have him here with us at LCOS for a long time, all good things come to an end.

There will be a day when we will have to part ways. I'm not trying to be a downer just reminding everyone that the time we will have with him might go by fast and there's still a lot to do. In the meantime, the Church Council along with the congregation will work together with Pastor Kauffman to get LCOS to a better place so that when we actually have to go through the call process, we will be ready.

Easter was early this year. Did you know the moon's phases determine Easter's date? Western Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the equinox, while Eastern Easter is after Passover. We celebrated Easter on March 31st and Easter Orthodox Christians will celebrate on May 5th.

When Jesus was crucified he paid our sin debt in full. He sacrificed himself for us. Through his resurrection we have new life and hope.

April 8th is my brother's birthday and on the same day there will be a total Solar Eclipse that will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the U.S., and Canada.

Lord God, you loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, everyday. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory, we pray, Lord, Amen.

Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. Hallelujah

Heidi Richters
Council President



Facility and Grounds.....April.....

Spring has arrived!! Easter has come and gone! Odd feeling when Easter is so early. Here it is April and no major holidays ahead until Thanksgiving! Yet it feels like we just rolled last Thanksgiving into Christmas and Christmas into Lent, into Easter.

Now we move into a new chapter at LCOS.....our Interim Pastor Kauffman will be our regular Pastor. We warmly welcome Paster Kauffman! God had a plan for us, we just had to take the time to see and understand what it was. Financially, we were not in a position to hire a full time pastor and finding someone who could/would work with our needs would have kept a Call Committee busy for several years! The schedule Pastor and Council worked out benefits both.

But now is not the time to sit back, prop your feet up and have a glass of ice tea. Now is the time to work on LCOS. How do we grow? How do we let people know we are here for them? We need ideas and they need to come from you. Why are you here? What draws you to this location? Think of the people that have left: if you know a previous members in the area you might ask them why they left? Would they like to come back? Was there something we couldn't offer them? Any of these answers could be the answer we need.

As for projects....currently our efforts have been Luther Hall clean out, clean up, and organize. That building gets a lot of use, therefore always needs 'TLC'. With several on-going renters, and occasional events we seem to accumulate a lot of extra things. Gail has spent many hours going through the area under the stage, the room behind the stage, the activity room, and the attic. Those areas are almost finished.

I know many have expressed the desire to plant flowers in the courtyard/memorial garden, but plants need water and the well-pump died. However, Don found a new company to come out and take a look at our issue. While the fix is expensive, this company was a much better price, so the project has the green light to begin! Once we are back in operation, planting can begin. Sorry it was not before Easter, but we need to think about the flowering plants you plant. They need to be low-growing, not vines, and a plant that multiplies and blooms every year.

Next project is the roof on the Hall and the Food Bank. Both are very old and need replacing and that includes the underside of the walkway that has rotted away! This will be a very expensive project, but one that must be done before we have a bigger problem! I have three quotes to compare and a choice will be made. Then comes the cost and how we pay for this. This is like your home, multiplied by three or four.

And so it goes.....just like my house, issues never end!

Thank you to all who lend a hand to help on projects, big and small.

Barbara Beauregard,
Property Manager

February 2024 Council Meeting Summary

- Opening prayer at 11:09 a.m.
- The Financial Report shows that 2024 started quietly. We ended the month with an income of about \$1,500. Kristi shared information about what a typical month looks like and details about designated funds.
- Pastor's Report: Pastor shared that we will need to have a separate meeting to vote on whether to call him for the next two years. With the new contract, he will take a few more Sundays off than he did this past year, but will ensure he will be here for all major services and has a plan in place for coverage as needed.
- Reports were shared regarding Kaye Prox Food Bank, Pastoral Care Team, Stewardship, and Facilities and Grounds.
- New Business:
 - The council voted to approve the contract drawn up by the council for Pastor Kauffman. We will have a special meeting for a congregational vote on March 17 with a representative from the synod present.
- Closing prayer at 12:09 p.m.

Full minutes for all meetings can be found in the church office.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Berge.

Kaye Prox Food Bank Update—Spring 2024

Ongoing:

We are 100% run by community volunteers, we host a drive-thru distribution each Friday at 2 pm, and we are a partner agency of Feeding Tampa Bay (FTB). FTB helps us in several ways:

- We place weekly online orders of (reduced-price or free) bulk dry goods, such as cereals, pasta, canned goods, as available. FTB delivers these items to us each Friday.
- We visit FTB’s warehouse weekly to shop for bulk produce and refrigerated items, as available.
- We pick up directly from retailers who donate to FTB. We now do donation pickups at 4 stores, including 2 Walmart locations, 1 Publix, and 1 Aldi.
- Through in FTB’s “Just in Time” program, we receive a pallet (or more) of produce, delivered each Friday. A surprise every week!

New & Exciting:

- After informally working together for a while, we have joined forces. **The Little River Community Cupboard has become Kaye Prox Community Cupboard.** The community cupboard is more of a pop-up distribution, with the goal of providing freshly donated food items to people in need, before the food can go to waste. We are delighted to have these dedicated volunteers join us! They have already hosted several Community Cupboards on the campus of LCOS. You can join the “[Kaye Prox Community Cupboard](#)” group on facebook, to see their current schedule. A photo from our first joint distribution (on the left):



- **New trailer** (photo on the right). We received a grant in late 2023 from Florida Medical’s Foundation of Caring, toward the purchase of a new trailer. We are pleased to report that it is now in service! This 8x5 foot trailer is just big enough to hold 2 pallets of food, and just small enough that we can tow it behind an SUV.
- **New ‘LFPA’ program** – this is a short-term opportunity. FTB has received funding from the USDA to purchase food directly from Florida producers, for the use of Florida food pantries. For the next 6 months or so, they’ll be purchasing these bulk items, which we can pick up at the warehouse each Thursday. So far through the program, we have received dairy products, cabbage, corn, and ground beef, all fresh from Florida producers, to share with our clients.

***On behalf of all the volunteers, and our clients, we thank you for supporting the food bank!
Please follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/KayeProxFoodBank/>***

LCOS Treasurer's Report

February Review:

Church **income** in February was **\$19,923**, in line with our budget of \$19,996 and above last year's result of \$17,899.

- Member Giving for February was \$14,822 vs. our budget of \$15,700 and member giving last year of \$14,335.
- We used designated funds of \$2,160 during the month. We applied \$2,000 from the Mortgage Reduction Fund toward early payment of principal. Memorial funds of \$160 were used for annual zoom account fees.
- Facilities/other income in February was \$2,942, vs. \$2,502 in the year-ago period.

Church **expense** was **\$20,150** in February, vs. \$20,018 a year ago and our budget of \$19,916.

- We are up to date with our 2024 commitment to contribute at least \$250/month to the Florida-Bahamas Synod.
- Facilities expense for the month included \$1,602 in AC maintenance costs, as well as the additional \$2,000 toward mortgage principal pre-payment.
- All other expense categories were at or below expectations.

LCOS recorded a **net loss** of **(\$227)** in February.

Year to Date:

Month/Q	Current Year Results			Year-Ago Results		
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Jan	\$17,721	\$16,189	\$1,531	\$31,517	\$22,079	\$9,438
Feb	\$19,923	\$20,150	(\$227)	\$16,634	\$19,869	(\$3,236)
Total	\$37,644	\$36,340	\$1,304	\$48,151	\$41,948	\$6,203

Reflections

Our campus is a busy place throughout the week – volunteers are here weekdays (church members in the office, altar prep, and AV, as well as community volunteers for Meals on Wheels, the Portico Ministry, the Food Bank, and the Community Cupboard). Sunshine Daycare now serves about 30 children each week. Model Trains meets here during the day, Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the evenings, and three different congregations each Sunday. Our worship services add reverence, joy and beautiful music to the good energy of this place and community.

I write these reflections in the midst of Lent, with a tremendous sense of gratitude for all of the people who contribute to this community. As we walk toward Easter, I wish all of the members and friends of LCOS a joyous celebration! May we continue to grow in faith, together, serving one another and our community. Thank you for your ongoing, faithful support of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour!

Peace,

Kristi Saligame, Treasurer

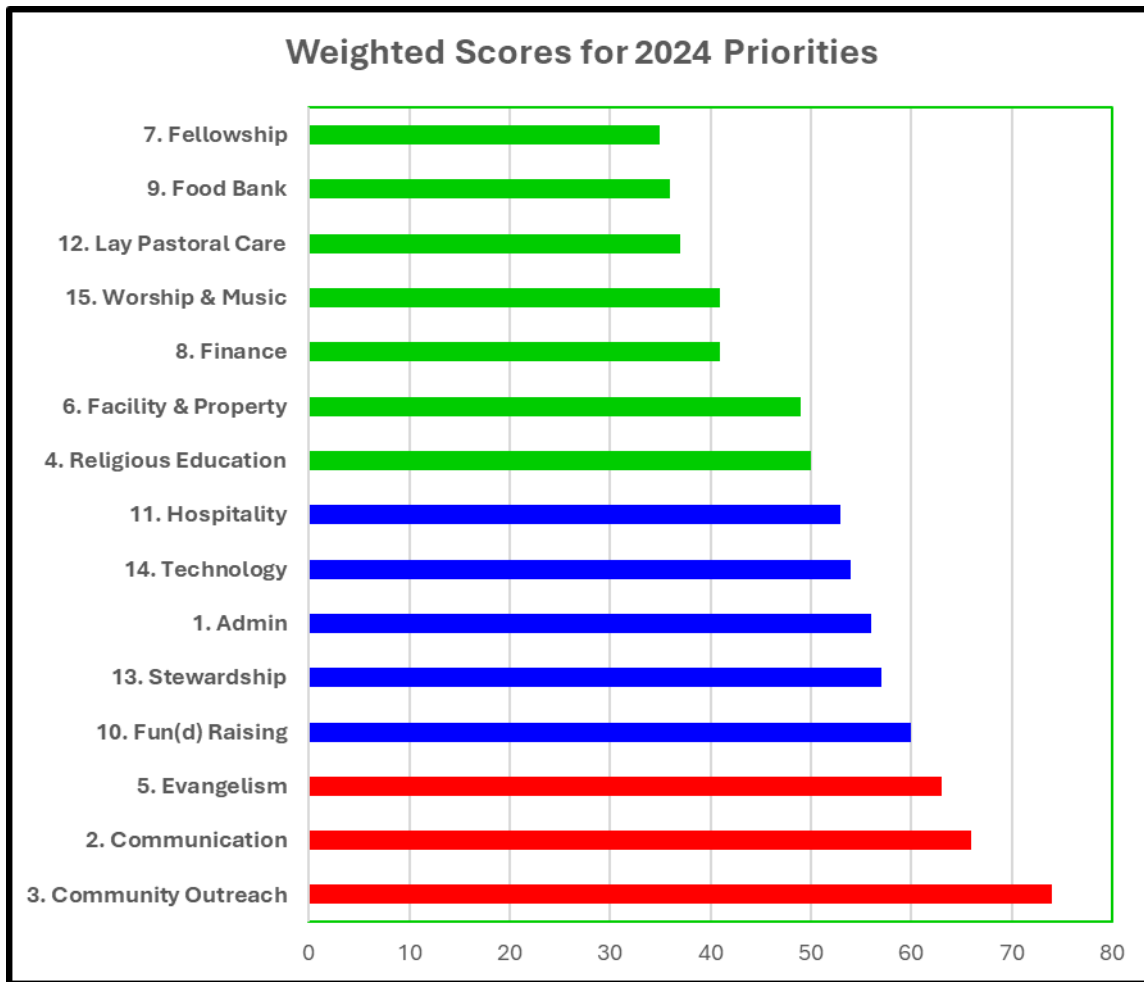
LCOS 2024 New Priorities

Submitted by Deacon Steve Smeach

In January 2024, Pastor Steve and Deacon Steve designed a questionnaire to help our Church Council evaluate our Mission Teams' performances in 2023 and to look forward to what **new** areas of mission LCOS might develop for 2024. Included in the questionnaire were mission teams we have used at LCOS and other churches have used where Pastor Steve has served. There were 15 mission team areas as described in the table below. This report focuses on the Council's thoughts on **new priorities for 2024** that would most closely follow our mission, vision, core values and what would most benefit God's work here at LCOS.

1. Administration --includes telephone, office and email coverage, printing of bulletins, maintenance of membership lists, etc. with clear responsibilities for all
2. Communication -includes website, Facebook, newsletter, sign, etc.
3. Community Outreach -could include activities like Blessing of the Animals, Youth Groups, connection with Day Care Center, etc.
4. Religious Education -includes Adult Bible Class, Confirmation Class, Children's Class, etc.
5. Evangelism -could include door-to-door campaigns, (quarterly?) Bring a Friend Sundays, etc.
6. Facility & Property -includes maintenance and long-range planning, rental planning, etc.
7. Fellowship -includes LAFFS, special dinners, Fellowship Hour, Men's/Women's Groups?
8. Finance -includes income/expense tracking, audits, budgeting, <i>Shepherd's Staff</i> , etc.
9. Food Bank -includes Portico Ministry and Friday Food Bank, etc.
10. Fun(d) Raising -includes Golf Tournament and other events TBD
11. Hospitality -includes Greeters, Card Ladies, new member sponsors, etc.
12. Lay Pastoral Care -includes weekly calls/visits, call tree, maintenance of prayer lists, etc.
13. Stewardship -includes yearly monetary stewardship drives, identification/deployment of congregational talents, etc.
14. Technology -includes IT Advisory Group, electronic inventory, software approval and installation, software licenses, etc.
15. Worship & Music -includes bulletin content, AV Team, Altar Guild, Choir, ushers, liturgists, communion assistants, etc.

The results are shown in the following chart, where higher scores indicate the highest level of agreement among council members.



Based on these results, the Council decided to create three new Mission Teams and agreed to very rough draft mission statements:

Community Outreach - "...intentionally offer services to foster community connections ..."

Communication - "...let the community know who we are, what we do, and to share information in a timely, welcoming, and friendly Christian manner..."

Evangelism - "...witness God's grace and love to those beyond LCOS..."

Pastor Steve, Deacon Steve, and Carol Cousins then met to develop a list of congregation members who would be great leaders for these three teams and designed a process where Deacon Steve and Carol Cousins who help new leaders to develop Mission team goals, choose others to serve on the teams and set 2024 goals and objectives.

I am pleased to report that Pastor Steve has contacted three congregation members and all three have agreed to serve! Deacon Steve will now contact these leaders to help them take their next steps in serving God’s missions for us at LCOS.

This process of defining, creating, and delegating to Mission Teams will allow the Council to focus on more strategic efforts in 2024.

Stay tuned for exciting **new initiatives** in 2024!



LCOS April Birthdays

Alice Rozell	4/4	Ernie Largent	4/30
Marjorie Bronzenske	4/28	Kiran Saligame	4/30
Lisa Paffenroth	4/28		



If you, a family member, or an LCOS friend, is missing from our birthday list, please call Roger Swain at 813-886-7961 or 813-760-7254, or e-mail roger.swain@tampabay.rr.com, so that we may include you next year!