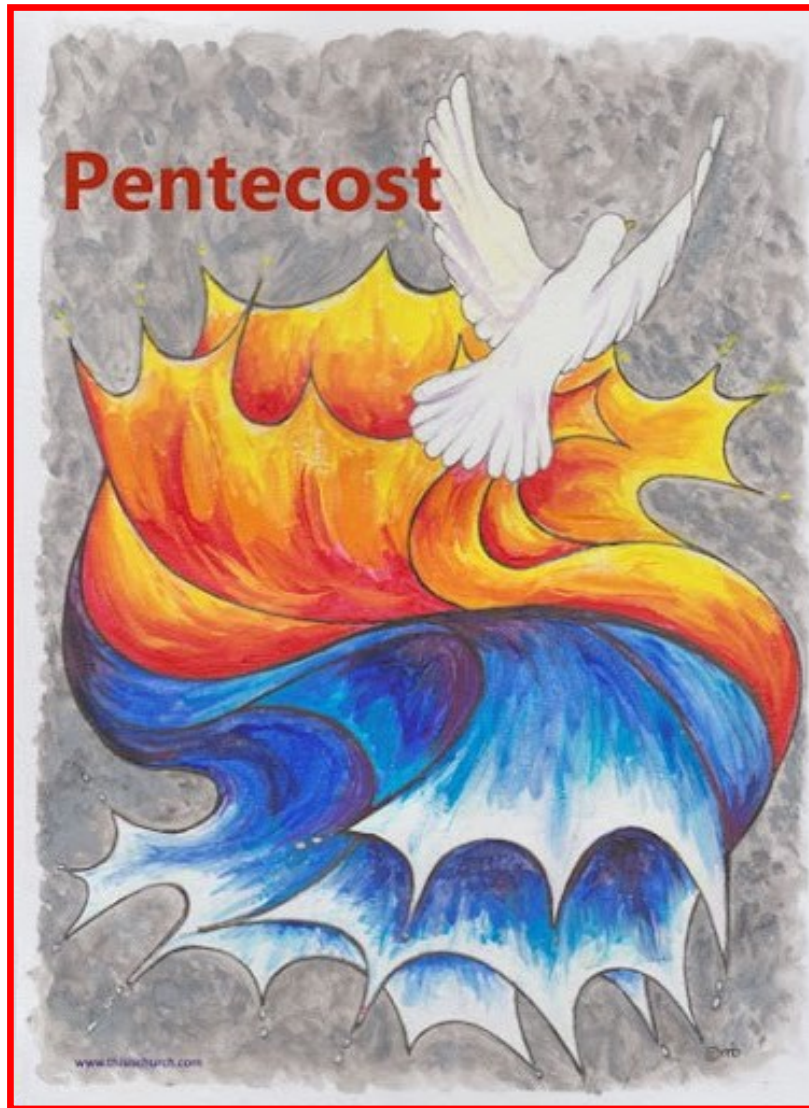


Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



The Messenger

May 2024



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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



The Spirit of Pentecost meets us in the Valley of Dry Bones

We've all been in the valley of dry bones. It is a place of danger. When we are in the valley of dry bones, we are in danger of giving up. We are in danger of making accommodations that will make us hate ourselves later. We are in danger of hopelessness. We are in danger of losing our faith.

Ezekiel stands in that valley of hopelessness, with the taste of dust on his lips and God says to him, "I want you to preach here. I want you to tell these old, dead, dried up and disintegrating bones that I am about to do a new thing with them.

Ezekiel stands and begins to preach. He says, "O dry bones, I have a ridiculous hope for you. You are going to live again. God is going to give you God's spirit... ruach...breath. God will not leave you for dead. God is going to restore you and your dreams." And that is when Ezekiel heard a faint rattle as the first bones heard his message. "O dry bones, you are going to live. Believe in what you cannot yet see." More rattling and soon in front of Ezekiel stood a multitude of hopeful, living people...restored to life...restored to community...restored to faith.

We celebrate Pentecost in May. There are some valleys of dry bones in our lives and in our world. God is saying, "Here. Be the church here. Preach to these dry bones. Believe in what you cannot yet see for the world is dying for us to believe that God is not done."

Like the burning fire of Pentecost opening the ears and hearts of the faithful, God's spirit breaks in most powerfully in the wilderness...in the dry places...in our self-imposed tombs...in pandemics...into our hopelessness.

Can these bones live? Yes! Believe that your discarded dreams can rise again.



Dear Congregation,

May is here! The weather is getting hotter! Mowing the lawn more frequently is coming. The kids are getting ready to end another school year. They are ready for the summer to relax and have a little fun before starting another school year. Many will either be graduating from high school and getting excited for a new chapter of their lives as a college student or they will be graduating from college and will soon be starting their careers. The summer is a time to hangout with friends, travel and also a time to reflect where they have been and where they want to go.

There's a lot that will be going on at LCOS in May. Mark your calendars for the following events:

May 5th is LCOS Anniversary. We will have a **Fish Fry** after the service. Bring a side dish that will go with the fish.

Mother's Day this year is Sunday, May 12th. We celebrate all the mothers in our lives and thank them for all they have done for us, all they have taught us, all they have guided us through and helped shaped us to be the people we are today.

PENTECOST Sunday is Sunday, May 19th. Don't forget to wear **RED** that Sunday.

May 19th is also **CONFIRMATION Sunday**. I hope everyone comes to the service that day to show their support of our seven Confirmands when they confirm the faith as their own and are confirmed as members of the church. Confirmation is a lifelong journey of growth in the Christian faith, of knowing God more personally and understanding His Word more clearly and deeply.

Monday, May 27th is Memorial Day. We honor all American veterans who gave their lives in sacrifice to our nation. Thank you to all veterans and active duty for your service.

We welcomed three **NEW MEMBERS** to LCOS on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

Dawn Tinnell—likes gardening, cooking, stain glass, and painting.

Vickie Williams—likes gardening and crafts.

Laura Nebbiosi— likes the book club, cooking, cancer support, golf, art, and gardening.

Next time you're in church chat with our new members.

In Peace,

Heidi Richters

Council President

Welcome to New Members



Dawn



Laura



Vickie



Facility and Grounds for May

Spring has sprung! Plants and trees are growing, putting out new leaves, flowers are blooming! Our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday were wonderful and brought out many new faces and some we hadn't seen for a while. (Hope they continue).

Now that Spring is in the air, it is time for LCOS to get busy with our To Do list!

We have some important projects before hurricane season. First is the roof on Luther Hall, also the walkway, the Food Bank and Kitchen. No record has been found that states when the hall roof was last replaced, but one look at it and it is plain to see there is no 'grit' left on those shingles! The roof replacement for all will be about \$40,000. There is some walkway ceiling damage, rotted wood, and while several sheets of plywood are included, they will not know the actual need until the current shingles are removed. The roofing company can give us one year, interest free to pay it off, or a 5 to 10 year loan at 9.99% interest, or we get creative and come up with some ideas to raise the money. As Kristi reported, we have about \$25,000 we can put together.

Next comes our well pump. Not having the pump, a number of our hedges died, the rest are not looking too healthy. The Memorial Garden really depends on that sprinkler system. I know many have asked about planting flowers, but until there is water, we have to wait. The repair company was due out in April, so we may already have an answer. The company would not know what the condition of the pump is until they dug it out of the ground. Always a lot of 'wait and see' in our projects!

Looking ahead, probably next year's big project will be painting the church. The outside needs it, but we may have some inside painting as well. The projects never end.

Barbara Beauregard

Pictures of Easter



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Baskets of Love

Lutheran Services of Florida, our Lutheran social services agency in Florida, is conducting the “Baskets of Love” project during the month of May. This needed project will benefit struggling mothers, foster parents and at-risk children.

Each one of us can participate in this wonderful project by either donating needed items or donating funds online. A box will be in the narthex to receive donations. The following items are needed:

Diapers * wipes * Pack N Play * Car seats * Formula

For those preferring to donate money you can do so at: Isfnet.org/lsf-baskets-of-love-donation-drive/

Many thanks to each of you who donated to the “heart and sole” sneakers project last year. Together, let us make the “baskets of love” drive a success as well by sharing our resources with those in need.

Please see or call Danielle Kearney, 813-884-6801, with any question you might have concerning the project.

LCOS May Birthdays

Rita Blyden	5/13	Audrey Howze	5/20
Carolyn Kunzman	5/13	Cherri Krall	5/20
Maysie Richters	5/15	Gary Jordan	5/31
Nikhil Saligame	5/18		



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

LCOS Treasurer's Report

March Review:

Church **income** in March was **\$21,278**, below our budget of \$63,767 and above last year's result of \$16,880.

- Member Giving for March was \$17,537, vs. our budget of \$17,100 and member giving last year of \$13,555. The timing of Easter lifted monthly member giving a bit, as expected.
- Our budgeted income for March included \$43,100 in designated funds, to be used for the installation of a new roof (Luther Hall, walkway, kitchen building). It now looks likely that the new roof will be installed in May 2024.
- We used \$500 in designated funds from the Mortgage Reduction fund during the month.
- Facilities/other income in March was \$3,242 vs. \$2,325 in the year-ago period.

Church **expense** was **\$19,259** in March, vs. \$17,815 a year ago and our budget of \$63,916.

- Our budget for the month, as mentioned above, had included about \$43,000 for a new roof, which will likely happen later this Spring.
- Facilities expense for the month included \$3,066 in AC maintenance costs.
- All other expense categories were at or below expectations.

LCOS recorded **net income** of **\$2,019** in March.

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)
March	\$21,278	\$19,259	\$2,019	\$16,880	\$17,815	(\$935)
Total	\$58,922	\$55,599	\$3,323	\$65,031	\$59,763	\$5,268

Reflections:

What a blessing it is that in the last month, the congregation has voted (unanimously) to offer a contract to Pastor Steve, who agreed to stay on for the next two years. We can now focus on moving forward, on mission and ministry. There is much to celebrate and much to be done!

Pastor Steve's youth message recently touched on things financial, reminding the confirmands that when they receive/earn money, they should first reserve some funds for sharing with others, and some funds for saving for the future, before using the rest for current spending. This advice also applies to us as a congregation/council! Beyond meeting the operational needs of the moment, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to be resourceful and creative in planning for the future and sharing our blessings with the community we serve. How best can we meet this challenge? Please keep this church in your prayers as we continue to try to answer this question. Thank you for your ongoing, faithful support of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour!

Peace,

Kristi Saligame, Treasurer

Pentecost in the Bible – Acts of the Apostles

We learn of Pentecost in the Christian tradition in Acts of the Apostles.



In the first chapter of Acts, Jesus alludes to sending the Holy Spirit onto his disciples:

While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)

The next chapter of Acts contains the fulfillment of Jesus’s words. As the disciples were gathered in the upper room with others (a group of about 120 total), the Holy Spirit descended on them.

“And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 2:2-4)