The Messenger



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Newsletter Team:

Karen Urban, Rick Padin, & Deacon Steve Smeach

IN THIS ISSUE

- Monthly Reports
- Snaps & Snippets
- Feature Articles
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 - Golf Tournament
 - God's Barnyard
 - Ernie Kudos
 - Adult Bible Class
 - Computer Training



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November/December 2024

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Bible Study: 8:30 am

Worship Service: 9:30 am

Fellowship after service: 10:30 am

CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Stephen Kauffman, **Pastor**
- Steve Smeach, **Deacon**
- Naoko Okada, Minister of Music
- Charlie McCoy, Accountant
- Roger Swain, Financial Secretary

CHURCH COUNCIL

- Heidi Richters, President
- Kim Jordan, Vice President
- Sara Berge, **Secretary**
- Kristi Saligame, **Finance/**

Treasurer

- Barbara Beauregard
- Charlie McCoy
- Lynne O'Reilly
- Don Richardson
- Gail Smeach
- Mike Watson

OUR MISSION

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

MISSION TEAM LEADERS

Acolytes & Crucifers

Adult Education Don Richardson

Kent Chetlain

Altar Guild

AV Team Lynne O'Reilly

Coffee Hour Martin Stewart

Counters

Liturgists & Heidi Richters

Communion Asst.

Facilities & Barbara Beauregard

Grounds

Fellowship Don Richardson

Food Bank Martin Stewart
Kristi Saligame
Rita Blyden

Information Technology Kent Chetlain

LAFFS Lynne O'Reilly

Lay Pastoral Steve Smeach

Care Team

Newsletter Karen Urban

Bulletin Ginnie Berge

Barbara Beauregard

Note Folks Linda Dillinger

Diane Talbot

Ushers Martin Stewart

Website & Social Media

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Pastor's Report for November Giving thanks at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Submitted by the Rev Stephen Kauffman

Thanksgiving can change your life...No...I am not speaking of all those extra calories we will consume over the next 48 hours (not to mention the long holiday season ahead)...(The two biggest sellers in any bookstore, according to Andy Rooney, are the cookbooks and the diet

books. The cookbooks tell you how to prepare the food and the diet books tell you how not to eat any of it).

Nor am I speaking of those lazy hours we may spend on the couch watching football or waiting for early openings at the malls, being trampled by the Black Friday crowds fighting for the best deal in the Tampa area...

What I am referring to is the documented fact that **thanks-giving**, **being a generous person**, **and living with an attitude of gratitude** CHANGES YOUR LIFE – suddenly you spend far less time worrying about what you lost, could never get or afford to keep, while at the same time discovering you have more reason to trust God and serve others.

On a bench along Skyline Drive in VA, these words are carved – **Rest Awhile, Give thanks**. We gather to give thanks – but on this national holiday, one does not have to be a Christian to count the many blessings we enjoy. We are citizens of an affluent country rich in stuff. For many, Thanksgiving is a mild-mannered holiday full of football, apple pie, and family reunions. For most of us, we have always had plenty – so it is hard to appreciate the things that we take for granted.

For those of us who have much, it is **easy to believe we have been blessed because we have been so good** (and we deserve what we get). This is where the church can be a light to the rest of the world that God loves.

St. Paul, writing from a prison cell and probably knowing that he would soon be executed, writes to the Philippians, I give thanks to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and Rejoice in the Lord, always!

The people who first listened to Jesus had a lot to worry about - the crushing military





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Pastor's Report for November (continued)

might of an occupying army, poverty, injustice, sickness and death. That is why Jesus' sermon about worry was tough to hear and even more difficult to believe – until Jesus made it clear that worry is futile.

I often wonder how worry invades the way our congregation works and thinks. How does it characterize the way you work and think? Can you see how nothing good can come from anxiety.

Thankful people trust the giver of every good gift. God knows what we need and is more than willing to supply us.

Jesus concludes his sermon on the mount with the words "But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Thanks-giving, being a generous person, and living with an attitude of gratitude

CHANGES YOUR LIFE – suddenly you spend far less time worrying about what you lost, could never get or afford to keep, while at the same time discovering you have more reason to trust God and serve others.

And so, this month, we pause and rest awhile and give thanks.

Prepared with Lamps Lighted! Submitted by the Rev Stephen Kauffman

There is a funny story that is told about a young man who was speeding down the road when he saw a train and decided to race it to the crossing. The race ended in a tie, and



the young man lost. His family decided to sue the railroad. This happened before the days of automated crossing guards, and the family argued there should have been a watchman on duty at that dangerous crossing.

The railroad officials called the man who was assigned to that crossing. They asked him if he was awake and if he attempted to warn the approaching motorist that a train was coming. The watchman assured them he was on the job, he was awake and that he waved his lantern, but the young driver paid no attention.



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The case was finally brought to trial. Under cross examination, the watchman stuck to his story. Yes, he was <u>on the job, awake, and waving his lantern</u>. Charges where dismissed. After the trial, the President of the railroad company called the watchman into his office. He told him how pleased he was to have such a dependable employee. "I was afraid," said the President, "that you might back down on your story and admit that you fell asleep."

"No," the watchman replied, "I was awake and on the job. But you know, I was afraid one of them big city lawyers was going to ask me if my lantern was lit!"

It makes a lot of difference is our lanterns are lit. Today in the church, there is a lot of activity, but much of it is simply the waving of unlighted lanterns. We do just enough to get by, but there is a lack of total commitment and sincere involvement. We may become weary in our well doing!

Like the sandman's drowsy dust, the sands of time may bring on drowsiness and sleep for the children of God. Military experts say the greatest threat to troop readiness is boredom. Time plus inactivity equals boredom. Since the promise of "the coming of the Son of Man in clouds," we are still waiting for Christ to come "with power and great glory." No wonder the gospel gets greeted in most quarters with nothing more than muffled yawn.

But whoever said our waiting needs to be a time or idleness? Advent is our wake-up call to action and service. "Beware...Keep alert...Keep awake," Jesus says. The Kingdom of God is compared to a wedding feast for which the bridegroom is very late. When he finally arrives at midnight, five maidens are ready with oil in their lamps to greet him. Five foolish maidens run out of fuel for their lamps. Sir, sir, let us in, they plead. Then the bad news comes from the bridegroom, "I do not know you." We want to be ready for our Lord's return, with lamps trimmed and lit.



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Here at LCOS, we have special Advent and Christmas plans to help us get ready. We will have:

- three Thursday 11:30 am Advent Services on Thursday, December 5, 12, and 19
- Advent Sunday 1 at 9:30am December 1 Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)
- Advent Sunday 2 at 9:30am December 8 Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)
- Advent Sunday 3 at 9:30am December 15 Joy: Shepherd's Candle (pink). In addition, the choir will sing carols
- Advent Sunday 4 at 9:30am December 22 Love: Angel's Candle (purple)
- Christmas Eve at 7:00pm on December 24 Holy Communion & Candlelight Service
- **1st Sunday of Christmas** at 9:30am on **December 28** -Worship with Lessons & Carols; no communion
- Also please plan to attend our special Congregational Budget Meeting on December 15 at 10:45am after the service





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PRESIDENTS REPORT

The last few months have been hard, for some devastating because of the hurricanes and flooding. Several members of our congregation, their families, friends and neighbors were directly impacted because of Debby, Helene and Milton. Some



will be dealing with the cleanup and rebuilding for a while. Our hearts and prayers go out to all who in any way was affected by all the storms, hurricanes and flooding. Also pray for all those effected in Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee or other natural disasters around the world.

All Saints Sunday November 3rd was a nice service to remember all of our loved ones who have passed and who are now with our Lord Jesus Christ. Most recently we remember Connie Watson, Elizabeth Thomas and Joan Muir(Fraser's Mom).

We had a wonderful Service of Thanks and Celebration on November 10th. It was exciting to be celebrating 25 years of the LAFFS ministry. I haven't been a part of the group as long as others have but I can tell it is a great ministry for all the ladies of LCOS. As you all heard at the service (if you were there). We laugh together, cry together, lift one another up, inspire one another and have a great time talking about any and everything. We share food and wine. If any of the ladies are going through something whether it's a medical issue, a divorce, loss of a family member, what ever it may be we are there for one another to help each other get through whatever we are going through. I remember when I had my first surgery for Breast Cancer, Lynne O'Reilly stayed the day with me while I was recuperating. I also had several visitors from the church. It's nice to have people there to help you and be there for you in your time of need. I have visited Lynne with my mom and Rick and Angela Padin. We had a great visit both times. Lynne looked good and was in good spirits. Lynne, your LAFFS ladies and your congregation are all praying for you.

We miss Lori Muir and Connie Watson. You two ladies will forever be in our hearts. We are also praying for our dear sister Joan Baun.

We look forward to one of our biggest Fund Raisers of the year LCOS's Annual Golf tournament. I haven't volunteered in a while, because I'm usually working but I know It's a good turnout and a great time for all involved. The proceeds from the golf tournament helps the food bank.



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The November Council Meeting will be Sunday November 17th.

Thanksgiving is in three weeks. The time really goes by fast. Thanksgiving this year is November 28th.

The church office will be closed Thursday November 28th and Friday November 29th. The Food Bank will be closed Friday November 29th.

Sunday December 1st starts the Advent Season.

December 8th will be the Congregational Christmas meal. Ham, Turkey will be provided. Pleases bring a dish to share.

December 15th will be the Congregational Meeting. We will be approving the 2025 budget. The Council Meeting for December will follow the congregational meeting.

December 22nd is the last Sunday before Christmas. Help is needed to Decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

Christmas Eve service will be Tuesday December 24th at 7 PM. Hope to see you all there. The church office will be closed Thursday December 26th and Friday December the 27th. The

food bank will be closed Friday December the 27th.

In Peace,

Heidi Richters Council President





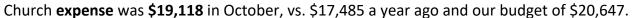
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LCOS Treasurer's Report - November 2024

October Review: Kristi Saligame, Treasurer

October church **income** was **\$18,538**, below our budget of \$20,167 and ahead of last year's result of \$17,999.

- Member Giving was \$14,067, below the budget of \$15,600 and below September 2023 giving of \$15,160.
- We used \$2,000 in Designated Funds from the Mortgage Reduction fund during the month.
- Facilities/other income in October was \$2,472 vs. \$2,567 in the year-ago period.



- Facilities expense in October was higher than expected (we had \$2,392 in AC maintenance costs, which had been budgeted for some other month of this year). That higher cost was more than offset by lower-than-expected personnel, benefits, and travel-related expense.
- Other expense categories were in line with expectations for the month.

LCOS recorded a net loss of (\$580) in October.

Year to Date:

Month/Q	Current Yea	r Results		Year-Ago	Results	
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Jan-Mar	\$58,922	\$55,599	\$3,323	\$65,031	\$59,763	\$5,268
Apr-Jun	\$99,635	\$58,483	\$41,151	\$81,992	\$78,150	\$3,842
July	\$19,646	\$64,767	(\$45,121)	\$18,923	\$20,616	(\$1,693)
Aug	\$21,553	\$15,999	\$5,554	\$19,116	\$23,392	(\$4,275)
Sept	\$30,213	\$36,433	(\$6,221)	\$18,203	\$15,271	\$2,932
Oct	\$18,538	\$19,118	(\$580)	\$17,999	\$17,485	\$514
Total	\$248,507	\$250,399	(\$1,893)	\$221,264	\$214,676	\$6,587

Musings:

As I write this, we're getting ready to host our golf fun(d) raiser, which, weather permitting, will put us back in the black for this year.

Member giving took a bit of a hit in September and October, but we did have those two hurricanes, which definitely disrupted a few things!! We're in good shape as we exit the year, and my Treasurer's eyes are on our Spending Plan for next year. I'm guessing we'll have a couple of additional facilities updates to pay for (paint the exteriors of our buildings? Roof repairs on the sanctuary building?). I hope all of LCOS' members & friends will thoroughly enjoy the upcoming holidays, giving thanks and also savoring the time with loved ones. God is good to us!! Thank you as always for your faithful support of LCOS, and please keep the mission and ministries of this church in your prayers as we celebrate Christmas and prepare for the new year.

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FACILITY and GROUNDS....... Submitted by Barbara Beauregard, Property Manger

We closed out October, after two hurricanes in less then 2 weeks!!, with piles of tree limbs everywhere, a new roof on the Daycare made it through Helene, but not Milton. The company came the next week and made all repairs. November 1st we find the door to the men's room handicap stall had come off the hinges, laying on the floor and had put a hole in the wall! Guess that was our Trick or



Treat?? When I called the repair company and explained the issue to them, their reply was that someone was probably swinging on the door! (Now that is a picture that puts a smile on your face!!)

The tree debris was/is a major issue because all the hauling companies where very busy elsewhere. Our Landscaping Company pitched in to remove some of the piles in the parking spaces, and will continue to work on that during the winter when grass cutting is a monthly project, However, there is a LOT of debris on the back lot and if we find a faster way to remove it, we will. But this is a lesson well learned!!! Everyone keep this in mind for our next hurricane, which we know we will get! IF, the Governor declares Hillsborough County for emergency services, all tree debris goes to the front curb, all along the grass strip between the sidewalk and the street, the whole front area. Can only be limbs and branches, nothing in bags or cans, no piles of leaves, The pickup claws are huge! I know that for a fact! The claw picked up a full grown hedge from my front curb area, thinking it was with the rest of the debris! If we are all aware of this county process, we will not be in this parking lot mess again. On a regular basis, any property cleanup, trimming, weeding, etc. all of that must be bagged, then any of us can throw a bag of clippings in our car, take it

home and put it out at our curb. I know in !2 Oaks, we can put out 12 bags for Wednesday morning pick up!

With that behind us, we now welcome the Busy Season! Our to-do list grows by the day, or hour! I hope you can find a little time on December 1st, after service, for a Hanging of the Greens. Maybe we can set up coffee hour in the Narthex so we can decorate and visit at the same time. Then on the 22nd, the Sunday before Christmas Eve, help will also be needed to reset the Altar, bring out the poinsettias, set up the big Christmas tree, if not already up. You will see this items several times: Holiday Meal is Dec 8th, Congregational Meeting Dec 15th, Christmas Eve service Dec 24th, 7PM

Happy Holidays! Be safe. Have fun. See you next year!

Our LCOS Foodbank in Pictures Submitted by Kristi Saligame





also accepted joyfully!





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PORTICO MINISTRY REPORT

Submitted by Ric Padin

Coming out of a difficult and overwhelming last few weeks, we pray for all impacted by hurricane Helene and Milton. The Portico Ministry was impacted as well due to the damage sustained in the church's grounds. While the Portico Ministry was willing to meet the needs of our houseless neighbors, thanks to Hillsborough County and FEMA, those who were unable to cook our make meals at home and our homeless neighbors were provided with portable showers, washer and driers and two daily warm meals, see pictures included, the Portico took a two-week break.



This went on through Thursday October 31, and took place in a parking lot across Ace Hardware store, corner of Hillsborough Ave and TNC Blvd. There were also distributing of ready-to-eat meals and water at Citrus Park Mall parking lot. We're bless there were several agencies actively involved. As a matter of fact, this afternoon had a visit from FEMA employees surveying our neighborhood asking about how we may have been impacted by the storms.

As we approach the end of the rainy season and prepare for Thanksgiving, we give thanks to the Lord that the loss of life was kept to a minimum. Some of our congregants unfortunately had to deal with great property loss, we continue praying for His guidance and protection as the uncertain and slow road to recovery continues. With the blessing of the Lord, we are looking forward hosting a thanksgiving meal and provide them with donated items for their use, such as shirts, pants, socks, beanies, blankets and toiletry items as available. We thank you in advance for any item contributions. Moving into December, our mission will continue, with God's blessings.

On behalf of the Portico Ministry, we thank you for your prayers, and support. We, in turn, also pray the holiday season will bring all peace and comfort in Christ. Praying the new year brings health and the strength to persevere and overcome all adversities.

Angela, Rick and all Portico volunteers.







November/December 2024

SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Submitted by Karen Urban

The purpose of this new feature is to make it easy for you, the reader. to contribute to the Newsletter and to have some fun in the process! All you have to do is to send a favorite picture (favorite scene, a beautiful sunset, church activities, etc.) or something for which you thank God and attach just a brief description of what the picture is. Please remember that pictures must be appropriate for a church audience and be apolitical. Newsletter Team members will choose which pictures to display. Send your SNAPS & SNIPS to lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com







Harbor









Naoko Okada-Hill directing the LAFFS+ ensemble from the loft



NOVEMBER 10 Service of Thanks and Celebration Submitted by Karen Urban

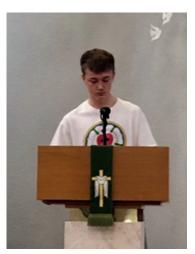
What a fantastic celebration service we had on November 10 presented by the ladies of LAFFS in honor of their 25th anniversary. Cherri Krall and a combined choir sang the prelude, "This is how I Fight My Battles." This was a perfect example of how these strong women support each other and LCOS now and through the years.

Becky Meier read the litany of thanksgiving, and Rick Padin read the second lesson in Spanish. There was also a recognition of our retired pastors: Rochelle Lewis, Jon Keiser, Dave Kruger and Chuck Urban, and their spouses. Following the service a delicious luncheon was given by the LAFFS ladies for all to enjoy.

It was truly a day of praise and thanksgiving. Our appreciation to all for a wonderful day!















November 16 LCOS Golf Tournament Submitted by Kristi Saligame

A beautiful, fun day at the golf course today, our thanks to all of the 94 golfers, the sponsors, donors, and volunteers who generously supported this church and its mission and ministries at our 13th annual golf fun(d)raiser. Our thanks to Countryway Golf Club who hosted us beautifully as always.















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God's Global Barnyard and Other ELCA Good Gifts Submitted by Danielle Kearney

The Christmas season is fast approaching and many of us ask ourselves what gifts to give our loved one this season. We often find it difficult to find an appropriate gift



for the person that has everything. ELCA Good Gifts offer an array of gifts to give in one's name, gifts that make a difference in the lives of many. The gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. You have many gifts to choose from and you can do it easily by going online to: ELCA.org/goodgifts or by calling 800-638-3522.

The following list highlights some of the gifts you can choose from:

- Chicks 10 little chicks at \$10.00
- Honeybees at \$20.00
- A goat at \$50.00 or a herd of goats for \$300.00
- Family Farm this wonderful gift includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, farming tools and agricultural training at \$715.00

You can also provide a water filter, an irrigation system, or help a family in need start a small business with a microloan. All those gifts will make a world of difference to people living in poverty and make it easy for you to do your Christmas shopping in peace and tranquility.

Thank You to Ernie Largent Submitted by Danielle Kearney

Kudos to Ernie Largent for always being willing to help. Following the passage of both hurricanes, Ernie, upon seeing the heaps of furniture piled high on almost every home on my street, came by to offer his help. He didn't call - he simply came and knocked on the door.



His first words were: "can I help you." Simple but powerful words that mean so much in time of need.

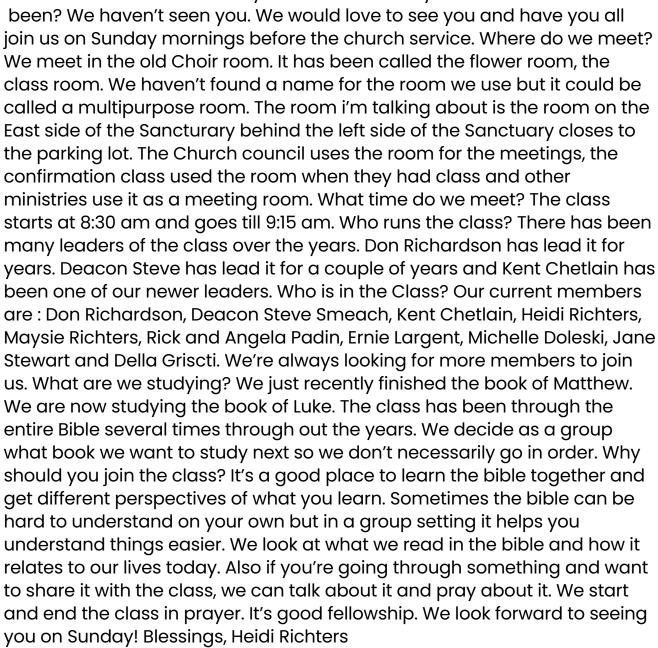
So, thank you, Ernie, for being such a caring and kind person.

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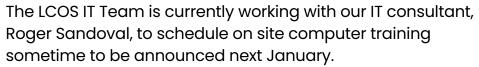
Adult Bible Study Class at LCOS Submitted by Heidi Richters

Did you know that we've had an Adult Bible study class at LCOS for 20 or more years? Where have you



November/December 2024

LCOS Computer Training Submitted by Kent Chetlain, LCOS IT Coordinator



The general content of the training will include computer basics, the Windows operating system, best practices for email security, file management, One Drive and open forum on any questions.

Roger is working on a specific agenda for the training that will be available early December. We will forward that information when it is available.

We anticipate the training to last about one hour depending on the amount of questions in open forum.

Initially the training was going to be for LCOS administrative staff, but we soon realized the training could be a benefit for anyone that is a computer user. If you are interested in participating, please email Deacon Steve and me (cc) and include preferred times:

Deacon Steve Smeach stephen.smeach@gmail.com Kent Chetlain kchetlain1@tampabay.rr.com



		DE	DECEMBER 2024)24		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st Sunday 1of	2	က	4	2	9	7
Advent	Dortico Minietry 10:30		10:30 Portico	Dr Ctovo Office Ure		
<u>e</u>	Food Book 12:30 1:15		Ministry 10:30 Food	ri steve Office nis	00:0 00:0 0:00	
Decorate 9Mave	FOOD BANK 12:30-1:15		Bank 2:30-3:30 AA 7-	i	F000 Bank 2:30-3:30	
10:45 New Ark			8 Lither Hall	Advent Thursday 11:30		
12:30-3:30		AA 7-8 Luther Hall		New Ark Church 6:30		
2nd Sunday of 8	6	10	Choir 11	12	13	14
Advent Adult Bible 8:30	Portico Ministry 10:30		Portico Ministry	Pr Steve Office Hrs		
Worship 9:30	Food Bank 12:30-1:15		10:30	10-4	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	
Christmas Dinner 10:45			Newsletter Team 11:30	Advent Thursday 11:30		
New Ark 12:30-3:30		AA 7-8 Luther Hall	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	New Ark Church 6:30		
3rd Sunday of 15	16 Portico Ministry	17	AA 7-8 Luther Hal18	19	20	21
Advent Adult Bible 8:30	10:30		Dhab	Pr Steve Office Hrs	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	
Worship with 9:30	Food Bank 12:30-		Portico Ministry 10:30	10-4		
Choir Concert before Congregation Mtg	1:15		Food Bank 2:30-3:30	Advent Thursday 11:30		
10:45 New Ark 12:30-3:30		AA 7-8 Luther Hall	AA 7-8 Luther Hall	New Ark Church 6:30		
4th Sunday of 22	23 Portico Ministry	24	25	26	72	28
Advent Adult Bible 8:30	10:30	Christmas Eve 7:00p	Christmas Day		Food Bank 2:30-3:30	
Worship 9:30	Food Bank 12:30-	Holy	Food Bank Closed			
with Communion	1:15	Communion &				
New Ark 12:30-3:30		Candlelight		New Ark Church 6:30		
1st Sunday of 29 Christmas	30 Portico Ministry	31				O TO
Adult Bible 8:30	10:30					
Worship 9:30	Food Bank 12:30- 1:15					
carols; no						9

November/December 2024





DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF January 2025 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS

December 10, 2024

Please submit articles to *lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com* and use the word "*Newsletter*" in the Subject Line.

Please identify yourself so we can list you as author!

