

# The Messenger



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Newsletter Team:  
Karen Urban, Rick Padin, &  
Deacon Steve Smeach

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Monthly Reports
- Snaps & Snippets
- Mission Team of the Month—LAFFS
- February Calendar
- Thank you to Print Shop



LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
OF OUR  
SAVIOUR

## 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: 8:30am**

**Worship Service: 9:30am**

**Fellowship 10:30am**

## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Stephen Kauffman, **Pastor**

Stephen C 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

Fran Palermo

Don Richardson

Sharon Rozell

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** Gail Smeach  
Barbara Beauregard

**AV Team** Lynne O'Reilly

**Bulletin** Ginnie Berge  
Barbara Beauregard

**Coffee Hour** Martin Stewart

### Counters

**Community** Danielle Kearney

### Outreach

**Evangelism** Sharon Rozell  
Barbara Beauregard

### Facilities & Grounds

**Fellowship** Don Richardson  
Martin Stewart

**Food Bank** Kristi Saligame  
Rita Blyden

### Hospitality

**Information** Kent Chetlain

### Technology

**LAFFS** Lynne O'Reilly

**Lay Pastoral** Steve Smeach

### Care Team

**Newsletter** Karen Urban

**Note Folks** Linda Dillinger  
Carolyn Kunzman

**Ushers** Martin Stewart

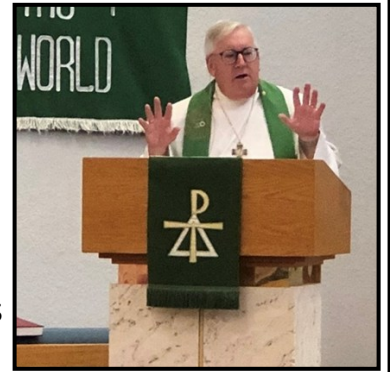
**Website &** Kristi Saligame

### Social Media

**Worship & Music** Naoko Okada

## Pastor's Page

*Submitted by Pr. Stephen Kauffman*



### Luke and the Important Place of Elders in the Church

In his gospel, Luke shares a story of two older folks at the Temple. Jesus meets and is blessed by two older people. Simeon and Anna were distinguished by their great age. Simeon had lived beyond the normal lifespan of his time – well beyond it. He had come to believe that God had granted him such a long life so that he might be able to see the Lord's Messiah before his death.

The other person was Anna, an 84-year-old woman, widowed for most of her life, who was devoted to the temple and worshiped there day and night. These are two unsung heroes of Luke's telling of the Christmas story. I think that this celebration of the elders, of the older ones, challenges us because our culture struggles with aging and getting older.

Luke suggests as Simeon and Anna got wiser as they got older. They became prophets. They became wiser and more able to challenge the present and share with others what is important and what is not important about life. When we are younger, we spend so much of our emotional and spiritual energy on those things that are not important, but we do not know it until we get older. One of the roles of those of us as we become older is to say to those who are younger that what you worry and stay awake about at night is not as important as these other things in our lives.

Luke listened to Simeon and Anna! Anna in her eighties and Simeon, a man who had lived long beyond his expected years. Luke paid attention to them. Anna and Simeon could be prophetic because others listened and paid attention to them.

Could it be that in our culture and society, as we get older, few people are willing to listen to us and pay attention to us. What source of wisdom and deep knowledge do we miss because we fail to spend time with people who are older and wiser than we are?

All of us need a Simeon and an Anna in our lives. All of us need older people to be with and to listen to, and as each of us gets older, we need to become Simeon and Anna to someone. That is what enables us to love and to cherish the future.

## Holiday Thank You!

*Submitted by Pr Steve Kauffman*



Thank you for the generous gift you presented to me on Christmas Eve. I deeply appreciate serving you and want you to know your gift brightened my holiday. Grace and peace be yours in the new year.  
Pastor Steve



## President's Report

*Submitted by Heidi Richters*

Dear Congregation,

A New Year, a new Church Council. Well most of the members from 2024 will continue on council in 2025. But we do welcome two new members to council - Sharon Rozell and Fran Palermo. We hope you both enjoy your Experience on council and be ready to bring new and fresh ideas.

The first Council Meeting for 2025 will be on Sunday January 19th. The Council meets on Sundays after the service at 11:00 am. One item on the agenda for that meeting will be to elect new officers for the 2025 year. They will elect a new President, Vice-President and Secretary.

In 2025 your Council leaders will talk about financials, any issues with any of the buildings, what needs to be fixed, what's a priority, fundraising, the Food Bank, stewardship and many other items. I think with God's help, they will be able to face any challenge that is presented to them.

I know no one wants to think about it now but we only have a short time with Pastor Steve Kauffman so your council will try to get us ready with all the things we need to do in order to be able to call a new Pastor after Kauffman leaves. We would love to keep Pastor Kauffman but know his time with us will eventually end.

I wish blessings on the Church Council for the 2025 year. Thank You for your leadership.

In Peace,  
Heidi Richters, Council President



## Council Secretary's Report

*Submitted by Sara Berge*



### Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Congregation Meeting 12/15/24

Call to Order at 10:47am

Opening Prayer – Pastor Kauffman

Recognition of Council Members

Introductions of members

Financial Plan for 2025 – Kristi Saligame

We are in a nice period of rebuilding reserves and making needed repairs.

Plan is 3 columns: plan for 2024, estimated results for 2024, plan for 2025.

In 2024 we were able to make needed roofing repairs to multiple buildings and we are still able to end the year not in the red.

Upcoming projects in 2025 include painting, roof repairs, etc. which are included in the budget. We are also budgeting to increase our giving to the synod each month.

Facilities Income: we benefited from having the Day Care on property this year. As they grow their business, our income will also increase. We will also increase our facility income with the use of Luther Hall by an event company.

We are continuing to add to our Pastoral Call and Compensation plan so that we can be prepared when our time with Pastor Kauffman ends.

Questions: Sharon Rozell asked about the lights in the sanctuary and the cost of fire alarm/sprinkler inspection and repair. The lights are not related to the roof as far as Kristi knows. We had additional repairs to the sprinkler system that needed to happen in 2024 which accounted for the additional spending.

We had some very generous donations this year from families and memorials, and they made a huge difference in our financial stability this year.

Mike Watson moves that we accept the spending plan for 2025. Charlie McCoy seconds. All are in favor. The spending plan is approved.

Election of new council members for 2025

Fran Palermo and Sharon Rozell are willing to serve.

Gail Smeach nominates Fran and Sharon to serve on council starting in 2025. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer at 11:04am

## Treasurer's Report

*Submitted by Kristi Saligame*



### **December Review:**

December church **income** was **\$20,852**, below our budget of \$23,267 and ahead of last year's result of \$20,097.

- Member Giving was \$17,551, below the budget of \$19,500 and roughly In-line with December 2023 giving of \$17,601.
- We used no Designated Funds during the month.
- Facilities/other income in December was \$3,302 vs. \$1,442 in the year-ago period.

Church **expense** was **\$19,391** in December, vs. \$18,227 a year ago and our budget of \$20,655.

- We gave \$500 to the Florida-Bahamas Synod in December (total contribution to the Synod for the year: \$3,250).
- We gave \$300 to the Tampa Conference in December.
- Other expense categories were generally in line with expectations for the month.

LCOS recorded a **net gain** of **\$1,461** in December.

### **Year to Date for 2024 (preliminary):**

Month/Q	Current Year Results			Year-Ago Results		
	Income	Expense	Difference	Income	Expense	Difference
Jan-Mar	\$58,922	\$55,599	\$3,323	\$68,578	\$59,995	\$8,583
Apr-Jun	\$99,635	\$58,483	\$41,151	\$81,992	\$78,150	\$3,842
July-Sep	\$71,411	\$117,199	(\$45,788)	\$56,242	\$59,279	(\$3,036)
Oct	\$18,538	\$19,118	(\$580)	\$17,999	\$17,485	\$514
Nov	\$30,994	\$23,412	\$7,582	\$30,339	\$22,271	\$8,068
Dec	\$20,852	\$19,391	1,461	\$20,097	\$18,227	\$1,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,353</b>	<b>\$293,203</b>	<b>\$7,151</b>	<b>\$275,247</b>	<b>\$255,407</b>	<b>\$19,841</b>

### **Reflections:**

We begin 2025 well-rested from the holidays (hopefully?!) and full of plans and expectations for the new year. I look forward to worship and fellowship together, as well as the chance to grow, to learn, and to do God's work, serving and loving each other and our neighbors, and enjoying the beauty and complexity of our world, which is His creation. Starting with hope and faith!!

February will be a month of Stewardship focus for us at LCOS, a chance to reflect and plan. What is the impact of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour in your faith journey, and in the lives of our local community? Are there areas for growth in 2025 and beyond? How can we best nurture and support the mission and the ministries of this church?

Thank you for your faithful support of LCOS, and please keep this church in your prayers as we make our way through 2025.

## Facility & Grounds

*Submitted by Barbara Beauregard*

Barbara phoned in a brief report to Deacon Steve. She is on vacation, visiting a son in Los Vegas.

She wishes everyone well and wants to remind us of a **God's Work Our Hands** workday that she is planning for February 15th. She is hoping for good weather that day so that we can get lots of volunteers to help with indoor and outdoor projects that need attention at LCOS.

Barbara will develop sign up lists and put them in the narthex when she returns in a week or two.



## Change of Address

Carol Cousins has moved. Please make that change in your directory! Her new address is:  
**11714 Lake Aston Court**  
**Apartment 205**  
**Tampa, FL 33626-3129**

## Upcoming Events

<b>Ash Wednesday Evening Service</b>	7:00 pm March 5
<b>Council Meeting after worship</b>	11:00 am February 16 and March 16
<b>Mission Team Annual Reports</b>	Due February 15th (to allow for printing and handout by March 23)
<b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	11:00am March 23
<b>Lenten Thursdays</b>	11:00am March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10



## Sharing Food and Fellowship at Home

*Submitted by Rick Padin*

Audrey Howze, Rita Blyden, Linda & Sal Pusateri, and Angela & Rick Padin share a special holiday treat with candles. Rick was taking the picture, but he made sure to get a piece of cake!

## Kaye Prox Foodbank

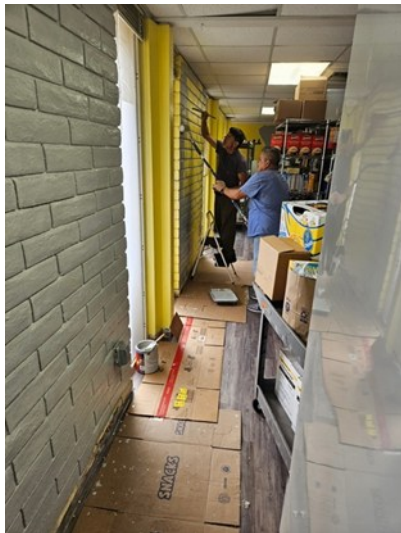
*Submitted by Kristi Saligame*

So much can happen in a month! We updated the food bank with new vinyl plank flooring in mid-December. Our volunteers decided the walls needed an update too, so they painted all of them over the course of a weekend. It looks great! Please stop by and take a look if you can.

Also in December, we hosted volunteers/friends of the food bank for a Christmas lunch. It was a beautiful event, with delicious food!! Special thanks to the volunteers who catered and to Sara Berge, who sponsored us with Thrivent card donations. Each of the volunteers took home a new "Live Generously" t-shirt.

We are so blessed by each of the people who donate time, talent, food, and funds to this ministry, and we're so thankful to be able to care for our neighbors with plentiful, fresh food items.

Lastly, we received a gift from Atonement Lutheran Church (Wesley Chapel). In the wake of Hurricane Milton, which tore the roof off their sanctuary building, Atonement has elected to close their Helping Hands food bank. They generously donated their cargo van to the Kaye Prox Food Bank. Wow! The van is extremely useful, and we are so thankful!!





## Portico Ministry Report

*Submitted by Rick Padin*

Brothers and Sisters:

Coming back from a sabbatical recess, where the Portico Ministry was manned by Brother Juan and his helping hands, we're looking forward to continuing meeting the needs of our houseless neighbors. We will reach out to the Tampa Family Health Center and inquire about their desired involvement with our neighbors regarding facilitating medical services, including and not limited to mobile dental bus, hoping to get them to come out to our campus or refer them to their clinic. We welcome suggestions from our congregation, seeking ways to improve our community service.

As always, we welcome and appreciate donations of clothing (tops, bottoms, socks, shoes), for both genders, clean and in fair condition; also, toiletry items (soap, toothbrush/paste, lotions). I thank you all in advance.

We pray for a fruitful spring and the blessings of the Lord to guide us.

Angela and Rick



## Snaps & Snippets

The purpose of this 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](mailto:lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com)

**PR Steve and Deborah  
at play in Orlando!**

**AT LCOS, we decorate our  
pastors, not our trees!**



**Maysie, Heidi, Dolly, Jane, Rick, Angela, & Friend  
after Christmas Musical at Idlewild Baptist Church**

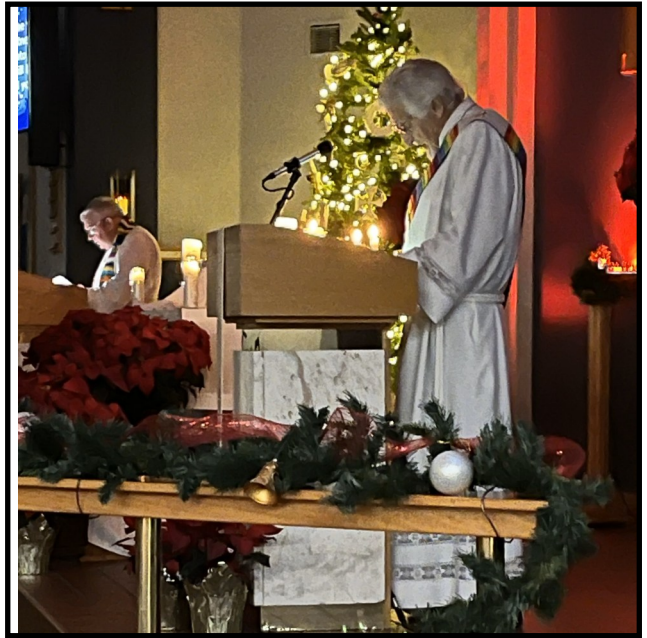


# SNAPS & SNIPPETS CHRISTMAS EVE

*Submitted Gail Smeach*

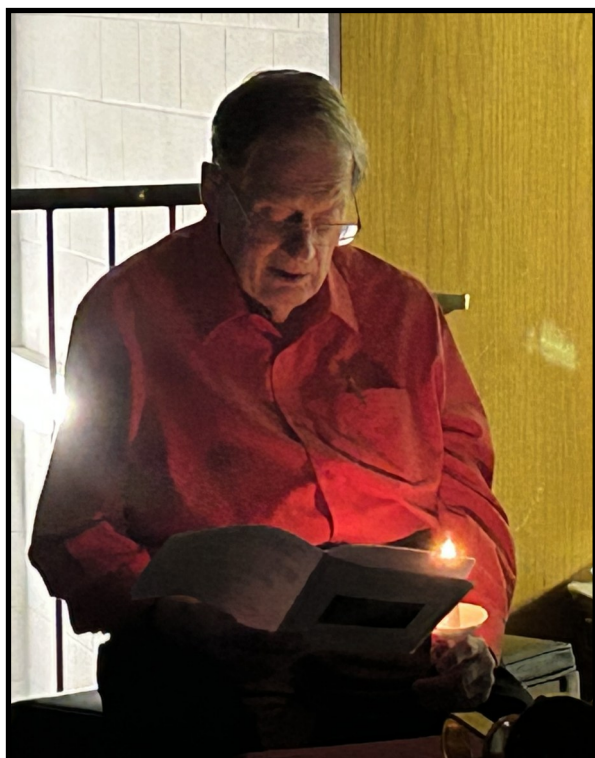


**SNAPS & SNIPPETS CHRISTMAS EVE**  
(cont'd) Submitted Gail Smeach & Karen Urban



# SNAPS & SNIPPETS CHRISTMAS EVE (continued)

*Submitted Gail Smeach*



**SNAPS & SNIPPETS CHRISTMAS EVE (continued)**

*Submitted Gail Smeach & Karen Urban*



**LCOS Birthdays January & February**

<b>Locke Major</b>	January 1
<b>Naoko Okada</b>	January 6
<b>Frank Julius</b>	January 18
<b>Mike Watson</b>	January 21
<b>Sal Pusateri</b>	January 22
<b>Jay Dillinger</b>	January 27
<b>June Major</b>	January 29
<b>Karen Groh</b>	January 31

<b>Rev Rochelle Lewis</b>	February 2
<b>Sara Berge</b>	February 14
<b>Don Richardson</b>	February 19
<b>Steve Smeach</b>	February 25
<b>Sharon Rozell</b>	February 27

If your birthday is missing from our list, please contact Roger Swain at 813-886-7961 or [roger.swain@tampa.rr.com](mailto:roger.swain@tampa.rr.com), so that we may include you next year!

## Mission Team of the Month -LAFFS

*Submitted by Cherri Krall*

After a glorious celebration of LAFFS (Ladies with Active Families and Full Schedules) 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we closed out the year with our annual Christmas brunch and white elephant gift exchange at the home of Jan Spaulding (and Bryan of course!) on December 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a much anticipated day full of lots and lots of “laffs,” good food and drinks. And, 2024 met all the expectations as Jan hosted a beautiful gathering!

AND NOW we are excited about 2025 and we have some great plans. LAFFS ladies have already volunteered their homes for upcoming gatherings:

February LAFFS will be held in the home of Maysie and Heidi Richters;

March LAFFS will be held in the home of Ginne Berge;

April LAFFS will be held in the home of Judith Stocker

We meet the second Friday of every month; we bring a favorite snack and/or drink and meet in the home of one of our LAFFS ladies (as mentioned above). If you are interested in joining LAFFS, please feel free to contact any of the ladies listed below:

Cherri Krall 813-334-2144, Sharon Rozelle 813-263-0977, Michelle Griffith 813-363-2281, Jan Spaulding 813-453-2098, or Judith Stocker 773-919-3297

All women are welcome; we are a social ministry – we serve with the intention of bringing joy and “laffs” to the women of LCOS, sharing our hearts with one another and extending our arms around each other for love and support through the love of Christ, as He commanded us to “love one another.” Love to all with the love of the Lord!!!



FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>4 Epiphany</p> <p>Adult Bible Class 8:30</p> <p>Worship 9:30</p> <p>Fellowship 11:00</p> <p>New Ark 12:30-3:30</p>	<p>Epiphany</p> <p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p>	<p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>Choir 10:30</p> <p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p> <p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>10am-4pm Pr Steve Hours</p> <p>New Ark 6:30</p> <p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>Food Bank 2:30-3:30</p>	8
<p>5 Epiphany</p> <p>Adult Bible Class 8:30</p> <p>Worship 9:30</p> <p>Fellowship 11:00</p> <p>New Ark 12:30-3:30</p>	<p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p>	<p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>Choir 10:30</p> <p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p> <p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>10am-12pm Pr Steve Office Hours</p> <p>11:00am LPC T</p> <p>New Ark 6:30</p> <p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>Food Bank 2:30-3:30</p> <p>LAFFS 7:30p</p>	15
<p>6 Epiphany</p> <p>Adult Bible Class 8:30</p> <p>Worship 9:30</p> <p>Fellowship 11:00</p> <p>Council Meeting 11:00</p> <p>New Ark 12:30-3:30</p>	<p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p>	<p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>Choir 10:30</p> <p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p> <p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>10am-12pm Pr Steve Office Hours</p>	<p>Food Bank 2:30-3:30</p>	22
<p>Consecration Sunday</p> <p>Adult Bible Class 8:30</p> <p>Worship 9:30</p> <p>Fellowship 11:00</p> <p>New Ark 12:30-3:30</p>	<p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p>	<p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>Choir 10:30</p> <p>Portico Ministry 10:30</p> <p>Food Bank 12:20-1:15</p> <p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>10am-12pm Pr Steve Office Hours</p> <p>New Ark 6:30</p> <p>AA Luther Hall 7-8:00</p>	<p>Food Bank 2:30-3:30</p>	28



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF March 2025 NEWS-  
LETTER ARTICLES IS:**

**February 10, 2025**

Please submit articles to  
*lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com*, and use the word  
***“Newsletter”*** in the Subject Line, and identify your-  
self so we can list you as author!

Printing kindly provided as a charitable contribution  
through the efforts of Kimberly Kelly and Ken Scrase at

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