

The Messenger



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9

Newsletter Team:

**Karen Urban, Rick Padin, &
Deacon Steve Smeach**

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Monthly Reports**
- **Snaps & Snippets**
 - **December 1 & 8 Festivities**
- **Feature Articles**
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- **January Calendar**
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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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Bible Study: 8:30 am

Worship Service: 9:30 am

Fellowship after service: 10:30am

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

Gail Smeach,
Barbara Beauregard

AV Team

Lynne O'Reilly

Coffee Hour

Martin Stewart

Counters

Liturgists & Communion Asst.

Heidi Richters

Facilities & Grounds

Barbara Beauregard

Fellowship

Don Richardson
Martin Stewart

Food Bank

Kristi Saligame
Rita Blyden

Information Technology

Kent Chetlain

LAFFS

Lynne O'Reilly

Lay Pastoral Care Team

Steve Smeach

Newsletter

Karen Urban

Bulletin

Ginnie Berge
Barbara Beauregard

Note Folks

Linda Dillinger
Diane Talbot

Ushers

Martin Stewart

Website & Social Media Worship & Music

Kristi Saligame

Pastor's Report

Submitted by Pr Stephen Kauffman



***Zapped* for the New Year**

Some years ago I read a wonderful management book by William Byham called *Zapp!, the Lightning of Empowerment*. Though it was written for managers in the business world, I have always thought that Byham had a lot to share with the Church. *Zapp* is the empowerment of people through the giving of power. *Sapp*, on the other hand, is the taking of that same power. When you have been *Sapped*, says Byham, you feel like your contributions really don't count, you have little or no control over your work, and you must be careful to keep your mouth shut. When you are *Zapped*, you feel like you count for something, your job counts, people want to know what you think.

A New Year always challenges me to examine carefully my life and my work and my faith. It is a wonderful time to consider tossing out those concerns and thoughts that do nothing but *Sapp* me of my spiritual, emotional and physical strength. A New Year is a time to be *Zapped* by God's Spirit, not *Sapped* by the sins of the past.

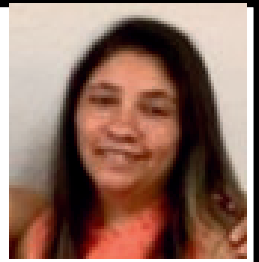
I wonder whether some of our challenges at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour are the result of our failure to be open to accept the Holy Spirit's "*Zapp!*" The characteristic of healthy Christians who have been *Zapped* by the Spirit are similar to those Byham describes in the healthy business. We are saved from any small-minded notions of what God has done for us. Because of God's grace, we are empowered to maintain and enhance self-esteem; listen and respond with empathy; share thoughts and feelings; and ask for help and encourage involvement and new ideas.

As God's people "*Zapped* by the Spirit," we stand at the beginning of a new year with the assurance that the "*Sapping*" can stop! My New Year's prayer is that each of us are open to the Holy Spirit's *Zapp* and that we practice *Zapping* each other in 2025! By the power of the Spirit, we will notice that God has already provided us everything we need for success.

Happy New Year!

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Submitted by Heidi Richter



Dear Congregation,

Happy New Year! 2024 is coming to an end and a new year begins in 2025. I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. I'm looking forward to the hope that 2025 will bring to our lives, our Church, the food bank and all the missions here at LCOS.

The new year will bring new members to the Church Council and new officers who will lead our council. I have served 3 terms on the council and I have enjoyed my time being part of it. I will leave an opportunity for someone else to experience all that the council is involved with and will do in 2025.

The members of the Church council will be faced with some challenges in 2025 but with God's guidance I believe we will be able to get through whatever comes our way.

The Council meets the third Sunday of every month. The first council meeting of 2025 will be Sunday January 19th, 2025.

A Prayer for the New Year:

Heavenly Father, as we step into the new Year, we thank you for the gift of another chance to grow and learn. Guide us with your wisdom, grant us strength to face challenges, and fill our hearts with hope for the future. Help us live with kindness, compassion, and love, and to use our gifts to serve others. May this year be one of blessings, peace, and renewed faith. In Jesus's name. Amen.

In Peace,

Heidi Richters

Council president

Council Secretary Report

Submitted by Sara Berge



LCOS Council Meeting Summary – October 6, 2024

- Opening prayer at 11:08am.
- In the financial report, Kristi shared that the cost to repair the roof on the day care building was \$18,000 and has been paid in full. Discussion was held regarding memorial funds as well as additional repairs to our facilities that may be needed in the future.
- Pastor's Report: Pastor shared that there continue to be more hospital visits. He also discussed the special worship service that is now scheduled for November 10th. In addition, he shared information about the teams that have been formed – specifically communications. Karen Urban is working with Deacon Steve on our regular newsletter.
- Reports were shared regarding the Kaye Prox Food Bank, Golf Tournament and Facilities and Grounds.
- There was no new business.
- Closing prayer at 11:58am.

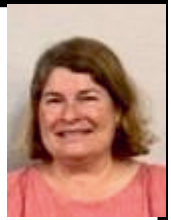
LCOS Council Meeting Summary – November 17, 2024

- Opening prayer at 11:02am.
- The financial report showed a net loss of \$580 in October – mostly attributed to the storms that we weathered through. Annual staff raises were discussed.
- In the pastor's report, Pastor Steve shared updates regarding our newsletter team, advent services and new members.
- Reports were shared and discussed regarding the Kaye Prox Food Bank and Facilities and Grounds.
- Old Business featured a report on the Golf Tournament, which was very successful.
- New Business focused on a discussion of outgoing council members, suggestions for new council members and the congregational meeting scheduled for December 15.
- Closing prayer at 12:02pm.

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

Treasurer REPORT

Submitted by Kristi Saligame, Treasurer



November Review:

November church **income** was **\$30,994**, below our budget of \$35,067 and slightly ahead of last year's result of \$30,339.

- Member Giving was \$14,212, below the budget of \$17,000 and ahead of November 2023 giving of \$12,733.
- We used no Designated Funds during the month and recorded Golf Fun(d)Raiser revenue of \$13,281.
- Facilities/other income in November was \$3,502 vs. \$2,392 in the year-ago period.

Church **expense** was **\$23,412** in November, vs. \$22,271 a year ago and our budget of \$26,844.

- Golf Fun(d)Raiser expense was \$3,491, for a tournament net profit of \$9,790.
- A total of \$1,979 of the Golf Fun(d)Raiser net proceeds was donated to the Kaye Prox Food Bank. This amount was recorded as a Mission Expense for the month of November.
- Other expense categories were generally in line with expectations for the month.

LCOS recorded a **net gain** of **\$7,582** in November.

Year to Date:

Month/Q	Current Year Results			Year-Ago Results		
	Income	Expense	Difference	Income	Expense	Difference
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-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
Total	\$279,501	\$273,812	\$5,689	\$251,603	\$236,947	\$14,655

Musings:

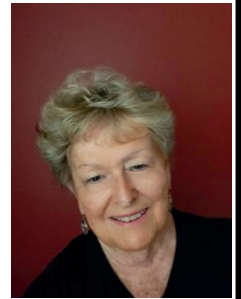
Giving thanks as I write, for all of our blessings in 2024. Every year has its difficulties and sorrows, of course (and we have certainly had them!), but there has also been much to celebrate during the year. I am personally so thankful for this loving church family; it is such a blessing every Sunday to see how much we enjoy each other before, after, and during the worship service! That fellowship continues through our pastoral visits, our LAFFS gatherings, etc. etc.

A special thanks to our members and friends who were so thoughtful in their special donations in 2024, including generous donations to the roof fund, thoughtful estate gifts, and numerous memorial gifts to the church and the food bank.

We're in good shape as we exit the year of our Lord 2024. 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 focus on our plans for 2025.

FACILITY and GROUNDS

Submitted by Barbara Beauregard, Property Manger



Welcome 2025! Time to slow down! Breath! Next big holiday season, Lent, isn't until March 5th!

Sometime in February, while the weather is pretty good, it might be the perfect time to have our 'God's Work, Our Hands' work day. Our property always needs a little trim here and there. Maybe some new plants/flowers to add a little Spring color. There are a few areas that always seem to need a clean up: the area along the dentist fence and Metro storage wall. Some of that space does belong to both of those businesses, but I think the trash blows in from Hillsborough Ave and some of it is our trash, but it is an area where everyone parks so they see our mess. When it comes to clean up, we need to bag as much as possible because we do not get yard waste pick up from the county. Once a pile starts it just grows and grows, then becomes costly to have removed. With a big black plastic bag, we can just throw it in our trunk and put it out with our home trash.

Looking at the calendar, Valentines Day is a Friday, so Saturday the 15th might be a good work Saturday. Everyone can bring a plant/flower and we can have a group doing some trimming, and a group to do the planting, and a group doing clean up. So, look around the grounds and pick out what and where you'd like to help.

The Hall is pretty much redone. The Kitchen was really a mess, but we had a group work on that and it is in pretty good shape. The main project we need to look into is painting the exterior of our buildings. We need something that draws attention to LCOS, not in a crazy way, but fresh and alive. If you have any thoughts or ideas let me know. In driving around you may see a color combination that stands out and could work for us as well. Another project we should consider is having our windows cleaned! The main building is not something we can do, it must be professional. Because we don't have that done on an annual bases, the windows are pretty bad, it is not just a soap and water cleaning, they need a special acid wash that will take off years of pollution. Then every year it is just a basic cleaning.

That is a list of goals for 2025. Let's see if next December when I write this, I can say we accomplished 100%. I'm sure by then we will have a new list for 2026! With all the buildings and all the multi-use they get, we will always have a list of projects!

I want to thank all that lend a helping hand on projects around our campus, inside and out. Believe me, every little bit helps!

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2025!

Kaye Prox Foodbank

Submitted by Kristi Saligame

The Kaye Prox Food Bank received a couple of notable donations during the month of November: First, the Watson family presented a generous gift in the name of Connie Watson. We are touched and thankful for this kind gesture. Second, our appreciation to the entire team of the Golf Fun(d) Raiser; the food bank was blessed to receive a donation of \$1,979 from the tournament proceeds.

All of these funds will be used toward the installation of new flooring in the food bank building, beginning Friday December 13th. The current tiles were lifting in several places and cracking in others, with large sections of the floor affected.

Also in November, the Food Bank served 300 families with turkeys/chickens and meal kits (potatoes, gravy, stuffing mix, canned vegetables, etc.) during the week preceding Thanksgiving. We really appreciate each of the generous donations (cash, food items) we received in support of our Thanksgiving drive. J J

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Grace Lutheran Church conducted a food drive at their local Publix. Much of the food they collected was donated to Kaye Prox Food Bank, over 1,600 pounds – what a blessing!! We are so grateful to Dave Davies and all of the other members of Grace Lutheran who participated in the food drive.

In general, we continue to serve 300 families per week, with distributions on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30 pm, and a Friday distribution at 2:30 pm. Donations from church and community members support this mission, along with high-volume food donations from Feeding Tampa Bay and local retailers.

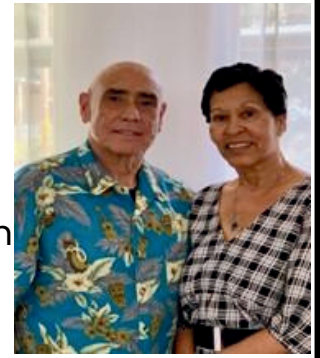
The food bank is 100% powered by volunteers from this church and from the surrounding community. They are a wonderful team, and we are always ready to welcome a new volunteer! A holiday lunch for food bank volunteers is planned for Tuesday, December 17th in Luther Hall.



Alberto Rao gives a big "thumbs up" to work behind the scenes

PORTICO MINISTRY REPORT

Submitted by Rick Padin



Blessing to all from the Portico Ministry:

Hope you all had a wonderful and Merry Christmas. As we begin a new year, our focus remains on meeting the needs of our house less neighbors by providing warm meals and directing them to the local agencies for housing and medical needs. We look forward and pray for the opportunity in partnering (again) with the Tampa Family Health Centers to enroll and meet the medical needs of our customers.

As the need continues to grow, we saw an increase and demand for additional meals after Hurricane Milton. With the change of the season, cool weather moving in, several shelters opened as we've also noticed new individuals requesting meals. I can only guess they're coming south to a more tropical and tolerable state as Florida.

Fortunately, we have a group of contributors, pictured below, that help keep the Portico Ministry going. While Mr. Juan coordinates the meal donations from Bravo Supermarket, the ladies help facilitate the handing out of the meals, making the process fun and effective. Many thanks to the helping hands.

We continue praying for the hands that provide the food as well as the ones who distribute it. May God bless us all as we move forward in 2025, meeting our neighbor's needs, having a safe place at LCOS to distribute.

Angela and Rick Padin



Volunteer:
Juan De La Cruz



Volunteers Thao & Angela confer
with Angela Padin

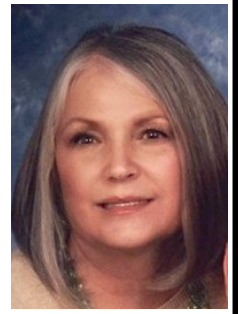
SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Submitted by Gail Smeach & Rick Padin

The purpose of this 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 licoschurchoffice@gmail.com



December 1 Decorating the Nave



SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Submitted by Gail & Steve Smeach

December 8 LCOS Christmas Dinner



SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Submitted by Gail & Steve Smeach



Fellowship & food in the narthex:
Cherri, Heidi, Michele, & Maysie



Lean on me:
Peggy Davidson & Ernie



Recent Children's Sermon:
Pr. Steve, Sharon Rozelle, & 2 of grandkids



Our beautiful chancel decorated for
Advent



Naoko & Joylene:
A piano duet



WELCOME BACK!!
Lynne O'Reilly & Fraser Muir back from medical challenges, accompanied by Maria,
Fraser's wife.

Advent Thursday Series

Submitted by Deacon Steve Smeach

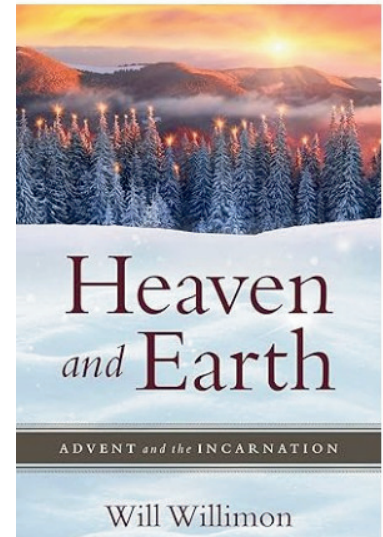
On the three Thursdays of Advent (December 6, 13, and 20) at 11:30, Pr Steve and Deacon Steve facilitated a small group discussion of *"Heaven and Earth"*, a DVD authored by Reverend Will Willimon, a Methodist pastor and dean of the Duke University School of Divinity.



For Willimon, Advent is not merely a season of quiet preparation; it is a disruptive event where God intervenes in history to overturn human expectations and establish divine priorities. His apocalyptic vision challenges the status quo.

The three sessions covered:

- 1. Meanwhile** -a discussion of Jesus apocalyptic sermon in Mark 13, daring us to consider how and why God wants us to shake up the world, like he did in bringing Christ into the world.
- 2. Surprised** -a discussion of how Jon the Baptizer's message of repentance and
- 3. Rejoice** -the story of Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would divinely conceive a son to be called Jesus and Mary's joyful song of praise, The Magnificat.



Advent Sundays: Lighting the Advent Wreath

During each of the four Sundays of Advent, we ask member families to light our Advent Wreath.

On December 1st, Jani and Judith Stocker lit the first candle, **Hope**. On December 8th, our newly-joined family, Nicole, Benjamin, and Jake Robertson lit the second candle, **Preparation**. On December 15th, Mike Watson and his family will light the third candle, **Joy**. On December 22, Colin Coleman and his family will light the fourth candle, **Love**. The final candle, representing **Christ** will be lit as a part of our Christmas Eve Service.



Liturgist and Communion Assistants

Submitted by Heidi Richters

I've been doing the liturgy since I was in the youth group (when we had one), many years ago. Although I'm not good at public speaking I enjoy being part of the service and helping out Pastor. I sometimes lose my place when I'm reading or often have trouble reading certain words or all the names of the people or places from the bible but I do the best I can.

We are always looking to add to our team that now consists of 4 people. If you are interested in joining our team there is training available. You can always talk to me or Deacon Steve Smeach. If you don't think you could do the whole liturgy, you could start by just reading one of the lessons. The more you get comfortable with reading them maybe you'll be brave enough to do the whole thing.

We could use more people serving as communion assistants. Training for the assistants are also available.

We would love to have you join one of our teams. Think about it and let one of us know if you would be interested in volunteering for one of our teams.

Hopeful,
Heidi Richters

MORE SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Submitted by Dolly Lewis Patterson



A view of our Advent chancel from the pews!



Beautiful Luther Hall waits in anticipation!



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				10am-4pm Pr Steve Hours	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2nd Sunday of Christmas Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	Epiphany Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15		Choir 10:30 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	10am-4pm Pr Steve Hours New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Baptism of Our Lord Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15	Newsletter Team 11:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	Choir 10:30 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	10am-4pm Pr Steve Hours 11:00am LPCT New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
2nd Sunday After Epiphany Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15		Choir 10:30 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	10am-4pm Pr Steve Hours New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
3rd Sunday After Epiphany Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15		Choir 10:30 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	10am-4pm Pr Steve Hours New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	Food Bank 2:30-3:30	



***DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF February 2025
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS***

January 10, 2024

Please submit articles to licoschurchoffice@gmail.com, and use the word "***Newsletter***" in the Subject Line, and identify yourself 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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