

The Messenger



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
John 3:16-17, NRSV

Newsletter Team:
Karen Urban, Rick Padin, Ginnie Berge and Deacon Steve Smeach

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LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF OUR
SAVIOUR

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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: 8:30am

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

Sara Berge, **President**

Don Richardson, **Vice President**

Kim Jordan, **Secretary**

Kristi Saligame, **Finance/Treasurer**

Barbara Beauregard

Charlie McCoy

Lynne O'Reilly

Fran Palermo

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

Lent offers an opportunity to grow and refresh!

Submitted by Pastor Stephen Kauffman



Lent is a period of 40 days during which many Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. The 40-day period is called Lent after an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. This refers to the time of year it occurs, as this is when the days start to get longer, as we approach Summer.

It is a time of reflection and of asking for forgiveness, and when Christians prepare to celebrate Jesus's resurrection at the feast of Easter, which comes at the very end of Lent.

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Along with our Worship Planning Team I'll be at work on a wonderful series of worship experiences appropriate for the season.

Our Ash Wednesday Service marks the beginning of Lent's preparation for Easter. On this day, we will observe the beginning of Lent with a Service of Ashes and Holy Communion. With this solemn liturgy, the church goes forth on its journey to the great feast of Easter! The service is at 7 pm.

Beginning on March 13, join us each Thursday at 11:15 am throughout Lent for, a series of worship/study experiences focusing on the themes of Lent. I will lead us through a study of the Passion Narratives in the Gospels.

The passion narratives in the Bible are accounts of Jesus' suffering and death in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The term "passion" comes from the Latin word *passio*, which means "suffering".

Key events in the passion narratives

- Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane
- Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin
- Jesus' trial before Pilate
- Jesus' suffering
- Jesus' death
- Jesus' burial

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 13. As is our custom, we will celebrate Jesus entry into Jerusalem with palm branches and special liturgy. I invite you to join us later that week for our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion liturgy on April 17 and for our very moving Good Friday Tenebrae service on April 18. Both services are at 7 pm.

Finally, join us for Easter Sunday Celebration of the resurrection with special music and Holy Communion at our regular 9:30 am worship time. Christ is risen!

President's Report

Submitted by Sara Berge



Greetings!

My name is Sara Berge and I am the newly elected president of the LCOS council for 2025. I have been a member at LCOS since 2008, when I moved to Tampa from North Dakota. LCOS felt like home from the first time I visited – I was warmly welcomed and introduced to many wonderful people. It didn't take long for me to join the choir, and I have been singing with them ever since. You may also hear me playing the flute on occasion from the choir loft. Outside of church, I am a fourth grade math and science teacher at Lowry Elementary, am a Jazzercise instructor in Westchase and sing with the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. To say I am busy is an understatement, but I truly felt called to be a part of the church council and am honored to be entrusted with this leadership position.

Our first council meeting of 2025 focused on elections and mission teams. I am excited to be working with Don Richardson as Vice President, Kim Jordan as Secretary and Kristi Saligame as Treasurer. We also welcomed Sharon Rozell and Fran Palermo as new members of the council. Gail Smeach, Lynne O'Reilly, Mike Watson, Charlie McCoy, and Barbara Beauregard are all returning for another year of service. Each of our council members this year will be serving as a liaison for the different mission teams we are working to implement. We have a wonderful group of leaders on council this year and look forward to having great mission teams set up to ensure LCOS continues to work towards its vision and mission statements.

Recently, we heard Pastor Kauffman preach about being equipped to answer a call. Often when asked to serve, we may not feel as though we are qualified. However, we are qualified by the One who calls us. Our mission teams will be reaching out to ask for people to serve. The phrase "many hands make light work" comes to mind when I think about these mission teams. LCOS is an amazing place filled with wonderful people and if we all work together, we can flourish as we share the good news in the Town and Country community and beyond. If you are interested in joining one of our ministry teams, please talk with any of our council members and we will get you connected.

Will you answer the call?

Council Secretary's Report

Submitted by Kim Jordan



LCOS Council Meeting Summary – January 19, 2025

Call to order by President Heidi Richters at 11:05am

Devotional by Pastor Kauffman

Nominated and confirmed 2025 Council Executive Officers:

President – Sara Berge; Vice President – Don Richardson
Secretary – Kim Jordan; Treasurer – Kristi Saligame

Reports from Ministry Areas:

Treasury Report - for December 2024 and Year-End 2024 – Received reports from Kristi with details to follow along. We ended the 2024 year in the black.

Pastor's Report – Enjoyed the preparation and plans for Advent services and Christmas Eve service; supported Pastoral Care team; meetings with Deacon Steve preparing for new council members installation and their ministry areas; meetings with music director to plan worship services; planning meetings with the Stewardship team; and conducting necessary parish business. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, March 29th. Reminder that ministry leaders need to write their annual reports and submit them as soon as possible.

Facilities and Grounds – Barbara Beauregard has been in contact with the events group that we have a contract with regarding the Fellowship Hall. Due to the terrible hurricane season, their prospective contracts fell through, and they have asked to renegotiate their contract with LCOS. It was decided that Barbara and Kristi would meet with them. Also, Sunshine Day Care has maxed out its occupancy and now has asked for a space to expand and offer “after school care” for about 10 children. The council has discussed possible options and will continue to consider each of them thoroughly. This discussion has been moved to our next council meeting under Old Business.

KPFB – Kristi Saligame reported that the Food Bank continues to serve about 300 people per week. The floor in the food bank was replaced and volunteers painted the walls. They had a “Thank You!” luncheon for the food bank volunteers in December. The Christmas gift give-away for clients was okay, but Kristi noted that there is room for improvement next year. KPFB received a very nice Christmas gift from Atonement Lutheran Church – a 2019 cargo van! They had to close their food bank and decided to donate their van to KPFB! **Thank you, Atonement Lutheran Church!**

Stewardship Committee – Lynne O'Reilly and Don Richardson have been working on this with Pastor Steve. The theme is “Sharing God's Blessings”. Envelopes with pledge cards will be given out on Sunday, Feb. 9th, and are asked to be returned to church by March 2nd.

Council Orientation – Steve Smeach presented an outline for our Council's Organizational Structure. Each council member has been asked to take responsibility to help lead one of our 10 Ministry Areas and work together with members of the congregation to accomplish the mission of LCOS. There will be more information coming as this develops.

Ending prayer by Pastor Steve. Meeting adjourned.
Next meeting will be Feb. 16, 2025.

LCOS Treasurer's Report—February 2025

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



January Review:

Church **income** in January was **\$19,232**, slightly below our budget of \$19,589 but ahead of last year's result of \$16,375.

- Member Giving was \$13,531, below the budget of \$15,962 and year-ago giving of \$14,533.
- We used \$3,000 in Designated Funds (from the Mortgage Reduction Fund) in January.
- Facilities/other income in January was \$2,702, vs. \$1,842 in the year-ago period.

Church **expense** was **\$20,710** in January, vs. \$16,954 a year ago and our budget of \$19,519.

- We gave \$300 to the Florida-Bahamas Synod in January. This amount is up from \$250/month in 2024.
- In addition to our monthly mortgage payment of \$2,950, we paid \$3,000 toward principal pre-payment. Our mortgage balance is now at about \$151,000.
- We did not set aside the planned \$1,500, toward future Pastoral Call/Compensation costs, for the month.

LCOS recorded a **net loss** of **(\$1,478)** in January.

The Year Ahead:

A summary of our 2025 spending plan, as approved by the congregation in December.

	Annual Total
INCOME	
Member Giving	198,101
Designated and Fundraising Income	75,000
Rental/Other Income	58,633
	<hr/>
	\$331,734
EXPENSE	
Missions	6,200
Employees/Benefits	110,225
Facilities & Grounds	183,816
Managing Operations	16,930
Learning, Stewardship, and Worship	6,150
Outreach, Fellowship & Fundraising	8,313
	<hr/>
	\$331,634

A potential revision to this plan: Events bookings for Luther Hall are already slower than expected, due in large part to the 2024 Hurricanes. If Rental/Other Income for the year is below expectations, we will likely set aside less funds for future Pastoral Call/Compensation (our total Employees/Benefits cost for the year would decrease). We may also need to plan additional fundraisers to support our facilities maintenance/upgrade plans (painting the building exteriors).

Please continue to keep the mission and ministries of this church in your prayers. Thank you for your ongoing, faithful support of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour!

Facility and Grounds

Submitted by Barbara Beauregard, Property Manager



Well, I missed most of January, having spent the holidays in Las Vegas with my son and family. (Actually, I tried to run away from the mess hurricane Milton left me!! However, it was all still there when I got back.) February was catch-up time both at home and church. You all were busy while I was gone, setting off door alarms and fire alarms! Everything has been checked out, fixed and all is well.

I'm counting on our February God's Work our Hands work day to have gone well. Sort of our Spring Cleaning. It is amazing what we can collect in a year, but with little storage we need to be mindful of just what we do keep.

By the time March has moved on and April is here, so will warmer weather and, we hope, the rain. Last year we had the roof of Luther Hall redone, as well as the walkways, kitchen and food-bank. Then found we had roof damage on the Daycare and that roof was replaced and just in time for a major rain! Now we need to look at the roof of the main Sanctuary building. It may have reached its lifetime. We talked about painting the buildings, but the roof may come to the top of our to-do list. Not sure it could go through another hurricane Milton. Glad none of us were in the building because I think it did a lot of shaking with some of the lights falling out of their recessed housing, it would have been frightening!

In February, Don Richardson and Martin Stewart, rented a lift and replaced the ceiling panels outside our front entry that Hurricane Milton took someplace! Milton also messed up some of the walkway ceiling panels which were also fixed. That was a big savings to us! We needed the lift and so did our fire protection company, but their cost to us was \$1200.00 and I knew we could rent one cheaper and get both projects finished, the fire company could use our lift, and with Don and Martin doing the work all would work out well. BIG thank you to Don and Martin!!

If you checked your calendar for March, you see we have some events coming up: March 2nd - Burning of the Palms for Ash Wed which is March 5th. Then the day we l o v e: once again we have Daylight Saving Time. Then St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. Congregational Meeting on the 23rd, and our weekly Lenten services on Thursdays, 13th, 20th, 27th, and with that we move into April!

Thanks to all the helpers who step in and lend a hand!

Kaye Prox Foodbank Update

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



The Food Bank serves about 300 families each week. Here's our weekly distribution calendar:

Day	Distribution Times:
Monday	12:30 pm – 1:15 pm
Wednesday	12:30 pm – 1:15 pm
Friday	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Food bank volunteers are also on hand to receive donations on Monday and Friday mornings from 10-12, and on Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

We are so inspired by the energy and commitment of these volunteers, and by the generous support of the LCOS congregation and our sister congregations (Messiah, Grace, and Atonement Lutheran Churches, as well as Town & Country neighbor churches including Incarnation, First Reformed, and Wesley Memorial). We are grateful to our 'village'!!

A few recent photos. Note our new cargo van, which was a gift to us from Atonement Lutheran Church in January. We never knew how much we needed this van!! What a blessing for the food bank. 😊



Portico Ministry Report

Submitted by Rick Padin



Returning from our getaway, we're happy to inform you the Portico Ministry managed to meet the needs of our local homeless community. Brother Juan and his staff managed the cold January weather to the extent of bringing in homemade noodle soup as a compliment to the meals provided by Bravo Supermarket.

As Angela and I return to our Monday duties, we've received large clothes donations for our houseless females; we welcome donations for men, sizes ranging from medium to extra-large. Socks are always welcome as well as size 10 and up shoes.

In regard to the Tampa Family Health Centers, I placed a request for their medical unit service; whether is best for them to come out to our campus or make walk-in appointments. God willing, I will have a report on their response next month.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. Thanks be to God.

Angela and Rick



Homemade hot soup, courtesy of Aurora, one of our Portico volunteer workers, keeping our houseless neighbors warm during January's cold days.

Join us
during this
season
of Lent.



Lenten Bible Study and Conversation

Submitted by Pastor Stephen Kauffman

The story of Jesus' passion and death remains central to our understanding of God and of Christ. The cross has become our main symbol. We understand Jesus not simply as a great teacher or as the glorious Lord of Easter. We think of him too as the crucified Christ, who gives his life for humanity. And the way we think of Christ is important for our own lives. Jesus Christ calls us to be his disciples, taking up the cross, dying to our own selves, our selfishness, in order that we might look out upon the world to serve it. We are not called upon to do anything that Christ has not done. His death for us and for humanity is sufficient. But we are set free from the consequences of sin to serve others in the world.

The Passion Narratives in the four gospels are similar to one another in major respects. They share in common the following major events: Jesus' arrest, his arraignment before officials of the Sanhedrin on Thursday evening, his trial before Pilate on Friday morning, his suffering, and his death. Beyond those things in common, there are distinctive features of each account.

Come and join us on Thursday mornings at 11:15 am throughout Lent to hear and understand God's great work in Jesus death and resurrection. (See page 3 for details.) We will begin with a study and conversation and end with a brief devotion. Following the devotion, join us for lunch at Village Inn.

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5, 7:00pm

Lenten Worship/Study Experiences

Thursdays, 11:15am

March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10

Palm Sunday Worship

April 13, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17, 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship

April 18, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Worship

April 20, 9:30am

SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Submitted by Gail Smeach

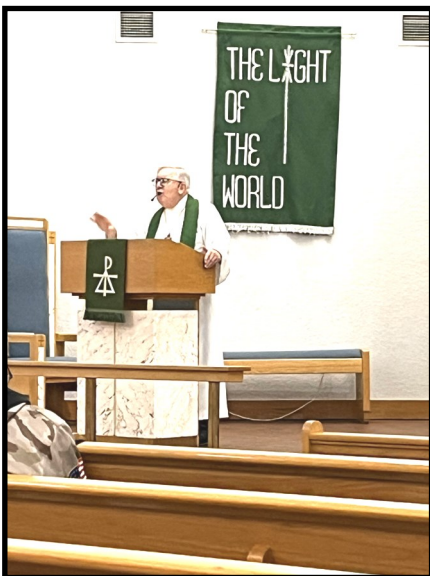
Snaps & Snippets

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 licoschurchoffice@gmail.com



**Installation of Church Council
Sunday, January 19**



SNAPS & SNIPPETS (cont'd)

Submitted by Ms Rita



The first night in their new room, my two granddaughters, ages four and five, were afraid to go to sleep. After their mother had tucked them into their double bed and assured them several times it was safe, she finally said,

“Remember, you’re never alone. God is always with you...” As she left, she heard the four year old say, “Move over Courtney. Let God sleep in the middle!”



Thank You, Heidi Richters!

Heidi has skillfully represented us at LCOS by being on church council for 9 years. She has served as president, vice president and secretary over the years. She says she’s learned a lot about how the church works, each different ministry and mission and how all work together to keep LCOS running. And she’s looking forward to see how God moves us in the years ahead.

Thank you, Heidi, for your dedicated service to council and for all you continue to do!



Coffee Fellowship

LCOS March Birthdays

Linda Pusateri	March 3
Kevin Groh	March 4
Rick Padin	March 9
Jani Stocker	March 10
Deborah Kauffman	March 15
Maclin Heselius	March 16
Terry Kaladeen	March 22
Ian Griffith	March 23
Karen Urban	March 24
Carole Estella	March 27
Kent Chetlain	March 29
LaVonne Carroll	March 30



LCOS April Birthdays

Alice Rozell	April 4
Vickie Williams	April 5
Louise Betron	April 8
Westley Richters	April 8
Stephen Groh	April 19
Marjorie Brozenski	April 27
Lisa Paffenroth	April 28
Ernest Largent	April 30
Kiran Saligame	April 30

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



Friday, March 7

Mission Team of the Month—Altar Guild

Submitted by Gail Smeach



The Altar Guild at present is a small group of 5. I generally take care of the floral arrangements. Barbara Beaugard and I change the paraments according to the liturgical season. Chuck and Karen Urban change the banners. Danielle and Barbara make sure our wine cups are filled and wafers are ready for Communion on Sunday or for special services.

I am very excited for this coming year! My hope and plan is to “refresh” some of the floral arrangements, get all of the Christmas Decorations organized into their own storage “homes” with a list so others will know where to find them or put them away and PERHAPS finally get some of the broken Crismons replaced. The Crismons are a big undertaking and will require a group of volunteers to get them made.

At some point, I hope to repair and possibly do some major replacements of some of the banners that have gotten a bit sad with age. They need new life put into them. Another big undertaking and perhaps that’s for 2026.


We are always looking for volunteers, or just someone to know what is where for those rare times Barbara and I aren’t at church at the same time. Another goal is to have a notebook behind the Altar, that has all the information in one place.

I appreciate any input from the congregation whether it is a suggestion for a special design or even constructive criticism. I am always open to what you as a congregation like and perhaps dislike.

Respectfully,

Gail Smeach, Altar Guild Chair
CELL PHONE (656) 200-0264

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Transfiguration Commitment Sunday Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	3 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15	4 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	5 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 Ash Wednesday 7:00 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	6 Choir 10:00 10am-12pm Pr Steve Hrs New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	7 Food Bank 2:30-3:30	8
9 1st Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	10 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15	11	12 10am Newsletter Team Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	13 Choir 10:00 10am-12pm Pr Steve Hrs Lenten Thursday 11:15 New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	14 Food Bank 2:30-3:30	15
16 2nd Sunday in Lent Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 Council Meeting 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	17 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15	18	19 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	20 Choir 10:00 10am-12pm Pr Steve Hrs Lenten Thursday 11:15 New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	21 Food Bank 2:30-3:30 LAFFS 7:30p	22
23 3rd Sunday in Lent Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	24 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15	25 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	26 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	27 Choir 10:00 10am-12pm Pr Steve Hrs Lenten Thursday 11:15 New Ark 6:30 AA Luther Hall 7-8:00	28 Food Bank 2:30-3:30	29 
30 4th Sunday in Lent Adult Bible Class 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 11:00 New Ark 12:30-3:30	31 Portico Ministry 10:30 Food Bank 12:20-1:15	AA Luther Hall 7-8:00				



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APRIL 2025
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS:**

March 10, 2025

Please submit articles to
lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com

*Use the word “**Newsletter**” in the Subject Line, and
identify yourself so we can list you as author!*

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