



Welcome to the Family!

We had a few baptisms last month.
See inside for more pictures

LCOS NEWS & Views

January - February 2010

In Town & Country

Ready Yourselves!



L E N T

Kaye Prox Food Bank Update DETAILS, Page 4

Congregation Votes To Go To The Next Level Of Our Mission

BY PASTOR KEISER

On December 13, 2009, the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour met for a congregational meeting. After extensive, sometimes spirited, but always courteous, debate, and with everyone focused totally on our mission here at LCOS, the members of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour voted to *decline a refinance plan* [for the present time] brought by the Congregation Council.

(Continued on page 3)

Scouts Start the Year with a BANG!

BY GIL LEIMBACH

Cub Pack-20 completed another excellent year in our Popcorn Drive! We sold over \$16,000 worth of the Good Stuff with a profit of over \$6,000.00, PLUS \$2,500 in donations.

The 100th Anniversary of "Scouting in America" will be celebrated in February. Cub Scouting is 80 years old.

(Continued on page 6)

This is LCOS

Sunday Worship Celebrations

Worship Service -
9:00 AM

Sunday School & Community Hour-
10:00 AM

Contemporary Service -
11:00 AM

(813) 884-1232

Church Staff

Rev. Jon Keiser, D. Min., Pastor

Zack Koczanski, Deacon

Jeannelle Gibson, Principal,
Pre-School & K

Dr. Will Goetz, Dir. Music Ministries

Eileen Anderson, Secretary

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3:30 pm

Church Council Officers

Bryan Spaulding, President

Carol Cousins, Vice President

Pat Sohl, Secretary

Densingh Thambiraj, Treasurer

Council Members

Bryan Spaulding

Carol Cousins

Our Vision

Through LCOS all come to know

The unconditional love of God

And grow in their faith,

And share their love and faith with others.

Our Mission

That all may experience the love of

Jesus Christ.

We reach up, through worship celebration;

We reach out by sharing our faith; and

We reach in through prayer and study.

Mission Alert!

Every time you see this symbol,



it means the article relates directly to one of our mission statements. Can you tell which one? Does

Ministries & Ministers

Acolytes & Crucifers Stacy Martin

Liturgists &

Communion Assistants Barbara Weathers

Altar Guild Norma Parsons

Collection Counters Ann Avery,
Molly Thomas

Crown Ministries Buck Orr

Facilities Don Gibson

Fellowship Martin Stewart

Finance Densingh Thambiraj

Food Bank Joan Baun,
Marilyn Ruggiero

Grounds Kent Parsons

Hospitality Pat Sohl

Lynne O'Reilly

LAFFS Lori Muir

Tech & Comm, Jannice Torres

Note Folks Gert Bollman,
Chris Ilgen,
Rozella Herring

Diane Tolzman

Stewardship Tom O'Reilly

Sunday School

Directors Christine McNamara

Lori Greenberg

Ushers Martin Stewart

Youth Group Carmen Doherty,
Heather VanOpdorp

	1.24	1.31	2/7	2/14	2/21	2/28
Acolytes	Je. Major	A. Paffenroth	C. Pardee	M. Watson	N. Saligame L. Spaulding to Assist	Je. Major
Crucifers	Jo. Major	S. Hatfield T. Martin to Assist	A. LaGreca S. Watson to Assist	P. Sedwick	T. Thambiraj	Jo. Major
Hospitality	K. Saligame L. Paffenroth	L. O'Reilly L. Swain	B. Beauregard D. Wilhem	D. Richardson L. Dillinger	J. Julius P. Kienzle	D. Vetrano K. Muir
Fellowship/	L. Swain, K. Muir A. Rozell			L. Swain, P. Kienzle L. O'Reilly	Aggie, D. Vetrano, R. Blyden	L. Swain, A. Rozell
Ist Reading	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Deut. 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm	Psalm 19	Psalm 71:1-6	Psalm 138	Psalm 99	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Psalm 27
2ns Reading	1 Corinthians 2:12-31a	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	2 Corinthians 3:12-42	Romans 10:8b-13	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel	Luke 4:14-21	Luke 4:21-30	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35

Congregation Votes To Go To The Next Level..

(Continued from page 1)



Neither did the congregation accept, as *long term*, the idea that we would simply maintain the status quo with regards to the spending plan for 2010. Maintaining the status quo, or worse, cutting back further, could only result in further cuts in ministries, staff and salaries, resulting in an inevitable decline in our mission and the life of our congregation.

Instead, the members of the congregation, recognizing our vibrant mission here, voted to **break the chains** of our enslavement to our mortgage and embark upon the *liberating path* to mission by adopting a resolution on a giving plan, *over and above* our tithes and offerings, to a special fund that will **pay down the mortgage, and perhaps even pay it off over the next five years!** The balance on the mortgage is about \$362,000. The property is worth about \$1.5-1.8 million! The plan is to raise enough to have 8-10 months of payments in the bank to pay ahead and to respond when there is a shortfall in our regular giving.

As I considered the action that we took, albeit in a split vote, I was and am totally **INSPIRED** by our actions. While not everyone voted the same way we **all** voted to keep mission first and foremost. We left united in the resolve to thrive instead of decline! With our vote we ignited another spark of enthusiasm to carry us into 2010. *Imagine* how we will be able to strengthen our mission when we can call an associate in ministry for children and family ministries with the money we are currently putting into our mortgage! This IS exciting. The power and fire of the Holy Spirit is guiding us at LCOS!

CAN WE DO IT?

Well, just look at what we accomplished with our capital improvement campaign, *Making a Bold Statement*, over the past three years with more than \$100,000. And we still have about \$12,000 in that fund for completion of some projects. Now is the time to be *Living a Bold Statement* at LCOS by turning the mortgage into ministry and growth! Many of our members are continuing to give weekly or monthly, and have simply instructed us to put further gifts into the mortgage fund. Others have simply given a lump sum donation. Some have pledged through our automatic *Simply Giving* program which will accompany their regular giving. **Paying off the Mortgage in five years is a very real possibility!**

A HEAD START!

It was suggested at the meeting that we give a special Christmas gift to get the fund started! In response to the member's directive we placed a "Gift" box in the sanctuary. In *less than one month* we already have almost \$9,000.00, (about three months worth of payments) in an interest bearing account!

LCOS HAS CHOSEN NOT TO DECLINE...but to THRIVE WE HAVE IGNITED A SPARK!

Members and friends, of LCOS community! If you believe in and want to be part of the mission we have here, let's light the *FIRES* of enthusiasm by getting ahead, and even paying off the mortgage, and let's take the step to the NEXT level of our mission. **Place your pledge and/or lump sum gift in the gift box in the sanctuary!**

Agape

Pastor Keiser

¹The council brought the question of refinancing to the congregation without taking a stand on the issue.

Kaye Prox Food Bank Update

By Marilyn Ruggiero

"As an embodiment of our belief that we are called to care for others as we care for ourselves, The Kaye Prox Food Bank will provide emergency food to needy families, the elderly and homeless individuals in our community."

As the year 2009 comes to a close I am thankful that the KPFB was able to serve 780 more families than the previous year. The total is 4,675 representing 11,159 people plus "day bags" given to the homeless totaled 4,750. The day bag number actually decreased by 624.

Volunteer hours in 2009 was 6,427 that is an increase of 1,903 hours from 2008.

Many volunteers come from our partner churches others are just members of our community. Our

partnership with Wesley Memorial United Methodist, Incarnation Catholic Church, First Reformed and Wellspring United Methodist continues to prove that members of all faiths can work together for the common cause of caring for the hungry, as commanded by our Lord.

The grand finale of 2009 was of course "A Musical Wonderland" . The benefit concert, after expenses, raised \$7408.00 for the KPFB. Special thanks to Kathi and Zack Koczanski, The LCOS singers, Dr Will Goetze, Arthur Goetze and Donovan Peters . Tom and Lynne O'Reilly did a wonderful job on the posters, tickets and programs. Lori Muir and Karen Muir did a great job getting the tickets sold, plus we had the stage technicians , Devin Black, James Casstervens, Jim Krall, Philip O'Reilly.

As most of you know, we have worked very hard to set up an email database in order to communicate with the congregation in a timely manner. However, we are finding that only about 25% of you are opening your emails when we send from "Lutheran Church of Our Saviour". We did send one out on Thursday regarding the Haiti Disaster, from the Synod office. I hope you opened it and responded. If you have any suggestions regarding the E-Mails and the Database, please contact Cindy Schulz at 813.920.0203 or at cindyaschulz@msn.com. All suggestions are welcome.



Baptized:

Grayce Renee Burnham

Born: 7/2/09

Baptized: 12/27/09

Daughter of: Stephen and Jennifer Burnham.

Jennifer is the daughter of Gary & Michelle Griffith

Stewardship - What Does it Mean to Me?

The current financial recession has affected each and every member at LCOS and other churches. Some of us have lost our homes, our jobs, our extra spending monies; even our life styles are in jeopardy. But one thing has remained the same throughout time, and that is God's grace and His love for us.

I'm writing this article as the congregation faces another daunting shortfall in monies as we come into a new year. A proposal to reduce the mortgage was discussed at the last congregational meeting as a way to reduce spending, possibly without payroll cuts. As I stood in the back of the church and listened to comments by several members, I remembered the old days on the Stewardship Committee. The financial woes of all churches have lingered for hundreds of years. Every year we discuss ways to increase our giving but we never really tackled the hard question - and that is, **how can I use my time, talent and treasures to fulfill my own personal mission to be a generous giver.** Tithing; if we all tithed, money would not be the issue at any of the churches throughout the world!

The real answer to our financial problem starts only with us! I have learned that we must trust in the Lord.

We must give from the heart, knowing that God will provide. Remember, everything we have was given to us by God. That's where Faith comes into play. Once we find peace of mind and know that God will take care of us, our daily problems become small. So how does that help us with the church's financial shortfall? We often ask ourselves why things happen to some people and not others. I firmly believe that God will give us back more than ten fold but we have to keep the faith and trust in the Lord. Failure to believe results in worry, which leads to doubt.

Let's get back to our church budget. Restructuring the mortgage may be ok, but it's just a short-term fix. God wants us to reach new levels of giving. He doesn't want us to go backward. He wants us to grow in our giving but we can only do that by keeping the faith. Let your heart be your guide. Reach out to other Christians! Walk the walk knowing that God will always give you just the right amount of hurdles to climb to make you grow as a person. Let our church grow! Give from a joyful heart and all your worries will go away.

My Thoughts, Don Richardson



January - February Birthdays

1/1	Kristin Johnson, Jean Bradford	1/18	Augusta Major, Frank Julius	2/6	Joelene Curry, Linda Whitman
1/4	Kevin Groh	1/20	Tyler Martin	2/10	Zack Serbu
1/5	Anthony Porcelli	1/21	Roy Blyden, Frederic Beudot	2/14	Savannah Brook Woolever
1.6	Joe Vetrano	1/24	Victoria Judson	2/15	Devin Black, Joseph Dillinger
1/7	Walt Marsicano	1/26	Noah Schulz	2/16	Peggy Kienzle
1/8	Emma Monique Beudot	1/27	Jay Dillinger, Jim Young	2/19	Don Richardson
1/11	Jordan Hatfield	1/29	Janice Finlay, June Major, Haley Manrique	2/20	Mary Thomas
1/14	Kelly Bryan	1/30	Walter Lampinen	2/25	Jannice Torres
1/15	Carmen Doherty	1/31	Karen Groh	2/26	Paul Griscti
1/16	Mark Cross	2/4	Cindy Schulz	2/27	Sharon Rozell
1/17	Julie Porcelli, Donna Rozell	2/5	John Kearney, Robert Ogle		

LCOS CLASSIFIED ADS

The Council is looking for a Recording Secretary. Duties will include attending Council Meetings on a monthly basis, recording the minutes, typing them, and emailing to them to all Council Members. The Recording Secretary is not a voting Member of Council and, therefore, will not be asked to vote or speak to the issues. Contact Pat Sohl at 813-884-0749 if you are willing and able to assist in performing this valuable task!

Financial Secretary

Needed by the Church...a Financial Secretary. Duties will include: Confidential com-puter data entry, requiring one hour per week time commit-ment. **Weekly:** input of member offerings into Financial data base; Print reports for Treasurer and Bookkeeper. **Quarterly:** print and mail member contribution statements. **Annually:** Input member offering pledges. **Ongoing:** Update

member data as needed. Must be detail oriented. Please contact Brian Cross at 813-814-0458 if you are willing and able to assist in performing this valuable task!

Fire and Ice Fundraiser Luncheon

To benefit the Relay for Life
Hot Fashion Show
Cool Jewelry Sale
Great Food and Fun at
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Please Join Us
January 23, 2010
11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Reservations required
Save a seat fee of \$2.00 per person
or reserve a table for \$10.00
Please call (813) 885-1601 to
make reservations.
Thank you in advance for
supporting the Relay for Life for
the American Cancer Society
Please RSVP by January 17th.

Sixth Season--2010

Florida Lutheran SeniorFests
Association of Lutheran Older Adults
(ALOA)

FB-Synod, FL-GA District,
Lutheran Services Florida
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
and others.

February 8, 9, 12, and 13, 2010

“ More Than Just Watching:
How to Get Off the Sidelines and into
the Game”

Featuring:

The Rev. Dr. Charles Mueller,
Roselle, Illinois, former
President of the Southeastern
District, LCMS, writer for
Wheat Ridge Ministries.

- Worship and music with David Ludwig, Jr.
- Humorist Jan Struck
- Workshops on many topics
- Fellowship, food, and **relaxation**

Scouts

(Continued from page 1)



Our Blue and Gold Banquet will be celebrated at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church Civic Hall on the 7th of February. Last year's attendance of 152 Souls indicated to us we needed a bigger place for our Shindig!!!



New Council Members

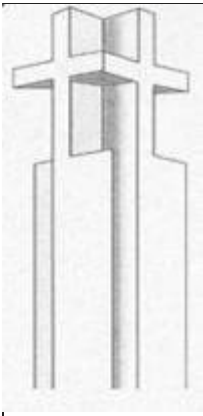
The following new Council Members were voted into office on December 13th at the Annual Congregational Meeting: Kelin Heselius, Tom O'Reilly, Buck Orr, Brian Cross and Kristi Saligame. They were installed on January 10th at 9:00 am along with the returning Council Members: Carol Cousins, Roger Swain, Michelle Valentonis, Sean Doherty, Louise Gray, Cherri Krall and Pat Sohl. The Retiring Council Members, Bryan Spaulding, Heather VanOpdorp, Gary Griffith, Densingh Thambiraj.

JANUARY 2010

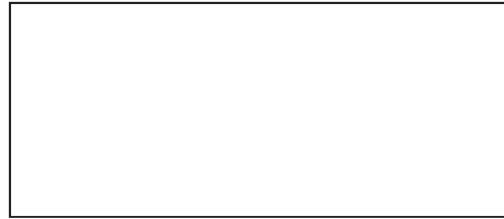
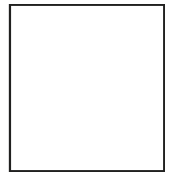
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Contemporary Service	25 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	26	27 3:00pm - Food Bank	28 7:00pm - AA Meeting	29 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	30 7:00pm - AA Meeting
31 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Contemporary Service						

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	2	3 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	4	5 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	6 7:00pm - AA Meeting
7 Strawberry Shortcake 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Contemporary Service	8 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting Seniorfest in Bradenton	9 Seniorfest in Bradenton	10 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	11	12 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting Seniorfest in Bradenton	13 7:00pm - AA Meeting Seniorfest in Bradenton
14 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Contemporary Service	15 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	16 7:30pm - Council Meets	17 Ash Wednesday 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	18	19 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	20 7:00pm - AA Meeting
21 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Contemporary Service	22 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	23	24 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	25	26 3:00pm - Food Bank 7:00pm - AA Meeting	27 7:00pm - AA Meeting
28 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Contemporary Service						



Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
8401 W. Hillsborough Avenue



Visit Our Website!
LcosTampa.org

