

# *Lutheran Church of Our Saviour*



## *Christmas Season*

## *The Messenger December 2020*



8401 W. Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa FL 33615

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[www.facebook.com/lcostampa](https://www.facebook.com/lcostampa)

Email~lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com

## ***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.***

## ***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.***

### **THIS IS LCOS**

**Sunday Worship Celebrations**  
**Bible Study: 8:30 am**  
**Worship Service: 9:30 am**  
**Children Sunday School during service**  
**Fellowship after service 10:30 am**

### **Church Staff**

**Rev. Jose-Luis La Torre-Cuadros, Pastor**  
**Steve Smeach, Deacon**  
**Naoko Okada, Minister of Music**  
**Nancy DeVries, Bookkeeper/Secretary**

### **Mission Team Leaders**

#### **Church Council**

**Kim Jordan**  
**President**

**Barbara Beauregard**  
**Vice President**

**Leslie Silvey**  
**Secretary**

**Kristi Saligame**  
**Finance/Treasurer**

**Eduardo Forte**  
**Gail Smeach**  
**Mike Watson**

**Danielle Kearney**  
**Don Richardson**  
**Mike Bush**  
**Charlie McCoy**

#### **Acolytes & Crucifiers** **Adult Education**

#### **Altar Guild**

#### **Cub Scouts**

#### **Clothes Closet**

#### **Counters**

#### **Liturgists & Communion Asst Heidi Richters**

#### **Facilities & Grounds**

#### **Fellowship**

#### **Food Bank**

#### **Hospitality**

#### **LAFFS**

#### **Lay Pastoral Care Team**

#### **New LCOS Disciples**

#### **Newsletter/Bulletin**

#### **Note Folks**

#### **Portico Ministry**

#### **Sunday School**

#### **Ushers**

#### **Website**

**Pastor Jose Luis**  
**Don Richardson**  
**Steve Smeach**

#### **Troy Rozell**

**John/Karen Hangartner**

**Michael Bush**

**Barbara Beauregard**

**Don Richardson**

**Rita Blyden**

**Peggy Kienzle/Lorella Swain**

**Lynne O'Reilly**

**Steve Smeach**

**Julian Julius**

**Nancy DeVries**

**Diane Tolzman**

**John/Karen Hangartner**

**Luz Miranda**

**Martin Stewart**

**Pastor Jose Luis**

**Nancy deVries**



Dear disciples of Jesus. Its Advent and Christmas is coming.

**A baby in a manger is the incarnate God and is the gift to the world!**

This is a gift that can be received regardless of our social status, race, gender, etc. The baby in the manger is a gift that can be received always. You only need to open your being to receive it. There is not exclusion, there are not requirements, there is only grace, incarnated grace in history, grace as a powerful spiritual transformation and grace open to all the people. Grace with the power to transform people, grace that is redemptive love, grace that is forgiveness of sins, grace that is reconciliation with your enemy, grace that is unlimited, grace that is extravagant, grace that is here for you.

God's incarnation is a gift for you!

We are invited to celebrate this gift this Advent and Christmas Season, and also to see this grace working in us. The infinite can work and reveal itself in the limited and finite human life. The infinite and eternal God can work in our limited, mortal, weak and sinful, human existence and reveal that the gift of grace is real and powerful, because it is living in us.

On Christmas Day when you gather with your family, when you are receiving or opening the presents remember that the most wonderful gift was received by humanity 2000 years ago: the gift of the baby in the manger. The gift that the eternal God entered our world to take our world to the divine glory.

We are here to be renewed and transformed daily by the same grace that was revealed in the baby of Bethlehem.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas.

Your Pastor, Rev. José Luis La Torre Cuadros.

*Dr. José Luis*





Querida congregación:

Llegamos sorprendentemente a ese momento del año en el que nos preparamos para la Navidad. Llamamos a ese tiempo Adviento, porque estamos esperando la venida del Señor. Pero la meta del Adviento no es esperar simplemente, tampoco es prepararnos por el solo hecho de estar preparados. Nos preparamos para algo, esperamos algo, y en el caso de la Navidad nos preparamos para alguien y esperamos a alguien: esperamos a Jesús.

Ese es el gran mensaje del Adviento: Jesús viene a nosotros como un niño vulnerable para mostrarnos que la debilidad y fragilidad de Dios al manifestarse al mundo buscan despertar en nosotros la comprensión de que Dios es más grande que los poderes que nos rodean. Lo débil de Dios siempre es más fuerte que lo fuerte del mundo, lo pobre de Dios siempre es más rico que las riquezas del mundo. El amor de Dios siempre es más fuerte y transformador que cualquier amor humano.

Por esta razón, ahora que se acerca la Navidad, este año nos llega con muchos desafíos y muchas preguntas. Este año muchas familias tendrán lugares vacíos en Navidad porque seres queridos se han ido de este mundo por causa del Covid-19. La pandemia nos ha cambiado la vida, pero lejos de alejarnos de Dios, esta misma situación crítica debe de acercarnos más y más a Dios, porque Dios viene así, cuando más vulnerable es el mundo, cuando más oscuros son los tiempos, cuando más necesario y urgente el que el poder sanador de Dios nos toque y nos salve.

*Noche de paz, noche de amor*

*Todo duerme derredor*

*Entre los astros que esparcen su luz*

*Bella anunciando al niño Jesús*

*Brilla la estrella de paz*

*Brilla la estrella de amor.*

Que la paz de la Navidad nos traiga ese consuelo que tanto necesitamos en estos días llenos de incertidumbre y llene nuestros corazones cuando pensamos y recordamos en nuestros seres queridos que ya no nos acompañan en esta tierra.

Bendecido Adviento y feliz Navidad.

Su Pastor, Rev. José Luis La Torre Cuadros.

*Dr. José Luis*



## ***President's page.....***

Dear Congregation,

Hello to all of you! It's the Christmas season, a time of year we all look forward to. And we remember the "Reason for the Season". The birth of baby Jesus! The Son of God! The Messiah!

***"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."***

**Isaiah 9:6**

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ and it is considered one of the most beautiful stories in the New Testament. Christians here, and all around the world have celebrated this miraculous event for thousands of years. Many beautiful and famous songs about the birth of baby Jesus have been written and we all have our favorites. Family traditions have developed everywhere and in many cultures. What are your traditions? How do you celebrate Christmas?

***"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14***

Christmas is a busy time. There can be so many preparations to make. I enjoy seeing all beautiful lights on houses and trees. I suppose the twinkling lights make me think of the night sky when Jesus was born and the big beautiful star that led the shepherds and the wise men to Bethlehem. Our house usually has a minimal amount of lights sprinkled around on the bushes, just enough to give a little twinkle to the front yard. I look forward to others as well. The Nativity scenes, angels, deer, snowmen, sleighs with presents – all sparkling and twinkling with lights.

Some of my time getting ready for Christmas is decorating our Christmas tree. It's not a huge tree but I take my time putting all my special ornaments on it. I take a trip back in time, remembering where or when each ornament became ours. Some decorations were made by our kids or given to them as they were growing up. I have some from years ago when Gary and I had our first Christmas together. I have some ornaments that are from collections, some received as gifts, some collected from traveling, and few odd-balls like the Batmobile that plays the theme music from the old original TV show my family watched when I was young. It makes me laugh and smile! I enjoy reminiscing as I decorate our tree.

The music of Christmastime also brings up many Christmas memories. Gary and I have many years of choir performances at Christmas. The Sundays in Advent and Christmas through the Epiphany are times of glorious music telling the story of the Christ Child. Many Christmas Eve services with beautiful music sung by the choir and the congregation that we all shared together are Christmas memories that we hold especially dear. It's a special time to remember the choir members and directors we've known through the years.

I hope all of you have a wonderful and meaningful Christmas season. This has been a very different year for us with many worries and restrictions. Many of you have handled these trials well and continue to do so. Stay prayerful. God is watching over us always.

***"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." - Numbers 6: 24-26***

Christmas Blessings,

Kim Jordan, Council President

# LCOS Treasurer's Report – November 2020

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## Month in Review – October 2020

Church income in October was \$18,811.

- Member giving was \$15,730 for October, below our budget of \$18,696 and last year's giving of \$20,650.
- We used \$1,090 in designated funds during the month, including \$1,000 from our Mortgage Reduction Fund and \$90 from Bold Statement (facilities).
- We had rental income of \$1,891, vs. \$1,542 in October 2019. We also had 'other' income of \$100 (RegionsBank rewards program).

Church expense was \$23,628 in October, a little below our expense of \$24,878 in October 2019 and our budgeted expense of \$26,843.

LCOS had a net loss of (\$4,817) for the month of October. For the first 10 months of 2020, we have generated a loss of (\$1,064).

## Year-to-Date:

Month	Current Year Results			Year-Ago Results		
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Jan-Mar	\$84,635	\$71,544	\$13,091	\$65,096	\$66,196	(\$1,100)
Apr-Jun	\$98,378	\$98,817	(\$439)	\$72,371	\$70,053	\$2,318
July	\$13,976	\$20,134	(\$6,158)	\$22,155	\$25,029	(\$2,874)
Aug	\$20,752	\$21,094	(\$342)	\$18,934	\$21,416	(\$2,482)
Sept	\$18,874	\$21,274	(\$2,400)	\$31,948	\$25,823	\$6,125
Oct	\$18,811	\$23,628	(\$4,817)	\$24,797	\$24,878	(\$82)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$255,428</b>	<b>\$256,492</b>	<b>(\$1,064)</b>	<b>\$235,301</b>	<b>\$233,395</b>	<b>\$1,906</b>

## Treasurer's Notes:

Please continue to keep the church and its missions in your thoughts and prayers as we celebrate the holidays and complete this year. We are developing our Spending Plan for 2021 this month, keeping faith in God's plan for us, in a challenging and uncertain 'time of Covid'!

Despite this year's challenges, there is much to be thankful for in November 2020. We have had a great group of people worshipping in person this Fall, with beautiful music. I am also extremely thankful for the faithful members of our church community who are staying safe at home and e-worshipping, every week. Our missions and the community groups using our campus are touching the lives of many, offering physical, emotional, and spiritual support to those who have need.

Wishing all a safe and blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year,

Kristi Saligame, LCOS Treasurer

## Facility and Grounds.....December 2020

Ahhhh yes, 2020, a Year to Remember, or forget! Let's just turned the page to 2021! A clean new page in life, and let's hope our lives will start to return to a more normal way of life.

As usual, our calendar for 2021 starts with our new budget plan for the new year. We always seem to have "projects" here at LCOS, but that is to be expected as our buildings age. There are always things to be painted, things to be repaired and things to be replaced. (just like home!)

This year we did a major replacement: the 12.5 ton A/C unit on the West side of the sanctuary, but the like unit on the East side comes next because it does not cool. The fan runs, for now, but it just pushes air around. Then there are the columns on the front of the Enrichment Center. We've had estimates done a couple of times by various people. Those fix/remove/repair ideas have been very different. Fortunately those columns do not support the roof structure in any way, so it will just be our choice as to how we want it to look when finished. It could look like the food bank building that has no columns, or we could keep some of the columns. As businesses return, we will once again check out the cost of several choices and hopefully move forward with this repair. Those columns are looking pretty bad!

In the first 2 or 3 months of 2021 we will have our God's Work, Our Hands. The ELCA always plans this around 9-11, but for us in Florida it is just too hot and humid for major outdoor work! Most of the projects we plan are outside, like cleaning off the roof of the Enrichment Center and the Food Bank, cleaning the gutters on Luther Hall, the covered walkway, Enrichment Center and Food Bank.

We include items like the A/C unit, the columns and etc in our annual budget but when pledges fall short, or we can't have gatherings/fundraisers we have to make adjustments and once again put those projects on our 'back burner' to do when we have funds available. So, we are going to think positive! We are going to make 2021 plans! We are going to pray for the best!

Looking ahead to New Year's Eve and celebrating, let's have a little fun:

Legend has it that Dom Perignon 'invented' champagne in August 1693. While that isn't quite right, he did make important contributions while he was at which abbey?

What is the 1.5-liter champagne bottle size called?

Where did spraying champagne at sports events get started in 1967 by winner Dan Gurney?

Which trend did Marilyn Monroe famously adopt using 350 bottles of champagne?

What is the technique of opening a champagne bottle with a sword called?

What three varieties of grapes are used to produce champagne?

(answers found elsewhere in this Newsletter)

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Barbara Beauregard, Property Manager

## WILD RICE STUFFING



Serves: 4 - 6

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes

### Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cup wild blend rice
- 2 1/3 cup water
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 2 tablespoons dried minced onions
- ½ teaspoon sage
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- 1/5 teaspoon rosemary
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- ¼ teaspoon fresh ground pepper
- 1 cup onion, finely diced
- 2 celery stalks, thinly sliced
- 8 ounces mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tablespoon unsalted, unsweetened almond butter
- 2 ½ cups vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon coconut aminos, low sodium soy sauce or low sodium tamari
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup pecan halves, toasted and chopped

### Directions (stove top):

1. Prepare the wild rice blend using 2 1/3 cup water per package directions.
2. Combine the garlic powder, onion powder, dried minced onions, sage, thyme, rosemary, salt, and pepper in a small bowl, mix well and set aside.
3. In a hot skillet, sauté the onion, celery and mushrooms over medium high heat 7 to 9 minutes until tender.
4. Add the almond butter to the skillet and stir to combine. Add broth and coconut aminos and mix well. Bring mixture to a boil, then lower to simmer.
5. Add the spice mixture to the skillet, stir to combine, and turn off the heat.
6. Add the cranberries to the cooked rice and let sit for 5 minutes.
7. Combine the rice with the ingredients from the skillet into a large serving dish. Top with pecans.
8. Serve as is, or stuff into a baked acorn squash.

Michelle Odiorne

Graduate, Plant-Based Professional Certificate of Completion ([www.Rouxbe.com](http://www.Rouxbe.com))

Graduate, Plant Based Nutrition Certificate Program ([www.nutritionstudies.org](http://www.nutritionstudies.org))

Facilitator, Whole Food Plant-Based Potlucks

[www.facebook.com/MichellesJourney2WFPBNutrition/](https://www.facebook.com/MichellesJourney2WFPBNutrition/)



## All Saint's Day



## Sunday Worship



*Tampa Conference Pastor's Meeting*



(Abbey of Hautvillers; magnum; 24 Hours of Le Mans; bathing in champagne; sabrage; pinot noir)

# TAMPA BAY DANCE CLUB

A DANCE CLUB FOR EVERYONE OVER 55

## December 2020

### SCHEDULE



DATE:	DJ/BAND	
12/03	BOARD MEETING	7 PM
12/04	DJ- MIKE UNWIN	SPECIAL RAFFLE
12/11	DJ-MIKE UNWIN	
12/18	KAREN KALLIN FEMALE VOCALIST	BRING X-MAS GOODIES TO SHARE**DRESS FOR THE LAST DANCE **ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2021 OFFIERS
12/25	NO DANCE	
01/01	NO DANCE	

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: MASK

AFTER ADMISSION: Social Distancing, wearing of mask is recommended and there will be hand Sanitizers located at each table, following the CDC is at your discretion. TBDC will not assume responsibility.



### CLUB INFORMATION

DOOR OPEN AT 6:30 PM

DANCE STARTS AT 7:30 PM TO 10:30 PM

ADMISSION COST:

MEMBER \$10.00

NON-MEMBER \$12.00

TAMPA BAY DANCE CLUB

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

WEBPAGE: TAMPABAYDANCECLUB.COM

FACEBOOK: TAMPA BAY DANCING

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 5 Merna Fischer
- 11 Nancy DeArmas
- 25 Jacqueline Stalnaker
- 26 Evelyn Smith
- 27 Bettie Scionti
- 29 Diane Nasworthy



# Kaye Prox Food Bank Update - December 2020

**We are open every Friday**

## **What we provide, each visit:**

Each family receives fresh bread products (thanks to Publix' generous donations) and fresh milk as available, plus a bag with the following items, pre-packed:

- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned veg (beans, peas, mixed)
- Canned fruit
- Can of black beans (or similar)
- Can of pork & beans
- Packet of rice
- Box or packet of pasta
- 16 oz jar peanut butter
- Small jar of jam/jelly
- Canned soup (chunky style)
- Sleeve of crackers
- Oatmeal or boxed cereal



## **We always welcome donations and volunteers:**

Donations received gladly. Drop items off at Sunday worship, on Thursdays 12 – 3 pm, or on Friday 1 - 2 pm. Please e-mail us if we need to arrange a time to receive a large donation.

- Stockers: Help us receive/stock food deliveries and donations. (Thursdays 12 - 3 pm or Fridays by appointment)
- Packers: Help us assemble bags for families. (Thursdays 12-3 pm, Fridays 1-3:30 pm)
- Greeting and Distribution: Help us manage our drive-through distribution of food, on Fridays from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

**Interested in volunteering? Please contact Rita Blyden at (813) 841-1383  
or e-mail us at [volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com)**



KAYE PROX FOOD BANK



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>All Day e-Worship Experience</b>	<b>Morning and Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Morning and Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Morning and Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Morning and Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Morning and Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Morning and Evening Prayer</b>
	<b>Online Bible Study 11 am Jeremiah</b>		9am.10 am Bishop and Pastors			
<b>Social Networks Updates</b>		10 am <b>Executive team</b> coordination	12 pm <b>Pastor &amp; Deacon</b> time	<b>Pastor &amp; President</b> Time 11 am	Pastoral Care Team Updates	Website and social media worship preparation
		<b>Holy Conversations 12pm-2 pm</b>	<b>Holy Conversations 2pm-4 pm</b>	<b>e-Worship Recordings 1pm-3pm</b>	2 pm. Pastor & Barbara Property updates	
	<b>Social Networks Updates</b>	Sermon Preparations	<b>Social Networks Updates</b>	Worship Planning	Pastor & Nancy Coordination	<b>Social Networks Updates</b>
		Pastor & Naoko Coordination	Staff coordination	<b>Social Networks Updates</b>	<b>Holy Conversations 4pm-5pm 6pm-7pm</b>	
		<b>Social Networks Updates</b>	Bulletin Review		<b>Social Networks Updates</b>	
					Publications Review	

Weekly Calendar LCOS Virtual Campus

## December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
		1 Advent Service (E-Worship) AA 7-8 Luther Hall	2 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	3 New Ark Church 6:30 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	4 Food Bank 2-3:30 Tampa Bay Dance Club 7 PM	5
6 Adult Bible Study 8:15 Worship Svc 9:30 Congregation Mtg New Ark Church 12:30	7 Portico 11:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	8 Advent Service (E-Worship) AA 7-8 Luther Hall	9 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	10 New Ark Church 6:30 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	11 Food Bank 2-3:30 Tampa Bay Dance Club 7 PM	12
13 Adult Bible Study 8:15 Worship Svc 9:30 New Ark Church 12:30	14 Portico 11:30 am	15 Advent Service (E-Worship) AA 7-8 Luther Hall	16 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	17 New Ark Church 6:30 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	18 Food Bank 2-3:30 Tampa Bay Dance Club 7 PM	19
20 Adult Bible Study 8:15 Worship Svc 9:30 New Ark Church 12:30	21 Portico 11:30 am	22 Advent Service (E-Worship) AA 7-8 Luther Hall	23 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 New Ark Church 6:30 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	25 Christmas	26
27 Adult Bible Study 8:15 Worship Svc 9:30 New Ark Church 12:30	28 Portico 11:30 am	29 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	30 AA 7-8 Luther Hall	31 New Year's Eve New Ark Church 6:30 AA 7-8 Luther Hall		



## Pastoral Care

11/29-12-5-Angela Padin & Diana Meehan

12/6-12/12-Joan Baun & Mary Kramer

12/13-12/19-Danielle Kearney & Heidi Richters

12/20-12/26-Angela Padin & Gail Smeach

12/27-1/2/21-Mary Kramer-Diana Meehan



## Liturgist and Communion Assistants

TBD

Please sign up in the Narthex for any openings.

## LCOS December Birthdays

Heidi Richters	12/2
Danielle Kearney	12/3
Jan Spaulding	12/12

Terence Hood	12/14
Densingh Thambiraj	12/28

Angela Barry Padin	12/31
Lynn Richardson	12/31

If you, a family member, or an LCOS friend, is missing from our birthday list, please call the church office, 884-1232, or e-mail [office@lcostampa.org](mailto:office@lcostampa.org), so that we may include you next year!



Please remember to turn in your Village Inn receipts on Hillsborough Avenue and Racetrack Road. LCOS gets money back from them for the Kaye Prox Food Bank.