

# Advent Season 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020

## e-Worship



Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

8401 W. Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, FL 33615

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

phone: 813-884-1232 e-mail: [lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com)

# GATHERING

## GATHERING SONG

### # 302 As with Gladness Men of Old

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led by thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.



*Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.*

**P.** Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

**P.** Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P.** Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;**

**we have not loved our neighbor;  
we have not been Christ to one another.  
Restore us, O God.  
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.  
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**P.** Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

**A.** As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**C.** let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P.** Let us pray,

**C.** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.



A. Word of God, word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts  
of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things  
for them.”**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

A. Word of God, word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

Gospel reading

P. The holy gospel according to John 1:6-8, 19-28

**C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “HEAVEN IS SINGING FOR JOY”**

**LCOS CHOIR & NICOLAS LA TORRE IN SPANISH**

**SERMON**

Dear disciples of Jesus: Grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Here we are, third Sunday of Advent, last month of 2020, a very complicated year, a very frustrating year, a very challenging year, a year that the whole world will remember as the year that everybody wants to forget.

Today after all that we have been experiencing in 2020, the Lord says to us with the words of the apostle Paul:

*<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Let me repeat these words again: <sup>16</sup>*Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Rejoice. Pray. Give thanks and do it in all, yes, in all circumstances!

When I read this text I said to God: seriously Lord? Seriously? Do You think that is possible? Do You think it is possible to rejoice in 2020, to pray in 2020, to give thanks for 2020? And the Lord answered, *yes, <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* God declares that this is God's will for all of us.

Rejoice. Paul invites us to rejoice. And Paul was a man that experienced a lot of challenges and tribulations. He was a man that said about his own life and ministry:

*I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup> I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. <sup>27</sup> I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.*

*2 Corinthians 11, 23-27.*

This is the same man that suffered all of these disgraces not only for a day, or a year, but during his whole ministry life, and he is the one that says to us: rejoice.

How can this be possible?

I think because this is exactly the power of the gospel, the power of the living presence of the living God acting and strengthening us from the inside to face and fight what we face and fight outside.

Paul speaks from his sufferings, from his experience of the cross, not only emotionally, or spiritually but also physically. Paul is a man that following the example of Jesus can describe himself as a man of sorrows, but this man of sorrows declares from the deep of his heart: Rejoice always!

What is his secret to rejoice always? How can a man of sorrows rejoice always? How can someone sufferings the vicissitudes of 2020 rejoice always?

Given the presence of our anxieties in this year full of challenges and difficulties, for us who are overwhelmed by stress or lost living in grief, Paul's invitation is authentically countercultural but a faithful response to a world that is consumed by uncertainty. Paul gives us an antidote to the pandemic of fear: Rejoice always!

And he shares the secret formula to reach this possibility of permanent joy. He says: <sup>17</sup>*pray without ceasing*. It is clear that today everybody has experienced in many different ways the power of prayer. Even people that do not believe in a supernatural world believe in the transformative power of prayer helping the transformation of an individual when facing a difficult time.



Christians believe in the transformative and supernatural power of prayer. But not occasional prayer, not sporadic prayer. Paul is inviting us to see our life as a permanent prayer, a prayer without ceasing.

*Emerson made the following observation: “It is not only when we audibly and in form, address our petitions to the God that we pray. We pray without ceasing. Every secret wish is a prayer. Every house is a church; the corner of every street is a closet of devotion”<sup>1</sup>*

To pray without ceasing in the end is to be aware of the presence of God in every instant of our life, in every breath, in every heartbeat, in every step, in every view, in every tear, in every act of mercy, in every thought and question. To pray without ceasing is to recognize that we are permanently in the presence of God, that our whole world is an altar of prayer and our whole life in words, thoughts and deeds is the constant prayer to the omnipresent God.

Prayer is the element that helps us to integrate our reality inside into the outside. Because in prayer we contemplate, we discern, we see, we express and we proclaim to God and the world what is important.

Our prayers are constant, because we are constantly communicating with God in heart and mind, in words and deeds, whoever we are and wherever we go. Prayer is constant because the whole life of a Christian is of permanent prayers, since we are permanently in the presence of God.

It doesn't matter what kind of prayer prevails in your life, mental prayer, contemplative prayer, silent prayer, verbal prayer, individual prayer, or prayer in solitude, it doesn't matter if you use your own words or read somebody else's

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/nov/29/power-of-prayer-can-one-truly-pray-without-ceasing/>

words, it doesn't matter if you do it in different hours of the day. The reality is that any time that you are opening your heart and mind to what is happening around you, the Holy Spirit is moving you to find God's presence in prayer.

It is the Holy Spirit who is always inviting us to pray, because God always wants to be in touch with his children.

It is this amazing experience of the constant presence of God in our lives what moves us to <sup>18</sup>*give thanks in all circumstances*, then joy turns out to be a permanent reality, because gratitude comes from the bottom of our heart and is transformed in amazing joy. We experience joy because we permanently live in the presence of God and we are blessed by the Holy Spirit. Our heart full of gratitude gives thanks and therefore joy grows more and more.

Paul says: *this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*. That, my siblings in Christ, is what God wants for all his children always. A constant experience of God that is expressed in gratitude brings an explosion of joy, constant and unlimited joy.

No pandemic can destroy this joy, because our joy it is not human-made. It is a divine gift, a constant reminder that we live and move in the constant presence of God, guided by the Holy Spirit and united with Jesus Christ.

So: <sup>16</sup>*Rejoice always*, <sup>17</sup>*pray without ceasing*, <sup>18</sup>*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*.

Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
**# 265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
  
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
  
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

*Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Apostles' Creed**

A. Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A. God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living.

We say

**Come Lord Jesus...**

A. God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm (*survivors of recent natural disasters may be named*). Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts.

We say

**Come Lord Jesus...**

A. God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness.

We say

**Come Lord Jesus...**

A. Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

P. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

P. The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## **SENDING SONG**

**# 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.

- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
  
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

*Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751*

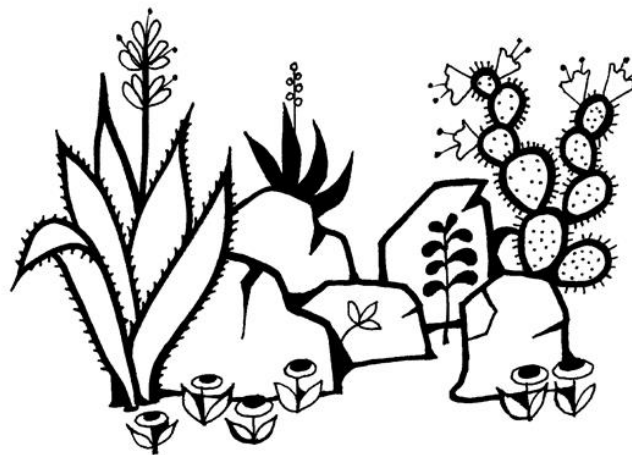
### HYMNS FOR ADVENT SEASON

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Gathering Song</b>	<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	<b>Sending Song</b>
Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	302	265	239
Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	288	251	269

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103476.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.





# LCOS HAPPENINGS

## December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Serving LCOS**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jose Luis La Torre Cuadros  
 Deacon: Steve Smeach  
 Minister of Music: Naoko Okada  
 Secretary/Bookkeeper: Nancy DeVries

**Pastoral Care:** December 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> -Danielle Kearney & Heidi Richters

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	



### **MEMBERS**

**Eddie Forte and family**, Sal & Linda Pusateri, Janet Thambiraj, Gail Smeach, Barbara Beauregard, Lorella Swain, Terrence Hood, Roy & Rita Blyden, Gwen Leimbach, Pastor Rochelle Lewis, Della Griscti and Family, Doug Howze, Charlie & Susan McCoy, Louise Betron, Lynn Richardson, Don Richardson & family, Pat Sohl, Heidi Richters, Joan Baun, Elizabeth Thomas, Brian & Jan Spaulding, Joe Vetrano, Tirza Ontiveros, Peggy Davidson, June Wasylyna, Matt Baun, Ernie Largent, Michele Doleski, Rick Padin & family, Yolanda Jacobs and Family, Doris Miller & Family, Kim Cross & Family, Karen Hangartner, The Major Family, Julian Julius, Alice Rozell, Mid Brenner, Fraser Muir & family, The Groh family, Norma & Tom Parsons, Mike Watson, Steve Guenther, Elaine Barnes, Don Richardson & family, Jeannelle Gibson, Lisa Paffenroth and mother, Kelly Orr

### **RELATIVES**

**Mia Padin** Christine Barry, Josephine Barry, Lisa Lanquedos, Charles Lanquedos, Danielle Vinca, Milton, Eric Lovelock, Royce Graves, Joan Moguel, Patricia Campbell, Elida Machado, Nicole Phelan, Carol DeBruin, Vickie Williams, Alicia Marshall, Jay & Sarah, Clarence Hansby, Marty & Janice Burik, Kristin Hamway & Family., Cindy Brann, Wanda Wilson, Channon Cramer, Arlene Berge (Sara's grandmother), Amy Ashmore, Kaitlin Rodgers, Sue & Dave Brigadier, Jennifer & Arlyn Sieg, George Kucenic, Kenneth McCoy, Dorothy McCoy, Kenny & Kadence McCoy, Alwyn Abrams, Raymond Swain, Elizabeth Maynard, Denmar Watson

### **FRIENDS**

Tom and Helen Ferrell, Ellen Campbell, Troy Miller, Irvin Lee, Jones Family, Lawrence Dawson, Sabrina Belkas, Marty Herman, Louise Stewart, Hunter Pinke, AnnMarie DiCorte, Celeste Christine Colon, Celeste Victoria Colon, Daniel Contreras, Monica Reis, Erik Reis, Albert Maynard, Wes Hiller, Rosemary Kratz, Linsey Jenkins, Monica Philbert, Tyler Auld, Douglas Robb, Alex Baxter

### **MILITARY**

Staff Sargent Omar Ottley, Robert Ontiveros, Anthony Richardson, Jon Nygaard, Stephen Burnham, All men and women that serve.

### **HOMEBOUND**

Millie Hamwey  
Gene & Sue Camp

---



## ***LCOS by the Numbers***

*Members attending (on campus) service last week:*

### **Financial Giving and Gifts**

#### **This Year at LCOS:**

Our Spending Plan for the 2020 calendar year calls for total expenditures of \$352,212 to support the mission and ministries of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour.

#### **This Month at LCOS:**

Our Monthly Need for December 2020 is:	<b>\$29,351</b>
Giving received to support LCOS Ministries through 12/13:	<b>\$ 8,207</b>

### **Mortgage Reduction Fund**

The members of LCOS agreed in 2009 that each of us would do what we can, above our regular giving, to stay current with our church mortgage AND reduce the principal when possible. Please consider your ability to put monies aside to help meet our payments. Simply mark "Mortgage" and your name on an envelope, then place your gift in the offering plate. All monies received will be applied to the mortgage. Thank you!

<i>Fund Balance at November 30th:</i>	<b><i>\$1,704</i></b>
---------------------------------------	-----------------------

---

**Planning for the New Year:** If you'd like to set up automated giving (or update your Simply Giving amounts) for 2021, please contact Roger Swain ([roger.swain@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:roger.swain@tampabay.rr.com) or 813.760.7254). He will be happy to help. Thank you!

# Kaye Prox Food Bank



*"Serving  
God's  
people  
with the  
help of  
God's  
people!"*

The Kaye Prox Food Bank served 85 families the week before Thanksgiving, and 51 families the week before that. Each family received their usual bag of food & bread items, plus a kit for their Thanksgiving dinner. We are so grateful for the generous donations of food items and funds that made it possible, and for all of the volunteers who pitched in to pack and distribute it all!

In other news, Chronic Tacos, which has a restaurant at 10420 N. Dale Mabry in Tampa, is running a **holiday donations campaign** to benefit local food banks. From November 23 through December 31, they'll ask their customers if they'd like to donate \$1 toward local food banks. For every \$1 the customers donate, Chronic Tacos will match it. We are delighted to be one of the two Hillsborough county food banks who will receive those donations.

December Schedule for Kaye Prox Food Bank Drive-through Service (2 pm - 3:30 pm each day):

Fridays, December 4, 11, 18  
Wednesday, December 23  
Closed, week of December 28

## Christmas Special Distribution

On December 18 and 23, we plan to distribute kits for a special holiday meal. Donations and volunteers welcome! Please contact us at [volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com) with questions. Here are the items we plan to provide on December 18 and 23 (must receive donated items before December 17):

- Cans of sweet potatoes/yams
- Boxes of Stove-Top Stuffing
- Boxes of Instant Potatoes
- Canned green beans
- Canned Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Cans of French's Onions
- Gravy (jar or dry packet)
- Ham (-3 lbs, canned or fresh)

## Poinsettias



Since things are being done a little differently this year, here are some options if you would like to order a Poinsettia plant “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” for this Christmas.

- 1) If you are not attending on campus service, you can mail a check to the office with the information listed below and memo on the check that it is for Poinsettias.
- 2) An email will be sent out with a form attached. You can complete the form and email it to [licoschurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:licoschurchoffice@gmail.com) then mail a check to the church office with a memo on the check that it is for the Poinsettias. (That way I can place the names in the Christmas Eve bulletin)

The price is \$10 per plant. I will need to receive your request by December 17<sup>th</sup> since I will be printing the Christmas Eve bulletins on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The plants can be picked up following the candlelight service, if you are not at the service you can request that we leave your plant outside for contact-free pick up.

Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



*Dear disciples: during this time of crisis, I invite you to pray with me daily these short prayers and read these Bible verses in solidarity with all the world and our fellow LCOS disciples. I will be saying these prayers daily at 10 am and 5 pm. You are invited to form a prayer group with your family at home or individually pray these prayers.*

*Pastor José Luis La Torre Cuadros.*

### **MORNING**

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2 Chronicles 7, 14

*If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Pray a silent prayer for the world, your family and our church.

Heavenly Father. We pray in solidarity with our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. We pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. Loving God, console them and grant them peace. We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. Healing God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good. In Jesus' name.

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Amen.

## EVENING

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Psalm 91, 3-6

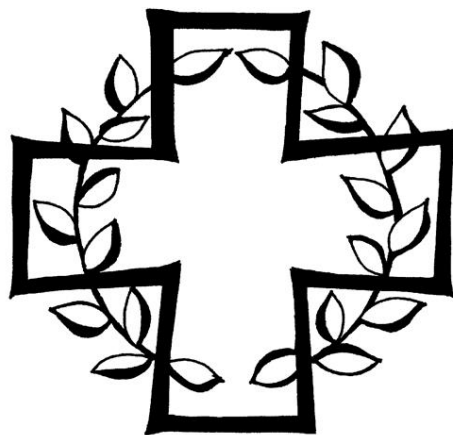
*For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.*

*He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*

*You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness.*

Pray a silent prayer for the world, your family and our church. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.





If your need to talk with Pastor Jose Luis  
Call 916-949-4973

Or contact him [pastor@lcostampa.org](mailto:pastor@lcostampa.org)

Spiritual Direction + Pastoral Counselling +  
Bible Study + Theological Q&A +  
Just Talk