

The Messenger



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"And they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 2:4

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

IN THIS ISSUE

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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.

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.

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 (Ministry Area)

Sara Berge, **President**

(Governance & Administration)^a

Don Richardson, **Vice President (Education)**

Jan Spaulding, **Secretary**

Kristi Saligame, **Finance/Treasurer**

(Stewardship & Finance) and (Social Media)^b

Barbara Beauregard *(Facilities & Grounds)*

Charlie McCoy *(Stewardship & Finance)*

Lynne O'Reilly *(Care)^b*

Fran Palermo *(Fellowship & Hospitality)^b*

Sharon Rozell *(Outreach & Evangelism)*

Gail Smeach, *(Worship & Music)*

^aIncludes Pr. Kauffman and Deacon Smeach

^bIncludes Deacon Smeach

MISSION TEAM LEADERS

Acolytes & Crucifers

Adult Education Don Richardson and Kent Chetlain

Altar Guild Gail Smeach and Barbara Beauregard

AV Team Heidi Richters

Bulletin Ginnie Berge and Barbara Beauregard

Coffee Hour Martin Stewart

Counters

Outreach & Evangelism Danielle Kearney and Sharon Rozell

Facilities & Grounds Barbara Beauregard

Fellowship Don Richardson and Martin Stewart

Food Bank Kristi Saligame and Rita Blyden

Hospitality Heidi Richters and Fran Beauregard

Information Technology Kent Chetlain

LAFFS Cherri Krall

Lay Pastoral Care Team Lynne O'Reilly and Steve Smeach

Newsletter Karen Urban

Note Folks Linda Dillinger and Carolyn Kunzman

Ushers Martin Stewart

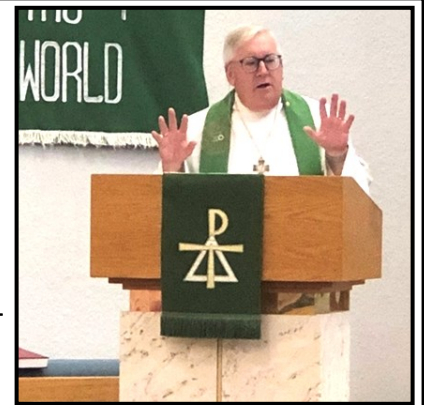
Website & Social Media Kristi Saligame

Worship & Music Naoko Okada

Why Juneteenth is a Big Deal!

Submitted by Pr. Stephen Kauffman

Juneteenth has become the most well-known celebration for the ending of slavery in the United States and viewed by some as America's second Independence Day. But the history of this important celebration is complex and often misunderstood.



Juneteenth is not a straightforward story of emancipation, nor did it necessarily improve conditions for many African Americans the next day or even the next decade, according to Erin Stewart Mauldin, the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History at USF St. Petersburg and an expert on the Civil War and Reconstruction.

“Juneteenth is neither the beginning nor the end of something,” Mauldin said. “The end of the Civil War and the ending of slavery didn’t happen overnight and was a lot more like a jagged edge than a clean cut.”

Dating back to 1865, the holiday commemorates the day when 250,000 slaves in the state of Texas, which became the last bastion for slavery during the final days of the Civil War, were declared free by the U.S. Army.

As soon as the following year, local festivities were organized in African American communities to celebrate and remember the significance of that day, June 19. The celebrations continued year after year.

I will give my space this month to a colleague in the ELCA addressing Juneteenth and why it’s a big deal. The following are excerpts of what pastor Ken Wheeler shared some years ago in Living Lutheran.

Our faith teaches us that God is a lover of freedom. I don’t think it was accidental that the slaves latched on to the story of Moses and the Exodus. God has an ear, and I would argue a keen and particular ear to the cries of those who long to be free.

Juneteenth is not just a commemoration of an event that happened 150 years ago. It is a call to pay attention to those places where people are still not free and to join in this groundswell of a movement to make the freedom that the forefathers envisioned real for every person and for every group that still lives with and feels the sting of discrimination.

“God said, I’ve taken a good long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I’ve heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them. Pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:7-8, *The Message*).

Prying requires some pushing and pulling, some struggle and God is leading in that. A good land filled with wide-open spaces where Black males can walk their streets without fear of being stopped by the police in Baltimore, Milwaukee, Ferguson, Houston, Cleveland and in other cities in this land.

That would be a good thing. That would be a good day!



President's Report

Submitted by Sara Berge



Greetings!

2025 is flying by – the school year has come to a close and summer has arrived. Although summer often means a slower pace, LCOS continues to be a thriving place with a lot happening! We are blessed to have wonderful services each week, a daycare filled with joyful children and a food bank that consistently ensures that our neighbors have food to eat during their difficult times.

Our ministry teams are hard at work solidifying their mission statements and getting started with their work. We will be holding a Ministry Team Fair this fall where you will be able to see in greater detail what each team is doing at LCOS and how you can get involved and help out. Many hands make light work, and we are always grateful for those who want to participate in the work of the church.

Pastor Steve, Sharon Rozell and I will be attending the Florida Bahamas Synod Assembly this month. We're looking forward to this exciting event and I know we will have great things to share with you afterwards. I'm looking forward to gathering with representatives from churches throughout our synod to worship, learn and conduct business. The last time I participated in a Synod Assembly was as a high school student in North Dakota. I have fond memories of serving in the worship services and am looking forward to having new experiences here in Florida.

I know summer is a time when a lot of travel happens. June will bring quite a bit of traveling for me. I'll miss my LCOS family but look forward to sharing my adventures when we're together again. May God bless you all this month and beyond.

LCOS Council Meeting Summary April 27, 2025

Submitted by Jan Spaulding



Opening prayer at 11:05am

- In the financial report LCOS recorded a net loss of \$357 in March. Expenses included new AC unit in sanctuary and new shed. Discussion regarding use of memorial funds continues.
- Pastor's Report - Easter week services well received with 124 in attendance for Easter Sunday. Plan for Pastor and 2 delegates to attend the Synod Assembly June 12-14, 2025 in Orlando.
- Reports were shared for Kaye Prox Food Bank, Stewardship and Financial, Education, Outreach and Evangelism, Fellowship and Hospitality.
- Old Business included the plan for repair of the fence in the back of the property.
- New Business focused on the repair of an air conditioner compressor and securing areas of the campus to prevent the congregation of the homeless.
- Sound system upgrades being addressed with purchase of new equipment.

Closing prayer at 12:20pm

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

Treasurer's Report—May 2025

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



April Review:

Church **income** in April was **\$22,146**, below our budget of \$26,769 and last year's result of \$54,980.

- Member Giving was \$17,880, below our budget of \$22,734 and year-ago giving of \$23,718.
- We recognized \$1,156 in Designated Funds income in April, including \$800 from Bold Statement, \$347 from the Memorial Fund, and \$9 from the Music Fund. Our designated income last April was \$27,000, as we prepared for the installation of a new roof.
- Facilities income was \$3,110 in April, vs. \$4,242 a year ago.

Church **expense** was **\$22,413** in April, vs. \$21,028 a year ago and our budget of \$20,945.

- In April, we set aside \$2,000 in funds toward future Pastoral Call/Compensation costs.
- Facilities expense for the month included about \$1,100 for back lot cleanup and the rehabilitation of two garden benches.
- All other expense items were generally in line with, or below, expectations.

LCOS recorded a **net loss** of **(\$267)** in April.

Year to Date:

Month/Q	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	\$19,232	\$20,710	(\$1,478)	\$16,375	\$16,954	(\$579)
Feb	\$20,527	\$19,172	\$1,355	\$18,811	\$18,589	\$222
March	\$28,542	\$28,898	(\$357)	\$21,037	\$19,758	\$1,279
April	\$22,146	\$22,413	(\$267)	\$54,980	\$21,028	\$33,952
Total	\$90,447	\$91,194	(\$747)	\$111,203	\$76,329	\$34,874

The pulse:

So many good things are happening here! Hats off to the mission teams that are improving our hospitality and worship experience on Sundays, giving our property/facilities some TLC, revitalizing our evangelism effort, feeding our neighbors, and visiting our home-bound members (this list is not complete, but it's a start). It's exciting to see the vitality and renewal of important ministries here at LCOS. If you are inspired and you are able, please find a way to help or support them!

Facilities & Grounds

Submitted by Barbara Beauregard



Your facility and grounds team has been busy! We filled 2 dumpsters with just branches and trash that found its way onto our property. (The branches, we understand, but the furniture??)

The apartment complex behind us is supposed to be cleaning their side of our fence so our fence company can get in there to repair/replace the fencing. They are remodeling and that has created a lot of trash.

June 1st.... and welcome another Hurricane season!! Let's hope this is a mild season, I haven't finished up from last year. Don't wait until the last minute to gather your supplies. Start early, make a list of things you must take with you, like house and car titles/deeds, passport/ID, and give yourself time. Our church is in Zone A so we can not be a shelter. We saw what the winds did to us!

Our Memorial Garden is looking beautiful with all the flowers in bloom, the hedges that died have been replanted and with the well pump working again, they should thrive very well. The outside altar looks fresh and clean with its new paint and the Garden has an official sign. Together, it all makes for a warm and welcoming sight. A big thank you to all who made this happen. I know it took many hands and hours to bring it all together!

Coming up in June? For many it will be vacation time, time to travel. Graduations. End of school for the summer. Weddings. Baby showers. Just maybe a time to relax and just enjoy the summer.

Safe travels to all.



Portico Ministry

Submitted by Rick and Angela Padin

Brothers and Sisters:

The Portico Ministry continues its challenging mission, feeding 25+ homeless individuals on Mondays. This last week we didn't quite distribute all the meals, so we took the remaining three meals and delivered them to elderly folks in our neighborhood. If any of our LCOS homebound members can benefit from a free lunch meal (whenever we have leftovers), we'd love to share the moment and help. Feel free to reach out at (813)390-3496 and provide me with your name and number in the event we have additional meals on any given Monday. The meals, with a Latin taste, are provided by Bravo Supermarket and normally include chicken, rice and either beans or vegetable. Every now and then, they'll substitute chicken for pork. They are usually mild in taste!

Please keep in mind the hot days of summer are upon us all. We always welcome used and clean shorts, t-shirts, hats and shoes, for both genders. Stay hydrated, use sun lotion and be safe.

In closing, I thank God for giving us a safe place to feed the homeless, for the donated meals from Bravo and ask God to bless the hands that fix the meals and the hands that distributes them. Amen.

Until next time, yours we remain,
Angela and Rick Padin



Food Bank Volunteers celebrating the birthdays of Elaine, Maysie and Rita (not pictured). Great time!

Photos submitted by Rick Padin.

Kaye Prox Food Bank—Q & A

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



What's the budget for the food bank?

Where does the money go?

Every month, the food bank spends between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

- About \$650 is for our cargo van: for insurance, gas, and any maintenance/equipment.
- Another \$1,500 to \$1,800 is for dried beans and rice. We buy 20- or 50-pound bulk bags, and volunteers re-pack the beans & rice into zip-lock bags for distribution.
- We spend \$200 per month for zip-lock bags, paper bags, and other supplies.
- The rest is for fridge repairs and any other periodic expenses.

I have a \$250 Thrivent card. What can I buy with it? **

January	Shampoo, Deodorant
February	Canned fruit, cans of chunky-style soup
March	Cereal, scalloped potatoes
April	Pasta, Tomato Sauce
May	Toothbrushes, Toothpaste
June	Tuna fish, shelf-stable milk
July	Backpacks, lunchboxes
August	Peanut Butter, Jam
September	Laundry detergent, diapers size 3 or 4
October	Canned yams, boxed stuffing mix
November	Turkeys, stocking stuffers
December	Dog food, cat food

***All items on this list are great donations to the food bank.*

It's difficult to apply online for a Thrivent card, what can I do?

See next page, for how to apply by phone. 😊



How to apply by telephone to lead a Thrivent Action Team

This is an option we provide for eligible clients who don't have independent access to a computer or a personal email address.



Before you call:

1. Identify when your event will be held. You may apply between 15 and 120 days in advance of the actual event date. Regardless of the date of your event, we will review the application as soon as it's received.
2. Be prepared to describe your volunteer project and goal.
3. Decide how you will be involved in your project and approximately how many volunteers will be assisting.
4. Brainstorm how you will use up to \$250 on your Community Impact Card to spread generosity and kick-start this project. (Remember, you don't have to use all the funds on your card. Any remaining funds will be reinvested for other Thrivent Action Team Projects.)
5. Identify which kit items and the quantity you will need. Kit options include T-shirts and sizes, volunteer pocketbooks, thank-you cards, name tags, packing stickers and a pennant. T-shirts are offered in Youth (S, M, L) and Adult (S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL).



Contact us:

1. Dial **800-847-4836** between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central time, Monday through Friday, and say "Thrivent Action Teams" when prompted. (Please note Mondays are typically busier, so your patience is appreciated.)
2. Tell the representative you want to lead a Thrivent Action Team. You'll share project details, customize your kit and confirm your contact information.
3. If this is your first project application, you will listen to recorded terms and conditions to understand the program and your responsibilities when using the Community Impact Card funds.
4. If you agree to the program terms and conditions, follow the prompts to be connected to another representative who will review and finalize your application.



thrivent.com • 800-847-4836

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Outreach and Evangelism Ministry

Submitted by Danielle Kearney

Children's Board Family Resource Centers Offers Class on CPR and First Aid

Among the many programs offered by CBFRC is a class on CPR and First Aid. The class is offered by professional instructors from BayCare Kids Wellness & Safety Center. You will learn to do CPR on children and on adults, and how to handle pediatric emergencies. The class is offered monthly at no cost to you. The class starts at 9:30am and runs until 4 pm. Please bring your lunch.



Please call the center closest to you for dates. The Town 'N Country center is located at 7520 W. Waters Ave., Suite 8 in Tampa. The phone number is (813) 356-1703.

Please don't forget, the center has some great volunteer opportunities for everyone. Check it out!

Snaps & Snippets

Submitted by Rick Padin



Pastor Dave and Debby



Pastoral Care visit with
Mid Brenner



Snaps & Snippets—Easter at LCOS
Submitted by Gail Smeach



LCOS Birthdays—June and July

Michelle Griffith	June 1
Tom Carroll	June 4
Diane Tolzman	June 4
Fran Beauregard	June 11
Greg Reed	June 16
Della Griscti	June 18
Martin Stewart	June 20
Diana Meehan	June 25
Fraser Muir	June 28



Joan Baun	July 1
Julian Julius	July 4
Janet Thambiraj	July 7
Kelin Heselius	July 16
Jane Stewart	July 16
John Hangartner	July 17
Karen Muir	July 22
Barbara Beauregard	July 26
Kurtis Kaladeen	July 30

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

Snap and Snippets

Submitted by Gail Smeach



June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	2 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	3 7:00pm AA	4 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank 7:00pm AA	5 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	6 2:30pm Food Bank	7
8 Pentecost 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	9 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00pm AA	11 10:30am Portico Ministry 11:30am Newsletter Team Meeting 12:20pm Food Bank 7:00pm AA	12 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	13 2:30pm Food Bank	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day Trinity Sunday 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Council Meeting 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	16 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	17 7:00pm AA	18 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank 7:00pm AA	19 Juneteenth 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	20 First Day of Summer 2:30pm Food Bank	21
22 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	23 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	24 7:00pm AA	25 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank 7:00pm AA	26 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	27 2:30pm Food Bank	28
29 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	30 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	1 7:00pm AA	2 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank 7:00pm AA	3 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	4 Independence Day 2:30pm Food Bank	5



PENTECOST
 Sunday, June 8
 Remember to wear **red**!

**LCOS Annual
 Golf Tournament**
 Saturday, October 11



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF AUGUST 2025
NEWSLETTER IS:**

JULY 10, 2025

Please submit articles to
lcoschurchoffice@gmail.com, and use the word
“**Newsletter**” in the subject line. Please identify
yourself so we can list you as the author.



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