

The Messenger



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*

—John 12:13

IN THIS ISSUE

- Pastor's Message
- Monthly Reports
- Valentine's Dance Fundraiser
- Snaps and Snippets
- Birthdays
- Calendar
- Thank you to Print Shop



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**
Naoko Okada, **Minister of Music**
Charlie McCoy, **Accountant**
Roger Swain, **Financial Secretary**

CHURCH COUNCIL *(Ministry Area)*

Sara Berge, **President**
(Governance & Administration^a) and (Technology)
Don Richardson, **Vice President**
(Facility & Grounds)
Jan Spaulding, **Secretary** *(Education)*
Kristi Saligame, **Finance/Treasurer**
(Stewardship & Financial) and (Social Media)
Charlie McCoy *(Stewardship & Financial)*
Lynne O'Reilly *(Care)*
Fran Palermo *(Fellowship & Hospitality)*
Sharon Rozell *(Outreach)*
Judith Stocker *(Worship)*

^aIncludes Pr. Kauffman

MISSION TEAM LEADERS

Acolytes & Crucifers	Cherri Krall
Adult Education	Don Richardson Kent Chetlain
Altar Guild	
AV Team	Heidi Richters
Bulletin	Ginnie Berge
Coffee Hour	Martin Stewart Heidi Richters Fran Beauregard
Communications	Karen Urban
Counters	Kristi Saligame Roger Swain
Education	Jan Spaulding
Facility & Grounds	Don Richardson
Fellowship & Dinners	Don Richardson Martin Stewart
Food Bank	Kristi Saligame
Greeters	Heidi Richters Fran Beauregard
Information Technology	Kent Chetlain
LAFFS	Lynne O'Reilly
Lay Pastoral Care	Lynne O'Reilly
Newsletter Team	Karen Urban, Rick Padin and Ginnie Berge
Note Folks	Linda Dillinger
Outreach	Danielle Kearney Sharon Rozell
Ushers	Martin Stewart
Website & Social Media	Kristi Saligame
Worship & Music	Naoko Okada

The Power of Love on the Cross

Submitted by Pastor Stephen Kauffman

The world has always trusted in the power of the sword — in strength, control, and domination. It's been that way since the beginning of history. The sword can make people obey. The sword can silence enemies. But the sword can never change a heart.

The love of Christ, however, can.

The cross reveals a different kind of power — one the world hardly recognizes. It is the power to forgive when you've been wronged, the power to show mercy when it costs you something, the power to love those who do not love you back.

It is the kind of power that absorbs violence without returning it. It's not the power that crushes, but the power that heals.

At the cross, it looked as if love had lost — but love had actually won.

When they thought they had silenced him, he forgave them. When they thought they had ended his reign, he began it.

The kingdom of God is not what anyone expected. It doesn't look like Rome.

It doesn't look like any of the great nations that have risen and fallen since.

It looks like a man hanging between two criminals, one of whom suddenly sees clearly and says,

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

And Jesus answers,

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

That moment — right there, in the midst of suffering — is when the kingdom breaks in.

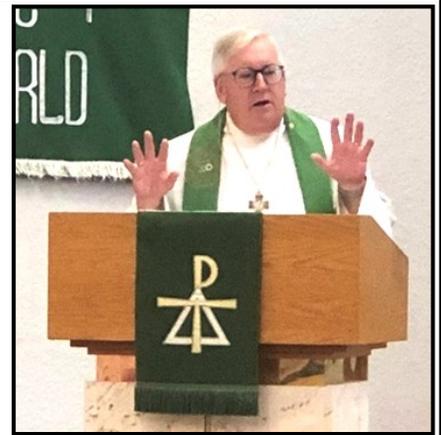
Not tomorrow. Not after death. Today.

The kingdom is wherever Christ reigns in mercy.

Wherever forgiveness triumphs over hatred.

Wherever grace restores what sin has broken.

That's the realm of our King.



President's Report

Submitted by Sara Berge



Happy spring!

It feels as though 2026 just started, yet we're nearly a quarter of the way through the year! We have been so blessed to have great worship experiences, times of fellowship, and opportunities to serve our neighbors. This is the heart of our church community and what God calls us for.

As we continue into 2026, we have many more great opportunities ahead of us along with some major changes. We are preparing to wish Pastor Kauffman farewell as he moves onto his next chapter. Our call committee is formed and beginning the process to call our next pastor. We will likely have a couple of months of supply pastors while we are in the discernment and search process. I ask that you continue to pray for our call committee and for God to guide us through this time.

Another great opportunity is coming to us Easter weekend. The South Denmark Girls Choir will be in the Tampa area to perform alongside Lumina Youth Choirs. They will be presenting a concert at LCOS on Saturday, April 4th at 7:00pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for what is sure to be a wonderful program. The next morning, Easter Sunday, the choir will join us for our worship service and provide music as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. They will also join us for brunch afterwards. I'm excited to have them experience the love of God and the joy of LCOS while they are in the Tampa Bay area. More information regarding the concert will be coming soon.

Through everything that has happened and will be happening, it is clear that God is at work. As we prepare for the changes that lie ahead, we trust that God has a plan and will lead us in the path He has set out for us.

Blessings to you all!

LCOS Council Meeting Summary January 18, 2026

Submitted by Jan Spaulding



Opening prayer 10:58am.

- **Financial:** Review of November was loss financially but December was positive from large donation.
- **Kaye Prox Food Bank** continues to serve 400+ families weekly, receiving support from Feeding Tampa Bay with dry products and produce. Also receiving support from the local churches with volunteers and donations. In need of volunteers to assist with food distribution Monday and Wednesday 10am-2pm and Friday 10am-1pm/12-4pm. E-mail volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer.
- **Technology:** Upgrades on the sound system continues, thank you Deacon Steve for all your hard work.
- **Facilities and Grounds:** Fixing and upgrading systems around the church continue including irrigation systems and security fencing around the air conditioner systems. Light bulbs in the Narthex to be replaced to offer more light. Thank you to Don Richardson, Martin Stewart and Ernie Largent for keeping our property looking so nice.
- **Outreach:** Thank you Sharon Rozell for planning fun Advent activities and hoping that everyone is enjoying their Nativity mug. Looking ahead to Easter activities.
- **Social Media:** Over 500 followers on Facebook for LCOS.
- **LAFFS:** Planning A Valentine's Party Fundraiser Friday, Feb 13 from 7-9pm in Luther hall to support the Kaye Prox Foodbank. Tickets are \$20 and a non-perishable food item.
- **Office Manager Position:** Continue to seek applicants for on site position, 15-20 hrs weekly doing clerical tasks. Must be comfortable with computer software and ability to speak Spanish a plus.
- **Call Committee:** Plan to begin moving forward with process for seeking our new pastor as Pastor Steve will officially retire after Easter. Call committee members include Heidi Richers, Rick Padin, Martin Stewart, Cherri Krall, Linda Dillinger and Noah Rozell and Liam Krall to share a youth vote in this process.
- **Announcements:** Council members will be making weekly announcements before the service.

Closing prayer at 12:16pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jan Spaulding

LCOS Treasurer's Report—February 2026

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



January Financial Review:

Church **income** in January was **\$17,076**, below our budget of \$25,706 and last year's result of \$19,232.

- Member Giving in January was \$12,974, below our budget of \$14,205 and year-ago gifts of \$13,531.
- We used designated funds of just \$276 from the Bold Statement Fund in January. Our budget had called for designated funds of \$8,000, including \$7,000 for the proposed AV system upgrade (we wrote that check in December 2025), and \$1,000 from the Mortgage Reduction Fund.
- Facilities income was \$3,827 in January, vs. \$2,702 a year ago.

Church **expense** was **\$19,490** in January, vs. \$20,710 a year ago and our budget of \$29,432.

- We set aside \$1,500 in January for the Pastoral Compensation Fund, which now has a balance of \$22,000.
- Our budget included \$4,800 in air conditioning maintenance, which did not happen.
- The budget also included an office manager and a part-time Pastor with benefits, which, combined, are about \$4,000/month more expensive than our current arrangement.
- All other expense categories were in generally line with, or below, expectations.

LCOS recorded a **net loss** of **(\$2,414)** in January.

2025 Year in Review:

Quarter	2025 - Preliminary			vs. 2024		
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Jan-Mar	\$68,301	\$68,781	(\$480)	\$56,222	\$55,301	\$922
Apr-Jun	\$70,423	\$68,153	\$2,271	\$100,997	\$59,604	\$41,393
July-Sep	\$72,989	\$80,884	(\$7,894)	\$71,642	\$117,295	(\$45,653)
Oct - Dec	\$105,865	\$84,436	\$21,429	\$71,080	\$62,806	\$8,274
Total	\$317,579	\$302,254	\$15,325	\$299,941	\$295,005	\$4,935

Looking ahead:

Please keep the mission, ministries, and members of this church in your prayers in 2026. We will face changes, and some big decisions, in the year to come. May we continue to walk through them together, trusting and listening to each other, and trusting and listening to God. We will likely experience some moments requiring extra faith and patience, as we figure out what our path should be. I am so thankful for this church family, you are such a blessing to your fellow members and the surrounding community. May we continue to enjoy our worship, fellowship, and service together, for many years to come!

Peace, *Kristi Saligame, Treasurer*

Kaye Prox Food Bank

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



It takes a village, and we are so grateful for ours:

- We've seen a return of generous bulk produce deliveries from Feeding Tampa Bay on Fridays, and many of the items we receive are direct from Florida producers. We've seen beautiful corn, butternut squash, red peppers, grapefruit, and carrots in recent weeks. You can see that we celebrated those beautiful peppers!!
- We continue to pick up from local retailers on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings: 2 Walmart stores, a Target, 2 Publix locations, and 2 Aldi locations.
- Local sister churches including Incarnation Catholic, First Reformed of Tampa, Grace Lutheran, and Messiah Lutheran continue to support us, providing regular financial support, generous food donations, and wonderful volunteers.
- Two pop-up concerts organized by LAFFS (thank you!!) in the past 6 months have raised over \$3,000 for the food bank, each offering us a wonderful chance to enjoy fabulous music and a great social time on a Friday night.
- Donations from individuals continue to be wonderful and always welcome. We are on the church campus and able to receive in-kind donations on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon (look for us at the back of the property) and on Thursdays from 12 pm to 1:30 (inside the foodbank). Financial donations are always welcome, by check or at www.lcostampa.org/giving.
- Our volunteers are AMAZING. We are so grateful for their commitment, their kind hearts, and their hard work. We love each and every one. We are thankful that our clients continue to trust us enough to register with us and to rely on us for supplemental food assistance when they need it.

God is good. We are grateful to have this opportunity to serve our neighbors each and every week. We especially thank our church family here at LCOS, who support us so well.



Birthday celebration on a Wednesday in mid-January for Mary and Nadine.

Kaye Prox Food Bank (continued)

We have been receiving donations of beautiful locally grown produce like these red peppers.

The Friday crew posed in mid-February for a new Facebook cover photo.



Valentine's Dance Fundraiser

Submitted by Kristi Saligame

*Photos submitted by Jan Spaulding
and Lynne O'Reilly*

We had a wonderful evening on Friday, February 13. A huge thanks to LAFFS for organizing another pop-up concert to benefit the Kaye Prox Food Bank! Fabulous music from Cadillac Zack and a great social time. We raised another \$1,455 for mission and had so much fun doing it!





Snaps & Snippets

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

It was a blessing to witness baptisms—all five from one beautiful family—on Sunday, February 15. Welcome to the LCOS family!



Snaps & Snippets



On Palm Sunday, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration on Palm Sunday as we celebrate Christ coming into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. On Palm Sunday, we will begin Holy Week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

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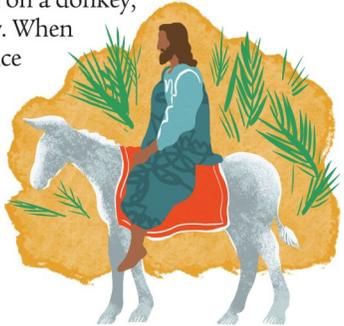


**Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 8th**
Remember to turn your clocks
ahead one hour.

Bible Quiz

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds praised him loudly. When Pharisees told him to silence the people, what did Jesus say would shout if his followers didn't?

- A. Stones
- B. Palm branches
- C. Trees
- D. Hillsides



Answer: A (See Luke 19:40.)



Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday, February 8



Fritz and Martin—Youth Message
Pastor Jon Keiser—Sunday, February 8

Snaps & Snippets



Celebration of Life
for
Rita Mae Maynard-Blyden
May 13, 1941-January 15, 2026
Service on January 31, 2026, at
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Heavenly Humor

Lessons From A Little Voice

A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the little girl replied.

Her mother smiled. "Just say what you hear Mommy say."

The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

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Two of LCOS's newest members!

LCOS MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Linda Pusateri	Mar 3
Kevin Groh	Mar 4
Jani Stocker	Mar 10
Kim Cross	Mar 14
Deborah Kauffman	Mar 15
Maclin Heselius	Mar 16
Terry Kaladeen	Mar 22
Yolanda Jacobs	Mar 24
Karen Urban	Mar 24
Spencer Baun	Mar 26
Kent Chetlain	Mar 29
LaVonne Carroll	Mar 30



LCOS APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Alice Rozell	Apr 4
Louise Betron	Apr 8
Westley Richters	Apr 8
Stephen Groh	Apr 19
Marjorie Brozenske	Apr 27
Lisa Paffenroth	Apr 28
Ernest Largent	Apr 30
Kiran Saligame	Apr 30



**Birthday
Missing?
Let us know!**

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

Faith That Blooms Anew

"Why are you anxious?" asked our Lord. Then He said, "*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*" (Matthew 6:28–29, NIV)

Jesus' words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter's gray. God's reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:
*God does not send strange flowers every year,
When the Spring wind blows o'er the pleasant places,
The same dear things lift up the same fair faces,
The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.



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MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER LILIES DONATION FORMS DUE SUNDAY, MARCH 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	4 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	5 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	6 World Day of Prayer 2:30pm Food Bank	7
8 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 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 	11 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	12 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	13 2:30pm Food Bank	14
15 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 St. Patrick's Day 	18 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	19 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	20 First Day of Spring 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	25 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	26 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	27 2:30pm Food Bank	28
29 Palm Sunday 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	31	1 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	2 Maundy Thursday 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 Good Friday 2:30pm Food Bank 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	4 7:00pm South Denmark Girls Choir Concert



Sunday, March 1
Friday, March 6
Sunday, March 8
Tuesday, March 17
Friday, March 20
Sunday, March 29
Thursday, April 2
Friday, April 3
Saturday, April 4

Sunday, April 5

Easter Lilies Order Forms Due!
 World Day of Prayer
 Daylight Saving Time Begins
 St. Patrick's Day
 1st Day of Spring
 Palm Sunday
 Maundy Thursday
 Good Friday
 South Denmark Girls Choir Concert
 Easter Sunday



Deadline for submission of
April Newsletter items is:

March 10, 2025

Please submit articles or pictures to:
newsletter@lcostampa.org



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through the efforts of Kimberly Kelly and Ken Scrase at
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