

The Messenger



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

—Romans 6:5

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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**
Naoko Okada, **Minister of Music**
Charlie McCoy, **Accountant**
Roger Swain, **Financial Secretary**
Ginnie Berge, **Temporary Office Manager**

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

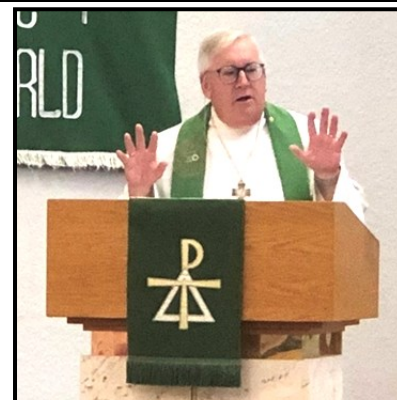
MISSION TEAM LEADERS

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

Finishing the Story

Submitted by Pastor Stephen Kauffman

Normally, the gospels end on a note of triumph. In the popular imagination, at least, the gospels end as the faithful women trudge in darkness to the garden where, in Zeffirelli-like fashion, brilliant light and a blonde-haired angel appear from the tomb to say that everything is going to be all right.



Mark's gospel, however, ends on a more sombre and subdued note. The last words of Mark's Gospel are, 'for they were afraid' (Mk 16:8). Yes, the stone is rolled back and there is an angelic messenger. But no risen Jesus, no lakeside barbecue, no traveller on the road who stays for supper, no mysterious gardener who knows our name. Only the message that Jesus is alive, the command to tell Peter and the others to go back to Galilee, and three terrified women who may or may not tell anybody anything.

But the strange ending to Mark's gospel may not be so strange after all. I am inclined to believe that Mark intended the writing to end at 16:8. It continues the theme of the disciples' failure and of Christ's promises. Those who have been unable to understand Jesus' life and message, continue perplexed. But despite their failure, God in Christ does not fail. He keeps his promise. "But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

But why Galilee?

My hunch is that after the disciples ran away, they would have gone back to their homes. It is likely that the territory of Galilee was where most of them were from.

So, before they get home, Jesus is already there! Jesus does not follow them there but goes before them! The place they will see the risen Jesus is back at home, in the ordinary stuff of life.

To return to Galilee means to reread everything based on the cross and its victory, fearlessly: 'Do not be afraid.' To reread everything – Jesus's preaching, his miracles, the new community, the excitement, and the defections, even the betrayal – starting from the end, which is a new beginning.

Mark must be doing something different than giving information in his account of the resurrection. He challenges us to consider how we will respond. In a way, we are asked to complete the gospel story. The story continues with us.

As I prepare to leave you, my hope for you is that, like the disciples, you too find the living Lord ahead of you. God is not finished with you yet! As Mark tells us, the Lord who has conquered death has more to do here, in our Galilee. We do not know what the future will hold, but we know who holds the future.

Do not be afraid. You are in good hands! Thank you for the opportunity to serve Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. You will be in my prayers.

President's Report

Submitted by Sara Berge



Greetings!

Holy Week and Easter are upon us. While we celebrate our risen Lord, Holy Week is a somber time of reflection. April brings big changes for LCOS and we have a lot to reflect on. We have been so blessed to have Pastor Kauffman with us for the past few years. It's hard to believe how quickly our time together has gone by. We will be wishing Pastor Kauffman farewell on Sunday, April 12th. Pastor Steve and his wife Deborah are in the process of making a move to Maryland to be closer to family. We wish them well and hope that they have safe travels and a smooth moving process.

Our Call Committee is hard at work helping us to move forward to the next step in our journey here at LCOS. I am so grateful that we have a dedicated group working on this process. Heidi Richters, Rick Padin, Linda Dillinger, Martin Stewart, Cherri Krall, Noah Rozell and Liam Heselius are meeting weekly to prepare our site profile that will help the synod to identify potential candidates for our next pastor. We look forward to updates as they continue to work through this process. In the meantime, we will have supply pastors that will work with us on Sundays starting April 19th.

Additionally, we are looking forward to partnering with the Florida Bahamas Synod and the ELCA to develop a Synod Authorized Worship Community. LCOS has an incredible opportunity to be a part of this partnership to develop a Latino Ministry in the Town and Country area. Deacon Einstein Gonzalez will be working to build this ministry, and we are excited to partner in and support this endeavor.

Although we are in the midst of many changes, God's love remains the same. We trust in Him to guide us through these changes and to lead us in the right direction. I am excited to see what comes next for us at LCOS and am grateful to have such a wonderful community to worship and serve with.

LCOS Council Meeting Summary February 22, 2026

Submitted by Jan Spaulding



Opening prayer 11:09am.

Financial: Off to a steady start for the year.

AC unit in Luther Hall has been paid for and is being installed. Quote for electrical work of the AC unit not provided in original quote. Additional cost of \$3500.00 to be added to complete job.

Kaye Prox Food Bank: Continues to serve 400+ families weekly, receiving support from Feeding Tampa Bay with dry products and produce. Kristi Saligame attended a conference sponsored by Feeding Tampa Bay which offered insights to provide dignity and respect while our clients are on the campus. Just a reminder to extend that courtesy and respect to volunteers as well. If you are interested in volunteering contact Kristi/Jan or e-mail volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com.

Technology: Upgrades on the sound system continues, Naoko will assist with continuing to get the sound system work completed.

Facilities and Grounds: Thank you to Don Richardson, Martin Stewart and Ernie Largent for keeping our property looking so nice. This month's projects include fixing of the AC in the choir loft (the choir members thank you). A tree in the Memorial Garden has been removed.

Outreach: Planning an Easter Egg Hunt for children the Saturday morning before Easter. The event will be open to the community so bring your children and grandchildren.

Worship and Music: The choir receives communion in the choir loft to avoid going downstairs during the communion hymn. Will plan to have wine in small cups with the host and will set up rotation of church members to bring communion to them.

LAFFS: Valentine Fundraiser concert held on February 13, 2026 netted \$1500.00 and 64lbs of donated non-perishable food items for the Kaye Prox Food bank. Enjoyed by all who attended.

South Denmark Girls Choir: will perform a 7pm concert Saturday, April 4, 2026 at LCOS. Free and open to the public, invite your friends and family. Cookie reception to follow the concert.

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 Richters, Rick Padin, Martin Stewart, Cherri Krall, Linda Dillinger and Noah Rozell and Liam Krall to share a youth vote in this process. Planning session with Pastor Nicole Eastwood scheduled February 25, 2026.

LCOS Council Meeting Summary February 22, 2026 (continued from page 5)

Annual Meeting: Planned for March 22, 2026 after service.

Closing prayer at 12:02pm

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

Respectfully submitted by Jan Spaulding

Kaye Prox Food Bank

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



Weekend Warriors—March 22nd—we helped sort and transport over 2400 pounds of food from Grace Lutheran Church's food drive. So thankful.

Ducks behind Walmart during our donation pickup—it must be Spring?!

Surprise donation of beautiful handmade soaps, March 20th.



LCOS Treasurer's Report—March 2026

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



February Financial Review:

Church **income** in February was **\$22,154**, below our budget of \$23,402 and above last year's result of \$20,528.

Member Giving in February was \$15,368, a little below our budget of \$16,000 and year-ago gifts of \$16,655.

We used designated funds of \$1,700, including \$200 from the Good Samaritan fund, \$800 from the Mortgage Reduction Fund, and \$700 from the IT Fund (toward our bill from RS Consulting for his help in late 2025 upgrading our office IT and wifi infrastructure).

Facilities income was \$4,285 in February, vs. \$3,552 a year ago.

Church **expense** was **\$39,179** in February, vs. \$19,771 a year ago and our budget of \$25,738.

We set aside another \$1,500 in February for the Pastoral Compensation Fund.

We paid \$16,465 to Nuccio for the new AC and ductwork in Luther Hall. We will likely move some designated funds toward this expense in March.

We paid \$2,100 to RS Consulting for the IT upgrades.

Our spending plan for 2026 had included an office manager and a part-time Pastor with benefits, which, combined, would be about \$4,000/month more expensive than our current arrangement.

All other expense categories were in generally line with expectations.

LCOS recorded a **net loss** of **(\$17,025)** in February. (We had closed out 2025 with a surplus of about \$15,000.)

2026 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	\$17,076	\$19,490	(\$2,414)	\$19,232	\$20,710	(\$1,478)
Feb	\$22,154	\$39,179	(\$17,025)	\$20,528	\$19,771	\$757
Total	\$39,230	\$58,669	(\$19,439)	\$39,760	\$40,481	(\$721)

Looking ahead:

2026 promises to be a busy year in the life of this church. In February, we had a pop-up concert fundraiser for the food bank, organized by LAFFS. We installed our call committee, and we confirmed plans for our 15th (!) annual Golf Tournament Fun(d)raiser – save the date for Saturday, October 24, will see you at Countryway Golf Club!

In the midst of a fast-moving year, please keep the mission, ministries, and members of this church in your prayers. This church family is a tremendous blessing for its members and for the surrounding community. Thank you for your faithful support of LCOS!

Peace,

Kristi Thiese, Treasurer

SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Barbara Beauregard Recognition—Sunday, March 15

On December 31, 2025, Barbara completed her term as the Facility & Grounds lead along with her term on church council. She has also been our faithful Thursday volunteer in the church office. Barbara was recognized in worship and honored with a special cake during fellowship.



thank you

Dear Pastor, LCOS Council and Congregation,

Your *GENEROSITY* means more than it's possible to say and is truly *APPRECIATED*.

Thank you so very much for all of the thoughtful gifts you gave us. The flowers are still alive, the cross is stunning and the monetary gift for dinner is quite generous. LCOS will be greatly missed.

Sincerely, Steve & Gail Smeach

LCOS Call Committee—On Wednesday, February 25, our church synod representative, Pastor Nicole Eastwood (picture p. 9), met with our church council and our call committee to begin the process of calling a new pastor. During worship on Sunday, March 8, the call committee was installed.

Pictures submitted by Karen Urban



LCOS Call Committee—Noah Rozell, Liam Heselius, Cherri Krall, Linda Dillinger, Heidi Richters, Rick Padin, Martin Stewart



SNAPS & SNIPPETS



Earth Day-April 22nd—As we celebrate Earth Day, we are reminded of God’s beautiful creation which exists not only on land but in the sea. Pictures submitted by Gary & Kim Jordan, passionate scuba divers since 1977, taken when in Cozumel Mexico in February.

LCOS Annual Meeting



The LCOS Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, March 22, following worship. Reports were given by Sara Berge on Worship, Don Richardson, Facilities & Grounds, Kristi Saligame, as Treasurer and on behalf of Kaye Prox Food Bank, and Heidi Richters as Chair of the Call Committee. The Synod Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC) proposal was discussed. A ballot vote was taken. There were 33 yes votes to accept the SAWC proposal and 5 no votes. Announced Pastor’s last Sunday of April 12.



**Farewell for Pastor
Stephen Kauffman
Sunday, April 12
9:30am**

Please join us for Pastor Steve’s farewell worship with us.

A reception will follow worship in Luther Hall.



Pastor Nicole Eastwood, Synod Rep.
Used by permission-Pastor Eastwood.

Pictures submitted by Lynne O’Reilly

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



LCOS MAY BIRTHDAYS

Lindsay Wood	May 1
Mary Watson	May 3
Dawn Tinnell	May 6
Thao Ngo	May 10
Kelly Kaladeen	May 11
Carolyn Kunzman	May 13
Ben Major	May 15
Maysie Richters	May 15
Nik Saligame	May 18
Audrey Howze	May 20
Cherri Krall	May 20
Tom O'Reilly	May 28
Sarah Muir	May 30
Sarah Watson	May 30
Gary Jordan	May 31



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

Community Easter Egg Hunt
Games · Crafts · Prizes
All ages are welcome.
 Saturday, April 4, 12 Noon—2pm
 LCOS Luther Hall






South Denmark Girls Choir Concert
 FREE and open to the public!
 Saturday, April 4, 7:00pm
 Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
 Reception following the concert
 The girls choir will also be singing in worship on Easter Sunday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP
 April 2, 7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP
 April 3, 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
 April 5, 9:30am
 Easter Breakfast following worship in Luther Hall

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 CONFIRMATION <i>Deadline to donate Food Bank items for Easter</i> Palm Sunday 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship - Reception for Confirmand 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 6:30pm 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 12:00pm Easter Egg Hunt, Luther Hall 7:00pm South Denmark Girls Choir Concert in Sanctuary 8:30pm Reception after Concert in Luther Hall
5 Easter Sunday 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship - Easter Breakfast 12:30pm New Ark 	6 10:30am Portico Ministry FOOD BANK CLOSED	7	8 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	9 10:00am Pastor Steve Hours 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2:30pm Food Bank 	11
12 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship - Reception for Pastor Kauffman 12:30pm New Ark	13 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	14	15 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	16 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	17 2:30pm Food Bank	18
19 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Council Meeting 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	20 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	21	22 Administrative Professionals Day Earth Day 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank 	23 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	24 2:30pm Food Bank	25
26 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	27 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	28	29 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	30 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	1 2:30pm Food Bank	2



Thursday, May 7
 Sunday, May 10

Sunday, May 24
 Monday, May 25
 Sunday, May 31

National Day of Prayer
 Mother's Day
 Newsletter Deadline
 Pentecost Day—Wear Red!
 Memorial Day
 Trinity Sunday



Deadline for submission of
May Newsletter items is:

April 10, 2025

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



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