

The Messenger



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Peace I leave you. My peace I give you;
not as the world gives do I give to you. Do
not let your hearts be troubled, or fearful.*

—John: 14:27 NASB

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- Monthly Reports
- Snaps and Snippets
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- 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

Naoko Okada, **Minister of Music**

Einstein Gonzalez, **Deacon**

Charlie McCoy, **Accountant**

Roger Swain, **Financial Secretary**

Ginnie Berge, **Temporary Office Manager**

CHURCH COUNCIL *(Ministry Area)*

Sara Berge, **President**

(Governance & Administration) 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)*

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

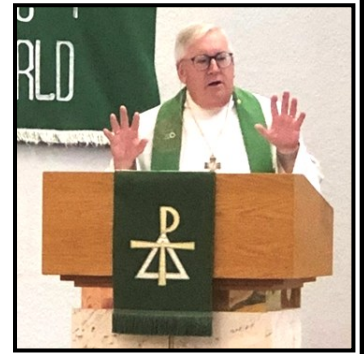
Worship & Music

Naoko Okada

God is Not Finished with Us Yet

Submitted by Pastor Stephen Kauffman

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)



In the last hour of his life, Jesus is helping us not be anxious. “Let not your hearts be troubled.” In these final days of our journey together however, we may be feeling a bit unsettled. We have learned to trust each other and seen how God can make the little we have go a long way. We have more confidence. We have hope that God is doing a good thing among us. However, in the world and in our personal lives we have many reasons to fear the future. In our congregation, transition and change threaten to short circuit our faith in what God is doing among us at LCOS.

In the fourteenth chapter of John’s gospel, he shares what is known as Jesus’ “farewell discourse.” As Jesus prepared to leave his disciples, I imagine him saying “You look troubled. Your faces look concerned. I love you. I don’t like it when you look that way. I don’t want to leave you that way.”

Looking at you, I feel like Jesus did.

Jesus says to frightened disciples, *“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”* In John 16:33, he says the same thing, only he makes it explicit: *“I said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”* The world offers peace based on comfort, security, and the absence of conflict—which is temporary. Jesus offers *His* peace, which is a deep-seated calm anchored in a relationship with God, even amidst trouble.

As I prepare to leave you, I want you to know how precious our time together has been for me. Repeatedly I was surprised by what you did in extending the ministry of our Lord in our own community and around the world. Whether in outreach to our community or through acts of love within our family of faith, you reminded me why I continue to love serving the church with people like you.

I can “retire again,” knowing I played a small part in discerning God’s mission for the Lutherans in Town and Country. While refreshed in my own serving here, I sense new energy and confidence among you. There is work to do and joy to share. Do not become weary. God is not finished with us yet!

President's Report

Submitted by Sara Berge



Happy Easter! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Easter is a time to celebrate Christ's resurrection. God's love is more powerful than death and brings new life to all. This is a time where we focus on faith and trust in our lessons each week. How timely that we are facing many changes as a church during this season and need to rely on our faith and trust in God to see us through.

We are certainly in a time of great transition at LCOS. With Pastor Steve moving to Maryland and some of our most active volunteers stepping down for various reasons, there is a lot happening that will be different as we move forward. However, one of the best parts of LCOS (in my opinion) is the incredible community we share. The greatest sign of this is our Sharing of the Peace each week. Everyone is mingling throughout the entire sanctuary greeting our church family.

It was such a joy to have the South Denmark Girls choir join us Easter weekend. They shared an incredible concert on Saturday evening and then added beautiful music to our Easter service and brunch. During brunch, some of the chaperones asked if we all lived near the church. They were surprised to hear that we come from all over the area because they felt a strong family connection among us. This is an amazing compliment and echoes how I feel about our community. We truly are a family – we look out for each other and help out when we can.

This community is what will carry us forward into the future. Although we are facing major changes, we will work together to continue to do God's work at LCOS. Your time, talents and treasures are of great importance, and I am so grateful for each and every one of you. I pray that God will guide us and keep us working together as we move forward. Continue to walk in faith and trust in God – He will lead us into the future!

LCOS Council Meeting Summary March 15, 2026

Submitted by Jan Spaulding



Opening prayer 11:07am

Financial: Kristi Saligame

February financially looks good. Finishing up the installation of the 2nd AC unit in Luther Hall which has been paid for. AV work still pending completion for the church.

Kaye Prox Food Bank: Kristi Saligame

Continues to serve 350+ families weekly, receiving less product from local grocery stores but also fewer clients recently as well. Clients are very appreciating of food received. Blessed to have the weekly volunteers serving as well. If you are interested in volunteering contact Kristi/Jan or email volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com.

Technology: Kristi Saligame

An upgrade on the sound system continues. Naoko will assist with continuing to get the sound system work completed.

Facilities and Grounds: Don Richardson

Thank you to Don Richardson, Martin Stewart and Ernie Largent for keeping our property looking so nice.

This month's projects include the replacement of new bulbs in the light fixtures and removal of a tree in the Memorial Garden. The AC unit in the sanctuary has had the wrong fuses causing the motor to burn out. The unit needs to have the motor replaced which may or may not be under warranty. Replaced the window pane in a front window which was broken. Plan to install overhead fans in the pavilion to the back of the property after buried lines identified and electrical lines placed.

Outreach: Sharon Rozell

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.

Social Media: Kristi Saligame

Please submit photos taken at events to Kristi right after the event to ensure timely postings.

LAFFS: Lynne O'Reilly

Continues to meet monthly. LAFFS will host a cookie reception after the South Denmark Girls Choir performs on Saturday, April 4, 2026, in Luther Hall.

(continued on page 6)

South Denmark Girls Choir: Sara Berge

The girls choir will perform a 7pm concert on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at LCOS. Free and open to the public, invite your friends and family. Cookie reception will follow the concert in Luther Hall.

Lay Pastoral Care Team: Pastor Steve Kauffman

Pastoral Care Team has lost several members but continues with shut in visitations with communion. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact Lynne O'Reilly for additional information.

Closing prayer at 12:41pm

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

Respectfully submitted by Jan Spaulding

Thank You from Barbara Beauregard

To LCOS,

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness. The flowers, the cake, the candy, the candle and especially the cross and crown! My Godparents gave me a beautiful cross when I was baptized, but a few years ago my house was robbed and the cross was among many items taken. So this has special meaning to me! It has been my pleasure to serve LCOS the past 40 years, and I have had many 'helpers' along the way. I thank them all for making LCOS run smoothly. Welcome to the new teams!



Blessings,
Barbara

Have you seen this tray? It's matching tray is lonely!

This tray which belongs to Barbara Beauregard is missing. If you have it, or know where it is, please contact Barbara. She would really appreciate having it back.



Thank you!

LCOS Treasurer's Report—April 2026

Submitted by Kristi Saligame



March Financial Review:

Church **income** in March was **\$26,238**, below our budget of \$48,073 and last year's result of \$28,087.

Member Giving in March was \$16,362, a little below our budget of \$17,763 and year-ago gifts of \$18,586.

We used designated funds of \$5,300, including \$300 from the Pastor's Discretionary fund and \$5,000 from Bold Statement.

Within the designated funds account, we also transferred \$2,500 from the Bold Statement Fund to the newly-designated Outreach Fund, per the decision of Council in March.

Facilities income was \$4,575 in March, vs. \$3,502 a year ago.

Church **expense** was **\$21,214** in March, vs. \$21,680 a year ago and our budget of \$50,055.

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

Our budget had called for \$21,000 in air conditioning improvements in Luther Hall; that work was completed/paid for in February (for less!).

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.

Ginnie Berge has accepted the role of interim office manager, part-time, in mid-March, so her compensation should begin to show up in our April numbers.

All other expense categories were in generally line with expectations.

LCOS recorded a **net gain** of **\$5,024** in March. Year-to-date, we show a loss of \$14,000, largely because we paid for the new air conditioning unit in February using surplus funds from 2025. J

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
March	\$26,362	\$21,214	\$5,148	\$28,087	\$21,680	\$6,406
Total	\$65,592	\$79,883	(\$14,291)	\$67,847	\$62,162	\$5,685

Looking ahead:

We are in transition, having said a very fond farewell to Pastor Steve, approved our new partnership with the Synod and the ELCA for our Latino outreach (SAWC), and commenced our call process for a new pastor. As I write, we expect to welcome an interim pastor soon.

In the midst of all these moving parts, 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!

-Kristi Thiese, Treasurer

Portico Ministry

Submitted by Rick and Angela Padin

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Pray you all had a safe and thankful Easter. Following an unforgettable Sunday, the Portico Ministry was back at work and feeding 25+ house less individuals. We continue thanking Bravo Supermarket for their continued support. As a matter of fact, the folks at Bravo are open to the idea of expanding distributions and providing more meals to cover Friday and perhaps Saturdays. The one obstacle is lack of manpower. So, should you feel the call and would like to participate in this program, we'd love to show you the ropes. We welcome your ideas and support and thank you for praying for the ministry and its impact to our community.

As we near the summer months, tee shirts, shorts and hats are always welcomed. We ask that they're clean.

In addition, I ask and thank you for praying for our partner Juan De La Cruz as he continues coping with the loss of his sister in Dominican Republic. She had been sick and passed late March. Juan continues being active feeding our house less neighbors at LCOS on Wednesday, at the Reformed Church on Tuesday and Thursday and outside the TNC public library on Friday.

Also, I would like to thank Pastor Kauffman for his dedication to LCOS and making us all better disciples. He will surely be missed. As we look to the future, I pray for guidance and direction in finding a new pastor.

Yours we remain,
Angela and Rick



SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Pictures submitted by Lynne O'Reilly, Karen Urban, Rick Padin

The purpose of this feature is to make it easy for you, the reader, to contribute to the newsletter and to have some fun in the process! All you have to do is send a favorite picture (favorite scene, favorite sunset, church activities, etc.) or something for which you thank God and attach just a brief description of what the picture is. Please remember that pictures must be appropriate for a church audience and be apolitical. Newsletter Team members will choose which pictures to include. Send SNAPS & SNIPPETS to newsletter@lcostampa.org.



Pastor David Kruger
Memorial Service-March 28



Sunrise in Safety Harbor (taken by Laura, Urban's dog sitter)



Moon peaking out over Stuart

In this busy world some special people have the art of taking time for others. . .of giving from the heart. Thank you for simply being you.

Dear LCOS,

I wanted to say thank you to ALL of you for the friendships, love and support shown to my mother, Rita, and to us during this difficult time. I still can't believe she is no longer with us. My mom spoke often of her girls' outings, tea parties and days at the food bank. She truly loved each of you. Special thanks to everyone (I'm sorry I can't recall everyone's name) who took her to her appointments after her car accident. To Karen Muir, thank you, thank you, thank you. LCOS has always been here for us, no matter the reason or occasion, and my family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Yours truly,
Elizabeth 'Beth' Maynard



Dolly and Pastor Rochelle celebrating their Irish heritage.



SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Pictures submitted by Ginnie Berge

Saturday, April 4, Community Easter Egg Hunt, coordinated by Sharon Rozell and Sara Berge. Thank you to ALL who volunteered! Saturday evening South Denmark Girls Choir concert followed by a cookie reception served by LAFFS members. Thank you!



SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Pictures submitted by Karen Urban, Lynne O'Reilly, Sara Berge



The South Denmark Girls Choir and LCOS Choir sang together during worship, directed by Naoko Okada. Hallelujah!

SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Pictures submitted by Lynne O' Reilly, Karen Urban, Sara Berge



Confirmation Sunday, March 29. Welcome to our newest confirmed member, Benjamin David Robertson.



Vladimir Grimm, Mary Wever, Joylene and Bill McFarland



Welcome
New
Members
April 12



Sylvia and Al Chai



The Peanut Gallery—'Front row' seats in the balcony to watch fellow choir members, Bill, Joylene and Vlad, become members. (Sylvia is also part of the choir.)

SNAPS & SNIPPETS

Submitted by Ginnie Berge, Karen Urban



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



LCOS JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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
Pamela Donovan	June 21
Rebecca Pusateri	June 23
Diana Meehan	June 25
Elizabeth Pusateri	June 25
Fraser Muir	June 28



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.

Snaps & Snippets

Pictures submitted by Karen Urban



Former deacon, Steve Smeach, Pastor Steve Kauffman and Gail Smeach who have faithfully served LCOS have moved on to enjoy much deserved rest, relaxation and time with family. We wish them God's richest blessings.



Pastor John Hillmer, retired, who served Grace Lutheran in Carrollwood, led us in worship on Sunday, April 19.



Sunday	Monday	Tues- day	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Event - Carlos
3 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	4 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	5	6 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	7 National Day of Prayer 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	8 2:30pm Food Bank	9
10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Mother's Day 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark <i>DEADLINE!</i>	11 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	12	13 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	14 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	15 2:30pm Food Bank	16 Event - Carlos
17 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Council Meeting 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	18 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	19	20 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	21 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	22 2:30pm Food Bank	23 Event - Carlos
24 Pentecost 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	25 Memorial Day 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	26	27 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	28 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	29 2:30pm Food Bank	30 1:00pm Broker Conference - Carlos
31 Trinity Sunday 8:30am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 12:30pm New Ark	1 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	2	3 10:30am Portico Ministry 12:20pm Food Bank	4 Synod Assembly 6:30pm New Ark 7:00pm AA	5 Synod Assembly 2:30pm Food Bank	6 Synod Assembly



See what's coming next month

Thurs-Sat, June 4-6
Wednesday, June 10
Sunday, June 14
Friday, June 19
Sunday, June 21

Synod Assembly
Newsletter Deadline
Flag Day
Juneteenth
Father's Day
First Day of Summer



Deadline for submission of
June Newsletter items is:

May 10, 2025

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



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