LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

December 2026

The Messenger



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PC Prospective
- Monthly Reports
- Golf Tournament
- Snaps and Snippets
- Birthdays
- Calendar
- Thank you to Print Shop

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

8401 W. Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa FL 33615
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Email ~ office@lcostampa.org

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

The Rev. Jon L. Culp, **Interim Pastor**
Naoko Okada, **Minister of Music**
Charlie McCoy, **Accountant**
Roger Swain, **Financial Secretary**
Ginnie Berge, **Temporary Office Manager**

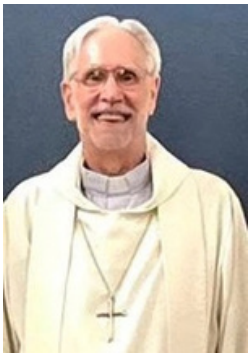
CHURCH COUNCIL *(Ministry Area)*

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

MISSION TEAMS

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

PC Prospective



Let me say once again, thank you. I greatly appreciate the extension to remain with you for an additional six months. This begins in January 2027 and runs through June 2027. If at that time a decision is not made regarding a permanent part-time pastor, the Council and Kristi and I have agreed we could continue on a month-to-month basis until those decisions are made. I very much am enjoying being a part of this ministry. I enjoy all of you and I feel quite lucky to be serving as your interim pastor. Thank you.
As I met with the Council and worked out a solid plan for next year, we determined that I would move to 3.5 days per week instead of the 2.5 that I am currently contracted for. The council rightly asked what would I do with the extra day. Here is the answer:

A Journey of Discovery
From
Values to Vision.

The kickoff for this phase of our ministry begins Saturday, Jan 23rd from 9-12. Rev. Dr. Derek Hoven will lead us with a presentation to determine our values. What is it that stands as a foundation for LCOS to exist? What is it that really matters to us? What do we mean when we say that we are disciples of Jesus? What are the core values of this congregation? So, the journey begins.

From that point on, I will take the lead in providing 3 more presentations. While I am currently developing the scope of these and it will be a work in progress, let me give you some broad brush stokes on what that will look like.

1. In January I will be in the office both Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, I will be making congregational visits and hospital calls, etc. during that time as well. Also, I have monthly interim meetings that I attend so I am not physically in the office all the time. If you have a desire to meet with me, please use my email, iPastor@lcostampa.org to schedule a time to meet. You are also welcome to stop in on either day, but it would be good to call ahead to make sure I am available. I do always enjoy spending time with you.

Interim Pastor
Pastor Jon L. Culp
Office Hours: Tuesdays from 10am-2pm
Email: iPastor@lcostampa.org

2. The presentations I will lead will look something like this. They will be on Sundays immediately following our worship service. Each one will last about an hour or so. Each event day the council members will be present for a Q&A session. Our goal is to be transparent in all that we do and have constant opportunities to hear from the entire congregation. Your inputs and desires for involvement in the unfolding future for LCOS are critical. The dates and details of each will be as a result of our council meetings as they will help in determine the goals and topics and time table for them.

3. I will be taking a greater leadership role and creating a new combined team make-up of the 3 existing committee chairs with additional members from the congregation to be sure I am receiving a complete view of the entire congregation's hopes and dreams. The 3 committees are, Outreach, Worship and A/V. These are the areas to evaluate and formulate our ultimate goal of a vision for your future. I hope all of this will come with a broad-based strategic plan. Suggested tactics will always be brought to the council for final approval. No tweaks of any kind will happen without their agreement and consent. They are the elected leaders that always have the final say in what is brought forward to the congregation. This all meant to create an open transparent conversation in which everyone is made aware and heard as things move forward.

4. This congregation already has several areas that are extremely strong assets. I hope to help organize and unitize our existing strengths in a way that will expand our future direction. Among our strongest programs are our music program, our food bank, our lay pastoral care team and most importantly our sense of community and cooperation and harmony within our membership. We are a very closely knit family, but we must be open to expand the family with new members. That means allowing new people to bring in new ideas to the current dynamic. Easier said than done. Everything we currently do must ask, how do we include and expand our strengths within our outreach to those that are outside of our current walls. We must look beyond welcoming to aggressive outward involvement to the broader community.

5. This new team will also serve as a mutual ministry team to be sure the pastor and congregation are always working in a collaborative and harmonious fashion. Current council members and a few selected members I choose will make up this team. I already have spoken to some, but it will be a work in progress. Remember none of this begins to happen until January. Our journey will help create who and how these function.

6. I also plan to work with our financial leaders to create a new Capital fund drive. We must have funds to invest in our future. As LCOS looks forward to a permanent part-time pastor, you must anticipate increased cost of a family. While that is an unknown, if you desire someone who can commit to a long-term ministry, cost will increase. Also, there is always the unexpected maintenance expenses and the normal cost of upkeep. So, new funding is always a concern.

It is my overall desire to help you define an understanding of what moves LCOS from maintenance to mission. For several years this congregation has healed and grown. The harmony is tremendous. Still, the future belongs to the bold. This extension will not complete the journey, rather brings us to a deeper understanding of what is desired and necessary to create a clear picture of the vision. Accomplishing and understanding this is the journey. Once determined you will be prepared for the implementation of that vision. That will lie beyond my time and leadership. I have no idea of how long that will take, or how it will look. I am only here to help you prepare. Like Moses, I will take you to the edge of the promised land, but you, the people of LCOS must decide to go in. I look forward to the journey. It is an exciting time; it is a critical time. With all of this, let us never forget to seek an ever-deepening awareness of God's leading as we walk together in faith and grace.

With deepest affection,
PC

Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, December 24
7:00pm



President's Report

Submitted by Sara Berge



Happy Holidays!

Another year has flown by and we're once again in the season of Advent. Advent is a time of watching and waiting as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. This is a time of great anticipation as we get ready to celebrate with friends and family. We look forward to treasured traditions that we carry on from year to year. In the church, we also have time honored traditions that are part of the holiday season which we look forward to continuing this year.

One of my favorite events at LCOS during the Advent and Christmas season is our holiday meal. I hope you will join us on Sunday, December 13th for this time of fellowship and yummy food. And before we eat, we will have our regular Congregational Meeting in which we will approve the budget for 2027 and nominate new council members. Mark your calendars for this important meeting and time together.

We will celebrate with our other traditions as well throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas. I'm excited to spend this time with you all. I hope you have a wonderful time of preparation in Advent and a very Merry Christmas!



Steve Smeach and Ernie Largent pressure washing and blowing debris.

LCOS Council Meeting Summary October 18, 2026



Opening prayer 10:56am.

Financial: Kristi Saligame
Church income in September was $21,110 below our budget of $25,310. Facility expenses were significantly higher as the first half of our annual A/C maintenance contract for Nuccio was paid, and the electric bill was about $600 more than last month/last year. Plan for Stewardship Campaign early next year to assist with upcoming projects.

Kaye Prox Food Bank: Kristi Saligame
Quotes being received to replace the roof of the covered pavilion. Plan to make some inside changes to the food bank to create a meeting/lunch area.
Survey questionnaires related to the start of language classes the beginning of the year are being handed out and completed by food bank clients with much interest. Classes would be to learn English and Spanish as well.
Planning for Thanksgiving distribution with purchase of food items at sale price. Donations such as turkeys, stuffing and canned vegetables are always welcomed Thursday 12pm-1:30pm and Wednesday/Friday 10am-12pm.
The Food bank distributes Monday and Wednesday at 11:30am and Friday at 2:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering or have a teen needing community service hours contact Kristi/Jan or e-mail volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com.

Facilities and Grounds: Don Richardson
Thank you to Don Richardson, Martin Stewart and Ernie Largent for keeping our property looking so nice.
The faucets in the women's bathrooms will be replaced due to leakage along with new soap dispensers. Don, Martin and Mike Watson continue to repair the bottom of the support columns in the walkway between church and Luther Hall that are damaged. Don was instrumental in raising $550 to purchase a pressure washer for the church.

Community Outreach: Sharon Rozell
Beautiful Christmas ornaments from Israel have been purchased for those who submit a picture of their Nativity set which has been set up in their homes in December.

Security: Kristi Saligame
Planning to add several more cameras to areas of the church that are not monitored now, wiring is in place in these areas. Would like to add a security monitor in the office.

GA/AA: Jan Spaulding
Gamblers Anonymous is now meeting Tuesday evening 6-9pm with Alcohol Anonymous meeting Thursday evening 6-9pm in Luther hall.

Extension of Contract for Pastor Culp: Sara Berge
Council unanimously extended Pastor Culp's contract for an additional 6 months beginning January 1, 2027.

Closing prayer at 1:11pm

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

Respectfully submitted by Jan Spaulding



HOLLY

With its glossy green leaves and bright red berries, holly is a familiar Christmas decoration rich in Christian symbolism. Its prickly leaves recall Jesus' crown of thorns, while its berries represent the blood He shed. Its evergreen foliage reminds us of eternal life through Him.

Though old legends connect holly with Christ's footsteps and cross, these stories are folklore rather than Scripture. At Christmas, holly reminds us that the child born in Bethlehem came to bring salvation, hope and everlasting life.

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LCOS Treasurer's Report - November 2026



Submitted by Kristi Saligame

October Financial Review:

Church income in October was $36,181, vs. our budget of $39,010 and last year's $40,725.

· Member Giving was $13,290, below our budget of $15,100 and year-ago gifts of $15,579.

· Fundraising/Designated: The golf tournament contributed $16,316 to October income. After expenses, the tournament provided a net benefit of $12,104. LCOS used $2,000 in Bold Statement Funds in October, vs. $4,160 of Designated Funds in October 2025.

· Facilities income was $4,575 in October, vs. $3,877 a year ago.

Church expense was $25,857 in October, vs. $31,320 a year ago and our budget of $30,870.

· October expense included $4,213 in fundraising expenses for the golf tournament.

· In addition, the church donated 20% of golf tournament net, or $2,421, to the food bank (we record it as Missions expense for LCOS for the month of October).

· Other expense categories were in generally in-line with expectations.

LCOS recorded a net gain of $10,324 in October.

2026 Year to Date:

Month/Q	Current Year Results			Year-Ago Results		
	Income	Expense	Difference	Income	Expense	Difference
Q1*	**$65,592**	**$79,883**	**($14,291)**	**$67,847**	**$62,162**	**$5,685**
Q2	**$70,647**	**$67,374**	**$3,273**	**$70,222**	**$68,646**	**$1,576**
Q3	**$62,422**	**$67,426**	**($5,003)**	**$72,676**	**$78,194**	**($5,518)**
Oct	$36,181	$25,857	$10,324	$40,726	$31,320	$9,406
Total	**$234,842**	**$240,539**	**($5,698)**	**$251,470**	**$240,322**	**$11,149**

**We purchased a new AC unit for Luther Hall in February 2026 using surplus funds from 2025. As a result, we show a big loss in Q1 of 2026.*

Looking ahead:

As you plan for the Christmas season and the new year ahead, please keep the mission and ministries of this church in mind. LCOS relies on the generous, regular giving of its members for all our daily/weekly activities and services. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to share God's love and good news in this corner of Tampa!

Your annual gifts and designated gifts are also very important to LCOS. As we look to 2027, we have a pastoral call process, new mission opportunities, and capital expenses to plan for (we will paint all our building exteriors, we must prepare for a new roof for the sanctuary building in the next year or two). We appreciate your prayerful consideration and support, always!

Wishing all our members and friends a beautiful and joyful Christmas celebration in 2026.

Faithfully, Kristi

Kaye Prox Food Bank – Holidays 2026

- We plan to give small Christmas gifts to clients this year. Donations received at the food bank Thurs 12pm-1:30pm and Weds/Fri 10am-12 noon.
- Additional volunteers are welcome to help sort/pack/distribute these items. Please contact Kristi at **813.394.4942** or volunteerkayeproxfb@gmail.com if you'd like to join us.
- Thank you for your support of the food bank!

Holiday Calendar 2026

Holiday	*Donate Before*	*Items Packed/Sorted*	*Items Distributed*	*Food Bank Closed*
Christmas	Wed. Dec 16	Weds. Dec 16 Thurs. Dec 17	Fri. Dec 18 Mon. Dec 21 Wed. Dec 23	Fri. Dec 25 Fri. Jan 1

Christmas Market gift ideas

- Coffee mugs, fun socks, ornaments
- Cosmetic/nail gift kits, luxury bath items
- Aftershave (Old Spice), moisturizer
- Insulated water bottles
- Craft kits for kids, Christmas decorations
- New toys, books, puzzles
- Bucs, Rays, or Lightning-themed small items
- Thoughtful gifts for adults, kids



The 15th Annual Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (LCOS) Golf Tournament Fun(d)raiser on October 24, was a great success, thanks to generous donors and sponsors, amazing volunteers, and 91 golfers who arrived ready to have fun, compete, and support LCOS a little more with their raffle purchases, mulligans, etc. We were blessed with sunshine and cooler breezes at Countryway Golf Club for this amazing event. After expenses, the tournament raised $12,104 for the missions and ministries of LCOS!





The tournament was a labor of love by so many LCOS church members, who worked together to make the day a success. The golf team is so grateful to all who helped us pack the raffle tickets, set up the tables, place the signs, sell the raffle tickets and mulligans, run the 50/50 putting contest, register the golfers, distribute the lunches, keep score, etc. etc. We received so many compliments about how friendly and helpful our volunteers were, and how well organized/run the event was.

The 2026 LCOS Golf Team included Karen Muir, Carol Cousins, Kristi Thiese, Doris McDonald, Brian Cross, Don Richardson, and Karen Matteson. We're already planning for next year, and we welcome you to join us!

Special Thanks to Our 2026 Tournament Sponsors:

ARL Design Group

Carol A. Cousins

Ecological Consultants, Inc.

Fred and Betty Freshcorn

Gregor and Karen Muir

Orr Financial

Ramesh Saligame and Kristi Thiese

Tampa Bay Dental Design

Tampa Bay General Contractors



Snaps & Snippets



Reformation 1997 - submitted by Carol Cousins



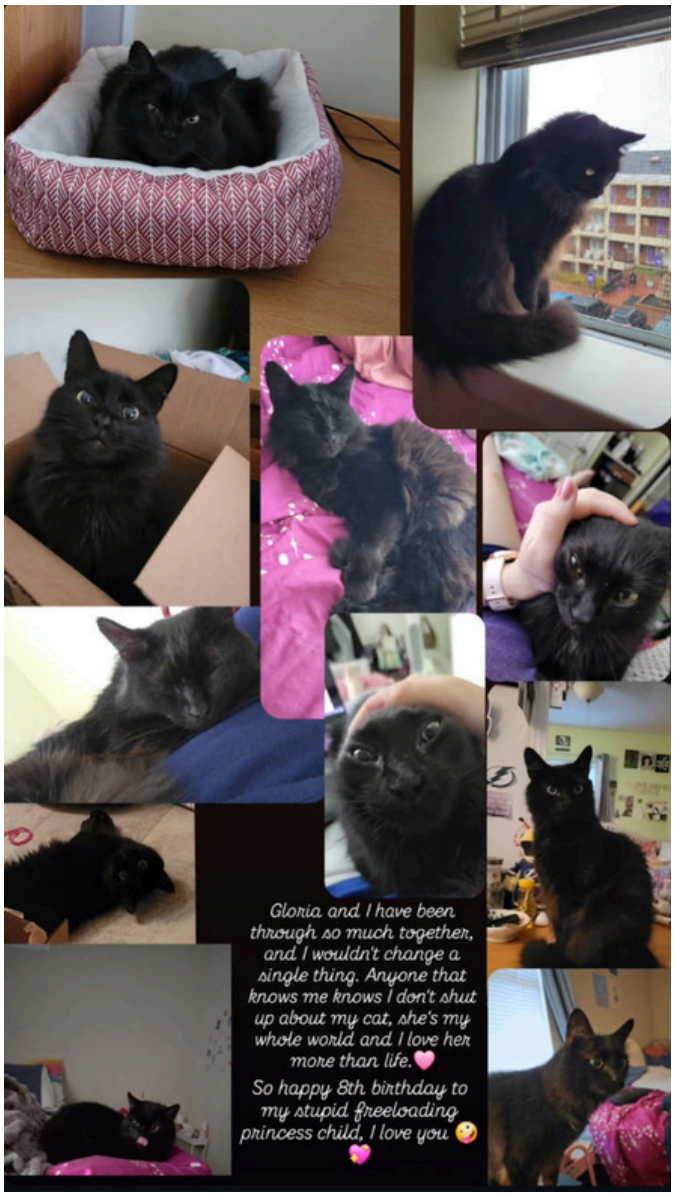
The Urban family went to the Bucs game to watch the Steelers win in overtime.



Heidi and Maysie at the II Volo Concert



Heidi ran into Alma Kee at a house concert for Sam Robbins



Collage of Gloria - Becky Meier's cat

LCOS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

Becky Meier	Dec 1
Liam Heselius	Dec 2
Heidi Richters	Dec 2
Danielle Kearney	Dec 3
Matthew Baun	Dec 5
Matthew Groh	Dec 6
Miles Hood	Dec 9
Jen Donovan	Dec 10
Ronda McIndoe	Dec 10
Jan Spaulding	Dec 12
Terence Hood	Dec 14
Nicki Griscti	Dec 15
April Strouse	Dec 24
Densingh Thambiraj	Dec 28
Angela Padin	Dec 31
Lynn Richardson	Dec 31



JANUARY

Elizabeth Major	Jan 1
Janet Major	Jan 1
Jesse Major	Jan 1
Locke Major	Jan 1
Matthew Major	Jan 1
Theodore Major	Jan 1
Bryson Wiley	Jan 4
Naoko Okada	Jan 6
Greg Watson	Jan 8
Frank Julius	Jan 18
Augusta Major	Jan 18
Todd Stewart	Jan 19
Mike Watson	Jan 21
Sal Pusateri	Jan 22
Jay Dillinger	Jan 27
June Major	Jan 29
Karen Groh	Jan 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.

A/V—Liturgist December Schedule

Sunday	A/V	Liturgist
Dec. 6	Heidi	Karen
Dec. 13	Noah	Sharon
Dec. 20	Judith	Sarah
Dec. 24	Judith	Karen
Dec. 27	Maclin	Michelle



Input November Schedule

Date	Input
Dec. 3	Heidi
Dec. 10	Kent
Dec. 17	John
Dec. 24	Heidi
Dec. 31	Kent



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 **First Sunday of Advent** 8:30amAdult Bible Class **9:30amWorship with Holy Communion** 11:00amChurch Council 11:00amFellowship 12:30pmNew Ark	30 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	1 10:00amPastor Jon Hours	2 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	3 6:30pmNew Ark 7:00pmAA	4 2:30pmFood Bank	5 **Event - Carlos** 11:00amLAFFS Christmas Brunch
6 8:30amAdult Bible Class **9:30amWorship with Holy Communion** 11:00amFellowship 12:30pmNew Ark	7 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	8 10:00amPastor Jon Hours	9 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	10 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** 6:30pmNew Ark 7:00pmAA	11 2:30pmFood Bank	12 **Event - Carlos**
13 8:30amAdult Bible Class **9:30amWorship with Holy Communion** 10:30amCongregational Meeting 11:00amChristmas Meal 12:30pmNew Ark	14 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	15 9:00amFood Bank Volunteer lunch 10:00amPastor Jon Hours	16 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	17 6:30pmNew Ark 7:00pmAA	18 2:30pmFood Bank	19 **Daycare Event - Carlos**
20 8:30amAdult Bible Class **9:30amWorship with Holy Communion** 11:00amFellowship 12:30pmNew Ark	21 **First Day of Winter** 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	22 10:00amPastor Jon Hours	23 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	24 **Christmas Eve** 6:30pmNew Ark 7:00pmAA 7:00pmChristmas Eve Worship	25 **Christmas Day** **FOOD BANK CLOSED**	26
27 8:30amAdult Bible Class **9:30amWorship with Holy Communion** 11:00amFellowship 12:30pmNew Ark	28 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	29 10:00amPastor Jon Hours	30 10:30amPortico Ministry 12:20pmFood Bank	31 6:30pmNew Ark 7:00pmAA	1 **FOOD BANK CLOSED** **New Year's Day**	2

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

December 2026



Deadline for submission of
January Newsletter items is:
December 10, 2026

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

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