

Dear LCOS Family,

You may be wondering why Lutheran Church of Our Saviour is beginning a stewardship program at this time. Everyone is feeling the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic both financially and socially. I would like to share with you the current status of our finances and the measures Council has taken to limit the financial stress on LCOS.

Thanks to the gracious contributions of our LCOS family, we ended 2019 with a \$9136 surplus, which was the best we have had in several years. For 2020, Council proposed, and the Congregation approved, a spending plan that was 4.2% higher than 2019. Most of the increase was for staff.

In January of 2020, we ended the month with a shortfall of \$4895. While at first this may seem alarming, we must be reminded that LCOS has been paying more than the required mortgage payment each month to pay the mortgage off early. The Council proposed, and the Congregation approved, paying the monthly difference in a lump sum at the beginning of the year. That amounted to a payment of \$1683. In January, we also paid a semi-annual insurance premium that was \$1422.

The financials for March, the most recent month we have, indicate a shortfall of \$3458 year to date. Removing the lump sum payments in January, the shortfall would be \$353. Overall, it will be some time until we know the full effects that COVID-19 will have on LCOS finances.

Council has undertaken several measures to strengthen our finances going forward. Our mortgage holder, Thrivent, has allowed us to pay only interest for three months beginning on May 1st. That will save us \$1400 per month. Several staff members have voluntarily offered to accept reduced compensation which will save another \$2500 per month. I am sure many of you have heard about the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Our Finance Committee applied for the forgivable loan with our bank, Bank of America. The money was exhausted quickly, the bank had several restrictions on the application that we had to overcome, and at this time, the application has not been approved pending additional funding by the government. We are reducing the utility expenses at the building because the Preschool is out of session, and Pastor and Kayleigh are working mostly from home. Janitorial services for the building are also needed less frequently.

The Finance Committee estimates that we could cover our expenses for April through June if our contributions do not dip below around 70% of normal. This stewardship campaign, Generosity Matters, seeks remind us that although we are facing personal, social, and financial difficulties, we need to maintain LCOS because one day soon, we will be able to meet our LCOS family again. We hope you will consider sharing with LCOS, because every bit of generosity matters.

Stay Healthy and God bless,

Paul Dugent
President, LCOS Congregational Council