

# Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

## March 2022 Newsletter

### Good Tidings in Times of Transition

There are obvious technical aspects to the time when a congregation is in transition: tasks must be completed that facilitate congregational discernment about its identity, its pastoral leadership needs, and its imagined future. Of course, careful and committed engagement with the process toward these ends is good and necessary work as it can allow the congregation the feeling of being grounded rather than being cast about by the winds of change. While this work is useful in managing an institution it also might lead us into other truths that we value as people of faith.

We name ourselves Christians and consent to a life of trusting God which is a different way of living in the world. Implicit and explicit in this way of life is the admission that we are not in control. God is. And the primary way we describe this lived experience of faith is with the terms, “dying and rising.” Our faith is not just trusting that “there is a God,” it is trusting that when our best laid plans for everything eventually fall apart, we are never in jeopardy of being beyond God’s capacity to make a new way out of what appears useless in our eyes. Dying and rising. A congregation is not a group of people in love with its own image and gathered around its own strength. A congregation is a group of people gathered around the resurrected Christ whose dying and rising is the source of its trust and its hope who are in turn invited to be the living expression of that trust and hope in the world. While sometimes bothersome, transitions can be necessary reminders of our most cherished truths and true sources of our identity: Jesus Christ is Lord.

In Christ, Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

### Gathered. Fed. Sent.

These are the words that have framed our understanding of what it means to be the faith community of Christ Our Savior. In this time of ministry exploration, we are given the gift to reflect on who we have been in the past, who we are at in this present moment, and how we feel the Spirit of God calling us into the future, leading us to the work of the gospel in this context.

I was chatting about this time of transition for our congregation with one of my mentors in faith (my mom), and she re-

mined me of a pearl of wisdom she has gained during her years of being in the church. “It is often the case,” she said, “that we spend a great deal of time and energy in the church making plans for the future and then asking God to bless those plans. When what’s really needed is for us to pay attention to what plans God has for us and then to do that.” Friends, I know that we have been in this wilderness season of disruption for well past what we have wanted to endure. I hear lots of folks giving their focus towards how we get back to what was normal a handful of years ago. While it is understandable that we would want to return to what is familiar, I invite us to give space and reflection to what is driving our energy. There is nothing wrong with desiring more people to find value in what you have found valuable, or in enjoying the experience of a full sanctuary praising God. But let us keep foremost in our mind the reasons we hold for *why* God gathers us in this place.

The mission of the church is not the church. God gathers us and feeds us in order that we might be *sent to serve*. We know the vital role that service to the needs of others plays in making us a church rather than a religious flavored country club. In this time where much is uncertain, and the future is unknown, let us step forward together with the confidence that comes from grounding ourselves in the promise of God’s presence. We might not know what the coming months and years will hold for the congregation of Christ Our Savior, but I’m confident if we keep our focus on Jesus and following him that we will be in good company. Let us go together, dear people, and see what God has in store.

Blessings,  
Pastor Joe Wilkinson

### COS Mission Statement

A Community Gathered in Christ, Fed by God’s  
Word, Sent to Serve...

### COS Fish Fry

**Friday, April 8th**

Save the date! We’re holding a Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. to benefit Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran Church. Cost is \$10/meal. Volunteers are needed for kitchen prep, set-up, ticket sales, serving, and clean-up. If you would like to help, please sign-up on our website under volunteer signups - COS Fish Fry. Or you can contact Chuck Liedtke at [chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com).



## Council Updates

### Call Process Update

As many of you know, a congregation's call process utilizes two significant features: 1) the formation of a Mission Exploration Team (MET for short) that leads the congregation in the self-study and learning necessary to generate a real understanding of its current context, needs, and giftedness and 2) the formation of a call committee that makes use of the MET's work to ground its task of screening and interviewing pastoral candidates. The COS church council is currently engaging the formation of its MET. Details on the group and the beginning of its work will be shared as soon as the information is available.



### Invitation to Serve During Worship!

Have you ever wondered how the altar is prepared for Communion? Or, how our homemade Communion bread is made? Have you ever felt God's spirit working in you as you've distributed Communion? Or, thought about how God can use you to share his Word as a Lector? Have you ever thought about stepping up to hand out bulletins or pass the offering plate? Or, wondered who counts your offering and takes them to the bank? If you have ever been even a little curious about any of these roles, I invite you to reach out to Amy to learn more about being a worship assistant. All adults, middle school, and high school youth are encouraged to participate. Serving during worship is a rewarding experience. You can find the sign-up on our website under volunteers or click [HERE](#). You can contact Amy Berken for more information at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



### Electronic Giving

Sunday morning church attendance isn't the primary way we live out our Christian faith. Direct deposit is one means of financial stewardship that ensures no matter what your schedule looks like, you are consistently supporting the ministries of our faith community. If your household is interested in signing up for direct deposit, fill out the green form on the welcome table.



### How To Increase DD Contributions?

Simple, just email Sandy in the office at [office@coslc.com](mailto:office@coslc.com) and let her know what you would like changed.

## Fellowship Time - Goodies

Sundays 9:00-11:30 a.m.

We've had a wonderful response from everyone with bringing goodies during our first two months of the year! If you haven't had the opportunity to bring a treat yet, we invite you to sign up on the clipboard on the goodie table or on our website under volunteers. These treats can be homemade, or store purchased, it's up to you. Bring your favorite treats such as muffins, breads, donuts, cupcakes, bars, cookies, brownies, etc. NO NUTS due to allergies! We ask that you bring 2 dozen/per person and have them here in time for our Sunday fellowship time which begins at 8:30 a.m. You can drop them off early on the table in our entryway Saturday night. Please label items "Fellowship Time" and we will set them out on the goodie table for you.

In addition, we are looking for 1-2 volunteers each week to set-up and clean-up the goodie table. Signup [HERE](#) to donate items or volunteer to help with fellowship time. If you have questions, contact Amy Berken at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com)



## Women's Inspirational Book Group

Begins Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

Come join us in March as we begin a new book study, *Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again* by Lysa Terkeurst. Our first meeting will be on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting time will be determined based on participants availability. We will meet twice a month for 6 sessions. During each session, we'll watch a short video and then share our thoughts using the discussion questions in the study guide. For more information or to join the book study, contact Amy at 414-975-1228 or email [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com)



## Thrivent Choice Dollars Contributions

If you have Thrivent products that are investment vehicles (not term life policies), they generate Thrivent Choice Dollars which you can designate to your church. It does not reduce the value of your holdings or cost you any money. All you need to do is log on to your Thrivent account, scroll down until you see Thrivent Choice Dollars. It will show you how much your products have earned. Click on the "direct" button. Christ Our Savior is already a designated recipient. If you have questions or difficulty, you can contact Paul Kwecien, a Thrivent Representative, at 262-271-4462.

Direct your  
Thrivent Choice  
Dollars  
Today!



# The Three “T”s of Stewardship

The recent announcements about the financial challenges facing our congregation may have left many of you feeling helpless or anxious. You may be asking: “What can I do to help?”

Fortunately, there is MUCH you can do to help. We are the body of Christ. We work miracles in His name. And just like Christ, we have the power to heal ourselves and others. God has already given us all the tools we need to put ourselves back on a sustainable path. All he asks in return are the three “T”s: Our **Time**, our **Talents** and our **Treasure**.

## Time

The Bible states that we should give one tenth of our earnings to God. Here at COS, our giving tradition has been “5 and 5”. We ask that you give 5% of your income and 5 hours of your time per week.

One of the best ways to reduce anxiety is to take action. There are many ways you can use your time to serve our mission. For example: Collecting and recycling aluminum cans or delivering boxes of food to Cross Lutheran or the SOS food pantry, or serving as a worship assistant by reading, ushering or counting offerings. Please consider volunteering your time by signing up at [www.coslc.com/ministries/](http://www.coslc.com/ministries/) or by contacting Amy Berken at [Amy@COSLC.com](mailto:Amy@COSLC.com).

## Talent

We share our talents in many ways. What gifts do you possess that can uniquely benefit the mission of our Church? Maybe you are good with children. Maybe you fix things. Maybe you cook or sew or play music. Maybe your gift is organization, or leadership. Maybe you’re good at bookkeeping.

Your Church needs people with all these skills and many more. At this moment, we are especially in need of people to serve on committees for Stewardship, and Evangelism. We need volunteers to serve on Church Council and the Mission Exploration Team. If you have talents that can serve our mission, please reach out to the Church Council at [Council@COSLC.com](mailto:Council@COSLC.com)

## Treasure

The past 2 years have been difficult for all of us. This congregation has not kept up with our existing financial commitments; much less addressed the rising costs that we all have experienced because of Covid-19. To help you assess your giving as a percent of income, please see the chart below. Please note that if you are a current direct deposit giver you can increase your monthly or twice-monthly amount by simply sending an email to Sandy at [Office@COSLC.com](mailto:Office@COSLC.com) or calling the church office at 262-246-6537. The following chart is a guideline that shows different amounts of offerings based on differing annual incomes.

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Percentage of Monthly or Weekly Income													
		10%		8%		6%		5%		4%		3%		2%	
		Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly
\$46,800	\$900	\$390	\$90	\$312	\$72	\$234	\$54	<b>\$195</b>	<b>\$45</b>	\$156	\$36	\$117	\$27	\$78	\$18
\$52,000	\$1,000	\$433	\$100	\$347	\$80	\$260	\$60	<b>\$217</b>	<b>\$50</b>	\$173	\$40	\$130	\$30	\$87	\$20
\$65,000	\$1,250	\$542	\$125	\$433	\$100	\$325	\$75	<b>\$271</b>	<b>\$63</b>	\$217	\$50	\$163	\$38	\$108	\$25
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$667	\$154	\$533	\$123	\$400	\$92	<b>\$333</b>	<b>\$77</b>	\$267	\$62	\$200	\$46	\$133	\$31
\$95,000	\$1,827	\$792	\$183	\$633	\$146	\$475	\$110	<b>\$396</b>	<b>\$91</b>	\$317	\$73	\$238	\$55	\$158	\$37
\$110,000	\$2,115	\$917	\$212	\$733	\$169	\$550	\$127	<b>\$458</b>	<b>\$106</b>	\$367	\$85	\$275	\$63	\$183	\$42
\$125,000	\$2,404	\$1,042	\$240	\$833	\$192	\$625	\$144	<b>\$521</b>	<b>\$120</b>	\$417	\$96	\$313	\$72	\$208	\$48
\$145,000	\$2,788	\$1,208	\$279	\$967	\$223	\$725	\$167	<b>\$604</b>	<b>\$139</b>	\$483	\$112	\$363	\$84	\$242	\$56
\$165,000	\$3,173	\$1,375	\$317	\$1,100	\$254	\$825	\$190	<b>\$688</b>	<b>\$159</b>	\$550	\$127	\$413	\$95	\$275	\$63
\$185,000	\$3,558	\$1,542	\$356	\$1,233	\$285	\$925	\$213	<b>\$771</b>	<b>\$178</b>	\$617	\$142	\$463	\$107	\$308	\$71

Your church’s mission of Being Gathered in Christ, Fed by God’s Word, and Sent to Serve, and day-to-day ministry depends on your generous support!

Thank You,

The COS Stewardship Team [Stewardship@COSLC.com](mailto:Stewardship@COSLC.com)

## Youth & Family Ministry

### Hephatha Lunch

**Sunday, March 6**

On Sunday, March 6th we will be serving lunch to the Sunday school children and families at Hephatha Lutheran Church. Contact Kim Lewin at [kim@coslc.com](mailto:kim@coslc.com).



### First Communion For 3rd-5th Grade

New this year, anyone who is in 3rd grade – 5th Grade can sign up to participate in our First Communion workshop on Sunday, April 3, from 10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please Register at <https://www.coslc.com/first-communion/> the cost is \$20 per child.

This workshop is for both the parent and child. Childcare is provided for younger siblings. Please contact Kim Lewin for more information or questions. [kim@coslc.com](mailto:kim@coslc.com).



### Save The Date

Easter Egg-Travaganza Sunday, April 10th, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service we will gather for an Easter egg hunt, lunch, and other fun activities.



### Youth Scholarships

This summer the youth of Christ Our Savior's will be going on two mission trips. The first one will be held June 26 through the 29th that is actually a local mission trip with a youthful view living at COSLC. We will be working with local mission partners. The second trip for the July 17 through the 22nd middle school and high school youth will be traveling to Chicago, Illinois. If you are interested in helping cover expenses for adult leaders or our youth, please put your donation in the blue envelope located in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.



### Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

Thank you everyone who participated in this year's Super Bowl of caring! Because you were generous we exceeded our goal of \$500 and collected \$663 to go directly to SOS food pantry!



## Milwaukee Refugee Donations

My name is Sophia Gordon. I am a high school senior and member of Christ Our Savior. For the National Honor Society I have chosen to participate with the SEA Literacy Program and the Hanan Refugee Relief Group to help refugee families living in the Milwaukee area. The SEA Literacy program provides students with English language development, homework assistance, as well as helping them develop social skills.

Many of the families that these organizations help, fled their country urgently in hopes for a better life and came with little to nothing. The homes they are now living in are poorly equipped without many daily household items. We have decided to collect donations to be given to these families.

We will be collecting donations now through March 20th using physical donation boxes as well as through an Amazon Wishlist. The Wishlist donations will be sent and collected at Bethlehem Lutheran Church to be brought down to the families. One of the donation boxes will be set up at Christ Our Savior starting Sunday 2/20. Below is a list of items needed.

- Rug
- Bedsheets
- Towels
- Microwave
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Socks (Different sizes, male and female)
- NEW eating utensils
- NEW bowls
- Pots/Pans
- Clothing (Different sizes, male and female)

Here is the link to the Amazon Wishlist:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/J4A1DTKXZL7Q?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/J4A1DTKXZL7Q?ref=wl_share)

Here is the link to the project website:

<https://www.ensuring-success.com>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [smgordon04@icloud.com](mailto:smgordon04@icloud.com) or call 262-388-7437.

Thank you for your help.



## Outreach Ministries

### Community Banquet

Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> (setup & desserts)

Thank you to all of the cooks in the kitchen who helped last month with our cooking role at Community Banquet! This month, we've been assigned the role of setup and dessert on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with setup, reach out to Diane Otto at dotto@wi.rr.com or 262-691-3778. You can also sign up on our outreach board. We will meet at St James at 3:45 p.m. The meal takes place at 5:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend, but would like to bake, simple desserts such as cookies and bars could be dropped off in advance at COS in the entryway by 3:30 p.m. on Thursday. Please label the desserts as Community Banquet. As always, thank you for your help!



### Pine Ridge Indian Reservation – Elder Meal Site Kitchen Items

We will continue collecting kitchen items for PRIR 10 Elder Meal Sites during the month of March. They prefer NEW items, but some items can be used if in top notch condition. Items needed include cookie pans, cake pans, flat pans, muffin pans, big mixing bowls-aluminum, medium and smaller mixing bowls-aluminum, dish towels, dish cloths, and scrubbers for doing dishes. Place donated items in the bin labeled for PRIR in the entryway. If you have any questions, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



### Designated Gift to Youth Position

Meeting the needs of COS's financial challenge has required the church council to carefully consider all possible options. The degree of action needed has required the unwelcome decision that effective March 1, 2022 the positions of Associate Pastor, Director of Youth Education and Ministry, Director of Outreach and Adult Discipleship, and Office Manager will be reduced to half time.

Since this information was first shared, a member of the congregation has stepped forward and pledged funding to raise the Director of Youth and Education position to 75% for a period of 12 months beginning in March. The church council has accepted this generous gift and is grateful for the financial support of the congregation and its members that allows the mission of the church - *Gathered in Christ, Fed by God's Word, and Sent to Serve* - to occur even in these stressful times.

### Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

During Lent, we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly to feed hungry kids in our community. This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can start bringing in your items and place them in the windows in our sanctuary. Instead of giving up something for Lent, think about giving to others during this season!



### Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

The last two months we've been unable to serve at BOH due to high covid numbers. Hopefully, the numbers come down enough, so we can provide members in the community with a healthy to-go meal. Our next BOH meal is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Typically, our BOH team meets at church on Wednesday morning to make, prepare, and assemble the bags. If you would like to become involved in this meal ministry to feed the hungry in Milwaukee, contact Larry & Edie Schaffner at elschaffner02@live.com or Chuck Liedtke at [chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com).



### Serenity Inns

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or sign up on the outreach ministry board. The men so appreciate the meal and the time you dedicate praying for them and supporting them on their road to recovery.



### Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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