

# Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

## April 2022 Newsletter

### Good Tidings in Times of Transition

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. These sentences are typically spoken as part of the eucharistic prayer in the communion liturgy as a way of drawing those hearing the declaration that they as the body of Christ are now an expression of that very same mystery. There's a lot to recommend "the mystery of faith" as a sacred phrase for congregations finding their way through transition time, but maybe the most significant reason to recommend it is because of how it allows an understanding of vulnerability as a virtue in the faithful life.

"The cross" depicts God at God's most vulnerable. It is the scene by which we come to understand that not even death is able to disrupt God's love for God's people. In the death of Christ, God becomes something unsightly in order to turn it into the ultimate demonstration of God's capacity to grant new life. God's vulnerability is God's willingness to do a very human thing: die. Vulnerability is the pathway by which we have access to new realities that we have scarcely imagined. Going through pastoral transition in church life is a very vulnerable time, but this time can be a gift rather than a chore. In being open to the transition experience, what might arise that's not been previously dreamed of as being important in the life of COS or as a way forward in mission for the sake of God in the community of Sussex?

God bless you all in your work, your prayer, your worship, and in your discernment. A COS sized mission exists in this world – how do you hear God calling you forward to live into it?

In Christ,  
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

### COS Fish Fry

**Friday, April 8th**

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 sign-ups - COS Fish Fry. Or, you can contact Chuck Liedtke at [chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com).



### From the Pastor...

It's April, which means two things: 1) that we are coming to the close of our Lenten journey and approaching Holy Week; and 2) that our Mission Exploration Team is starting their work of being in conversation with the congregation to understand who we have been as a community, who we are currently, and where we feel God leading us in the work of the gospel. Given the approach of our remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and also our community's efforts to identify the mission God has before us, I think it is important to recall that the gospel of Jesus Christ has always had people who have opposed its unfolding.

Said another way, there have always been people who would prefer to prioritize their own pride, comfort, or fear, rather than align their hearts and actions with God's ways of compassionate care of neighbor and solidarity with the most vulnerable. As Lutherans, we acknowledge that this is true for every person to some degree or another – each of us both saint and sinner. And yet, as our gospel accounts remind us, there are some folks in this world who are so determined to get their way rather than God's way that they are willing for others to die if it means keeping the status quo as it is.

As Christians, Jesus bids us to take up our crosses – those symbols of rebellion against the ways of the Empire – and follow him. Jesus invites us to live as members of the kingdom of God, bringing transformation to our own lives, as well as the communities we live in. In the time that I have journeyed together with all of you, I have seen how our congregation feels the calling of the gospel to respond to the needs of hungry neighbors, through supporting our local Sussex Outreach Services, to packing meals for Worldwide Hunger Relief, and through serving meals with a variety of local ministries.

While I imagine that feeding hungry people will continue to be a defining trait of our common call to the ministry of Jesus' gospel, I'm watching with anticipation to see what additional urging the Holy Spirit has ignited in our congregation. How might God be stirring us to be a continued source of transformation in the world – both through caring for the needs of others caused by the brokenness of our world, but also in ways that would work to repair the brokenness and create a fuller expression of the communities of mutual solidarity and care?

While changing the world can feel like a huge task, such is the calling that God puts before us. There's a quote by Ursula K Le Guin where she names that there was a time when the divine right of kings seemed inescapable – until it wasn't. God is calling us to proclaim in faith that our Creator has indeed made a world where all people can experience the abundant fullness of life. Dear people, I look forward to discerning together our shared sense of call for how God is unfolding this work of restoration through us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Joe Wilkinson

## Council Updates

### Call Process Update

The formation of COS's Mission Exploration Team is underway. Potential committee members are being engaged about their willingness to participate by the church council and the group will be formed shortly. The Mission Exploration Team is responsible for assisting the congregation in its self-study during the call process so that a complete understanding of the history of COS, it's current reality, and future hopes are well defined. This work can help with COS's self-understanding as well as clarifying what gifts will be most important in pastoral candidates.



### 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 offerings 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.**

If you haven't had the opportunity to bring a treat yet, we invite you to do so. 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. 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

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 4th at 3:30 p.m. in the church lounge. We will be watching the Session 3 video and discussing the corresponding study questions. Our discussion will cover chapters 5-7 in the book, *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. For more information about the book study, contact Amy at 414-975-1228 or email [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



## JOY (Just Older Youth) 55 & Older Adult Ministry

**Sunday, May 1st**

On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, we'll be seeing the 2:00 p.m. performance of *The Music Man* by the Falls Patio Players. We'll be meeting at the North Middle School Auditorium in Menomonee Falls. Carpooling available upon request. Tickets will be purchased in advance. Seniors Tickets are \$15. Reserve your spot by signing up on the Adult Discipleship Board [by Sunday, April 10th](#). Contact Amy with any questions at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



## Youth & Family Ministry

### 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).



### Egg-Stravaganza

**Palm Sunday is Egg-Stravaganza Sunday, April 10th**

Bring the whole family. Invite families and friends from your neighborhood and join us at 11:00 a.m.

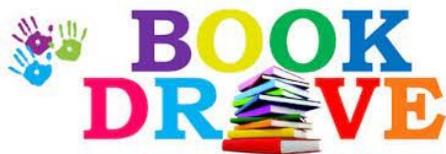
Please contact Kim Lewin for more information or questions. [kim@coslc.com](mailto:kim@coslc.com).



### Book Drive

**March 20-April 3**

Confirmation students are holding their annual book drive for Children's Hospital. If you have any gently used or new books for children from birth through 18, please drop them off in the narthex in the bin marked "Book Drive". You may also leave them in a box, or a bag marked book Drive in the bucket underneath the SOS food table. For questions please contact Kim Lewin at [kim@coslc.com](mailto:kim@coslc.com).

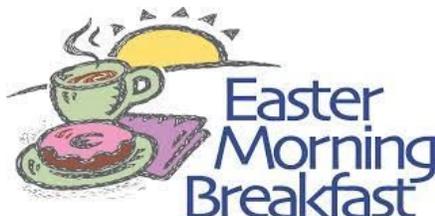


### Easter Breakfast

**Sunday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

The youth of Christ Our Savior will be making and serving Easter breakfast this year! Come out and support our young people and their summer mission projects. We will have pancakes with a pancake topping bar, sausage, fruit, baked goods, orange juice, milk and coffee.

A free will donation will be collected. All proceeds go towards the youth summer mission trip, summer service projects and some fellowship events.



## T.A.C.O.S.

Middle School TACOS is still going strong weekly on Wednesdays afterschool until 5:00 p.m.. If you have middle schoolers in grade 6-8 and are interested in connecting with a super fun afterschool program, c'mon over on a Wednesday and try it out!

TACOS will be joining the Sussex Green Team on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. for their annual cleaning of the Bugline Trail. Anyone who wishes to join us can meet outside Loca Latte before starting time at 1:00 p.m. If you and your family are interested in helping, please let Wade know through an email to [tacos@coslc.com](mailto:tacos@coslc.com).

We also have our annual CCOS Youth Mission Day this month on April 30<sup>th</sup>! Like last year, this year's workday will stay within the trailer park across from St. James, and work projects will run from 9am-1pm. We ask that all volunteers arrive at St. James at 8:00 a.m. sharp! If you would like to register for CCOS Youth Mission, you can visit the church website, [www.coslc.com/ccos-youth-mission-day](http://www.coslc.com/ccos-youth-mission-day), and scroll down to the "Register Here" button!



### Milwaukee Mission Trip

**There is Room For You**

This summer we are holding our **First Ever Local Mission Trip!** We will be working with our mission partners and staying at Christ Our Savior. The dates for the trip will be June 26-29. Cost for that trip is \$175. Friends are welcome. [Register here.](#)



Tentative Schedule

Sunday, June 26 Arrive 6:00 p.m.  
dinner, games, outdoor movie, opening worship

Monday, June 27 Day of service,  
Hartford Waterpark, Worship

Tuesday, June 28 Day of Service,  
Lake Country DockHounds baseball game, Worship

Wednesday, June 29 Day of Service,  
Closing worship and cookout with family and mission partners



## Outreach Ministries

### Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

Keep bringing PB&J during Lent! There are only a couple of weeks until Easter, so grab a few extra jars of peanut butter and jelly when you are out shopping to bring to church. The peanut butter and jelly will be donated to our SOS Food Pantry to feed hungry families in our community.



### Bread of Healing Meal

**Wednesday, April 13th**

In March, we delivered an entire truck bed full of to-go meals to Cross Lutheran Church, which was absolutely fantastic! This month, we're planning on doing it again on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you missed out helping last month, and would like to help this month, join us in the COS kitchen on Tuesday evening at 6pm and Wednesday morning at 9am as we prepare, make, and assemble the to-go meals. If you would like more information, contact Larry & Edie Schaffner at [elschaffner02@live.com](mailto:elschaffner02@live.com) or Chuck Liedtke at [chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com).



### Serenity Inns

**Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. This month, one of our confirmation small groups is providing the meal. If you would like to help with an upcoming meal, please contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or sign up on the outreach ministry board.



## Community Banquet

**Thursday, April 28th (clean up)**

This month, we've been assigned the role of clean up on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The meal takes place at 5:30 p.m. We will begin clearing tables at 6:10 p.m. If you are available to help with clean up after the meal, reach out to Diane Otto at [dotto@wi.rr.com](mailto:dotto@wi.rr.com) or 262-691-3778. You can also sign up on our outreach ministry board. As always, thank you for your help!



### Hygiene Items for Bread of Healing Clinic

Imagine going a week without washing your hair, brushing your teeth, shaving, or wearing deodorant. These simple daily tasks we often take for granted. However, this is not true for people who live in poverty or who are homeless.

Beginning in April, we'll be collecting hygiene items for men and women including full-size shampoo, toothbrushes, full-size toothpaste, soap, razors, and deodorant. Please place the hygiene items in the bins in the narthex. These items will be donated to the Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church. If you would like to help assemble hygiene bags reach out to Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



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