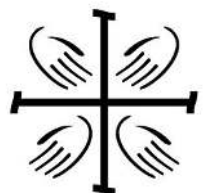


Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church



Mission Statement
A Community Gathered in
Christ, Fed by God's Word,
Sent to Serve...



December 2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
2 Worship Times 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am 6:00 pm 11:30 am Christmas Church Decorating 11:30 am KONTS 5:00 pm Light Meal 6:35 pm SS/Confirmation 6:35 pm Adult Learning 6:35 pm Coffee House	3 6:00 pm Women's Inspirational Book Group	4 10:30 am JOY Event	5 9:00 am COS Quilters 11:15 am Advent Worship at Gloria Dei 1:00 pm Wed. Book Grp 2:30 pm Middle School TACOS 5:30 pm AA Meeting Band Practice Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Advent Worship at COS	6 2:30 pm High School TACOS	7 7:00 pm MS White Elephant Party	1 8 10:30 am COS Book Club
9 Worship Times 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am 6:00 pm Giving Tree Deadline SOS Coat Drive Ends 5:00 pm Light Meal 6:35 pm SS/Confirmation 6:35 pm Adult Learning 6:35 pm Coffee House	10 5:00 pm COS Food Pantry Shift	11 7:00 pm Serendipity Bible Study	12 9:00 am Bread of Healing 9:00 am COS Quilters 11:15 am Advent Worship at Gloria Dei 1:00 pm Wed. Book Grp 2:30 pm Middle School TACOS 5:30 pm AA Meeting Band Practice Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Advent Worship at COS	13 2:30 pm High School TACOS 5:00 pm Comm Banquet 5:30 pm Table of Many	14 6:00 pm birthday Party for Jesus	15
16 Worship Times 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am 6:00 pm SS Program 10:30 am Congregational Annual Meeting 11:30 am KNOTS 5:00 pm Light Meal 6:35 pm SS/Confirmation 6:35 pm Adult Learning 6:35 pm Coffee House	17 6:00 pm Women's Inspirational Book Group	18 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 6:00 pm Serenity Inn Meal	19 9:00 am COS Quilters 11:15 am Advent Worship at Gloria Dei 1:00 pm Wed. Book Grp 2:30 pm Middle School TACOS 5:30 pm AA Meeting Band Practice Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Advent Worship at COS	20 2:30 pm High School TACOS	21	22
23 Worship Times 10:00 am & 6:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 10:00am, 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm 6:30 pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 10:00 am Worship Ser- vice	26	27	28	29
30 Worship Times 10:00 am & 6:00 pm	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed	1 New Year's Day Office Closed				

From the Pastors

We are the church, and we are the church, and we are the church, and we are the church

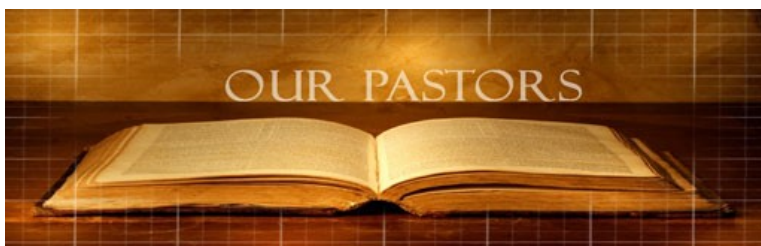
This November, I had the opportunity to attend the First Call Theological Education Annual Fall Conference for the Six Synods of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. This four day event took place at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI, and it was a great opportunity to come together with colleagues from around the area who were also serving in the first three years of their first call.

One of the themes which suffused our time together was the reminder that we are indeed, church together. Our church is Christ Our Savior, Sussex, WI. But our church is also the Greater Milwaukee Synod. And our church is also the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Sometimes in the busy day to day of everything we have going on in the life of our congregation, we can lose sight of our connection to the broader church we are a part of. But it is through our connection and participation in our church on the synod level, and the churchwide level, that allows the reach of our congregation to do so much more than we would on our own.

I take great delight in the way that our congregation lives out these broader connections as just part of who we are as a community of faith. It isn't uncommon for us to share stories about ministries or relationships that span across our community, working with our fellow ELCA congregations at Gloria Dei, Martin Luther, Redemption, or Galilee Lutheran. Going beyond even our connections to ELCA synod and churchwide levels, we also live out our understanding that God's view of the church here on earth extends beyond denominational boundaries by our engagement with the Cooperating Churches of Sussex.

No matter how you are plugged into and connected with Christ Our Savior, whether it is coming regularly on Sunday mornings or evenings, or financially supporting the ministry, or getting involved with the regular service and community events taking place – you are participating in a movement that is bigger than you may have realized. As we go about our days seeking to follow God's guidance and reveal God's love in this world, know that we are in this together.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe



Jesus or Santa?

Santa has been on the loose for a couple months already! He was sighted at Mayfair in October! Santa of course is not responsible for what the world has done to Christmas. Santa is just the poster boy for overconsumption, consumerism, and increasing levels of entitlement. Santa is loose, and in the noise and commotion of his parade Jesus gets lost.

It almost feels as if there are two different things going on at once. In the world around us where we live, there is the frantic push to buy presents, decorate, have all the parties for family and friends; all driven by the marketplace with their non-stop ads. And there is the event behind it all, the birth of Christ – God coming to us in Jesus. While the secular observation of Christmas has its roots in celebrations of Jesus' birth, these days the two could not seem further apart.

While part of us might be tempted to rail at the secular version, or to assume we need to choose between the two, let me suggest a different approach. What if it is both/and?

There are few ways we can truly separate ourselves from the secular observance of Christmas. And truth to tell, a lot of those observances are nice. I enjoy getting nice things for my wife and daughters and seeing their joy when they open their gifts. I like the family gatherings and the food (especially the cookies). Those things are fun.

What I NEED however, is to be reminded of God's promise, God's love and God's choice to come live with us in Jesus. I NEED to be reminded of God's power to forgive me, to redeem me, and set me free to live in joy without worry or fear.

If we live with an either/or mentality, then we end up making a false choice between the two. Frequently, the choice that is right in front of our faces with its immediate gratification wins out. In this case, that would be the secular observance of Christmas. Left to themselves, that is what our children will choose.

If we live with a both/and mentality, we get to enjoy the more superficial secular aspect of Christmas while we also get to retain the real one ourselves. We may not convince the world that our story is the one that matters, but at least we will not lose story for the superficial one that ends on Dec. 26th.

For us, it becomes something like an inside joke, much like Luke's Christmas story. While the rest of the world is focused on things they think are so meaningful and important in the moment, we get to see, remember, and hear the thing that really matters – that God has come to us in Christ, we are set free, we are forgiven, and redeemed. That is God's gift for us. It lasts more than a day. It carries us through our whole lives and into the next.

Open God's gift for you, the Gift of Jesus. Use this gift well – rely on Jesus for forgiveness, understanding, fresh starts, do-overs, and freedom from fear. May this Christmas bring you new joy, new hope, and new freedom that lasts beyond the day and the season.

Merry Christmas
Pastor Tom Kent

Worship Opportunities

Wednesday Evening Advent Worship

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

We worship Wednesday evenings in Advent at 6:30 p.m. using the Holden Village setting. Our focus for these four weeks is "Making Room". We will explore ways to make room in our busy and packed lives so we can receive God's gift to us in Jesus. Make time to get away from the busy-ness and commercialism of the season as we prepare ourselves to regain what Christmas is all about.



Daytime Midweek

Advent Worship at Gloria Dei

Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m.

Our sister congregation, Gloria Dei Lutheran will be holding Wednesday Advent worship services at 11:15 a.m. followed by a light lunch. This is a great opportunity if you don't want to drive after dark, and to get to know some of our sisters and brothers at Gloria Dei. Gloria Dei is located on Town Hall Road just south of the hospital in Menomonee Falls.



Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m., 3:30, 5:00, 6:30 p.m.

(6:30 p.m. - candlelight service)

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

Additional worship changes include:

December 23rd and 30th we will worship at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

All Sunday worship services include Holy Communion.

Sunday, December 23rd at 6:00 p.m. is our pre-Christmas Eve Worship Service. If you will be gone visiting or just away on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, join us for an early Christmas Eve themed worship service at 6:00 p.m. The worship service will run about 30 minutes.

Sunday, December 30th we will take Christmas Hymns by request.

Please note: There will be NO meal before worship or Sunday School or Confirmation on December 23rd and 30th only.



Sunday Morning Worship

Time Change Starts in January

Starting Sunday, January 6th, Sunday morning worship services will be at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. The early service will continue to be traditional and the 10:00 a.m. worship service will be contemporary. We also worship Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. led by Heather Uzowulu on guitar. Sunday School will be held during the 10:00 a.m. worship service and following the 6:00 p.m. worship service from 6:35 to 7:15 p.m. Confirmation instruction and Adult Learning is also held at 6:35 p.m. A healthy meal is available at 5:00 p.m. for those who desire. There are usually 50-70 people joining us for dinner. Holy Communion will be celebrated at all Sunday worship services.

Over the past few years we have seen a drop in Sunday morning worship attendance, not only in our church, but across the whole nation. In our church, the biggest factor was the increasing number of kids' sports and club competitions and other events on Sunday mornings. As a result, we have begun a Sunday evening worship service that routinely has over 100 people in worship.

We wanted to study worship patterns over the fall before making any changes to the Sunday morning schedule. After four months we are seeing that the later two morning worship services could now fit in the sanctuary seating at the same time.

If Sunday morning worship attendance rises again, we can easily move back to three worship services. At this point however, it seems to fit the needs of our members to have two worship services in the morning and one on Sunday evening.



Lay Worship Leaders

Like many other ELCA congregations have done for a long time, we are starting to add members in the role of leading part of the liturgy in worship in some of our worship services. If you want to consider taking on this role, please get in touch with Amy or one of the pastors. You don't need to be a seminary student or on our church staff.



Memorials

Memorial Fund

Christ Our Savior's Memorial Fund keeps track of financial gifts given to honor the memory of a departed loved one. Memorial gifts are not limited to memorials given in conjunction with a funeral or memorial service. Memorial gifts often recognize departed loved ones at any appropriate time of the year.



Celebratory gifts may also be given to honor a significant family event such as a birthday, anniversary, graduation, confirmation, or similar milestone. Memorial or celebratory financial gifts may be specified for purposes such as listed below.

Memorial Fund

Memorial gifts received without specifying a particular purpose may be deposited into the Christ Our Savior Memorial Fund, established within the ELCA managed Mission Investment Fund. Such invested funds have historically been intended for use for special congregational needs, not possible in the annual general fund budget. Transfer of memorial receipts to the ELCA fund is the responsibility of the COS Treasurer. Withdrawals from this fund is overseen by the lay members of the COS Memorials Team. Requests for grants from the fund are submitted to the Team from COS staff. The Team reviews any requests to determine if will be an appropriate use of memorial fund resources.

Some examples of approved fund grants in recent years include a new computer system, informational way-finding signs, and front entrance benches.

Christian Youth Activity Support

In addition to using memorial funds for capital purchases, a popular designation for Memorials is the support of Christian Youth activity. This use is specifically identified as the Sandra Johnson Youth Fund. This fund is a special category within the Memorial Fund record keeping. Annual grants from this fund category are given to support youth participation in Christian youth experiences. In 2017, the Memorial team authorized scholarships from the Sandra Johnson Memorial Youth Fund to assist youth attendance at Lutherdale Bible Camp and the summer mission trips.



Memorials For Immediate Use

Memorials given for specific immediate needs, such as outreach, are not reviewed by the Memorials Team. These gifts are not transferred to the Memorial Fund account. These gifts are deposited into the COS General Fund for prompt use for these designated purposes.

Memorial Gifts Last Month

In Memory of Everly Rae Nagel-Bronikowski
From Dean Nagel

Other Forms Of Memorial Giving

Purchase of worship needs for a specific Sunday. These include such needs as altar flowers or an eternal candle. Sign-up sheets and pre-printed giving envelopes are available for these purposes on the narthex wall by the Busy Bags. These memorials are supportive of weekly worship, and will be acknowledged in Sunday announcements.

How Do I Submit My Memorial Or Celebratory Gift?

Gifts may be placed in the Sunday service offering plate or handed in to the church office. Please submit in an envelope with a note to identify it as a memorial/celebratory gift, and who is being remembered. Please also indicate if the gift is to be designated for one of the above noted special purposes.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 16th

Our congregation's annual meeting will be held following all four worship services on Sunday, December 16th. At this meeting we will vote on a proposed budget for 2018 and elect members to our church council. In preparation for the annual meeting, copies of the budget and annual reports will be available the two weeks prior.

Support Your Church

End of Year Offerings/Contributions

Your offerings are a way that you get to carry God's Word into the world, even if you are not physically present. Your offerings are at work when you help provide a place for study, for over 50 confirmation students to grow in knowledge of God and in faith, a place for quilters to gather, a place for us to worship, and where we work out of.

End of the year contributions also offer the benefit of tax deductible charitable giving. Remember, the needs of your church as you come toward the end of this year. You will be receiving more information in the mail early this month.



Gifts of Stocks and Other Securities

You may also support God's work through your church with gifts of stocks or bonds. All you need to do is contact the local Edward Jones office at 262.246.8956 and they will walk you through the rest.

How it Works

When you give a gift of stocks, you receive the full market value of that stock's average price on the day it was traded, regardless of what your cost basis is. For example, if you bought a stock at \$10 a share and it is now trading at \$20, your donation credit is the current price of \$20. (Do NOT use this method if you want to declare a loss on a stock whose value went down). If you do choose this option, please let our church office know so we can look for the trade verification and credit your contribution statement..



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 Kwiecien, a Thrivent Representative at 262-271-4462.



Thrivent \$\$ to Benefit COS Ministries

This fall we've had three people apply for the Thrivent Action Team! Two for quilting supplies and another one for the Birthday Party for Jesus. If you are a Thrivent policy holder of any amount, you can do this, too!!!

Every application receives a \$250 gift card that allows the church to cover some of the startup costs of projects, events, or ministries at Christ Our Savior including youth ministries, food ministries, fish fry fundraisers, S.O.S food/item drives just to name a few...

Thrivent Action Team gift cards are needed for these coming up January ministries:

- Guest House Sandwich Making
- Mac-N-More
- Bread of Healing

It doesn't cost you a dime, takes about 15 minutes of your time, and is a great way to support the work of your church. If you want to learn more or would like to fill out a Thrivent Action Team application for a January ministry, please contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Get Involved

JOY (Just Older Youth)

55 & Older Adults

Tuesday, December 4th Christkindl Market

On Tuesday, December 4th we'll be meeting at Christ Our Savior at 10:30 a.m. to carpool to the Christkindl Market at the Fiserv Forum. Celebrating its first year in Milwaukee, the Christkindl Market offers an authentic German holiday experience complete with delicious food, beverages, collectibles, gifts and more. This outdoor market has free admission. Parking, food, and gifts are at your own expense. If you have any questions about this event, please contact one of the JOY Coordinators: Mary Fix at 47mbfix@gmail.com or Pat Sciortino at jptino@wi.rr.com



Decorating for Advent & Christmas

Sunday, December 2nd

We will be decorating the sanctuary for the season of Advent and Christmas on Sunday, December 2nd starting at 11:30 a.m. We need a bunch of helpers to transform our sanctuary into a warm, welcoming place of peace, joy, and love as we prepare for the birth of Christ! Everyone in the congregation is welcome to join in! For more information contact Chris Liedtke at cliedtke10@gmail.com.



Couples Retreat

February 8-10

Save the date! Enjoy a weekend getaway with your partner. No cooking, wonderful company, quality time, relaxation, and more! Couples Retreat will be held at Crossways Camping Ministries-Pine Lake Camp on February 8-10, 2019. Cost is \$275/couple (housing in Evergreen Lodge). Registration deadline: January 25th. Program details are still in the works and a specific program flyer with the retreat schedule will be available soon.



PINE LAKE
CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRIES

KNOTS

Sunday, December 2nd and 16th

We'll be meeting on Sunday mornings, (twice a month) after the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the fellowship hall. Bring a project you are working on or come to learn how to knit or crochet! We have supplies for you to give it a try.

For more information, contact: Lisa Riemer at 414-510-1862 or lisariemer@yahoo.com.

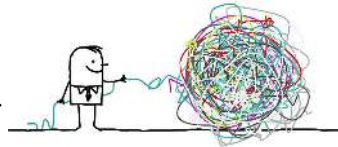


Table of Many

Thursday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m.

We will meet at: Sawmill Inn (262-628-4128) 1729 Wolf Road Richfield, WI Contact Lois Schalow at 262-345-5027 or louichal45@gmail.com with any questions.



Welcome New Members

On Sunday, November 11th, we were blessed to have received new members into our congregation. Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to Christ Our Savior. Their pictures are posted on the New Member Board.

Tim & Pam Tews with Natalie
Sue & Paul Markwald
Jaime Dimas
James & JoAnn Leary
Kim Mabini with Jade,
Maliya and Frankie
Tom & Barb Goble
Kim Nejedlo with Carter and Kendall



Serenity Inn

Tuesday, December 18th

Our next service date is Tuesday, December 18th. Kris Pena will be leading the meal. We are looking for a few people to serve the meal with her. If you are unable to attend, but would like to help, we could use a lettuce salad and a dessert.



Typical evening: leave COS at 5pm, eat around 6pm, and return by 7:30 p.m. There are approximately 15 residents, plus volunteers, who depend on us for a meal this evening. Help support them in their recovery!

Contact: Kris Pena kkjpena20688@gmail.com.

SS Christmas Program

Sunday, December 16, 10:30 a.m. Only
Sunday School Christmas Program "JOY" will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, December 16th at the 10:30 a.m. service only. Rehearsals have started if you would like a part please contact Kim at kim@coslc.com.

Families are asked to bring a treat to share!

VBS - Save the Date!

VBS at Christ Our Savior will be July 8-11, 2019. For more information and registration check out website under "Learn and Grow". Or click [here](#).



Lutherdale Bible Camp

August 4-9, 2019

Students who have completed 4th-12th grade are invited to attend Lutherdale Bible Camp August 4th-9th, 2019. When you register, say that you belong to COS and that you would like your child in the same cabin as other COS youth. For registration check our website under "Learn and Grow" or click [here](#).



Summer Mission Trips

The cost for the Middle School and/or High School Mission Trip is \$325. The first of 3 non refundable payments of \$125 is due January 1st. The other payments of \$100 each are due on March 1st and May 1st.

8th grade students can choose between the Middle school or the high school trip.

High school Mission Trip
St. Louis, MO is June 15-21, 2019

Middle School Mission Trip
Minneapolis, MN is July 13-19, 2019

As in the past we will need two men and 1-2 women to help lead each trip. If you are interested in going along please know that there is no cost for leaders.

If you are interested in attending one of these mission trips and missed the informational meeting, please email Kim at kim@coslc.com.

Full and partial scholarship are available. Please let Kim know if you would like to apply. Everyone who wants to go will be able to go!



The Nursery will NOT be staffed Christmas Eve or Christmas Morning but

Birthday Party for Jesus!

Friday, December 14th

Friday, December 14th will be our annual Birthday Party for Jesus from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall! Join us as we prepare our hearts for the season of advent and the birth of our Savior on Christmas!



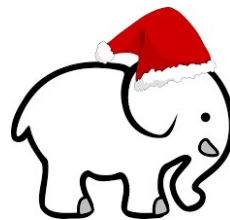
We will hear a Christmas story, have pizza, hot cocoa, cookie decorating, crafts, games, and activities. We'll end the night with birthday cake and ice cream! Birthday presents for Jesus will be donated to the SOS Food Pantry and Hephatha Church-Strong Baby Sanctuary. Suggested gifts: Diapers, wipes, baby shampoo/wash, baby lotion, diaper cream, and NEW Onesies 0-12 months, sleepsack 0-6 month, washcloths, hooded towels and baby blankets.

For more information, contact Amy Berken amy@coslc.com and Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com.

Middle School

White Elephant Christmas Party

Friday, December 7th



We will gather from 7-10:00 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Menomonee Falls.

Bring an appetizer (hot or cold) along with a wrapped White Elephant (Gag) gift.

No Sunday School or Confirmation

For our volunteers to enjoy the holidays, we will not be having Sunday school or Confirmation on Sunday, December 23rd & 30th. We will resume on Sunday, January 6th.



Nursery Not Supervised

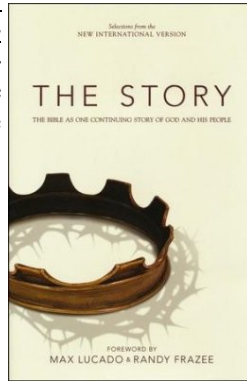


The Nursery will NOT be staffed Christmas Eve or Christmas Morning, but parents are welcome to use the nursery and will be able to hear the service.

Adult Opportunities

Women's Inspirational Book Group

We are reading the book "The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People" by Max Lucado & Randy Frazee. If you missed the first couple of meetings and would like to be a part of this group, you still can!



We meet twice a month on Mondays from 6-8:00 p.m. in the chapel. If you are unable to make all the meetings, no problem, just keep reading and join us for the next meeting!

December meeting dates:

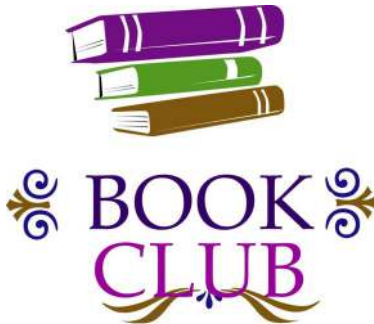
Monday, December 3rd - Chapters 11 & 12
Monday, December 17th - Chapters 13 & 14

For more information, or to join the group, contact Amy at [414-975-1228](tel:414-975-1228) or email amy@coslc.com.

COS Book Club

Saturday, December 8th

The next meeting of the COS Book Club will be on Saturday, December 8th at 10:30 a.m. Instead of discussing a book, we will be having a party while planning and scheduling the meetings for 2019. All members or prospective members should bring a list of their favorite books that they think would be enjoyed by the others and a snack or brunch item to share during this session. Feel free to bring any books that you would like to donate to other readers as well. All are welcome and if you have any questions, contact Carolyn Casper at 262-246-4041 or Diane Otto at 262-691-3778.

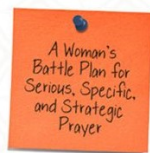


Wednesday Book Group

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

This fall, the Wednesday Book Group is reading "Fervent: A Women's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer" by Priscilla Shirer. They meet on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the lounge to read and discuss the book together. If you are interested in joining this group, or would like more information, contact Gail Conrad at grammygbc@gmail.com or (262) 820-1573. New people are always welcome!

FERVENT

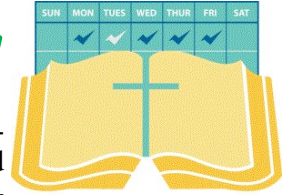


PRISCILLA SHIRER

Serendipity Bible Study

December 11th

The Tuesday night Serendipity Bible study meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month to explore God's Word in a fresh way where all the answers we bring are right, based on how we each see life and the world. We get to hear and grow from each others' understandings and experience. All are welcome. Each session is a free standing event so you don't need to have been at the prior gathering to participate in the next one. In December, we will not meet on Tuesday, December 25th because of Christmas.

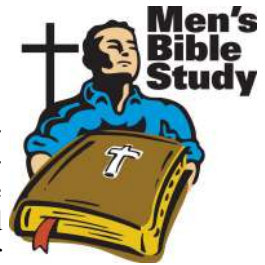


Evening Bible Studies

Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Men are invited to gather for a review of the assigned gospel readings for the prior month along with home made bread and jam, strong coffee, and great conversation about how we hear and understand God's Word from our own perspectives.



Facebook

Like us on Facebook to keep updated on what's happening at Christ Our Savior. See the latest posts with pictures and receive reminders of events that you don't want to miss. It's a great way to stay connected!



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

N59 W22476 Silver Spring Dr.
Sussex, Wisconsin 53089
Telephone: 262-246-6537

Pastor Tom Kent - PastorTom@coslc.com
Pastor Tom cell 414-531-8006

Pastor Joe Wilkinson - PastorJoe@coslc.com
Pastor Joe cell 262-372-1048

Kim Lewin, Dir. of Education & Youth Ministries
Kim@coslc.com

Amy Berken, Dir. Adult Discipleship & Outreach
Amy@coslc.com

Sandy Hollnagel/Office Manager - office@coslc.com

Direct Deposit - office@coslc.com

Church Telephone: 262-246-6537

Wifi SSID: COS password: Gath3redF3dS3nt

Website - www.coslc.com

Facebook - www.facebook.com/cossussex