

JANUARY

2019

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church



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



January 2019

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 9:00 am COS Quilters 1:00 pm Wed. Book Grp 2:30 pm Middle School TACOS 5:30 pm AA Meeting Band Practice Choir Rehearsal | 3 2:30 pm High School TACOS | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Worship Times 8:30 & 10:00 am 6:00 pm 11:00 am KNOITS 11:00 am Undecorating the Church 5:00 pm Light Meal 6:35 pm SS/Confirmation 6:35 pm Adult Learning 6:35 pm Coffee House | 7 6:00 pm Women's Inspirational Book Group | 8 7:00 pm Serendipity Bible Study | 9 9:00 am COS Quilters 9:00 Bread of Healing 1:00 pm Wed. Book Grp 2:30 pm Middle School TACOS 5:30 pm AA Meeting Band Practice Choir Rehearsal | 10 2:30 pm High School TACOS 5:00 pm Comm Banquet | 11 | 12 11:00 am COS Book Club |
| 13 Worship Times 8:30 & 10:00 am 6:00 pm 5:00 pm Light Meal 6:35 pm SS/Confirmation 6:35 pm Adult Learning 6:35 pm Coffee House | 14 5:00 pm COS Food Pantry Shift | 15 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 6:00 pm Serenity Inn Meal | 16 9:00 am COS Quilters 1:00 pm Wed. Book Grp 2:30 pm Middle School TACOS 5:30 pm AA Meeting Band Practice Choir Rehearsal | 17 2:30 pm High School TACOS | 18 | 19 |
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From the Pastors

Overcome Evil With Good

A new year is a time we look ahead, make plans for the challenges and opportunities we anticipate, and reflect on what was. I'd suggest one of the challenges and opportunities we face is the question of how we choose to respond to evil.

Evil does not only visit us with violence. It shows its face in hunger, chronic unemployment and the absence of work with a livable wage, violence against women and children, environmental degradation, and the rise of incivility to name just a few.

When evil shows itself, sometimes we are tempted to see all of it and assume that it is so big, so enormous that we can't possibly do anything about it. We look at the forest, not the trees. Instead of seeing hunger, let me suggest we see one hungry person, one lost child, one addict seeking to get their life back.

In the face of evil I am reminded of Paul's words in Romans 12 where he gives instructions on how Christians are to live.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Focus on that last verse. Do not be overcome by evil. Overcome evil with good. We cannot take on all of the evil in the world. But if we believe we are powerless to do anything, evil can start to overcome us – leading us into inaction, not responding.

We are not powerless in the face of evil. God has done amazing things in us and among us already. God has redeemed us from our sinfulness in Christ. We have been set free from guilt, worry, and fear. But this is not something for us to keep for ourselves like a treasured piece of jewelry. It is a gift intended to be used. Paul's words above give us a hint of what that is like.

We are called to live differently than the world around us. We are sent as ones who carry light into the darkness. We are called to practice forgiveness, love, and generosity in our relationships, with our neighbors and with the world. Jesus works in us and through us to bring new life. Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to

do nothing".

We are not merely good people. We are God's people, redeemed to redeem, saved to save, loved to love, forgiven to forgive. We can spend our energy fussing about how awful things can be in the world and find that nothing changes, or we can use our energy to bring God's ways of love, peace, hope, and new life into the world. This is the very thing the early Christians did – caring for the weak, the poor, the hungry, the sick or dying, caring for the least, the last, and the lost.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do not be overcome by evil. Overcome evil with good. Forgive those who harm you. Love your enemies. Share your food with the hungry. This is how Jesus calls us to live. It is how God continues to work in the world. What a good way to start a new year.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom Kent

The Art of Letting Go

A friend told me the other day that it seems a cruel joke of the cosmos that humanity, by our very nature, are attachment forming creatures in a world where the only constant is change. We form relationships that will be broken by death, if not sooner by injury, betrayal, or apathy. Our sense of self is defined by attachments to abilities we may lose, communities that might fall apart, or facts that we may discover are untrue. Even our health and our bodies are outside of our control as we face the ravages of time.

As dour as that description of reality might sound, it bears a great deal of resonance with our Christian faith. It is this absurdity about the impermanence of life that leads Solomon to declare in the beginning of Ecclesiastes, "Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." (Ecc 1:2 – NIV) Everything in our world, whether our institutions, or our relationships, is subject to this same destiny to eventually pass away.

Except. Except in spite of this universal experience of humankind, we testify to the signs of a God whose love and faithfulness endure throughout the ages. In a world where all things eventually fail us or pass away, we are confronted by the cross and the empty grave. How bizarre and wonderful is the promise of God to grant us new life and grace even after humankind so fully rejected God in our midst.

This is the good news we share as God's people in this world. Undergirding all of our comings and goings is the faithfulness of God's compassion towards humanity and the continued work of the Holy Spirit to more fully usher the community of God into our world. Whatever loss or suffering we undergo in this life, our faith is grounded in the assurance that God is the one who created us and who sustains us. For this reason we walk together, sharing in both the joys and sorrows of life, as we grow in our ability to love with open hands.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe

Memorials

Memorial Fund

Christ Our Savior's Memorial Team keeps track of financial gifts given to honor the memory of a departed loved one. These gifts are acknowledged each month in the COS Newsletter. Some past gifts were deposited in an investment fund, and are available for periodic use for church needs that are not able to be met within the annual budget.



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 be given to honor a significant family event such as a birthday, anniversary, graduation, confirmation, or similar milestone.

Christian Youth Activity Support

Historically, a popular gift designation has been the support of Christian youth activity. This is specifically identified as the Sandra Johnson Youth Fund. Annual uses of these gifts have supported youth participation in Christian youth experiences. Included in the past has been to assist youth attendance at Lutherdale Bible Camp and the summer mission trips.

Memorials For Outreach

Memorials have also been given for specific immediate needs, such as outreach, or mortgage reduction. These gifts are immediately put to use for these designated purposes.

Memorial Gifts Last Month

None last month

Other Forms Of Memorial Giving

Purchase of worship needs for a specific Sunday. These include such needs as altar flowers and candles. Signup sheets and pre-printed giving envelopes are available for these purposes on the narthex wall near the Busy Bags. These memorials are supportive of weekly worship, and will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletins.

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.



JOY (Just Older Youth)

55 & Older Adult Ministry

Tuesday, January 29th - Milwaukee Art Museum

On Tuesday, January 29th at 10:30 a.m. we will meet at church to carpool to Balistreri's Blue-mound Inn for lunch before heading to the Milwaukee Art Museum. Admission: Seniors \$17 (65+), Adults \$19. Lunch 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

Thrivent \$\$\$ Benefits COS Ministries

In December, we had an outpouring of support from people applying for Thrivent Action Teams! Thank you to everyone who filled out applications! If you are a Thrivent policy holder of any amount, you can do this, too!!!

Thrivent Action Teams for December events:

- Birthday Party for Jesus (Pastor Tom)
- Bread of Healing (Gary Otto)
- Hephatha Meal (Ruth Kent)

We also have applications for January events:

- Serenity Inn (Joan Singer)
- 7th Gr. Conf. Guest House Sandwiches (Laurie Ostlick)
- Mac-N-More (Mike Singer)
- Bread of Healing (Amy Berken)

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

Looking ahead, Thrivent Action Team gift cards are needed for February & March Ministries:

Bread of Healing
Hephatha Meal
Fish Fry
Youth Bake Sale
Wild Game Dinner
Easter Eggstravaganza
Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive



It doesn't cost you a dime, takes about 15-30 minutes of your time, and is a great way to support the work of your church. If you want to learn more, please contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.

Worship Opportunities

Sunday Morning Worship Times at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Starting Jan. 6th

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 continue to be contemporary. We also worship Sunday evening 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 also is 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.

WHY THE CHANGE?

Over the past few years, Sunday morning worship attendance has declined, 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.

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 9:15 a.m. service is usually half full at most, while 10:30 a.m. is usually about ¼ full. Sunday evening worship usually has around 100 in attendance.

Some of us may recall that when we finished our building program in 2002 we had two morning worship services. After a couple years, we found that the later service, at 10:00 a.m. was becoming too crowded. Around 2005, we added a third worship service on Sunday mornings to make room. Now that attendance patterns have shifted again we are adapting our schedule again. If Sunday morning worship attendance rises again, we can easily move back to three worship services in the morning.



Worship Assistant Volunteers

SignUpGenius is now available for February – May 2019!

Sign up for the dates you would like to serve on-line using SignUpGenius. You can find the on-line signups on our website at www.coslc.com under on-line signups. Dates have been extended for February through May 2019.

Worship team coordinators will be reaching out to their teams shortly for scheduling. If you prefer not to use SignUpGenius, please check your availability and let your worship team coordinator know when you would like to serve.



New Worship Assistant Members

Would you like to serve as a host, usher, communion assistant, bread baker, altar guild, lector or offering counter? Not sure what to do? That's okay! We will provide instruction and guide you as you learn the new role. We would love to have you as a part of the worship team!

For more information, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.

New Greeters - Worship Assistant Team

Greeting people is something we all do every week, but we want to be even more intentional about it when people enter our church doors. We want our church home to be a welcoming place for people to come and experience God's love.

Beginning in January, we are introducing the new "Greeters" role. Greeters will arrive at least 15 minutes before worship and greet people at the door with a hello, smile, and handshake. That's all there is to it! This is a great ministry to do as a family, couple, or individual. Confirmation students and families are welcome to participate to earn service hours. You can sign-up on SignUpGenius to pick dates/times you would like to serve.

For more information, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com

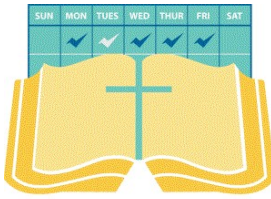


Adult Bible Studies & Learning

Serendipity Bible Study

2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

The Serendipity Bible Study is intended to engage us in God's Word in relevant ways. There are no wrong answers. Instead, we share how we hear God's Word as it is interpreted through our own lives and experiences. This month we meet January 8th and 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

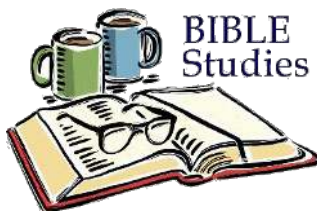


Evening Bible Studies

Sunday Evening Adult Learning

Sundays at 6:35 p.m.

Each week we view a short video (about 14 minutes) on a specific topic presented by the captivating Rob Bell, followed by discussion and reflection. This group meets in the chapel on Sundays at 6:35 p.m. following worship.

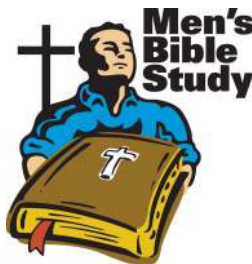


BIBLE Studies

Men's Bible Study & Light Breakfast

3rd Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

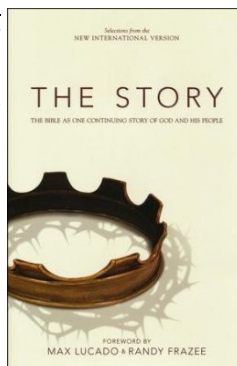
Men are invited to explore God's Word while enjoying home made bread and jam along with Pastor Tom's 90 weight coffee. This month we meet January 15th.



Men's Bible Study

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. 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!



January meeting dates:

Monday, January 7th - Chapters 15 & 16
Monday, January 21st - Chapters 17 & 18

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

Wednesday Book Group

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

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

COS Book Club

The schedule and the books to be discussed for the COS Book Club for the months of January through March are as follows:



BOOK CLUB

Saturday, January 12th
"The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah

Saturday, February 16th
"Escape From Camp 14" by Blaine Harden

Saturday, March 16th
"Lilac Girls" by Martha Hall Kelly

We meet one Saturday a month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guests are welcome. Come for one or all of these discussions. Any questions, contact Carolyn Casper at (262) 246-4041 or Diane Otto at (262) 691-3778.

Couples Retreat

February 8-10

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.



PINE LAKE
CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRIES

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!



Youth & Education

SS Christmas Program

Once again, this year's Christmas program was written and directed by Marion Jaskulski! We are so grateful for her love for God and the children at COS! Thank you Marion! We'd also like to give a special thanks to Rylinn Madden and Kendall Syslack for learning the music and accompanying our kiddos during the program.



VBS - Save the Date!

VBS at Christ Our Savior will be July 8-11, 2019. For more information and registration check our 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 two 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 scholarships are available. Please let Kim know if you would like to apply. Everyone who wants to go will be able to go!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Birthday Party for Jesus!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or attended the Birthday Party for Jesus on Friday, December 14th! It was a blast! Also, thank you for all the birthday presents for Jesus. They will be donated to the SOS Food Pantry and Hephatha Church - Strong Baby Sanctuary. They will be a blessing to the children and families that receive them!



First Communion

We will begin First Communion instruction on Wednesday, March 13th from 7:00-7:45 p.m. The class lasts for 5 weeks, ending on Wednesday, April 10th. This class is open to all 5th grade students and their parents. Please click [here](#) or go to our website to register.



Confirmation

Confirmation students will be making sandwiches during the months of January and February for the Guest House in Milwaukee. Our goal is 2,000 sandwiches! Click [here](#) to find your date and signup!



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 3rd

Each year on Superbowl Sunday we collect cash gifts to support our food pantry ministries that COS is connected with. Don't forget! Souperbowl on Superbowl.



KNOTS

Sunday, January 6th & 20th

We'll be meeting on Sunday mornings (twice a month) after the



10:00 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 lisariemer@yahoo.com or 414-510-1862.

Get Involved

Un-Decorating the Church

Sunday, January 6th



Less fun but still needed, are a few people to help take down the Christmas decorations. We will be meeting after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 6th. The more hands, the quicker the work! For more information, contact Chris Liedtke at cliedtke@wi.rr.com.

"In the Middle" - Mini Duck Bowling

Friday, January 25th

Not a youth? Not a senior either? Well, this group is for you! If you are in your 30s, 40s, or 50s, you are invited to join us for our first "In the Middle" event. We'll meet on Friday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Thirsty Duck in Sussex to grab a bite to eat and try our hand at mini duck bowling!!! We'll explore ideas for upcoming events too! Sign-up on the adult discipleship board or let one of the coordinators know you plan on coming to the event.



Coordinators:

Hope Ingle at hope.ingle@gmail.com

Patrick Ingle at patrickingle@mac.com

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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

Mac-n-Cheese More

Again this January, we'll be building a pallet of nutritious foods along with our traditional gift of mac-n-cheese to share with our brothers and sisters at Cross Lutheran in Milwaukee. While families at Cross are grateful for the mac-n-cheese we send annually, we must be aware that nutrient rich food is necessary to be healthy, especially for growing bodies. Research shows that nutrition is directly correlated to physical health and mental health as well as educational success. A survey done at Cross in 2017, showed 82% of guests receive *half or more* of their food from the Bread of Healing Emergency Food Pantry (BoHEM), showing that the food received from Cross has a *significant* impact on the community's nutritional well-being, from children to senior citizens. We have the opportunity to share God's love by helping to ensure nutritional needs are met while we help to make sure tummies are full. This January, let's add the following items to our annual pallet of mac-n-cheese:

Fruit - Canned in 100% juice or dried (e.g. raisins)

Canned beans, tuna, and chicken

Vegetables - canned, low sodium

Shelf stable dairy - such as boxed milk

Whole grain, low sugar grain products like brown rice or non-sugary whole grain cereal

Mac-n-cheese (while not super nutritious, is always a favorite to accompany nutritious sides).



Serenity Inn

Tuesday, January 15th

Our next service date is Tuesday, January 15th. We are looking for a few people to prepare and serve the meal. Typical evening: leave COS at 5:00 p.m., eat around 6:00 p.m., 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!

Contacts: Kris Pena kkjpena20688@gmail.com or Mark Stieglitz at marks.dtp@gmail.com

