

May 2020

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church



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



Retaining Joy

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

These days of isolation and separation can feel oppressive at times. It is normal for our attention to be drawn toward what we miss and what we can't do. The harder thing sometimes is to focus on what is good, what is working, what is hopeful. This is not merely positive thinking. It is a way to exercise our hearts and souls to claim joy.

While what we are facing is for many of us mostly a matter of inconvenience and not suffering on the scale that St Paul and the early followers of Jesus faced as they were arrested, persecuted and sometimes executed. Still, its inconvenient, expensive, gets in the way of our plans and can feel like it sucks the joy out of things.

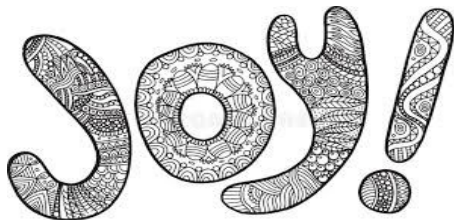
And it can, but only if we let it. We know how easy it is to let the things that go wrong, occupy our thoughts, and how they can become the only things we see. Because the things we have lost are real it is important to acknowledge them. If we don't they keep pestering us to the point of annoyance. To avoid the changes we don't like taking over, I'd suggest making lists. Make a list of things you have lost, had to give up, can't do anymore and so on. Write the list. Then leave it alone. If other things come to mind you can always add them later. Then you are free to seek the joy in what we DO have instead of what we don't.

There are so many good things in our lives. Spring flowers defy the morning frost, birds that have been gone for months are singing all day and building nests. There are signs of new life all around us. Games are played and puzzles used that were long forgotten. People talk with each other now. Neighbors who barely had time to wave from their cars now stop and shout a whole conversation across a road when they are out walking. While we are forced into a slower pace of life, we are starting to live a slower pace of life, no longer busy with so many things all day long – things that used to seem so important. Look at these new things. Pay attention to them. Smile a bit. See the joy in them and let the joy touch you.

For challenging times Paul says rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, pray always. Hope is where we find joy. Its like the hope of planting a seed and waiting for it to spout. Its not ready yet, but its coming. Impatience with suffering and inconvenience only makes it feel worse and like its bigger than it is. Praying always keeps us connected with God, reminding us we are not alone. God is with us.

May these times lead us to see we are more than what we do or what we have, we are more than our schedules or a list of things we have accomplished. May these slower times help us feel God close to us as we rediscover joy in the midst of difficult times.

Peace to you!
Pastor Tom



Following Jesus During Shut Down

Our partners in ministry at Hephatha Lutheran Church on 17th and Locust are deeply grateful for the way you have stepped up to help them make it through the heavy impact of social distancing. You have brought them diapers and formula and basic food needs for their Safe Baby program serving 30 families. Your faithfulness is literally saving lives. Sometimes it is hard to notice bad things that do not happen and don't make it into the news, but because of you the headline that did NOT appear was, "Babies die from lack of food and hygiene". Thank you for making that news NOT happen.

COVID-19 is impacting minority communities the hardest. In places like Milwaukee, poverty and racial minority lines are the same. These are the communities with the least access to stores, medical resources, financial resources and factors impacting the ability to simply survive. A pandemic like the one we are in makes the impact even more dire. Hephatha is right in the middle of this perfect storm. Pastor Mary Martha reports 9 people with positive tests in their community. The first COVID-19 death in Milwaukee was a member at Hephatha, a retired Fire Department officer whose wife is their council president.



At a time when we wonder what we can do, we can follow Jesus' call to care for those in need. This is a time when it is even more important to care for the most vulnerable in our society. This is the time to save lives. While we cannot be physically present with our partners right now, we can send our love and compassion in the form of diapers, formula and basic food needs. Caring for babies at risk and hungry children is important, but so is addressing the causes for why babies are at risk and children are hungry in a country where food is thrown away.

If you are interested in learning more, google "Food desert Milwaukee". Learn what we can do to not only care for those in need now but also help overcome some of the reasons 1/3 of the children in Milwaukee live below the poverty level.

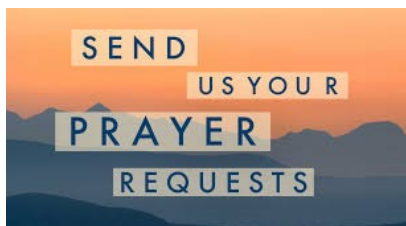
Are You Getting Emails from Church?

We use Constant Contact weekly to send information from church. It contains current information and updates, links to helpful offerings online and other resources. If you are not receiving this weekly email and would like to, please contact Sandy at office@coslc.com.



Prayer Requests

If you have prayer requests you would like included in worship online please send them to pastortom@coslc.com or pastorjoe@coslc.com.



Here is What is Available Online at www.coslc.com.

Everything live is also available at later times.

Weekly Worship Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Two video devotions from our pastors each week.
Bible Stories for children and families read by Kim.

Facebook contains current updates, photos and conversations about ways we continue to be the church in times of shut down.



How Can I Continue Supporting My Church?

There are several ways to keep supporting the ministry of our church while we are separated.

- Mail your offerings.
- Use Direct Deposit offerings. Sandy at office@coslc.com can help set this up for you.
- These first two options are cost free to the church. The Donate button (PayPal) and Text to Give both charge a fee of around 3%.
- You can use the donate button on our website.
- Text to Give: Text (insert the number) Enter the amount you wish to give in the message field. Hit send. If it is your first time using this option it will take you through a few easy steps to connect with a bank account or credit card.



Worship Assistant Volunteers

SUMMER SignUpGenius is NOW available!

Sign up for the dates you would like to serve online using SignUpGenius. You can find the online signups on our website at www.coslc.com under volunteer. Dates are available Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Worship team coordinators will be reaching out to their teams shortly for summer 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. They will be putting together their schedule by the middle of May.

New Worship Assistant Members

Would you like to serve as a host, greeter, 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.



W.o.W (Worship on Wednesday)

Wednesday, June 17th 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

The time has come that we can FINALLY gather again!! Let's gather outdoors and catch up!! We'll be having a cookout, outdoor worship, campfire, and games on Wednesday, June 17th. We will provide the brats and hot dogs. Sign-up to bring your favorite side to share on SignUpGenius on our website.

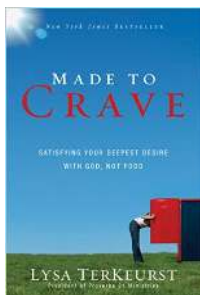
In addition, don't forget your lawn chair or blanket for our outdoor casual worship, and fun games that you would like to play as we celebrate being together again! The fun all begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner, worship at 6:30 p.m., and campfire/games at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to come for all or part of the time! This family fun event will be once a month on Wednesday evenings: June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th. See you then!

Contact Amy at amy@coslc.com for questions or more information.



Women's Inspirational Book Group

We are in the middle of our study “Made to Crave: Satisfying Your Deepest Desire with God, Not Food” by Lysa Terkeurst. We continue to meet online rotating Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. We watch a short video on YouTube and view the Participant’s Study Guide in advance, then meet on Zoom for 40-minutes to share our thoughts on the study.



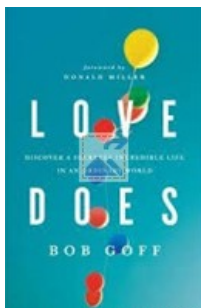
Upcoming Meeting Schedule

May 4th - Session 6 - From Consumed to Courageous
May 18th - Bonus session: Moving the Mountain

For more information on the Women’s Inspirational Book Group contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.

Wednesday Book Group

Our Wednesday Book Group will resume their book study “Love Does” by Bob Goff, hopefully in June. Dates/times to be determined. For more information, contact Gail Conrad at grammygbc@gmail.com or (262) 820-1573.



Hygiene Bags during Lent

Thank you to everyone who donated hygiene items and stayed after our Lenten worship services to make hygiene bags for the Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church.



Lawn Mowers Sign-up

Now Available

The sun is out, we’ve had plenty of rain, and the grass is growing! Time to mow the church lawn! We have a lawn mowing team that keeps our property looking well maintained. We’ve divided the lawn into front and back halves, each one takes about 1 ½ hours to cut with one of our riding lawn mowers. If you would like to join the team to mow the church property, sign-up on SignUpGenius to select dates and contact Chris Stromberg at c.k.stromberg@me.com for training or questions.



VBS-Knights of the North Castle

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power. - Ephesians 6:10

July 6-9th, 2020, from 12:00–4:00 p.m.

This is geared toward children who have completed 4K–3rd grade. Those students that have completed 4th and 5th grades can register for the “God Squad” which are leaders in training. Youth who have completed 6th grade through adults can sign up as Leaders.



We will begin each day at 12:00 noon with a kid friendly lunch and then spend the afternoon singing, playing, crafting, eating, and praying! Just a reminder registration is now open Please register by June 7th in order to get a T-shirt in your size! The cost is \$10 per child and there is a \$25 family max on the fee. Please register online at [here](#).

Summer Mission Trips

Summer mission trips have been canceled in Memphis, TN and West Virginia but it is our hope that we will still have our mission trips they will be local. We will be working with Hephatha and Galilee in Pewaukee to serve right here in Milwaukee. Serve Boldly has connected us with their Milwaukee mission partners, because they will be in need, as well as our current partners. We are hopeful that we will still be able to serve and have an amazing experience right here this summer!



***Disclaimer this all depends on the Governors orders and when things begin to reopen.**

Adopt-a-Garden

Are you getting stir crazy at home? Would you like to get outdoors and enjoy the spring weather? We invite you and your family to adopt a garden to help keep our property looking top notch!! We have about 12 garden and flower beds around our church that need occasional weeding and care throughout the summer months and into early fall. Each area is small in size, so commitment is only 1-2 hours per month. Adopt your garden plot on SignUpGenius. If you have questions contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, May 19th



While we are unable to stay and eat with the residents at Serenity Inns at this time, we are able to prepare them a healthy meal. Hank will be dropping off a meal for the men in recovery on Tuesday, May 19th. If you would like to help with the meal preparations, reach out to Hank and let him know you would like to help. Or, if you would like to make some cookies or desserts for the meal, that would be fantastic, too! You can drop them off at church inside the east doors (under the canopy) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Make sure to label them Serenity Inns. Contact: Hank Wallenkamp 262-525-1211

COATS- JACKETS-HOODIES are needed for the men of Serenity Inns. It's time to look in the closet and find winter coats and spring jackets/hoodies that could better be used by the men of Serenity Inns. They are always in need of slightly worn, clean outer men's coats, jackets, and hoodies. Serenity Inns is a faith based halfway house for men in addiction recovery working to return to society and make positive contributions. ALL MEN'S SIZES NEEDED....XL-3XL are always in high demand.

Serenity Inns also always need non-perishable items such as peanut butter, jelly, individual serving size fruit cups, sugar (10 lb bags), Kool-Aid, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, and styrofoam cups. If you would like to donate items, please drop them off at church inside the east doors.

Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, May 13th - SUSPENDED

Our scheduled meal at Bread of Healing on Wednesday, May 13th is SUSPENDED. Watch for updates when it is safe for us to gather again to feed the hungry at Cross.

Contacts: Larry & Edie Schaffner at elschaffner02@live.com or Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com.



Community Banquet (Setup)

Thursday, May 14th - SUSPENDED

There is NO Community Banquet meal on Thursday, May 14th. We will be in touch with you when the meal resumes and we are scheduled to serve again. Contacts: Diane Otto at dotto@wi.rr.com.



TACOS

Virtual Mode Activities Continues

TACOS will continue to have virtual activities on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays throughout this season of social distancing. All activities can be found on the TACOS website at tacosoutreach.com/virtual-mode. We are also looking into live virtual meeting times and more information will be coming regarding these plans in the near future. Stay updated with us on Facebook [@tacosoutreach](https://www.facebook.com/tacosoutreach) or on our website tacosoutreach.com.



What Will You Do With Your Stimulus Check?

My wife and I have been blessed and most fortunate that in these trying times we do not find ourselves financially any less well off than we were prior to the Covid 19 crisis. That being said, and after much prayerful thought, we've considered what we will do with our impending stimulus checks. We've determined that they are best used to help others who have been adversely financially affected. We intend to make a substantial donation to the CCOS food pantry. We also intend to contribute to the upgrade of the HVAC system at COS which we know is in deteriorating condition. We feel this will serve both our local community at large and our church community as well. Anonymous



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

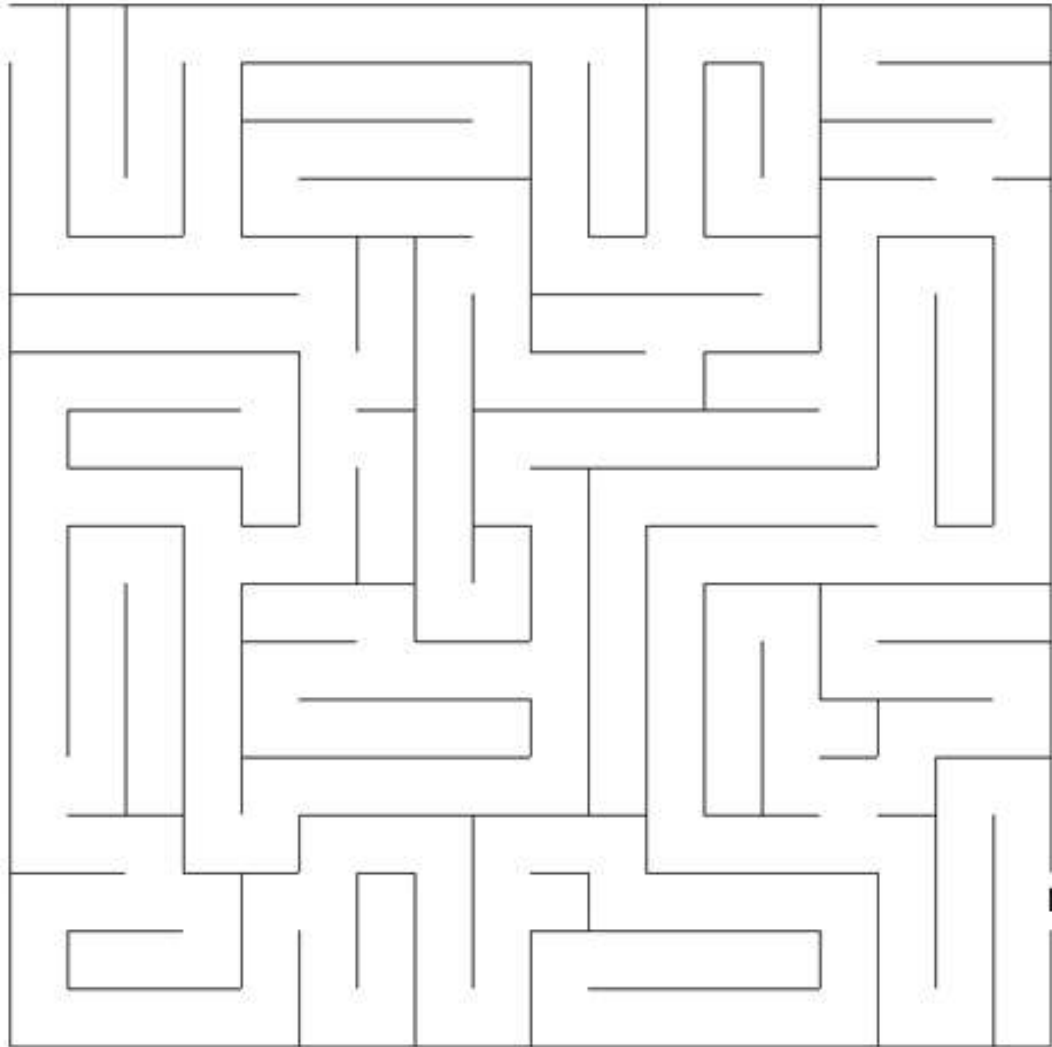
Wifi SSID: COS password: Gath3redF3dS3nt

Website - www.coslc.com

Facebook - www.facebook.com/cosussex

Road to Emmaus

Maze



Emmaus

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem. Suddenly, Jesus himself came along and joined them and began walking beside them.

Luke 24:13, 15 (NLT)