

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

November 2020 Newsletter

Being the Church in a Challenging Time

The times we are in certainly challenge us around what it means to be the church. In normal times, being the church often means “going to church” for worship, Sunday School, Confirmation, and so on. While our church has always done that, it is not where we stop. Being the church is also how we live out our faith and follow Jesus; loving God by loving others. While gathering for worship and learning is important and a significant way our faith is nurtured, we are and we do so much more; active partnership in ministry with Cross/Bread of Healing, Serenity Inns, Hephatha, and our ministry through CCOS at SOS. Currently, we are serving an all time high number of clients at SOS, over 925 households just last month. The shelves are getting emptied frequently. The donations you bring in weekly make a huge difference. Our teens are also holding a food drive on Saturday, October 31. There is more information about that on page 4 in this newsletter. In hopes that we will increase our offering for SOS we will have an additional collection barrel outside our east entrance to receive donations.

In a time of increasing social division and side-taking over issues like freedom, rights and racial justice, the voice of the church needs to be heard. In this time, it is even more important for us each to be careful how we carry ourselves and to bring the most loving, caring responses we can for all people. When Jesus challenged the Pharisees who questioned his authority to teach and preach that God is loving and forgiving, his intent was not to judge them or bring the Pharisees down. His desire was to invite them to be free from the fear brought about by their rigid legalism and their reliance on themselves to make themselves right with God. This is a voice we each get to carry – to rely on God’s grace, to carry God’s good news of freedom, new life, and grace into the world one person, one life at a time; especially to those we disagree with. We are not called to agree with our neighbors but we are called to love them. There is a huge difference. The difference is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This is how we are the church today, in these times when we are not able to gather in person. Jesus calls us to care for the hungry, the forgotten, the lonely, and all those in need as a way to share God’s love with them. Jesus calls us to turn the

other cheek and to pray for our enemies. It’s a harder road, but it is the road we are on when we follow Jesus. This is what the Christian church does; it is what the Christian church is. In a time when we can’t GO to church, it is even more important for us to BE the church.

I can’t wait for the time when we can all GO to church safely. I miss gathering together deeply. But, in this time apart we have many opportunities to BE the church. Be the difference this world needs. Be the presence of Christ in this world, be the living water for our thirsty, parched world.

May you be strengthened in your journey to BE the church in a time when we can’t GO to church. May you carry the light of Christ into a world that needs God’s light.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom

Pastoral Care in Times of Separation

There are times when we want to check in with a pastor. In these times of separation we can still connect by phone or zoom. If you would like to schedule a private zoom conversation online with one of our pastors please contact them and they will set it up. Zoom requires a tablet or laptop with a camera.



Take & Heat Chili

Drive-Thru Fundraiser

Sunday, November 1st

Save the date! We’re holding a Take & Heat Chili Drive-Thru Fundraiser on Sunday, November 1st from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon to benefit Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran Church. Each order includes 1 pint (16 oz) of chili with toppings on the side and cornbread (serves 3-4 people). Chili is packaged in microwave and freezer safe containers. Cost is \$10/order, limited supply, first come basis, no advance orders. Volunteers needed on Sunday to take orders, assemble/packages, and help with traffic control. We’ll be maintaining safety precautions and social distancing guidelines.

If you are available to help, contact
Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com
or Amy Berken at amy@coslc.com.



Status of In-Person Worship

We continue to be in a time when it is not safe to attend public gatherings. Epidemiologists tells us the most dangerous places for catching COVID are night clubs and bars. Right after that comes weddings, funerals, and worship services. While we are all weary of isolation, masks, and other precautions, it is what we need to do right now, just as people did in 1918. As of this writing, Wisconsin leads the nation in new per capita COVID cases and our bishop has urged that NO congregations hold any public worship during this time.

Meanwhile, we continue to do what we can to remain connected. If you have thoughts or ideas about other ways we can be connected with each other, please let us know! Just contact the church office and we will pass it along.



IN-PERSON Lectors Needed

November Drive-In Worship Services

We are looking for lectors to read in-person for our Drive-In Worship Services on November 1st and November 8th. We will send you the readings in advance. If you are available to read for either of these worship services, please contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Drive In Worship

November 1st and 8th at 10:00 a.m.

We are holding Drive-In Worship in our north parking lot facing Templeton Middle School on November 1st and 8th. If it rains we will gather around the east entrance (facing the Silver Spring Intermediate School) and make that work. This is a time when we can celebrate Holy Communion together and see one another, even if it is from our cars.



Welcome New Members

On Sunday, October 11th at our drive-in worship service, we were blessed to receive two new families to our congregation. We are so delighted to be able to welcome them into our church family!



Paul & Whitney Gilbert with Jacob and Reagan
Scott & Jody Wille with Kailey, Jenna and Ashleigh

Streaming Worship Online

Every Sunday at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

We stream our weekly worship service every Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. even when we hold drive-in worship. It is recorded in our sanctuary, so the look and feel will be familiar. Please remember to send prayer requests to one of the pastors in advance, so we can include them.

pastortom@coslc.com

pastorjoe@coslc.com



Easier Access to Online Worship

Starting in November, we will be placing our online worship stream on the main page of our website at www.coslc.com. Just click on the little arrow and the stream will start. The only difference is you will not be able to access any comments if you join worship on our website. Worship services will continue to be available on Facebook as well.

Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m.

We will stream Thanksgiving Worship on Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m. This year we will be gathering photos of places where our church and members are active in outreach and mission work with a focus on gratitude and how the “giving” part of Thanksgiving changes us! Check it out!



Your Memories Are Needed!

As part of our history gathering, we need you and your memories (happy, sad, informative, anything works) from the past 30 years. If you would like to submit a memory or story about COS, please include at least the approximate year of your recollection. If you would like to be anonymous, please let us know.



Submit memories in the offering when you leave drive-in worship, in the church office, by mail, or by email at office@coslc.com.

Thank you,
Maria, and the Church Council

Serenity Inns

Tuesday, November 17th

The men at Serenity Inns are enjoying our meals and all of our desserts! Thank you for all your contributions. In addition, we would like to provide them with some healthy snack options such as apples, oranges, raisins, trail mix, fruit cups, pretzels, granola bars, and popcorn. Items can be dropped off at church inside the east doors (under the canopy) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Our next meal we serve is on Tuesday, November 17th. If you would like to help with meal preparations, reach out to Hank to coordinate menu plans. Contact: Hank Wallenkamp 262-525-1211.



Cereal Drive

Wow! What an outpouring response to feed the hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic. We collected 259 boxes of cereal!!! Thank you to everyone who donated cereal during the month of September. A special thanks to Living Christ Lutheran Church in Germantown who partnered with us in collecting cereal. Also, to Thrivent who provided seed money to kick off our cereal drive. These boxes of cereal will be used in the Milwaukee Rescue Mission's emergency food baskets and distributed to families in need in the Milwaukee area.



Thrivent Action Teams

Did you know that this fall we've participated in nine Thrivent Action Teams?! Thrivent has provided us with seed money (\$250 gift card) for our various outreach ministries including: TACOS-Hephatha Sunday School Care Packages, Milwaukee Rescue Mission-Cereal Drive, Luther Manor-Cookie Drive, Socktober, Serenity Inns-meal ministry and clothing drive, COS Quilters-Lutheran World Relief, Hephatha Winter Outerwear Drive, Giving Tree-Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council, and Hephatha Christmas Stockings. Thank you to those who applied for a Thrivent Action Team to support your church. If you would like more information about Thrivent Action Teams contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Friends of Luther Manor

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity to support the seniors at Luther Manor! We collected \$305 during our September Friends of Luther Manor annual fundraiser. Your kindness is very much appreciated!



Giving Tree

This year we will be adopting three families from the Christmas Clearing Council in Waukesha, as well as supporting our ministry partners to help bring them a blessed Christmas. Due to social distancing, we are making a few changes this year.



Instead of a tree in the narthex with tags, we're decorating the windows in our east entryway, and will be sticking tags with needed gift items on the windows. We hope to have this Giving Tree area setup the first week in November. We'll have labeled bins in the entryway to drop

off gifts and staff will also be available at designated times to drop off items. All items will need to be dropped off by November 30th.

Many of our partners are requesting gift cards. Therefore, if you do not wish to shop, but still would like to participate, donating money for gift cards would be appreciated. Lastly, we need three people or households willing to deliver gifts to the families' homes. The gift exchange will happen outside to keep everyone safe. Watch for more details in our weekly announcements.

Please contact Michele at mmarsh6@wi.rr.com or Amy at amy@coslc.com with any questions.

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Kim@coslc.com

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Amy@coslc.com

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Sunday School Service Project

We are asking our Sunday School students to make some sort of thankful card or artwork to be given to seniors living in a facility. Please drop them off in the box in the east entryway no later than November 15th.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Because 2020 has been an exceptional year, we will not be having our traditional in-person Christmas Program shared by our children. However, this year we will be making a video that will be shared with the congregation. If you would like your child to participate, please contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com.

children's program



Hephatha Stockings

Each year the seventh and eighth-grade confirmation classes collect items to fill stockings for the children at Hephatha Lutheran Church. This year is no exception! During the month of November, our youth will be collecting the following items: (all items must fit in a standard Christmas stocking.)

Small toys	Small puzzles
Crayons	Toothbrushes
Coloring books	Toothpaste
Markers	
Small stuffed animals	



You can place your items in the bin located in the east entrance. All items must be dropped off by December 4th. For more information, contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com.

TACOS

TACOS is still very active on its virtual platforms through TACOS Virtual Mode! Every week, TACOS produces three different activities for youth and families to receive and create fruitful and wholesome discussions around many different topics in our world today including motivational photos, devotions, etc. You can find these activities directly on the TACOS website, tacosoutreach.com, through following the TACOS Facebook page, or by emailing Wade at ta-cos@coslc.com to get in direct contact with receiving activities through emails or text message. We hope to hear from you over the next few weeks!



Beautification Teams

A huge word of thanks to our church outdoor beautification teams! Our Adopt-A-Garden team did an amazing job taking care of our flower beds and garden plots this year! Our front entrance was bursting with colorful flowers providing a joyful welcome. Our lawn was well maintained all year long due to our dedicated lawn mowers. In a time of social distancing, thank you for keeping our church property looking great!

Adopt-A-Garden:

Tom Edman
Tim & Brenda Ploetz
Tom & Barb Goble
Amy Mason
Dave & Karen Ludin
Gwen Watson
Valerie Schneider
Amy Budde



Lawn Mowing team:

Chris and Zach Stromberg
Hank Wallenkamp
Tom Plechaty
Tom Edman



COS Quilters

Our dedicated quilters have been hard at work finding new ways to make quilts while adapting to social distancing recommendations. This year, they made 192 quilts, a new record!! Last Saturday, two of our dedicated quilters drove to Appleton to drop off 140 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. In addition, 40 quilts have already been donated to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and another 12 quilts will be donated to Street Angels for the homeless in Milwaukee. Thank you to all the ladies who continue to do an amazing job making quilts and sharing God's love with other people!



Confirmation Food Drive

Saturday, October 31st

The 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class will be collecting food during the month of October for the SOS Food Pantry. If you would like to help the youth fill the shelves, please drop off your food donations in the east entryway at church no later than 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 31st.



Food Collection