

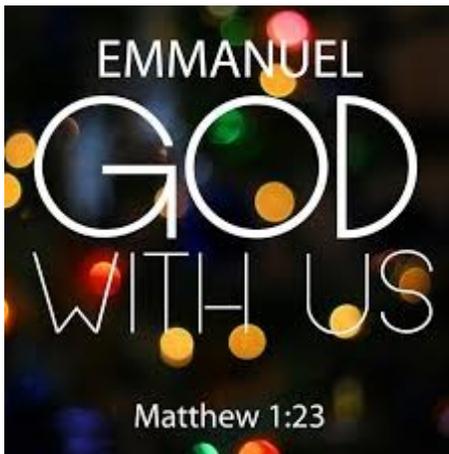
# Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

## December 2020 Newsletter

### *Matthew 1:23*

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

We hear these words in Advent each year. They point to God coming to us in Jesus and doing something new. Advent is a time of waiting. In the world, it's a time we wait for Christmas and all the celebrations around it. In the context of living our faith, Advent is a time of waiting and preparing ourselves for Christ to come to us anew. In our lives right now, we are clearly in the middle of a time of waiting – waiting for COVID to end, waiting for a new time.



When Jesus was born, people in Judah were waiting for a new time, some hoping for a revolution that would release them from the oppressive Roman occupation and rule. Their eyes were fixed on that one thing. The result is it was hard for them to see any other possibilities. So, when Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God, they assumed that meant a new country, getting their nation back. Jesus was describing something much bigger, far beyond what anyone could imagine in those times. Not a nation, but a new rule, a new era.

Like many of us today, they assumed the new time coming would be like the old times they missed so much. It makes sense. It's what they knew, it's what they longed for. We might want the new time to be like the old time, but we don't know what the future holds. What we do know, is we need to be ready to adapt, to wait, not knowing what will come. And when it comes, we need to welcome it and grow into it, just as we have adapted to so many other changes in our lives.

At first, the changes might feel uncomfortable but we adapt

and in hindsight, they seem to make sense. When I was on my internship in Canada, the Lutheran churches far out in the country worshipped in German because most of their members were first generation immigrants. After a generation had passed everything was in English. They changed a language, but the message about Jesus was the same. We may well be heading into a time when we need to speak a different language, but the message will be the same.

As we wait for a new time, it's important to not assume we know for sure where and how God is directing us, but working hard to set aside our assumptions about what the new time should be. Most of Jesus' contemporaries could not see him as the messiah, because they were sure they already knew what the messiah should be like. It never occurred to them God could be doing something so new. For us, it is important to have a long view; not just the week, or month, but years and decades into it, with curiosity and wonder about how God is guiding us into the future. Emmanuel. God is with us! God IS guiding us into the future, if we will look for it.

We are in a protracted Advent right now. A time of waiting for a new era, a time of waiting for Christ to come to us in new ways. But, this is not just something we watch. It is something we live. We are called to be active participants. So right now, today, even in times when we cannot gather for worship we can participate in bringing in the new era by living in the ways Jesus taught, the ways of grace, mercy, compassion and forgiveness not just for us, but to share with all people.

As we wait, may you be nurtured by memories of Christmases past, and filled with new memories we make that we can look back on later. May you see, feel, and know God Is With Us, Emmanuel. May we join God in entering into the new era, speaking new languages if we need to, but still carrying the same message, Emmanuel. God Is With Us!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tom

### *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 church office, by mail, or by email at [office@coslc.com](mailto:office@coslc.com).

Thank you,  
Maria, and the Church Council

## Status of Church During COVID

This is a time when we are making new memories. Worshipping in the parking lot, learning online, continuing our care for those in need by using a drop off option in our east entrance, even being confirmed in the rain in our parking lot last month! When our church was under construction in 2001-2002, we worshipped temporarily in the gym at Templeton Middle School. We sat on bleachers, celebrated communion on the basketball court, and even celebrated some baptisms in the paint under the basketball hoop!

This is not a time or situation we have chosen, but it is the time we are in. We continue to follow the guidance of our synod and the ELCA along with that of epidemiologists who continue to remind us one of the most infectious settings is in-person worship, weddings or funerals. This is a struggle we are all in together. None of us ever thought we would face a time when it was not safe to gather in worship. It's one of the things churches do! But for now we wait.

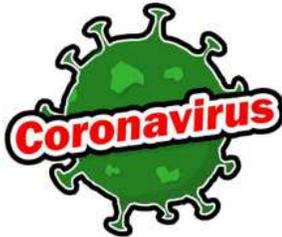
While we wait, we continue our mission and purpose; caring for the least, the lost, and the last, providing alternate opportunities for worship and learning online, and living into different expressions of what it means to live our faith. In these times, that becomes more personal and family or individually focused.

As we look to the future, we hope to perpetuate what has worked best from the past AND continue what we have learned works well in this time of separation. Our church council and church staff are focused on being prepared for the day when we will be able to gather again. In the mean time, pray for our nation, pray for your neighbors and pray for your church.

## Bread of Healing Take-Out Chili Meals

Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

Our drive-thru chili fundraiser has created new opportunities to feed the hungry at Bread of Healing. On Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> we'll be delivering chili take-out bags to Cross Lutheran Church. Each bag will include chili, toppings, and cornbread. We are looking for two volunteers to fill toppings (Tuesday evening), two volunteers to assemble bags (Wednesday morning), and 1 volunteer to deliver bags to Cross (Wednesday before 10:00 a.m.). If interested in helping, please reach out to Chuck Liedtke at [chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com).



## Funeral and Wedding Practices Under COVID Restrictions

During this time of isolation under the impact of COVID, we are sadly not able to hold funerals or weddings in the ways we are accustomed to. This makes all of us quite sad since these are significant times when we gather around God's promise.

Just recently, our bishop issued a directive indicating churches should not hold ANY indoor gatherings based on public health officials warnings. As a result, at least through the end of January, no weddings can be held inside. Funeral options currently are limited to either recording or streaming a funeral service from church with one of the pastors and one musician.



Families would be able to view the funeral service together or on their own online, and could also cast it to a smart TV. The other option is holding a small brief service outside (weather permitting) at a home, cemetery or park with a small group (roughly 10 or fewer) present.



We encourage families to consider holding a memorial service later when the pandemic has lifted, possibly on the anniversary of a birthday or death as a time for family and friends to gather, support one another and be sustained by God's promise.

We long for the time when we are able to gather in person.

## Streaming Worship Online

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

We worship each week online, Sundays at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. You can now access worship services right on our website or you can go to our Facebook page. It's the same worship service, just more options to view it.



## Serenity Inns

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Hank will be delivering our last meal to Serenity Inns for this year. If you have not yet helped with preparing a meal or donating food items please consider doing so this month. Our friends at Serenity Inns appreciate our support and are so grateful!

We will continue to collect healthy snack options this month 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. If you would like to help with this ministry contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211.





## Advent Worship

Midweek Advent worship will be available online each Wednesday in Advent, at 12:00 noon. Just go to our website or Facebook page and click play!



# Christmas EVE

## Christmas Eve Worship Drive-In

JOIN US FOR **DRIVE-IN WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE** at 3:30, 5:00, or 6:30 p.m. We will gather in our parking lot and broadcast on FM 91.5. No matter where you park you will be able to hear and be with others in worship. We will offer lots of familiar Christmas hymns and carols and hear God's Promise for us in the Christmas Story. Busy bags will be available for children as well as battery operated candles at the east entrance.



## Streaming Christmas Eve Worship

at 10:00 a.m.

We will be streaming at 10:00 a.m. worship service Christmas Eve that will also be available on demand afterwards.



## Christmas Day Worship

at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Day worship will be broadcast online at 9:30 a.m. and available on demand after.



## Giving Tree

During the month of November, we collected wish list items for our three adopted families, which included 12 children, from the Christmas Clearing Council in Waukesha. In addition, we collected gift cards for our various ministry partners including Sussex Outreach Services, Eras Senior Network, Cross Lutheran Church, Hephatha Lutheran Church, and Serenity Inns



This month, we get to deliver these gifts and wish everyone a blessed Christmas. Thank you to all who have donated gifts and who have volunteered to make this ministry possible. Also, thank you to Thrivent who provided seed money to purchase gifts for our adopted families. Thank you for all the ways that you have helped make Christmas special this year!

Please contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com) with any questions.

## IN-PERSON Lectors & Ushers Needed

### Christmas Eve Drive-In Worship Services

We are looking for lectors to read in-person for our Christmas Eve Drive-In Worship Services at 3:30, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m. We will send you the readings in advance. We also need ushers to hand out bulletins before worship and collect offering after worship. You are able to sit with your family in your vehicle during the service. If you are available to read or usher for any of the Christmas Eve worship services, sign-up on SignUpGenius under volunteers on our website. Contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com) with questions.



## Winter/Spring Virtual Lector Sign-Up- Now Available!

Current Lectors, Winter/Spring sign up is now available on SignUpGenius for January-May



2021. Please sign up 1x/month to fill the open spots. Sign up under volunteers on our website, or click [HERE](#). Questions?? Contact Maria Liedtke at [maria@liedtkebrewing.com](mailto:maria@liedtkebrewing.com).

## Join our Virtual Lector Team!

Would you like to be a virtual reader during our online worship services? We provide you with the scripture verse and recording instruction in advance. You make the recording at home when it is convenient for you. For more information, contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



## Something to Say

In collaboration with Holy Cross and the organization, Race and Faith, we have the opportunity to cultivate our ability to speak up on behalf of vulnerable folks and oppose racism. "Something to Say" is an intergenerational, faith-based, anti-racism effort. The goal is to equip, encourage, and engage families in speaking up about racism. When racism appears in our world, everyone has "something to say." "Something to Say" will be an online event on MLK weekend, January 17-18, 2021.

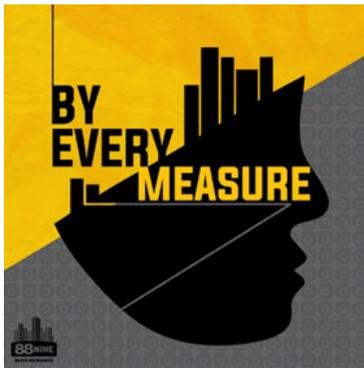
Registration for the event is open and costs \$25 per household. For more information, email Pastor Joe at [pastorjoe@coslc.com](mailto:pastorjoe@coslc.com).



## Zoom Conversation

Continuing the conversation around racial justice in the US, Pastor Joe will be hosting an 8-week Sunday morning conversation group from January 10<sup>th</sup> – February 28<sup>th</sup>. The group will meet by Zoom from 8:45-9:30 a.m., and will focus conversation around the podcast "By Every Measure" produced by 88Nine Radio Milwaukee. ([radiomilwaukee.org/measure/](http://radiomilwaukee.org/measure/)).

For more information, email Pastor Joe at [pastorjoe@coslc.com](mailto:pastorjoe@coslc.com).



## Thrivent Action Teams

We have participated in over 30 Thrivent Action Teams this year! This would not be possible without you! Thank you to everyone who has applied for a Thrivent Action Team to support your church. If you would like more information about Thrivent Action Teams or would like to fill out an application for a ministry or event next year, please contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



LOOK  
WHAT  
YOU  
DID!!

## Socktober Results

Thank you to everyone who donated socks during the month of October! We collected 285 pairs of socks. Also, thank you to Thrivent who provided seed money for our sock drive. The socks will be donated to our ministry partners. Not only did you warm the feet of many children and adults with your sock donations, but you helped bring attention to the needs of the less fortunate in our community.



## Chili Fundraiser Results

On Sunday, November 1st we held our first ever Take & Heat Chili Drive-Thru Fundraiser. We raised \$560 to benefit Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran Church. With the proceeds, they will be able to purchase much needed food for those in need during this pandemic. A special thank you to Chuck and Maria Liedtke who made the chili meals, to our volunteers who helped during the event, and to everyone who purchased chili meals.



## Luther Manor - Cookie Drive

Thank you for your kindness and generosity with your cookie donations to support the seniors at Luther Manor. We collected 147 packages of cookies during our October Cookie Drive. In this time of social distancing, a cookie can brighten someone's day and let them know that people care about them. These cookies will be distributed to the residents residing in the Health Care Center and the Courtyards several times a week. Also, thank you to Thrivent who provided seed money to kick off our cookie drive.



## Christmas and Year-End Offerings

While our building is closed, our church and our hearts are open! We continue to be active in ministry with our partners at SOS, and in Milwaukee. Thanks to you, we are still living out our mission to love God by loving others.

During this time of isolation, our overhead costs still continue. In this time of waiting, we need to be ready for the time we can re-open safely. Your offerings matter. Your offerings allow your church to not only continue our mission together, but to also be ready to re-open with vigor when that time comes.

We have included a Christmas and Year-End offering envelope for your convenience. You may either bring your offering to one of the drive-in Christmas Eve worship services or mail it to church. If you have not taken advantage of it, this might also be a good time to try using Direct Deposit Offerings. All you need to do is complete the brief form below or contact Sandy in our office at [office@coslc.com](mailto:office@coslc.com).

Gifts of Securities are also an option! It's pretty simple. Just contact Sandy in our office and she can connect you with the brokerage service we are using to expedite these gifts. The benefit of gifts of securities is you receive a tax deductible donation credit for the value of the security on the day it was traded, regardless of your basis cost. This is NOT a way to claim losses, but it avoids tax liability on any gains.



## 2021 Offering Envelopes Available

Pick up your 2021 offering envelopes after December 5th in the east entryway of church. ***Please note, if you use direct deposit, you no longer have paper envelopes issued.*** There are also direct deposit forms available on the table for those who would like to give it a try.



### AUTOMATIC DEPOSIT TO CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Withdrawal from your account to Christ Our Savior

Name of account holder(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please deduct \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Once a month (6th) \_\_\_\_\_ Twice a month (6th & 20th)

Beginning Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your bank name: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we the undersigned authorize and direct the bank named above to debit my account.

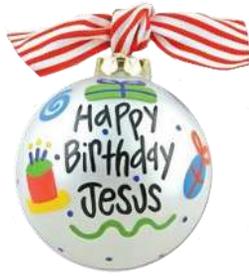
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to the church office with a voided check.**

## Birthday Party for Baby Jesus

This year we are unable to celebrate in person, so instead of a party, we will be collecting diapers of all sizes, baby wipes, baby blankets, PJ's sizes newborn - 2T, baby formula, socks, wash clothes and towels. All items will be given to the Strong Baby Sanctuary at Hephatha Lutheran Church. The deadline for drop off is Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. A goodie bag will be handed out to all children who attend the COS Christmas drive-in services in celebration of Jesus Birthday!



## Sunday School Christmas Program

There is still time to signup for the COS Sunday School children for our very first VIDEO Christmas Program! Yes, YOU are needed for an important part in our Sunday School Christmas Program this year! Watch for upcoming "audition" (aka "Sign Up") details, scripts, music, rehearsal, costumes, and filming/recording! Our "directors and producers" (aka Miss Kim, Mr. Wade, and Miss Marion) are very excited to work with you, your families, and other leaders and helpers, to prepare this very special video presentation. Our Sunday School musical and video offering will be part of our December 20<sup>th</sup> worship service: Mark your calendars for the premiere! Please contact Kim Lewin [kim@coslc.com](mailto:kim@coslc.com) to let her know you are "ALL IN"! After you sign your child up for a part you will stop by church and pick up your child's script if they have a speaking part and their costume. Everyone has a costume! You will video tape your child in costume and saying their lines, then email the video to Wade at [tacos@coslc.com](mailto:tacos@coslc.com). Click [here](#) to signup.

children's  
program



## Confirmation Service Project

This year we all will be helping with the Stockings for the 80 children at Hephatha Lutheran Church. You can buy items for the stockings or you can signup to stuff them you could even do both!! We will be stuffing the stockings on Sunday, December 6th, 2020.

Items Needed:

Small toys	Toothbrushes
Crayons	Toothpaste
Coloring books	Socks
Activity books	Orange
Markers	Bottle of water
Small stuffed animals	

Please drop off your items in the east entryway at the church in the brown bins marked Hephatha. The deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be stuffing the stockings on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. [Stocking Stuffing Signup](#)



## 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](http://tacosoutreach.com), through following the TACOS Facebook page, or by emailing Wade at [tacos@coslc.com](mailto:tacos@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!

We have also been working hard with ERAS Senior Network in creating homemade Christmas ornaments for seniors in their programs. The deadline for sending in your ornaments is December 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information on helping bring some holiday joy to ERAS Senior Network, email Wade at [tacos@coslc.com](mailto:tacos@coslc.com).

And finally, Wade has been working on more ways to connect with TACOS as we transition into the new year! One of the ideas is hosting weekly office hours, where a Zoom link would be live to come and chat and share discussions for an hour each week. Another idea is the creation of a Discord page to share memes, videos, and have discussions that do not have to take place at one point in time. We feel that both would be great additions to the ways in which we can connect with teens around the community of Sussex. So, if you have any preferences or questions regarding these items, please email Wade, and let him know!



With all that being said, we hope you are all healthy and safe and continue to be so! We look forward to a time where we can again meet in person!

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Pastor Joe Wilkinson - [PastorJoe@coslc.com](mailto:PastorJoe@coslc.com)

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