

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

March 2021 Newsletter

Psalm 95:6

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

I miss being in worship together. We hear the same thing from many of you. We bring different desires and expectations to worship; to grow and be sustained in our faith, to gather with other believers – especially friends, to experience God with us, to receive Holy Communion, the music, to be equipped to re-enter the world. When we see that list, we might realize there is a lot to miss!

I'm excited at the prospect of being able to gather for in person worship again outside at the end of the month starting on Palm Sunday, March 28th. The time we are in right now reminds me of high school days in track running the mile. The first three laps on the track were hard, but the hardest lap for me was the last one. That's when my side started to hurt, I felt the burn in my legs, and tried not to lose my position in the pack. Part of me wanted to quit, but I needed to finish the race.

We have all been through a lot this past year. We have been running a long race. We have seen new COVID cases rise and now we are seeing them decline to the levels they were in April last year. There are vaccines becoming available and things are looking up. Optimists are looking at an end time when we can get back to some kind of normal. We have reason to be hopeful. But, we're not done yet. The race is not over. We need to finish the race. We have at least one more lap to go.

As we wait to get back inside safely, we will be able to take advantage of our space outdoors using our FM broadcast and as the lawn dries up, we can bring out lawn chairs to worship on the lawn. It's a step toward what we are used to, but there is still at least one lap left.

Navigating this time has brought all sorts of challenges. I am grateful for the ways we all bear with it and your patience as we accommodate, figure out ways to work with limited internet upload speeds, learn new technology, and get new equipment.

We have also learned a great deal this past year. We learned that some people really like the option of connecting online when we are not able to be present. Even after the doors open again, we intend to keep up a strong online presence. We have also learned how important it is to be gathered around our mission; Gathered in Christ, Fed by God's Word and Sent to Serve. Even when we have not been able to gather for in person worship we continue to adapt how we serve with our partner ministries; food, formula, diapers, clothes and so much more dropped off in our east entrance, transitioning a sit down meal at Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran to a drive through chili meal, doing meetings, study and worship online. This tells us that while the building is closed our church is open and alive.

I can't wait to see you in just a few more weeks! While we wait pray, for your church, our leaders and staff, our bishop, and our nation as we travel through these unimaginable times together.

See you at church!!!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom



A Dollar A Day for the Hungry in Lent

Each year you are invited to set aside \$1 a day to help the hungry through the ELCA hunger appeal as part of our practice of self denial in Lent. This is a great teaching opportunity for children! When you gather for dinner, place a bowl on the table and let children place the money in the bowl to teach them to share and to care for those in need.

In the church, we have asked for \$1 a day in Lent for over 40 years. 40 years ago gas cost just over \$1 a gallon. Today it's a bit more, so feel free to give \$2 or \$5 a day. It all goes to the ELCA Hunger Appeal to feed those who do not have enough to survive.



Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

All families are invited to join us immediately following the 10:00 a.m. drive-in worship service for a fun filled Easter Egg Hunt. This event will take place of Zoom Sunday school! For questions, please contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com



Resuming Public Worship

March 28th Outdoors

Starting March 28th, Palm Sunday, we will gather for in person worship outdoors each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. as well as continue to stream worship online at 8 and 10:00 a.m. Please note, technology limits do not allow us to stream or record outdoor worship. AT&T continues to fail to upgrade our service to sufficient bandwidth so we cannot stream live. Our online worship services need to be recorded.

Outdoor Worship

Drive in and On the Lawn

If the snow is gone by the end of March, we can enjoy worship on our north lawn. We will still have drive in worship options working so you can also remain in your cars if you like. If you worship on the lawn, please practice safe distancing from others.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP TIMES

Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Outdoors as well as 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Online

Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. Outdoors and Online

On this evening, we remember Jesus last supper with his disciples prior to his betrayal. We also celebrate first communion for some of our students who will be with us that day.

Good Friday 6:30 p.m. Outdoors and Online

Good Friday is the day of Jesus sacrifice for us and to us to free us from sin and death. For the outdoor worship, we will have a bon fire or two lit that worshippers are invited to place lists of their sins and regrets in and watch them burn as we join in the rhythm of Christ dying for our sins.

Easter Sunday Outdoors at 10:00 a.m. Online at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate Christ's triumph over the grave, the defeat of evil. Sorry, no breakfast this year! We hope to have some of our choir present to help lead worship with song and praise.

Holy Week & Easter Sunday (Outdoor/Drive-In Worship)

In-Person Lectors & Ushers Needed

We are looking for in-person lectors and ushers for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Ushers will hand out bulletins, Communion kits, and palms (Palm Sunday) before the worship service and collect offering after worship. In-person lectors will read during the worship service and will be sent the readings in advance. You can sit with your family during the worship service. If you would like to serve please sign-up [HERE](#). If you have any questions or for more information, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com



Preparing to Receive the Light of Christ

Every Wednesday in Lent, we host a 20 minute reflective worship time online focused on the theme of [Preparing to Receive the Light of Christ](#). The journey of Lent is marked by confession and repentance. Confession focuses on naming, admitting, and owning our sinfulness in all the ways it shows. Repentance focuses on intentional acts of undoing the impact of our sinfulness.



Join us for this time away from the world as we prepare to receive the Light of Christ.

Outreach for Hope

2021 Lenten Devotions

Our ministry partners at Outreach for Hope are releasing daily video devotions (Monday-Saturday) through Lent. This year's theme is "What does it mean to give?" We have a link to these devotions on our website and Facebook page to make it easy to access them.

From Outreach for Hope, "We hope these devotions will inspire you to reflect deeper on the gifts Christ has given us even in these difficult times, and how we might in turn give to our siblings in need. May our savior's spirit of abundant grace and generosity be with you this Lenten season!"



Check out these Lenten devotions [HERE](#).



First Communion

Congratulations and God's Blessings to all of our 5th graders who will be participating in Communion for the very first time at our 6:30 p.m. drive-in service on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, or at our 10:00 a.m. drive-in service Sunday, April 11th. And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24-25

Zoe Adkins
Avery Ash
Kyra Beardsley
Drew Binney
Luke Binney
Kathryn Burow
Norah Hesse
Ida Johnston
Beckett Lauer
Aaron Le Duc
Will Meyer
Evelyn Prochazka
Joshua Taves



TACOS

TACOS Families,

First, I would like to express my deepest thanks for your patience and grace during these trying times of the past year. Your continued support of the TACOS ministry is what keeps this program alive, eagerly awaiting the opportunity to jump back into everything we have missed out on this past year.

When looking anywhere today, it is easy to see that we are reaching a point in our journey through this global pandemic that is bringing much frustration and fatigue. You and your families have likely faced some of the most difficult times and continue to struggle with events related and unrelated to our pandemic culture. Eagerness to seek opportunities to latch onto any sense of normalcy are at all-time highs. Let me be very clear in saying that I see you, I feel for you, and I understand your desires. Every week we continue to reach out using only virtual means strains on me as well, as I know how ineffective these methods can feel when compared to what the TACOS concept is meant to be. I desire to come back to my normal work just as much as any of our TACOS do too.

I also understand how we are constantly learning more about the virus and how to combat its spread in communities like schools and after-school programs. Even organizations like the CDC have released guidelines suggesting ways in which schools could safely reopen. I understand the path of logic then leading to questions of why we cannot resume regular TACOS programming with said guidelines.



In truth, the infrastructure and resources provided in the TACOS program do not meet the extensiveness of the multiple mitigation strategies that would be necessary to return. Although many safety measures would be easy to implement, such as physical distancing and masking, we do not have the ability to, for example, regularly test leadership and participants, which is strongly encouraged for any kind of reopening. It is a truth that is not easily swallowed but is the reality of our situation. **With careful consideration and discernment, we still believe it is in our best interest to remain virtual.** This again is not a decision made lightly and one that is guided by both the church council and staff of COS and careful examination of guidelines suggested by the CDC and Wisconsin Council of Churches.

We will continue to be active on our virtual platform at [//tacosoutreach.com/virtualmode](https://tacosoutreach.com/virtualmode) and on our social media pages. We also understand that with the arrival of the spring season comes the opportunity to organize events outside. This is an option we are very open to exploring and hope to implement some dates to gather safely outdoors, as well as having service project opportunities as early as the end of March. **Please continue to be vigilant of our communications in planning spring outdoor events and service projects.**

With that being said, I would like to focus on the optimistic and hopeful future that becomes clearer every day! Friends, the reality is we have a vaccine, COVID numbers continue to decline, containment seems to be in reach. We are well on our way to having a world where our first thought does not have to be about a deadly disease. We just need to finish the race. We have come too far and worked too hard to have our work be blighted. I strongly encourage you to take every precaution in fighting this virus. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, wear a mask or two in public, continue to physically distance from others, and get vaccinated when you are able. There is one way to get back to our normal world, and that is by doing the few things we can do to control the spread of this virus and put it to rest.

Please be respectful of our decision to remain virtual and continue to be hopeful that we may soon again see each other when the proper time warrants a safe return. If you have any questions or concerns about our current program, future outlook, or just general inquiries, please email me at tacos@coslc.com. I hope and pray that you are all safe and remain healthy and hopeful in these challenging times as we look forward to a day where we can again gather together, share our experiences, join in conversation, and create a life of wholeness for all TACOS.

Grace and Peace,

Bread of Healing - To Go Meal

Wednesday, March 10th

Our next Bread of Healing meal at Cross Lutheran is on Wednesday, March 10th. We are making to-go chili meals again as they are a big hit! We are looking for two volunteers to help with meal prep (Tuesday evening) and two volunteers to assemble bags (Wednesday morning). If interested in helping with the meal, please reach out to Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com.



COS Quilters Need Your Sheets

The COS Quilters are hard at work making lifesaving quilts that are shipped all over the world. In order to make these quilts, they need material. Currently, they are running very low on sheets that they use for the backs of the quilts. If you have gently used sheets (fitted or flat), please consider donating them. They will also accept any cotton or cotton-blend materials. Material can be placed in the bin labeled COS quilters in the east entryway.



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Kitchen Kits

Now through mid-March, we will be collecting items to make kitchen kits for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Kitchen items needed include: dish soap, dish cloths, dish towels, pot holders, scrubbies of any type, and hand lotion. Many items are easily found at the Dollar Store or at your local grocery/retail store. Donations can be dropped off at church in the bin in the east entryway under the canopy. Or, you can order them online and have them delivered to the church. If you have any questions contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



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.

Thank you,
Maria, and the Church Council



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, March 16th

Tuesday, March 16th is our next meal at Serenity Inns. If you would like to help with the meal, contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211. Items for Serenity Inns can be dropped off at church inside the east doors (under the canopy) by Noon on Tuesday. Please keep the men at Serenity Inns in your prayers as we continue to support them on their journey of recovery.



"SOUPER" Bowl of Caring

SOS Can Drive & Monetary Donations

It was a bitter cold and snowy "Souper Bowl of Caring" week!!! Thank you to all who braved the weather and dropped off cans or monetary donations for SOS. Your cans of soup will warm hearts and feed families who are hungry in our community. Final results: Kansas City Chiefs 48 cans vs Tampa Bay Buccaneers with 28 cans. Regardless if your team had the most cans, or not, SOS WINS!!!



FebrU-WEARy "Brief Appeal"

Thanks for dropping off your drawers during the month of February! We received several generous boxes of underwear and also collected a bin full of underwear for men, women, and children. The underwear collected will be donated to our ministry partners and will be much appreciated by families in our community.



Spring & Summer 2021

Outdoor Worship

Ushers and In-Person Lectors Needed

It is finally here! We're able to gather outdoors for worship! Now you have the opportunity to serve as in-person worship assistants. We are looking for ushers and in-person lectors to help with our Spring and Summer Sunday services. Sign-ups are available Sunday, April 11th through August 2021. New families and individuals are invited to sign up. Ushers will hand out bulletins and Communion kits before worship and collect offering after worship. In-person lectors will read during the worship service and will be emailed the readings in advance. You can sit with your families during the service. You can sign-up on our website under volunteers or [HERE](#). If you have any questions, or for more information, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.

