

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

April 2021 Newsletter

A New Journey

I write this piece to you in the midst of a lot of change at church; planning to re-open for limited public worship, plans for continuing outdoor worship, recovering from this long, bizarre year of COVID impact and so much more. All of those things can leave us breathless. I am also preparing for a new leg of my own journey in life in retirement, which can also feel a little disorienting because I have done this so long.

I have had the privilege to be a pastor among you for 32 years! I never thought I would be able to serve in one place for so long. It has been half a life time and most of a career for me. Like all journeys, this one too is coming to an end.

When I first arrived in 1989, you welcomed me and supported me in the ways we determined to rebuild our church. You were patient with me, you tolerated some of my goofy and wild ideas. Through it all, we got to know each other, we learned to trust one another, and we focused on hearing God's call for us in this place at that time together. You made my family and me feel welcome. I am confident you will offer the same gift to your new senior pastor.

I am proud of you. Christ Our Savior has grown into a congregation deeply committed to mission and outreach as a way of living and expressing our faith. Over the years, one of the questions we have asked is, "If our church was not here, would anyone notice?" The resounding answer is consistently yes!

The impact and reach of your ministry is huge. Over the years you have fed literally millions of people. Christ Our Savior has been pivotal in creating Sussex Outreach Services and a sustaining leader in Cooperating Churches of Sussex and many other ministry partnerships that are too many to list here. In a time when many congregations face declining participation, there are over 50 students in confirmation. You have been adaptive to needs in our worship life based on social changes; beginning Sunday evening worship and Sunday school several years ago.

You worked to sustain the ministry we share during this seemingly endless year of separation and frustration, keeping your eye on the long term view. I will miss these and so many other parts of being a pastor with you. But these things also allow me to move into retirement with confidence knowing that you know what you are doing, you hear God's call and you know what you are doing. I am encouraged by the many fine leaders among you along with great ministry leaders on staff.

The hardest part about retiring, of course, will be missing relationships with you. We have been together for so many years that our lives have become woven together.

As we are able to regather for worship outdoors and look toward limited indoor worship, I look forward to the opportunity to be with you again.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom



Resuming Public Worship

**PUBLIC WORSHIP RESUMES OUTSIDE SUNDAY
MARCH 28 PALM SUNDAY AT 10 AM**
(Online worship continues at 8:30 and 10 AM)

For outdoor worship, if it is nice enough, bring a lawn chair to sit on the lawn or you can remain in your car and tune in worship on your FM dial. If you plan to sit on the grass, please park further away from the grass to allow spaces for those who wish to stay in their cars.

Palm Sunday, March 28th 10 AM

We wave palms recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem leading into Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st 6:30 PM

This evening we remember Jesus' command to love the way he loved us. We also welcome new students to the table at Holy Communion. This is a powerful and special evening.

Good Friday, April 2nd 6:30 PM

This solemn evening worship leads us into the moving and powerful story of Jesus sacrifice for us and to us to set us free from sin and death.

Easter Sunday, April 4th 10 AM

We gather to celebrate God's victory over death in Jesus' resurrection as he opens the way to new life for all of us.



Finding the Rhythm

In this time of separation, many folks long for a return to something that feels normal. People crave an end to the limitations and uncertainties marking this historic chapter. Friends and loved ones want to gather and share a handshake or a hug, to see one another's smiling faces, to laugh and sing together again. In many ways, folks want to return to the way things were.

But folks are also pointing out that if we only go back to the way things were then we are throwing out the baby with the bath water. God has been walking with us through the wilderness – is there no wisdom we have gained from this disruption to bring back with us? To return to what was, without mixing in the insights of this past season, would be a missed opportunity.

It feels very Lutheran, this Both-And tension. In the coming days, we will continue to work out what our new normal will be, both the ways that it will be a return to what is familiar and also how we shift or adapt because of what we have learned along the way.

Let us work out what the future holds together, ever with our eyes on Christ and his way of neighbor love. As rhythms begin to settle into place, let us keep asking the question – “How does this practice help folks to experience the compassion, the justice, the peace that marks the kingdom of God?” There may be days we wish our times were not so interesting and historic, but this is the time God has called us to be part of the body of Christ in the world. Let us go together, friends, and see what God is doing.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe



Limited Re-opening

CHURCH COUNCIL DISCERNING PLAN FOR LIMITED RE-OPENED PUBLIC WORSHIP

The church council and pastors are currently exploring plans to be able to re-open for public worship based on encouraging trends of lower contagion rates and increasing vaccination rates. The council, staff, and a reopening team will be working out the details which will be sent to you as soon as they are available.



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



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 the place of Zoom Sunday school! For questions, please contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com



\$1 a Day for the Hungry Offering

Don't forget your \$1 a day for the 40 days of lent (\$40) to care for those who do not get enough to eat. You may bring your hunger offering to church, drop it off in the lockbox in the east entrance or mail it. Every \$1 given goes to direct food aid to those in need.



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

In-Person Lectors & Ushers Needed

We are so excited that we're able to gather outdoors for worship! We are looking for in-person lectors and ushers for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. You can sit with your family during the worship service.

Ushers will hand out bulletins, Communion kits, and palms (Palm Sunday) before the worship service and collect offering after worship. 4 ushers are needed (2 at each driveway entrance) for each worship service.

In-person lectors will read during the worship service and will be sent the readings in advance. One lector is needed for each service, except Good Friday where we are seeking 3-4 readers.



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

COS Fish Fry (To-Go Meals)

Friday, April 23rd

Save the date! We're holding a TO-GO Fish Fry on Friday, April 23rd from 5:00p.m. to 6:30p.m. to benefit Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran Church. Cost is \$10/meal. You can swing by the church, we'll take your order under the canopy, and bring your fish fry meals to your vehicle when they are ready to go.



VOLUNTEERS: We are looking for 2 volunteers for kitchen prep, 2 volunteers for taking orders, and 2 volunteers for delivering meals to vehicles. If you would like to help with the Fish Fry, please contact Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com or Amy Berken at amy@coslc.com

**Volunteers
Needed!**



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



Retirement Update from Church Staff and Council

Save the Dates to honor and say good-bye to Pastor Tom:

Wednesday, May 19th: Evening Good-Bye Parade for Pastor Tom at COS

Sunday, May 23rd: Pastor Tom's Final Worship Service and Celebration (Outside)

The church staff and council members have started planning events to take place for the departure of Pastor Tom, who is retiring at the end of May. In addition to the parade and final worship and celebration, we will be collecting donations for him. More details regarding both events will be shared after Easter. So...Keep your eyes open!



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, April 14th

Our next Bread of Healing meal at Cross Lutheran is on Wednesday, April 14th. We are continuing our to-go meals during April as they are an effective and safe way that we can feed those who are hungry in Milwaukee.

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.



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.



Worship Team

COS Quilters Need Your Sheets

Thanks for all the sheets and material that have been donated thus far. Keep bringing in your gently used sheets (fitted or flat) and material (cotton or cotton-blend), and place them in the bin for our COS quilters in the entryway. Our quilters continue to be hard at work making lifesaving quilts to donate all over the world.



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TACOS Snack Pack and More This Sunday!

On Sunday at 12:30 pm, TACOS will be completing one final Guest House Snack Pack project and organizing items for the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt happening the following Sunday. So TACOS, come on out and help us make some snack packs and safely catch up with us and your friends! taco@coslc.com

Serenity Inns

Tuesday, April 20th

You are touching the lives of the men at Serenity Inns and sharing God's love! In February, I heard that the residents absolutely loved the frosted sugar cookies with sayings. They were not only delicious, but they were heart-warming and brought smiles to their faces. Thank you to those who donate sides, snacks, and desserts each month and pray for the men at Serenity Inns.



Tuesday, April 20th 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.

Spring/Summer Collection: As you are cleaning out your closets for spring, consider donating gently used shorts, shirts, hats, sunglasses, and light-weight jackets to Serenity Inns. Donations can be placed in the bin in the east entryway.