

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

June 2021 Newsletter

God's Presence With Us

I love to linger outdoors in the warm evenings of spring and summer, and watch the stars reveal their presence in the dwindling light of day. Gazing upon the welcoming darkness of the heavens, the radiance of God's creation shines with enduring faithfulness. Twinkling starlight, always shining even though not always visible, a familiar reminder of God's steadfast presence in our midst.

The radiance of the stars is such a contrast to the electric glow of the smartphone, computer, or TV screens that are so much closer to hand in our immediate experience. Though there are great blessings of communication, connection, and care that our technology provide us, our modern world also places its demands and expectations upon our days. These blinking lights, pinging notifications, and persistent alerts pull us into a rhythm of life that is at odds with our humanity. We must be mindful to make space for stillness, and intentional in our efforts to cultivate patience.

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We are going to have an opportunity to practice our patience in the coming months. As we step into the process of inviting an Interim Senior Pastor to our community, and begin the discernment of learning what we are looking for in a new Senior Pastor, we will be disappointed if we expect things to happen with rapid responsiveness. No matter how much I might long to gaze upon the brilliant blackness of God's cosmos, I have to wait until the darkening of evening to see its splendor. Some things in life are beyond our power to rush; beyond our ability to force to happen at the speed we would like.

And yet, even as we take these new uncertain steps together, even as we turn our thoughts and senses towards the movement of God's Spirit in our midst, we hear in scripture that God is with us – whether we can see God's presence or whether God is shining just beyond our perceptions. May you feel the presence of God uniting us in this time, and may you rest in the faithful and enduring love of the Divine.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe

What Pastor Tom's Retirement Means for Our Immediate Future as a Church

As you know, Pastor Tom's last Sunday was May 23rd. The council has been working with Pastor Jennifer Arnold from the Greater Milwaukee Synod Bishop's office over the last few months. We had our exit interview with Pastor Tom on May 5th.

At our May council meeting, we discussed a potential interim candidate. An interim is a Pastor who will walk with us as we determine who we are without Pastor Tom. That Pastor will also support us as we experience the loss of Pastor Tom. We

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will not have an interim immediately and this Pastor can not be a candidate for our future senior pastor. During our search for an interim, Pastor Joe and our staff, along with supply pastors or seminarians, will continue to lead and support us as we prepare for calling a Senior Pastor. The preparation and process of calling a new senior pastor can take anywhere from 12-24 months. We will keep you updated regularly via the COS website, email/Constant Contact, the newsletter and Sunday bulletins and announcements.

Please remember that as Pastor Tom begins his retirement, he will not be able to have any contact with the Christ Our Savior members. This is not his or our decision. It is a policy of the ELCA. I believe that this will be harder on him than on us. We still have each other, and although it will be difficult, we can lean on our church family. Please continue to pray for Pastor Tom and Ruth as they begin their life without the relationships that they have built here at COS.

Maria Liedtke
Council President

Challenge Gift

Support Ministries at Cross Lutheran & Bread of Healing
A member of our church has generously offered to match dollar for dollar any gifts up to \$15,000 to help support the vital ministry we partner with at Bread of Healing and Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. This is a great opportunity to DOUBLE the impact of your gift. To take advantage of this, simply write Cross or Challenge in the memo portion of a check to Christ Our Savior and we will send it to Cross within a week.



Worship as the Country Loosens Up:

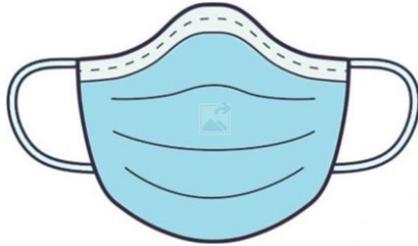
To wear a mask or to not wear a mask, that is the question.

The CDC has come out with a statement that if you have been vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask and can resume activities as before the pandemic. They also stated that we should continue to follow state, community and business procedures. Basically, if a business says to wear a mask, then you wear a mask.

At our May council meeting (which was the day of the announcement), we discussed masks and physical distancing and our various worship options. The next day the Wisconsin Council of Churches came out with a “two out of three” concept. If you are outside, then you don’t have to wear a mask, however you still need to physically distance from others. If you are inside, then you should wear a mask and physically distance from others. Through the month of May, we will follow this practice. There are so many variables and groups to consider that we did not want to rush a decision. We only just began our Sanctuary worship on May 16th. At the beginning of June, please watch for a poll. We want to know your comfort levels for worshipping indoors.

This has been such a fluid situation that we will be sure to keep you updated regularly via the COS website, email/constant contact, the newsletter and Sunday bulletins and announcements. Please be sure to pay attention to the council or staff updates as they come out. Thank you and please pray for us as we continue to make decisions that impact us all.

Your Council President,
Maria Liedtke



We are Proud to Congratulate the Class of 2021

Congratulations on a job well done! May you know that you are loved by God and your family at Christ Our Savior. Now go and change the world! Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have made for you declares the Lord.

Ash, Aiden	Mittelstaedt, Kailey
Bauer, Noah	Ott, Evan
Bianchi, Joshua	Plechaty, Elijah
Brochhausen, Emily	Plechaty, Joseph
Erickson, Jenna	Prell, Elizabeth
Gordon, Connor	Reed, Morgan
Hess, Nathaniel	Rotta, Abigail
Irene, MacKenzie	Skarda Allison
Jurgenson, Leah	Stanisch, Ashley
Kurtz, Aaron	Tomczyk, Emily
Madden, Keltie	Villanueva, Michael



TACOS Virtual Mode Updates and Beyond

TACOS Virtual Mode is still going strong into the spring months. This includes a new Friday activity called TACOS Teasers! TACOS Teasers are a Friday brain game on virtual mode that will run to the end of the school year. Here's how it works: If you can figure out the brain game and contact Wade with correct answer, your name will be placed into a drawing for a cool TACOS prize at the end of the school year! For every week you guess the correct answer for the brain game, you will receive an additional entry. So, make sure you test your brain and give each week a guess at your chance to enter for the TACOS prize!

We will also be working closely with COS youth this summer completing service projects and fun days with Hephatha Lutheran Church. Dates of service will be updated in communication throughout the summer from both Wade and Kim. So, keep your eyes open for exciting summer events!

As we mentioned last month, TACOS has resumed some small outdoor events and activities. The last two months, we successfully held a Campfire Night and Outdoor Movie Night! Please keep in touch with TACOS for any and all information about potential June events to come!

Wade Crevier
TACOS Director



Matthew 25 Days of Service

Due to COVID-19, we are unable to participate in a week-long summer mission trip somewhere else or at home. So, instead of a weeklong trip, we will have Mathew 25 Days of Service. These days of service will be filled with service and fun. The cost of \$20 per day will cover one meal and the activity. You can choose to participate in all of them or just some of them. Our summer projects will include lunch making for Hephatha, lunches or snacks for the Milwaukee Guest House, roadside/Bug Line clean up and yard clean up. Some of the fun things we will be doing are swimming at the Hartford pool/water park, Milkmen baseball game, state and county parks, and much more! Here are the dates. For more information, contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com

Middle school dates

June 16
June 23
July 14
July 21
August 4

High School dates

June 15
June 22
July 13
July 20
August 3



How Can YOU Serve During Worship?

Worship Assistants Needed

We are so excited that we are able to worship in so many ways! You can worship in the sanctuary (8:30 a.m.), outdoors on our back lawn (10:00 a.m.), and virtually online (8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.).

For our worship services to go smoothly, we need your help! You can serve in various worship assistant roles. We need lectors (virtual and in-person), ushers (hand out bulletins), altar guild (bag communion kits), offering counters, and a person to welcome & check-in folks (indoor service only).

You can sign-up on our website under volunteers [HERE](#). Slots are available now through August 2021. If you have any questions, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Worship Team

Adopt-a-Garden

More than half of our garden beds have been adopted, but we still have 4 that need a caring individual or family to occasionally weed through the summer months and into early fall. Each area is small in size, so commitment is only 1-2 hours per month. You can adopt your garden plot on SignUpGenius. If you have questions contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Garden Share Time!

It's time to start sharing what you are growing in your gardens! Bring your garden produce to church and place it on the garden share table. Those who would like a veggie or two can grab them and leave a donation. All proceeds will benefit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.



Facebook

Like us on Facebook to keep updated on what's happening at Christ Our Savior. See the latest posts with pictures and receive reminders of events that you don't want to miss. It's a great way to stay connected!



SOS Food Pantry Summer Bonus Bags

Summer Bonus Bags are lunch sized bags of food that the Food Pantry provides to school aged children over the summer. The Bonus Bags will help fill hungry tummies! We are collecting **single serve** lunch items beginning in June. Below are some suggested items:

Meal Items: Ravioli, SpaghettiOs's, any canned, heat and eat meals, cup of soup/ramen noodles, individual noodle soups, mac & cheese cups, microwave entrees

Drinks: Juice boxes/pouches, individual drinks of Gatorade, Sunny D, etc.

Breakfast Items: Pop Tarts, oatmeal packets, individual cereals, breakfast/cereal bars

Snacks: Granola bars, individual chips, goldfish, cookies, dried fruit, fruit cups, crackers & cheese/peanut butter, fruit snacks



COS Fish Fry Results

We had a successful to-go fish fry on Friday, April 23rd. Thanks for stopping by church to take home 1 or 2 or 6 fish fries! We collected \$685 and the proceeds will benefit Bread of Healing at Cross. While you were enjoying your delicious fish fry, you were helping feed the hungry. Also, thank you to our hard-working volunteers and Thrivent for their support with an action team.



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

Thank you to everyone who donated breakfast items for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission! The items will be used to make food baskets and will be distributed to vulnerable families facing food shortages. You are feeding hungry people!



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, June 9th

Our next meal at Cross Lutheran is on Wednesday, June 9th. We have a dedicated group of 6 people who make this meal happen each month.

If you would like to become involved in this meal ministry to feed the hungry, contact Chuck Liedtke at

chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com.

Extra hands are always welcome!



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, June 21st

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, June 21st. 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:

We'll continue our clothing drive for Serenity Inns through June. As you are cleaning out your closets, consider donating gently used shorts, shirts, hats, sunglasses, and lightweight jackets to Serenity

Inns. Donations can be placed in the bin in the east entryway. Thank you to those who have already donated items!



Building Hope in Haiti - Kicks for Kids Shoe Drive

Thank you for all the shoes! It took more than one trip with the trunk and backseat filled full to deliver all of the shoes to Our Saviors! They were thrilled with so many shoes. The organizer said "You are amazing!" That isn't for me, it is for all of YOU! Thanks for making a difference to the lives of people in Haiti.



Shoes for kids & adults

Clean & gently-used or new

No boots, please

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

N59 W22476 Silver Spring Dr.

Sussex, Wisconsin 53089

Telephone: 262-246-6537

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

Website - www.coslc.com