

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

July 2021 Newsletter

Grounded On Christ

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.” – Matthew 7:24-25

It still feels so odd that in the past year, we had to tell folks, “Please do not come to church.” During this strange season of physical distancing, we have sought to keep Christ’s call as the guiding principle for our practices around worship. Because of our Lord’s command to care for the most vulnerable, we shifted to exclusively online worship. Only after the vaccines were developed and gained some traction in the community did we then add in outdoor worship for Holy Week this year. Likewise, in May, we began worshipping once again in our Sanctuary.

“We rest in the promise of God’s love for humankind; yesterday, today, and forever.”

Now as summer rolls on into July, we will be shifting our practices once again, resuming our 6:00 p.m. evening worship in an outdoor format, and bringing our 10:00 a.m. services into the Sanctuary (These changes will take place beginning on July 11th). Our hope is that between online, indoor, and outdoor worship options, that everyone will feel like they are welcomed into the worship life at our congregation.

Part of the challenge surrounding our decisions of best worship practices has been the number of moving targets that require our flexibility. Though our scientific community has increased in knowledge and understanding, though new knowledge has shifted practices and expectations for communities wanting to gather, in all the change Christ’s gospel is unchanging.

We rest in the promise of God’s love for humankind; yesterday, today, and forever. Because God loves us, we are freed to live on behalf of others, caring for their needs, rather than fixating on ensuring our own saving. As freed and redeemed people, we are called into God’s divine community of mutual-ity and compassion.

The gift of adoption into God’s family and the task of inviting others to join in sharing the Divine Creator’s abundance is our foundation as Christians. Being the Church together means working out what that gift and task looks like in the world we share. At Christ Our Savior, we have emphasized that the way we love God is through loving other people; loving our Divine Parent by caring for our siblings in the family of God.

We are back in the practice of telling folks, “Come to church, it will be good to see you there,” even as we still recognize that we must still be mindful of the limitations around gathering together. As of the time of writing this article, it is still the case that less than half of our state has completed the Covid vaccinations, and there is no clear timeline for when a vaccine will be approved for use by children under 12 years old. As we find our way forward together, may we continue to bear with one another with grace and may we continue to attend to Christ’s calling to speak and act in ways that care for the most vulnerable. When we act with care for our neighbor’s needs, we join Christ in building up a firm foundation to weather the storms and challenges of this world. May the God who claims and sustains each of us lead and guide us in the coming days.

– Pastor Joe

Update on the Future of Worship at COS: Changes to occur Sunday, July 11

At our June council meeting, we discussed the results of the poll that we took in the beginning of June. We determined that there are varying degrees of comfort in being inside. We have decided to continue our 8:30 and 10:00 virtual worship services and our 8:30 inside worship service.

Beginning Sunday, July 11, we are going to move our 10:00 worship service inside also. You will not have to sign up for worship any longer. Masks are optional however, to keep our vulnerable populations and those not eligible for the vaccine safe, if you have not been vaccinated, please wear a mask. Initially, we will continue to sit every other row. The staff will switch the rows in between services.

We wanted to make sure we also continued to offer an outdoor worship service. Before COVID-19, we had three worship services two on Sunday mornings and one on Sunday evening. In order to keep our times in sync with where we hope to be in the fall, we decided to hold a 6:00 outdoor worship service. This will also begin Sunday, July 11. This service will look much like it did before. We will have live or recorded music.

We are also working on determining how the use of Fellowship Hall and coffee and donut time will work. 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 for your patience and please pray for us as we continue to make decisions that impact us all.

Your Council President, Maria Liedtke

Interim Search

In the June Newsletter, a potential interim candidate was mentioned. The Council has had two conversations with this potential candidate. Unfortunately, this candidate is not the right fit at this time. The Greater Milwaukee Synod and Pastor Jennifer Arnold will continue to aide in our search for an interim.

You may be asking, "Why do we need an interim?" Well, an interim Pastor will walk with us as we determine who we are now. That Pastor will also support us as we experience the loss of Pastor Tom. He/she will also help us to prepare to call a new pastor. We will not have an interim immediately and this Pastor may not be a candidate for our future senior pastor.

We will continue to keep you updated regularly via the COS website, email/constant contact, the newsletter and Sunday bulletins and announcements.



Confirmation Fall 2021-2022

Welcome to all of our new seventh graders! It is our hope and expectation that we will be in person for confirmation fall of 2021! Confirmation classes will happen on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Immediately following the 6:00 p.m. worship service. Registration is now open!

<https://www.coslc.com/confirmation/>



Sunday School Registration is now open for this fall! It is my hope and expectation that we will be back to operation as usual!

<https://www.coslc.com/childrens-christian-education/sunday-school/>



TACOS is having a Virtual Summer Camp!

Our director, Wade, will be tapping into his inner most camp counselor throughout the summer months for TACOS Virtual Mode! Each Thursday, TACOS will have a camp-related activity video for our teens to engage with. Activities will range from games, crafts, songs, and so much more! So be on the lookout and visit tacosoutreach.com/virtual-mode for the fun details!

TACOS is working with COS Youth in Matthew 25 Days!

Along with COS youth, TACOS will be active in all Matthew 25 Days of service throughout the summer. July service days and activities can be found on the COS Youth Ministries webpage, coslc.com/youth-ministries. So go and explore what we have for July and come on out and serve the Lord!



Matthew 25 Days of Service

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

Middle school dates

July 14

July 21

August 4

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4eaaa82da0ff2-msmatthew>

High School dates

July 13

July 20

August 3

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4eaaa82da0ff2-hsmatthew>



Worship Assistant Volunteers

NEW- Beginning, Sunday, July 11th, we'll be holding the 10AM worship service indoors and adding a 6PM outdoor worship service. We have open spots available at our 8:30AM, 10:00AM, and soon-to-be 6PM worship service. Worship assistant roles needed at this time are lectors, ushers, and offering counters. You can sign-up on our website under volunteers [HERE](#). If you would like to become part of the worship assistant team, contact Amy Berken at amy@coslc.com.



Adopt-a-Garden

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who have already adopted a garden plot. Our church property is looking great! I love the beautiful flowers! Keep up the amazing job!

There are still 2 spots left! If you would like to adopt one or both of the garden beds on the north side of the church, please reach out to Amy at amy@coslc.com. The commitment is 1-2 hours per month to pull weeds.



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

Keep on bringing in your food items for our Summer Bonus Bags collection. These Bonus Bags are essential for feeding hungry children in our community. We are collecting single serve lunch items throughout the summer. 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



SOS Operation Backpack

We are collecting school supplies for Sussex Outreach Services throughout July to be distributed in our community in early August. You can help by donating needed school supplies to ensure that every child in the Sussex area receives the necessary supplies to get the school year off to a great start. There will be a collection bin at church until August 4th.

Suggested items include: · New, sturdy backpacks · Compasses · Wide-ruled notebooks · Calculators (basic 4-function) · Wide-ruled loose-leaf paper · Watercolor paints · Folders · Dry erase markers · Pens (black, blue, red) · Erasers (pencil cap and regular) · Markers (fine and broad tip) · School glue · #2 pencils · Glue sticks · Rulers · Child-size scissors · Protractors · Post-It Notes · Highlighters · Black Sharpie markers · Colored pencils · Pencil boxes or cases



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, July 14th

We will continue with our to-go meals, but we'll be changing up our lunches for summertime. For our next BOH meal on Wednesday, July 14th, we'll be making sub sandwiches. We'll be meeting at church from 8-11AM to make, prepare, and assemble the bags. If you would like to become involved in this meal ministry to feed the hungry in Milwaukee, contact Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com.



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, July 20th

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, July 20th. We are now able to have up to three people eat dinner with the residents. If you would like to help with the meal or eat dinner with the residents, 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.



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.



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