

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

September 2021 Newsletter

From the Pastor

September is upon us! A time of transition into our fall and all it entails – the beginning of a new school year and a new confirmation season, the preparations for autumn harvests and holidays and the family gatherings surrounding them. A burst of energy and activity for us in Wisconsin as we strive to make the most of our remaining time before the cold of winter returns.

Oh my people, oh my church, how I wish that we were entering into this season with business as usual. I know the deep weariness folks have for the continued conversations around Covid and the disruption that it brings to our expectations and plans. But for overcoming the challenges of our time, it is as Robert Strauss says, “Success is a little like wrestling a gorilla. You don't quit when you're tired. You quit when the gorilla is tired.”

And yet, despite the weariness and disruption of our times, I find myself drawn to hope. God is with us in the thick of it. Our God - who created from nothing all that is; who brings new life out of death; who has overcome sin and separation and welcomed us to the divine community - is indeed still faithfully at work in and through us to bear more compassion, justice, and love into the world. The Lord of All Creation is on the side of humankind and has taken up solidarity with those who are most vulnerable! When God is on our side, who can be against us?

I know that there are folks in our congregation who have great concerns about the continued impacts of the pandemic on our community, and around the world; I know, because I am one of them. I know that there are folks in our congregation who deeply value gathering together in person for Christian fellowship; I know, because I am one of them.

I know that there is a lot of ambiguity in front of us, related to the pandemic and to our interim work and the eventual call for our Senior Pastor. I don't know with certainty the best steps to take forward, but I know that the Holy Spirit is with us; I know that Christ calls us to act in ways that center the needs of the most vulnerable; and, despite differences in experience and perspective, I know that God intends for each of us to be a gift to one another, to the work of the Church, and to the world. And so, I believe that we are a stronger, better equipped, and more resilient community when we find ways to overcome what we don't know together.

– Pastor Joe

Interested in Membership???

New Member Orientation & Reception

We are welcoming new members this fall, but it will look a little different. Instead of gathering for orientation on a specific date, we'll be meeting with an individual, couple, or family on a one-to-one basis. During orientation, we'll provide an overview of Christ Our Savior, introduce you to our various ministries, and explore areas where you fit in. If you are interested in becoming a member contact Amy Berken at amy@coslc.com.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

COVID Update From Council

On Sunday, August 8, the council met to determine our response to the new CDC recommendations. The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) guidelines are in line with the CDC. If we were to follow those guidelines, Waukesha County is in the red, and we would be closed. We will not stop our indoor/sanctuary services; however, we do need to make some adjustments.



Starting this Sunday (8/15/21), we will go to solely instrumental music for in person worship. There will be no singing by worship leaders or the congregation. Music will not be printed in the bulletin.

While we are not requiring masks for indoor worship, we are recommending that masks be worn inside.

It is important to remember and respect that we have varied levels of comfort as well as risk aversion in our staff and congregation.

COS Council

Interim Search

The council was in conversation with an interim candidate; however, the candidate was not a good fit for our congregation. Another candidate has become available, and we will be speaking



with that person soon. The Interim Pool is very small, and the Greater Milwaukee Synod and Pastor Jennifer Arnold will continue to aide in our search for an interim and if any other candidates become available Pastor Arnold will let us know. In the meantime, COS will periodically have Pastoral support through the synod and some supply Pastors.

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 continue to 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.

Sunday School

We are excited to announce that we will be back in person for Rally Day, September 12 for Sunday school classes! Sunday school registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open and available online! Click [HERE](#).



Rally Day!

Sunday, September 12

The youth of COSLC will be hosting an All You Can Eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast! 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation of \$10 each, \$5 for children (5-12), 4 and under are free. All proceeds will go towards summer 2022 mission trips!



Pancake & Porkie Breakfast



Pumpkin Palooza

Friday, October 8th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Pumpkin Palooza is open to all families, costumes are encouraged, but not required. You will experience an evening full of games, dinner, activities, crafts, and a fun night of fellowship! Friday, October 8th from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at COS. The suggested donation for this event is \$10 per family.



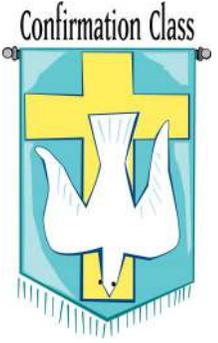
School Supplies - Thank You!!

A super huge [thank you](#) for all the school supplies donated to support SOS Operation Backpack and Hephatha School Supply Drive. We collected several bins full of supplies!! These items will go to the kids in our community to help them get the school year off to a great start.



Confirmation Fall 2021-2022

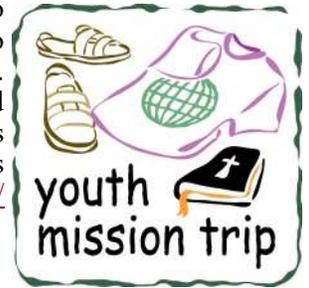
We are excited to announce that confirmation will be on Sunday evenings, and in person! Starting September 12th. Registration is now open. Confirmation will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, September 12th for seventh-grade confirmation students and their parents for an informational meeting. Confirmation for 7th-8th graders will be at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the Sunday evening worship starting September 19th. Eighth-grade students must be registered for this fall class as well. Click [HERE](#).



Please watch your emails for more details for the up coming year! For questions contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com.

Summer Mission Trips for 2022

Middle school students will be going to Nashville Tennessee! This trip is open to all current 6th through 8th graders!! High school students will be going to West Virginia! This trip is open to all current 9th through 12th graders. If you are interested in going and would like to help select the dates for these trips please fill out this Google survey <https://forms.gle/nfPkuBCaGuwqz1uZ8>



COS Fish Fry

Friday, October 1st

Save the date! We're holding a fish fry on Friday, October 1st from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. to benefit Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran Church. Cost is \$10/meal. Volunteers are needed for kitchen prep, set-up, ticket sales, serving, and clean-up. If you would like to help, please sign-up on our website under volunteer signups - COS Fish Fry. Or, you can contact Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com.



SOS Summer Bonus Bags - Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated food items over the summer to the SOS food pantry to make Summer Bonus Bags. These Bonus Bags helped fill kids' hungry tummies!



Garden Share Time!

We've already had hot peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, zucchini, and herbs too. What's in your garden that you would like to share? Bring your garden produce to church and place it on the garden share table. Those who would like a few veggies can grab them and leave a donation. All proceeds will benefit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, September 8th

Our next BoH meal, we will be making to-go bags with sandwiches, chips, fruit, and cookies. We'll be meeting at church from 8:00-11:00 a.m. 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 - Desserts Needed

Tuesday, September 21st

We could use a dessert or two for our next meal at Serenity Inns on Tuesday, September 21st. If you are able to make a dozen cookies or a pan of brownies, please bring them to church by Noon on Tuesday. If you would like to help prepare the main meal or eat dinner with the residents, contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211.



Outreach for Hope Ride-Run-Walk

Saturday, September 25th

Join all of your friends on the morning of Saturday, September 25th for the Outreach for Hope 2021 Ride Run Walk (formerly the Family Bike Ride) and help FUNdraise \$150K for grants to central city congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA! Our Ministry Partners across Southeast Wisconsin not only provide help with daily necessities like food pantries, youth programs, neighborhood stores, and medical clinics; they are centers of transformation and hope in the heart of their communities. For more information or to register for the event, go to their website at <https://outreachforhope.org/ride-run-walk>.



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.



Se "TP"ember - Toilet Paper Drive

This year, we will be collecting toilet paper during the month of September. Bring in your toilet paper every week and we'll stack them in the narthex and sanctuary windows. Let's beat our record of over 1000 rolls!!!



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

In September, we will be collecting the following items the Lakota's requested. Donated items can be dropped off in the bin labeled PRIR in the entryway.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES-Spiral notebooks, colors, pens, pencils, glue sticks, color pencils, backpacks, items specific to high school age also. **NO PENCIL SHARPENERS OR 3 RING BINDERS.**

INFANT-Diapers size 2 and up. Baby wipes

ADULT- Depends on other brand protective undergarment-sizes medium through XL. Prefer the pull up kind.

SEWING ITEMS- scissors, thread, material, batting, and ribbons, working sewing machines, sewing & quilting materials, beads and beading items. They make quilts, beaded items and sell them as a way to make an income.

MISCELLANEOUS-NEW Sleeping bags, quilts, blankets (If donating used, they need to be clean, with no tears or holes), **NEW** pillows, space heaters, and air mattresses. New socks for men, women, and children. Laundered gently used winter coats, hats, and gloves/mittens for adults and children with no holes, tears or broken zippers. **NO OTHER CLOTHING PLEASE.**

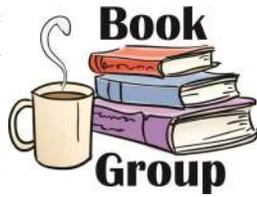


One Spirit

COS Book Group

Saturday, September 25th

On Saturday, September 25th, we'll be meeting at church at 10:00 a.m. to catch up with each other and explore books to read this fall. Bring your list of books and a beverage. Cookies will be provided. All adults who enjoy reading are welcome to come!

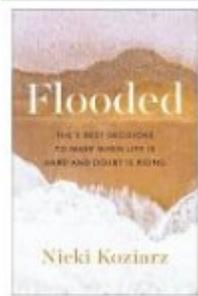


Women's Inspirational Book Group

Begins Monday, September 20th

Come join us as we begin a new book study, *Flooded: The 5 Best Decisions to Make When Life Is Hard and Doubt Is Rising* by Nicki Koziarz

Does it feel as if the floodwaters are rising, with no rescue boat in sight? Koziarz understands hopelessness and its destructive results: despair, doubt, unbelief, and faithlessness. While studying the biblical account of Noah, she discovered five key choices that were critical to regaining and keeping her faith and hope---now she shares them with us!



When: Begins Monday, September 20th. We'll meet every other Monday for six sessions.

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Chapel

What: During each session, we'll watch a short video and then share our thoughts using the discussion questions in the study guide. Reading the book, "Flooded" is recommended.

RSVP: For more information or to join the book study contact, Amy at [414-975-1228](tel:414-975-1228) or email amy@coslc.com

SOS Food Pantry- Monday Shift

SUSPENDED

Our Monday Shift from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the SOS Food Pantry is still **SUSPENDED** at this time. SOS will contact us when they are able to resume in-person volunteers.



Community Banquet

SUSPENDED

Our meal ministry at Community Banquet is **SUSPENDED**. We will be in touch with you when the meal resumes and we are scheduled to serve again. Contacts: Diane Otto at dotto@wi.rr.com



JOY (Just Older Youth) 55 & Older Adult Ministry

JOY events coming soon! We are exploring ideas for events this fall. We're looking forward to getting the group back together again. Watch the announcements for more information. If you have ideas for events or would like to be included on the JOY contact email list reach out to Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Adopt-a-Garden/Yard Care

The time and effort you have put into weeding your garden space has our property looking great! Don't forget to check your garden plot for weeds this fall, too! Soon it will be time to trim the bushes and do some fall winterizing around our church property before the snow hits. If you would like to help with these projects, contact Chris at c.k.stromberg@gmail.com or Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Worship Assistants

Fall SignUpGenius Now available

We have open spots for you this fall to be a lector and/or usher at the 8:30 & 10:00a.m. worship services. Virtual lectors are also needed each Sunday. The virtual readings can be recorded at your convenience from home. If you are already a worship assistant, please select your dates now for fall. 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. We would love for everyone to serve!



Worship Team

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!



Statement from TACOS Regarding Fall Programming

TACOS Families,

First, I would like to express my continued gratitude and thanks for your patience and grace during these trying times of the past year and a half. Your never ending support of the TACOS ministry is what has kept this program alive through all of our road work and re-mapping during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, I am pleased to share that TACOS will resume after-school and evening programming for both middle and high school students starting this fall. Our program times will remain as they were prior to postponement, with high schoolers meeting at Christ Our Savior on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., starting with a soft open on September 7th, and middle schoolers meeting at Christ Our Savior on Wednesdays after school until 5:00 p.m., starting with a soft open on September 8th.

We will also be hosting an outdoors TACOS Fall Bash on September 17th for all of our TACOS youth to jump back into our awesome community! Middle schoolers are welcome to come to the north parking lot of Christ Our Savior after school until 5:30 p.m. and high schoolers are welcome to join us at 5:30 p.m. and stay until the kickoff of the Chargers football game against Menomonee Falls in the evening. We will be having all kinds of fun games, great music, and food including a taco bar for everyone to enjoy the TACOS fall comeback.

All of these items are indeed great steps in the right direction for our TACOS community to come back as strong as ever, but we also understand how ever-changing our protocols can be as we still face the unknowns of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. With this in mind, we will be following guidelines established by the Christ Our Savior church council to ensure that our youth remain safe during our in-person activities this fall. These guidelines include: **masking is optional for those who are fully vaccinated, and masking is requested for those who not fully vaccinated.** We are also prepared to accept any changes to protocol established by the church council, including stricter masking protocols as well as the potential to again postpone in-person activities. It is our hope and prayer that a reversal does not happen, but we will be prepared for whatever the future holds. This will involve a constant review of COVID-19 numbers in our area as well as following further guidance from the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the Christ Our Savior church council.

I still strongly encourage you to take every precaution in fighting and ending this virus. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, if you are vaccinated where a mask public when you see fit, continue to physically distance from others, and get vaccinated when you are able. There is only 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.



We are extremely excited to enter into a new stage of bringing in-person programming back for TACOS! If you have any questions or concerns about our decision making, future outlook, or just general inquiries, please email me at ta-cos@coslc.com. I hope and pray that you are all safe and remain healthy and hopeful in these challenging times as we get even closer to gathering together, sharing our experiences, joining in conversation, and creating a life of wholeness for all TACOS.

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