

# Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

## October 2021 Newsletter

### Fom the Pastor

One of the podcasts I listen to recently featured Yale philosopher and cognitive scientist, L. A. Paul posing the question, “Do You Want To Become a Vampire?” She used this thought experiment as a way of illuminating the challenges with how we make choices about transformational experiences, when we don’t know how the experience will change us. When faced with such choices, do we prioritize our preferences now? Or the preferences we imagine we will have after being transformed? I found the whole conversation riveting.

As Christians, we often talk about how God transforms us through the work of the gospel. Though God loves us and welcomes us as we are, we give voice to how following Christ should align our hearts with the heart of God – transforming our preferences to more closely match the preferences we hear Jesus proclaim in the gospels. In following Jesus, we believe that we will begin to more consistently find ourselves drawn to the work of justice; to the offering of forgiveness; to the ways of compassion and care for those in need.

While I listened to L.A. Paul frame this question of how we weigh the preferences of our current selves or our imagined future selves, I realized that my Christian faith makes the question for me a simpler one – whatever the hypothetical transformative experience, I should make the choice that seems most likely to continue the transformative work of the Holy Spirit within me. Granted, whether or not I *actually* make that choice is another matter #SinnerAndSaint.

May you, dear reader, experience the transformative power of the Holy Spirit at work within you. May you embrace the choices that align you with Christ’s way of justice and compassion, and may you know that even when we choose differently, there is grace for that.

Pastor Joe

## Council Updates

### Interim Search

The council had a conversation with an Interim candidate in early September. We determined we want to work together. The candidate will be available the beginning of November. We are currently working on the particulars of the position and hope to have more details for you soon.

This Pastoral Interim will walk with us as we determine who we are now as well as perform other pastoral duties and support Pastor Joe and the staff as we search for a new Lead Pastor. The Interim will also support us as we continue to experience the loss of Pastor Tom. He/she will help us to prepare to call a new pastor. This Pastor is not allowed to be a candidate for our future senior pastor.

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



### COS Fish Fry

**Friday, October 1st**

Join us on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. for a Fish Fry to benefit Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran Church. Cost is \$10/meal. You can eat in fellowship hall or take your fish fry to go. If you are interested in helping with the fish fry, please sign up on our website or contact Chuck Liedtke at

[chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com).



### 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](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

# Covid-19 Ministry Plan

In light of increases in cases of Covid-19 for our community, our council has agreed to the following plan to guide our worship practices and building use moving forward. Our benchmarks are based on following the numbers of new cases per 100k population over a seven day average for Waukesha county, as reported by the Brown School of Public Health's website [www.globalepidemics.org](http://www.globalepidemics.org).

Following the example of our CCOS neighbors at Redeemer UCC, movement between the tiers will require a 14 consecutive day favorable trend prior to moving to a less restrictive level, and a 4 consecutive day unfavorable trend will be grounds to move to a more restrictive level.

For more information about Covid-19 and ministry practices in Wisconsin, the Greater Milwaukee Synod has encouraged its members to look to the Wisconsin Council of Churches, as this organization has been diligently cataloging informational resources and grounding them within the understanding of the Christian faith since the early days of the pandemic. Their most recent returning to church supplement, *By Faith We Stand Firm*, was published on July 28th 2021. You can check out this, and other resources, on their website [www.wichurches.org](http://www.wichurches.org).

We all long for this season to be behind us, but we move forward trusting that God is with us in this journey. Thank you for your continued patience and grace as we continue to get creative about sustaining the work of the gospel during these strange times.

## Update on Worship at COS:

At an extension of the September council meeting, we created benchmarks to direct our worship time and building use. These guidelines are presented on the website and here in the newsletter. Please check out the links provided in sidebar of the plan. We will be following the numbers of new cases in Waukesha County per 100,000 over a seven-day average.

This continues to be a fluid situation and 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.

There is more information in table form on to the right of this page.

Your council president, Maria Liedtke

<b>&lt;10</b>	Worshipping indoors and online
	Masks optional
	Receiving Communion from the front
	Group singing and responding
<b>10-24.99</b>	Worshipping indoors, outdoors and online
	Masks recommended
	Individual Communion kits only
	Group singing and responding
<b>25-49.99</b>	Worshipping indoors, outdoors, and online
	Masks recommended
	Individual Communion kits only
	Only worship leaders singing
<b>50-74.99</b>	Worshipping indoors, outdoors, and online
	Masks recommended
	80 person building capacity.
	Advanced sign up for worship available.
	Social distanced seating
	Individual Communion kits only
<b>75- 99.99</b>	Worshipping indoors, outdoors, and online
	Masks required
	80 person building capacity.
	Advanced sign up for worship available.
	Social distanced seating
	Individual Communion kits only
<b>100+</b>	Instrumental music only
	Outdoor, Drive In and Online Worship Only



## Pumpkin Palooza

**Friday, October 8 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

We will enjoy dinner together which will be pizza, salad, caramel apple bowls for dessert, cider and water. There will be activities and crafts for all ages! If you are interested in attending, please sign up by clicking [here](#). For more information contact Kim Lewin at

[kim@coslc.com](mailto:kim@coslc.com)

There is a suggested donation is \$10 to cover the cost of food and supplies.



## Confirmation Food Dive

**Saturday, October 9**

Our seventh and eighth-grade confirmation class will be at the Sussex Piggly Wiggly and Pick 'N Save from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. collecting food for the SOS Food Pantry. You can support our youth by coming to the grocery stores that morning to shop and donate, or you can drop your donations off at COS any time before Monday, October 11.



## JOY (Just Older Youth) 55 & Older

### Adult Ministry

**Falls Patio Players (OCTOBER)**

The tickets have been purchased and we are all set for our first JOY event this fall on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you signed up to see the performance of *Things My Mother Taught Me* by the Falls Patio Players, please meet us at the North Middle School Auditorium in Menomonee Falls at 1:30 p.m. If you didn't sign up, join us for our next event in November.

**Pieper Porch Winery (NOVEMBER)**

On Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we'll meet at church at 11:00 a.m. to go to Pieper Porch Winery in Waukesha. At the winery, we will have the opportunity to sample five wines. Bring your own lunch or snacks as we enjoy wine tasting together. They have indoor and outdoor seating (weather permitting). Also, you may wish to pick up a bottle of wine or two for your Thanksgiving dinner only a few weeks away.

If you would like to be added to our JOY contact list or would like more information, contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



## Invitation to Serve

We are inviting YOU to serve by being a lector and/or usher at the 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. worship services. Also needed, are virtual lectors each Sunday. The virtual readings can be recorded at your convenience from home. All adults, middle school, and high school youth are encouraged to participate. Sign-up on our website under volunteers [HERE](#) to serve as a worship assistant. If you would like more information, contact Amy Berken at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



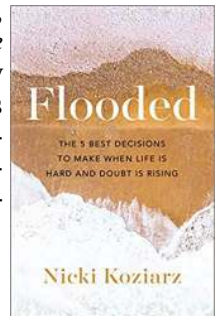
## Adopt-a-Garden/Yard Care

Now that the growing season is coming to an end, please take a moment to prepare your garden area for winter. In addition, we are looking for a few folks to help trim the bushes and do some fall winterizing to our church property before the snow hits. If you would like to help with winterizing, contact Chris at [c.k.stromberg@gmail.com](mailto:c.k.stromberg@gmail.com) or Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



## Women's Inspirational Book Group

It's not too late to join our new book study, *Flooded: The 5 Best Decisions to Make When Life Is Hard and Doubt Is Rising* by Nicki Koziarz. We meet Mondays (alternating) from 6:30-7:30pm in the community room. If you are interested in joining the book study, contact Amy at 414-975-1228 or email [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com)



## Socktober

We will be collecting new socks during the month of October. We need socks of all types, sizes, and colors. Boys, girls, men, women, even infant/baby socks can be donated. Solid colors, white, and fun socks are welcome and encouraged too! Socks collected will be donated to our outreach partners.



## Giving Tree

We are looking for a handful of people who would be willing to help with our Giving Tree ministry. We need help with calling families for wish lists and delivering gifts in early December. We also will be collecting gift cards for our ministry partners again this year. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).



## Bread of Healing Meal

**Wednesday, October 13th**

Our next BOH meal is on Wednesday, October 13th, and we will be making to-go chili meals. We'll be meeting at church from 8-11 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](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com).



## Serenity Inns

**Tuesday, October 19th**

Thank you to our youth for making inspirational place-mats for Serenity Inns Celebrating Recovery Dinner. It was amazing to see your words of encouragement and how you shared your faith. Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, and we could use a dessert or two. If you can make some decorated Halloween cookies or monster bars, that would be fantastic! Please bring them to church by Noon on Tuesday. If you would like to help with the meal, contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or sign up on the outreach ministry board.



## Community Banquet

**Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

We are glad to announce the return of the CCOS community dinners. The first event at St. James will be Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for a Grab and Go Dinner from 5:00-6:30pm. We do not have an assigned role this month, but all are welcome to grab a meal to go. Pull up under the canopy on the north side of St. James Church. State the number of dinners needed (1 per person). The meals will be brought to your car. Watch for a schedule on our outreach ministry board for when its COS' turn to serve in a role (setup, cleanup, or cook). Contacts: Diane Otto at [dotto@wi.rr.com](mailto:dotto@wi.rr.com).



## SOS Food Pantry- Monday Shift

**SUSPENDED**

Our Monday Shift from 5-7 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.



## Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We had several boxes of diapers, baby wipes, school supplies, sewing materials, blankets, pillows, and winterwear including coats, hats, and mittens. Also, thank you to Sam Mayek who brought our donated items to the drop-off location in Waukesha.



*One Spirit*

## SOS Toilet Paper Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated toilet paper during the month of September!!! It is an item in great demand at the SOS Food Pantry. It is a blessing that we can give and meet the needs of others in the community.



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