

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

November 2021 Newsletter

From the Pastor

Depending on when you are reading this, we have just confirmed nearly 30 of the youth in our congregation. I find it centering to experience the rhythms and rituals of our church community. Baptisms, young people being confirmed, even our All Saints celebration recalling those members in our community who have joined the church triumphant this past year - these are practices that tie our congregation to prior generations of faithful followers of Christ.

This month, we are welcoming our new Interim Pastor to the community. In a way, welcoming our Interim and confirming our youth are also events that tie us to the future generations of our congregation. Pastor Michael will walk with us as we seek God's guidance and reflect on how God is calling us to be the body of Christ. And, as these newly confirmed members of our congregation continue in their own faith journey, we trust that the Holy Spirit will also be guiding them in how the stories of their lives connect to God's ongoing story of redemption for the whole of creation.

Like many grains gathered from the fields to bake the bread, or many threads woven together to form the fabric, God draws each of us as individuals together to form something greater than the sum of its parts. From generations past and future, God continues to unite the church as a people blessed to be a blessing to the world.

When you consider the way that we are called to be a blessing to the world, what comes to mind? How has God lit a fire within you to address the needs of people in our community? Who are the neighbors in our world that we have best been called together and equipped to serve? As our Interim walks with us through the self-reflection and discernment of preparing to call a new Senior Pastor, these kinds of questions will help us understand the kind of person who will be best suited to walk with the congregation for the next chapter of Christ

Our Savior's story.



May the God who draws all peoples across the generations to take part in the story of redemption, stir in us a curiosity for the new thing God is preparing in our midst. And may the Holy Spirit unite us in holy purpose to transform this community to reflect God's compassion and grace.

Pastor Joe

Interim Search Ends!

We have finalized our agreement with Pastor Michael Anderson to be our interim. He will be with us for the next 18-24 months. He 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. Pastor Michael will help us to prepare to call a new pastor. This is not a called position. The Synod, with agreement from COS and Pastor Michael, appoints him as our interim. He is not allowed to be a candidate for our future senior pastor.



Pastor Michael will begin with us on Monday, November 8th. His first Sunday with us will be November 14th. We will have a simple reception for him on that day.

Meet COS Interim Pastor Michael Anderson!

Rev. Michael Anderson is an ELCA pastor of 16 years and has served congregations in the South-eastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Most recently he served as interim pastor at The Lutheran Church of the Living Christ in Germantown, WI. A graduate of Valparaiso University with a Bachelor of Art degree in Communication and Spanish, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now, United Lutheran Seminary).



A Wisconsin native, Pastor Michael has enjoyed opportunities to live and travel both domestically and internationally. His professional interests include liturgy and preaching, faith formation, cultivating spiritual practices, congregational mission and leadership development, and writing. His personal hobbies include cheering on the Milwaukee Brewers, running, golf, motorcycle road trips, growing his vinyl record collection, and reading (especially the work of Jim Harrison, Christopher Moore, N.T. Wright, and Christian Wiman). He and his wife Rebecca live in Milwaukee, WI with their dog.

Council Updates

Update on Worship at COS:

Due to darkness and colder weather, we have moved the Sunday evening 6:00 worship service inside. This service will follow the same guidelines as the morning worship services. All worship services will continue to follow the 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 link provided. 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.

Your council president, Maria Liedtke



Annual Meeting Announcement

Sunday, December 19th

We will have the Christ Our Savior Annual Meeting on Sunday December 19, 2021 at all worship services. Council members will be available to answer questions (open forum style) December 5 and December 12 between the 8:30 and 10:00 services (location to be determined) and at the 6:00 pm service. The budget, Annual Report, and other information will be available at church on those Sunday's and on our website beginning the first week of December.



Covid-19 Ministry Plan

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

Worship

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m.

We gather together to count the Lord's Blessings on Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m. Come join us as we take time to reflect in gratitude for God's gifts for us and how we can share those gifts with others.



Midweek Advent Worship at Christ Our Savior

We will be holding midweek Advent worship services on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. starting December 1st.

We will use the Holden Village worship service; a quiet, reflective worship format that allows us to step away from the hustle and bustle of the world.



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.



Acoustic Guitarist Needed

Acoustic guitarist(s) needed for COS band. Candidate(s) should be available to play most Sunday morning services, and rehearse approximately one evening a month. Looking for someone who is an experienced/accomplished guitarist who can read music, guitar chords and tablature. Familiarity with Contemporary Christian music is a plus. Please reach out to Music Ministry Directors Linda Brackmann and/or Eileen Swierczek. We'd love to talk to you!



All Saints Remembrance

Sunday, November 7th

Each year on All Saints Day (observed the first Sunday of November), we remember all those from our congregation, and those who we have been pastorally connected with in worship.



Welcome New Members

Sunday, November 14th

We will be welcoming new members to our congregation on Sunday, November 14th at our 10a.m. worship service. We are so delighted to be able to welcome them into our church family! Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to Christ Our Savior.

Sandra & Matt Aslakson with Brooke and Ryan
Donna Houlis



Decorating for Advent & Christmas

Sunday, December 5th

We will be decorating the sanctuary for the season of Advent and Christmas on Sunday, December 5th following the 10AM worship service. We need a bunch of helpers to transform our sanctuary into a warm welcoming place of peace, joy, and love as we prepare for the birth of Christ! Everyone in the congregation is welcome to join in! For more information contact Amy at amy@coslc.com



Youth & Family Ministry

First Communion for all 3rd-5th Grade

New this year, anyone who is in 3rd grade – 5th grade can sign up to participate in our First Communion workshop Sunday, November 14, 10:45 AM – 1:30 PM or Sunday, April 3, 10:45 AM-1:30 PM lunch will be provided. Please register at <https://www.coslc.com/first-communion/> the cost is \$20 per child. This workshop is for both the parent and child. Child-care is provided for younger siblings. Please contact Kim Lewin for more information or questions. kim@coslc.com

“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” -Matthew 26:26-28



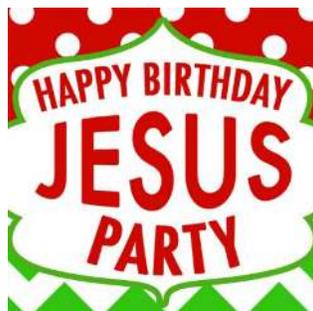
Christmas stockings for Hephatha Lutheran Church and SOS

Once again, the youth of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will be collecting small gift items for children ages 3-12 boys and girls, markers, coloring books, candy canes, Christmas pencils. Please drop off the items during November in the bin in the east entryway. For questions or information please contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com



Birthday Party for Baby Jesus Save the Date

Friday, December 10th from 6-8 p.m. at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. Suggested donation for dinner is \$10 per family. We will be collecting baby items for The Strong Baby Sanctuary at Hephatha Lutheran Church.



TACOS

TACOS has been off to a great start this fall gathering in-person at Christ Our Savior!

High School TACOS on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm
Middle School TACOS on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-5:00pm

If you have any questions about TACOS, please email Wade, at tacos@coslc.com. We hope to see you soon!



Giving Tree

Deadline December 5th

COS has sponsored three families (12 children) supporting the Christmas Clearing Council in Waukesha. In addition, we will be collecting gift cards for Sussex Outreach Services, Hephatha Church, Cross Lutheran Church, ERAs Senior Network, and Serenity Inns. Watch for the tree to go up in the Narthex the beginning of November. All tags and gifts are due back to the church by December 5th. If you would like to help with delivering gifts in early December, or would like more information, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Helping Our Afghani Siblings Hygiene Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our hygiene item drive in October to help our neighboring Afghani refugees. We had a table full of items and one of our Confirmation small groups contributed several bins filled with hygiene items for men and women.



Adult Discipleship Ministries

In the Middle Group (30's, 40's, and 50's)

RSVP by November 7th

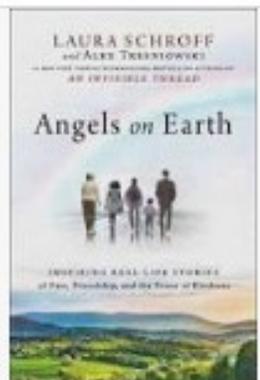
Join us on Friday, December 10th at 7:30pm for the musical comedy, "Sister Act," at the Waukesha Civic Theater. Tickets are \$27/each and they are going fast. RSVP and money is needed by Sunday, Nov. 7th to reserve your ticket. If you are interested in going to this event or want more information, please email Hope Ingle at hope.ingle@gmail.com.



COS Book Group

Saturday, November 6th

The COS Book Club will be meeting on Saturday, November 6th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the book "Angels on Earth" by Laura Schroff. This book contains inspiring real-life stories about the incredible impact that acts of kindness can have on the world around us. If you need help locating a copy, contact Carolyn Casper. Also, please bring suggestions for future books to discuss. All are welcome and we will meet in the lounge. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Casper - 262-246-4041 or 262-420-9092.



JOY (Just Older Youth) 55 & Older Adult Ministry

Friday, November 5th

On Friday, November 5th, 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.

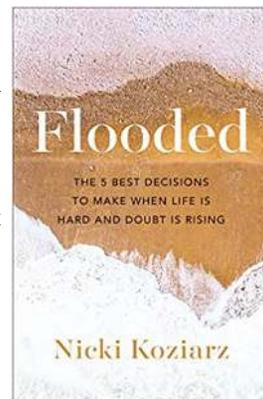
If you would like to be added to our JOY contact list or would like more information, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Women's Inspirational Book Group

November 1st & 15th

This month we will continue our book study, *Flooded: The 5 Best Decisions to Make When Life Is Hard and Doubt Is Rising* by Nicki Koziarz. We meet on Mondays twice a month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the lounge. If you have any questions about this study, contact Amy at 414-975-1228 or email amy@coslc.com



Meeting Dates:

November 1st & 15th
December 6th & 20th

COS Quilters

This year, our amazing COS quilters assembled a total of 220 quilts. These life saving quilts were packed up by our quilting ladies and shipped by Lutheran World Relief to remote areas all over the world. Thank you quilters for helping to save lives by making quilts that not only keep people from freezing, but become various items such as tent walls, beds, flooring and even serve as knapsacks. Thank you to those who cut squares, and that donate fabric. They meet every Thursday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Contact Sam Mayek for more information at amayek2@ww.rr.com



Beautification Teams

I would like to lift up our various teams that keep our church property looking well maintained throughout the year. A special thank you goes to our adopt-a-garden, yard care, and lawn mower teams. The flowers by the front entrance are beautiful. The lawn has been mowed each week. The weeds have been pulled in our garden beds. Extra time has been given to trim bushes and distribute wood chips around the property. Thank you for spending time on your weekends and evenings sweating and getting your hands dirty from all your hard work!

Adopt-A-Garden

Tom Edman
Buffi Wargolet & Family
Christa Trushinsky
Toni Snyder
Tom & Barb Goble
Amy Budde
Amy Mason
Jody Wojciechowski
Chris & Madison Stromberg

Lawn Mowing Team

Hank Wallenkamp
Tom Edman
Chris, Kasi, Zach, and Bryce Stromberg



Outreach Ministries

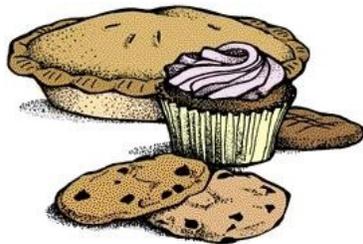
Community Banquet Resumes

November 11th & December 9th

The Community Banquet restarted in October with a drive-thru "Grab and Go" dinner, serving 85 people. Going forward, St James Catholic Church on Townline Rd in Menomonee Falls has graciously allowed the dinners to continue in their building, giving those in our community an opportunity to dine with a friend. St James will be following the Hamilton School District rules regarding safety that are in effect at that time. Currently, masks are recommended, except while eating.

Dinners, to finish out the 2021 year, will be held on November 11 and December 9, both at 5:30 p.m., as in the past. COS has agreed to help with Set-Up & Desserts for December 9. Attendance will likely increase gradually as the dinners start back up, so simple desserts, such as cookies and bars, are good choices. Please sign up on the Sign-up sheet at church, email me, Diane Otto, at dotto@wi.rr.com or call me at 262-691-3778 to let me know if you will be able to help with either or both of the Set-up and/or Dessert portions of the evening.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to bake, desserts could be dropped off in advance at COS in the entryway by Thursday, 3:00 p.m.. Please label the desserts as Community Banquet. As always, thank you for your help!



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, November 16th

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, November 16th. I've received such wonderful feedback about our meals. The men enjoyed them so much that they even took a second plate of food to their rooms for later. Thank you for making the meals, and desserts. They are appreciated! If you would like to help with our November meal, please contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or sign up on the outreach ministry board. All items for Serenity Inns need to be at church by Noon on Tuesday.



Socktober

Thank you to everyone who donated socks during our October sock drive! The socks collected will be donated to our ministry partners to warm the feet of many children and adults.



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, November 10th

Our next BOH meal is on Wednesday, November 10th, and we will be making to-go chili meals. We'll be meeting at church on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning 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.



COS Fish Fry - Thank You!

I would like to lift up our dedicated volunteers who sold tickets, breaded/fried the fish, made the French fries, prepared the coleslaw/tartar sauce, buttered the bread, and assembled the meals to make our delicious annual fall fish fry happen. It was great seeing those of you who stopped by the church to grab a few fish fries to go, and it was wonderful chatting with those who stayed for dinner in fellowship hall.



SOS Food Pantry- Monday Shift

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.



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Pastor Joe cell 262-372-1048

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