Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

February 2022 Newsletter

Good Tidings!

Congregations in time of transition live through important moments of needing to be reminded of God's presence and activity. This is especially the case in the current experience of Christ Our Savior. Two years' worth of pandemic, disrupted schedules and disrupted life, pastoral transition, etc., etc., etc. As stressful as it all is: God is here, God is at work, God is loving you, God is calling you into a new future.

As tempted as we might be to move through our stress as fast as possible to put it all behind us, there is enormous long-term value in time taken and gathered around the grounding elements of our faith (the Word of God and the sacraments) that we might be strengthened in our transitional work of Learning Together to Move Forward. The language of this phrase expresses its meaning in at least three different ways: 1) Christ Our Savior is learning together to move forward after two years of stressful disruption; 2) Christ Our Savior is learning together to move forward following its connection to long time pastoral leadership; and 3) Christ Our Savior is learning together to move forward rooted in its sense of history, cognizant of its present, and hope for the future. The key terms in all these are learning, together, and forward. Learning and self -understanding are achieved to hold together the poles of mission and pastoral leadership; this learning is accomplished together at Christ Our Savior; and all this is done with an eye toward a future of being a community recognized as being true to the way of Christ.

Periods of uncertainty seem to have the effect of affecting doubt about the presence of God. The path you all walk, while unique to the historical moment of COS, is one that others have experienced as well - for today's purposes, most notably the church that Paul ministered to at Corinth. The challenges for the Corinthian church were several and came in the form of arguments around access and inclusion in the Lord's Supper, but also in competition for which gifts in the community were identified as special and deserving of priority status. But Paul counsels them that while there are varieties of gifts, it is the same Holy Spirit that has bestowed those gifts, and that using those gifts, the work of the Holy Spirit in their midst is revealed. In *Learning Together to Move Forward* the combining and using of your gifts reveals the work of the Spirit in your midst as well as an intriguing future. God is with you in this time of transition and learning. May you be blessed in your curiosity and questions in exploring God's future for your congregation.

In Christ, Pastor Michael Anderson



The Calling to Compassion

There's a quote attributed to the anthropologist Margret Mead, about the earliest sign of human civilization. According to the anecdote, Mead asserted that a human femur, found fractured and healed was the earliest sign of true civilization, as it showed evidence of a community that cared for those who could not provide for themselves. It was this embodied symbol of compassion that Mead pointed to as consistent with truly civilized societies.

I've been thinking a great deal about compassion lately, this word that at its roots means "to suffer with." It's a word that we use to describe God revealed in Jesus, and in some ways, a better descriptor of God's character than the typical claims about God being loving. Not because God isn't loving, Jesus and the witness of scripture certainly affirm the loving nature of the divine, but rather because in our English language there is much variation in what can be meant by love or loving. For this reason, compassion is a much more direct claim about who God is, and what it means to follow God's ways.



To the iconic example from the Mead anecdote, there is a level of self-sacrifice inherent to the care for this other individual. The effort to protect someone from additional threats, to provide for their needs, to help provide them the time and resources to heal and recuperate from such a significant wound, such an effort is unlikely to simply flow from giving out of abundance; it is more likely that this level of care was uncomfortable in the demands it placed on other individuals, or the community as a whole. Uncomfortable, and yet worthwhile because of what the injured person meant to their care providers.

As Christians, we have a holy calling to exemplify the compassionate care for our neighbors that Jesus modeled. When we make choices about how to structure our communities, our congregation, or our daily lives, God invites us to be Jesus with skin on – to organize ourselves around the principle of what choices will lead to the greatest level of wellness and wholeness for the most vulnerable members of our community. Jesus reminds us that it is in caring for the least of these that we show our love and devotion to the God who gives us every good gift in life.

In this time of disruption and transition for our immediate community and for the nation as a whole, may God keep at the forefront of our minds the power we have as followers of Christ's Way. We are the recipients of all the wisdom of the generations that have come before us, and we have the ability to shape what the future will hold for us and future generations. May we step into this opportunity with boldness in order to join in the gospel's movement to welcome all people to experience the kingdom of heaven on Earth.

Blessings, Pastor Joe Wilkinson

Fellowship Time - Goodies

Sundays 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Beginning in 2022, YOU will have the opportunity to volunteer your time or share your gifts/talents during our fellowship time on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. in fellowship hall.

Each week, we are looking for a few volunteers to donate store purchased or homemade goodies (2 dozen/per person) for our fellowship time. There is a signup on our website and also on the goodie table. Items must be at church by 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning. You can drop them off early on the table in our entryway Saturday night. Please label items "Fellowship



Time." Suggested items: donuts, donut holes, cookies, muffins, cupcakes, brownies, bars, banana bread, etc. NO NUTS due to allergies!

In addition, we are looking for 1-2 volunteers each week to set -up and clean-up the goodie table. Signup <u>HERE</u> to donate items or volunteer to help with fellowship time. If you have questions, contact Amy Berken at <u>amy@coslc.com</u>.

<u>Winter/Spring In-Person Worship</u> <u>Assistants - Sign-Up Now Available!</u>

We have resumed our worship assistant teams and now need your help! Calling all Communion Assistants, Bread Bakers, Altar Guild, Offering Counters, Hosts, Lectors, and Ushers. We are inviting YOU to serve! All adults, middle school, and high



school youth are encouraged to participate. Sign-up on our website under volunteers <u>HERE</u> to serve as a worship assistant. If you would like to serve but are new to the role, reach out to Amy Berken at amy@coslc.com.

Council Updates

We Have an Interim! What's next?

In January, the council began gathering names for the Mission Exploration Team (MET). We determined what the make -up of the MET should be. We will begin reaching out to potential members over the next few months. This team will be responsible for completing our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) as well as helping us to determine who we are and who want to be in the future or Christ Our Savior. The MET and MSP will also help in our search for our new Senior/Lead Pastor.

The open forums we had before the annual meeting seemed to be well received. Thank you to those that were able to attend. We are looking to implement more over the next few months regarding our transition, and what the council and interim are/will be doing. Watch for these open forum informational meeting announcements in the



bulletin, newsletter, and in our digital communications through constant contact, Facebook and our website.

Update on Worship at COS:

Through continued prayer and discussion, the council has determined that our Covid-19 ministry plan needs to be adapted to the needs of the congregation.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility over the past 2 years. We have begun streaming our live Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 am, and 6:00 p.m. including confirmation.

We will continue to recommend wearing masks and physical distancing. Please respect each other's comfort levels as we worship and share in fellowship.

Please check out more information later in this newsletter and on the Current Information tab on our website. 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



Youth & Family Ministry

Mission Trips for 2022!

Anyone entering grades 7-12 for the fall of 2022 is eligible for this summer's mission trips. Friends are also welcome, and no they do not have to attend COS to go on a mission trip.

We will be holding a mission trip meeting at 10:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 6th to answer all questions.

This summer we will be going on two mission trips the first

one will be local and we will be staying at Christ Our Savior. We will be working with our mission partners. The dates for this trip will be June 26-29! Cost for the trip is \$175. A deposit of \$100 is due Sunday, February 6th



Our second trip will take place July 16th through the 22nd and we will be going to Chicago! The cost for this trip is \$360. A deposit of \$160 is due February 6.

Forms are located on our church website at coslc.com under learn and grow then click on youth ministries. For questions, please contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com

<u>Confirmation Guest House Lunch</u> <u>& Snack Bags</u>

Once again, our seventh and eighth grade confirmation classes will be sponsoring food items for the Milwaukee Guest House. They have asked for 75 snack bags per week and 100 sandwiches. When it is your groups turn to make sandwiches and snack bags, please bring \$10 and the items you signed up for. Questions contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com



https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4eaaa82da0ff2guest2

Items needed: Large brown lunch bags Sandwich Zip-Lock baggies Case of bottled water Cookies homemade or individually wrapped Chips Individually wrapped Granola bars Individually wrapped Beef sticks individually wrapped 3-to-5-pound bags of fruit apples, oranges, pears, cuties

Each week a different small group will pack the 75 snack bags which will be delivered Monday morning. If you have questions, please contact Kim Lewin at <u>kim@coslc.com</u>

First Communion For 3rd-5th Grade

New this year, anyone who is in 3rd grade – 5th Grade can sign up to participate in our First Communion workshop on Sunday, April 3, from 10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please Register at <u>https://www.coslc.com/firstcommunion/</u> the cost is \$20 per child.

This workshop is for both the parent and child. Childcare is provided for younger siblings. Please contact Kim Lewin for more information or questions. <u>kim@coslc.com</u>.



Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

February 13, 2022 It is good to bring back our Souper Bowl of Caring!

We will be collecting money on Sunday, February 13. All proceeds go to SOS food pantry.



tacklehunger.org

<u>T.A.C.O.S.</u>

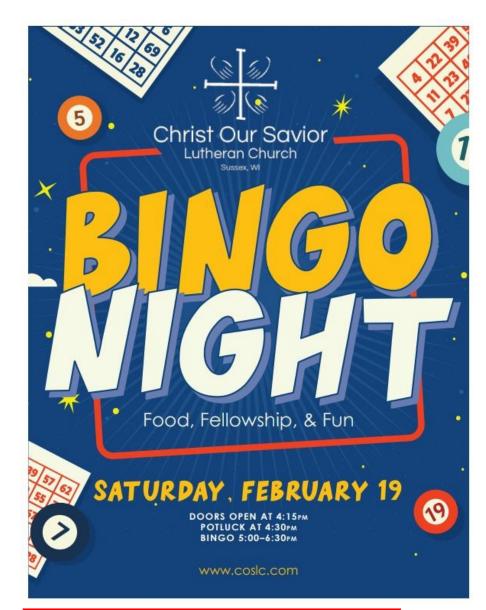
Firstly, TACOS would like to thank the amazing parents of our retreaters for making the Winter Wonderland Retreat at Fortune Lake in January possible! We were able to take 10 youth and 2 adult chaperones to the northern woods for a weekend of skiing at Ski Brule and all kinds of winter fun at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp! Everyone had a blast and made the weekend a true treat to be a part of.



For February into March, TACOS is excited to share that we are again working with the Silver Spring Intermediate Student Council to add additional weeks of sandwich making for the Guest House of Milwaukee expanding the amazing work that confirmation is completed now. With the help of the student council, it is our hope to also make sandwiches and pack snack bags through the month of March! For any and all high schoolers, please look out for communication on a special Sunday afternoon of snack packing and sandwich making in February, official date is TBD.

Wade Crevier Director of TACOS





It's Time to Go Mini-Bowling!

The TNTs will be going to the Thirsty Duck in Sussex Saturday, February 26. Join us at 6:30pm for food and drinks. Bowling will be from 7–8. If you know anyone in their 20s or 30s, invite them to join the fun. The cost of bowling will be \$5–\$10/person depending on our group size. Hope you can join us! Register <u>HERE</u>!

Questions? Contact Emma Oppermann at <u>emma.oppermann@gmail.com</u>.



Calling all B-I-N-G-O players, ages 1 to 101!

All are welcome! Come join us Saturday, February 19th for a night of food, fellowship, and fun!

Doors open at 4:15pm, Potluck starts at 4:30pm please bring a dish to pass. The Bingo fun will take place 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Depending on your comfort level, come for just the potluck, to play Bingo, or come for the whole event.

There will be fun activities for kids to enjoy while you play Bingo.

Sign up <u>HERE</u> to let others know what you are bringing to share.

Questions? Please reach out to Hope Ingle at <u>events@coslc.com</u>. We can't wait to see you!

Feeling Under the Weather?

As we begin this new year and in light of the stress and struggle in our medical community as they care for those hospitalized with complications from COVID-19 we encourage congregants



to be attentive to their health and to our community precautions. Sunday services are streamed live each week on Facebook and YouTube and if you sense you might be under the weather, please consider taking advantage of those virtual gatherings.

Women's Inspirational Book Group

Begins Monday, March 7th Come join us in March as we begin a new book study, *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*. Discourse

ing What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again by Lysa Terkeurst. Our first meeting will be on Monday, March 7th. Our meeting time will be determined based on participants availability. We will meet twice a month for 6 sessions. During each session, we'll watch a short video and then share our thoughts using the discussion questions in the study guide. For more information or to join the book study, contact Amy at <u>414-975-</u> <u>1228</u> or email <u>amy@coslc.com</u>



Outreach Ministries

Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

During Lent we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly to feed hungry kids in our community. This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2^{nd} . You can start bringing in

your items and place them in the windows in our sanctuary. Instead of <u>giving up</u> something for Lent, think about <u>giving</u> to others during this season!



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, February 9th

Our next BOH meal is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday,

February 9th. Due to the increase in covid numbers, the Cross Food Pantry was closed and our January meal was canceled. At this time, plans are in the works for making to-go chili meals for February, but this is dependent on the pandemic. Typically, our BOH team meets 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 Larry & Edie Schaffner at elschaffner02@live.com or Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com.

Serenity Inns

Tuesday, February 15th Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday February 15th. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or signup on the outreach min-



istry board. Since our meal is so close to Valentine's Day, it would be fun to make some sweet Valentine's Day treats (such as cupcakes, cookies). It also would be fantastic to send along cards or messages of God's love for the men in recovery at Serenity Inns. Please have sweet treats and caring cards to the church by Noon on Tuesday.

Mac-n-More

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our annual Mac-n-More food drive. The food we collected will be donated to Cross Lutheran Food Pantry to feed children and families in the community experiencing food scarcity.



<u>Community Banquet</u>

Thursday, February 10th Community Banquet, located at St. James Church, has resumed meals on Thursdays, twice a month, beginning February 2022. Christ Our Savior has been assigned the "cooking" role on Thursday, February 10th. If you would



like to help with meal planning or cooking this meal, reach out to Diane Otto at dotto@wi.rr.com or 262-691-3778. You can also signup on our outreach board.

<u>Pine Ridge Indian Reservation –</u> <u>Elder Meal Site Kitchen Items</u>

The head of the 10 Elder Meal sites on the Reservation are requesting some very specific items for their 10 sites. For those not familiar with what this is, it is the building in the community that is used to prepare/serve the meals for the Elders (and their caretakers). They prefer new items, but some items can be used if in top-notch condition. They serve 35 to 40 people and on occasion do feed the community.

Beginning in February, we will be collecting the following items to help supply the kitchens at their 10 Elder Meal Sites. These items include cookie pans, cake pans, flat pans, muffin pans, big mixing bowls-aluminum, medium and smaller mixing bowls-aluminum, dish towels, dishcloths, and scrubbers for doing dishes. Place donated items in the bin labeled for

PRIR in the entryway. If you have any questions, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



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Mazes for Groundhog Day: Help the Groundhog



