

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

May 2022 Newsletter

Call Process Update

In the Call Process, before a congregation assembles a Call Committee responsible for interviewing pastoral candidates, a Mission Exploration Team (MET) is organized that works to engage the congregation in the self-learning and investigation that details its needs and sense of mission. Their work produces the guidance usable by the call committee, the church council, and the congregation in their discernment of the best leadership for moving forward in its next stage of life and in service of God's mission in and around Sussex.

We give thanks to God that a MET is formed and is comprised of members Edie Schafner, Toni Snyder, Carolyn Casper, Jennifer Pfannenstiel, Mike Boerst, Patrick Ingle and Hank Wallencamp. On Monday, May 2 at 7 p.m. the MET is participating in an orientation lead by Rev. Jennifer Arnold, Assistant to the Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod. *If you are curious about the*

MET's work you are invited to attend the orientation session here at COS on Monday, May 2 at 7 p.m.



Give thanks to God for the service of your siblings in Christ in offering their time for benefit of COS's future and hold them in prayer.

Good Tidings in Times of Transition

Stories of call abound throughout scripture. Creation (cf. Genesis 1 - 2:3). Moses (cf. Exodus 3 - 4:1-17). Jonah (cf. Jonah 1:1-3). Samuel (1 Samuel 3). Saul/ Paul (Acts 9:1-19). We might even consider the Annunciation (the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would bear the son of God) a call story (cf. Luke 1:26-38, 46-55). These are always stories of people's discernment to follow through with living a life previously unimagined, yet somehow unavoidable, out of the unshakable sense that not only is this what God is inviting them to, but perhaps even that God will not relieve them of their burden to act. Call stories aren't just the providence of bible stories, they are real for us as well. One of the most important yet challenging questions for a congregation in transition is: what do you hear God calling you to? So, church? What future do you imagine God calling you forward into? Beyond the calling of a new pastor, what stirs in your heart and in your imagination about how God might be calling Christ Our Savior to be a signpost for the gospel? What are your hopes and dreams for serv-

ing your community? As the church, our sense of call likely won't materialize out of thin air, but in engagement with the biblical witness and through prayer, we might discover that the path forward is discernible in the tension we experience around our felt limitations and how we collectively hear the gospel.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Michael

From the Pastor...

Grace and peace to you, dear people. In this continued time of transition for our community, it has been particularly helpful for me to continue to ground myself on the mission that unites us in this place. We gather as church, not for idle fellowship, but because of our shared commitment to the good news of Jesus Christ. This message of God's love for the world, lived out in both our proclamation of grace and hope as well as through tangible deeds of compassionate care, brings new life to us and to the world.

As the Mission Exploration Team (MET) begins their work of gathering the stories and sense of calling within our congregation, it feels like we are on the cusp of a new thing that God is going to do among the people of Christ Our Savior. Not because I think what the future holds will be so wildly different than what we are familiar with (though always hold out the possibility that the Holy Spirit may surprise you), but rather because I think it is so good for us as individuals and communities to regularly reexamine the details that are present but in the background. Good for us to engage in the reflection of where we feel God most keenly leading us to be a source of hope and transformation, and to weigh whether there are practices we can take up that would help us to grow more fully into the community God longs for us to be.

I hope that you feel empowered and emboldened to share with the Mission Exploration Team the ways that you have experienced God at work in this community, and your hopes for how God may be preparing us to continue the work of the gospel in the years to come. Our community is made better for our different experiences and cultivated wisdom shaping our path as we faithfully seek to follow the Holy Spirit's leading. I look forward to seeing together what God has in store for Christ Our Savior.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe

First Ever COS Cabaret Show

May 14th 7:00 p.m.

Bring the entire family, friends and neighbors for an evening of entertainment as past and present COS singers present popular music and fun!! Snacks will be sold at intermission. Your freewill offerings will be gratefully accepted at the door, to benefit youth programming at COS.



Dear COS and TACOS Families,

As most of you already know, last fall I started my journey in seminary towards the hope of one day becoming a pastor in the ELCA. In seminary, students are asked to do many things to strengthen their ministry and leadership skills, as well as continue to discern their sense of call. For me, one of these journeys is Clinical Pastoral Education, or CPE for short.

CPE is the hands-on experience of providing spiritual care to patients, families, and staff members in a multi-faith clinical setting. These units, as they are called, are typically 10-11 weeks of intensive full-time work in a clinical setting like a hospital or care facility.

So as part of my seminary education, starting at the end of May, I will begin my unit of CPE, which I am completing at Village at Manor Park in West Allis, an assisted living care facility. This new chapter in my journey of seminary also means that I will be ending my chapter with you all and the TACOS Ministry.

On May 25, 2022, I will be resigning from my post as the Director of TACOS.

Ministering with and alongside the youth of this community for the past three years has been one of my greatest joys in life. Even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we grew this great ministry into something that is deeply rooted within a wonderful group of young folks that have been equipped to live lives of wholeness and resiliency.

I would like to thank the congregation of Christ Our Savior and the TACOS community for inviting me into your lives the past three years. You entrusted me, a young, inexperienced kid fresh out of undergrad with a new project filled with wonder and possibilities, and I am so thankful you gave me a chance to grow in my leadership and ministry skills in my call towards pastoral ministry. I will cherish the Wednesday afternoons of middle school banter and the countless service projects we participated in for many years to come. Truly, thank you so much.

I would also like to share that my departure does not mean that it is the end of the TACOS Ministry. TACOS will remain on its normal schedule for the remainder of the school year with summer programming as Kim Lewin, the Director of Education and Youth Ministry at COS, will be taking over leadership. Also, I have met with both Kim and Pastor Michael Anderson, interim pastor at COS, and discussed the iterations of what TACOS will look like in the future. Your hard-working staff at COS and the surrounding community support of Sussex will make sure to keep this program going strong for the future, so be sure to keep in touch with your youth leaders for what is to come for TACOS!

I am looking forward to making my last remaining weeks in this role some of the best ones yet! I hope and pray that you all have enjoyed my company as much as I have enjoyed yours.

Grace and Peace,
Wade Crevier

Celebrating TACOS and Wade Crevier

Come and join us at the 10:00 a.m. service Sunday, May 22 as we celebrate all the amazing things that have been done through our TACOS outreach ministry and our leader Wade Crevier. We will have cake and other treats!



Summer Worship Schedule

With temperatures in the 30s, it's strange to think about summer approaching, but before long warm weather and summer break will be upon us. Consistent with our end of confirmation programming and the transition to summer, we will be wrapping up our 6pm Sunday evening worship service at the end of April. Sunday April 24th will be our last Sunday evening worship for the spring.



SUMMER Invitation to Serve During Worship!

Our worship assistant SignUpGenius is now available for you to select your dates over the summer. Signups are available for Altar Guild, Bread Bakers, Communion Assistants, Lectors, Offering Counters, Hosts, and Ushers. All adults, high school youth, and confirmation students are encouraged to participate. If you would like to serve, but are new to the role, we will provide you with training. Serving during worship is a rewarding experience, so we hope that you will consider this opportunity. You can find the sign-up on our website under volunteers or click [HERE](#). Contact Amy Berken for more information at amy@coslc.com.



Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday School

Our last day of Sunday school will be Sunday, May 22. We will have lots of activities and special treats that day. Come and join us as we celebrate all that we have learned this past year! Questions contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com



Attention High School Seniors

We will be honoring all of the high school graduates of 2022 on Sunday, June 5 at the 10:00 a.m. service. Please come and join us and bring family members as we have a blessing and a gift for each graduate and a time of laying on of hands. We also asked that each senior email their future plans, along with a senior picture and the high school that they're graduating from. Please email all information to Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com before Sunday, May 22.



Easter Breakfast Update

Wow!! Easter Breakfast was Amazing! It was great to see so many people come out and support our youth! A special thanks go to all of the youth and parents who donated food and time by setting up, serving, and cleaning up! We were able to raise \$562!



Adopt-a-Garden

This Spring, we invite you and your family to adopt a garden to help keep our property looking top notch!! We have about 12 garden and flower beds around our church that need occasional weeding and care throughout the summer months and into early fall. Each area is small in size, so commitment is only 1-2 hours per month. Adopt your garden plot on SignUpGenius. If you have questions, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Milwaukee

Summer Mission Trip Meeting

We will be holding a summer mission trip meeting on Sunday, May 15 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We still have room for you this summer we are holding our **First Ever Local Mission Trip!** We will be working with our mission partners and staying at Christ Our Savior. The dates for that trip will be June 26-29. Cost for that trip is \$100. Friends are welcome. [Register here.](#)

Tentative Schedule

Sunday, June 26 Arrive 6:00 p.m. dinner, games, outdoor movie, opening worship

Monday, June 27 Day of service, Hartford Waterpark, Worship

Tuesday, June 28 Day of Service, Lake Country DockHounds baseball game, Worship

Wednesday, June 29 Day of Service, Closing worship and cookout with family and mission partners

For questions, please contact Kim Lewin at kim@coslc.com



Lawn Mowers Sign-up Available

The sun is out, we've had plenty of rain, and the grass is growing! Time to mow the church lawn! We have a lawn mowing team that keeps our property looking well maintained. We've divided the lawn into front and back halves, each one takes about 1 1/2 hours to cut with one of our riding lawn mowers. If you would like to join the team to mow the church property, sign-up on SignUpGenius to select dates and contact Chris Stromberg at c.k.stromberg@me.com for training or questions.



Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

We collected 110 containers of peanut butter and 63 containers of jelly and during our Lenten drive. Thanks to everyone who donated a container or more to feed hungry kids through our S.O.S. Food Pantry.



Fellowship Time - Goodies

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

I am excited to announce that Marion Jaskulski has volunteered to be our new coordinator for fellowship time. She will be helping with fellowship time setup, cleanup, and signups.

We need goodies for the month of May. If you haven't had the opportunity to bring a treat yet, we invite you to do so. These treats can be home-made or store-purchased, it's up to you. Bring your favorite treats such as muffins, breads, donuts, cupcakes, bars, cookies, brownies, etc. **NO NUTS** due to allergies!



We ask that you bring 2 dozen/per person and have them here in time for our Sunday fellowship time, which begins at 8:30 a.m. You can drop them off early on the table in our entry-way Saturday night. Signup [HERE](#) to donate items or volunteer to help with fellowship time. If you have questions, contact Marion Jaskulski at marjask5@wi.rr.com.

Women's Inspirational Book Group

May 2nd & May 16th

In May, we'll be wrapping up our study, *Forgiving 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 next meeting will be on Monday, May 2nd (Session 5) and our last meeting will be on Monday, May 16th (Session 6). We meet at 3:30 p.m in the church lounge. If you have any questions about the book study, reach out to Amy at 414-975-1228 or email amy@coslc.com



COS Fish Fry – Thank You!

On Friday, April 8th we had a wonderful turn out for our Lenten Fish Fry. Despite the snow flurries, we enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship time together. A huge thank you to our dedicated crew that made this Lenten Fish Fry possible. I would like to lift up Chuck, Larry, Edie, Jack, Diane, Joanie, Liz, Linda, Carolyn, and Grant. We are also grateful to Thrivent for seed money for purchasing food/supplies for our Thrivent Action Team. We collected \$510 and the proceeds will go to the Bread of Healing program to feed the hungry in Milwaukee.



Designated Gift to Adult Discipleship and Outreach Position

At Christ Our Savior, we give thanks to God for the variety of ways we are invited to share in God's mission to love and bless the world. One way we join in God's invitation is through the work of the church's staff. At this time, we give thanks to God that a member of the congregation has stepped forward and pledged funding to raise the Director of Adult Discipleship and Outreach position to 75% for a period of 6 months beginning in April. The church council has accepted this generous gift and is grateful for the financial support of the congregation and its members that allows the mission of the church - **Gathered in Christ, Fed by God's Word, and Sent to Serve** - to occur even in these dynamic times.



In Christ's Service,
The COS Church Council

Hygiene Items for Bread of Healing Clinic

Our Hygiene drive continues in May for the Bread of Healing Clinic. We are collecting hygiene items for men and women including full-size shampoo, toothbrushes, full-size toothpaste, soap, razors, and deodorant. Please place the hygiene items in the bins in the narthex. If you would like to help assemble hygiene bags, reach out to Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Community Banquet

Thursday, May 12th

Thank you to everyone who helped with our clean-up role last month! Community Banquet typically happens twice a month. In May, Community Banquet will be on Thursday, May 12th, but there will be no meal on May 26th due to the St. James Rummage Sale. We do not have a role this month, but you are still welcome to enjoy a meal at 5:30 p.m. The meal is open to everyone in the community. If you have any questions, please reach out to Diane Otto at dotto@wi.rr.com or 262-691-3778.



Outreach Ministries

Serenity Inns

Tuesday, May 17th

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, May 17th. We are looking for a few people to help with making the meal and/or dessert. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or signup on the outreach ministry board. Please label items for Serenity Inns and drop them off by NOON in the east entryway.



Spring/Summer Collection: As you are cleaning out your closets for spring, consider donating gently used shorts, shirts, hats, sunglasses, and light-weight jackets to Serenity Inns. Donations can be placed in the bin in the east entryway.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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