

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

August 2022 Newsletter

Call Process & Update

A congregation's Call Process contains several "mile markers" by which the journey is charted:

A pastor announces that they are leaving the congregation.

An interim pastor is identified, merges with congregational life, and begins to develop a sense of the congregation and a familiarity with the parishioners.

COS is in this stage -----> A Mission Exploration Team (MET) is formed and works to engage the congregation in the self-learning and investigation that reveals a thorough understanding of the congregation's history and journey, the present reality of the congregation, where the congregation believes God is calling them, and what kind of pastoral leadership might best partner with them in pursuing that mission.

This is the meat and potatoes of the Call Process.

A Call Committee is formed and utilizes the work of the MET for assessing pastoral candidates in interviews.

The Church Council receives the Call Committee's pastoral candidate recommendation...

...and at long last...The congregation votes on the Church Council's recommended pastoral candidate and a call is issued.



The MET has been formed and is meeting approximately every other week. COS's MET is toiling on the components of the Call Process that engage the congregation on its awareness of "Who We Are" and what that means for clarifying congregational mission and calling a new pastor. It is in the throes of planning the first congregation-wide mission exploration event - a Congregational History/ Timeline Event held on July 31 to chart and document the trajectory of congregational life. What aspects of church life are you grateful for? What are the high-lights of your community participation? What ministries have allowed you to express your faith in ways that you perhaps found surprising? Does who we say we are align with the reality of who we are?

Good Tidings in Times of Transition

Isaiah 43:18-19

¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.



Scripture presents the story – generation after generation – of God doing a new thing in the lives of God's people. This work is vividly expressed in every corner of scripture, both in the old and new testaments. The "new thing" God is doing might look like an ark, a burning bush, a shepherd with a slingshot, or – as in the case of the text above – the blistering voice of a prophet. It might look like Ruth, or Queen Esther, or Elizabeth, or Mary, or Jesus, or an Ethiopian eunuch. God is always doing a new thing – do you perceive it? How do you perceive the new thing that God is doing? How do you perceive the new thing of God that is arising among you for the sake of God's glory, the love of Christ, the proclamation of the gospel, and the flow of God's justice and love to all creation?

To perceive the new thing God is doing, you must cultivate new ways to see. To see a new thing, you can't look to a memory, you must look to the present. You need to look within yourselves and at the world around you and your neighbors. To see what God is up to in your lives, you must explore the interior margins of your own lives and the ways in which you feel stretched, uncomfortable, and called into territory that might be unfamiliar. It is in that tense space that God invites you to exert your giftedness and encounter the hidden blessing that resides there. To see what God is up to in your community and in the lives of your neighbors, look to margins of the community, community groups, and neighbors. Who is present? Who is not present? How do we understand who is represented and who is not represented? What does that awareness mean? How does it speak to you? How does Christ Our Savior's sense of community giftedness and mission intersect with the world around it? God is at work on the margins and these are places that will surprise you with whom you'll encounter that invite you into new versions of yourselves.

The invitation to witness and attend to the new thing that God is doing is the heart of a congregational Call Process. While for all the world it has the appearance of being a time of action, it is in truth a time of re-learning how to listen for God's voice and watch for God's presence. As Christ Our Savior's Call Process continues, may you see and bear witness to God's presence among you and the new thing emerging in your midst.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Michael

Fellowship With Others

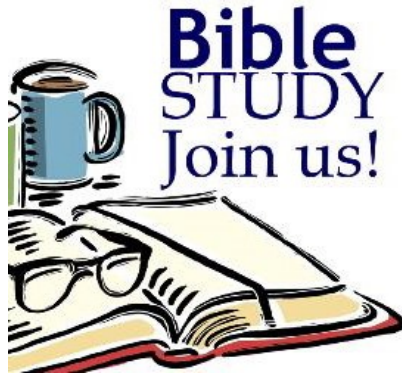
Grace and peace to you, dear people! I feel the Spirit stirring in our community, quickening the roots of our congregation to sink down into the good soil of God's word. My mind keeps turning to the Bible study groups that had been meeting, but fell apart over the course of our time of separation. I believe that the time is ripe to cultivate small groups of folks for the purpose of prayer, the reading of scripture, and the growth of deeper relationships between God and one another.

If you have not been a part of a small group in our congregation, I highly encourage you to make it a priority. There is much about the culture we are immersed in that fosters isolation and shallowness in our relationships. When the demands of work and home life leave us tapped out by the week's end, choosing to linger around church on Sunday morning to exchange more than brief pleasantries can feel like just one more task on an already full to-do list.

But, I firmly believe that it is in authentic relationships we taste the fruit of God's beloved community. It is in fellowship with others that we are sustained when life is difficult. It is in fellowship with others that we gain wisdom and insight beyond our capacity to understand by ourselves. It is in fellowship with others that we are united to bring transformation to our world through the power of God working with us.

I know that the busyness of life makes many demands of our time and energy, and I hope that even through this season of transition we continue to foster a culture at Christ Our Savior of having grace for one another's needs. There is much of us being the church that takes place outside of our building, after all. But I encourage you to seek out whatever that next step is towards grounding yourself in the community we create in our congregation. As the saying goes, we will reap what we sow. May the Lord of the harvest bless each of us with the bountiful joy and grace that comes from sharing in Christ's gospel movement.

Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Joe



Lunch & Learn with Pastor Michael

There are numerous ways to cultivate a rich and intentional prayer life. But often what draws us into such practice is our concern for the world around us. Connecting with God through prayer is an edifying faith practice – might you have some time during your week to hold your church in prayer and to hear a word of Good News? Consider taking advantage of a new weekly faith building opportunity with Interim Pastor Michael Anderson.

What is It?

A time to support COS and to be supported in your faith life through devotions and prayer and to ask questions about the call process and congregational life.



Where is It?

“Live” on Christ Our Savior’s Facebook page.

When is It?

Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. for 10 – 15 minutes. Begins on Tuesday, August 2.

Eileen Swierczek Retirement Celebration!

Psalm 150

- ¹Praise the LORD!
- Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!
- ²Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
- ³Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
- ⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
- ⁵Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- ⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!

After 23 years of offering and organizing praise to the Lord in worship, Christ Our Savior’s Co-Director of Music Eileen Swierczek is retiring.

Worship is the at the heart of Christian community life and COS has been truly blessed to be the beneficiary of her wonderful gifts these many years. Join us after the late service on August 28th for a reception to celebrate Eileen’s ministry and bless her on her next journey in life!

Faith & Fellowship



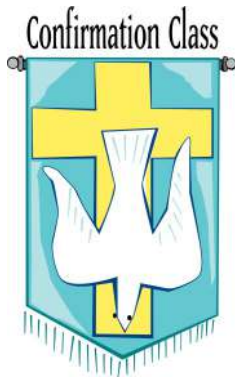
Sunday School Registration

Well, it's that time of year again. It's time to register for Sunday school and confirmation! Sunday school begins Sunday, September 11. All children who will be attending 4K through sixth grade can register for Sunday school. Register on our website under "Learn and Grow", or click [HERE](#).



Confirmation Registration

Confirmation starts Sunday, September 17th. All current seventh and eighth graders should register for confirmation. Confirmation will begin immediately following the 6 PM Sunday night worship service. So, confirmation is from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM every Sunday. Register on our website under "Learn and Grow", or click [HERE](#).



For questions or more information please Contact Pastor Joe at pastorjoe@coslc.com

Youth Ministry

Cookout and Campfire

**Christ Our Savior Youth and TACOS Outreach Ministry
August 3rd**

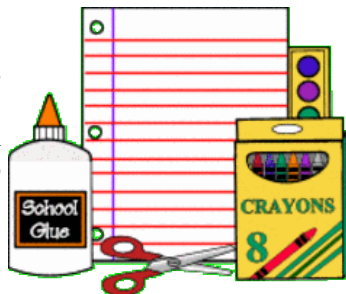
Please help us welcome Maple Grove Lutheran Church youth group to Christ Our Savior on Wednesday, August 3! Maple Grove Lutheran will be staying at Christ Our Savior while they are serving with ministries in our neighborhood!



Please look for a direct email with more information. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Joe at pastorjoe@coslc.com

Operation Backpack

Thank you to everyone who donated to our school supply drive for Operation Backpack. Sussex Outreach Services will be able to help many children start the school year off with a new backpack full of supplies.



COS Staffing Change Announcement

In the apostle Paul's letters to the burgeoning Christian churches of his day, he often began them with words that celebrated those church's participation in the work of the gospel. It's a feature of writing not much seen in our times but was common in the first century – vociferously celebrating one's co-workers. A particularly memorable example of this is found in Philippians. Paul writes, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." What is Paul saying? That God completes in us the things that God begins in us; that who we are and what we are naturally gifted for to share with the world as a sign of God's love will be whole and complete; that God sticks with us and never abandons us. It's a powerful thanksgiving that calls out the value that people have and God's persistence in caring for those God has made.

In our work for the gospel in the church we celebrate the value of those partners in ministry whose giftedness is a blessing to all who encounter it. We celebrate Director of Education and Youth Ministry Kim Lewin, who submitted her resignation on July 18 and whose final day at COS will be Sunday, August 14. God goes with Kim, tending to the good work God began in her and God is present with us, tending to the good work Kim shared with us. We give thanks for how this gift has so richly blessed COS - we give thanks to God for Kim, her contributions to COS's ministry, and who she is as a beloved child of God. Please join us after the 10:00 a.m. service on August 14th for a reception to bless and honor Kim and celebrate Christ's ministry through her at Christ Our Savior.



Invitation to Serve During Worship!

Our worship assistant SignUpGenius is available for you to select your dates. Signups are available for Altar Guild, Bread Bakers, Communion Assistants, Lectors, Offering Counters, 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](#).



Community Banquet

Thursday, August 11th & 25th

In August, Community Banquet will be on Thursday, August 11th and Thursday, August 25th. COS is responsible for set and desserts on Thursday, August 11th. Please reach out to Diane Otto at dotto@wi.rr.com or 262-691-3778 if you would like to help with the meal or if you have any questions.



Electronic Giving

Sunday morning church attendance isn't the primary way we live out our Christian faith. Direct deposit is one means of financial stewardship that ensures no matter what your schedule looks like, you are consistently supporting the ministries of our faith community. If your household is interested in signing up for direct deposit, fill out a form on the welcome table.



How To Increase DD Contributions?

Simple, just email Sandy in the office at office@coslc.com and let her know what you would like changed.

Fellowship Time - Goodies

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

We invite you to bring a treat of your choice for Sunday morning fellowship. These treats can be homemade 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 also drop them off early on the table in our entryway 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.

Adopt-a-Garden

We invite you and your family to adopt a garden to help keep our property looking top-notch! 5 of the 12 garden/flower beds around our church are still in need of occasional weeding throughout the summer and into early fall. Each area is small in size, so commitment is only 1-2 hours per month. Adopt your garden plot [HERE](#). If you would like more information, contact Tom Edman at tedman1720@aol.com.



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, August 10th

Our next Bread of Healing meal is on Wednesday, August 10th. Take a moment this summer to be a part of our Bread of Healing team as we help feed the hungry in Milwaukee. Join us in the COS kitchen on Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. as we prepare, make, and assemble the to-go meals. If you would like more information, contact Larry & Edie Schaffner at elschaffner02@live.com or Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com.



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, August 16th

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, August 16th. 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 sign up on the outreach ministry board. Please label items for Serenity Inns and drop them off by NOON on Tuesday in the east entryway.



Summer Collection

We are collecting gently used shorts, shirts, hats, sunglasses, and light-weight jackets for Serenity Inns. Donations can be placed in the bin in the east entryway.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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