

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

September 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.

"Who Are We?"

Offering a one or two sentence answer to that question was the final task of those folks who turned out to the July 31 Congregational History Event. The goal of the question wasn't to produce one correct, final answer, but to allow folks the chance to articulate their understanding of congregational identity after having taken time to review important markers in congregational history. More than mere reminiscing or nostalgia, this gathering aimed to try and say something about your church through the lens of its history. "Who Are We?" is a question that matters because how it's answered gives a direction for congregational mission and mission is a signpost for what your congregation is about. Thank-you to everyone who participated!

Good Tidings in Times of Transition

If a church were looking for a mission, it could do worse than to turn to scripture for inspiration. It might pick out a particular act of Jesus' ministry from one of the gospels that it resonated with and felt gifted to enact, or it might take cues on what constitutes healthy mission from the work of the early church as described in the book of Acts or in the writings of the Pauline epistles. A true blessing is that just as we as individuals live out God's baptismal renewal of daily dying and rising and subsequent opportunity to embrace our status as children of God showing forth the love and grace of God in our living, so it goes for our institutions...our churches. Consider Paul's encouragement to the church at Philippi:

Philippians 2:5-8

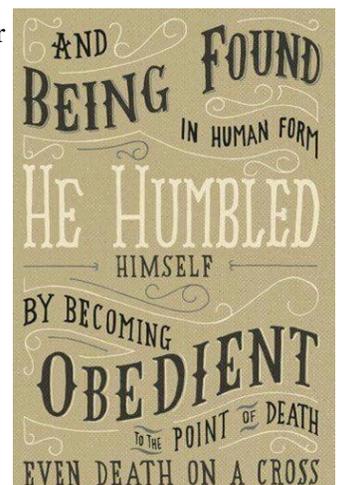
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus... who...emptied himself taking on the form of a slave... humbled himself...and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross." Transformational for Paul is Jesus' identification with the human condition and the status of humanity and in that giving everything about himself away - emptying himself - in an act of perpetual love/ service. Explicit in Paul's encouragement is an invitation for the Philippian church: let the point of view from which you act as the church mirror the point of view from which Jesus served humanity.

In weekly worship, the church is invited to contemplate the mystery of Christ's dying and rising and to consider this as the ground of our faith as well as the example of what it means to be disciples and the church. We are called into radical identification with the world around us in order that the world might receive a liberating word it intuitively feels as being freeing but is obscured and mistrusted due to the prevailing prerogatives of society and culture. We are called into radical identification with people who cannot imagine that there is another way of life available to them other than what they have been told exists or experienced. How is such work possible? Because we know we've been met and identified within our own similar experiences. Someone has been Christ to us.

May you be blessed by the good news of Christ this holy season and may you have the mind of Christ Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor Michael



From Pastor Joe

Grace and peace to you, family in Christ, as we journey together into autumn. In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul spoke of the importance of different people coming together to form the body of Christ and really leaned into the bodily imagery. “Suppose the foot says, ‘I am not a hand. So I don’t belong to the body.’ By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. And suppose the ear says, ‘I am not an eye. So I don’t belong to the body.’ By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell?” (1 Cor 12:15-17) In this way, he encourages the faith community in their work of confronting their differences and maintaining their unity in Christ. “As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.” (1 Cor 12:20)

Through the work of the Mission Exploration Team, we’re getting a clearer reflection of who we are as the body of Christ in our community. As the responses from our congregational surveys showed, we too are a community who is Gathered in Christ, but whose individual members have different perspectives and experiences. And like the church in Corinth (or really, any gathering of people throughout human history) this means that there will be conflict at times as we dwell together.

Being the people of God isn’t a matter of saying, “Hands are best – either be a hand or get out” or “All are welcome to gather as eyes of the body (regardless of what part you might be outside these doors).” Recognizing the image of God in every person means that there is no one who does not have an invitation to join the celebration at God’s table; what it does mean is that we have to figure out what it looks like for us in our community to embody that welcoming hospitality for others.

Dear people, I pray that the Holy Spirit has been stirring up in you the ways that God is inviting you to live out the faith that unites us. Perhaps there are folks you haven’t seen in awhile that you can call on or reach out to see how they are doing. Maybe there is a mission at church that you are passionate about that you can volunteer your time to or invite someone you know to come take part. It could be that you have been craving faithful conversation around a particular topic, or a passage of scripture, or a book or podcast that has stirred your spirits and you imagine others might find enriching to regularly gather for discussion. The work of the gospel is lived out in all the many ways that we express love, justice, and compassion in our relationships and in our communities.

May Christ who sustains us as one body, equip you for all the good work that you are able to perform as a member filled with the power of God’s Holy Spirit. And may we continue to work together to more fully realize the beloved community God calls us to create in this space.

Blessings, Pr. Joe

Loitering at the Font 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.

Pastor Michael is looking for guests - either in person

or online - to chat with for this series while covering topics from COS’s call process, to faith and spirituality. If you’re willing to take a chance and participate, contact Pastor Michael at pastormichael@coslc.com.



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](#).



Sunday School Begins!

Starts Sunday, September 11

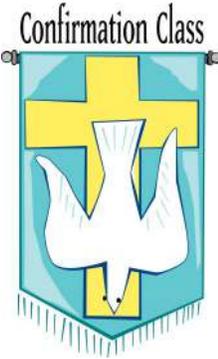
Well, it's that time of year again. It's time to register for Sunday school! Sunday school begins Sunday, September 11. All children who will be attending 4K through fifth grade can register for Sunday school. Register on our website under "Learn and Grow", or click [HERE](#).



Confirmation Registration

Starts Sunday, September 11th

Confirmation starts Sunday, September 11th. All current seventh and eighth graders should register for confirmation. Confirmation will begin immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Sunday night worship service. Confirmation is from 6:35 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 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

Sunday Evening Worship Resumes

Starts September 11th

Beginning Sunday, September 11 we will resume our Sunday evening worship service. Worship will be 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. followed by Confirmation from 6:35 - 7:30 p.m.



Ministry Spotlight: Sunday School

Hey folks, Pr. Joe here! This fall, we are shifting our Sunday School programming to take place between services from 9:20 a.m. until 9:50 a.m. Sunday school will start with all youth in the Community Room in the west wing. With songs, stories, crafts, and other activities, we will focus on using our time to learn about the Bible, explain elements of our church life, and proclaim God's love for us and for the world!

It is a true delight to help children understand God's love and faithfulness to them, and help them to begin to see how they can already share the love of God with the people in their lives. Say a little prayer for the kiddos of our congregation, and for the adult leaders who will be working together to foster the seeds of faith for the youngest members of our community.



After School Ministry - TACOS

(Teens Around the Community of Sussex)

TACOS is a weekly program for youth at Christ Our Savior and the surrounding community. Starting Wednesday, September 7th middle school students are invited to come over to church immediately following school for a time of food, friends, and fun!



Rally "Sundae"

On September 11th, we resume our Sunday School and Confirmation programming. As a treat for our Sunday School Families, we are having an ice cream social Sunday morning. Folks of all ages will have an opportunity to grab cake or ice cream, and at 9:20 a.m. Pastor Joe will meet with our Sunday School participants on the north side of the fellowship hall to discuss Sunday school plans for the year.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Rally Day Sunday

Sunday, September 11

Join us as we kick-start fall education and the return from summer with an:

Ice Cream Social

at 9:00 am in Fellowship hall

A large, colorful illustration of an ice cream cone with three scoops of vanilla, blueberry, and pink ice cream, topped with sprinkles.

To the COS Congregation,

Thank you for all of the support over the years and for your generosity and kind words as I leave the music position I have held for such a long time. I will always hold special memories of playing the piano and appreciating the experience of all of us joining in music and worship together.

Thank you for the wonderful farewell and look forward to seeing you soon!

Eileen

Thank You!

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.



Community Banquet

Thursday, September 8th & 22nd

In September, Community Banquet will be on Thursday, September 8th and Thursday, September 22nd. COS is responsible for clean-up on Thursday, September 8th. 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.



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, September 20th

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, September 20th. 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 on Tuesday in the east entryway.



Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride

Saturday, September 24th

The theme of the 15th annual Family Ride Run Walk is "Together in Hope." Join us – and invite your friends and family, too – as we work *together* to raise \$165K for grants to ELCA Lutheran congregations and ministries in neighborhoods where many face income insecurity, so that our Synod continues to be a presence for the Gospel in these places.

On-line donations can be made [HERE](#). Monies raised by riders and volunteers will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000.

Volunteer – Over 100 positions need coverage to make this event a success.

This ride makes a difference in the lives of those served by the many ministries sponsored by Outreach for Hope in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Your support impacts lives by enabling: congregations to have medical clinics or parish nurses; Breaking the Chains (prison ministry); over 4,000 meals and meal bags distributed weekly; seminary interns serving Milwaukee ELCA congregations; multiple churches provide after-school tutoring and activities for children. . . and the list goes on.



Please ensure we receive your completed form, waiver for in-person participants (see other side), and donation by Monday, September 19! Mail to PO Box 341695, Milwaukee WI 53234 OR email us a scan or photo at ofhinfo@outreachforhope.org.

Se "TP"ember - Toilet Paper Drive

We will be collecting toilet paper during the month of September for Sussex Outreach Services in order to support the families in our community. Bring in your toilet paper every week and we'll stack them in the narthex and sanctuary windows.



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, September 14th

Our next Bread of Healing meal is on Wednesday, September 14th. Take a moment 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.

