

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

October 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.

Good Tidings in Times of Transition

A significant part of the mission of the church is to stay connected. Staying connected to the source of our faith allows us to remain connected as a community of faith. Staying connected as faith community rooted in the source of our faith allows us to recognize the ways in which even that connection is incomplete if it is divorced from the surrounding community and its concerns. Our life in faith is inter-related and intertwined with the world around us and Christ's invitation for us to share in God's emerging kingdom among us invites us to examine the intersections of our lives with the world around us. This is our gospel work, our kingdom work, and there is no end to it – only new generations of living into God's mission to love and bless the world. But everything begins with remaining connected to our

source of life:

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

In this time of transition, how is your connection to your source of sustenance in the Christian faith? Lives of faith contain many seasons of change – high points and low points or times of connection with greater or lesser intensity. What faith practices do you embrace of seasons of change that keep you connected to the vine that gives you life? Prayer? Worship? Daily devotion reading? Walking in nature? Staying connected to the source of our vitality need not involve Samson-esque displays of will and strength. More often than not, maintaining connection begins with the admission that we are in need of connection and then allowing that authentic desire to emerge through the humble prayers, "Help me," and "Thank you."

Christ is the vine and you are the branches. May God bless you richly as you are reminded of the joys of belonging to God and flourishing in Christ's care.

In Christ,
Pastor Michael



Congregational Forum

Sunday, October 2

You are invited to join the Christ Our Savior Mission Exploration Team and Church Council for a community forum between services. Please come for a time of curiosity and questions around life at COS.

From Pastor Joe

Grace and peace to you from our Savior Jesus Christ. Wellness and wholeness are found in dealing with the world as it is, rather than as we wish it were. This has become something of a meditation I have found myself returning to again and again over the past couple years. For all that we might wish our lives or our world were different, we are better served in engaging challenging truth than retreating to comfortable falsehood.

It is true that we are a different faith community now than we were three, or five, or ten years ago.

It is true that we are staffed differently than we were at this time last year and that we are operating with fewer total hours of paid staff labor each week.

It is true that we have no guarantees that we are on a trajectory to a status quo that more closely mirrors what Christ Our Savior was like pre-pandemic.

And yet, it is still most certainly true that God is at work in our community. It is still most certainly true that the movement of the gospel is unfolding in our midst with the promise of transformation, new life, and hope. And it is still most certainly true that God is calling us into a fuller embodiment of Christ's goodness and grace for this world in need.

As we work through this process of Mission Exploration for the purpose of preparing to call a new Senior Pastor, we cannot understate the value of this time of reflection – not just for the call process – but also for refreshing our attention to the needs of our community and the ways that God is seeking to work through us to care for those needs. Our faith in Christ calls us to attend to the brokenness of the world. It is when we care for others in tangible ways that we share in witnessing God's faithful presence among us.

May you experience this autumn, the harsh beauty of the world as it is, and may the Spirit of God fill and sustain you in the work of this gospel movement we share.

Blessings, Pr. Joe

The Bishop is Coming! *The Bishop is Coming!*

Sunday, October 9, Christ Our Savior is blessed to host Greater Milwaukee Synod Bishop Paul Erickson. Bishop Erickson will preach in morning worship (both the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. services) and be available for curiosity, questions, and conversation between services. Please help us welcome him!



Invitation to Serve During Worship!

Our worship assistant SignUpGenius is available for you to select your fall dates. Signups with spots available include Altar guild, Communion Assistants, Bread Bakers, Offering Counters, Lectors, 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 at amy@coslc.com with questions.



All Saints Remembrance

Names Needed by Sunday, October 30th

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. We also like to include those who have been part of our lives. If you would like to include a family member or friend who passed away in the last year in our All Saints Day worship service, please sign up in the narthex or let Sandy know at office@coslc.com by Sunday, October 30th.



Interested in Membership???

New Member Orientation & Reception

We are welcoming new members this fall. We'll be meeting with individuals, couples, or families on a one-to-one basis for orientation. During orientation, we'll provide an overview of Christ Our Savior, introduce you to our various ministries, and explore areas where you fit in. We will be receiving our new members in November. If you are interested in becoming a member contact the church office at office@coslc.com.



Sunday School

Is meeting regularly between services on Sunday mornings. Typically starting with music in the Community Room down the West wing of our building, this time is an opportunity for children in 4K-5th grade to learn more about the Bible and what it means to be the church together through stories, games, crafts, and songs. For questions about Sunday School programming, contact Pr. Joe at pastorjoe@coslc.com.



Affirmation of Baptism

On October 30th and November 6th, members of the 2021-2022 confirmation program will be confirmed during worship. Members of the congregation are invited to check out the Faith Artifacts our confirmands will have on display during these two Sundays and to be present to affirm this step in our young peoples' journey of faith.



Autumn Sampler Oct 23rd

In lieu of Pumpkin Palooza this year we are hosting an Autumn Sampler on October 23rd between services in the Fellowship Room. There will be apples, dip, and toppings, and members of the congregation are encouraged to bring their favorite fall treat to share during fellowship.



Adopt-a-Garden/Yard Care

Now that the growing season is coming to an end, please take a moment to prepare your garden area for winter. In addition, we are looking for a few folks to help trim the bushes and do some fall winterizing to our church property before the snow hits. If you would like to help with winterizing, contact Chris at c.k.stromberg@gmail.com, Tom Edman at tedman1720@aol.com, or Amy at amy@coslc.com.



TACOS

(Teens Around the Community of Sussex)

While the TACOS ministry works towards the goal of hiring a new Director, Christ Our Savior is committed to stewarding this ministry for the young people of our community. Youth in 5th-8th grade are invited to gather for games, snacks, and conversation after school on Wednesdays until 5pm. For questions about TACOS programming, contact Pastor Joe at pastorjoe@coslc.com



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.



SOS – Coat Drive

Coats & Snowpants & Boots Needed

Deadline October 9th

SOS is collecting New or Gently Used winter gear in adult, child, and plus sizes. Help keep our neighbors warm! Bring in your items by October 9th. Collection bins are located at SOS front door, Civic Center lobby, and Sussex Pick N Save & Piggly Wiggly. You can also drop off items at church in the entryway bin labeled SOS and we will deliver them to SOS for you.



Socktober

We will be collecting new socks during the month of October. We need socks of all types, sizes, and colors. Boys, girls, men, women, even infant/baby socks can be donated. Solid colors, white, and fun socks are welcome and encouraged too! Socks collected will be donated to our outreach partners.



Giving Tree

We are looking for a handful of people who would be willing to help with our Giving Tree ministry. We need help with calling families for wish lists and delivering gifts in early December. We will also be collecting gift cards for our ministry partners this year. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, contact Amy at amy@coslc.com.



Community Banquet

Lannon - Lisbon - Menomonee Falls - Sussex
Thursday, October 27th

Please join us on Thursday, OCTOBER 27, for the Community Banquet held at St. James Catholic Church on Town Line Road in Menomonee Falls. With THRIVENT sponsoring this event, COS will be COOKING and SERVING that night. Also, with Kathy Michalek as our lead chef, we could use your help as we prepare dinner for about 100 guests. If you are available, please sign up on the posted sheet down the west hallway. A few volunteers are usually in the kitchen by 3:30 p.m. and more hands are useful around 4:30 p.m. for last minute prep and the 5:30 p.m. serving time. Join some other friendly folks with willing hands and help make this THRIVENT sponsored dinner an enjoyable evening for our community.



If you have any questions, email Diane Otto at diane.lee.otto@gmail.com. Thank you and we hope to see you there!

Se "TP"ember - Toilet Paper Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated toilet paper during the month of September!!! It is an item in great demand at the SOS Food Pantry. It is a blessing that we can give and meet the needs of others in the community.



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, October 18th

Do you like to bake? It would be fantastic if you could make 24 Halloween Cookies or Monster Bars for our next Serenity Inns Meal on Tuesday, October 11th. There are 11 residents, 1 innkeeper, and additional staff/volunteers who would love your delicious treat!

Do you like to cook? Meals can be sloppy joes, lasagna, enchiladas, brats, chicken sandwiches, or whatever your favorite meal is that you would like to share. If interested in meal planning, reach out to Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or sign up on the outreach ministry board.

Winter Clothing Needed: We will be collecting warm winter clothing for the residents at Serenity Inns. If you have winter coats (XL-3X), hats, mittens, or boots that you would like to donate, drop them off in the entryway and we'll deliver them to the men at Serenity Inns.



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, October 12th

Our next BOH meal is on Wednesday, October 12th. If you missed out helping last month, and would like to help this month, join us in the COS kitchen on Tuesday evening at 6pm and Wednesday morning at 9am as we prepare, make, and assemble the to-go meals. 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 or Larry & Edie Schaffner at elschaffner02@live.com



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