

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

February 2023

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.
- 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.

Surveys and Focus Groups have been conducted to gather congregational input on perceived needs, values, and mission.

The MET drafts Christ Our Savior's Ministry Site Profile.

A Town Hall Meeting is held for congregational review of the MSP, and preparing for the congregational Town Hall Meeting December

- **COS is in this stage** > A Call Committee is formed. COS's Call Committee is Aaron Dietz, Angie Lura, Dave Abresch, Mike Singer, Edie Schaffner and Brynn Haigh (youth rep). The team is awaiting orientation for its work.
- The Church Council receives the Call Committee's pastoral candidate recommendation.
- The congregation votes on the Church Council's recommended pastoral candidate and a call is issued.



Good Tidings in Times of Transition

Completing the Ministry Site Profile was a critical task in Christ Our Savior's Call Process. While the document is, indeed, a profile of Christ Our Savior's makeup as a congregation - how it is situated within the local community, what some of its past has been, what it hopes its future will be, and how it believes God calls it to express the gospel as a faith community - it is also the congregation's statement of how it will work collaboratively with a new pastor. This is important.

Call processes are burdened with the nearly unbearable weight of delivering to the congregation **The New Pastor** who will somehow manage to avoid the pitfalls of the past, keep everything on an even keel, bond deeply with every congregational demographic, preach profound yet relatable sermons that are faithful to the gospel yet never make worshippers uncomfortable, and boldly lead the congregation to the perfect fulfillment of its vision of "success." While being hopeful for what the next phase of congregational life will be like following a long pastorate and a long period of transition is truly something to anticipate and enjoy, the reality of establishing a new pastor/ congregation relationship is something that, like all relationships, takes time, love, patience, commitment, and communication. Congregational ministry is the result of mutual, collaborative work. No pastor can go it alone and neither can a congregation. They simply go together like peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, Sonny and Cher, and the Packers beating the Bears. Knowing this too, is important.

If congregational ministry is the result of shared work and love, how will Christ Our Savior demonstrate its half of mutual ministry when a new pastor is called? The Ministry Site Profile contains within it a section that asks how the congregation will be supportive of its new pastor, but when transition occurs and the ministry demands of the moment begins to encroach on the burgeoning working relationship between pastor and congregation, what will the reality be?

Disruption and challenge will always manage to rear their heads and threaten to derail our best efforts, but life in the church in creating ministry is unique and special because it is life in the church. In this gathering of people seeking to do ministry in Christ's name in cooperation with the person that has been called to preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments, everything undertaken is sustained by a conveniently forgotten truth: it is not only a pastor and congregation that create ministry together - it is a pastor and congregation nurtured in their shared work *by the Holy Spirit* who will call you all, together, into being the new creation God needs you to be for the sake of the gospel in this community.

In Christ,
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

From the Associate Pastor

Greetings folks! This month, I decided to use my newsletter article to update you on a few plans for 2023 for my role as Associate Pastor.

First, if your household typically attends worship Sunday morning, you may notice that there will be more Sundays where it is just Pr. Michael leading worship and I am either absent or working in the background. Since the fall of 2022 I have been covering the responsibilities of youth ministry and education, as well as stewarding the TACOS ministry, while serving as the part-time Associate Pastor at Christ Our Savior.

Though I've been doing my best to keep these ministries in motion, I know that from a programmatic and a relational sense, they have not received the necessary time and attention. Additionally, there are some larger ministry elements like Youth Mission Day, Vacation Bible School, and Summer Mission Trip that take more preparation and planning than the typical demands of the week. Faced by this challenge, I've spoken with the staff and the council about redirecting some of my time and energy on weeks where I am not preaching to invest in these youth ministry responsibilities. I will still be in morning worship at least twice a month, and I will typically be at Sunday evening worship each week whether preaching or presiding.

Second, if you've sat in on the budget conversations for 2023, you have likely heard the council name my intentions to take a Sabbatical this year. We are planning for me to take a leave of absence for a period of three and a half months, with the hope being that this will start some time after Christ Our Savior has welcomed its new Senior Pastor. Depending on the timeline, this will have me returning to my role as part-time Associate Pastor in the fall of 2023.

I am excited to share in the beginning of this new chapter in Christ Our Savior's ministry, and to see the ways God reveals the kingdom of heaven in our midst over the course of the coming year.

Blessings,
Pr. Joe

Pastor Bill Beyer 2.5.23 Visit

Sunday, February 5th

A Conversation in Faith: Christ Our Savior, the Pastoral Search, and the Best Candidate

An often-unexpected gift of congregational call processes is how they draw our focus to aspects of church life needing attention. What is unexpected for congregations can give fresh expression to their faith and their mission. While we are sustained by the Holy Spirit and grounded in prayer, the com-

mitment to stay in relationship, love each other, and continue to talk together constitutes necessary work of being a community of faith.

The congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirm that human sexuality is a gift, and that sexual orientation is not a barrier to those wishing to serve congregations as pastors or to congregations that wish to call the candidate they discern is their best match in a call process. The goal of a call process is the forming of a pastor/congregation relationship that elicits strong, respectful, and healthy *mutual* ministry – ministry that both parties are compelled to develop together. Won't you take an opportunity to join in conversation about cultivating Christ Our Savior's mutual ministry?

Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., we are happy to host the Reverend Bill Beyer from Grace Lutheran Church in Thiensville to lead congregational conversation on the topic of Christ Our Savior's openness to the best possible candidate for pastor regardless of sexual orientation. As has been true throughout Christ Our Savior's history, the ministry of the congregation is always the result of what is collaboratively created between pastor and congregation. We hope that you will help build on that history and contribute to this conversation in expressing the church's mission.



New Musician - Danny Ellis

Christ Our Savior is happy to announce the hire of its new Co-Director of Music, Pianist! We welcome Danny Ellis and are eager for his start on Monday, January 30.

Daniel Ellis has his Bachelor's of Music in vocal performance from Iowa State University and his Master's of Music in vocal performance from UW-Milwaukee. He owns and runs Ellis Music Studios in Menomonee Falls, where he teaches voice and piano lessons. He is also the drama director at Germantown High School. His love of music began at age four when he began singing in the churches his father ministered in. After graduating with his master's degree, he sang professional opera with the Florentine Opera company as well as Milwaukee Opera Theater. He has served as a music minister/choir director for over ten years and is excited to join Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. In his spare time, he is an avid golfer and enjoys watching anything Marvel and Star Wars related with his son, Benton, and his significant other, Heather.



Join us for Fellowship Time!

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

After our worship services each Sunday, we have time set aside to check in with our fellow church members to see what's been happening in each other's lives. It is one of the ways that we can build a supportive church community. It is a wonderful time to slow down to have a cup of coffee or goodie off our fellowship table. Hope you will join us for conversation this month!

If you are interested in bringing a goodie for fellowship time, sign-up [HERE](#). Please have them at church on Sunday mornings by 8:30 a.m. or drop them off on the table in the entryway on Saturday night. If you have questions, contact Marion Jaskulski at marjask5@wi.rr.com.



Mac-n-More

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



Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

During February, we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly. The PB&J will be donated to Sussex Outreach Services at the end of the month to feed hungry kids in our community.



Join a Worship Assistant Team!

Calling YOU! If you are not already serving in some capacity on a worship team, please consider doing so. We need more helping hands serving as Communion Assistants, Bread Bakers, Altar Guild, Offering Counters, Hosts, Lectors, and Ushers. The roles are easy to do! Our Spring/Winter SignUpGenius is now available through May 2023. Sign-up on our website under volunteers [HERE](#) 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

GET INVOLVED!

Serenity Inns

Tuesday, February 21st

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, February 21st.

There are approximately 15 residents, who depend on us for a meal this evening. 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. If you would like to make some Valentine's Day cookies, please have them to church by Noon on Tuesday.



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, February 8th

Come join us in the COS kitchen on Wednesday, February 8th at 9am as we prepare, make, and assemble the to-go chili meals. If you haven't helped in the past, we welcome you to come and check out this ministry. No experience necessary! Just willing hearts and open hands is all you need! If you would like to become involved in feeding the hungry in Milwaukee, contact Chuck Liedtke at chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com and Larry & Edie Schaffner at elschaffner02@live.com



Community Banquet

Thursday, February 9th

We've received the schedule for 2023! This month, we've been assigned to the role of setup and desserts on Thursday, February 9th. The meal takes place at 5:30 p.m. at St. James and is open to everyone in the community. If you are available to help set up reach out to Diane Otto at dotto@wi.rr.com or 262-691-3778. You can also sign up on our outreach ministry board. As always, thank you for your help!



Food Pantry Delivery Needed

We are looking for volunteers to pick up and deliver donated items from church to the SOS Food Pantry in 2023. Sign up using SignUpGenius [HERE](#). The items need to be picked up once a week, but you can choose a time that works for you. Food Pantry Drop Off Times: Monday - Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

N59 W22476 Silver Spring Dr.

Sussex, Wisconsin 53089

Telephone: 262-246-6537

Pastor Michael Anderson - PastorMichael@coslc.com

Pastor Michael cell 414-379-3639

Pastor Joe Wilkinson - PastorJoe@coslc.com

Pastor Joe cell 262-372-1048

Council - council@coslc.com

Amy Berken, Dir. Adult Discipleship & Outreach

Amy@coslc.com

Sandy Hollnagel, Office Manager - office@coslc.com

Direct Deposit - office@coslc.com

Website - www.coslc.com

Wifi SSID: COS password: Gath3redF3dS3nt

Facebook - www.facebook.com/cosussex