

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

March 2023

COS Mission Statement

A Community Gathered in Christ, Fed by God's
Word, Sent to Serve...

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, Edie Schafner, Angie Lura, Dave Abresch, Mike Singer, and Brynn Haigh (youth rep). *The COS Call Committee has received its orientation and is proceeding with its work. Please hold them in prayer.*
- 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

The mystery of Christianity is always around the new thing that God is doing. We know such newness as it is expressed in Jesus, but that newness appears throughout scripture. Learning those stories is the foundation of our faith. God is always at work to generate new life out of seemingly dead-end situations. In truth that trait is what ensures that we are always compelled to put our trust in God rather than ourselves. We literally cannot conceive of how God is able to take what we find distasteful, have no use for, or see no value in and use that as the starting gate for new life. It is resurrection. It is grace. It is what humbles us. It is what calls us to worship and to faith. But being called to faith can feel at odds with our desire for control and for making life in the image that we prefer and reckoning with that tension is part of our growth and development as disciples.

We are not called to control, we are not called to success, we are not called to moral perfection, we are not called to respectability. In baptism we put on Christ and we are called to a life like his. A life of dying and rising. A life of being set free from those dead-end things that sink us and set us free to being new people – to being people who are gradually opened to reflect God's heart of love and mercy. In this season of Lent, what are you ready to be set free from? What are you ready to leave behind? Our trust is in the God who creates life out of the dust of the earth. What do you need God to do with the dust of your life? Regardless of what we may hope for, the new thing that occurs in us will always be beyond our conception. It will always begin in God.

In Christ,
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson



Daylight Saving is March 12th



From the Associate Pastor

During our Mission Exploration process for the Ministry Site Profile, I often used the metaphor of creating a dating profile. For folks not familiar with the call process, this was a helpful way to quickly convey that we were creating something that spoke of who we are as a congregation that prospective candidates will be able to look at and get an initial sense of whether we might be a good pairing.

As our Call Committee begins its important work of interviewing candidates for our new Senior Pastor, I find myself leaning into more of the ways that the dynamics of a committed relationship apply to our experience as a congregation. When we welcome our new Senior Pastor, we will likely experience both the excitement of their new presence within our community, and also we will experience the growing pains of getting to know one another. There will be ways that we delight in the passion and gifts that they introduce to our community. And there will also be ways that we might find ourselves surprised or frustrated when we are confronted with different expectations or ways of doing things than we are accustomed to. But, for all the emotions or experiences we share as we welcome a new pastor to our congregation, our foundation remains our shared commitment to the Way of Christ.

It is our commitment to Jesus' gospel, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, that allows us to remain committed to one another, even as we might be challenged by differences in perspective or disagreements about the best way to embody faithfulness together. Much in the way that partners in committed relationships do not always see eye to eye, but are able to cling to the foundational love that holds them together through adversity, we should not be surprised as a community of faith when we experience conflict. Jesus doesn't promise us that we won't face storms as his followers – just that he will be with us in the midst of them.

May the Holy Spirit that unites us as one body in Christ, sustain and ground you in your identity as a beloved child of God. And may you recommit yourself in faithfulness to the Way of Jesus that we seek to embody together.

Blessings,
Pr. Joe

Hygiene Items For Bread of Healing Clinic

During Lent, we'll be collecting hygiene items for men and women for the Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.

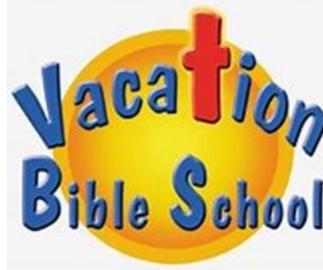
Hygiene items needed include: full-size shampoo, toothbrushes, full-size toothpaste, soap, razors, and deodorant. Please place the hygiene items in the bins in the narthex.



VBS Save The Date

Preparations are underway for our VBS week of summer youth programming June 26th-29th. Online registration will be up March 12th.

For more information and registration details, check our website under "Learn and Grow"



Register For First Communion

We celebrate God's invitation to the Lord's table Sunday during worship. If you have someone in your household who has not received First Communion instruction and would like to be a part of this spring's workshop, registration is open. Based on the number of participants who have registered, Pastor Joe will coordinate with families to prepare for registrants to receive First Communion as a part of the Maundy Thursday service in April.



CCOS Youth Mission Day

The Cooperating Churches of Sussex are planning for this year's Youth Mission Day to take place May 13th. Youth and Adults interested in participating in this day of service for our community should contact Pastor Joe, pastorjoe@coslc.com



Serving God By Serving Others

Middle School Camp Week

June 18th-23rd, will feature a week of camp at Pine Lake for confirmation aged youth. Families interested in participating should contact Pastor Joe, pastorjoe@coslc.com For more information on the Pine Lake site of Crossways Camping Ministries, go to www.crosswayscamps.org



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

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 8:30am 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.



A Dollar a Day for the Hungry in Lent

Did you know that 1/3 of the world's population struggles to survive on the equivalent of \$2 a day? During Lent each year we challenge all of our members to set aside \$1 a day to feed those who struggle to get by. For most of us \$1 a day is hardly a sacrifice. If that's the case for you, you are welcome to give more. \$1 a day guarantees 2 nutritionally complete meals a day for those who receive help through the ELCA hunger appeal and Lutheran World Relief. Both organizations have less than 1% overhead, so every dollar we send goes to direct food aid. Imagine the difference you can make!

You can bring your \$1 a day gift to church on Holy Week or send it in. Join the rest of us in making the miracle of life happen.

Hunger Offering



Worship Assistant Opportunities for you!

Holy Week & Easter Sunday

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 2nd

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 6th

Good Friday – Friday, April 7th

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 9th

Sign-up on our website under volunteers [HERE](#) to serve as a worship assistant (Communion Assistants, Ushers, Hosts, Lectors, Altar Guild, and Bread Bakers) at one of our Holy Week or Easter Sunday worship services.

If you would like to serve but are new to the role, reach out to Amy Berken at amy@coslc.com

GET INVOLVED!

Dinner and a Show

Saturday, March 25

Please plan to attend our first ever COS Dinner/Cabaret Show on Saturday, March 25th. Dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. with your choice of steak or chicken. Dinners include a baked potato and salad bar. Tickets for this event are \$15 per person and include the dinner and show. The show will start at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Bring the entire family, friends and neighbors for an evening of delicious dinner and wonderful entertainment as past and present COS singers and friends present popular music from today and yesterday!! Tickets will be available after services. A free will bake sale will happen at intermission. Can't wait to see you there.



Thrivent Choice Dollars Contributions

If you have Thrivent products that are investment vehicles (not term life policies), they generate Thrivent Choice Dollars which you can designate to your church. It does not reduce the value of your holdings or cost you any money. All you need to do is log on to your Thrivent account, scroll down until you see Thrivent Choice Dollars. It will show you how much your products have earned. Click on the "direct" button. Christ Our Savior is already a designated recipient. If you have questions or difficulty, you can contact your representative.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice Dollars
Today!



Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated peanut butter and jelly for our February drive. The PB&J will be donated to Sussex Outreach Services to feed hungry kids in our community.



Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, March 8th

Come join us in the COS kitchen on Wednesday, March 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 it out. 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



Serenity Inns

Tuesday, March 21st

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, March 21st. The men so appreciate the meal and the time you dedicate praying for them and supporting them on their road to recovery.

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.



Community Banquet

Thursday, March 9th

Thank you to all the helping hands who served last month setting up and making desserts for Community Banquet. This month, we've been assigned the role of COOKING on Thursday, March 9th. If you are available to help with cooking the meal, reach out to Diane Otto at

dotto@wi.rr.com or 262-691-3778. You can also sign up on our outreach ministry board. Also, a friendly reminder that the meal takes place at 5:30 p.m. at St. James and is open to everyone. Come enjoy a hot meal with others in the community.



Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Spring Dinner Fundraiser

Mark your calendars! Reservation Outreach will be having its first fundraiser for the year. All the details are not out yet, but it will be on Friday, April 28th at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Waukesha. The dinner menu will be spaghetti, rolls, salad and beverage. There will also be a bake sale and silent auction, with some items being authentic Native American, such as a beautiful handmade king size star quilt made by a wonderful Lakota woman. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins, as it becomes available.



Summer Reservation Trip 2023

The dates for the summer reservation trip this year will be Saturday, July 15th to Saturday, July 22nd. If you are interested in going for the entire week or part of it, reach out to Gloria Klomsten, Reservation Outreach, at gklomsten@gmail.com or 262-370-7506.

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