

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

April 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 gathered congregational input on perceived needs, values, and mission.
- The MET drafts Christ Our Savior's Ministry Site Profile.
- A Town Hall Meeting his 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. ***Please watch for Call Committee updates in Sunday announcements and weekly church email updates.***
- 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.

In Christ,
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

Good Tidings in Times of Transition

How does a church discern its sense of mission? It employs the tools of faith – prayer, scripture, worship, and patiently learns to detect the overlap between the leading of the Spirit through these holy things and the community's unique giftedness. 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

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ 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. This is the work of our lives as followers of Christ. The love of God can never be kept or hoarded; it can only be given away.

In the wake of Holy Week, 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. Christ's resurrection is not only a declaration of new life for all creation it is an invitation to meditate on how the church's mission is a conduit of the same for a world in need. How do we "empty ourselves" as Christ did in Paul's hymn from Philippians? We are called into radical identification with the world around us in order that the world might receive a liberating word. 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 with in our own similar experiences. Someone has been Christ to us. Learning this is discipleship and as such clarifying mission is a congregation-wide spiritual practice. It is always a need.

May you be blessed by the good news of Christ this holy season and as a community may you cultivate sharing the mind of Christ Jesus.

In Christ,
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

From the Associate Pastor

I was in conversation with someone recently who shared a story of their upbringing in the Christian church. They told me of a pastor from their youth who had said something to the effect of, "If you are following Jesus, you are going to be uncomfortable." This statement has stuck with them, and at times when they have been challenged by something in a sermon or frustrated by a demand of ministry, they have recalled these words. "Perhaps this is what that pastor was talking about."

Grace and Peace to you, siblings in Christ, from the one who both consoles us in our grief and also stirs us with discomfort in our complacency. I've been reflecting on the words from that conversation this past month, and they have brought into starker relief the number of instances where we read testimony that a life of faithfulness to God invites discomfort. My thoughts quickly jump to Esther's fearfully bold approach before the king, Jonah's call to invite the enemies of his people to God's salvation, or the Israelites' 40 years in the wilderness. The welcome we receive to the kingdom of God inherently sets us against the forces in this world that oppose God's ways of solidarity with the vulnerable and the relentless pursuit of compassionate justice.

Reflecting on this has given me a new appreciation for Martin Luther's exhortation that we should "fear and love God." In recent years, I have shied away from Luther's language in the catechism because I have experienced how the imperative to fear God has been grounded, not in theological faithfulness, but in human efforts to wield religion like a divine cudgel that demands obedience. And yet, I find myself agreeing with Luther that both fear and love are the appropriate response to a God who is enduringly faithful and gracious towards us, but who invites us into a way of life that intrinsically calls us to die of the self we know in order to experience the new life in Christ God offers us. There is nothing comfortable about the need to take up our crosses and set ourselves against the powers of empire and die to our old ways of living. It is not comfortable, but it is transformative; it is the Way of life for ourselves and for others; it is the place where we encounter Christ with us.

And so, dear people, may we boldly embrace the discomfort that is a part of our Christian walk of faith, and open ourselves to the new life that comes from faithfully pursuing Christ's Way!

Blessings,
Pr. Joe

No Confirmation or Evening Worship 3/26 or 4/9

This Sunday evening (3/26) there will be no 6:00 p.m. Worship Service or 6:30 p.m. Confirmation instruction.

Evening Worship and Confirmation will be held on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

On Easter Sunday, (4/9) there will be no 6:00 p.m. Worship Service or 6:30 p.m. Confirmation instruction.

Holy Week & Easter

Join Us for Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday

April 2nd, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 6th, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

April 7th, 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 9th, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Easter Pastry Palooza

April 9th, between services



Worship Assistants 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



No evening
services

Easter Pastry-Palooza

Eat Pastries, Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection!

Easter Sunday, April 9 - between services

What do pastries have to do with the Resurrection of our Lord? Well, technically speaking, nothing. But, Jesus' resurrection is worthy of celebration, so let's celebrate! Let's put the *feast* in *festival*!

On Easter Sunday, before you head off to your family celebrations and observances, won't you participate in a resurrection celebration with your faith community? Help Christ Our Savior offer a celebration buffet fit for this holy day – a *Pastry Palooza* - by sharing your most cherished pastry (or dessert) with your faith community.

Store bought and homemade items are all welcome. To help us prepare for the day, just pop over to SignUp Genius or click [HERE](#) to add your name to

the list so we can know what to expect. We look forward to celebrating Easter with you!



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.



Hygiene Items

For Bread of Healing Clinic

Keep bringing in your hygiene items during Lent! Our hygiene item collection for the Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee goes through Easter Sunday. Hygiene items needed include full-size shampoo, toothbrushes, full-size toothpaste, soap, razors, and deodorant. Please place the hygiene items on the table or bins in the entryway.

Hygiene Drive During Lent



Needed Items:

- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Razors
- Deodorant



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"



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

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!

Hunger Offering



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.

Pine Ridge Reservation Outreach Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Reservation Outreach will be having its first fundraiser for the year on Friday, April 28th from 4:00pm -7:00pm at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Waukesha. The dinner menu includes a spaghetti dinner or Indian Tacos, rolls, salad and beverage. Cost: Adults \$15, Children \$12, Family of 4 (2 Adults, 2 children) \$50. 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. RSVP preferred by 4/15/23. Send any questions or RSVPs to Gloria Klomsten at reservationoutreach@gmail.com



Bread of Healing Meal

Come join us in the COS kitchen on Wednesday, April 12th 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, April 18th

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, April 18th. There are 15 men who count on us for this meal. Please consider helping prepare the meal or provide a side or dessert. The men so appreciate this meal each month! We have an important role in supporting these men on their road to recovery. For more information, reach out to Hank Wallenkamp at 262-525-1211 or sign up on the outreach ministry board. Please have all items at church by noon on Tuesday.



Community Banquet

Thursday, April 13th (clean up)

This month, we've been assigned the role of clean up on Thursday, April 13th. The meal takes place at 5:30 p.m. at St James and is open to everyone in the community. We will begin clearing tables at 6:10 p.m. If you are available to help with clean up after 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. As always, thank you for your help!



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