

# Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

## July 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 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.

### Call Committee Update

We're excited to share that the Call Committee is currently receiving and interviewing candidates for the Senior Pastor position at COS!!!

We will keep you posted regarding our progress and welcome any questions you might have for us. Stay tuned!

### Good Tidings in Times of Transition

*I have been put here for the defense of the gospel.*

**Philippians 1:16**

In the history of Christianity Paul stands as a monumental figure. Zealous for his Jewish faith, he was a persecutor of the early Christian church until he underwent a conversion that turned him into a witness to the gospel, particularly among the non-Jewish. His work in proclaiming the good news put him at odds with Jewish religious leaders as well as with the Roman government which often led to experiences of imprisonment and punishment. Even amid these profound challenges, Paul only ever sees developments as new opportunities to speak to the good news of Jesus Christ. It is always a good occasion to speak to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Why is this the case? Because every development of life is an opportunity to describe how there is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. And as the church we are blessed with the profound gift of being called to speak to that truth in the world. This is the work of the church. There is no circumstance of life that can name us as something unlovable to (or unvalued by) God – not hardship, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword (cf. Romans 8:35) – and we live in a world that craves this message yet works tirelessly to create categories of insiders and outsiders. How hard it is for us to trust the world God made is big enough for the world God made and that the love of God that made the world is the right sized love for the God who is all in all.

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## Good Tidings in Times of Transition continued...

How, in your life, might you connect with Paul's sentiment that, "I have been put here for the defense of the gospel?" What occasions do you see in which the promise of God's unconditional love needs sharing through action and speech? The specifics of how you have needed to hear of God's unconditional love are the path by which you might recognize the scenarios in which your witness to God's love might naturally emerge.

Part of what made the early Christian church scandalous derived from how their experience of the gospel allowed them to trust that the presence of the divine was part of every person and as such every person was deserving of being treated with dignity. This can still be a hallmark of being the church in the 21st century. "I give you a new commandment," says Jesus, "that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (cf. John 13:34). This is the gospel that is worth defending. And at Christ Our Savior you have been put here for the defense of the gospel. The need of the world to hear of God's mercy is so great that there are never enough voices to share that message. It is part of your gift that you are planted where you are, a branch connected to the vine who is Jesus Christ (cf. John 15:1-11), to announce good news in the Sussex community.

Like Paul, may you rejoice in any circumstance as an opportunity to proclaim the mercy of Christ for the sake of the world.

In Christ,  
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson



## Pastor Joe's Time Away

Scripture reveals to us the way God's intention for humankind is to have a rhythm of restful seasons followed by fruitful seasons, and then a return to abiding in the restful stillness of God's presence. Our shared time of transition at Christ Our Savior has been a turbulent time as we navigated together the challenges of pandemic and pastoral change. In the fall of 2022, Pr. Joe approached the council about taking a leave of absence to make space for renewal and stillness in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

After prayer and discernment, the council invited Pr. Joe to begin his time away on May 1st in order that he would return by August 16th and share in our congregation's preparations for fall ministry. We invite you to share in a mutual practice of holding Pr. Joe in prayer during his Sabbath time as he also holds the community of Christ Our Savior in continued prayerful reflection.



## Bread of Healing Meal

**Wednesday, July 12th**

Come join us in the COS kitchen on Wednesday, July 12th at 9am as we make sandwiches and assemble to-go bags. If you haven't helped in the past, we welcome you to come. No experience necessary! Just willing hearts and open hands are all you need! If you would like to become involved in feeding the hungry in Milwaukee, contact Chuck Liedtke at [chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com](mailto:chuck.liedtke@sodexo.com) and Larry & Edie Schaffner at [elschaffner02@live.com](mailto:elschaffner02@live.com).

## Community Banquet

**Thursday, July 13th**

A huge thank you to those who helped with preparing the meal, making desserts, and setting up last month. On July 13th, COS will be cooking again. We are cooking back-to-back due to a necessary switch earlier in the year. Those interested in helping should meet at St. James by 4:30pm. The meal will be served at 5:30pm and everyone in the community is welcome to come for the meal and conversation. Contact Diane Otto at [dotto@wi.rr.com](mailto:dotto@wi.rr.com) or 262-691-3778 to let her know that you are available to help with the July meal.

## Serenity Inns

Tuesday, July 18th

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, July 18th. If you haven't served before, we invite you to reach out to Hank and offer your help in preparing a meal for the residents (about 15 men) at Serenity Inns. It can be any of your favorites: spaghetti, sloppy joes, tacos, burgers, etc. You are also welcome to eat dinner with the residents. In addition, we are always looking for desserts. Thank you to those who have made cupcakes, bars, and cookies, etc. in the past. If you would like more information or would like to help, 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.

## COS Quilters - Sheets Needed

Our dedicated group of quilters have been meeting over the summer on Thursday mornings from 9-11am. They are in need of bed sheets for the back of these life saving quilts. These quilts are sent all over the world through Lutheran World Relief. If you have any sheets that you are able to donate (flat or fitted), please drop them off in the entryway bin. For questions, contact Sam Mayek at [amayak2@wi.rr.com](mailto:amayak2@wi.rr.com).



## Adopt-a-Garden

About half of the garden plots have been adopted, but we still could use your help to adopt the others. We have 12 garden and flower beds around our church that need occasional weeding and care throughout the summer months and into early fall. Each area is small, so commitment is only 1-2 hours per month. We hope that you and your family will adopt a garden to help keep our property looking well maintained. Adopt your garden plot on SignUpGenius under volunteers on our [website HERE](#) or in the narthex on the bulletin board. If you have questions, contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).

## Garden Share Time!

It's time to start sharing what you are growing in your gardens! Bring your garden produce to church and place it on the garden share table. Those who would like a veggie or two can grab them and leave a donation. All proceeds will benefit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

## SOS Operation Backpack

We are collecting school supplies for Sussex Outreach Services (SOS) throughout July to be distributed in our community in early August. You can help by donating needed school supplies to ensure that every child in the Sussex area receives the necessary supplies to get the school year off to a great start. There will be a collection bin at the church in the entryway.

### **Suggested items include:**

- New, sturdy backpacks
- Child-size scissors
- Compasses
- Protractors
- Wide-ruled notebooks
- Post-It Notes
- Calculators (basic 4-function)
- Highlighters
- Wide-ruled loose-leaf paper
- Black Sharpie markers
- Watercolor paints
- Colored pencils
- Folders
- Pencil boxes or cases
- Dry erase markers
- Pens (black, blue, red)
- Erasers (pencil cap and regular)
- Markers (fine and broad tip)
- School glue
- #2 pencils
- Glue sticks
- Rulers



## SOS Food Pantry

### Summer Bonus Bags

During July, we'll continue collecting single serving items for our Sussex area food pantry. These Summer Bonus Bags are lunch sized bags of food that the food pantry provides to school aged children over the summer, so kids don't go hungry. Below are suggested items.

**Meal Items:** Ravioli, SpaghettiO's, any canned, heat and eat meals, cup of soup/ramen noodles, individual noodle soups, mac & cheese cups, microwave entrees

**Drinks:** Juice boxes/pouches, individual drinks of Gatorade, Sunny D, etc.

**Breakfast Items:** Pop Tarts, oatmeal packets, individual cereals, breakfast/cereal bars

**Snacks:** Granola bars, individual chips, goldfish, cookies, dried fruit, fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups, crackers and cheese/peanut butter, fruit snacks

## Calling Worship Assistants!

While it's understandable that summer planning can sometimes be challenging, we're encouraging you to select a date or two over the summer months to serve, if you haven't already done so. We still have the same worship assistant needs over the summer as the rest of the year. We need your participation!

**Altar Guild** - It would be wonderful to grow our altar guild team. We have six dedicated people who set up trays and bread baskets for worship and clean up after the service.

**Bread Bakers** - We have four bread bakers and would like to expand the team. Easy recipe!

**Communion Assistants** - We need your help with distributing bread and collecting cups. If you are receiving Communion, you are able to assist with these roles.

**Greeter/Hosts** - A welcoming church is one that feels like home. We greet people all the time when people come home from work or school or when our friends and neighbors visit. We encourage you to greet people at church and make them feel welcome when they arrive.

**Lectors** - We have a fantastic group of lectors! If you would like to read during our worship service, we always have room for you.

**Offering Counters** - We have a wonderful group of offering counters! These 10 people (5 teams) count offering after worship on Sundays or sometimes Monday (as it works better for them). If you like working with numbers, this is a great way for you to get involved.

**Ushers** - It may not seem like an important role, but our worship service wouldn't go smoothly without our ushers. They help with handing out bulletins, guiding people up for Communion, and collecting offering. We need at least 2 ushers at each service. We have only a handful of people helping with ushering. This is a good time for you to step up to serve as an usher.

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 Berken for more information at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).

## Join us for fellowship time!

We will be offering fellowship time 30 minutes before our 9:15am service and again after the worship service. Come join us for a cup of coffee or a goodie off our fellowship table. It is a wonderful time to slow down and check in with fellow church members to see what's been happening in each other's lives. Hope you will join us for conversation this summer!

If you are interested in bringing a goodie for fellowship time, [sign-up HERE](#) (or on our website). 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](mailto:marjask5@wi.rr.com).

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