

# Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

## August 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 is ready to interview call candidates and awaiting names. 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

*But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*  
**Jonah 1:17**

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word "liminal" as, "of, relating to, or being an intermediate state, phase, or condition : IN-BETWEEN, TRANSITIONAL." The church year observes two seasons that function as liminal times: Advent and Lent. In Advent, we wait for the fulfillment of all God has begun in creation. In Lent, we contend with the alienating results of human brokenness in the face of God's ever-flowing love. They are seasons in which we long for the resolution of the tension we feel by what they emphasize. It is the discomfort in these seasons that tell us that, in them, we are living through the experience of being prepared for something new that we can scarcely imagine. No time in the church year is more liminal than the time between the conclusion of Good Friday worship and the first "alleluia" of Easter Sunday. Liminal describes the deep breath that precedes the inflection points of our church year, and it is, highly useful in describing congregational transitions.

Seeing the value in liminal times can be hard, but they are vital. They are periods of formation that resist our standard assumptions of the utility of transitions and about the presence of God. When we feel diminished and at our limits, these are times when God is up to something. When the hope of our preferred future fades, God prepares to announce a new thing that we never would have conceived of. When our strength fails, we do the only thing we can: submit ourselves to God's mercy and call on the Holy One for help. When it seems that we are an unlikely servant for God's purposes, possibility is born. God has a strong record of calling the unlikely to do God's work. Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Moses, David, Jonah, Ruth, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Paul are all fine examples. Liminal times are great times to be curious about what God might be up to, they are great times to renew our prayer life, and they are great times to endeavor on experiments we might never have dreamed during seasons of status quo.

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

As Christ Our Savior persists in a liminal season, won't you take note of these invitations to stay grounded in God and nurtured in faith and hope in God's presence and activity:

- **Beginning Wednesday, August 2nd at noon**, join me either in person or via livestream for midday prayer as we stay connected to God, and receive God's love and care as we pray for each other and Christ Our Savior. In subsequent weeks, midday prayer will be offered in person and via livestream at noon unless otherwise indicated.
- **On August 6th and August 20th**, join me for a time of hospitality and of Dwelling in the Word as we consider what God might be doing at Christ Our Savior during these fallow days.
- **On Wednesday, August 30th**, won't you plan to share in an evening meal followed by a Service of Healing with Holy Communion. Fellowship and the meal will begin at 5:30pm with the Service of Healing beginning at 7pm. Stay tuned for further communication about the meal.

God loves you dearly and has plans for you. If your own will to trust God's care is low, know that God hears your prayer and will never let you go.

In Christ,  
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

## Midday Prayer

**Beginning Wednesday, August 2nd at 12pm**

Grounded in prayer. Nourished in faith. Loving your community.

*What is it?* Midday Prayer.

*When is it?* Wednesdays at noon beginning August 2nd.

Join Pastor Michael, Wednesday, August 2nd, in person or via livestream at noon for midday prayer, as we stay connected to God and receive God's love and care as we pray for each other and Christ Our Savior.

In subsequent weeks, midday prayer will be offered in person and via livestream at noon unless otherwise indicated.

## Dwelling in the Word

**Sunday, August 6th & 20th**

On August 6th and August 20th, join Pastor Michael for post-worship hospitality and a time of Dwelling in the Word as we listen for God's voice to consider what God might be doing at Christ Our Savior.

## Service of Healing

**Wednesday, August 30th**

God's love and care are unshakable but the weekly grind and the evening news often try to convince us otherwise.

On Wednesday, August 30th, won't you plan to share in an evening meal followed by a Service of Healing with Holy Communion. Fellowship and the meal will begin at 5:30pm with the Service of Healing beginning at 7pm. Stay tuned for further communication about the meal.

## Sunday School

**Sunday School & Youth Faith Formation Begins in September**

Fall youth faith formation at Christ Our Savior is fast approaching and set to roll out in September. Stay on the lookout for communications about upcoming plans.

## Bread of Healing Meal

**Wednesday, August 9th**

Come join us in the COS kitchen on Wednesday, August 9th at 9am as we make sandwiches and assemble to-go bags. Last month, we had five volunteers who helped make 72 lunches to feed those who needed a healthy meal. 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).

## Serenity Inns

**Tuesday, August 15th**

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, August 15th. 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 at Serenity Inns. Last month, we prepared dinner for 12 residents and 1 innkeeper who were appreciative of the meal we provided. 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.

## Community Banquet

Thursday, August 24th

We had seven members of our congregation who made chicken noodle casserole, garden salad, and bread with butter for the meal on Thursday, July 13th. A huge thank you to all the helping hands in the kitchen! There were 83 people from the community who enjoyed the delicious meal you prepared!

This month, we serve in the role of clean-up on August 24th. Those interested in helping should meet at St James by 5:30pm. You are welcome to come for the meal, as well, and then stay to help clean up. The meal will be prepared and served by one of our COS partner churches. Everyone in the community is welcome to come for the meal and conversation at 5:30pm.

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 clean-up for the August meal.

## Outreach for Hope - 16th Annual

### Family Ride Run Walk

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 30th**

Join all of your friends on Saturday, September 30th for the Outreach for Hope Family Ride Run Walk! Together, let's raise \$160K for grants to ministries serving neighborhoods experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA.

For more information or to register for the event, go to [OFHRRW.org](http://OFHRRW.org). Online registration for participants and volunteers is now open!



## SOS Operation Backpack

**THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you for all the donated school supplies to benefit the kids in the Sussex area! Backpacks filled with school supplies will be distributed by SOS in early August. The kids will be off to a great start this school year because of your kindness and support!

## School Supply Collection Continues...



We will continue collecting school supplies throughout August for the PRIR Christmas boxes. Consider purchasing a few extra school supplies while the school sales are still going on!

New school supplies are one of the gifts that children on the reservation enjoy getting at Christmas time too.

## SOS Food Pantry

### Summer Bonus Bags

It is hard to believe that it is the last month of summer already! Your food items are still essential to feed hungry tummies this month before school starts. Keep on bringing in your food items for our Summer Bonus Bags collection. Below are some **single serve** 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

## 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).



## **Garden Share Time!**

Do you have veggies coming up in your garden? If so, would you like to share a pepper, a tomato, or two? Bring your garden produce to church and place it on the garden share table. Those who would like a few veggies can grab them and leave a donation. All proceeds will benefit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

## **Adopt-a-Garden**

Thank you to those who have been pulling weeds and tending to the garden beds around our property. You are doing a great job! We have 12 garden and flower beds around our church that need occasional weeding and care throughout the summer months and into early fall. If you haven't selected a garden bed, we hope that you and your family do. Adopt your garden plot on our [website HERE](#) or in the narthex on the bulletin board. If you have questions, contact Sam Mayek at [amayak2@wi.rr.com](mailto:amayak2@wi.rr.com).

## **Lawn Mowing**

Chris Stromberg (and family), Dave Abresch, and Neil Zimmerman have been working hard this summer keeping our property looking great! Our North Lawn spots are filled; however, we have open spots to mow our South Lawn in August, September, and October (or until the snow hits).

If you are willing to help with mowing the lawn, we would surely appreciate the help! It takes about 1.5 hours to cut the lawn with one of our riding mowers. We will train you! If you would like to join the lawn mowing team, [sign-up HERE](#) to select dates.

Contact Chris Stromberg at [c.k.stromberg@gmail.com](mailto:c.k.stromberg@gmail.com) for training or questions.



## **Invitation to Serve During Worship**

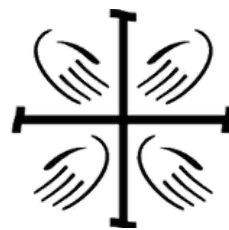
Serving during worship is a rewarding experience, so we hope that you will consider this opportunity. We are encouraging you to select a date or two in August to serve, if you haven't done so already. If you would like to serve, but are new to the role, we will provide you with training. You can find 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 are gathering for fellowship time 30 minutes before our 9:15am worship service and then again afterwards. 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](#). 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).



### **Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**

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