

# Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

## September 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

*As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.*

**Psalm 103:13-14**

*Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."*

**Jeremiah 1:4-5**

Scripture tells a love story about God's indescribable love for all that God has made, which includes YOU. That we are known by God is a gift beyond compare and beyond our wildest imaginations. The unfolding grace and beauty of this truth is the gift of our lives as children of God. In the best-case scenario, our lives will continue to open toward God and be transformed through the love of God and we will come to deeply trust this mysterious work. There is nothing we possess that God first requires from us before this love is lavished on us. It is freely given. Such love is disarming because it is unconditional. And in this world, we have been conditioned to believe that everything is conditional and transactional. God will not abide the persistence of this dynamic and so calls to you in a voice so quiet it is only audible to the human heart: the only thing in life that has the power to name you is the love of God.

Knowing this promise deep in our hearts is of profound importance. Why? Because it means that we can live out of the source of our being, which is rock solid, rather than living out of inherited or impressed upon visions of who and what we are supposed to be. As individuals, it is important to know this and the same goes for churches. Much can change in congregational life. Members can come and go. Pastors can come and go. Community contexts and demographics can change. But none of that has the power to disrupt the truth that what gives the church its identity is the love of God revealed in Christ. In the same way that God calls to individuals to know this truth, so too God calls the church. The church's identity is not conditional or transactional. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, fed on word and sacrament we remember: the church's identity is the resurrected body of Christ in the world.

Due to our familiarity with this language, it can create scenarios in which, as individuals and as churches, we gloss over these potent truths, deemphasizing them by negligence as we give our attention to other alluring attractions.

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

You are loved more than you can possibly know and in you, as you are, a member of the body of Christ and as the body of Christ, God is at work to accomplish in you what God purposes. May you know God's deep peace and mercy.

In Christ,  
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

## New Staff at COS

Throughout its history, Christ Our Savior's ministry has been enhanced and blessed through its staff members. Program staff, administrative staff, music staff, clergy, deacons, interim pastors, and facilities managers have all conspired with the congregation to lead Christ-centered ministry. We are pleased to introduce Christ Our Savior's newest staff members, invite your prayers of support for their ministries, and bless them in their service.

### **Ronda Salerno, Office Manager**

Office Hours: M-W-F, 9am – 1pm

Email: [office@coslc.com](mailto:office@coslc.com)

An active member of COSLC since 2013, Ronda has been a Sunday School teacher as well as a volunteer in many church ministries through the years. In addition to this new role, she is a part-time Sign Language Interpreter in Milwaukee. A native of New York, she enjoys the slower pace of life in Sussex, where she lives with her two daughters, and the family dog.



### **Carol Rabideau, K4-6th Grade Youth Coordinator**

Office Hours: M-W-F, 9am – 3pm, Sunday mornings for Sunday School

Email: [carol@coslc.com](mailto:carol@coslc.com)

Carol graduated from UW-Whitewater with a Bachelor of Science and over the years has discovered that her passion is teaching and helping kids learn and grow.

Following a wonderful opportunity leading children's and youth ministry at a fellow synod church, she is looking forward to being the Children's ministry coordinator and part of Christ Our Savior's community. For Carol it is truly a joy to be able to introduce children to Jesus and show them how much are they loved by him.

## New Staff continued...

She and her husband, Todd, have been married for 29 years and have three amazing children, Faith, Emma, and Jacob, as well as a goofy dog named Skye, and two cats, Luna and Pepper. She loves spending time with her family, running, and being active.



*Whatever you do, do it with all you heart. ~ Colossians 3:23*

### **Danny Ellis, Director of Worship and Music**

Email: [ellisd77@gmail.com](mailto:ellisd77@gmail.com)



While Danny might be recognizable to Christ Our Savior members already, he is new in the recently created role of Director of Worship and Music.

Daniel 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.

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.

### **Breanna Kuehn, Communications Coordinator**

Email: [bkconsulting@breannakuehn.com](mailto:bkconsulting@breannakuehn.com)

Breanna was born and raised in Minnesota, she came to Milwaukee to attend Marquette University where she obtained a B.A. in Communications.

## New Staff continued...

She started BK Consulting in 2019 when she realized there was a need among small businesses and churches for quality communication work. Since then, she has worked with just under 30 churches in the Greater Milwaukee and surrounding Synods, on projects ranging from website redesigns to Christmas brochures, and working on-site as the Director of Communications to sending out emails once a week.



Breanna and her husband, Josh, live in Waterford with their 2.5 year old son, Sawyer, and 8 year old daughter, Evelyn. They also have two grown children; Jenalee, who is a junior at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and Mikhail, who is a mechanic.

## 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).



## 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!



## Se"TP"ember - Toilet Paper Drive

This year, we will be collecting toilet paper during the month of September. Bring in your toilet paper every Sunday and we'll stack them in the narthex and sanctuary windows. The TP collected will be distributed to our ministry partners.

## 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 were distributed by SOS on August 3rd. The kids will be off to a great start this school year because of your kindness and support!

## SOS Summer Bonus Bags

**THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you to everyone who donated food items over the summer to the SOS food pantry to make Summer Bonus Bags. These Bonus Bags helped fill kids' hungry tummies!

## Bread of Healing Meal

**Wednesday, September 13th**

Come join us in the COS kitchen on Wednesday, September 13th 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).

## Serenity Inns

**Tuesday, September 19th**

Our next meal at Serenity Inns is on Tuesday, September 19th. If you haven't served before, we invite you to reach out to Hank Wallenkamp (262-525-1211) or sign up on the outreach ministry board and offer your help in preparing a meal for the residents at Serenity Inns. Please have all items at church by noon on Tuesday.

Fall & Winter Clothing Needed: We will be collecting warm fall and winter clothing for the residents at Serenity Inns. If you have fall clothes or winter coats (XL-3X), hats, mittens, or boots that you would like to donate, drop them off in the entryway and we'll get them to the men at Serenity Inns.

## **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 & Yard Care**

Thank you to those who have been pulling weeds and tending to the garden beds around our property. 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 didn't have time over the summer, but have more availability now and would like to help, you can sign up under volunteers on our [website](#) [HERE](#) or in the narthex on the bulletin board.

Soon it will be time to do some fall winterizing around our church property before the snow hits. If you would like to help with these projects, contact Chris at [c.k.stromberg@gmail.com](mailto:c.k.stromberg@gmail.com) or Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com).

## **Lawn Mowing**

Our North Lawn spots are filled; however, we have open spots to mow our South Lawn in 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 ½ 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**

Our worship assistant sign up is available for you to select your fall dates to serve at church. Signups with availability include: Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, Bread Bakers, Offering Counters, Lectors, Hosts, Greeters, Ushers and Acolytes. All adults, high school youth, confirmation students, and children (with their parents) are encouraged to participate. 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.” Contact Amy at [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com) with questions.

## **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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262-246-6537

Pastor Michael Anderson - [pastormichael@coslc.com](mailto:pastormichael@coslc.com)

Pastor Michael cell: 414-379-3639

Pastor Joe Wilkinson - [pastorjoe@coslc.com](mailto:pastorjoe@coslc.com)

Pastor Joe cell: 262-372-1048

Council - [council@coslc.com](mailto:council@coslc.com)

Amy Berken,

Dir. Adult Discipleship & Outreach - [amy@coslc.com](mailto:amy@coslc.com)

Church Office & Direct Deposit - [office@coslc.com](mailto:office@coslc.com)

[www.coslc.com](http://www.coslc.com)

WiFi SSID: COS | Password: Gath3redF3dS3nt

Facebook - [facebook.com/cossussex](https://facebook.com/cossussex)

## Community Banquet

### No Meals in September

Thank you to everyone who helped with our role of clean-up on August 24th. There are no meals scheduled in September.

The next Community Banquet is on **Thursday, October 12th at 5:30pm at St. James**. We do not have a role, but all are welcome to come for a wonderful meal and a time of fellowship.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry or have any questions, reach out to Diane Otto at [dotto@wi.rr.com](mailto:dotto@wi.rr.com) or 262-691-3778.

## Choir Practice

Choir practice will start back on **Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00pm.**

See you all there!



# Rally Day!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH**

**Sunday School begins  
September 10th!**

**Sign-up by visiting [coslc.com](http://coslc.com)**



## Nancy Bloedorn

Christ Our Savior's office was recently notified of the death of longtime church secretary Nancy Bloedorn. Nancy served the community faithfully for 15 years. Your prayers are requested for her family as they mourn her loss.

“Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine on her.”

## Book Discussion

*Think Again!* By Adam Grant

In a day and age when communication and social interactions feel endlessly polarized it can be hard to know how to even begin a conversation with another person about an important topic.

Redeemer United Church of Christ invites you to join us in the Quad Graphics Room (with a capacity for 80 curious conversationalists) on three Thursday evenings at the Pauline Haas Public Library in Sussex, for a light-dinner and **Book Discussion on Thursday, September 7th, 28th, and October 19th.**

The gatherings will convene from 5:30pm – 7:30pm for a Soup and Salad supper and discussion of this meaty book with its life-changing insights and skills-building best practices to help folks engage in emotionally-charged or controversial topics, with skills to honor folks no matter where they are on a complex cultural continuum.

We are excited to announce that our event is entirely free of charge. While there will be delicious food available, we kindly invite a free will offering to help cover the cost of meals.

Please feel free to attend any of the three dates that suit your schedule best - you are NOT required to be present for all three days. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, visit [redeemerucc.org/book/](http://redeemerucc.org/book/) and visit the link below to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054caeab29abf85-think#/>

# Surviving In A Polarized Community: Building Unity

## COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY

Join the discussion

5:30 Dinner

6:00-7:30 Discussion

Sept. 7th

Sept. 28th

Oct. 19th



### THINK AGAIN

Part 1: Individual Rethinking 9/7

Part 2: Interpersonal Rethinking 9/28

Part 3: Collective Rethinking 10/19

Pauline Haass Public Library  
Quad/Graphics Room  
N64W23820 Main Street  
Sussex, WI 5308

This event is not sponsored, co-sponsored,  
or endorsed by the Pauline Haass Library

*Light Dinner  
Provided*

Hosted and facilitated  
by Redeemer UCC  
For more information &  
to register:

Call: 262-246-6710

Visit [www.redeemerUCC.org](http://www.redeemerUCC.org)



Scan this QR code for more information

