

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

January 2024

COS Mission Statement

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

Good Tidings in Times of Transition

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."

Matthew 2:1-2

What is it that helps you be aware of, and present to, the presence of God? Is it something in weekly, Sunday morning worship? Perhaps confession, sharing the peace, a hymn, or communion? Or maybe your awareness of the presence of God comes via physical activity – gardening, a kind of exercise, hiking in the woods, or preparing family meals. I'd really love to know what opens you to the presence of God. The reality of God expressed through Christ is that everything everywhere is full to bursting with the presence of God and that it's the nature of God to constantly be giving God's self in love. When you become aware that you are in the presence of God without and within, how do you respond? Indeed, this is what it means to live in the way of Christ and it is only ever possible to gain this awareness by grace.

The scripture quoted above tells part of the story of the wise men following a star to find the newborn Christ child – it is the classic gospel reading for the observance of the Epiphany of our Lord. The word Epiphany can be defined as: manifest or manifestation. So, we might understand Epiphany as the time set aside for our honoring and contemplating the glory and mystery of God being manifest to humanity in Christ. While Jesus may have been born in ancient history, Christ still comes to us and is manifest in this life every day. It's really quite the gift! The presence of God revealing itself in creation all the time! May God give us eyes to see and ears to hear!

Being awake to the presence of God is a de-centering as it has the effect of enlarging our capacity for love to such an extent that it can become the only thing that satisfies us. It's the sort of experience that invites us to evaluate everything about our existence and jettison anything that hinders our awakening heart. All we want to do is, like the magi, bring our humble gifts to the one whose life is our life. In truth, this is all that God hopes to coax from us. And just as the gaze of the magi is shifted from the star to the manger, so to our vision is shifted from looking skyward to looking at our neighbors, for their heart is now the manger in which the infant Christ resides.

The life, death, and resurrection of Christ teach us to look at the world around us and at each other with refreshed sight. That which we await is already here, poured out among us. The gifts innate to us are the humble offerings we share with the God of all creation who remains hidden in plain sight, dressed up as life itself. In these days of glimpsing the glory of the Lord among us, may you be sustained by the comfort and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and grounded in the practices of our faith tradition – prayer, worship, and the sacraments - that nurture us, give us our unity, and offer us life.

In Christ,
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson

Advent Wreath Plastic Trays & Candle Holders

The plastic trays and candle holders used for the advent wreaths can be recycled and used again next year. If you made an advent wreath and would like to donate those items back to the church, a collection box is in the entryway and the giving space.

Happy New Year and thank you for recycling!



Sunday School

Classes resume Sunday, January 7th

All children, grades K4-6th, are welcome. We begin in worship (9:15am) and will be dismissed to the classroom following the children's message.



You may register for Sunday school at any time of the year. To register scan the QR code or visit coslc.com.

Please contact Carol Rabideau (carol@coslc.com) with any questions you may have.

First Holy Communion

If your child will be celebrating 1st Holy Communion this spring, please help us prepare by verifying or updating your information in the church database: name, address, phone numbers, and email address.

The following information may be emailed to Ronda Salerno, in the office (office@coslc.com), or Carol Rabideau, Children's Ministry Coordinator (carol@coslc.com): child's (or children's) name, age and grade. Please also include who will be attending the 1st communion classes and ceremony.

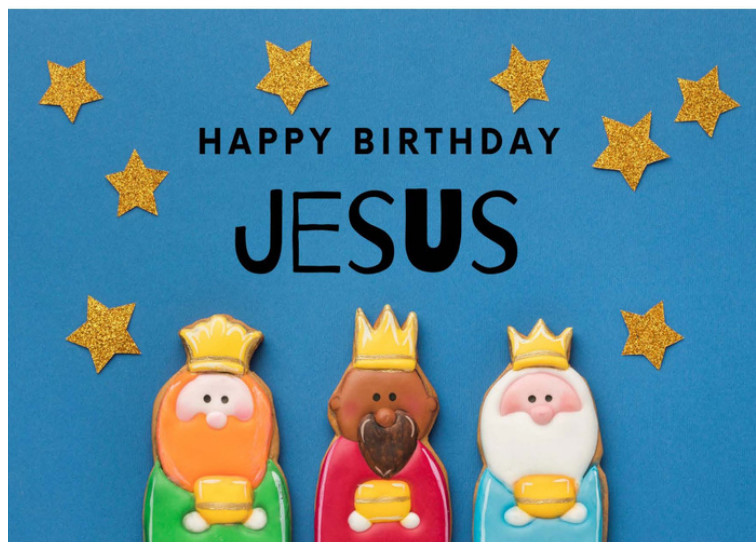


Thank you for your help!

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Sunday, January 7th

On this day of Epiphany and baptism of our Lord, join the wise men and celebrate Christ the newborn King.



Join us to celebrate Christ the Newborn King!

Sunday, January 7, 2023

following the 9:15am Worship

Follow the Star just like the Magi,
to Fellowship Hall for

Birthday cake and star themed fun & games.

Please bring a baby gift for families at Hephatha.

Items most needed.

newborn diapers	Baby wash	baby bottles
pacifiers	Baby Shampoo	bottle brushes
infant toys & rattles	baby lotion	burp cloths



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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