

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

February 2024

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

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Acts 2:1-13

You all have heard this scripture before.

It is the Pentecost event. In the aftermath of the death and resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit descends on fearful, hiding disciples giving them the power to speak to those around them about the Good News of Jesus Christ in language that they could understand. Most often we use this event as an inspiring source for our evangelism efforts, rousing us to head out into the world and tell the story. We take it as a rallying cry to bold action in the name of the faith that matters so very much to us. I confess that for my own part, this approach to the Pentecost event and its meaning misses the mark. I don't really want to be hyped into a frenzy about anything. The aim of the event is not to whip us into an ecstatic lather that drives us to convince people of our correct belief; the aim of the event is to assure us and those throughout the world that the full and gracious presence of almighty God permeates the entirety of creation, you and I included. In other words, *the presence of God that you seek, the presence of God that you wait for, the presence of God you look for, is not expressed or proven through the correctness of our thought or by the good fortune of our lives; the presence of God that was experienced in Christ is poured out into you and into the whole creation announcing that there*

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Good Tidings in Times of Transition continued...

*is no place that is free and nothing that cannot be touched and transformed by the presence and love of God: **you are the dwelling place of God.***

Why might it be worth embracing this interpretation and its implications for faith and what it means to be the church rather than what we've largely been used to? Because it changes the paradigm for how we think about God, ourselves, our churches, and how we engage in ministry. Maybe our purpose as the church isn't to equate the fullness of our buildings as a sign of God's blessing and presence, but rather it is to be custodians of the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, that the God of all creation is madly in love with the world that God made, that nothing you (we) can say or do will ever threaten God's love for you, that God will never stop calling to you, that the Holy Spirit does this through regular folks leading regular lives, and that faith community is the place where all of this can be explored while surrounded by love, patience, and support. ***The Spirit of God has never dwelled in the edifice of your worship space! The Spirit of God dwells in you and fills all creation!*** God's spirit is poured out on you still and calls you to new life.

I give thanks to God for how the Spirit is poured into the lives of all of you who are the body of Christ as Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. I give thanks for your having allowed me to accompany you on your journey of transition. Your commitment to mission through outreach and youth ministry will continue to be your guides as you seek fresh expressions of ministry. God bless you all in your ongoing ministry; the Holy Spirit is at work among you to God's glory. And if you are curious about what the Holy Spirit is doing among you, keep paying attention to the new people that God brings into the community's life – they will bring Good News to you, too.

In Christ,
Interim Pastor Michael Anderson



From the Associate Pastor

As I write this article, the lectionary for last Sunday was Mark's account of Jesus calling the disciples. Discipleship Formation is a vital thing for the life of a congregation. To be a disciple is to actively commit one's life to following Jesus – to always strive to grow more "Christ-like" over time. As disciples of Jesus, we should be able to look back on our journey of faith and recognize the marks of transformation over the years. Welcoming folks to the table that in the past we would have seen as outsider; creating more space for compassion and grace for ourselves and others; pursuing justice with increased attentiveness to how the systems of our world harm and oppress vulnerable people; prioritizing time and space to be still in a world that tempts us to busyness, and attending to God and God's action in our midst.

I was having coffee with a clergy colleague, and he remarked that "we cannot disciple people from the pulpit," going on to speak to how discipleship is a transformation that takes place in the more intimate setting of small groups. It is always worth recalling, as we look to budget and attendance numbers, that when God took on human flesh and dwelt among humankind, we hear how Jesus selected twelve people to be in deep relationship with and prepare for the ministry of the church. Twelve people who committed their lives to being with Jesus daily, attending closely to his teachings, serving those he directed them to serve, and learning what it means to take up one's cross and following him.

We gather for worship for an hour each week. I pray that our worship services foster an opportunity for all who gather to hear the proclamation of God's love for the world, the grace we receive through Christ, and our shared call to mission. But I agree with my colleague's sense that as beneficial as our experiences of worship may be for sustaining us in life, it is asking a great deal from that hour to provide the kind of ongoing transformation that the Way of Christ invites us to each day. When you reflect on how you are investing the other hours of your week, who are the voices that are discipling you? Which leaders or authority figures are you tuning into for instruction and affirmation? Who are those that you gather with in deep relationship to navigate the challenges and complexities of life?

Whatever answers may come to mind, it is the mark of the church to declare that we are better when we share this

From the Associate Pastor continued...

journey together. For those of us in seasons of difficulty, doubt, or despair, God does not will for us to walk those seasons alone. The invitation to faithful community ought to be a balm for us in our times of need. And for those of us in seasons of comfort, confident assurance, or abiding peace, God calls us together in order to be the sources of grace and hope in the lives of others. May we claim the opportunity God has given us to be the church together and to share in the transformation of the gospel. The one who unites us together is faithful and is with us for the journey.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe (he/him/his)

Sunday School

Sunday, February 11th

The Sunday school students will share a special Valentine's Day message in worship.

Lent 2024: Rooted in Jesus' Love

On Sunday mornings during this season of Lent, the children's ministry will dig into how we can plant the love of Jesus in our hearts and in the hearts of others. Simple Lenten practices for church and home.

Jesus Garden, Grow and Be Happy in Your Faith

All children, grades K4-6th, are invited to take part in Sunday school activities. We begin in worship (9:15am) and are dismissed to the classroom following the children's message. Please contact Carol Rabideau (carol@coslc.com) for more information. You may register at any time



throughout the Sunday school year by scanning <<< here or at www.coslc.com/sunday-school-registration/

Easter Egg Hunt

Do you have EGG-cellent ideas when it comes to Easter Egg Hunts? Would love to hear from you! Anyone who might be interested in helping to plan and prepare for the COS Easter Egg Hunt please contact Carol Rabideau (carol@coslc.com).



JAZZ SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

You're in for a musical treat from members of our congregation, along with our regular music team.

Join us in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for some JAZZY Cajun food, including gumbo and beignets!

To ensure we have enough food for everyone, RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or scan here >>>



1st Holy Communion Celebration

Sunday, March 17th

The ministry at Christ Our Savior encourages the instruction of young people in the understanding of the Lord's Supper prior to receiving their 1st Holy Communion.

Instruction and preparation classes will be held on **Saturday, March 9th and 16th from 9-10:30am**. More information about the classes can be found at coslc.com/first-communion.

If your child will be celebrating his/her 1st Holy Communion, please help us prepare by completing a registration form. The form can be found on the COS website at coslc.com/first-communion-reg.

Thank you for your help! Please contact Carol Rabideau with any questions (carol@coslc.com).

Lent & Easter Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14th
Worship at 12pm and 6:30pm

Wednesday Worship

Wednesdays in Lent
Worship at 6:30pm

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24th
Worship at 9:15am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28th
Worship at 6:30pm

Good Friday

Friday, March 29th
Worship at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31st
Worship at 8am and 10am



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. Thank you for recycling.



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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