

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

April 2024

COS Mission Statement

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

From the Desk of Pr. Matthew

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, amen! It has felt wonderful to be so welcomed among you this last month, thank you. I wanted to share a bit about myself and my family for this month's newsletter to continue this path of getting to know each other.

I've been a Pastor for 15 years now, serving in both Barrett and Fergus Falls, Minnesota, as well as locally in Hartland. I have a pretty wide background before that, from working at an intercity Minneapolis mission serving primarily women and children, to working as a bank teller and Olive Garden server; even a stint at hand soldering PCBs for a company that made machines to build corrugated cardboard. That being said, I heard the call to ministry early while I was still in high school over in Stoughton, Wisconsin, and most of my experiences since then have been building to this moment in time being able to serve God alongside you.

Pastor Jennifer and I have been married just over 20 years now, and have four children: Chloe, Henry, Isaac, and Charlie. Jen and I met while we were still in high school and even dated for a short while during my Junior year. We parted ways for a few years, but God brought us back together during my Junior year of college (and Jen's first year of Seminary), and we have been together ever since. You likely won't see her around church much, as she is active in ministry in our area – two pastors in one family means we don't get to spend many Sunday mornings together now that we are serving in different churches.

Chloe is a sophomore at Arrowhead, and active in the band program at school. That being said, most of her time is wrapped up in dance at Elation Dance Center in Delafield. She does ballet, jazz, contemporary, pointe, hip hop, and

tap, and is even an active member of their competitive Company program.

Henry is a freshman at Arrowhead and is also a band kid as well as a runner (cross country) at school. He loves spending time with his friends, and also truly enjoys caring for little kids, especially in church settings.

Isaac is an eighth grader at Merton Intermediate. He plays tuba and is active in choir there, but his passion is in theater. He has been in countless shows at the Box Theatre in Oconomowoc as well as school productions at Merton.

Charlie is a fourth grader at Merton Primary. Much to the chagrin of his parents, he's developing into a percussionist and has played auxiliary percussion with the worship band at our last congregation since really before he could even reliably hold an egg shaker. Like his big sister, he is also an avid dancer at Elation, currently in ballet, tap, hip hop, jazz, and contemporary.

Our family rounds out with two mutt Siamese cats, Rico and Dorito, one with gray points and the other with orange. They are very loving as well as food motivated (they were street cats in Puerto Rico before they came to live with us).

I look forward to getting to know you and your family in the coming weeks, months, and years, as well as sharing ministry and life with you.

In Christ,
Pr. Matthew

From the Desk of Pr. Joe

Grace and peace to you, dear people, from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What a journey we have shared together! I am grateful for my time serving Christ Our Savior and for the ways that we have worked together to embody the beloved community in this place.

If you've seen the wall in my office, there is a quote on it from Proverbs 27:17, "You use steel to sharpen steel, and one friend sharpens another." The Spirit brought us together to sharpen one another for a time. My time at the congregation began back in 2017 as an intern, and now we are preparing to part ways - I with a host of first call experiences under my belt and you with a new lead pastor to walk with you during this next chapter of ministry. Words fall short of naming my appreciation for the people of Christ

From the Desk of Pr. Joe continued...

Our Savior for embracing, not only me, but also my family. No matter what God has in store for me in my own chapters of ministry, COS will always be the congregation where Lily grew up and received her first experience of living as a member of a community of faith.

Thank you. Thank you for your patience in seasons of disruption and transition. Thank you for your affirmation of my gifts for ministry. And thank you for your persistent commitment to the work of the gospel God calls us to in this place.

My call to Christ Our Savior will come to a close at the end of April. April 28th will be my final worship with the congregation and plans are being made to have a reception following worship. On May 1st, 2024, I will no longer be a pastor to Christ Our Savior. Because of how relational the work of ministry is, that transition is a difficult one. However, I feel fortunate to have had this opportunity to overlap with Pr. Matthew and feel not merely reassured, but excited for the ministry that you will share together.

During April, I am creating availability in my schedule to meet with folks individually or in groups if people would like an additional opportunity outside of the April 28th reception to share our farewells and close our time together well. However, I also have a request for the people of Christ Our Savior. During the month of April, I will have a Memories Chest placed in the narthex of the church. I encourage you to write about something from our time together that will be sticking with you – a memory, an “aha!” moment, or some other touchstone from the past six years together. Or, if helpful, feel free to use one or more variations of the prompts I share with our confirmands for sermon notes:

How did you feel most connected to God during our years of ministry together? Share one way that you were encouraged, sustained, or experienced God's grace as part of the community of faith at Christ Our Savior.

How did you hear God's call for you to share love or work for justice in the world? Name a way you felt the urging of the Spirit sending you out as the body of Christ to bring loving transformation to the world.

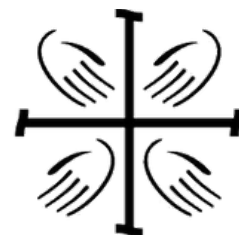
What is a question or curiosity we explored together that you continue to reflect on?

I would love to take a full Memories Chest with me as a tangible reminder of our shared time together. My current plan as my call to Christ Our Savior resolves is to spend some time attending to the needs of our family and reconnecting with personal practices of Sabbath keeping. It would be a treasure and a blessing as I enter into a fallow season to be able to reflect on these memories and allow them to guide my discernment for where and how the Spirit is leading me.

It is a gift of God's promise of restoration that we never truly say goodbye in the church, only “See you later.” I know that our family intends to stay in the Greater Milwaukee area, so we might run into one another at a community gathering or synod event. I look forward to hearing about how God continues to stir up the community of Sussex and the people of Christ Our Savior to embody grace, peace making, compassionate justice, and abundant hospitality for their neighbors.

Until we meet again, know that I hold you in my prayers and that I give thanks to God for you and for our time together.

Blessings,
Pr. Joe



First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our group of young people who received their first Holy Communion last month.

They designed chalices, made and baked communion bread in the new oven, and learned that there's a place for you because God loves everyone.

And thank you to Carol for leading our young people through this class and important milestone.



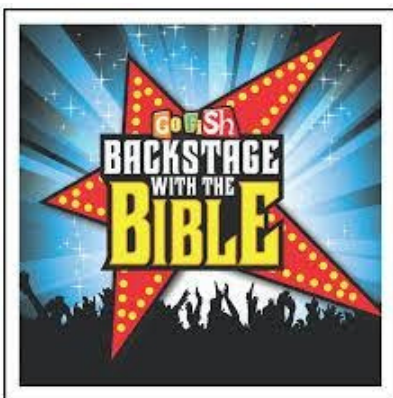
VBS - Save the Date!

June 24th-27th

Coming this Summer to Christ Our Savior it's "Backstage with the Bible."

Get ready to rock with an all-access VIP pass June 24-27. Watch for details on how to get your VIP passes, the concert line-up schedule, and more.

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



T@COS

Teens @ Christ Our Savior

Our reenergized 7th-12th grade Youth Group went to Skateland for their March youth event on March 22nd. The unlimited pizza, soda, and slushies were a definite draw, but the community that was built was probably what most of them will remember going forward.

Thank you to Marie and Pr. Matthew for chaperoning this month's event.



April's event will be Teen Clean Up day, where our youth will be working for both our neighbors in the Sussex area as well as some of our own members...all culminating in a bonfire!

More details will be coming soon.

Sunday School

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/

Bread of Healing Meal

Wednesday, April 10th at 9am

Bread of Healing troops will again be assembling lunches in the month of April. We will meet on April 10th at 9am to assemble lunches for Cross Lutheran. We will put together bag lunches that will be driven down to Cross Lutheran church for their lunches. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us in the kitchen to get it all assembled.

Contact Edie or Larry Schaffner, or Chuck Liedtke if you have questions.

Pictures below from previous Bread of Healing meal.



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

N59 W22476 Silver Spring Dr.
Sussex, Wisconsin 53089
262-246-6537

Pastor Matthew Rose - revmatthew@coslc.com

Pastor Matthew's cell: 262-361-3325

Pastor Joe Wilkinson - pastorjoe@coslc.com

Pastor Joe cell: 262-372-1048

Danny Ellis,

Dir. of Worship/Music Ministry - ellisd77@gmail.com

Carol Rabideau, Youth Coordinator - carol@coslc.com

Church Office & Direct Deposit - office@coslc.com

Council - council@coslc.com

www.coslc.com

WiFi SSID: COS | Password: Gath3redF3dS3nt

Facebook - facebook.com/cossussex