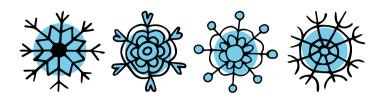
# COSLC Nuggets & News

The scoop on how we, the hands of God at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church are praising, nurturing, and serving.



## **ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES**

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 5:30-6pm

We'll be on Zoom as well as in the Sanctuary. Zoom link is the same as Sunday mornings. See our website or email our church office (office@coslc.ws) for the link. All are welcome to sing Holden Evening Prayer with us!







#### **Newsletter Contents**

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- Christmas Eve Information
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- "Fogaway" Spray for Glasses

#### **NURTURING & SERVING**

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- Socktober & Glovember
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- Prayer List
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- LSSA Decemeber Newsletter

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- Council Corner + Annual Meeting Information
- · We're hiring and interviewing!
- COSLC's Calendar
- December Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### SYNOD AND CHURCHWIDE NEWS

- An Advent Message from Bishop Shelley
- ELCA Churchwide Council Meeting Report

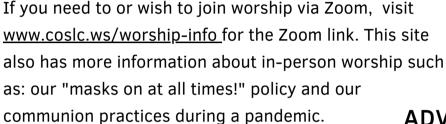
**COSLC CONTACT INFORMATION** 

#### PRAISING GOD – WORSHIP INFORMATION



#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10AM**

Both in the "room" and on Zoom!





#### **FELLOWSHIP UPDATE:**

Fellowship with food and drink after worship will resume [for those who are comfortable with being around other's who are unmasked], on Sunday, December 19th!

#### **ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES:**

- Wednesdays from 5:30-6pm
- Holden Evening Prayer
- On Zoom and in the sanctuary
- December 1, 8, 15, & 22

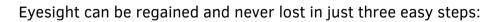


Glasses fogging up while wearing your mask at church?

Here's a solution! (Pun intended lol)

# "FOGAWAY" BY GAMER ADVANTAGE

This liquid solution can be purchased on Amazon (and maybe around town too?) and delivered to your door in a few days. Pastor Erika learned about this solution from her glasses wearing parents. And it really does work! Ollie tried it out and as hard as he tried to fog his glasses up, they just wouldn't do it!



- 1. Clean your glasses (don't put this stuff on dirty glasses!!!)
- 2. Spray it on both sides of the lenses.
- 3. Spread it around with a cloth.
- 4. Enjoy a fog free glasses-wearing experience!

Note: This not a paid advertisement. Just genuine excitement about a great resource to solve one of life's newer problems.





# **NURTURING FAITH & SERVING OTHERS** ...in the building and beyond...!

# LSSA THANKSGIVING **BLESSING**

COSLC'S GOAL:

1.200 CANS OF CORN

COSLC'S ACTUAL:

1.557+ CANS OF CORN

#### **SOCKTOBER & GLOVEMBER**

Help us collect socks, gloves, hats, scarves, coats, hand warmers, etc. for those in our community that need them Donations can be placed in the black wagon in the narthex.

#### THANK YOU ALL!!!

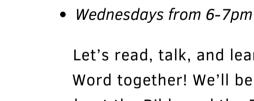
What a gift of abundance and generosity from our congregation to over a thousand families in Anchorage!

# CHOIR IS BACK!

7pm on Wednesdays. in Sanctuary (No Jalapeños after)

Choir is prepaing to perform their first choral song since February 2019, on Christmas Eve. All are welcome and encouraged to join. Masks are worn by everyone

while singing.



**BOOK GROUP** 

Let's read, talk, and learn about God's Word together! We'll be reading books about the Bible and the Bible itself while talking about how God is at work through it all. All ages are welcome!

# FAITH + LEARNING **OPPORTUNITIES**



# Bring your Bible and a heart to learn!

### "OLIVER TWIST" PRODUCTION

On December 8th the video production of "Oliver Twist" performed by the kids of the OUR NEIGHBORS Ministry will be released for our viewing! Stay tuned for more information and the link to watch the show.

# NURTURING FAITH - Prayer



# Please pray with us for those on our Prayer List:

Holy and Gracious God,

You forget no one and you accompany the lonely.

Be present with those on our prayer list who are sick, suffering, or in need of support:

Inge Hallum; Holden Morrison; Nick, Sarah, Maverick, and Cash Cocking; Bill Kennedy; Kylie Hellmich; Paul; Marley Moore; Erik Gullickson; Bryan & Kelly Risch; Cindy Adams; Carol Roadifer; Kris Kruse; the Lopetrone family; the family of Deloise Odom; and all those we name now (silently or aloud):

Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Bless the ministries already providing that much needed assistance. Be with the ministries of our church and our building and synod partners:

Rabbit Creek Preschool, Boy Scouts Troop #209, Turning Point Community Church, Redeemer URC, the OUR NEIGHBORS Program, & Island of Faith Lutheran Church in Wrangell. Support us in our missions of spreading your love in the world.

Amen.

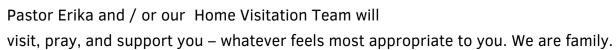
# How can we pray for you?



Your church family at Christ Our Savior, is here for you! We want to extend prayers, phone calls, and encouragement to you when you need them.

Please contact the church office as soon as possible when:

- A member of your family or a friend dies;
- Hospital or home visitation would be a blessing;
- You or someone you know is having surgery;
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism or wedding;
- You or someone you know is ill or grieving;
- You move or change your telephone numbers or email.



You are not alone.



# **SERVING OTHERS -**

#### WINTER COMPOSTING IS POSSIBLE!

Winter 'composting' is possible! ...At least in the form described by Marion Owen in Kodiak. She recommends layering your kitchen food scraps with leaves in an old



garbage can or heap in your yard all winter, and voila! Dump it out the following spring and you have a pre-made pile ready for microbes to get to work. If you expect rain or prolonged thaws where you live, a lid or drainage holes seem sensible. Ran out of leaves? Substitute newspaper or cardboard, or stop by 2930 Cheechako Street in Anchorage and grab a bag of leaves from Leaf Mountain. In fact, grab three. Or three dozen!

#### STEP 1: Set up 2 collection containers

— Container #1 belongs in the kitchen. This can be a coffee can, a re-used laundry soap bucket... something to hold kitchen scraps.

— Container #2 sits outside, within easy access. This can be any size, from a 5-gallon bucket to a Rubbermaid tote or 55-gallon garbage can. Either way, a secure, LOCKING LID is a MUST.

#### STEP 2: Collect food scraps

Onion skins, moldy cooked rice, eggshells, wilted lettuce... you get the idea. No-nos include salad dressings, meat, French fries, and cheese. (Not sure what you can and cannot compost? Send me an email to: mygarden@alaska.net and I'll hook you up with my special report: 220 Things You Can Compost).

#### STEP 3: Maintain a stash of fluff

By 'fluff' I mean shredded paper, newspaper, cardboard, leaves, straw, hay, and so on. I'll explain in a moment...

#### STEP 4: Mix food scraps and fluff

When Container #1 is full, take it outside and add it to Container #2 while tossing in handfuls of fluff at the same time. IMPORTANT: This is critical to keep things aerated and thus avoid a slimy, stinky mess.

#### STEP 5: What's next?

Come warmer weather, incorporate everything into a new, full-sized compost pile which, when done right, will reach 145 to 160 degrees F.

LEARN MORE AT: HTTPS://MARIONOWENALASKA.COM/ARCHIVE-OF-MARION-OWENS-ORGANIC-GARDENING-COLUMNS/ (SCROLL DOWN TO FIND ARTICLE #1285 TOWARD THE TOP)

# SERVING OTHERS – Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Thanksgiving Blessing such a success. We again were blessed with thousands of cans corn and green beans, stuffing and gravy mix, collected by Anchor Lutheran School, First Christian Church and our Lutheran congregations. Thank you also to those who contributed financially and to those who volunteered their time to help with set-up and distribution. Many thanks to Central Lutheran Church for again hosting the event. Last year we served 1,350 households and ran out of everything and had to close early. This year we planned on 1,550 households and served 1,478 at the event and the two days after at our Food Pantry. Also, thanks to Joy Lutheran Church for hosting this event for the Eagle River community.

Thank you to Chugach Electric Association for their annual donation 45 turkeys for Christmas. These will be added to the 72 remaining from Thanksgiving Blessing and will be distributed in the Food Pantry. Thanks also to all who donated Christmas stockings for the children of the families we serve in the Food Pantry. These stocking with the Christmas story included bring hope and joy to our clients and their children. Stocking distribution begins on December 1st and goes through December 23rd.

The Food Pantry continues to be busy this time of year and in this season we can use canned soups or chili, canned meats, cereal, oatmeal and canned fruit to stock our shelves. Simply drop them off at your church or bring them to the LSSA Food Pantry.

We have also been blessed with two donors coming forward to challenge others to give to LSSA and they will match all donation up to \$20,000. All you need to do is go to the LSSA website and click on donate now and that will lead you to Kindful which is our donation link. Click on the designation drop down and click on challenge match. Also you may simply mail us a check noting challenge match on the memo line.

In November we received the check from the Pick.Click.Give campaign from donations you made when applying for your 2021 Permanent Fund Dividend check. We grateful that over 200 donors contributed \$12,688.46 to our ministry to this year's campaign.

Soon you will have the opportunity to sign up for your 2022 PFD and we ask you to please consider a charitable contribution to LSSA through the Pick.Click.Give program. Thank you to all who contributed in the past and to our future donors! God has truly blessed us and for that we are

Please keep our ministry and staff in your prayers.
Id love of the season!

Together caring for others,

Alan Budahl
Executive Director LSSA
907-272-0643

## **COSLC UPDATES**





#### **COUNCIL CORNER**

During our meeting in October we voted to research other internet service providers such as ACS and Borealis internet, providing training opportunities for the audio booth, and lastly, brainstormed ideas on ways to get the word out about our administrative assistant position. The next council meeting is on January 16th after the church service. If there is anything you would like the council to discuss, all are welcome to attend a meeting or to reach out to a council member. At our January meeting, we will be finalizing the Annual Meeting agenda and 2022 Fiscal Year Spending Plan (aka budget).

#### ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

On **Sunday**, **January 23rd** after worship we'll have a forum to discuss the 2022 Fiscal Year Spending Plan (aka budget). Please plan to attend either in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom. There won't be any discussion on the budget at the Annual Meeting. We'll only voting to approve it.

On **Sunday**, **January 30th** after worship we'll be gathering both on Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend so that we can do the work necessary to make our ministries flow the rest of the year. We will also be electing four new council members!

Blessings,

Jessica Morrison, C.O.S.L.C. Council President

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT JOB UPDATE

# **Update:**

We are still accepting applications for this position and the personnel team has been reviewing applications as they are submitted.

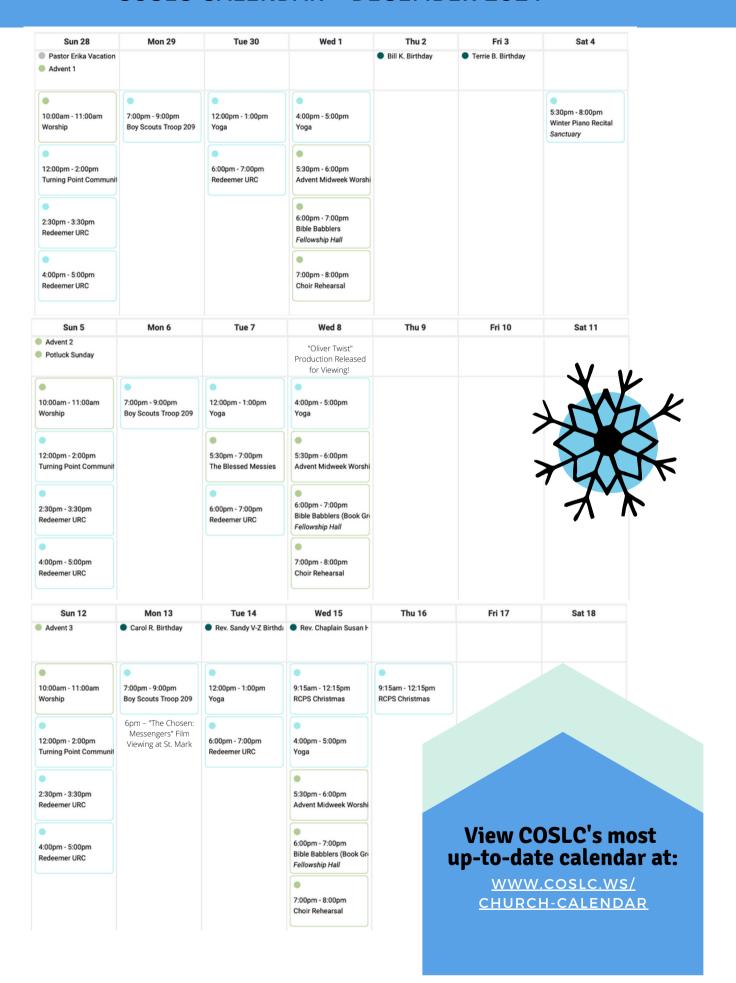
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church is seeking candidates for a part time

Administrative Assistant to be filled as soon as possible. This position supports the mission of the congregation by providing clerical and administrative services and

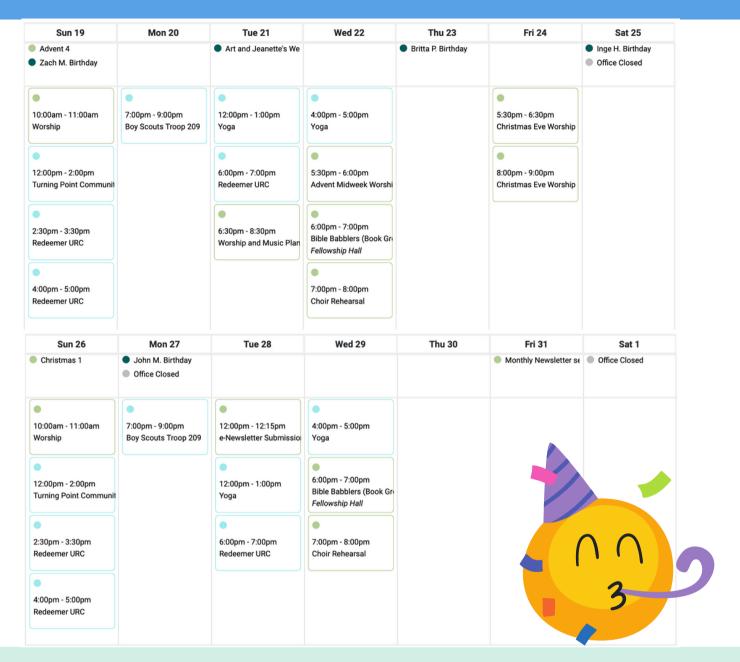
assistance to the pastor, congregation members, visitors, and church partners. Applications (cover letter and resume) should be sent to our main email address: office@coslc.ws. A complete job description of essential functions and minimum qualifications is available upon request.

For more information visit: coslc.ws/job-opportunity

## **COSLC CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2021**



#### **COSLC CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2021**



# DAYS FOR CELEBRATION IN DECEMBER

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduations, Baptisms, etc.

2nd - Bill Kennedy's Birthday

3rd - Terrie Brown's Birthday

5th - Maverick Cocking's Baptism

13th – Carol Roadifer's Birthday

21st – Art and Jeanette Morton's 60th Wedding Anniversary

23rd – Britta Perry's Birthday

25th - Inge Hallum's Birthday

27th - John Morrison's Birthday

Do you have a date to celebrate? Email us so we can add you to our list! office@coslc.ws

# A Season of Passage and Discovery, A Time of Waiting and Preparation



Unto you a child will be born and his name will be Ethan Michael or Hannah Louise. My brother called with the news.

At that time, he was working two weeks on/two weeks off on the slope. Trish, his wife, would always pick him up at the airport but not that week. A stranger in a suit approached and asked if he was Michael Wickstrom. Mike groaned and accepted the letter the man offered. Had there been an accident? Was he being subpoenaed? Where was Trish? The letter said "Congratulations! Your wife and family in utero are waiting around the corner."

My skydiving, rock climbing, crevasse surviving, white water raftering brother was so weak-kneed, he couldn't drive home. They hadn't expected to be expecting so soon. They were thrilled. We were thrilled. Mike's three sisters (who were not parents then) had all sorts of advice. "Mike, you are going to miss being there half of the pregnancy. Find another job. Work more hours now...." We had all kinds of advice but basically all we could do was stand by and wait.

The Season of Advent is like the experience of being an aunt or uncle or grandparent for the first time. There is no rushing the process. You are not directly responsible. Your job is to pray, support, wait and prepare. Belden Lane has described the act of watching and waiting with the term liminality, Latin for threshold. To watch and wait is to stand at the threshold betwixt and between. It is an interim status suspended between what has been and what will be.

The four weeks of Advent are such a liminality, a threshold, a season of passage and discovery, a time of waiting and preparation. In Advent we celebrate God with us in human history in the person of Jesus. He was born 2000 years into the Greco-Roman world of Caesar Augustus and born as prophesied in the village of Bethlehem Judea.

He is present now and meets us as our Risen Savior where and when we least expect him.

This Messiah will come again in the fullness of God's time. We are living betwixt and between what has been, what is and what will be. We are called to leave what once was and venture forth into what is yet to be.

When Mike told us that Trish was pregnant, I immediately envisioned providing the bunk bed, a guitar and keyboard. Sister Cheryl would take care of anything sport-related. Sister Sharon reminded us that his child might have his or her own ideas and maybe we should wait. We had ideas, advice, expectations... All of it well-intended, brimful with love and barely appropriate. Diapers and freezer meals would have been more helpful promises. And, not every pregnancy comes to completion. Those are facts.

Beloved in Christ, our Messiah will come again in God's timing. Let us lean into what God is doing in and through this creation and this church. May our waiting be simmered in study and prayer, in sacrificial service, in shared celebration and lament. My our expectations for this time be shaped by all that is tender and true for the sake of what God wants to do.

Stand tall, prepare, wait, watch...we are being shaped to be the church God needs us to be, ready.

On tiptoe with you, Bishop Shelley Wickstrom



# **ELCA Church Council expresses gratitude for leadership of Bill Horne**

CHICAGO (Nov. 18, 2021) — Gathering here Nov. 11-13, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) began its meeting with a shared time in remembrance of William B. "Bill" Horne II, ELCA vice president, who died Aug. 14 in Clearwater, Fla.

In action, the council gave thanks for Horne's life and faithful service and "expressed appreciation for his wise, fair, and strong leadership as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and his collaborative spirit, steadfast commitment, and genuine compassion for the congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

In her report to the council, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton recalled Horne's dedication. "For him, serving as vice president, was a deeply felt call from God to serve the church."

The council welcomed Carlos Peña, who will serve as interim vice president until the election of a new vice president at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. Peña previously served as vice president for two terms, having first been elected by the 2003 Churchwide Assembly.

Eaton also addressed the Future Church priorities and the shared ministry goal of engaging one million new, young and diverse people by the end of this decade.

"This [work] takes each of us and all of us," said Eaton, emphasizing that the goal will be achieved only through the engagement and resources of the entire church body, including synods, congregations, colleges and universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations and all ELCA networks. "We have received this gift. We are called to share it out loud with the world."

To further the conversation of reaching one million new, young and diverse people, the council received a working document from the youth and young adults serving on council titled "A Fresh Perspective: ELCA Church Council Young Adults." In response, the council created a working group of youth and young adult members of the Church Council plus other members to be appointed by the executive committee. The working group will prepare a report with ideas, concerns, recommendations and aspirations to be presented at the spring 2022 Church Council meeting.

In other key action, the council:

- Approved revisions to "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Jewish Community" as an expression of this church's continual opposition to rising anti-Semitism and its ongoing work to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.
- Adopted editorial revisions to this church's social message "Suicide Prevention" to provide
  accuracy and relevance to the contemporary social context. The council also encouraged
  conversation within ELCA congregations and invited discussions with ecumenical and
  interreligious partners to study this social message.



- Received a report of activities called for by its implementing resolution for the social statement Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action.
- Authorized development of a social message on climate change.
- Approved revised spending authorizations for FY2022 for the churchwide organization of \$65,816,150 and a 2022 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,665,000.
- Received an update on research work related to discriminatory treatment within the call
  process and the inequitable compensation of rostered ministers of color, and requested a
  final report at the fall 2022 Church Council meeting.
- Approved a revision to "Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline" to incorporate a definition
  of the word "promiscuity" as proposed by the Committee on Appeals.
- Suspended consideration of an aspirational document to replace "Vision and Expectations" until the need arises to develop such a document.
- Adopted amendments to continuing resolutions in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions (CBCR) of the ELCA.
- Recommended amendments to the CBCR to be considered by the 2022 Churchwide
   Assembly and recommended ratification of amendments adopted by the 2019 Churchwide
   Assembly.
- Approved a COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirement for all participants at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.
- In response to a resolution from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, adopted continuing resolution 5.01.H21 to clarify that, for purposes of the representational principles, the percentage of laypeople not allocated to women or men may be allocated to persons who identify as gender-nonbinary, gender-fluid, women, men or other genders.
- Received a final report of the Mission Support experiment and recommended that changes
  to congregational vitality grants and the funding/employment model for the position of
  director for evangelical mission include a review of possible implications for future models
  of Mission Support sharing between synods and the churchwide expression; encouraged
  the Mission Support experiment synods to continue their models of sharing with the
  churchwide expression until such decisions are made; and reminded all synods that
  changes to their models of Mission Support sharing are to be the subject of conversation
  with the churchwide expression.
- Approved amendments to various Corporate Social Responsibility documents.
- Elected board members for seminaries, separately incorporated ministries and social ministry organizations and approved bylaw changes to the Mission Investment Fund.

#### The council also:

- Heard reports from the church's presiding bishop, interim vice president, secretary, treasurer and council committees.
- Learned from council member Loni Taylor, a member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, of the
  history of abusive treatment and cultural genocide that Native American children
  experienced in Indian Boarding Schools and the role of Christian churches in those schools.
- Acted as the corporation for St. Olaf College, approving amendments to the college's bylaws.
- Spent time in worship, prayer and fellowship.



#### CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where we are Inspired by God's Love to Praise, Nurture, and Serve

We Praise God in Worship, Song and Prayer
We Delight in the Diversity of All of God's Children
We Support & Nurture One Another through the Love of Christ
We Gather to Grow through God's Grace
We Reach Out, Serve, and Incite Miracles



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Pastor Erika Bergh (907) 717-5015 | pastor.erika@coslc.ws

If you need pastoral care or help with anything, please call or text Pastor Erika.

May you feel God's peace this month and always.