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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COME FOR SUPPER CELEBRATING 20 YEARS, 1996-2016

This free meal program is celebrating its 20th year of service to those in La Crosse!

It all started back in 1996 when members of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Social Ministry Team proposed a weekly community meal as a reaction to the spiritual command to love our neighbors as well as taking an initiative concerning the problems of poverty and hunger in the La Crosse community. Come for Supper (CFS) was organized as a response to Jesus' call to care for our neighbors by providing nutritious free meals served with generosity and love. The first CFS meal was served December 3, 1996. Thirty-five guests arrived that night; however, this number has swelled to an average of 200 guests on any given Tuesday.

Since those early days, CFS has been providing a free meal for people in and around our community every Tuesday without missing. Starting at 5pm, it is open to all who come, no questions asked.

A 20th anniversary celebration will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 4:45pm. Representatives from the first CFS teams (including Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman), Sonja Simonson Schrag (who helped start the program and kept it running for 10 years), the Rev. Mark Jolivette (pastor of the congregation for 10 years), current volunteer coordinators Gretchen Crary, Nance Klapper, and Rod Tishhammer (since 2007), the core team of volunteers, and current Interim Minister Joanne Richmond will all be in attendance gathering with our guests to celebrate 20 years of providing food assistance to our region's hungry. They will then enjoy good food and good company. All are welcome to come and share a meal!

With the tremendous support of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church congregation and the 25 supporting churches/organizations the Come for Supper Program has been a wonderful success for an out-reach ministry of Our Savior's. While we reflect on the accomplishments of the last 20 years, we hope you will take a moment to consider hunger in our community. It is our hope that, within the next 20 years there is no longer a need for this program, that hunger has been ended and all are fed.

For more information regarding Come For Supper, please visit Our Savior's website at <http://www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net/come-for-supper/> or contact Jessica Zinniel, Communications and Marketing – Tel: 608.782.3468 ext. 7 or 608.738.1016, email: youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net or zinn6@juno.com.



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