

DISCIPLEGRAM



MAKING DISCIPLES WHO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST IN
THESE COMMUNITIES AND WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

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Nature Abhors a Vacuum... *and so do I*

There's a phrase that is often attributed to Aristotle which goes, "Nature abhors a vacuum." In the physical world, emptiness cannot stand. At least not for long. A bubble in water will pop under the pressure. An empty field will become filled with weeds, shrubs, and all sorts of critters. In our human world, power vacuums demand a leader to seize authority, and a vacant lot will eventually be filled by new housing developments or a shopping mall. Nature abhors a vacuum.

Our daily lives are no different. Our schedules abhor a vacuum! A quiet, empty moment will quickly be filled with noisy kids or demands from work. Many of us can't even sit still for a moment without pulling out our phone to scroll through emails or text messages or Facebook feeds. Nearly every instance of stillness, quietness, and calm in our lives is taken over by something.



Let us know how you'd like to receive the Disciplegram
If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, email Alyssa Knock at alysak@christoursavior.org . Include your preferred email address and the current mailing address where you receive the Disciplegram newsletter.

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During the season of Advent, we are asked to do the impossible. We are asked to live with the vacuum. To empty ourselves in repentance, to stop in the middle of the busiest months of our year, and wait. During Advent, we read the words of Old Testament prophets who waited for hundreds and hundreds of years for the Messiah to come, and we imagine what it would've been like for the Israelites to sit with the uncomfortableness of waiting and expecting Jesus to show up any day. The more we do practice waiting and sitting with the emptiness, the more we come to realize our own emptiness. We learn that, without Christ, we don't just have less—we have nothing! Our lives have no meaning, our hearts can know no love, our joys are fleeting.

We may try (and we do try over and over again) to fill this emptiness ourselves. We try to fill our empty desires with money and status so we feel like our lives have significance. And, we try to fill our schedule to be so busy so we always feel like we're doing something. But, when we slow down in Advent, we come to realize that it will never be enough. Through this season of waiting, we come to abhor the vacuum we experience in our own lives, and we yearn and hope for God's answer to our emptiness.

Galatians 4:4-5 says, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Did you catch that? "Fullness." After the Israelites sat in the emptiness of waiting and waiting for centuries and millennia, God changed it all. He declared that their waiting wasn't just empty longing, but it was now "full." And so, He sent his own Son to change everything.

This isn't the same as when nature fills a vacuum; this is so much more. God overflows it! Jesus says in John 10:10, that he came for this reason: "that they may have life, and have it to the full." If you long for an end to empty, meaningless lives, Jesus gives meaning bigger than this life. He gives meaning that lasts for an eternity. If you long for an end to empty and endless conflicts in this world, Jesus gives peace that can unite people of all nations, tribe, and race. If you just want a moment of freedom from the noise of this life, Jesus gives you the season of Advent. A time for all of us to recognize our emptiness. To recognize how we try to fill it up with anything and everything in this world. And to thank God that he sent Jesus that we might have life to the full.

Pastor Joel Werner

Featured
Ministry

Grow as a Woman in Christ

LWML at Christ Our Savior



LWML was established in 1942 as an auxiliary of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

The mission statement of LWML is: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

As members of Christ Our Savior, all women are members. We encourage you to become involved in activities and opportunities presented to us during the Church year.

The local zone we belong to is Wayne Oak Hills Zone. The fall rally was held at Salem Lutheran Church on Ann Arbor Trail in Westland on October 21st—four members from Christ Our Savior attended.

Pastor Werner accepted the invitation to be Pastoral Counsel for our zone and will be installed at the Spring Rally to be held at Shadow of the Cross on Eight Mile.

Would you like learn more about LWML? For information visit the national website lwml.org or the Michigan District website lwmlmichigan.org. On both sites you will find a lot of information, including where mites are

directed, devotional information, and Bible studies.

The servant event held at Christ Our Savior on Saturday, October 14 was a part of this mission. Members from COS as well as members from churches from our zone came together to assemble 108 personal care kits that were sent to Lutheran World Relief.

I encourage all women of our congregation to become active in activities that serve Christ.

If you have questions, please contact Dianne Sherman by calling 734-812-5172.

Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him, and he will act. (Psalm 37:5)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, there are always so many opportunities that come to us, not all of them very clear as to which way we should go. Help me to look to You in all things and give me faith to trust in Your



ways, which are always best. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praising the Lord for all our faithful servants spent countless hours and who contributed to our Lutheran World Relief kits! We rejoice that Christ Our Savior was able to send 280 quilts, 321 school totes; and 216 personal care kits! Thanks also to the men who loaded and delivered the 74 boxes to Lutheran High in Westland and special thanks to COS member Hannah MacAfee, who works at the Michigan District office and coordinated the District's ingathering across the state.

Save the Date! These events are sponsored by WOW.

- ❑ November 19, 2023–Bake Sale
- ❑ January 24, 2024–Game Night
- ❑ February 16, 2024–Game Night
- ❑ April 19 and 20, 2024–Women's Retreat

Details on each of these events will be coming in the COS Update as the dates get closer.



God promises to...

Love you John 3:16 For God so loved the world (that's YOU!) that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Guide you Psalm 73:23-24 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

Comfort you Jeremiah 31:13 Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

Answer you Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Help you Hebrews 13:6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

Protect you Psalm 32:7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Provide for you Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all of your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Teach you Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

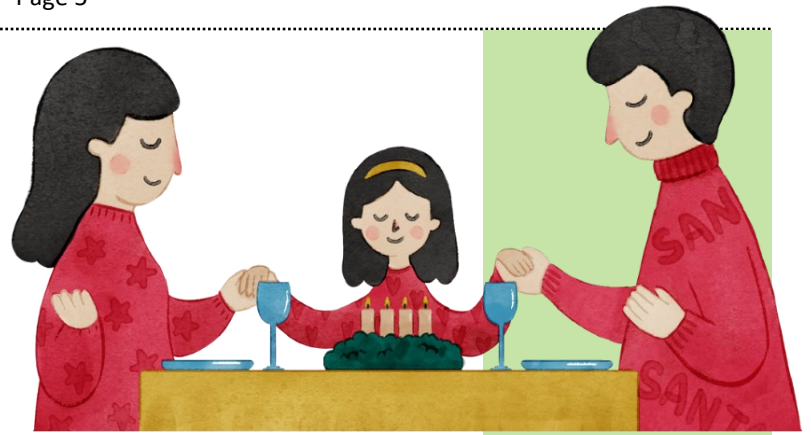
Bless you Ezekiel 34:26 I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.

Fill you with joy Acts 2:28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

Dearest God, Thank you for your wonderful promises. You are an exciting God! Help us to grab hold of those promises and rejoice in them. Fill our lives with your love and lead us to others who need to hear your saving words of hope and healing. Amen.

Sharing Jesus at Home

Family Discipleship



“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

In the last issue of the Disciplegram I spoke about the importance of family, and the beauty of how our congregation serves as one big “faith family”. Do not underestimate your value in this family...this body of believers known as Christ Our Savior! We really do need each other!

This month, however, I wanted to dive a little deeper about the importance of nurturing faith in our homes and among our households (I’ll share more about this term “household” in a future article). The reality is that, while we may spend a few hours each week here at COS, most of our time is spent outside of the walls of our church building. A bulk of the work of sharing faith with our loved ones needs to take place at home or wherever we are together as a household. Take a look at the powerful Deuteronomy 6 passage above. God instructs us, His people, to share His Word with our loved ones—when we rise, when we sit, when we

walk by the way (on the way to sports practice, perhaps?!).

So what does this look like practically speaking in our homes? It means praying together. It means having conversations about God. It means finding opportunities to serve others together. It means spending intentional time reading the Bible. These are just some ways we can intentionally live out our faith in our daily lives among our loved ones.

This is not intended to be guilt-inducing. In fact, reading this you may feel some anxiety about your responsibility to live out your faith with your household. The reality is that there are many obstacles that get in the way of doing these things, and I will talk about these obstacles in the next Disciplegram. But, for now, let me encourage you to take baby steps. What’s one thing you can introduce that you haven’t done much before? Do you not pray before meals? Try doing that. Have you never read God’s Word with your loved ones at home? Try it one time! Take one next step. And don’t hesitate to reach out to your faith family at Christ Our Savior if you need some guidance, as there are a lot of resources available to help you do this. It is our responsibility as a congregation to give you resources, encouragement, and prayer support!

In all of this, don’t EVER forget God’s Grace. My wife and I are certainly not perfect in our own household. There are days when we forget bedtime prayers. Family devotions is definitely not a daily thing in our house. Remember, God’s forgiveness is present when we will fail to live out our responsibilities in passing on the faith. His grace is real when we make mistakes (1 John 1:9). This is not a sprint, it is a marathon. God’s richest blessings as you share Jesus in your homes.

South Africa

2024 Mission Trip Team



Lions and elephants, and giraffes, oh my! In six months time, a small, determined, mission-minded group of Christ Our Savior members will be heading to Middelburg, South Africa for a ten-day Water Outreach Mission Trip with MOST Ministries. The focus of this trip is threefold: assembling and distributing water purification systems, providing health and hygiene education, and sharing the gospel of Christ. This project is the first of its kind in this area of Africa, and has the potential to greatly impact multiple communities by providing clean water long term, proper sanitation, and improved health habits. This step of faith for our COS travelers does not come without a huge cost... Airfare, lodging, meals, and transportation into the villages are some of the main expenses, and thus your financial support is vitally and urgently needed!

A 'Giving Wall' will be available in the Narthex during November for you to partake in this journey with us. Please help assist with your donations great or small, and keep us in your prayers for health and safety the next six months as we plan, prepare, and embark on this life changing excursion of service among God's people!

—The 2024 South Africa Mission Team

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

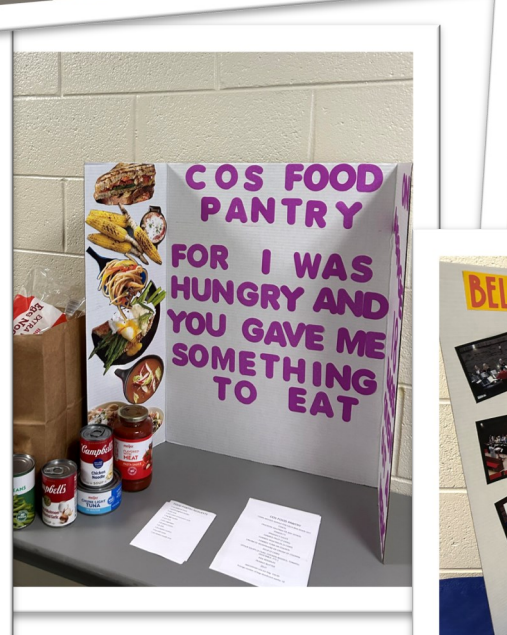
-John 7:37-38

Ministry Fair Review

October 2024

You don't really know everything that is going on at a church until you see it all in one place. The Ministry Fair we held from October 19-28 was intended to give us that picture—a visual representation of all the efforts that happen within our congregation. I hope you all had as much fun looking at all of the boards as I did! I wish I could include pictures of all of them here, but due to space constraints here are just a few. I'm looking forward

to when we can showcase these again next year!



A Toy Story Christmas



It happens. Every single year it happens, whether it be Facebook polls, Twitter surveys, party discussions, or bad sermon introductions. There is a polarizing question that always comes up at Christmas time: Which Christmas movie is best?

We may be in the middle of Advent, but we watch our favorite holiday movies all winter long. We cling to the rich memories that such movies provide. Baking cookies and wrapping gifts with Grandma as you watch Christmas with the Kranks, watching your son or daughter take their first steps as they watch Kris Kringle put one foot in front of the other in Santa Claus is Coming to Town. Rolling over in side-splitting laughter with your family as Harry and Marv are once again thwarted by young Kevin McCallister.

There is a whole plethora of movies to choose from when it comes to picking your favorite. From Rudolph to Scott Calvin to Kevin McCallister to Jim Carey as the Grinch, on any given evening in December, someone can sit down with a glass of eggnog and a Christmas cookie and travel to the Island of Misfit Toys or Mount Crumpit and be filled with the joy that only Christmas can bring. We are even at a point now where our streaming services sort the holiday movies and episodes, so they are readily at our fingertips.

One movie (or movie series), however, seems to always sneak into the rotation on cable television's "25 Days of Christmas." There is no Santa Claus, no baby Jesus, no wisemen, nor big shining star. This movie also happens to be one of my favorites: Disney Pixar's Toy Story. For as long as I can remember, the channel Freeform features the saga that puts Star Wars and the Lord of the Rings to shame (there, I said it!). By the way, you can watch all four on Friday, December 9 beginning at

2:15 p.m. It may or may not be on my calendar.

But why Toy Story? Perhaps it's because Andy gets his toys on Christmas. Maybe it's because we have transformed the focal point of Christmas to be toys, gifts, and merchandise. Certainly, the thread of friendship and family is woven throughout the movies. There are a couple Christmas scenes to be sure, but there is not what I would call a Christmas plot line. I would argue, though, that there is a deeper theological element, which lies deep within the films, that perhaps the Freeform people did not consider. And so, I boldly say to you the following:

Toy Story is indeed a Christmas story.

Think about it. When Andy gets a new toy, what is the first thing that he does? He writes his name on the foot of each of his toys. This is to ensure that no matter what, all other toys know that Woody and Buzz belong to Andy. Nothing can change that. Not even in the second film when the evil chicken man tries to paint over it. Woody rubs the polish off the bottom of his foot, revealing four letters that identify who Woody truly belongs to: A-N-D-Y.

This is what our God does to us in Baptism. With the same hand that he writes the Law on the tablets for Moses, he writes the Gospel on you and in you. When you are bathed in the waters of Baptism, God is marking you as His own child and adopting you into his family. Saint Paul speaks to this truth when he writes, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4-5). In Baptism, he graciously gives you His Holy Spirit. He washes you clean, forgives your sins, and makes you a new creation as he now dwells within you! Paul reiterates this again in his letter to Titus: "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not

This article was written by Rev. Tyler Cronkright and published on his blog, *Stories and meditations from the little church on the corner in Southwest Detroit.*

Follow him at tylercronkright.com for more personal stories about the work that is happening at Family of God.

because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7).

In your Baptism, God says, "You don't belong to the world anymore; you belong to me. You are my child, and nothing can change that." Just as the skies opened when Jesus himself was baptized and the Father spoke over him (Mark 1:11), God speaks to you the same words: "You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased."

Satan is going to try to cover up that name. He is going to exhaust his cupboard and use everything he can to ensure that you believe that you don't belong to God. He will lie, deceive, and tempt you into thinking that you are not worthy to have God's name written on you. Just as Jesus is driven into the wilderness after his baptism, so will you be driven into the wilderness of the world to go toe-to-toe with the father of lies. Satan will stop at nothing to distract you from the truth. But in all the struggle, trial, and temptation to believe that you have been rejected by God, the promise of Baptism is that the name of God is always there with you. His name is written on you. You always belong to God.

God wants you to know and believe in that promise so much that He uses elements of His creation so that you can touch, taste, and see salvation. There is nothing special about water, but when he joins it with his Word, God uses it to give you grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation through the Holy Spirit. He does the very same with the Lord's Supper. While there is nothing special about simple bread and wine, he joins them with his Word to give you eternal life in His true body and true blood.

In the Sacraments and the many other miracles of Christ, we see that the very nature of God is to be incarnational. And isn't that what Christmas is all about?

Christmas is God becoming one with His creation, assuming our created human flesh in order that those who believe in him would not receive a baptism of wrath, but a baptism of grace and forgiveness, as water and blood pour out of his side on the cross; the new elements

of salvation for you.

Jesus in the manger is the promise that God is with us (Matt. 1:23). Jesus in the manger is the tangible means that God uses to redeem you. Jesus in the manger is God writing His Holy name on His creation that He will one day, soon, come and make brand new. Until then, we wait and desperately cling to the promises of God made to us by sending his Son.

This Advent and Christmas season, remember Jesus and his unwavering love for you, his friends. Not only has he become one of you, but he has claimed you as his own. And there is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends (John 15:13-14). A wonderful gift of eternal life, forgiveness, and restoration given to his friends.

It sure does give a different feel to Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me" doesn't it?

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ! We are always thankful to Christ for the love and support we consistently receive from Christ Our Savior. Lots of things have been happening at the Family of God and we desire your prayers. The biggest thing that happened with us was obviously the ordination and installation of Pastor Nick Gapski. Nick did his vicarage with us and now is serving as Associate Pastor. What a blessing! Our numbers continue to climb and we have seen a big influx in children. We are praying for direction of what we can do for them, as they typically leave immediately after dinner with their families. Perhaps the most exciting thing is that we have celebrated 17 baptisms this year. God is clearly still working in our neighborhood, even when it seems to be so dark. Pan De Vida continues to absolutely thrive. In October, they celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with an event that reached over 500 people. You can find the story on the Michigan District website. There is much more to write, but I don't want Alyssa and Laurie to get mad at me :). I guess you'll just have to come and see what God is doing! Thank you all for your prayers. We love you.

Rev Tyler R. Cronkright

New Members

Received into our congregation on October 15, 2023

In the life of our church our membership is constantly changing, and we rejoice when we have the opportunity to see it grow. This past October we welcomed new members and we want to give everyone the chance to get to know them better. Here are short biographies from each household to help you get acquainted. If you see any of these faces in the hallway or around church, make sure to say hello and introduce yourself!



Greg & Marj Beck: We both grew up in Redford Township and have called South Lyon home since 1996. We are both musicians – Greg plays guitar and Marj is a violist. Other interests include gardening, antiques, American history, and traveling in their vintage camper.



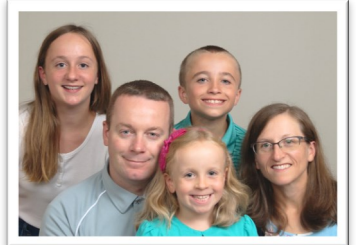
Bill & Elaine Billig: We have been married for 57 years. We have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. In December 2022 we moved to Fox Run in Novi and love it. We really enjoy being at Christ Our Savior and have met some very nice people through the Bible Class & Festival Choir.



My name is **Dave Chambo**. I was born and raised in Detroit and attended Evergreen Lutheran Church as a child. I joined the Air Force after graduating from Cody High School and spent the last 40 years in Washington state before moving back to Michigan last year. I have two children and four grandchildren. I enjoy traveling, sports, and working around the house.



We are **Jarrod & Angela Cunnings** and we have been married for 15 years and live in Canton. Jarrod is a materials science engineer and Angela is a secondary math teacher. We have three children: Elizabeth (8th grade), Thomas (5th grade) and Theresa (1st grade).



Graham & Sue Currie:

Graham was born in Canada and moved to the States in 1972 with his family. He served in the US Coast Guard, where he was involved in search and rescue and marine law enforcement. He was trained as a medic, and



provided emergency medical assistance. Following his time in the Coast Guard, he was a commercial printer by trade for 41 years. Sue was born and raised in Monroe, MI. She had a 25-year career in home care. Currently retired. They have one daughter, Sara, who lives in Seattle with her husband Jason. They have been members of the LCMS since 1996.

David & Karen Day.

We live in Northville and both grew up in the Lutheran Church. We met in high school and were married after graduating from college. In June of this year, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We have no children but are thankful our home is frequently filled with the joy, laughter, and fun with our god-children and their families. David is retired from the Ford Motor Company, having worked in logistics and planning.



Karen is retired from Henry Ford Hospital, having worked as a clinical and administrative dietitian. In our retirement, we enjoy traveling and are on a quest to visit all the national parks. David enjoys playing golf. Karen volunteers with Days for Girls and enjoys knitting and doing various crafts. We both love playing pickleball, hiking, and being outdoors. We are looking forward to being a part of the COS family, and seeing what God has planned for us.

Dan, Phoebe and Ezekiel Ziegler moved from Ypsilanti to Redford in April. We met at Hillsdale College in 2018 and married in August 2021. Little Zeke made his appearance in October 2022. He spent his first few weeks in the hospital for a necessary heart surgery. But he soon came home and has since been a daily blessing. Dan is a lawyer in Detroit, and Phoebe works part time as an interior designer. We both enjoy reading, gardening, cooking, and playing games. And we are excited to officially become members of Christ Our Savior and plug in to this community of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Coming Soon: Living Wisely in an Unwise World

Stewardship Focus



For three weeks beginning on November 5, 2023, we will be offering a stewardship emphasis titled Living Wisely in an Unwise World. If we follow God's wisdom rather than the wisdom of the world, we will see life from His perspective. God's wisdom leads us to be faithful stewards who use our time, talents, and money to His glory. By God's grace, we seek His wisdom, which He is eager to provide. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, Who gives generously to all without approach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5).

Our weekly themes are:

- 11-5: Following God's Wisdom**
- 11-12: Using Time Wisely**
- 11-19: Becoming Money Wise**

We live in a time when we have access to instant information. Within seconds, we can retrieve the facts on current and historical events. Our access to knowledge is truly amazing. We know, though, that while knowledge provides facts and information, it does not answer the "why" or "for what purpose." Knowledge does not help us in times

of crisis, despair, or loneliness. God's Word tells us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). When knowledge is combined with a fear—awesome respect—of the Lord, we will have God's wisdom which transforms panic into peace, stress into serenity, and chaos into control. With God's wisdom, we live our lives knowing that the promises of God are real so we can live our lives with conviction. Each of us is tested daily, but God gives us His Word and Sacraments which gives us strength and resolve to remain faithful and live lives filled with His wisdom.

It is our hope that this emphasis, Living Wisely in an Unwise World, will inspire each of us to start living wisely today. God is ready and willing to give us His wisdom so we have the tools to start to use each day, week, and year as building blocks to live with His wisdom now and with Him forever.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Davenport" followed by a simple smiley face drawing.

Pastor Davenport

Christmas Acrostic Poems

Simple Kid's Craft



These Christmas Acrostic Poems were easily made from things we already had on hand. All you have to do is gather up your imagination and a few supplies and your kids can create a memorable craft/decoration.

Jayden's Christmas Acrostic Poem:

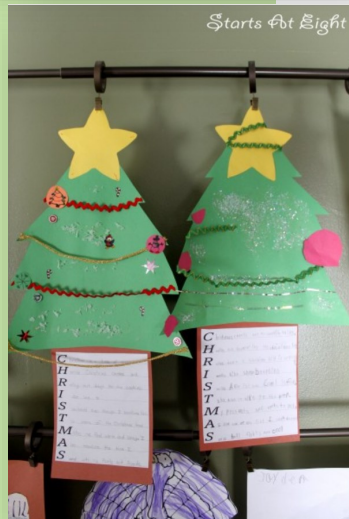
Christmas carols are my favorite thing.
 Having fun decorating the Christmas tree.
 Rolling down a sledding hill is so much fun!
 I really like snowboarding.
 Seeing *A Christmas Carol* is fun.
 Take time to give to the poor.
 My presents are cool to get.
 As the end of my list I can't forget,
 Snow ball fights are cool!

Chloe's Christmas Acrostic Poem:

Christmas is a time of giving,
 Hearing Christmas carols and,
 Rolling out dough for the cookies.
 I also love to
 Snowboard even though I sometimes fall!
 The aroma of the Christmas tree
 Makes me feel warm and cozy, I
 Also treasure the time I
 Spend with my family and friends.

Ava's Christmas Acrostic Poem:

Christmas is...
 Helping decorate ("the adults put the high ones on the tree and I put the low ones on")
 Reading Christmas books (we read multiples of them daily)
 I Want a Hippopotamus (one of her favorite holiday songs)
 Santa hats (she loves to wear them!)
 Taking pictures (said as she pointed to the past couple of years worth of Christmas family photos we have taken!)
 Making cookies
 Ava (because everyone needs to know her name)
 Snow



This week we are taking a break from our usual activities to enjoy some holiday downtime. From sleeping in, to watching Christmas movies, playing board games, and Christmas activities/crafts. Today we did Christmas Acrostic poems at the request of Chloe. She loved the Thanksgiving ones so much that she asked me if we could do Christmas ones!

Christmas Acrostic Poem Supplies:

- Christmas Acrostic Sheet
- Crafting Supplies, such as:
 - ◇ Colored pencils
 - ◇ markers
 - ◇ construction paper
 - ◇ stickers
 - ◇ glue
 - ◇ stencil (optional)
 - ◇ glitter
 - ◇ Ribbon

Talk to your child(ren) about what they enjoy at the Christmas season, or what they are thankful for. For each letter, find something that starts with the letter that they enjoy about Christmas. They can write a word or a phrase, as long as it starts with the correct letter. Once each letter is filled in, decorate the sheet!

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Memorials and Gifts

In Memory of:	Intended for:	Given by:
Richard Eminger	General fund	Joanna Eiwen
Angie Bruenger	Food Pantry	Kenneth C. Ashley & Gloria Jean Ashley
Nathan Tarrow	General Fund	unknown
Betty Foulkrod	Music Ministry	Stuart & Elisabeth Schluckebier
Devinee Neil	Quilters	Daniel & Ruth Dobberfuhl
Rev. Luther Werth	Missions	John & Ellen Fuhrman
Richard Eminger	General Fund	Lois Ann Nabozny
Richard Eminger	General Fund	Joe & Sharon Kovatch
Richard Eminger	General Fund	The Hauswirth Family
Richard Eminger	General Fund	Chris & Anne Burgess
Richard Eminger	General Fund	Shirley Fabry
Rev. Luther Werth	Music Ministry	Ruth Germeroth



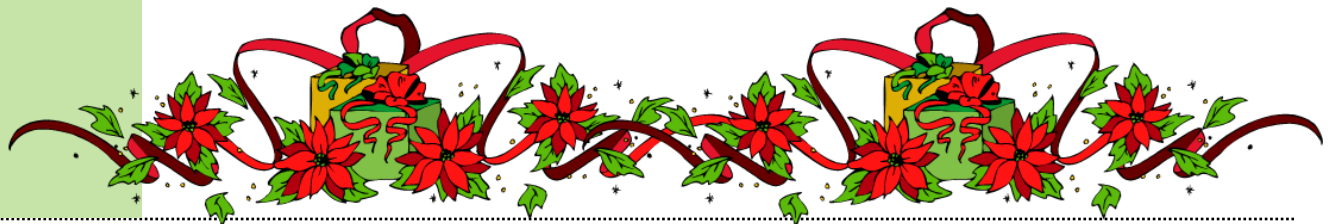
Christmas Poinsettias

The celebration of Christmas brings special thoughts to all in different ways. While many people think of our special loved ones at Christmas, others want to express their thankfulness for all of the blessings God has bestowed upon them. What better way to announce these thoughts by purchasing a Poinsettia plant(s) this holiday season to help decorate our altar. The price per plant will be \$15.00 for a triple stem plant. Poinsettia order form envelopes will be available at the Welcome

Desk. Please make checks are payable to: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th.

Completed envelopes can be placed in Cheryl Moldenhauer's mail box. You can either pick your plant up after service on December 25th, or you may beautify the church by leaving the plant on the altar.



Membership Updates

As of October 9, 2023



To keep the congregation better informed about the membership of our church, the Board of Elders includes membership updates in each Disciplegram. Every two months, a report is published of gains and losses and the reason for each change.

At the end of this report are members that the Elders have not been able to reach. They request your help with these members. If you have any information about them or possible ways to contact them, please share with the chairman of the Board of Elders, Mark Anders (ElderMarkAnders@choursavior.org) or the church office (734-522-6830).

Received by Baptism

- Lillianna Winters on Aug 20, 2023

Deceased Individuals:

- Charlesetta Winston on Sep 5, 2023

Removed by Transfer to other LCMS:

- Janet Provan on Oct 4, 2023

Unreachable Members:

- Laura Briggs (daughter of William & Lisa Briggs)
- Walter & Nancy Early (Nolan, Gavan, Devlan)
- David & Julie Frauenheim (Jackson, William, Anna)
- Michael & Carol Masek (Lindsay)
- Allen & Laura Plocinik (Jessica, Laura)
- Lila Scott (daughter of Joseph & Ellen Scott)
- Lucy Scott

Decorating for Christmas

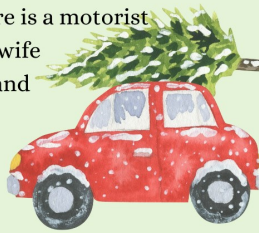
Christmas is coming! Every year, volunteers come to our church after Thanksgiving and spend several hours preparing our sanctuary and narthex for the Advent and Christmas season. There are Christmas trees to be put up and decorated, wreaths to be hung, and, of course, our nativity scene to be carefully set out. All of this décor shouts to anyone who walks in our church, "Something special is going on!" This is a special season, and we are grateful for all of the time and efforts volunteers give each year to beautify our worship space.

Due to the way that the church calendar falls, this year we are going to do things a little differently. We invite anyone who is interested in helping to decorate to come on **Sunday, November 26** after the late service. We will have pizza for lunch and encourage families to join us. There is a lot of work to do, and the more help we have, the more we will be able to do. There is plenty of heavy lifting to do as well, and could therefore use some strong arms.

The Lighter Side

THE "ADVENT RUSH"

A man went out to do some Christmas shopping, leaving his wife watching TV. She heard the announcer say, "be very careful and watch if you're on the I5 today, there is a motorist driving the wrong way"! The wife immediately called her husband to warn him. His reply was: "You're telling me, there are hundreds of them out here!"



THE WRONG GIFT

The parents began to assemble the special Christmas gift they had for their children--a tree house kit. However, the materials they received were for a sailboat. They wrote the company to complain. The company's reply: "While we regret the inconvenience this mistake must have caused you, it is nothing compared to that of the man who is out on a lake somewhere trying to sail your tree house."

Bud Brooks, Stamping Ground, KY

CRYPTIC CHRISTMAS CARD

A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It read:
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z.
 The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. He finally received the explanation on a postcard: "No L."



This is YOUR Newsletter!

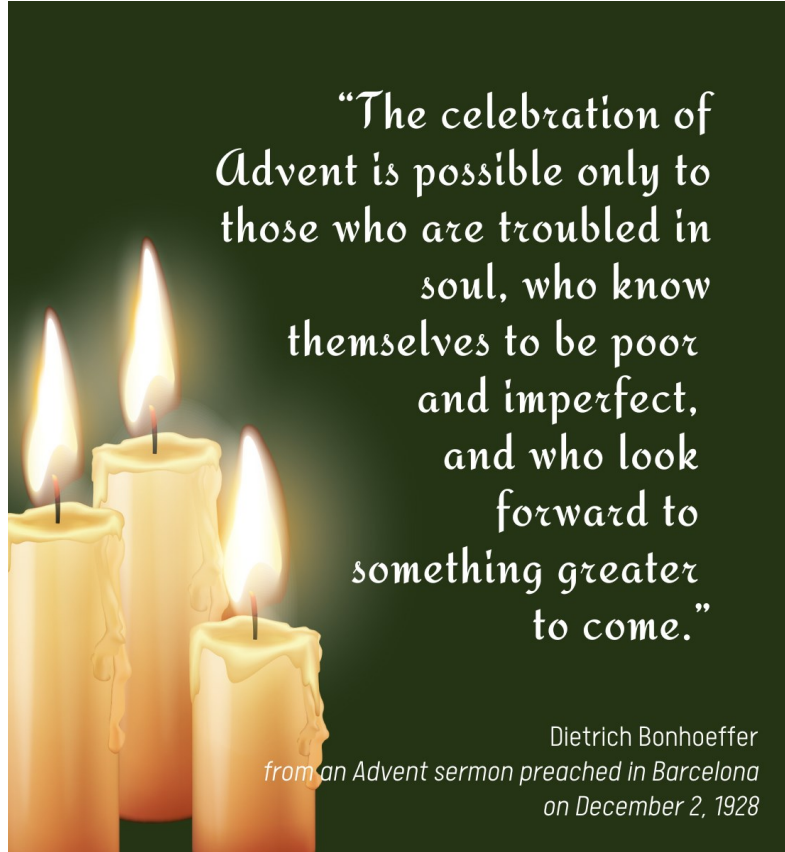
The Disciplegram is published six times a year and welcomes your submissions. If you have a news report, poem, artwork, short story or article that you would like to share, pass it on to our Communications Coordinator, Alyssa Knock (alyssak@christoursavior.org). Please include your name and phone number.

We reserve the right to make final decisions on what is published. We try to print articles as submitted, but will edit if necessary. Items will be included as space allows.

This is YOUR newsletter. Feel free to use it!

Food for Thought

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."



Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 from an Advent sermon preached in Barcelona
 on December 2, 1928

Cold, Flu, or Allergy?

We're into the prime season for colds and flu. And the drop in outdoor temperatures can also trigger allergies as people spend more time in their homes around pet dander and house dust mites. Since these diseases share many of the same symptoms, they're sometimes hard to tell apart. The following chart can help you figure out—and best treat—what's ailing you or your loved ones.

SYMPTOM	AIRBORNE ALLERGY	COLD	FLU
Fever	Never	Rare	Usual
Headache	Rare	Rare	Common
Body aches	Never	Slight	Usual
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Usual
Stuffy/Runny nose	Common	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort	Rare	Mild	Common
Treatment	Antihistamines, Decongestants, Rx Nasal steroids	Antihistamines, Decongestants, Ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen	Ibuprofen, aspirin, or Rx Antivirals