

Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



January/February 2024

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

DISCIPLEGRAM

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New Every Morning -
Rejoice!

It's a new year—the year 2024—can you believe it?! It doesn't seem like it was 24 years ago when we were dealing with something termed Y2K. Remember that?! Not only do we turn over a page on the calendar, we begin a whole new calendar. For many, a new year brings promise of a new start, but many don't have such an optimistic view.

The bills from over-spending at Christmas are starting to come in, and there's no more money now than there was a month ago. Your boss is still the same old hard-to-get-along-with guy he was before. There's the relationship issues in the family and the circle of friends. Then there's the problem of the extra ten pounds you put on due to all the goodies you consumed. None of this is new. The calendar may say January 2024, but only the date is new. Even the Preacher of

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Ecclesiastes moaned that there's nothing new. What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Jeremiah, the "Weeping Prophet," had his troubles too. He wrote, "I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me" (Lamentations 3:19-20). But Jeremiah had another perspective, one that we should adopt as well. He follows those words with, "Yet this will I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Verses 21-23)—and if you will allow me I'll add the word—REJOICE!

Instead of looking around us at our circumstances or inside ourselves where there is no hope or inspiration, let us look at God's unfailing compassion and His blessings which He pours out on us daily. Let us spend our prayer time in thanks for all He has done for us and provided for us, rather than in lamenting our sorry state. Let us look to His wisdom to manage His gifts to us in a wiser manner so that we might please Him and be of service in His Kingdom. Especially let us thank Him for the gift of forgiveness and the new start He gives us minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day, and year by year!

May our focus during this new year be to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and each other so that COS can be a powerful force in the ministry of the Gospel in our community, State, Country and around the globe. I am confident that as we do the Lord will guide, direct, and make straight our paths.

I don't know about you, but I am excited about the opportunities that we have to reach out to others with the love of Jesus. 2024 is going to be an awesome year—full of challenges and opportunities for sure, but awesome, nonetheless. I am looking forward to serving alongside you! God loves you and so do I!

Dean M. Davenport, Pastor

Welcome!

Greeter Ministry at Christ Our Savior



Featured
Ministry



Do you remember the first time you walked into Christ Our Savior? What was the first thing you noticed? What stood out to you?

While there are a few members in our congregation who have been here since Christ Our Savior was founded, most of us can probably remember the first time we walked through the church doors. We came for a variety of reasons, from a range of backgrounds, with different interests and needs. And yet, there was something in our first impressions that led us to come back again, and then again.

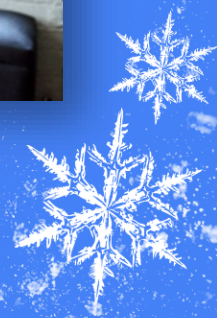
First impressions matter. The decorations in our sanctuary, the interactions with the pastor, the quality of the music—all of these things stick out in our minds. But one of the impressions that ranks most highly for our visitors is how welcomed they feel by the people around them.

The role of our greeters is to meet that need. Every Sunday morning, and throughout the week for special services, they stand near the

entrances to share a smile and a friendly “hello!” to everyone who comes into the narthex. They show that we are more than a beautiful building, more than a crisply printed service bulletin. We are a community of believers, a group of people who reach out to encourage and

From Sandy Keil:

A great way to start your Sunday worship is to sign up to be a greeter! Welcoming people to their worship service is a blessing to those attending and those greeting. The only requirements are to be at the greeter station 20 minutes before the service and direct people to the Welcome Desk for any further information about upcoming events. People are usually assigned every 6-8 weeks on a rotating basis by Phyllis Nader for the 8:30 a.m. service and Sandy Keil for the 11 a.m. service. Please contact Linda Hollman (734-522-6830 x.104) for additional information.



Our Savior's Peace



Outside view of
Christ Our
Savior, Livonia

What does it look like to support fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?

When we talk about service and ministry, our conversation tends to focus on outreach and witnessing to unbelievers. This is admirable, and we certainly want to support more efforts in that direction. But there is another field of ministry open to us, one that often goes overlooked simply because of our close proximity to it. The truth is, we are also called to support and encourage those *within* the church. People who love our Savior and worship in a faithful congregation are still in need of love and support, care and compassion. In fact, the Holy Spirit calls us to serve the household of faith in the words of Scripture:

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:9-10

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

But what does this look like?

In our services we occasionally talk about the "whole church on earth." We use the phrase "our brothers and sisters in Christ" and frequently refer to the image of a body that

includes all Christians, each with different roles. From the 50,000 feet view, we see "the church" spread over all the earth and we rejoice in its efforts. When our view starts to zoom in, however, we sometimes lose sight of the "church". Instead of connecting with other congregations, we find reasons to stay insulated within familiar settings. As we rightly enjoy worship and enjoy community within our own congregation, we wrongly find occasions to compare ourselves to other congregations. Instead of viewing the church as a united body working towards the same goal, we too often fall into the trap of individually doing "our own thing" without a thought to cooperation and without stepping back and looking at a bigger picture.

While we can look, of course, at all Christian churches, let's just focus on the congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Did you know that there are over 70 LCMS churches in the metro Detroit area? Did you know we have ministries to the deaf and blind? Do you know about the Spanish speaking congregation in downtown Detroit? Have you visited Family of God to see the ministry to the homeless, addicted, and poor?

Of course, it is impossible to be involved, or even aware, of everything that is happening in metro Detroit, much less in the wide world. But we can still keep our eyes open and our hands ready—God will place opportunities in our path to support the work of His church on earth.

Sometimes that means inviting a neighbor to an event at church. And sometimes that means reaching out to a fellow LCMS congregation. Our lives should be lived with an outward focus. There is a much bigger picture.

You may have noticed that recently a few announcements have made it into our COS Update about events happening at Prince of Peace in Farmington Hills. Maybe you have a personal connection to this church, or you might have visited for an Advent or Lenten midday service. This congregation was established in 1958, and the beautiful sanctuary features stained glass windows that tell the Old Testament and New Testament stories.

These days, this congregation faces many of the same challenges that Lutheran congregations around the United States do—an aging congregation, a large building but small weekly attendance, a desire to grow without knowing what practical steps to take to make that happen. Pastor Mark Schumm, who has served Prince of Peace since 2020, is looking for those practical ways to bring in new members. He approached Pastor Davenport to ask for our help. As one of the larger congregations in our area, Christ Our Savior has resources that others do not.

This gives us a unique opportunity to do ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-16 encourages us:

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the



head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

In the future, we may hear from Pastor Davenport and Pastor Schumm regarding more intentional ways that we will try to build a bond between our two congregations. We aren't trying to show special treatment to any one congregation or exclude other churches in our area. We are simply responding to a request because that is what brothers and sisters in Christ do. Lord willing, we would extend this same attitude towards all of the churches in our area.

As we wait for developments from our leadership, what can *you* do?

- Visit Prince of Peace for a movie night, held monthly on Fridays. Dates, times and movie titles will be announced in the COS Update. They have a large room with a big screen TV to show the movies. And I hear the popcorn is free!
- If the location is good for you, consider hosting your small group Bible study or event at Prince of Peace. They have lots of beautiful rooms in a variety of sizes—space for small, medium and large groups to meet. There is also a well-cleaned and organized nursery for small children. Much

Outside view of
Prince of
Peace,
Farmington
Hills



of the time these rooms just sit empty, so if we can make use of them, all the better!



- Get to know some of the congregation members from Prince of Peace, and invite them to events at Christ Our Savior.

- If you have family or friends in the Farmington Hills area, invite them to one of the services at Prince of Peace! Attend once or twice to help them overcome the awkwardness of going to a

new church alone, and then pray that God will help them make connections of their own in that congregation.

- Pray for this congregation. Pastors Davenport and Werner include prayers for our district congregations in church on

Sunday, but include them on your own as well! Pray for an increase in membership, for their members to be bold in sharing their faith, for opportunities to reach out to the community, and for more ideas on how our two congregations can connect and strengthen each other.

We're calling this initiative *Our Savior's Peace*, a combination of the names of the two churches, Christ Our Savior and Prince of Peace. May this title be a blessing on this endeavor, and also a reminder.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

*-Alyssa Knock
Communications Coordinator*



Beauty in the Ordinary

2024 Woman of the Year

What does a life of service look like?

If we stop to think about our own lives, we soon realize that we are surrounded by others who serve us. Pastors, neighbors, family members, even waitresses and cashiers aid us every day as we go through our routines. Sometimes, the service of others becomes swallowed up in our ordinary lives, and we forget to marvel in its specialness. Because their

service is so regular, and they expect no recognition, we can overlook their efforts. And yet, there is something indescribably beautiful in these "ordinary" acts of service that come from selfless hearts, from an honest desire to help others.

Every year Christ Our Savior celebrates the women in our congregation who exhibit an attitude of service throughout the year by helping with various ministries. We have a large congregation and a small staff, which means that much of the work that happens here is

accomplished by the hands of volunteers. The *Woman of the Year* title is an opportunity to recognize some of the dedicated efforts of our members whose work blends in to the “ordinary” of our lives at church. The staff solicits nominations from the congregation, and from the names submitted selects one woman to be the *Woman of the Year*.

At our Advent by Candlelight event in December 2023, the women of Christ Our Savior gathered to celebrate their Savior’s birth with music, friendship, beautiful decorations and good food. Part of the program was the announcement of our 2024 *Woman of the Year*. We were honored to congratulate Cheryl Tyler on receiving this title. True to form, Cheryl’s first comment was that she was “humbled and shocked” to be named *Woman of the Year*. Her actions were focused on helping others, not on receiving accolades for herself.



COS, she has continued relationships with several women informally that she met through that program.

When she retired, she started helping more with the funeral dinner ministry. At Christ Our Savior, there has long been a team of dedicated individuals who shop for, prepare, and serve a meal for those who attend funerals at our church. This is a way to serve the family of the bereaved, who would otherwise have to pay to host their extended family and close friends at a local restaurant or a catered meal. Cheryl, assisted by her husband, Bob, and Yvonne Stewart, leads the team, helping to do the shopping and organizing the volunteers. She is always on call—often springing into action on short notice as funeral arrangements are made.

Bob and Cheryl Tyler are the parents of three children, two boys and one girl. For many years they were members at Grace Lutheran where they attended when they lived in Redford. Their children were baptized and confirmed at that congregation. It wasn’t until 2007, after a move to Westland and the graduation of their youngest son from high school, that they started looking for a new church home. At Christ Our Savior they felt embraced and welcomed. The warm atmosphere here, coupled with the solid teaching, led to their decision to transfer their membership. Cheryl remembers that they took home from the services a “Word of God”, and they knew this was where they wanted their community to be.

They soon became involved in the life at COS— Bob and Cheryl were members of the choir in years past, and they both still attend Bible studies; Bob on Tuesday evenings with the men and Cheryl on Tuesday mornings with other women led by Susan Thomson. They are both active in a small group with George and Sandy Keil.

When it comes to service, Cheryl’s philosophy is, “I help out where I can.” This has led her to volunteering with Vacation Bible School year after year, purchasing groceries for our annual CHRISTmas Blessings event, as well as seven memorable years serving as a Stephen Minister. Although that ministry is no longer active at

Now, two of their children have families of their own and still live in the area. Bob and Cheryl enjoy taking advantage of “grandparenting duties” and spending quality time with their children and grandchildren. Their third son serves in the navy, where he is currently going through a linguistics program. Cheryl would certainly say that her biggest hobby is her family, although she also enjoys cooking, traveling, reading, and finding a good deal on the clearance rack.

As I sat and chatted with Cheryl, I realized the beauty that seems to permeate her life—the beauty of ordinary, everyday service. Cheryl doesn’t stop to ask what she can get out of an activity, or what recognition she will receive, she simply “helps where she can.” I can’t think of a better slogan for our *Woman of the Year*.

-Alyssa Knock
Communications Coordinator

A Short Proof of the Existence of God



To succinctly prove the existence of God, I will compare two competing philosophical systems. There are (1) Perfect Being Theism, and (2) Naturalism. *Perfect Being Theism*, (PBT) is the view that God exists as the perfect being: omnipotent, omniscient, omnibenevolent, sovereign, necessarily existing in all possible worlds, and so on. God is the most fundamental part of reality, on PBT, and everything else is caused to exist by God. *Naturalism* is the view that all that exists is the physical universe. This belief can also hold that there are other physical universes (the multiverse). However, it does not hold that there is anything deeper or more fundamental than the universe, except possibly abstract entities. Abstract entities are (if they exist) things like numbers, propositions such as “snow is cold” and universals like greenness. Atheism inevitably stands on the shoulders of naturalism, so, for the sake of brevity, I will herein consider naturalism and atheism to represent the same thing.

One more definition is needed prior to our discourse. This is the concept of possible worlds. To put things simply, a *possible world* is reality as it could have been. The *actual world* is reality as it is. The terminology can be somewhat confusing. If, for example, there is a multiverse, then there is a plurality of universes in the world. What determines whether a world is possible or not? The answer is *the law of noncontradiction* and the nature of the entities

therein. Worlds that have no contradictions in them are possible; worlds with contradictions are impossible. For example, at first glance it seems that there are possible worlds wherein I had a brother rather than a sister, in which there was no World War II, and even worlds where the speed of light is twice as fast as it is in our world. This is because none of these seem to contain an inherent contradiction. Impossible worlds are worlds in which there are round squares, for example, where $2 + 2 = 17$, and wherein Biden both is and is not president at the same time.

Having set the stage, the argument I will make consists mainly in examining answers to three questions. These questions are (1) Is this world the only possible one or are there many, and thus probably an infinite number, of other worlds? (2) Why does anything exist? And (3) Why does God exist?

(1) Is the actual world the only possible world? It seems not. The reason being that the world seems full of contingencies. A contingency in this sense is that things could have been different. For example, there seems to be no contradiction in the notion that you have one more hair on your head than you do. There are seemingly countless ways that the universe could have been different, without contradictions generated. Most of both theistic and atheistic philosophers agree that the

universe is full of contingencies and that therefore things could have been different than they are. In which case, there are many possible worlds. The only way that the actual world could be the sole possible world is if this world were created by a necessarily existing God, and that this is the only world that God would create. Leibniz and Spinoza are examples of philosophers who purported these concepts, though in different ways from each other. The biggest problem with this view is that this world is so great, with an infinity of entities and variables, that it is difficult to imagine that there is only this one unique world that a Deity would create. But we really don't know this for certain. At any rate, the God option is not open to atheists, because if one believes in God (as the source of this solo world), one is by definition not an atheist. So, it seems that for naturalism to be true, there must be more than one possible world—and probably an infinite number of worlds.

(2) Why does anything exist? The truth of this matter is of much dispute. Some philosophers hold that nothing contingent would exist on its own. That is, the natural situation should be that there are no contingent objects. If this were the case, then the only way to explain why there is something rather than nothing, why there are vast numbers of contingent things, is to posit the existence of a necessarily existing being who causes contingent entities to exist. However, if one moves in this direction, then one has gone a long way in the direction of theism, and so this is not a viable option for atheists. The other possibility is that there is an infinite number of possible worlds of which one of them had to be actual. The world empty of all concrete (as opposed to abstract) beings is thus only one of an infinite number of options, and thus it is infinitely unlikely that an empty world is the one that is instantiated or actualized.

On theism, God, being the perfect or greatest possible being, exists necessarily and chooses what world he will instantiate. On atheism, there is no being to choose to actualize a world, so which world is actualized is so by chance alone. One problem for atheism is that there seems to be vastly more chaotic worlds than orderly worlds. Since the laws of nature seem to be contingent, why do they hold rather than any other set of laws, or much more likely, no set of laws? Further, given that the actual world and everything in it exists by sheer chance, brutally, without a cause or reason, even though the laws of nature have held up to this point by mere

happenstance, there is no reason why they should not cease at any moment. Indeed, it's astronomically more likely that these laws would fail or disappear. Furthermore, and more devastatingly, given that the universe is here only by chance, there cannot be any *laws* of nature. By definition, if something happens consistently over time by chance, it is not a *law* that this is the case; it is merely a *coincidence*.

Another way of looking at this is to take any object in the universe. For example, take a proton which I will call Bob. Why does Bob-the-proton exist at time T1? By chance, for no reason. Why then would Bob also exist at the following moment, time T2. Again, for no reason. There is no causal or necessary relation between objects at different times. Since Bob exists when it does for no reason, there is no reason it would exist in the next moment, or the next and so on. Indeed, it seems that for Bob to exist at all by chance instead of other possible objects, or even nothing at all, is extremely unlikely, and since there is no reason why Bob would remain in existence, that it exists over time is vastly, infinitely unlikely.

Hence, there seems to be no possible way for atheism and naturalism to be rationally plausible. Ergo, theism must be true.

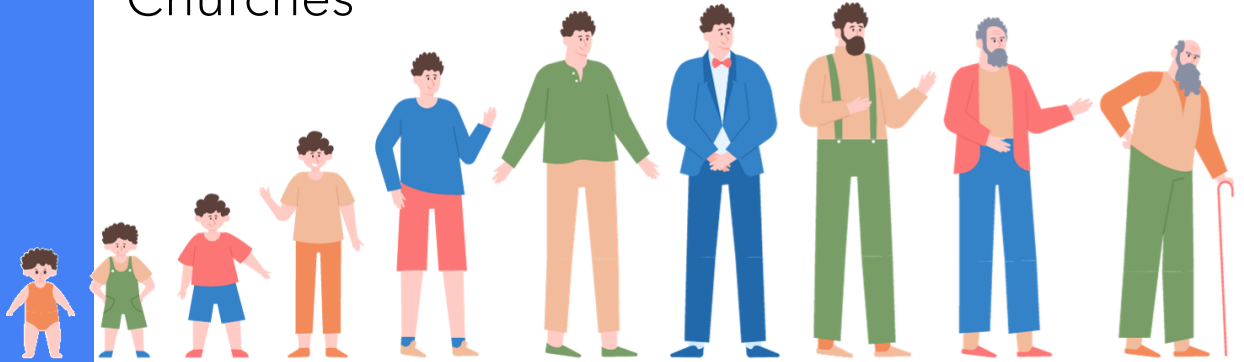
(3) Why does God exist? Since there is no other explanation as to why an orderly universe exists and continues to exist, even remaining consistent over time, then God as the GPB must exist. He exists because his non-existence entails a contradiction. Being the GPB, having sovereignty over everything, he must exist in all worlds. Another way to look at this is to ask how God could fail to exist. He cannot fail to exist by chance, for then God would not be the greatest possible being. Just as having six faces and 8 corners is included in the concept of a game cube (i.e. die), so is necessary existence included in the concept of God as the perfect being. And a being whose existence is a matter of chance cannot be a necessary being. Nor can anything destroy him or prevent him from existing. The only way that God could fail to exist is if the concept of God is self-contradictory. We have seen that there are no contradictions in the concept of God, because God must exist to cause the universe. No other explanation for the universe works. So, if there are no contradictions in the concept of God, God exists and exists necessarily.

Dr. Steven Parrish



Nurturing Faith Across Dimensions

The Vital Role of Age-Specific Ministries in Churches



In the last two Disciplegram articles, I have tried to answer the question “what is ‘Family Life Ministry?’” by sharing some important foundational principles. These are principles that I have taught to Family Life Ministry students at Concordia University. First, I wrote about how we cannot overstate the importance of our congregation acting as an intergenerational family of faith. No matter what your own household looks like, you have a family here at COS. We need each other, young and old, united in Christ and what He has done for us! Second, I spoke about our responsibility as a congregation to equip, encourage, and support each of us to grow in our faith in our own households—outside of the walls of the church. It is in our homes—and among our households—where we have wonderful opportunities to grow in our faith and to encourage our loved ones to do the same.

This month I wanted to highlight a third principal...one that may be pretty familiar to you: “Age-specific and affinity ministries, when done well and placed in their proper context, are vital to the overall ministry of the church.” These specialized ministries, such as men’s/women’s ministry, children’s ministry, youth ministry, and our Forever Young ministry at COS, play a pivotal role in fostering spiritual growth and community engagement within distinct age groups.

I don’t think this principle is difficult to grasp, because many of us grew up in churches that had active children’s ministry and youth

ministries. We have fond memories of VBS, lock-ins, bible studies, retreats, mission trips, etc. And while young people are busier and may not feel as much of a need socially to be part of our Children’s or Youth ministries, there is still an important role for these groups today. There is a need for all of us to meet with people who are a similar age or gender. Forever Young has done a wonderful job of filling a need for our older members to get to know other people at COS and grow in relationship with them. Our wonderful women’s and men’s ministries have also done this wonderfully for the men and women of our congregation as well! It turns out that age-specific and affinity groups are great settings to bring friends who might not know Christ, so these groups find themselves working in an outreach capacity.

The only major problem with age-specific/affinity groups in congregations is that we can get so focused on building these groups that we forget about the other aspects of family ministry. It is important to find that delicate balance between growing our age-specific ministries, fostering an intergenerational church body, and encouraging families to grow in their faith at home. It’s not easy, but this balance can be achieved.

Next month I will finish up this particular series of Disciplegram articles. Hopefully, though, you are starting to get a picture of what Family Life Ministry can look like!

Josh Kittleman
 Director of Christian Family Life Formation

GOD WON'T ASK:

God won't ask what kind of car you drove,
but He'll ask how many people you drove who
didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house,
but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into
your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your
closet,
but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was
but He'll ask if you compromised your character
to obtain it.

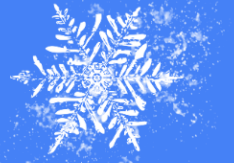
God won't ask what your job title was,
but He'll ask if you performed your job to the
best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had,
but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a
friend.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived,
but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin,
but He'll ask about the content of your
character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek
Salvation,
but He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in
heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.



Theological Conference

Love Talks: *Daring* Conversations Toward Reconciliation

Speakers:
Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies **Dcs. Dr. Tiffany Manor**
Rev. Mark Schulz **FLAME**

Sometimes silence is golden. Other times it is a relationship killer. Two people are estranged. Angry. At odds. A friend intervenes with the suggestion, "Well, have you tried talking about it?"

Reconciliation takes conversation, verbal interaction, words. Under the theme *Love Talks: Daring Conversations of Reconciliation*, the 2024 Theological Conference is designed especially for laity of all ages. The conference, which will take place on February 3, 2024 in Lansing, will equip you to engage in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).

The world around us needs us to engage with others in the ministry of reconciliation, both with people and with God. At the very heart of all reconciliation is the Word Himself, the Word made flesh, Jesus.

Let's get started with daring conversations of reconciliation. After all, love talks.

Register online by visiting: Michigandistrict.org/theological-conference-registration/

The conference will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing (7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing) on February 3, 2024.



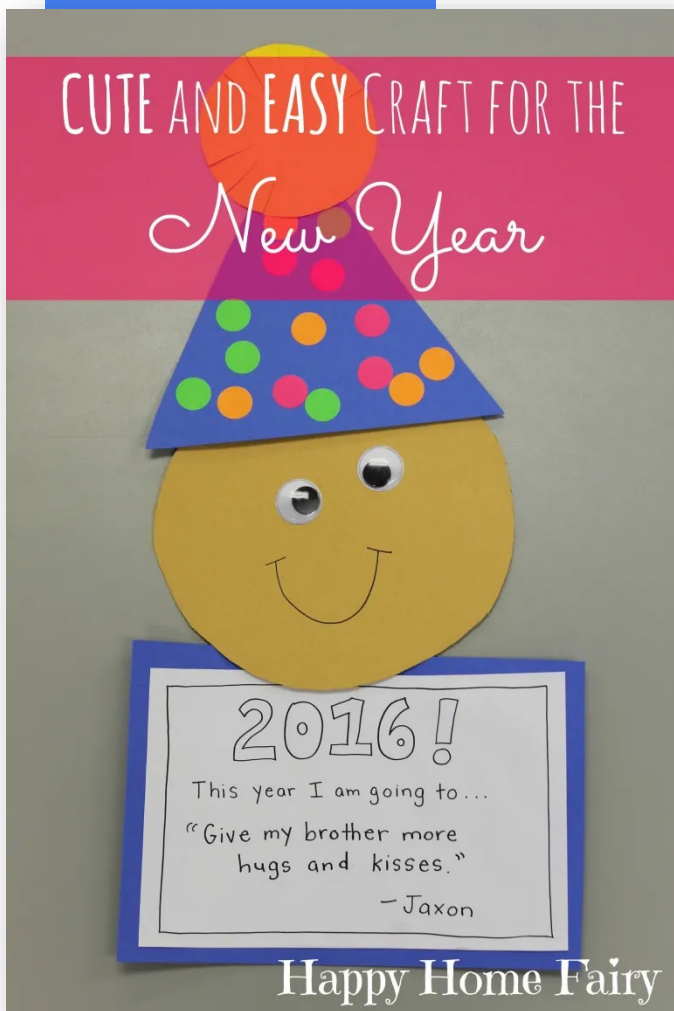
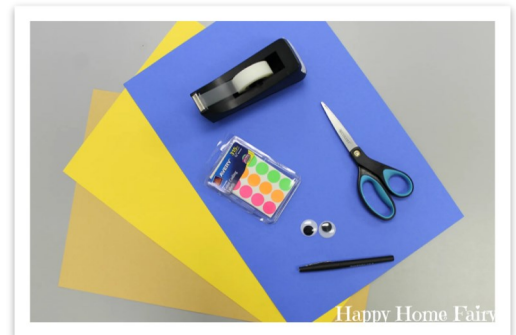
Craft for Children

New Year's Resolution

Celebrate the New Year with your kids by making this simple craft together. While helping them put together the pieces, talk to them about their goals for the year—and enjoy their unexpected responses!

SUPPLIES NEEDED –

- Blue, yellow, and flesh-colored construction paper
- Stickers
- Tape
- Googly eyes
- Small rectangle paper for goal writing



Happy Home Fairy

DIRECTIONS –

1. Cut out a large circle with the flesh-colored paper. Add googly eyes and a simple mouth.
2. Cut a large triangle from the blue paper. Decorate with stickers.
3. Cut out a yellow circle and snip some fringe.
4. Tape everything together.
5. Add a New Year's Resolution to the bottom of the party face.

That's it!

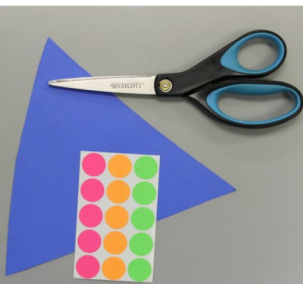
This craft was adapted from the blog Happy Home Fairy (www.happyhomefairy.com) by Julie Brasington. Julie Brasington is a Preschool Director, wife of a South Florida Worship Pastor and mom of 3 boys. She writes at Happy Home Fairy where you can find easy craft ideas, FREE printables, simple recipes, holiday fun, thoughts on raising kids, and encouragement for moms.

1.



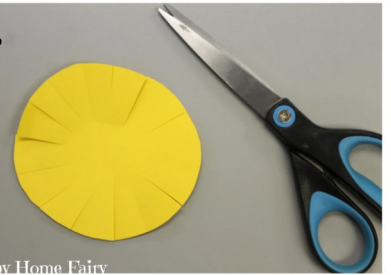
Happy Home Fairy

2.



Happy Home Fairy

3.



Happy Home Fairy

4.



Happy Home Fairy

Women of the Word

Women's Ministry Updates

WOMEN'S RETREAT being PLANNED FOR APRIL 2024



Michele Ciskon and Dianne Sherman have been working together to plan a wonderful women's retreat for April 19 and 20, 2024. The theme will be *I AM says I am....* The purpose of a retreat is to reflect, pray and meditate. There will be times of laughter and great fellowship, and some moments may not be quite so "quiet" but it will be fun. This is what we hope to accomplish for you.

We have engaged two lovely women to enlighten us in their presentations.

Marlo Rutz will give us a short, funny presentation on Friday evening and a main presentation "Trusting God's Well" on Saturday afternoon. **Nicole Herman** will invite you to consider the gift of beauty from

God on Saturday morning.

We highly encourage you to attend this event which will be uplifting to all. Details and registration will become available in January. Some of you have already been asked to help plan and facilitate this event as a "committee". Others who may want to participate in the planning and facilitation of this event are welcome and may contact Michele Ciskon (734) 502-2907 or Dianne Sherman (734) 812-5172. Be sure to save the dates because you don't want to miss this!

LWML MICHIGAN—GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Expanding Christ's Love for the Aging & Unchurched in Michigan Worship Anew (Lutheran Ministries Media)

Through Lutheran Ministries Media, Worship Anew was originally under the name Worship for Shut-Ins and began airing in 1965. This is a 30-minute weekly television program which follows the biblical doctrine as presented in the Lutheran Confessions and articulated in the Book of Concord. Worship Anew is taking God's Word to a growing population of the aging, unchurched, and those in need of hearing the Gospel (Mark 16:15). They seek to expand the sharing of Christ's love through television ministry in Michigan. Currently, Worship Anew broadcasts on ten television markets throughout Michigan: Battle Creek, Detroit, Frankenmuth, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Monroe, Oakland/Livonia, Portage and Saginaw. They also reach people in southwest Michigan through affiliates in South Bend, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois and in southeast Michigan through affiliate in Toledo, Ohio. Their website is <https://worshipanew.org>

As of October 2023 Mite Donations for the Michigan District:

Biennium Goal: \$386,000

Biennium Giving to Date: \$304,544

FYI: The Michigan LWML convention will be held June 28-30, 2024 in Grand Rapids.

MERCIFUL LORD, YOU BRING ALL THINGS TOGETHER AND HAVE PROMISED TO HOLD ME IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND. WHEN I AM ANXIOUS OR FEARFUL ABOUT A FUTURE I CANNOT SEE, GRANT ME YOUR PEACE AND YOUR GRACE SUFFICIENT FOR EACH DAY. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself"

Matthew 6:34

Save the Date!
These events are sponsored by WoW:

January 19
Game Night

February 16
Game Night

March 24
Bake Sale

April 19-20
Women's Retreat

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Richard Eminger	Intended for:	Given by:
	Building Maintenance/ Repair Team	Judy Bruder, Rev. David & Mary Huber, Kathy Kangas, Linda Marzinski, Sylvia McKernan
	General Fund	Christine Purtell
In memory of Harry Flagg	Intended for:	Given by:
	Music Ministry	Lois Drake, Ruth Germeroth, Jess & Helena Hatten, Erna Heck, Margarita Macy, Heidy Nance, Eugene & Joann Rogers, Katherine Stasevich, Kathryn Witt, Bob Zaske
	General Fund	Trudy & Roger Buelow, Esther & George Busse, George & Suzanne Busse, Larry & Suann Dibble, Theodore & Susan Elsholz, Shirley Fabry, John & Ellen Fuhrman, Janice & Blake Gitlin, Hegstrom Family & Eileen Kehe, Janet Kehe, Ronald Kosmalski, Susan & James Mitchell, Richard & Phyllis Nader, Jill Ritzler, Larry & Sandy Rubeck, Rol & Marie Schlosser, Toby Sloan, the Tullio family, Rev. & Mrs. Richard Wolfram, Ed & Darlene Yee & family, Robin & Richard Young
	Family of God Ministry	Karen Hansen
	Early Childhood Program	Bob & Gini Krenz
	Youth Ministry Angela Hospice	Bruce & Sandy Baxter Sue & Sharon Moreau
	Food Pantry	Michael & Mary McGrath, Elizabeth Williams
Missions Building Maintenance/ Repair Team	Shirley Speirs Gudi French	
In Memory of:	Intended for:	Given by:
Luther Werth	Youth Ministry	Jess & Helena Hatten
Walter Roessler	Organ Endowment Fund	Lois Drake
Carol Bird	Music Ministry	Susan Bird
Sandra Frankum	Organ Fund	Katherine Stasevich
	General Fund	Donna Chambo, Michael & Mary Looney

Membership Updates

As of December 11, 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:

- Genevieve Axiak on Oct 15, 2023
- Henry Reschke on Oct 15, 2023

Received by Profession of Faith:

- Dave Chambo on Oct 15, 2023

Received by Transfer from other LCMS:

- Greg Beck on Oct 15, 2023
- Marj Beck on Oct 15, 2023
- Angela Cunnings on Oct 15, 2023
- Elizabeth Cunnings on Oct 15, 2023
- Jarrod Cunnings on Oct 15, 2023
- Theresa Cunnings on Oct 15, 2023
- Thomas Cunnings on Oct 15, 2023
- Graham Currie on Oct 15, 2023
- Sue Currie on Oct 15, 2023
- David Day on Oct 15, 2023
- Karen Day on Oct 15, 2023
- Dan Ziegler on Oct 15, 2023
- Ezekiel Ziegler on Oct 15, 2023
- Phoebe Ziegler on Oct 15, 2023

Deceased Individuals:

- Harry Flagg on Oct 31, 2023

Removed by Other:

- Jenna Pollack on Oct 23, 2023
- Jack Forster on Nov 27, 2023
- Tyler Forster on Nov 27, 2023
- Jacob Ratelle on Nov 27, 2023
- Rylan Ratelle on Nov 27, 2023
- Craig Smith on Nov 27, 2023
- Emily Smith on Nov 27, 2023
- Gloria Smith on Nov 27, 2023
- Ryan Smith on Nov 27, 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



The Lighter Side

You know you're a Lutheran when:

- ✚ You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can!
- ✚ It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- ✚ Doughnuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- ✚ The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.
- ✚ All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia.
- ✚ When you watch a *Star Wars* movie and they say, "May the force be with you", you respond, "and also with you".
- ✚ You actually understand those folks from Lake Wobegon, MN.



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 (alyskak@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

This is the very crucial difference between us and God.

We want a life free of sins, burdens, and weaknesses.

But God uses these very things to show us that freedom comes when the Lord brings us to the point of admitting our bondage, our weakness. And that there's not a single thing we can do now or in the future to muscle our way to liberation and victory.

Chad Bird

from Night Driving: Notes from a Prodigal Soul, chapter 6

Game Night for Grown-Ups

Women of the Word (WOW) would like to have you join us for **a game night on Friday, January 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.** A night of fellowship, comradery, a little competition, fun and laughter. What game(s) you ask? A little euchre, pinochle, uno, dominoes, bunco, yahtzee, boggle, five crowns, whatever you choose. Bring a game or two that you enjoy playing.

We will have sign-up sheets available on Sunday, January 7 and 14. Bring your own beverage, and a snack to share. Coffee and water will be provided. Hope to see many of you there. If you have any questions contact Dianne Sherman at 734-812-5172.

