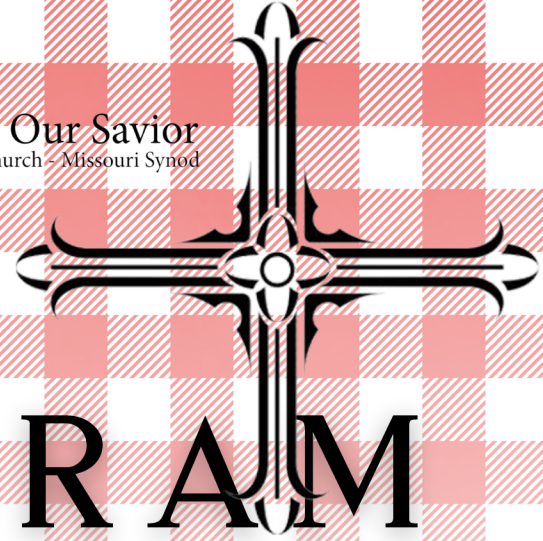




July/August 2026

Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



DISCIPLEGRAM

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

In This Update

- Go With God
- Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary
- Vacation Bible School 2026 Recap
- Peace by Diane Kaye
- Practicing Hospitality
- Membership Updates
- Memorials
- New Member Bios
- This is YOUR Newsletter
- Thank You Notes from our Members
- What's Happening with our Youth
- Early Childhood Program Update
- Fellowship with Forever Young
- Classifieds
- Food for Thought
- The Lighter Side

Go with God

It's summer, which means a good number of you are about to be somewhere else. Beaches, lakes, and all sorts of vacations are calling. Some Sundays this summer, I'll look out from the chancel, and the congregation will be a little lighter than usual. I'll know exactly why--half of you are at a cabin up north, or stuck on I-75 with everybody else.

So before you go, remember this: when you travel, you're not leaving Christ behind, and you're not leaving us behind either. You're being sent on mission on these vacations, so "Go with God." In modern English, we say it as a goodbye, but "goodbye" is just "God be with ye" worn down over the centuries until we forgot there's a prayer hidden inside it. *That's the blessing for the summer: God goes with you, and God goes before you.*

These words aren't mine. These are the words Moses shared with God's people before the people would go into the Land without Moses: "It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or



forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:8). Before you, and with you.

God Goes With You. We think of a trip as time off. Doing nothing is sometimes the main point of the trip: spending long hours in the car, waiting in a long line at Disney World. It's during the doing nothing when families can actually talk. Kids might ask questions they'd never ask across the dinner table. God is in those conversations. You don't have to bring Him along because He goes with you.

During a down moment along the trip, ask everyone in the family to think about the past day or two. What was the best

moment? Worst moment? Where did you see God? Or maybe try this: pray for the towns you pass. Read the names off the highway signs and pray for whoever lives there. It costs nothing, and doesn't slow you down at all. You're just noticing God is in the car with you to grace your conversations and hear your prayers.

God Goes Before You. Wherever you're headed, God got there first, and so did His church. The congregation in that town is gathering this Sunday too, and they'd be glad to have you. The church is bigger than COS.

The synod keeps a locator for exactly this: locator.lcms.org. Type in where you're staying and it'll show you the LCMS congregations nearby. And we'll keep company with you from this end too. This Disciplegram is one way, and our Sunday services uploaded to our website are another. Lean on those for the Sundays you genuinely can't get to a church building. When you can, be in a pew somewhere. When you can't, the Word will still find you.

I know the importance of tourist congregation members. Good Shepherd in Munising is the small church I belonged to in High School. Every summer the town fills with tourists to see the Pictured Rocks, and our pews filled too. People we would never have met would walk in on a given Sunday in the summer, and a good number came back year after year until we knew them. They were only passing through, but they were still a part of God's church.

When you walk into a strange church on vacation, not knowing a soul, not sure which pew is safe to sit in, you are that visitor. And you might be exactly the encouragement that little congregation needed that morning. A seat that's usually empty, suddenly filled. A new face that tells them the doors are worth keeping open. You're not really a stranger; you're family in from out of town.

That's my prayer for you this summer. He goes before you. He's already with you. So travel safe, talk to your kids, find a church when you can, and be a blessing wherever God takes you.

Go with God. Goodbye.
Pastor Joel Werner

Pastor Joel Werner

Staff

Rev. Dean M. Davenport
Senior Pastor

Rev. Joel A. Werner
Associate Pastor

Fritz Quitmeyer
Vicar

Tom Schroeder
Director of Music Ministry

Josh Kittleman, *Director of Christian
Family Life Formation*

Laura Myers, *Director of the Early
Childhood Program*

Linda Hollman, *Assistant to the Pastor in
Assimilation, Outreach & Women's
Ministry*

Karla Schettenhelm, *Assistant to the
Pastor in Children's Ministry*

Jill Reinert
Business Manager

Laurie Riegel
Administrative Assistant

Mary Boehm
Administrative Assistant

Alyssa Knock
Communications Coordinator

Lindsay Miller
Building Coordinator

Missionaries

Rev. David Erber—*Africa*

Rev. Charles Ferry—*Romania*

Rev. Steven Mahlburg—*Sri Lanka*

Rev. James and Deaconess Christel
Neuendorf—*Puerto Rico*

50 Years of Blessings

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

**Featured
Ministry**

"In the early 1950's the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) canvassed the young city of Livonia and established three churches, Faith, Holy Trinity, and All Saints. By the mid-1970s, a disagreement within the LCMS caused great difficulties within these three churches. As a result, in 1976, all three congregations voted to leave the LCMS and join the newly formed Association of Evangelical Lutheran Church. That decision left Livonia without a LCMS church.

Born in Crisis – Firm in Doctrine

Several members of Faith and Holy Trinity, who desired to remain faithful to the teachings of the Missouri Synod because of its strong doctrinal and evangelical stance, met together and prayed asking God for guidance. They came together in worship for the first time on November 28, 1976 under the leadership of Rev. Ralph

Schmidt, pastor of St. Paul's Northville. That evening a new LCMS congregation was born.

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)

A group of 65 Lutheran families gathered at Harry J. Will Funeral Home on Six Mile for a



service on December 12, 1976, with the desire to form a new congregation to reach out into the community with the Gospel message. On February 6, 1977 the charter was signed recognizing the congregation of 108 communicant members as a fully self-supporting LCMS church. Following the





signing of the charter, they were no longer considered a mission church and the name Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church was chosen.

Remembering the Past

Forty years ago, the members of Christ Our Savior saw a great need to construct a new church building in Livonia. They held fast to their beliefs, sought leadership, and continued to attend church services at Harry J. Will Funeral Home. Their prayer, "for God's blessings...that they may be strong and vibrant...filled with the Holy Spirit," was answered with blessings from our Heavenly Father.

These dedicated people met in each others' homes for Bible study, Confirmation classes, VBS, and to lay future plans for the young congregation. Land was purchased, building plans were drafted, bylaws adopted, church officers installed, and a Pastor was called while their numbers continued to grow.

Now I am about to build a temple or the Name of the LORD my God and to dedicate it to him.

2 Chronicles 2:4 (NIV)

As the young congregation was rapidly growing, Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Detroit, an older congregation (est. 1891) was planning to close their doors forever. Gethsemane graciously gifted Christ Our Savior with their cherished chancel furnishings of an antique wood-carved Gothic altar, pulpit and lectern, marble baptismal font, hand-carved wooden pews, three leaded stained glass windows (Ask, Seek & Find), a large German Bible, and two bronze bells that have called people to worship for over a century.

The young congregation was

richly blessed, encouraged, supported and equipped by sister Lutheran congregations monetarily and with gifts of altar paraments from Gloria De (Detroit), Choir gowns, hymnals, office equipment, and dishes from Grace (Highland Park), offerings plates from Guardian (Dearborn), Sunday School materials from Hosanna-Tabor (Redford), hymnals from Our Shepherd (Birmingham), Choir gowns from St. Paul's (Farmington), communion ware and candle holders from St. Thomas (East Detroit), and a 13 Rank Pipe organ from a member of Trinity (Jackson). "These treasured gifts that have witnessed so many sacred acts during the greater part of the last century will continue to be cherished by our members, and will continue to serve the spiritual purposes to which they were originally dedicated." -Rev. Ralph Schmidt. (Taken from a newspaper article Livonia Church Gets Rare Gift dated September 15, 1977).

-Taken from the 40th Anniversary of Christ Our Savior booklet

And now, it's our turn to celebrate our rich history! Christ Our Savior is celebrating 50 years of Blessings!

We are rejoicing in the grace and growth we have seen in these 50 years!

We will have a special service on November 22, 2026 where our first pastor, Pastor Ralph Schmidt will be preaching. We will celebrate the charter signing of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church at the services on February 7, 2027. And our big anniversary service and banquet will be held on April 25, 2027. This is an exciting time in the life of our church! Plan to attend these special worship services and celebrations!

-Karla Schettenhelm



Rainforest Falls

Vacation Bible School 2026 Recap



We had the ultimate Rainforest adventure at VBS exploring the nature of God. We had 185 children registered and over 100 volunteers filling our building with the love and joy of Jesus! In addition to the volunteers during VBS week, we had an amazing team of decorators who transformed our space into Rainforest Falls. A big THANKS to all who volunteered to make VBS such an awesome experience including everyone who made snack donations and everyone who kept VBS in prayer!

Throughout the week we explored the nature of God. We learned who God is: God is our creator! God knows everything! God is our safe place! God is love! God is forever! Through Bible accounts, Bible verses, music, crafts, games, science, snacks, and tons of fun we grew closer to God and each other!

An exciting note about our VBS:

We have many children who come to VBS year after year. As they grow in our VBS, they begin to look forward to the day when they can be helpers. Being old enough to be a VBS helper has become a right of passage that many children look forward to with great anticipation! Through our VBS we are growing disciples!!



Peace

Diane Kaye

I was walking by the pond
on my way to town
when I realized a symphony of sound
was going on.

"Rivet" whispered tree frogs.
"Bzzzzzzzz" came from the bees.
Songbirds carried melodies
high up in the trees.

The dragonflies all hummmmmmmmed along,
rainbow wings displayed.
Splish splash splish came from the fish
as they flipped and played.

The grey squirrel idly chattered
at chipmunks scurrying past,
"Whatever is the matter?"
"What makes you run so fast?"

"Brenka, brenka" sang the crickets.
"Burrriiip" croaked great bullfrogs.
Thumpa, thump from the turtles
on sunny floating logs.

I sat a while to listen
to this opus clear and bright,
each creature's part important
each sound a delight.

A sense of peace came over me,
pleasant thoughts of harmony.
I wish the world would, like the pond,
just let its creatures be.



Practicing Hospitality

Christian Family Life Formation



"Always be eager to practice hospitality."
Romans 12:13

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels without knowing it."
Hebrews 13:2

Back in the March-April Disciplegram earlier this year, I talked a bit about how I don't think my family is naturally gifted in the area of hospitality. I simply don't view it as a strength of ours. If I'm being completely honest, opening our home to people takes real effort for us. It doesn't come easily or naturally.

Here's the reality. Without taking a huge survey of the COS community, I'm pretty certain that more of us are uncomfortable with the thought of "practicing hospitality" than those who find it comes naturally. There are many reasons for this. *The house isn't clean enough. We're way too busy. We're introverted. We wouldn't even know who to invite.* Sound familiar?

There are plenty of reasons we have for NOT practicing hospitality. But here's a question worth sitting with: What if hospitality isn't just a nice thing to do...but is actually one of the most powerful tools for faith formation we have?

About six years ago, the Barna Research Group, along with Lutheran Hour Ministries, released a research report entitled "Households of Faith" that explored how faith is formed and shaped within households. This is a fascinating study, and some of you may

remember that we've had at least two Bible studies here at COS inspired by this research.

The report reveals many important things about how our households shape our faith, but one of the most interesting findings involves hospitality. Faith formation is directly connected to and increases with a spirit of hospitality. I actually attended a workshop led by the creators of this study, and they shared that the hospitality piece of the study was the BIGGEST surprise of the entire project. Nobody expected it. But there it was in the data.

Specifically, they found that households that regularly welcome non-family guests are more spiritually vibrant. Those who practice hospitality end up praying together more, having deeper conversations, and forging more meaningful relationships. And here's a number that really caused me to think...four in ten practicing Christian households do not regularly host visitors. The group least likely to have people over? Couples. Nearly half of couple households say they rarely have people over at all.

Reading all of this led me to think about my own life growing up, I realize that my parents actually did a wonderful job in this area. Our home was regularly open to people--extended family, my parent's small group Bible Study, the church counters, and our neighbors. If we extend the idea of hospitality outside of the home--which we very much should--I can point to many different ways my parents made other people to feel welcomed and included. I didn't fully appreciate it at the



time, but looking back, I can see how that shaped me. It shaped the way I viewed community, friendship, and what it meant to belong somewhere.

In the church, we often speak of hospitality as a "spiritual gift," as if it's something only given to certain people. And it may be true that it comes more naturally to some than others. But Scripture is pretty clear: **we are all called to practice hospitality.** Romans 12:13 doesn't say "those who have the gift of hospitality should be eager to practice it." It says *always be eager*. That's for all of us.

BUT THE OBSTACLES ARE REAL! I don't want to minimize the reasons we hold back, because most of them are legitimate. The house isn't in great shape (I'm not sure if my house even HAS a shape at this point 😊). We're exhausted. We don't know where to start. I get it.

I'd gently push back on one thing: I have a gut feeling that most of us aren't holding back because of logistics. We're holding back because we're afraid of being judged. Personally, as a somewhat socially awkward dude, there is a lot of anxiety about how I might be viewed by others the more they get to know me. Also, we may be holding back because we've set an impossibly high standard for what hospitality is supposed to look like. We're waiting until the house is perfect, the meal is impressive, and the timing is just right. And that moment ends up never coming.

Here's what I've found to be true. People don't remember how clean your house was. They remember how they felt when they walked in. A pizza on the table and a genuine invitation communicates something that no church program can replicate. This is something I've noticed the more that we've tried to do this as a Kittleman family.

So what does hospitality look like?

Practically speaking, hospitality doesn't have to be a dinner party. It can be as simple as saying "come

over after church" to someone who seems to be hurrying home alone. It can be a Saturday morning with coffee and no agenda. Most importantly, it ***isn't just limited to inviting people to our homes.*** It can be providing a meal for a family going through a hard season. It can be inviting and going to a park with the new family you've noticed but haven't introduced yourself to yet.

And don't forget that ***receiving hospitality*** is also part of this. Letting others cook for you, welcoming you, and care for you is its own act of grace. Some of us are better at giving than receiving, and that's worth paying attention to. There comes a time when all of us need to be on the receiving end of hospitality, and it's important to humbly receive that.

So here's a "simple" challenge for you. During these summer months, I want to challenge you to invite one person or one family into your home. Keep it simple. Don't overthink it. Just open the door.

I don't want to give you a panic attack, though 😊. If hosting genuinely feels impossible right now because of health, limited space, or a particularly difficult season of life, that's okay. Look for another way to extend welcome. Meet someone for coffee. Bring a meal to someone else's home. Send a note to someone who might be lonely. Hospitality is an attitude, not just a location.

And be on the lookout. Later this summer, heading into the fall, we will be providing people at COS some opportunities to share a meal and some time together. Stay tuned for more about that.

Let me be real with you: I'm preaching to myself here as much as to anyone else. My family is still learning this. We've taken some major steps out of our comfort zone, but we have so much still to learn. You could say we're...practicing! 😊 But I believe it's worth learning...and, yes, worth practicing, even imperfectly.

An open door is a small thing that does an enormous thing. It says to others--"*you matter*". It sends the message, "*you belong*". It conveys the idea to others that "*there is room for you here*". And in saying those things, it reflects the love of Jesus himself.

In Christ,
Josh



Membership Updates

As of June 8, 2026

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

We periodically include in this report names

of 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@christoursavior.org) or the church office (734-522-6830).

Deceased

Mechelle Schwesing on April 18
Suzanne Oswald on April 22
Jean Gabriel on May 17
Jerry Kaye on May 29

Received by Other

Breanna Degen on June 7
Chase Wiley on June 7

Removed by Other

Joseph Burke on May 18
Caroline Garrison on May 18

Received by Confirmation

Bob Acton on June 7
Emma Arnold on May 17
Keith Costello on June 7
Lois Costello on June 7
Josh Daves on June 7
Karen Degen on June 7
Toy Heard-Milliner on June 7
Tom Knisley on June 7
Carlie Lawrence on June 7
Rachel Wiley on June 7
Jake Yee on May 17

Received by Transfer from Other LCMS

Zach Swanson on June 7

Received by Profession of Faith

Robert Bloom on June 7
Vicki Bloom on June 7
Jason Degen on June 7
Connie Freeman on June 7
Clyde Phillips on June 7
Jon Truchan on June 7
Lenny Werner III on June 7
Lisa Werner on June 7
Barb Wiley on June 7
Brad Wiley on June 7
Wes Wiley on June 7

Received by Transfer from Other Lutheran

Emily McGowan on June 7

Memorials

<i>Given in memory of:</i>	<i>Intended for:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Suzanne Oswald	General Fund Music Ministry	The Falkenburg Family, Ruth Germeroth, Mel & Sharon Mysliwicz, Todd & Kris Mysliwicz & Family, Jeff & Kristi, Charlotte Wyrabkiewicz, Robert & Lydia Zwarka Lois Drake, the Raezler Family
Jean Gabriel	General Fund Family of God	Toby Sloan Ruth Germeroth
Cecilia Kendrick	General Fund	Katherine J. Tyson
Jerry Kaye	General Fund Family of God	The Raezler Family Dianne Sherman
Amilcheri Giandiletti	Food Pantry	Anonymous
Nancy Kleven	General Fund	Wesley Kleven



New Member Bios

Received on June 7, 2026

Bob Acton was confirmed into our congregation on June 7. A widower, he currently lives in Livonia.



My name is **Robert Bloom** and I am married to **Victoria Bloom**. We were members of Christ Our Savior for a long time. Ten years ago, we moved to Florida and joined Messiah Lutheran in Cape Coral. We are getting older and missed family and friends. We decided to move once again and are now back home in Michigan.



Lois Costello is a retired elementary teacher and currently teaches various fitness classes in West Bloomfield. She likes to keep busy in her "free time" by taking walks, riding bikes, and enjoying nature in her backyard! Lois enjoys reading and learning more about our country's history as well as realistic fiction books. A classic movie buff, she has several recorded that are waiting for her on their DVR! Lois has been married to Keith Costello for 34 & 1/2 years, loves all animals (esp. dogs, cats, and horses!) and is looking forward to travelling more around the USA with Keith to enjoy and learn more about all that it has to offer!

Keith Costello retired from the Information Technology industry where he spent 43+ years architecting large IBM business solutions, however, he is clueless on fixing Windows PCs! Keith is a lover of nature and being outdoors, riding bikes, and exploring state and National Parks. Keith never ceases to be amazed at God's creations on our beautiful planet.

Josh Daves was confirmed into our congregation on June 7. He and his wife reside in Garden City.



We are the **Degen family**. Breanna just turned two years old. She is a happy girl who loves her baby dolls, reading her books, and singing. She brings us great joy and we feel so blessed to have her in our lives. Jason is a design engineer who enjoys flying and spending time with his family. I (Karen) am a long-time middle school teacher who is about to start a new adventure. I am retiring from my school and I am excited to have more time to spend with family. I can't wait to see what this next chapter brings. As a family we enjoy traveling and being outdoors. Jason and I are also working in our pickleball game.

Connie Freeman was born and raised in Garden City and attended St. Matthew Lutheran (1st in GC, then Westland). She lived for 5 yrs in California; Graduated WSU 1980 B.A. in Occupational Therapy. She worked with adults/children in



patient/rehab/outpatient for 41 yrs. She enjoys visiting family in Ohio, Florida, California & Canada. Her interests include reading, music (contemporary & classical), photography, crafting and sports (Redwings, Tigers, Lions). She played softball, golf and enjoys roller blading.

Toyika Heard-Milliner was confirmed into our congregation on June 7. She resides in Livonia.



My name is **Thomas Knisley**, and Christ Our Savior has been an important part of my life for many years. I first attended COS in 2006 when I began dating my wife, Nicole, and we were later married at church in 2012. Since then, we have remained active



members of the congregation and have enjoyed building lasting relationships through various church activities and community events. Professionally, I earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Wayne State University and work in the semiconductor industry, where I focus on developing innovative materials that help enable the next generation of advanced microelectronic devices. Outside of work, I enjoy following the latest technology and security trends, building and upgrading computers, working on outdoor projects, fishing, playing pickleball, and spending time with family and friends. I am grateful for the opportunity to formally be part of the Christ Our Savior community and appreciate the friendships, support, and connections that have enriched our lives over the years. I am also excited to officially put a title to that commitment through membership and look forward to continuing to grow in faith and fellowship with the Christ Our Savior family.



Hello! We are **Carlie Lawrence** and **Jon Truchan**. We're getting married in October and are very excited to start our life together! one of our first steps of our relationship was finding a church we felt

we could grow in, and we are extremely pleased to have found Christ Our Savior!



My name is **Clyde Phillips** and I am originally from Washington D.C. I served in the US Navy and retired from Ford. Also was an Adjunct Professor (Computer Info. Systems) at Schoolcraft College. I married Helen Hines

on June 5, 1971, and have two great children, Rochelle and Jamie. Rochelle lives in South Lyon, MI, and Jamie lives in Kennet Square, PA. We have 4 grandchildren Jessica, Joshua, Jon and Brooke. My wife, Helen, recently passed away. I became a communicant member of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Lincoln Park, MI.



Hello everyone! My name is **Emily Stice-McGowan**. I work as a speech therapist in the schools, and I truly enjoy helping students grow in their communication skills and confidence. In my free time, I love reading, watching movies,

and crocheting. I enjoy traveling to new places, as well as visiting Disney World with my husband. I'm excited to continue getting to know everyone and to be part of such a wonderful church community!

Zachary Swanson transferred his membership to our congregation from University Chapel in Ann Arbor. He and his wife live in Canton.



We are **Lenny** and **Lisa Werner**, and we are blessed to be celebrating 40 years of marriage this year. We are proud parents of a daughter and two sons, and grandparents to five beautiful grandchildren with another on

the way! We have lived in Redford for over 35 years and previously attended Grace Lutheran Church in Redford, we are happy to have found our new church home and family at Christ Our Savior. When we aren't spending time with our family, Lisa enjoys reading, crocheting, and

crafting in between her work as an Executive Assistant at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Lenny, who is retired from Kroger, enjoys coin collecting, antiquing, and traveling with Lisa and the family.

Brad, Rachel and **Chase Wiley** are thrilled to be joining Christ Our Savior as new members! Brad is a lifelong LCMS Lutheran and co-owner of our family business. Rachel is a tenured elementary Spanish teacher with Clarkston Community Schools. We are the proud parents of our sweet 9-month-old son, Chase, and our rescue dog Piper, who will turn six this year. This August we will celebrate our 3rd wedding anniversary along with Chase's first birthday! Originally from Michigan (Livonia is home), we love spending time outdoors and on the water. Parenthood keeps us wonderfully busy, and we feel incredibly blessed to be surrounded by extended family and friends. We are excited to make Christ Our Savior our church home and look forward to worshiping and growing with the congregation. We are blessed.

Wesley & Barb Wiley: We met in 1983. We were married in June 1987. Our first son Bradley was born in November of 1989. Our second son Morgan was born in June 1995. Brad & Rachel were married in August 2023. Morgan and Madeleine were married in June 2025. Chase our grandson was born in August 2025 to Brad and Rachel. We lived in Novi for 23 years and currently live in Plymouth with our dog Barney the Scottish Terrier.



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).

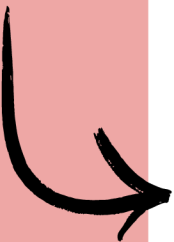
We reserve the right to make final decisions on what is published. We try to print articles as submitted, but will edit if necessary. Items will be included as space allows.

This is YOUR newsletter. Feel free to use it!



Words of Gratitude

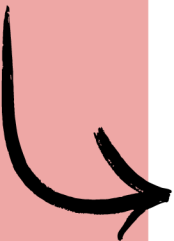
Thank You Notes from our Members



Dear friends and family at Christ Our Savior,

Judy Bruder wishes to share her sincere gratitude for all of the prayers, cards, meals and rides that she received from all of you. She is overwhelmed with love from everyone! You have truly been the hands and feet of Christ, giving help and encouragement during her recent health difficulties.

We continue to keep Judy in our prayers and look forward to welcoming her back to services!



Thank you so much to all of you for the many prayers, cards, offers of help, phone calls, subbing at the Welcome Desk. I definitely felt covered in Christ's love. I am very humbled and grateful to be part of Christ Our Savior and for the Christian love shown to me through you.

As is says in James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above." You are that good and perfect gift.

In Christ's love, Thank you,
Jill Ritzler.



What's Happening with our Youth

Youth News & Updates

It's been a great couple of months for our youth here at COS since our last update! We wanted to take a moment to share some highlights and give you a peek at what's coming up!

A Look Back

May was a particularly memorable month. Seven of our students were confirmed in the faith, and it was such a special occasion for our confirmands, their parents, and our entire congregation! These students and their families are in our prayers as they continue to grow in their walk with Christ.

May also brought us our annual Lock-In. This year the lock-in had a Survivor twist! Teams of students competed against each other in a night full of challenges, games, and even a "survivor auction". As exhausting as lock-ins can be, we find that these evenings create memories that students (and definitely our adult leaders!) don't forget quickly.

By the time you read this, we will have completed our VBS, which took place June 22-26. Over 35 of our 7th-12th graders showed up to serve as leaders! Watching our students step up, serve well, and invest in our younger kids was a joy to see. It's a great picture of faith being shared across generations right here at COS.

Finally, at the end of June, 12 students and 5 adult leaders are heading up to Mackinac Island for the Michigan District High School youth gathering. They'll be joining many other youth from across the state for a special time together. The theme is "Mighty Waters".

What's Coming Up

There's still a lot of summer left, and plenty of ways to stay connected!

- **Summer Youth (Wednesdays, 6-8pm)** continues through August 19th. Come as you are and bring a friend! We will not be meeting July 1st due to the youth gathering.



- **Sportway Family Night** is July 24th, a fun Friday night out for all families. We'll meet at 7pm.
- **MI District Jr. High Gathering** (July 28-30): Our junior highs head to Frankenmuth to connect with students from across the district. The theme this year is "Alien Fellowship"
- **Honduras Mission Trip** (August 7-14): We have three parent-youth participants joining 10 others on a mission trip to Honduras. This is incredibly special and something we hope to see more of in the future. Please keep them in prayer!
- **Lunch at the Lake** is August 15th. A relaxed Saturday lunch together. This has become a COS tradition, and we'd love more people to join us! Details coming soon!
- **The Church Picnic** is August 30th after the 11am service. The whole congregation is invited!

A final word of thanks and an invitation

We are so grateful for the group of volunteers who pour their time into our confirmation process and our youth ministry. They genuinely enjoy spending time with our students. We can't thank this team enough! We will be holding a volunteer training meeting in the fall to continue growing together. If you have ever thought about getting involved with our youth, that would be a great time to reach out to Nathan or Pastor Joel at youth@choursavior.org!

Field Day!

Early Childhood Program Update



our Moms of Faith group also joined us and had a wonderful time. It was really special to have so many people coming together for an event like this.

WOW! What a wonderful end to the school year and a great start to summer!

Before we jump into what's happening now, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate our ECP Preschool Graduation, which was a truly special evening. It was a joy to honor all of our graduating students and to recognize everything they've accomplished during their time in our program. We will especially miss those who are heading off to kindergarten this fall. They have each made such an impression on our staff and on this community, and we pray that the foundation of faith they've built here continues to grow as they move into this exciting new chapter!

One of the other highlights of the end of our school year was our very first ECP Field Day — and it could not have gone any better! A big thank you goes out to the volunteers from COS, COS staff, and our ECP families whose help made the day run so smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you! The children of

The kids rotated through six different stations: a tricycle race, a potato sack race, the "pass the plate" game, an obstacle course on the playground, a pool noodle race, and a hula hoop toss. Then, as a grand finale, everyone gathered on the hill to cheer on the "infant crawl," which was, let's just say, a crowd favorite! We wrapped it all up with a hot dog lunch. It was a great morning, and we are already looking forward to making Field Day an annual tradition!

By the time you read this, we will be about a month into our summer program. Each day looks a little different, which keeps things fresh and fun for the children! One thing that continues throughout the summer is our weekly chapel. Church staff will be coming into the classroom each week to spend some time in God's Word with the children. We love the fact that even during the summer months, our kids are still hearing about Jesus' love for them on a regular basis. Our ECP children also participate fully in VBS at Christ Our Savior, which is one more thing they get to look forward to!

As always, please continue to keep our ECP staff, children, and families in your prayers. We are so grateful for the support of our Christ Our Savior family — it truly makes a difference!

-Josh Kittleman

Fellowship with the Forever Young

Forever Young News and Updates



Our Forever Young committee has been having so much fun planning, organizing and participating in our monthly activities with all of you!! I believe God is really blessing all of us through this ministry! The mission of Forever Young is to provide a pathway for seniors, their friends, neighbors, and other Lutheran congregations to strengthen their bonds of friendship, fellowship and faith. It is an opportunity to develop new Christian friendships, sharing the encouragement, comfort and joy of Christ with one another along our lives' pathways!

Some of Forever Young's recent outings have been: The Zekelman Holocaust Center, The Detroit Institute of Arts, the DSO's "Songs of America" concert, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, the Redford Theater for classic movie showings. (There are generally 20-50+ participants!) We're having a great time, join us!

Coming up: Belle Isle Picnic Excursion | Thursday, July 16, 2026 | \$20 Bus Cost

First things first – As many of you know, and also to allay any misgivings – Belle Isle is now a beautifully kept and well-managed Michigan State Park! It is truly a premier municipal park!

Bring your own lunch to our picnic spot, the Woodview Drive Picnic Shelter, toward the southeast end of the island, facing Canada. There are restrooms nearby and we will have shade, weather protection and river breezes as we watch the boats and ships sail by! Suggestion: bring a table game (checkers, Scrabble, Trivia cards, deck of cards, etc.) We have a bean bag toss!

Reacquaint yourself with "Detroit's Island Jewel"! Not only a beautiful nature and scenic spot, with recreational activities galore, there are also outstanding historical architectural and cultural sites in "Detroit's Backyard". We'll be touring the Belle Isle Aquarium and Whitcomb Conservatory and Gardens, both designed by Detroit's Architect, Albert Kahn. They were both opened to the public in 1904 and are the oldest running venues of their kind in the US.

Other notable sites of interest on our bus ride around the island are: the gateway onto the island, The Douglas MacArthur Bridge; James Scott Memorial Fountain; Dossin Great Lakes Maritime Museum; Belle Isle Casino; Belle Isle Yacht Club; Bell Tower; Marble Lighthouse.

The sign-up sheet for Belle Isle (and other Forever Young events) is in the narthex on the Forever Young display table.

Other events: Music from the Heart at Livonia Civic Center Park | Thursday, August 13, 2026 | FREE!

The committee encourages your feedback, suggestions, remarks!!

Submitted by Linda Waara

Belle Isle Park PICNIC*

Thursday, July 16, 2026
Detroit, Michigan

***BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**
\$20 PER PERSON -

- Includes Bus Transportation, State Park access, and reserved Pavilion with Picnic Tables
- FREE access to Conservatory, Aquarium and Nature Center
- + \$5 for Dossin Great Lakes Museum

11:00 AM DEPARTURE FROM COS; 3:00 PM RETURN

Livonia Love Livonia

MUSIC FROM THE HEART
A Groovy Outdoor Concert Experience

FREE!!!
Bring a lawn chair or blanket

7:00 PM ~ Thursday, August 13, 2026
Livonia City Hall
33000 Civic Center Drive
South of Five Mile • East of Farmington Road

Buddy's Pizza at 5 PM
Join us for dinner before the show

→ ★ Please sign up in the Narthex for table count ★ →

Classifieds



Tutoring

Karen R. Hoeft
Tutoring in my home.
28341 Oakley St., Livonia 48154
Grades 3-8; all subjects
(math through grade 5)
\$20 half hour; \$35 hour
Call or text 734.837.7711



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Your ad could be here!

Send a business card-sized (3.5" x 2") ad for your business, product or service to alyssak@christoursavior.org to be included in the Disciplegram. There is no fee for advertising—our goal to increase the connections in our congregation. Ads will be included as space allows; our staff reserves the right to make final decisions on what is included.

Food for Thought

"Faith does not
eliminate questions.

But faith knows
where to take
them."

Elisabeth Elliot
*A Chance to Die: The Life and
Legacy of Amy Carmichael*

Q. WHAT DO THEY CALL PASTORS IN GERMANY?

A. GERMAN SHEPHERDS.

Q. WHO WAS THE GREATEST FINANCIER IN THE BIBLE?

A. NOAH. HE WAS FLOATING HIS STOCK WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS IN LIQUIDATION.

Q. WHAT WAS THE GREATEST FEMALE FINANCIER IN THE BIBLE?

A. PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER. SHE WENT DOWN TO THE BANK OF THE NILE AND DREW OUT A LITTLE PROPHET.

Q. WHO WAS THE GREATEST COMEDIAN IN THE BIBLE?

A. SAMSON. HE BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN.

Q. WHAT EXCUSE DID ADAM GIVE TO HIS CHILDREN AS TO WHY HE NO LONGER LIVED IN EDEN?

A. YOUR MOTHER ATE US OUT OF HOUSE AND HOME.

Q. WHICH AREA OF PALESTINE WAS ESPECIALLY WEALTHY?

A. THE AREA AROUND JORDAN. THE BANKS WERE ALWAYS OVERFLOWING.

Q. WHO IS THE GREATEST BABY SITTER MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE?

A. DAVID. HE ROCKED GOLIATH TO A VERY DEEP SLEEP.

The Lighter Side

