

November/
December 2025

DISCIPLEGRAM

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

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"Help Wanted: Co-laborers Awaiting Our King"

Legend has it that, prior to his daring expedition to the South Pole, 20th century explorer Ernest Shackleton placed this advertisement in the classified section of the newspaper: "Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success." As the story goes, men answered this advertisement in droves. Whether or not those exact words ever ran in print, there is something refreshing about an invitation that doesn't sugarcoat the cost. There's no bait-and-switch here. Just a clear-eyed call and the promise of a worthy end.

Maybe I can learn from that kind of honesty in how I present the path of discipleship. Jesus certainly used this level of blunt honesty. He spoke of crosses, narrow roads, and seeds that have to fall into the ground and die before they bear fruit. The kingdom isn't a hobby but a calling. And strangely, when we tell the truth about the work, people don't run away. They lean in.

So here's a church-volunteer version in the spirit of Shackleton: "Volunteers wanted for ordinary work. Long months of steady effort, encouragement intermittent, applause unlikely. Expect your patience to be stretched, but friendships deepened. Eternal impact for others and yourself.

Glory not guaranteed to us but all given to Christ.”

That’s the reality of church service. You show up early. You stack chairs. You rewrite a lesson because the third-graders didn’t track last week. You practice music when your voice is tired. You take a casserole to a house no one notices. You don’t get a medal. But you do get formed. You learn how to pray with people, and you discover

gifts you didn’t know you had.

We don’t serve to earn God’s love. We serve because, in Christ, we already have it in full. And love wants to work.

As I write this, the Advent Season is fast approaching. And, we should be clear: this time of year is not merely cookies and Christmas pageants. Those are good gifts, but they’re not the whole story. Advent is full of “bitter cold, long months of complete darkness.” Some homes feel emptier than they did last year. Some burdens feel heavier. Advent is a cold, dark time, and it’s a time of work.

Advent reminds us that we are keeping watch in the long, cold dark as we await our King. We are at our posts: preparing the way, praying for our city, teaching children, visiting the lonely, setting tables, practicing songs, repairing what’s broken, counting offerings, working the tech booth. It isn’t all glorious. But He is all glorious. The Light does shine in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

As we work, we serve the King who has already come. Jesus was born in a manger, laid in straw, stooping into our darkness to lift us into His life. He has come, and He comes still: in His Word that recreates us, in His Supper that sustains us, and in His Spirit who refuses to let the cold darkness have the last word. He meets us all, and he invites us all to join in this road of discipleship.

Here is my straightforward advent call to you: do the work God has given you. If you are in a cold, hard, difficult stretch—then hear this Advent promise: that is exactly where He loves to work. Not after you’ve tidied up your life, but in the middle of the mess. Not once the darkness lifts, but while you’re learning to strike the next match of faith. He is not embarrassed by your need; He is eager to fill it. Show up once more than feels convenient. Pray for a new person by name. And if you’re already serving, don’t look for a stage; look for the next small, faithful thing and do it with love. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The days are short. The work is real. The King is near. Let’s ready the way together.

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

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Pastor in Assimilation, Outreach &
Women’s Ministry

Karla Schettenhelm, *Assistant to*
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MISSIONARIES

Rev. David Erber—*Nigeria*

Rev. Charles Ferry—*Indonesia*

Rev. Steven Mahlburg—*Macau*

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

Pastor Joel Werner
Pastor Joel Werner

2025 Collections for Lutheran World Relief

**Featured
Ministry**



The organization Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was founded in the years following World War II. In response to the crisis situations faced by many all over the world, a group of people, united by Lutheran theology, decided to reach out in love, live in the faith we have from Christ and—help. In the decades since then, LWR has grown and gained experience in providing care and support to those going through emergency situations or living in poverty.

Our congregation has a long history of partnering with LWR by donating quilts, personal care kits, and school supplies to them for distribution to those in need. Our faith also invites us to help those in need, and even when we don't have the resources to travel to war-torn regions, or the experience to know where to send care packages, we can use the tools and skills available in our own homes to comfort the needy. (You can learn more about Lutheran World Relief by visiting their website, lwr.org.)

This past October, we sent off a shipment of kits and quilts to LWR. Here is what a few of our members shared about this year's donations.

From Dianne Sherman:

Thanks to our church members who contributed the school supplies to fill 300 totes that were sent to Lutheran World Relief a few weeks ago.

Special thanks to Joanna Eiwen who helps coordinate this mission and the many congregation members who helped on two Saturdays for about two hours each to help undo packaging on supplies and fill each of the 300 totes with the listed items and seal on the cartons to ship. Extra items were shared with Family of God, and our local Lutheran Schools—St. Paul Northville, St. Matthew Westland and St. Michael Wayne.

From Marilyn Southers:

Lutheran World Relief had another successful year thanks to all of our donations and team effort. The quilters shipped 341 quilts (50 of them from Hosanna Tabor). We also receive quilts made to LWR specifications from Judy Mayle and Wendy Kamrath. Thank you ladies. Personal care kits were 110 and School totes hit their goal of 300. Good thing some of our parishioners have trucks to load the boxes from COS and take them to Lutheran High



Our members helped to load the boxes and drop them off at Lutheran High Westland



Marlene celebrates her 90th birthday



Westland. Thank you for your help in loading the boxes and driving them.

In addition, quilters love donations; fabric, thread, sheets in any condition and size. Egg cartons like the one pictured below are used to pack our quilts, school totes and personal care kits. Next trip to the grocery store, ask the dairy department if they will part with one or two boxes. We will take them!



Thank you again for a successful 2025.

Additionally, one of our Tuesday Quilters celebrated a major milestone!

So blessed to have Marlene Albright in our Tuesday Quilting group. Marlene just turned 90 years old so we celebrated with a crown and sash that said, "90 and Fabulous". We couldn't agree more. Marlene continues to sew our quilt tops, remove the seams and elastic from the fitted sheets and she irons the best of all of us. She was joined by her daughter, Nancy and one of her grandsons, Devlin, for lunch and cake. Happy Birthday blessings.

We are on the lookout for Ardythe St. Pierre and Kathy Frank to return to quilting after recovering from some medical issues. Take a look at our bulletin board located across from the office for our 90's quilters!

Delivering Love and Care Homebound Ministry

Did you know that Christ Our Savior has a Homebound Ministry? Do you know what they do? Is there room in your heart for this ministry?

First let us explain what the Homebound ministry is.

The Homebound ministry is lay person ministry that serves as an extension of our pastors. Our pastors regularly visit and provide communion for those unable to attend church in person.

The main focus of this lay person ministry is to bring the fellowship of like believers to the homebound places of residence. Homebound ministry began humbly in 2008 with the team delivering gift bags for Christmas and Easter as well as a poinsettia and Easter lily. Since that time the ministry has expanded into many other connections. This typically involves sending cards on holidays and birthdays, making phone calls, providing lap quilts, and delivering special devotion packages during Advent and Easter (they also contain goody bags of

snacks). These devotions will follow the midweek church sermon series which can accompany the online videos of the church services. Some visits do not have to be related to a specific event, but can be a check in to say hello. Also, coming next year there will be the addition of **Fur Blessings** visits. Whatever the circumstance, the point of the ministry is to bring the fellowship of COS members to the homebound as a community of believers.

We presently have around twenty volunteers, but there is a need for more. If this is a ministry of interest to you, please contact the coordinator Lois Drake (734-776-6285) or the church office. We will need help delivering the gift bags before Advent begins this year.

If this ministry is not something you can support at this time, please put the homebound in your prayers (the list of members is on the weekly bulletin).

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

—Lori Wiltenburg



Materials for the Advent 2025 care packages

The Comfort Animal Crew Brings You:

A Sweet Word from Toffee

Hi! My name is Toffee. I'm COS's first therapy dog. My people are the pair-o-docs—the Parrishes. When Elenn' picked me up at the rescue place when I was 5 months old, neither of us had any idea what was ahead. I would have been shaking in my boots if I had. (Later Elenn' bought me boots, but I really don't like to wear them!). The lady at the shelter said that I was a sweet boy. I don't think she was talking about my taste buds. I do like chewing on stinky slippers and shoes. (Steve calls me "Destructo"—when I'm not constructively busy). I'm really quite a happy dog, and people say I'm really cute or "adorable". All I know is that I LOVE people (and all kinds of animals, too). I have come to know many people in our neighborhood. Loving them comes so naturally to me.

I guess maybe the Top Dog of COS's **Fur Blessings** Natalie Hansen, saw some potential in me even just from a photograph. She immediately asked about my being part of this new and exciting project of blessing people with furry friends. Well, I guess I qualify as furry, or fluffy! And every time I see someone new, I want to get to know them! My tail keeps wagging. I just can't help it! I also have the problem of short dog syndrome—I want to jump up on people. But I guess that's not okay, most of the time. So, I needed some training.

I really enjoyed my "Canine Good Citizenship" training with Katie. You might have seen us all training together on Wednesday evenings this summer. I learned to walk nicely, sit and stay, "place", lie down, go up and down stairs, enter and ride an elevator, and to come when called. The hardest thing to learn was "off"—to not jump up on people. I just want to meet them! After 8 sessions with Katie, I was ready to attend the big, once-a-year weekend training for Therapy Dog certification. It was RUFF! There were lots of other dogs there, too, but we couldn't say "hi" to each other. We were there to work.

We all had to learn to get on a public bus and how to sit in different "seats". We weren't on the seats. The people (they called them "handlers") were. We had to fit into the spaces at their feet. I lost count (wait, I don't know how to count...) of how many times we had to go on and get off the bus! We all got pretty good at it.

Then we went to the Flint airport and learned how to go through security. I had to lie down in front of the metal detector and wait for Elenn' to go through first, and then go to her when she called. Katie had trained us very well on this. We did great!

Probably the best part of the day (besides the rest time in the car between places) was the time at the Village. It was an outside mall, and we got to see lots of people. I got so much loving! I guess that's because I give so much loving. Oh, that's probably the point! I guess I'm getting to be a pretty smart dog!

The second day Elenn' and I had to show that we could weave around paper plates of freshly cooked cut pieces of sausage without going after the yummy meat. Now THAT was ruff! But I was very good and followed instructions, and went away hungry. Sigh.

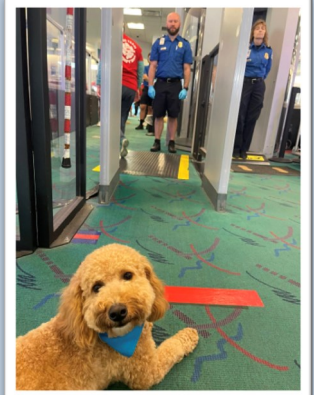
Stairs were the next task. We had to go up and down stairs and stop many times, showing that I could "heel" even on the stairs.

Later, we went to a fire station and had to get up close and personal to the loud fire engine. We even walked beside the fire truck when the sirens were blaring!

And then, we got the good news: we ALL passed! After all of my training, I got 3 ribbons from the American Kennel Club: Canine Good Citizen, AKC Community Canine, and AKC Urban Canine Good Citizen. Now Elenn' and I have to "shadow" experienced teams on 10 different events to get the final clearance to go out on our own visits.



Boarding the BIG bus



At the airport, listening for my name



Walking nicely through the Villages



The sausage test

Practicing
work
around
assistive
devices

I want to thank all of you who helped make this training possible for me! I'm so glad that I can be used by our Creator to bless hearts. I guess I was made for this! I also want to thank the committee for their love and support. Some of them even came to the training weekend. I love yoooooooooooooou!

So, if you see me
Fur Blessings
around church, I'd

love to say "hi". Like I said, I just love meeting new people!

—Toffee Parrish



Leaning Into the Hard Questions: Challenge as Part of Family Discipleship

"Why does God allow bad things to happen?" "I'm not sure if I can believe in Hell." "How can we trust the Bible when it was written so long ago?" "What about people who never hear about Jesus?"

In 20+ years of working with people of all ages in a congregational setting, I've discussed questions and doubts like these quite frequently. I've wrestled with them as I've led various high school youth groups, sitting on old couches with teenagers brave enough to voice what they were really thinking. I've had these very same conversations with college students in my office at Concordia. Most recently, the question of "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" came up in a group of older adults I was with—proving that wrestling with hard questions isn't just a young person's journey. It's a human journey.

Questions and doubts like these often make us pause and swallow hard. They're uncomfortable. They don't have easy answers. And if we're honest, sometimes they touch on areas where our own faith feels a bit shaky.

Challenge: A Mark of Healthy Ministry

I mentioned in a Disciplegram a year ago how the

LCMS identified "Challenge" as an important part of effective ministry to youth (though I truly believe this applies to everyone regardless of age). The LCMS defined 'challenge' this way: **"Challenge is being willing to engage in tough spiritual conversations. Standing firmly in God's Word, it faces the questions and confusion we experience living in our current culture."**

But here's the thing: while we may intellectually agree that challenge is important, we often struggle to actually practice it—especially in our homes. I'm convinced that one of the main reasons we avoid having the necessary spiritual conversations with the people we love is because we're afraid of being asked the tough questions. Questions we're not prepared for. Things we might have learned in Sunday School or Confirmation class a looonng time ago but have totally forgotten the answers to.

So instead of engaging in faith conversations, we don't even bring them up. We focus on sports, movies, pop culture, or a hundred other safe topics instead. This is a natural human response—self-protection against feeling inadequate or foolish. The irony is that by avoiding these conversations to protect ourselves from feeling inadequate, we may

inadvertently communicate to our loved ones that their questions aren't welcome or that our faith can't handle scrutiny. We don't mean to send these messages, but our silence can speak louder than words.

So what can we do? Well, here are some thoughts on how to create space for "challenge"—in our homes, among our friends, in our community, and within our church family. I didn't want to ask Alyssa for five pages in the Disciplegram, so these are just a few suggestions.

It's Okay to Say "I Don't Know"

I've shared this before, but let me say it again: you don't have to have all the answers. When someone asks you a difficult theological question and you genuinely don't know the answer, it's perfectly acceptable to say, "That's a really great question, and I honestly don't know the answer. But I'd love to explore it with you."

This response validates the question, models humility, keeps the conversation going, and turns the moment into an opportunity to learn and grow together. Young people (and people of all ages) respect honesty far more than they respect fake certainty. When you admit you don't have all the answers but you're committed to seeking truth together, you're modeling what genuine faith actually looks like—a living relationship with a God who is bigger than our complete understanding.

Find Trusted Friends and Mentors Who Can Help

We don't have to navigate tough questions alone. God designed us to live in community for this very reason—we need each other's wisdom, experience, and perspective. If you don't have it already, think about building a small network of trusted people you can turn to when hard questions come up—mature Christian friends, pastors, people from church, etc. At the very least, these trusted people can be praying for you as you navigate difficult conversations with your children or with others. But often, they can offer insights, point you to Scripture passages, recommend resources, or simply encourage you that it's okay to wrestle with hard things.

Utilize Available Resources

We are blessed to have many resources available to help us address challenging questions. Our church library is full of books on apologetics, Biblical commentaries, and study materials for all ages. Our church staff, including our pastors, are always open to help you work through difficult questions and would be grateful you're taking your faith seriously enough to wrestle with it. We also have many lay members who are students of Scripture and would

consider it a privilege to share what they've learned over decades of faithful study. Online resources—like Lutheran Hour Ministries (lhm.org) for example—can also provide solid perspectives, though it's important to ensure you're consulting trustworthy sources that stand firmly on Scripture.

Pray for Courage

At the end of the day, leaning into tough conversations requires courage. It takes bravery to sit with someone in their doubts without trying to immediately fix them or make the discomfort go away. But here's the awesome truth: the courage we need doesn't have to come from within ourselves. We can pray for it. We can ask our Heavenly Father—who already knows our fears and inadequacies—to give us the courage we lack. We can pray before we sit down to have a difficult conversation with our teenager. We can pray as we drive to meet with a friend who's struggling with doubt. We can even pray quick prayers in the moment when we're caught off guard by an unexpected question. My kids will tell you that "Lord, give me strength" is a quick prayer I've prayed many times in these moments. We can take heart that all throughout scripture the Lord promises to give us the strength we need for the tasks that He calls us to.

Extending Grace

Finally, remember that God's grace covers this too. You're going to mess up these conversations sometimes. You'll say the wrong thing, lose your patience, or give an answer you later realize wasn't quite right. That's okay. We're all still learning, still growing, still being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. The goal isn't perfection but faithfulness—showing up, being willing to engage, and trusting that God can work through our imperfect efforts.

So, I know these suggestions may be pretty obvious, but I hope they help give you a bit of confidence and direction when you come across difficult faith conversations with others. Ultimately, I pray that our individual homes, as well as our family of faith here at COS, will be places where challenge is welcomed—where questions can be asked, where doubts can be expressed, and where we walk together toward deeper understanding and stronger faith. Because when we stand firmly in God's Word while facing the questions and confusion of our current culture, we're not just engaging in some intellectual exercise. We're living out what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength—and loving our neighbors (including our family members) as ourselves.

—Josh Kittleman

"Freed"

2025 Arcadia Confirmation Camp



"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." -Galatians 5:1

There's something special about getting away from our everyday routines and spending focused time together in God's Word. This year, 15 confirmation students and 9 adult leaders/parents from COS had the opportunity to do just that at Camp Arcadia, and by all accounts, it was a fantastic weekend that we hope our students will remember for a long time.

A Weekend of Grace and Truth

The theme for the weekend was "Freed" based on the book of Galatians. Our speaker, Pastor Scott Geiger, did a wonderful job unpacking what it means to be truly free in Christ. He walked our students through three key points: We are freed FROM the lies of sin, death, and the devil. We are freed THROUGH Jesus and His saving work. And we are freed FOR a purpose—"to serve one another humbly in love". May others see Jesus working through us!

Pastor Geiger shared powerful stories throughout the weekend that really connected with our students. One story that particularly stood out was about a 14-year-old boy in juvenile detention who had been an accomplice to murder. This young man had believed the lie that nobody liked him. Pastor Geiger ministered to him and helped him learn the grace of Jesus, reminding him that "God specializes in people who screw up. He's the one who saves us when we can't save ourselves." What a beautiful truth for all of us to remember!

Throughout the weekend, Pastor Geiger encouraged

our students to memorize Galatians 2:20 and Galatians 5:1. We would encourage you to try to do the same! These verses beautifully capture what it means to be freed in Christ and to live in that freedom.

Of course, confirmation camp isn't just about sitting in sessions. Our students had plenty of time for games, free time options like disc golf with Pastor Joel, and just hanging out together. There was even a trivia night led by the camp's program director Steph (fun fact: she's a 7-time Jeopardy champion!). These things made the weekend a lot of fun!

One other particularly meaningful experience happened during Sunday's worship service. Each church group participated in a "Baptismal Remembrance" where Pastor Joel marked our students' heads with the sign of the cross using water from Lake Michigan, helping them remember their baptism. Following this, Pastor Geiger had everyone empty a bag of sand outside that they had filled the night before. This represented how our sins are forgiven and we no longer have to carry the weight of our sin anymore. Beautiful imagery that our students could see, touch, and experience!

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend of fun, fellowship, and growth. Retreats like this one provide opportunities for deeper conversations, meaningful connections, and focused time in God's Word that can be harder to achieve in our regular routines and rhythms of life.

We pray all of our students and adults remember the truth that echoed throughout our time together: If the Son sets us free, we are free indeed! What a gift! What a privilege! What a calling!

—Josh Kittleman

A Different View

By Diane Kaye

One sunny Tuesday afternoon my friend and I went for a drive,
Made a stop at a roadside fruit stand we'd found,
And then, as we were homeward bound,
A thought came to my mind.

"Would you like to see my church?" I asked,
"It's not far down the road."
"Well, sure," she said, "from what you've shared,
I have been curious, I must confess!"

We opened the sanctuary doors
And breathed in the quiet peace.
The pews stood around and before us
Like sentinels, or a waiting chorus.

We walked down the aisle noting the windows
Adorned with colors so rich and so bright
My friend saw a theme in them—a story to tell!
"yes" I agreed, "and they do tell it well."

"Have you only one statue?" she questioned gently.
"It's Jesus, our Heavenly Friends." I said.
I went on to say, "I have a tale to tell
About the first time He came in to my view.

We were looking for a place to belong
A church abounding in love to attend.
We visited churches, didn't take long
'til we walked in to Christ Our Savior, sat down, prayed, looked up.

In back of the altar was this likeness of Jesus, arms held out in love.
He seemed to be saying 'Come here my child, come and stay a while.
I have work for you here.'
And indeed He did!" I told me friend with a smile.

We have never regretted our choice, our decision
To hear the truth in the Word of God,
The warm fellowship of brothers and sisters,
A chance to do some work for the Lord.

My friend especially admired the Baptismal Font.
"So you don't soak the person in Baptism?" she asked.
"No, just a little sprinkle on the forehead and breast."
She smiled broadly. "That is very kind." she said.

While walking back down the aisle, my friend confided in me.
"You know, I feel the peace of this church—makes me want to pray."
"Well, we could, if you like." I offered.
"No," she replied, "maybe not today.

But I would like to come to a service sometime."
"Of course," I said, with a tear in my eye.
So a friend's eye view of our beloved church opened my eyes to see
How richly the Lord has blessed His Own, people like you and me.

GLORIA



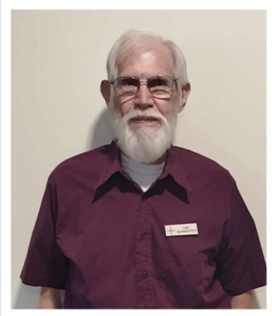
New Members

Received on October 5, 2025

This past October we welcomed new members into our congregation! Printed 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!



Kris Bieniewicz, and sons **Kyle** and **Joshua** are transferring from Hosanna-Tabor. Our family is very sports oriented. Kris has coached basketball for about 35 years, including Kyle and Josh as they were growing up. Kris and Kyle are currently coaching at St. Matthew, Westland. Josh chased his dreams of playing junior hockey, which sent him to WY. He is currently working an apprenticeship in new build construction in MT.



My name is **Tom Burmeister**, I have been a Lutheran my entire life and my wife joined me in the Lutheran faith just before we got married. in 1964. I have three sons and five grandchildren I have been a resident of Livonia for 46 years. I enjoy wood working, medal working, and repairing things. I got my BS in Packaging from Michigan State University. Immediately after collage I entered the Air Force. I was on active duty for 12 years then continued in the Reserves for 14 years. After active duty I worked Civil Service for the Army Tank Automative Command (TACOM) in packaging design for 21 years.

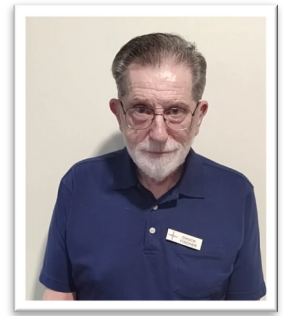


We are **Carl & Sheri Clark**. We transferred from Huntington Woods Lutheran Church. We have been married for 35 years, while we were not blessed with children, we have enjoyed three outstanding rescue boxers. We are retired and enjoy traveling around the U.S.



My name is **Linda Coaton**. I am a former resident of Redford, MI and was a former member of Hosanna Tabor Lutheran for 53 years. I currently live in Livonia. I am looking forward to becoming a member of Christ Our Savior Lutheran and having the opportunity to worship with you.

Charles Fischer: Long, long ago; In a place I was born....I was raised as a Lutheran. I got a job at



Ford Steel, got married and raised 5 daughters. I worked for 42 years and retired. I read a lot and do puzzles and enjoy Bible class.

Matt & Amanda Flachsbart, with kids **Maci, Allison, Andie** and **Barrett**:

We're excited to officially join the COS family! We just moved back to the area after living in Texas



for the last 12 years and we're looking forward to raising our kids here and making new connections with other families!

Lindsay Fredericks: My family started with five wonderful people: my mom, dad, brother Mike, sister Sarah, and me. We are a close and supportive group, and family time is something we all value deeply. In addition to us, I have begun building a life



with my significant other, Joel Anders who has quickly become an important part of our family, and I of his. We are also proud pet parents to two lovable dogs, Jaxie and Chester, who bring energy, joy and a bit of chaos to our home. Whether we're relaxing together, traveling to different states to ski/snowboard, or countries to relax on the beach, we are continually making special memories while enjoying each other's company. From the parents who raised us, we have become a family built on love, laughter, and a strong sense of connection.

Rich Lewandowski, daughter Nicole. I am a former member of Hosanna-Tabor in Redford, MI. that was my former home church for 45 years (since 1980). I have lived in Livonia for



over 30 years. I have served as President of the congregation at H-T for the last 11 years and 13 years as an Elder. I have also served on the board of Properties and on various planning committees. I am recently retired from the automotive industry as an engineering lab manager at Flex-N-Gate in Allen Park, MI. I have three (3) children (Jeff, Matt, Nicole) and six grandchildren (Scarlett, Nolan, Jepson, Avery, Sienna, and Jetson). Two of my grandchildren currently live in Kennebunk, Maine. I look forward to worshipping and attending bible studies studying the word of the Lord and meeting my new family members at COS.



Barry & Diane Matukaitis. Hi, My wife and I have been married almost 60 years. We met when I was in the U.S. Navy and she was a senior in high school. We currently live in Redford and were Hosanna-Tabor members for over 50 years. We are

looking forward to worshipping here at Christ Our Savior our new church home.

Arlene Oppenlander transferred to our congregation from Hosanna-Tabor

Judean Owen. I went to Mt. Hope Lutheran Church/school in Allen Park first grade thru half sixth grade then went to public schools in AP. Was married for 39 years (1970) till my husband's death in 2009. He passed from ALS. I have two adult daughters. I lost my dad Aug. 2024. He was 96. Talk to my mother more than once a day she's 93 and doing well. I have two younger sisters also. Met Fred and we're doing well also. I live in Redford 52 years. Love teaching line dancing at schoolcraft college in the fitness program. My 31-year-old grandson got married on Oct. 3. I have a 28 year old granddaughter.

Walter & Carolyn Schultz are lifelong LCMS

Lutherans. Walter was baptized and confirmed at Messiah church on the far east side of Detroit. Carolyn was baptized and confirmed at Atonement church in Dearborn. Walter graduated from Wilbur Wright High School and attended Lawrence Institute of Technology. Carolyn graduated from Lutheran High School in Detroit. Walter has worked in the engineering department of several automotive suppliers, first as a technician and later as a computer programmer, analyst, and system administrator. Walter retired in 1996 from Robert Bosch. Carolyn worked as a clerk in the book receiving department of the Detroit Public Library. She became a full time homemaker in 1967.

They met through the Metropolitan Lutheran Singles Club in 1962, and married in 1963. They have lived in the same house in Livonia since then. In July of 2024 Carolyn had a seizure. She was in the hospital for 31 days which severely affected her ability to walk.

Brother and sister **Keith and Bonnie Sobieck** transferred to our congregation from Hosanna-Tabor.

Joel and Amy Wolfram return as former members of COS. They have been married for 19 years and live in Commerce Township, along with their 5 children: **Taylor** (16), **Maxwell** (15), **Beckett** (12), **Eloise** (11), and **Callum** (7). Joel works for the U.S. Department of Labor and Amy is an RN at St. Mary's in Livonia. The family stays busy attending the children's various sports activities throughout the year and enjoy camping and visiting various lakes throughout Michigan.



Hello! We're **Christian and Morgan Zimmerman**. We love staying active, whether it's running, working out, or spending time outdoors, but we also enjoy cozy nights in watching movies and playing board games together. Our faith is a big part of our lives, and we're excited to grow in Christ and be part of this church community.

Memorials and Gifts

In Memory of:	Intended for:	Given by:
Kathe Filip	General Fund	Mary Foster
Jim Mitchell	Food Pantry	Bruce & Nina Howard

Opportunities for Growth

Women's Ministry News and Updates

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.

*Commit your way
to the Lord; trust
in Him and He
will act
(Psalm 37:5)*

Mission Spotlight

#6 Welcoming All God's Children (Lutheran Special Education Ministries) - \$25,000

Lutheran School Education Ministries (LSEM) is a national ministry headquartered in Michigan, serving children with special needs for 150 years. LSEM continues to reach out to serve children with special needs, helping these children remain in a Lutheran School setting to receive academic growth and to hear about God's love. Funds will be used to purchase appropriate curriculum, materials, and equipment to support the growth & continued outreach of LSEM programs.

—from LWML MI District newsletter

Mission Sunday

Thank you to all the women who showed their support on October 12th by wearing purple as we celebrated Lutheran Women in Mission – LWML and to the participants in our ladies choir and ushers. The quilts sent out to LWR (Lutheran World Relief) on Tuesday, October 14th displayed on the pews looked great!

Game Night for the Grown Ups

WOW would like to have you join us for a GAME NIGHT slated for Friday Nov 21st—from 6:30PM-9PM. A night of fellowship, comradery, a little competition, fun and laughter. What game(s) you ask? A little euchre, board games, Uno, dominoes, Yahtzee, five crowns, whatever you choose. Bring a game or two that you enjoy playing. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk.

Baked Goods for 1st Responders

We have recognized our local Livonia Police and Firefighters during Christmas week for the past two years and would like to again this year at Christmas time. The items for this will be collected Sunday 12/21 and delivered to the stations that week. Questions should be directed to Dianne Sherman—734-812-5172.

Upcoming Events

November

Nov 8 – Quilt/Sew

Nov 10 – Quilt/Sew

Nov 24 - Quilt/Sew

Nov 21 – Game Night

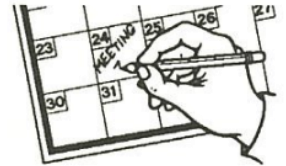
Nov 23 – Bake Sale

December

Dec 8 – Advent by Candlelight

Oct 13 – Quilt/Sew

Dec 21 – Baked Goods for 1st Responders



Young quilters in training



Starting the Holidays

Early Childhood Program Update



We are grateful for the wonderful support our Early Childhood Program continues to receive from the Christ Our Savior family! As we head into the busy Advent season, we have much to celebrate and share.

First, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Trick or Treating event on Halloween! It was truly special to see so many COS members interact with our ECP children and their families. Your willingness to participate in these moments creates meaningful connections between our congregation and the families we serve, and your presence made the day memorable for our children.

This fall has also brought an exciting development in our weekly chapel schedule. Christ Our Savior pastors and staff now lead chapel services twice each week—on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This expanded schedule has given more of our staff the opportunity to stretch themselves and share God's Word directly with the children. We love the fact that the children are receiving even more opportunities to hear about Jesus' love for them throughout the week.

As we look ahead to December, we invite you to join us for our ECP Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 17th. Our Sunday School kids will join the ECP in presenting the message of Christmas to the congregation. As with all our Advent services, we will begin the evening with an Advent Dinner prepared by our COS church staff. If you would be willing to assist our staff in making this dinner, please contact Josh Kittleman at joshk@choursavior.org.

We especially want to encourage all congregation members to attend the Christmas program, even if you don't have a child or grandchild involved in the program. While it may be a bit more "active" than a typical Advent service, it is such a blessing to hear our young children share the joyful message of Jesus' birth! These programs provide a wonderful opportunity for COS members to worship alongside our ECP families and experience the beauty of children proclaiming the good news of Christmas.

As always, please continue to keep our Early Childhood Program staff, children, and families in your prayers during this busy season. We are grateful for your ongoing support!

—Josh Kittleman

New Crucifix

News from Family of God

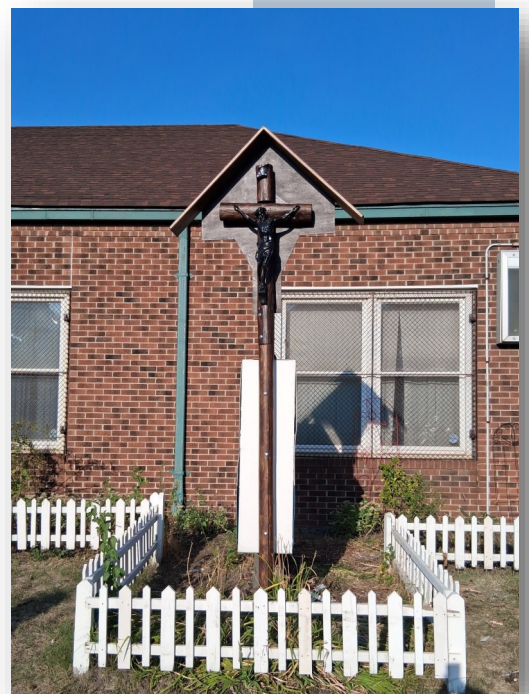


Family of God Lutheran Church has received a new sacred ornament for the outside of their building. In a neighborhood where violence and crime are normalized, one display stands out as a testament to the One who forgives all our sins and promises redemption. Rev. Alexander Ogden shares the story of where this crucifix came from:

The crucifix was formally sitting unused. I brought it to Family of God, hoping that it could be proudly displayed somewhere. Paul, our deacon was able to expand the bottom half, construct a "roof" for it

and then attach it to our sign outside. It felt very appropriate to erect this the day after Holy Cross Day. It stands as a testament of where our hope and salvation come, a sign to the community, and a banner to rally behind against the wiles of Satan.

—Rev. Alexander Ogden





Train Your Kids

Church Extension Fund's Serving Stamp Program

Getting financially fit isn't easy. But teach children how to save and they'll have one of the most difficult aspects of finance mastered by the time they're teens—being consistent savers.

Here are a few ideas to help your kids get money fit:

- * Start preschool children out by sorting different types of money into piles by color and size.
- * Play store. Help them use a pretend cash register.

AS CHILDREN GROW OLDER, YOUR SAVING STAMP INVESTMENT, PLUS YOUR INTEREST WILL BE FUN TO WATCH AS YOUR SAVINGS GROW.

- * If you decide to pay your children an allowance, include them in the decision. Discuss allowance amounts and what they should use their allowance for. The amounts are your call but allow their input.
- * One idea is to have children set aside part of the allowance for spending, part for saving, and part for sharing.

—Bob & Barb Moldenhauer

Bob & Barb Moldenhauer are available to answer questions about the Church Extension Fund Stamp Program on the third Sunday of every month. You will find them in the narthex standing near the Welcome Desk.

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 in November. Make checks payable to: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14. 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.

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 (alysak@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!



Membership Updates

As of October 24, 2025

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.

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

Deceased

- Janet Whalen on Oct 13, 2025

Received by Transfer from Other LCMS

- Amy Wolfram on Sep 12, 2025
- Beckett Wolfram on Sep 12, 2025
- Eloise Wolfram on Sep 12, 2025
- Joel Wolfram on Sep 12, 2025
- Maxwell Wolfram on Sep 12, 2025
- Taylor Wolfram on Sep 12, 2025
- Callum Wolfram on Sep 12, 2025

Received by Confirmation

- Morgan Bojeri on Oct 5, 2025
- Lindsay Fredericks on Oct 5, 2025
- Christian Zimmerman on Oct 5, 2025

Received by Profession of Faith

- Matthew Flachsbart on Oct 5, 2025

Received by Transfer from Other LCMS

- Joe Bieniewicz on Oct 5, 2025
- Josh Bieniewicz on Oct 5, 2025
- Kris Bieniewicz on Oct 5, 2025
- Kyle Bieniewicz on Oct 5, 2025

- Tom Burmeister on Oct 5, 2025
- Carl Clark on Oct 5, 2025
- Sheri Clark on Oct 5, 2025
- Linda Coaton on Oct 5, 2025
- Charles Fischer on Oct 5, 2025
- Nicole Lewandowski on Oct 5, 2025
- Rich Lewandowski on Oct 5, 2025
- Barry Matukaitis on Oct 5, 2025
- Diane Matukaitis on Oct 5, 2025
- Arlene Oppenlander on Oct 5, 2025
- Judean Owen on Oct 5, 2025
- Carolyn Schultz on Oct 5, 2025
- Walter Schultz on Oct 5, 2025
- Bonnie Sobieck on Oct 5, 2025
- Keith Sobieck on Oct 5, 2025

Removed by Transfer to Other LCMS

- Karen Bye on Sep 29, 2025
- Alex Colwell on Oct 23

Unreachable Members:

- Joseph Burke (non-member parents Thomas & Susan Burke)

~~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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>>One Lot Available in Glen Eden Cemetery

Asking \$1,000

Block 29-Garden of Ascension
Section 691
Grave #6

Contact: Jean Hishmeh (248-798-9233)

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 next issue of 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.

Join us for our HOLIDAY SERVICES

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 26
7pm – Service of Holy Communion

Midweek Advent Services

December 3, 10 and
17 (Children's Christmas Service)
12pm – Midday Services at
Salem Nat. Ev. (Westland)
6pm – Dinners
7pm – Evening Worship Services

Christmas Eve

Wednesday,
December 24
3pm – Service of Holy
Communion
7pm – Worship Service

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25
10am – Service of Holy Communion

New Years Eve

Wednesday, December 31
7pm – Service of Holy Communion



You have options for how you can receive the Disciplegram!

If you would like to receive an e-version of this newsletter instead of a printed copy, let us know! Email Alyssa Knock at alyssak@christoursavior.org with your request.

Also, there are always extra printed copies available in the narthex in the same rack as the Portals of Prayer devotions.