

January/February 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

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Caregiving and Fellowship: Living Christ's Love Together

From your pastor – Pastor Dean M. Davenport

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

As I look around our COS family each Sunday, I see the Holy Spirit at work! From our homebound members receiving care packages and visits, to our small groups gathering in homes throughout Livonia, to our Forever Young members sharing laughter and friendship, to our College Care team sending encouragement across the miles—this is what it means to be the body of Christ! When you deliver a meal through our food pantry, when you sit with someone in Grief Share who's walking through loss, when you show up for Family Night and build relationships across generations, when you send a card to a college student, you are living out the Gospel we confess. "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

Think about it—from the earliest days of the Church, believers gathered for prayer, shared meals,

cared for one another's needs, and encouraged one another in faith (Acts 2:42–47). That same Spirit is at work right here in Livonia! Our Moms of Faith group creates space for mothers to be still and know God while supporting one another. Our volunteers serve meals at Family of God in southwest Detroit. The list could go on and on. What a joy to see how God is using us!

Here's what I want you to know: caregiving and fellowship don't belong only to committees or staff. They belong to all of us! Each of you has relationships—within our congregation, your families, your neighborhoods, your workplaces—where God invites you to be attentive, compassionate, and present. A phone call to someone who's been missing from worship. An invitation to join your small group. Showing up with a meal when someone is struggling. These simple

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

Alyssa Knock
Communications Coordinator

Missionaries

Rev. David Erber—*Africa*

Rev. Charles Ferry—*Romania*

Rev. Steven Mahlburg—*Sri Lanka*

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

acts are powerful means through which God brings comfort and hope!

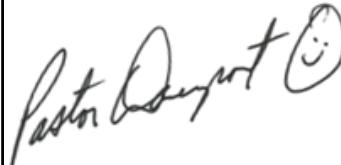
As we focus on caregiving and fellowship this year, I'm asking you to lean into this calling together:

- Participate in our gatherings and small groups
- Be open to meeting someone new
- Reach out when you know someone is struggling
- Allow others to care for YOU when you're in need
- Be open to sharing your caregiving/fellowship stories/testimonies with me or any staff member

In a world that encourages independence and isolation, we offer something different: a community shaped by grace. We gather not because we have it all together, but because we need one another—and because Christ has promised to be present where His people gather (Matthew 18:20).

May God continue to shape us into a community where faith is nurtured, burdens are shared, joys are celebrated, and love is lived—together, for the sake of Christ and for one another. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

God loves you and so do I!



Pastor Dean M. Davenport

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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!



Wherever the Need Arises

2026 Woman of the Year

Our 2026 Woman of the Year was announced at Advent by Candlelight last December: Bonny Shingledecker. Bonny has been a member of this congregation almost since the very beginning of this church, and she has touched the lives of many through her quiet, giving presence.

Bonny and her husband Rick moved to Livonia in the seventies with two small children. As part of the move, they started hunting for a congregation in their new area. They tried a few churches, but nothing was the right fit. Eventually they called their former pastor at Faith Lutheran in Troy to ask for advice. He told them of a church, newly built, that didn't even appear in the phone book yet. That information brought them to Christ Our Savior on Farmington road, and the first service they attended was the hour-and-a-half-long dedication service of the new building. From the time of that service, they started making this congregation their home; they have now been members for 47 years.

Bonny and Rick raised both of their kids at Christ Our Savior, watching them grow and the get confirmed here. While the kids were involved in activities at church, Bonny saw opportunities to serve. She and Rick set up the very first nursery at the church and her father-in-law even built a toy chest to contribute to that room. She led the Tiny Tots program from 1979-1981, which was a program for preschool-aged children and also taught Sunday School for thirty years.

As the years went by, needs and ministries changed, and Bonny was there to help. She was on the funeral luncheon team for many years when Susan Thompson was the organizer. She with Rick are still involved every year with SPREE parking and the CHRISTmas Blessings outreach. She enjoys being a part of Vacation Bible School as well. New parents receive a package in their church mailbox of materials to help them in their journey of parenthood and point them and their child back to Jesus. Bonny is the lady who puts those packets together—she's overseen the cradle roll for 17 years. She marvels that the first babies baptized when she took over the cradle roll are now graduating high school!

There is a homebound member that she regularly visits and to whom she gives rides, helping keep them connected with the congregation. Personally, I get to see Bonny once a month when she and Rita Sherick come to stuff the bulletins with the COS Update and prayer insert for the upcoming Sunday.

Outside of church life, Bonny is retired from working as an accounting supervisor, a job she held for around 25 years. She and Rick raised two children, a daughter and a son, and now have six grandchildren who all live in the metro Detroit area. When she's not volunteering, she enjoys sewing as a pastime. Even with that hobby, her attitude is one of helping others, and many of the items she sews are given away to friends and family.

As I talked to Bonny, I marveled at all the areas her life had touched. I started to understand that it was many little connections, and a heart for service, that guided her to volunteer opportunities. My favorite story involved the Presbyterian Thrift Shop (on Main St. in Plymouth). A good friend of Bonny's manages the store, and Bonny has been volunteering there for around twelve years. The store doesn't sell baby items, although people continue to donate them. Through her good friend Susan Thompson, Bonny learned of a ministry at St. Michael's Lutheran Church (Wayne) called the *Swaddling Clothes Room*. This room, full of baby clothes, diapers and equipment, is opened to the community once a month, and the items are given away for free. This provides support to those who otherwise cannot afford everything they need to care for their children. Bonny made the connection, and started delivering the baby items donated to the shop to Susan Thompson, who in turn gave them to her daughter, who is the pastor's wife at St. Micheals and uses them for *Swaddling Clothes*.

Some volunteers are in front of the public eye, some ministries work with millions of dollars and are household names. But sometimes, in our walks of faith, God is calling us to the many, small connections that bring people together and meet needs in our communities. Wherever God is calling you, may you take the step of faith to answer! And we celebrate how God has used Bonny to make a difference in our congregation.



-Alyssa Knock

My Upcoming Sabbatical

Dear COS Family,

I am grateful every day for the joy and privilege of serving as your pastor. It's been almost 16 years together—thanks be to God! There have been many joys along with some challenges. God be praised for all of it!

I'm writing to share some important news about this upcoming summer. With the support and encouragement of our congregation's leadership, I will be taking a sabbatical May 25 through August 24.

You may be wondering, what exactly is a sabbatical? A sabbatical is an intentional period of rest, renewal, and spiritual refreshment. It is not simply time off or a vacation, but a purposeful pause from the regular rhythm of ministry in order to read/study, pray, rest, and recuperate. Sabbaticals are one way congregations care for their pastors so they may serve with joy, health, and faithfulness throughout their ministry.

I'm looking forward to intentionally living out our Lord's urging when He said, "Be still and know that I am God", Psalm 46:10, this is my sabbatical theme verse. My prayer is that this "time away" will be a grace filled time—it's not about earning anything or producing results, but about receiving—receiving rest, renewal, and God's sustaining grace.

For Amy and me this sabbatical will be a true blessing. It will give us time to slow down, reconnect, and be refreshed together after nearly 25 years of joyful and joy filled ministry. We are deeply thankful for the opportunity to step back for a season so that we may return renewed in body, mind, and spirit.

I believe that this time away will also be a blessing for our congregation too. My sabbatical will create a space for shared leadership, for gifts within the congregation to be exercised and for us all to be reminded that the Church belongs to Christ. We are freed by grace to serve one another in love—and this time will be one more way God continues to shape and mold us as the body of Christ.

Please be assured that plans are in place to ensure that pastoral care, preaching, and ministry continue smoothly while I am away. I am grateful for our faithful staff and leaders who will ensure that the ongoing care of our congregation continues.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support. Amy and I, along with our family, are thankful for all of you! We look forward to returning refreshed and eager to serve as we have been served. Stay tuned for more details to come.

God loves you and so do I!
Pastor Davenport

Celebrating a Wonderful 2025

Early Childhood Program Update



As we begin 2026, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible year we've experienced at Christ Our Savior's Early Childhood Program. God has blessed our ministry in so many ways throughout 2025, and we're grateful to share some of the highlights with you! While most of this has been shared in previous articles, it's nice to get a "Year-in-review" look at what God is doing through the work of the Early Childhood program.

Our programming continued to provide wonderful opportunities for ECP families to connect with our congregation. From our Easter Fair in April to our Trick-or-Treating to our beautiful Christmas program in December, each event allowed COS members to interact with the children and families in our program. The attendance at our December Advent Dinner—where 250+ people gathered before the Christmas program—showed the growing connection between our ECP and congregation!

We also continue to try to find ways to help our children grow in the knowledge of Jesus' love for them! This fall, we expanded our weekly chapel services to twice per week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, giving children even more opportunities to hear about Jesus from our pastors and staff. Our monthly Coffee Connections continue to provide informal settings for ECP parents to connect with church leadership, helping to strengthen the relationships between families and our pastors and church staff.

Additionally, our staff remained committed to professional development throughout the year. Our entire team attended the Michigan District Early Childhood Conference in August alongside over 600 early childhood educators from across the state. It was an excellent opportunity for our teachers to be reminded of their calling and to connect with others in early childhood ministry.

Throughout the year, we've witnessed God's faithfulness as children have grown in their understanding of Jesus' love through daily Bible stories, songs, and activities in the classroom. As we've shared before, we regularly hear from parents about how their children share what they've learned about Jesus at home, creating opportunities for families to discuss God's Word together.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited about the continued opportunities to share Christ's love with the children and families in our program. We would humbly ask that you would make it a habit this year to regularly pray for our Early Childhood Program—for our staff as they faithfully serve, for the children as they learn and grow, and for the families as they navigate their faith journeys. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

-Josh Kittleman

Questions

By Diane Kaye, January 2009

Are the poor and needy hungry
only at Thanksgiving time?

Are the homeless cold and lonely
just when Christmas carols chime?

Could we help to feed them,
comfort them and warm their hearts?

Should we think of them at other seasons,
long before the cold wind starts?

Do we often tell our loved ones
just how in our eyes they shine?

Can we show love to those, in fact,
who choose not to love us back?

Is Jesus our Savior
only on Christmas?

Is He our Risen Lord
just on Easter day?

Or is He truly God With Us--
our Rock
our Staff
and our Stay?

Should we be sharing this News with others--
neighbors, friends, children, brothers?

What keeps us from doing those things that we should?
Do we just not think, or not think we could?

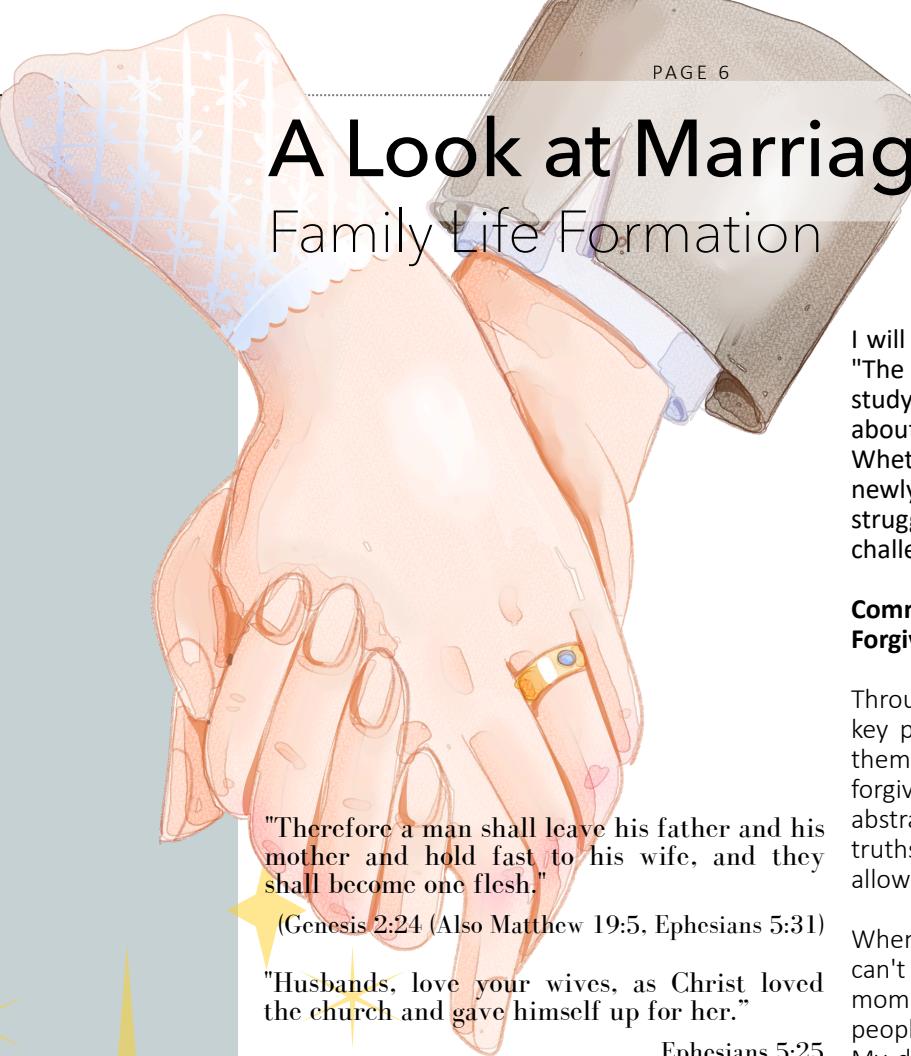
Is our spirit willing, but our flesh is weak?
Let's pray to the Lord for the strength that we seek!

Dear Lord,
Help us in our weakness to give to others from Your Strength.
To live, to love, to do--because of You.

Amen

A Look at Marriage

Family Life Formation



"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

(Genesis 2:24 (Also Matthew 19:5, Ephesians 5:31)

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Ephesians 5:25

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."

1 Peter 4:8

As we begin this new year together, I want to take a moment to talk about something that sits at the very heart of family discipleship: Godly marriage. Now, before some of you skip ahead thinking, "This doesn't apply to me," let me be clear from the start—**Family Discipleship is NOT just for married people with kids.** While marriage is an important aspect of family life, the principles we discuss in these Disciplegram articles apply to all of us, whether we're single, married, widowed, divorced, young, or old. We are all part of God's family, and we all have a role in encouraging one another in faith.

In future articles, I plan on continuing to address a wide variety of aspects of family discipleship—including singleness, parenting at different stages, and how we all support one another in our faith community regardless of our life circumstances or the make-up of our households. For this article, however, I do want to focus on marriage—particularly in light of the upcoming marriage Bible study that Pastor Davenport and I will be leading.

Starting January 4th, 2025, Pastor Davenport and

I will be facilitating a marriage Bible study called "The Art of Marriage" in the church gym. This study will explore what Scripture has to say about building strong, Christ-centered marriages. Whether you've been married for decades or are newlyweds, whether your marriage is thriving or struggling, this study is designed to encourage, challenge, and strengthen your relationship.

Commitment, Mutual Submission, and Forgiveness

Throughout this study, we'll be diving deep into key principles of a Godly marriage—and among them are commitment, mutual submission, and forgiveness. These aren't just some strange abstract concepts; they're practical, life-giving truths that can transform our marriages when we allow the Holy Spirit to work through them.

When I think about commitment in marriage, I can't help but reflect on my own parents. My mom and dad were about as different as two people could be when it came to personalities. My dad was a Civil Engineer who worked as the chief of the area office for the Corps of Engineers in Grand Haven, MI. He wasn't much of a "touchy feely" guy, and had a hard time expressing his love for my mom in ways that were meaningful to her. My mother is oh so very different from that. She is quick to let you know she loves you and she often wears her heart on her sleeve. They are different in other ways as well. As a result they argued at times—sometimes about serious things, sometimes about little things that probably didn't matter much in the grand scheme. They didn't always speak each other's love languages perfectly, and there were seasons when I know they really struggled.

But here's what I saw that truly shaped my understanding of commitment: they were grounded in their faith in the Lord, and that foundation brought them through the difficult times. My dad passed away in 2019, and I can tell you that their marriage was stronger in those final years than it had ever been. They had weathered storms together. They had forgiven each other countless times. They had chosen commitment over convenience, faithfulness over fleeting feelings.

That's what real commitment looks like. It's not about finding a perfect partner or having a conflict-free relationship. It's about checking our expectations and anchoring our marriage to

something—to Someone—greater than ourselves. It's about remembering that the covenant you made wasn't just between two people, but was made before God, with God as the witness and the source of our strength.

Mutual Submission in Love

The second principle I want to touch on—and something we will inevitably cover in our marriage study—is mutual submission. I think this is one of the most misunderstood concepts in Christian marriage. Ephesians 5:21 tells us to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ," and then Paul goes on to describe what this looks like specifically for husbands and wives.

Mutual submission doesn't mean both spouses become doormats. Rather, it means that both husband and wife are called to put the other's needs above their own, to serve one another sacrificially, to honor and respect each other. It's about both partners asking, "How can I serve you? How can I love you better? How can I put your needs before my own?"

When a husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church—giving himself up for her—and when a wife respects and honors her husband, and when both are seeking to serve rather than be served, something beautiful happens. The marriage becomes a living picture of the Gospel, a testimony to the world of Christ's love for His bride, the Church.

The Power of Forgiveness

If commitment is the foundation of a Godly marriage, then forgiveness is the mortar that holds it together. We are all sinners. We all fall short. In marriage, we will hurt each other—sometimes intentionally, more often unintentionally. We'll say things we regret. We'll act selfishly. We'll fail to love our spouse the way Christ calls us to love.

This is where the Gospel is essential. We don't extend forgiveness to our spouse because they've earned it or because they deserve it. We extend forgiveness because we ourselves have been forgiven. Christ's death on the cross purchased our forgiveness—a forgiveness we could never earn, never deserve, never repay. And from that "wellspring of grace", we're called to forgive others.

In marriage, this means regularly—sometimes daily—choosing to forgive. It means not keeping a record of wrongs. It means extending grace when your spouse fails, just as God extends grace to you. First Peter 4:8 reminds us that "love covers a multitude of sins." That's what forgiveness does in a marriage. It covers. It heals. It restores. I saw the power of forgiveness firsthand in my parent's marriage, and I will say this is probably the strongest aspects of my own marriage to Sarah (don't worry, we have our struggles in other areas 😊).

Grace for the Journey

There's so much to talk about when it comes to marriage, but those three things are a good starting point. As I close this article, I want to be perfectly clear. Things don't always turn out the way we hope in marriage. Some of you reading this are walking through incredibly difficult seasons in your marriage. Some have experienced the pain of divorce.

I want you to hear this clearly: God's grace is sufficient for you, and He promises His strength for each moment. We live in a fallen world where brokenness touches every part of our lives, including our marriages. The enemy seeks to destroy what God has joined together, and sometimes—despite our best efforts, our prayers, our counseling, our commitment—marriages end.

If that's your story, please don't hear condemnation in this article. Hear instead the voice of your Savior who loves you, who died for you, who knows your pain and your struggle. Hear the invitation to continue walking with Him, to continue experiencing His forgiveness and grace, and to continue being part of this family of faith at COS that loves you and supports you.

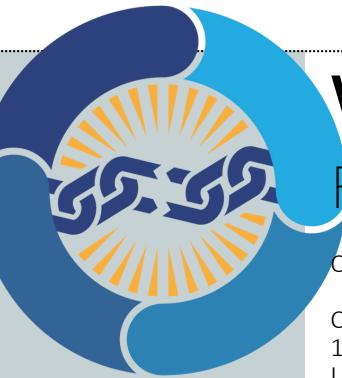
And for those of us in marriages—including myself—we all wrestle with the daily challenges of married life. We all fall short. We all need Jesus' forgiveness. We all rely on His grace to love our spouse the way He calls us to love. The goal isn't perfection; the goal is faithfulness and dependence on God's strength, not our own.

Marriage requires commitment, sacrifice, and forgiveness. This can be incredibly hard for sinners like you and I to keep in mind. But it's also one of God's greatest gifts to us, a relationship that can bring immense joy, deep companionship, and a powerful witness to His love. I hope you'll consider joining us for "The Art of Marriage" study beginning January 4th in the gym. Let's dive into God's Word together and discover—or rediscover—the art of building marriages that honor Him and bless our families. Bring your questions. Bring your struggles.

Bring your hopes. Come ready to hear what God's Word has to say about marriage, and come ready to be encouraged by your brothers and sisters in Christ who are on this same journey.

In Christ,
Josh Kittleman





With Sincere Appreciation

Family of God Lutheran Church

October 30, 2025

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We want to express our deep gratitude for the “time, talent and treasure” that your congregation devotes to Family of God. As we celebrate the Reformation and the national Thanksgiving holiday, this is only fitting.

For over two decades, a community of Lutheran congregations and compassionate, Christ-centered people in the Metro area have supported discipleship in southwest Detroit. Last month, we marked the twentieth year since the creation of Family of God in Christ Ministry, Inc. as a Michigan non-profit organization.

Compelled by Jesus’ Great Commission and energized by the Holy Spirit, people in mission overcome daily obstacles tossed at us by “the old evil one”, encouraged in our confidence that, with God, all things are possible. Along with a small pastoral team, Family of God’s volunteers do the “heavy lifting” of creating an environment to share the Gospel to people challenged by addiction, homelessness, family dysfunction, physical and financial hardship, and mental health issues.

As you know, Family of God strives to create and host an environment in the inner city that supports regular Christian worship, bible study, and prayer. This is bolstered with nourishing meals provided by local congregations and, also, by specialized programming focused on specific needs (e.g., pregnancy and young motherhood, addiction, personal hygiene).

We encourage you to consider prayerfully how individuals and smaller groups might continue to reinforce the foundations of this ministry.

The church partners and individuals who serve Family of God are indeed a welcoming community. As set out by the Apostle Paul and Timothy in their letter to the Colossians, those “raised with Christ” should, as God’s chosen people ... clothe [themselves] with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Family of God presents a meaningful environment for our church partners to engage their own members—students, young adults, and older Christians—to do just that. We would welcome a chance to have a conversation with you about how to improve upon and strengthen our existing relationship.

Your willingness to consider expanding volunteer participation is gratefully appreciated. Candidly, we could really, really use more volunteers to directly engage with the folks that come to Family of God seeking comfort, peace and hope. Likewise, in an older building, property maintenance needs will always exist. Since moving to our current address in 2016, we have completed many necessary repairs and upgrades to our century-old church and four decade-old fellowship area. After completing some significant improvements to our kitchen earlier this year, we are still working on—and locating funding for—improvements to the building’s heating, fire, safety, elevator and electrical systems, along with replacing egress doors.

On behalf of ourselves, our two associate pastors, our deacons, the board of our 501(c)(3) ministry and, especially, those served by the Family of God in southeastern Detroit, thank you for your partnership with Family of God, for your active support, and for keeping this ministry in your heart and in your prayers.

And, as ever, we invite everyone to “Come and See”.

In Christ


Rev. James Hill
Senior Pastor


David Crittenden
President/Chairman

A Tradition of Giving

Collection Sunday Schedule

The changing of the years is a time of reflection that can lead to new resolutions, but that reflection can also bring a renewed commitment to the traditions and habits of previous years. I love that our church is a “giving church”—we are always ready to respond to a call for donations. It reminds me of how Paul was thankful for the generosity of the church at Philippi:

And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. (Philippians 4:15-16)

In 2026 we will carry over a tradition from the past few years: one Sunday a month will be designated as a Collection Sunday. We will collect donations of items for many of the ministries that we support, and have supported for many years. Some of these groups are within our congregation, others are resources in our community, and still others send help around the world. We encourage you to share your donations learn more about each ministry as the Holy Spirit leads you. Here are some resources to help you get started: MOST Ministries (mostministries.org), Christian Resources

International (missioncry.com), Wee Care (milifespan.org/wee-care/), and Lutheran World Relief (lwr.org).

On a Collection Sunday, we put a basket in front of the Welcome Desk to collect the items that are specified for that month. Announcements in the COS Update give reminders that the Collection Sunday is coming and instructions for what items to bring. See the schedule below for a complete list of Collection Sundays and what ministry will be highlighted each time.

Collection Sunday Schedule for 2026

Month	Ministry	Items Collected
JANUARY (1/11)	MOST Missions	Used eyeglasses and sunglasses
FEBRUARY (2/1)	College Care Kits	Assorted items
MARCH (3/1)	COS Quilters	Sheets, material
APRIL (4/5)	Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	Personal Care Kit items
MAY (5/3)	Christian Resources International (CRI)	Books and religious materials
JUNE (6/7)	AAA Pregnancy Resource Center	Baby Bottles
JULY (7/5)	MOST Missions	Used eyeglasses and sunglasses
AUGUST (8/2)	COS Quilters	Sheets, material
SEPTEMBER (9/6)	Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	School Supplies
OCTOBER (10/4)	Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	Personal Care Kit items
NOVEMBER (11/1)	Prayer Blankets	Fleece
DECEMBER (12/6)	Wee Care	Baby items

Membership Updates

As of January 12, 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

Virginia Main on Dec 28
Mabel Selke on Dec 29

Received by Baptism

Isabella Harrison on Dec 7
Lincoln Knock on Jan 4

Removed by Other

Charles Anderson on Dec 19

Unreachable Members

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

Removed by Transfer to Other LCMS

Austin Shonce on Dec 19
Michael Shonce on Dec 19
Shelby Shonce on Dec 19
Amelia Petrick on Jan 7
Christopher Petrick on Jan 7
Clara Petrick on Jan 7
Luca Petrick on Jan 7
Emma Garner on Jan 9
Mira Garner on Jan 9
Nora Garner on Jan 9
Ross Garner on Jan 9

Be Involved in Gospel Outreach

Women's Ministry News & Updates



*I will never leave
you nor forsake you
(Hebrews 13:5b)*

LORD JESUS,
WHEN I FEEL
ALONE OR FEAR
GRABS AHOLD OF
ME, MAY THE
HOLY SPIRIT
REMIND ME OF
MY BAPTISMAL
PROMISES AND
GRACE, THAT
BEING UNITED
WITH YOU I AM
NEVER ALONE.
MAY YOUR LOVE
FOR ME BRING
PEACE AND FILL
MY HEART AND
LIFE.
AMEN.

What is Gospel Outreach?

The purpose of Gospel Outreach is to engage, encourage, and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior, with people of their communities and the world.

As in the LWML logo, the drop represents the blood of Christ. The ripples symbolize how we can extend the love of Christ to others by sharing the Gospel message with them.

What Does This Mean?

God wants you to be yourself when sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. He has chosen you, and given you the privilege of sharing that joy and excitement of your faith with others. Being a Christian is a blessing, and the joy of Jesus in our lives should be evident to everyone.

Words of encouragement to equip you to share the Good News of Jesus' great love in your everyday living by:

>Developing a closeness to your Savior through prayer, Bible study, worship, and devotional materials. Using the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42).

>Using every day opportunities to be God's witnesses. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others (Matthew 5:14-16a).

>Reaching out, understanding that everyone is unique and loved by God
And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).

>Sharing Jesus' love through action by developing relationships through activities that serve those in need.

Please remember to support all LWML mission grants by placing your mites in the MITE BOX located in the narthex.

THANKS TO OUR BAKERS

The Bake Sale in November was a great success. Hats off to the ladies who shared their talent(s) so

generously by donating their tasty baked goods. We used some of the proceeds received by sending 4 missionaries \$300 each from funds raised from our Bake Sales.

Also a special note of thanks to those who baked for our first responders. The responders at each location were thankful and the treats were received with big smiles.

First Responders – remembering them in February

Valentine's Day is the other time we gave to our first responders last year.

In 2025 - we collected chocolate and candy delivered for Valentine's Day. This year we would like to do the same. Donations to be left in the kitchen by Sunday February 8th. If you have questions please contact Dianne Sherman 734-812-5172.

GAME NIGHT FOR THE GROWN UPS

WOW would like to have you join us for GAME NIGHTS slated for Friday January 16th and Friday February 20th - 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. We will have a sign-up sheet at the welcome desk.

Giving Tree

Thanks to the giving members that placed items under the tree for AAA Pregnancy Resource Center, The Luke Clinic, Wellspring, and FOG.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2026

Please plan to join other sisters in Christ for a retreat Saturday April 25th. Watch for more details and sign up information the end of January beginning of February. Our retreat leader will be Kaye Wolff and a presentation by a representative for American Sign Language.

January

January 10th – Quilt/Sew
January 12th – Quilt/Sew
January 16th – Game Night
January 26th Quilt/Sew

February

February 9th – Quilt/Sew
February 14th – Quilt/Sew
February – 20th – Game Night
February 23th – Quilt/Sew

Memorials

• •

Given in memory of:

Greg Barnier

Intended for:

General Fund

Given by:

Pamela Hughes

Amilcheri & Hilda Giandiletti

Food Pantry

Michael Giandiletti

Tim Kaul & Susan Schnarr

Christmas Blessings

John & Eunice Smith

Ron Kosmalski

Food Pantry, Sunday School, Fur Blessings and General Fund

David & Elizabeth Kosmalski

Ron Meyer

Education Fund
Food PantryJudy Mayle
Bruce & Sandy Baxter, Diane Morrison, Marion Malek, Mike & Mary McGrathFestival Choir
General FundShirley Spiers
Nathan & Laura Bronsted, Richard & Bonny Shingledecker, Kathleen Kangas, Heidi NanceHandbell Choir
Men's Bible Study
Music MinistryRuth Farabaugh
Stuart & Elisabeth Schluckebier
Donna Chambo, Lois Drake, Gordon & Edith Raezler
Janeen & David Crittenden, Joann Rogers, Jody Tomasic
Karen & Natalie Hansen, Jess & Helena Hatten

Sunday School

Youth Group

Jenny Pearson & Jim Petro

Sunday School & Choir

John & Eunice Smith

James Petro

General Fund

Chip & Carrie Douglas

Evelyn Runkis

the Church
Poinsettias

Margaret Fett

Dan Sherick

Food Pantry

Leon & Pat Noel

Pat Simko

General Fund

Amy Haroff

Janet Whalen

General Fund
Quilters

Douglas & Marilyn Young, Joe & Peggy Oer, Lois Drake

*Given in honor of:*Kitty Witt's 80th Birthday*Intended for:*

New Choir Robe Fund

Given by:

Dianne Sherman

their 69th Wedding Anniversary

General Fund

Jerry & Patricia Bunzeluk



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Food for Thought

Jesus promised his disciples three things—that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble

William Barclay
The Gospel of Luke

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY February 18 7PM

MIDWEEK WORSHIP February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25
SERVICES AT 7PM

PALM SUNDAY March 29 8:30, 11AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY April 2 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY April 3 12:30, 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY April 5 6:30, 8:30, 11AM

