

DISCIPLEGRAM

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

May/June 2024

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Greetings in the name of Christ!

Isaiah wrote this after seeing a vision from the Lord: "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me'" (Isaiah 6:8). The task God gave to Isaiah was not easy: he was called to speak the Lord's messages to a people who would hear but never understand. Isaiah would experience a life of hardship and ridicule for the sake of the Gospel message God gives to him, and still Isaiah obeyed. He heard the voice of the Lord say that He needs someone, and he offered his whole life to the mission of God.

This is a remarkably apt theme for us as followers of Jesus. We understand the toll that our sinfulness takes on us and how Jesus paid the ultimate price for us. And, at the same time, we live in the victory that is ours through the empty tomb! As followers of Jesus we are called—each of us in our own lives and together as Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (COS)—to follow Isaiah's example. To listen to the voice of God and to offer our lives on mission for Him. In short, I'd say that we are called to live "the missional life."

Over the past year we have added two new staff—Pastor Joel and Josh. What a blessing they have already been to our congregation—

praise God for His bringing them to us! Going forward, it is going to be important that we are all on the same page as we work together for the sake of the Gospel. To that end a group of six Christ Our Savior leaders (myself, Pastor Joel, Josh Kittleman, Erik Kuszynski, Mark Anders, and Laura Myers, together with an outside facilitator) met to discuss what our future might look like. With two new staff members entering a congregation of this size, we wanted to give them a sense of clarity that could be their focus for the upcoming year. Our meeting discussed the church as a whole; what each of us saw as great obstacles to us and our ministry as well as what strengths COS has that we should lean on in this time. And our conclusion was this: God has blessed COS abundantly and tasked us with our unifying mission to “make disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ in these communities and with people everywhere.” And, by and large, we’re doing it! We make disciples with the bedrock of worship, where we hear God’s forgiveness and our faith is sustained by his grace. And we value worshipping God with our brains as we read, learn, and inwardly digest God’s Word in Bible classes, small group devotions, and personal study. And finally, God’s grace then sends us out like Isaiah to lives on mission for Christ.

It’s this final piece about living on mission that, in our discussions, we want to emphasize for ourselves. We want to see ourselves living missionally in every part of our lives. We want everyone in our congregation to clearly see the way God is at work in their lives. We want everyone to have their eyes opened to one another and the variety of ways our members are already living out the mission of God. And we want each of us to have opportunities to take steps to make the mission of God more clearly present in our lives. The mission of God is what COS has been about, and we want to focus on how God is continuing to accomplish that mission in us today.

So, with that in mind, we will have some intentional work ahead of us to make this theme of “Missional Living” more present in our church activities, teaching, preaching, and conversations. Much of the work to be done could be put into these three categories:

- 1) Curriculum around the topic of mission that will train our members in the theology and living-out of the missional life. (Pastor Joel will be the lead in this.)

- 2) Programs that help us see each other’s various examples of missional living as well as aligning our current calendar to better make room for what we hope to be impactful events and opportunities to grow in our mission. That includes our large-scale calendar as well as our staff’s personal calendars as needed. (Josh Kittleman will be the lead in this.)
- 3) Leadership involvement to communicate our goals effectively with one another and create what teams of people will be necessary for us to carry these things out. (Mark and Erik are the leads in this.)

A congregation of our size and “busyness” can often struggle to stay united in ministry. We have numerous strong and capable leaders who can each do tremendous things for the kingdom of God, but, if they don’t also communicate well with one another, can end up pulling and stretching one another in ways that step on toes, overwork volunteers, and can even create conflict with one another. It is my prayerful hope that a clear focus such as this will allow us to have that unity. To be able to talk the same language with one another, to see and appreciate the work we are all doing and achieve much more than the sum of our parts.

It’s God’s church. It’s God’s mission. And it’s God’s calling to each of us that invites us to be a part of it. It is my desire that all of us would grow in our love for Jesus while we grow in our missional living. Stay tuned, and see the announcement on the back page of this Disciplegram!

God loves you and so do I,



Pastor Davenport

Let us know how you’d like to receive the Disciplegram
If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, let us know! Email Alyssa Knock at alyssak@chrisoursavior.org with your request.

Prostate Cancer Support Group



Nearly 15% of all new cancer diagnoses in the US are those of the prostate. This cancer is talked about far less than other cancers that occur less frequently. It's anticipated that this is because men are less likely to reveal and discuss their prostate cancer diagnosis.

The light blue ribbon was designed to bring attention to this disease that can often be successfully treated and has a five-year survival rate of 98%. The prostate gland, located in the lower abdomen, is not a single gland but actually a group of reproductive glands that also involve the urinary system. As females don't have a prostate, prostate cancer is a male only cancer. In the general male population, this cancer has an incident rate of 10% for men in their 40s but 70% for those in their 80s. The good news is that for older men, the cancer growth rate slows and may not present issues. It's said that many men die of other causes not knowing that they had prostate cancer.

Typically, this cancer is discovered either by palpation or by a blood test through which the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA), a protein, is measured. The trend of the value, not the value itself, is the primary indicator.

There are many different options for the patient depending on the cancer, location, the patient's life style and age. Options include hormone therapy, multiple radiation processes, surgery, active surveillance, and, at times, combinations of these strategies. Why one patient went



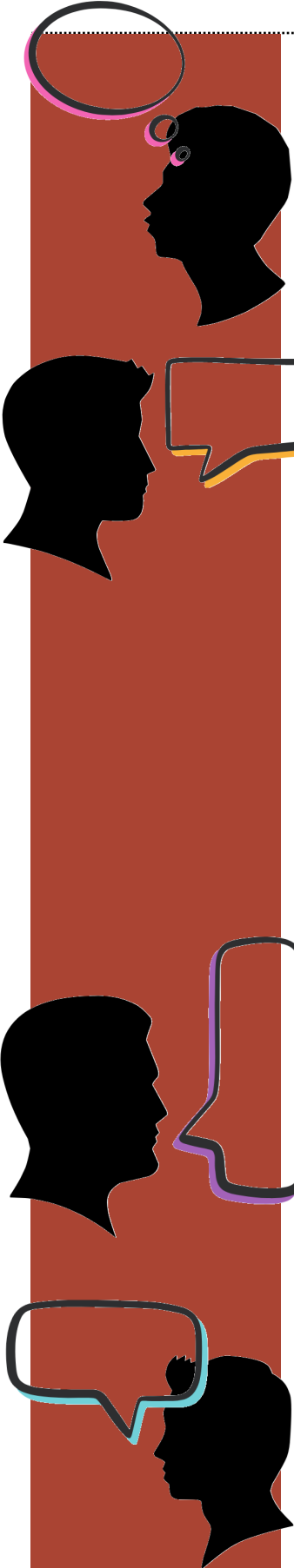
Featured
Ministry

through one procedure, why another decided to proceed on a different path, and their subsequent experiences are fodder for conversation. Every patient is different; every patient has a different set of variables; every patient has different needs.

Men pride themselves on being capable and being independent. They don't like when being asked if they can use a hand (the typical answer is "No, I've got it. Thanks."). They may, but rarely, ask for help (such as relating to directions even when obviously lost). Even more so, men don't speak about their reproductive issues as women do. It's an unspoken taboo. Females, however, tend to surface these issues by sharing the burden which leads to improved multi-faceted health.

Here men are facing physical change, attacks on privacy, and, at best, if all goes well, a temporary change in lifestyle. Spiritual changes may result as well. Some will become angry with God; some will simply move on in a downcast daze; some will be drawn closer to Him as it can be a mountain top experience. This type of positivity needs to be shared in hopes of being contagious to those who are struggling.

I was alerted to a cancer potential in February of 2023 after a PSA test result was elevated in respect to prior years. An MRI was scheduled which showed an area of concern and a subsequent biopsy confirmed prostate cancer in May. While approaching a November surgical date, I was surprised by the number of COS



members who expressed that they were going through treatment or were considering treatment. They and I were doing so without an option of attending a prostate cancer group. Even the two major medical groups that I was considering didn't offer this type of support.

This subject requires a secure environment. Men aren't ready to issue a Public Service Announcement (also a PSA) when their PSA is pointing to a potential issue. So, after speaking with a number of members, I decided to form a support group where in a safe environment, we, as brothers in Christ, can share our experiences, both positive and negative, and offer each other perspective and support.

Through these sessions, we will come to understand that we aren't alone, others have and are going through the same physical and emotional angst. Speaking about such issues brings peace, comfort, as you learn you aren't alone when you learn of what others are experiencing, how they are coping as life and life practices change. Importantly, you learn that through a support group, it's a give and take. A win-win for each individual.

Opportunity for us to grow in sharing and doing is not just inside the community of believers, but into the Livonia community as well. It is my hope that the unchurched come to COS and sensing an uplifting brotherhood of believers, that they will return to see what it's all about. Hereby, planting the seed, the Holy Spirit will initiate germination, faith will sprout and grow and will subsequently bear fruit. All this just through such a support group and prayer.

Lastly, there is also a positive personal aspect for me. This developmental opportunity to reach out, speak and pray in front of those I don't know is a new opportunity to stretch. Growing in faith trusting that He will provide that which I need is always a great motivator to go forward. This will develop a side of me to listen more carefully.

Support Group

The Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet on the 3rd Monday of the month beginning on **June 17** from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in room 4. For further information, contact Fritz Quitmeyer at 313-598-5042.

"For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life." (2 Corinthians 5:4)

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

STAFF

Rev. Dean M. Davenport
Senior Pastor

Rev. Joel A. Werner
Associate Pastor

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*

Noreen Lenardon
Business Manager

Laurie Riegel
Administrative Assistant

Alyssa Knock
Communications Coordinator

MISSIONARIES

Rev. David Erber—*Nigeria*

Rev. Charles Ferry—*Indonesia*

Rev. Steven Mahlburg—*Macau*

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

One Year In Family Life Ministry

It's hard to believe that it's been almost a year since I joined Christ Our Savior. What a ride it has been so far! It has been an absolute joy getting to know so many of you here!

While I will be submitting something for the annual report in May, that report will be more of a specific record of what took place in the past year. I thought that it would be helpful for me to write a different type of "annual report" for the Disciplegram. I wanted to share with you some observations about COS from the eyes of a 20+ year church worker in his first year of serving here.

So without further ado, here are just a few of my observations over the past 11 months:

- **This is a congregation that truly engages in God's mission.** Inside and outside the walls of this church, the people of COS love to serve Jesus and make him known to others. Through congregational efforts like our partnership with Family of God, Christmas blessings, Grief share, Bible studies, small groups, and so much more. But we also know that missional living often occurs outside of the walls of the church. I love hearing how our members are serving God in their families and communities as well.
- **This is a congregation that has a heart for giving.** Speaking of living out God's mission... I've been BLOWN AWAY by the various fundraising and donation drives that take place at COS. Think of the boxes and boxes of children's book donations to South Africa. Just when I think I have a fairly complete list of how the people of COS are giving their time, talents and treasure, I find out even more examples of how the people of COS are giving.
- **This is a congregation with dynamic and determined lay leaders.** This is one of the most exciting parts about this place. While we can and should continue to raise up more leaders, this is clearly not a congregation where just a few people are doing all the



work. That is a sign of a healthy congregation.

- **This is a congregation that loves young people.** I see this love being shown in various ways, from how the youth fundraisers are supported, to the numerous hand-written cards that we received to include in our college care packages, to the excellent congregational engagement in our "Faith Friends" program, and finally just the overall care for children and youth that people have expressed in conversation with me. This is wonderful to see.
- **This is a congregation that has the healthiest staff dynamic that I have ever been a part of...by far!** That says a lot, because I have been part of some amazing church staffs. But this is by far the healthiest dynamic. Your church staff loves serving God together.
- **This is a congregation with two relationally-driven pastors who faithfully preach God's Word.** It has been a joy to serve Jesus with our pastors. They truly model for our staff and congregation what it means to serve Jesus in both word and deed. They are real about their shortcomings, and look to Jesus for strength.

Of course, I say these things not to boast in ourselves, but to boast in the Lord. And by no means is this a perfect congregation—there is no such thing. There are many things for us to work on for sure. But I prefer to take a strengths-based approach. It is important to recognize how God has blessed us even as we do the hard work of growing in the areas we need to grow!

In short...it is great to be part of this incredible family of Faith! Praise God from whom ALL of our blessings flow!

 Josh

A group photo from February 2024, when Christ Our Savior and St. Paul (Northville) went snow tubing

Ngokujabula! Rejoice!

South Africa Mission Trip Report

This past April, a group from COS heard the call to go on a short-term mission trip on the other side of the world. They made the commitment to leave their jobs and homes and comfort zones, endure a grueling travel schedule, brave new housing and culinary experiences, and take on new roles to put their faith into action.

Our COS mission team of eight (originally ten, but Rev. Hill and his wife were unable to make the trip) traveled to Middleburg, South Africa on Friday, April 12.



This article is composed of excerpts from the mission team blog. The posts were written by Liesl Brunner while the team was on their trip. Each post was entertaining and educational, and you can find many more pictures there!

cossouthafrica2024.wordpress.com

April 12, 2024



Team members preparing to fly to South Africa (l-r): Liesl Brunner, Judy Bruder, Pam Bishop, Lori Wiltenburg, Linda Hollman, Helena Hatten, Cindy Pine (team leader from MOST), Natalie Hansen, and Arlo Wiltenburg

“Our team has been preparing for this since October. Months of meetings, of trainings, of messages in the WhatsApp group chat. Months

of prayer and anticipation and more than a little stress.

“Now we wait at our gate in the Detroit airport for our plane to take us to Newark, then on to the longer flight to South Africa. It feels slightly anticlimactic—the hustle and bustle to get to the airport, check our bags (we had to do a bit of bag shuffling to get all our glasses there!), through security...and now we wait.

April 14, 2024

“After a delayed flight to Newark, we made our way onto a 16-hour flight to Johannesburg. Some of us slept, others did not. It was a new experience for all of us, and needless to say, we were relieved to set foot on solid ground in South Africa.

“Once we got through customs, our suitcases were already circling the carousel. We loaded them into our trailer, then made the two-hour trip to our guesthouse courtesy of our driver, Knut, who was happy to tell us all about South African culture, economics, and customs...

“We didn’t get our first good look at the South African landscape until this morning, since the sun had already set when we left the airport. (Fun fact: The moon is backwards here because we’re in the southern hemisphere!) After a breakfast of bacon, toast, and eggs (made by Arlo, of course), we headed to church at St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church.

“I greatly wish you all could experience a Zulu church service. It seemed like we were on our feet, singing, for over half of the two-and-a-half hour service. The clergy greeted us so warmly and Cindy introduced the team from the front of the church.

“The whole service was maybe 10% English, but even so, you could feel the passion in their Zulu words. I only caught one Zulu word the whole service—*ngokujabula*, for “rejoice”. And rejoice we did...

“They told us that South Africa is the singing nation, and I believe it. Joy filled their every

note as we joined them in singing unto the Lord. Everyone has a beautiful voice, and they use them frequently and loudly.

“Something else we had the pleasure of seeing was two pianos that Christ Our Savior donated to the children’s home years ago. I never thought I would see them on the other side of the world!

April 15, 2024

“We picked up our host and translators at the school. We could hear their voices rising in song as soon as we pulled in. The day began with praising Jesus and a prayer. After we joined them and our song was over, they greeted us with hugs and smiles and we headed north to our very first clinic.

“The drive was over an hour long but worth every single minute. Coming from southeastern Michigan, any sort of altitude will have me gasping and taking pictures out of the window. Although, some of the pictures came out pretty blurry, given that the potholes are actually worse than southeastern Michigan. Judy and I sat in the back, and it’s a wonder the rest of the team didn’t have to scrape us off the ceiling.

“We arrived at our clinic an hour later than we were supposed to due to traffic and roads (it’s called Africa time). When we got there, the locals were already lined up and waiting for us outside. We did our best to set up quickly and get people into the clinic as fast as possible....

“But we quickly fell into a rhythm. As I pulled glasses for everyone who came through the clinic, I felt a smile on my face. We moved like a well-oiled machine—with hiccups here and there, sure, but for the most part smoothly.

“We treated patients from age 5 all the way up to age 93. One man came in guided by his daughter. He was completely and totally blind. We gave him a cane and taught him how to use and fold it, and he walked out on his own, without his daughter to guide him.

“One man was holding his cell phone inches from his face, with his neck bent in a painful position. After our team tested him, it turned out he needed a -9.0 prescription, one of the highest we have. He could read normally when he walked out of the clinic.

“Our testers, Pam and Lori, said that they often saw the peoples’ eyes widen when they could finally see. It was incredible to see how we were making a tangible, noticeable difference in the lives of those around us. 108 patients came through our clinic, and we did our absolute best with every single one of them....

“When we got in the van at the end of the day, all we could do was talk about those we had helped. We were exhausted and ready for a snack and a nap, but we all felt so fulfilled. The sunset was incredible and we listened to “Africa” by Toto on the drive back.

April 16, 2024

“By 7:40, we were out of the house (making extra sure Helena was in the van as well). We joined the Caring Friends for singing and prayer at the school once again. When we finished, our host Maureen explained that because the drive was shorter today, we could do a tour of their facility.

“Maureen gave us a comprehensive explanation of the services they provide in their area. They have a pad drive for young girls in six local schools, as well as an eye clinic and a lab for creating new lenses for glasses. The Caring Friends organization is an incredible resource to help those in South Africa who can’t help themselves. Each person there is passionate about their cause, and it shines through in everything they do.

“After our tour, we hit the road. It was a thirty-minute drive to our clinic, and once again, when we arrived, the locals were lined up outside—and inside!—waiting for us....

“Before long, though, we got to work setting up. Today was just as busy as the day before, but we



[above] Natalie helped patients find the right prescription.

[below] Linda helped patients try on glasses



knew what we were doing this time! The clinic was much more streamlined and organized, and we ultimately saw about the same amount of people in much less time.



[above] Lori and Pam work at the testing station.

“One man gave Pam an enormous hug when she checked him with the flippers for the first time. An amazing part of this job is watching peoples’ faces light up when they realize they can see. The

looks of joy and relief and awe on their features are worth every minute of discomfort or stress about this trip.

April 19, 2024

“Wednesday: “By the third day of clinics, everyone was feeling it a little bit. The sleep deprivation and long days were starting to get to us, but we still kept the energy as high as we could as we worked through our clinic....

[below] Arlo checks in a patient with the help of a translator



“Thursday: “We arrived at our clinic around 10:00, and there must have been a hundred people already in the church, and more coming every minute. Over 450 people pre-registered for our clinic. It was definitely a little intimidating, and on top of that, of course it was almost 90 degrees. The past few days we had been blessed with perfect weather, but it was roasting in that little church.

“After setting up, singing, and an introduction, we immediately threw ourselves into the work. And what a day it was.

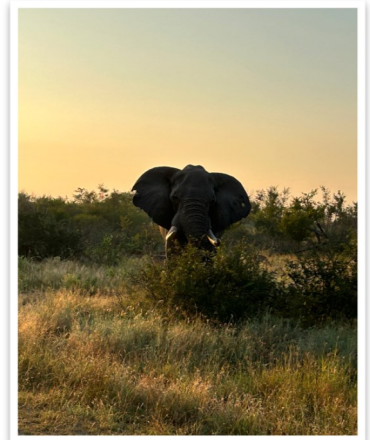
“It was definitely the most intense day yet. Every time we looked up, more waiting people had filled spots that were vacated minutes before. It felt like we weren’t even making a dent, even though the number climbed higher and higher....

“At 4:00, we had to stop taking new people. Of the 450 people pre-registered and the 200 more that registered during the day, we could only get through about 170. Our supply of glasses was dwindling rapidly as well, despite packing nearly everything we had the night before.

“By 5:00, the last patients were finally finished and we were all packed. The day ended, of course, with singing, and our beautiful African family blessed us with even more gifts before we left. Tears were shed, pictures taken, and a final prayer offered up before we began the two-hour drive to our overnight spot....

“Friday: “Today, we arose once again at 5:00. This time, though, our destination was Kruger National Park, where our safari began at 6:00.

“Our team was looking forward to a day of well-earned rest after the long days of clinics. Even though it was an early morning, we soon woke up as our guides carried us through the miles of park and we got to watch the sun rise.



“We ate a delicious buffet breakfast where we got to try pap, a South African staple made with maize.

By itself, it wasn’t everyone’s favorite, but with the traditional sauce it was delicious. After breakfast, we headed back to the vans to try to spot some safari animals—and we did....

“Thank you for supporting us! It really means the world.

“Hamba kahle!

The trip had one more surprise in store for the team: original return flights were cancelled and the team had to stay an extra night and day in South Africa before the rebooked flights took off the ground. One day later than planned, on April 23, they arrived safely back on US soil and their trip was officially over.

They were able to share in person with the congregation on Sunday, April 28 during the Bible class hour. Their presentation included a song in Zulu!

If short-term mission work is something you feel God calling you to, have a conversation with Linda Hollman, our Outreach Director (lindah@christoursavior.org).

“Now you are the body of Christ...”

Retirement of Noreen Lenardon

The life of the Church revolves around our mission and ministry—we preach Christ crucified and proclaim Him through our acts of mercy. In the Body of Christ, there are roles that are more noticeable, and there are others that play vital roles behind the scenes. Our congregation runs smoothly because all parts work together. While the pastors preach and teach, small group leaders develop relationships, and musicians direct our praise to God, the office is busy handling contribution statements and making sure the carpets are cleaned.

Working behind the scenes, our Business Manager, Noreen Lenardon, has worked faithfully to make sure that the finances are handled accurately and appropriately and that the building is maintained in good condition so that the ministry we do can be safe and effective. With heavy hearts we share that she announced she will be retiring this spring.

Noreen Lenardon came to our congregation in 1995. She was living in the area and looking for a church home. One Sunday she visited Christ Our Savior for Sunday morning worship, and remembers sitting behind Jerry Eggers, who, after the service, welcomed her with a hug. This act of friendship made the decision for her—she became a member at Christ Our Savior.

While a member here, she met her husband, John Lenardon, and they exchanged their wedding vows in our sanctuary. She started working as Administrative Secretary under Rev. Luther Werth in 2003. In 2005, she left her position in the office when her daughter, Annelisa, was born.

In 2009, this congregation called Rev. Dean Davenport to serve as our senior pastor. A week before he was scheduled to start, the current secretary resigned, leaving a gap in the office. Noreen learned of this situation while serving on the Personnel Committee, and in order to ease Pastor Davenport’s transition, volunteered to fill in the position until Pastor could find someone else to hire. She viewed this as a temporary

arrangement, and was clear that there would be no hard feelings as he took the time to interview and hire another secretary to remain in the position permanently.

Apparently, Pastor found exactly who he wanted and Noreen remained in the office for the next 15 years. Her position was split into two roles and she became Administrative Assistant for Communications and Laurie Riegel was hired to become the Administrative Assistant for Worship. In 2019, Maureen Dunstan retired and Noreen moved into the Business Manager role.

As she looks back over the past twenty-one years, she is surprised at how long this “temporary position” lasted. One reason she believes that she stayed so long in this office is that she always felt that she was contributing to the mission.

After retirement, she’s looking forward to spending more time with her husband, John, daughter, Anna, and their dog, Bailey. She also hopes to spend more time with her sisters and their families, doing things that work has previously interfered with her doing. There may be travel in the works—she and John are purchasing an RV and she’s looking at pictures of the beautiful parks out west, in the USA and Canada.

We will miss the many ways Noreen contributes to the smooth running of church operations, she won’t be easy to replace! But we will also miss her personality in our office, giving us ideas and solutions, making us laugh, helping us keep our priorities in order, and sharing her wisdom and insight with us. We wish her the best as she starts the next chapter in life!

Join us for a reception to celebrate her retirement on June 9, following the 11 a.m. service.



Singing with the Lutherans

By Garrison Keillor



I have made fun of Lutherans for years — who wouldn't if you lived in Minnesota? But, I have sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn. We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But no one sings like them. If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively "Lutheran less" place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row The Boat Ashore", they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Lutherans, they'll smile and row the boat ashore and up to the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony.

We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of "Children of the Heavenly Father" in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Lutherans, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you would call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you a tuna salad!

If you laughed while reading this you must be a Lutheran.



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!

Hello Walls!

By Diane Kaye

If walls could talk, what would they say?
Would they speak well of yesterday?
Of all the yesterdays they knew—
Happy times under skies of blue
A few friends gather, or large families
Love and laughter realities
Stormy times, black clouds and thunder
Hearts in pieces, torn asunder—
What would they say? I often wonder.

Would they speak of a newborn's cries?
Love without measure in a mother's eyes?
A little boy's mischief, a little girl's charms
A Daddy's welcome with open arms?
A puppy sleeping in the warmth of the sun
Blocks, trucks, dolls, toy dishes, in a room overrun?
A brave soldier son, going off to war
Tears of a mother for the son that she bore
Her prayers to God in Heaven soar.

If walls could talk, what would they say?
Would they speak well of yesterday?
A marriage of two, then the grandchildren come
"They are my heart!" oft declared in this home.
A little one snug with a book in a lap
Baseball games, dance recitals—ballet or tap
All spoken of here with glory and praise
Heart's peace in the nights and joy in the days
The wonder of God's mysterious ways.

The dread silence of death—hearts broken and sore
Sweeping up pieces of a life now o'er
Searching through relics where memories are found
Holding fast to the good times, feeling love surround
A new family settles in with tales of its own
First newly married living alone
Then children join them—one, two, three.
All active and happy—sweet as can be.
The walls still observing—so much to see.



Kid's Corner

Vacation Bible School

Join us at Christ Our Savior this summer as we go on an amazing undersea adventure. At SCUBA VBS we'll dive into friendship with God and each other.

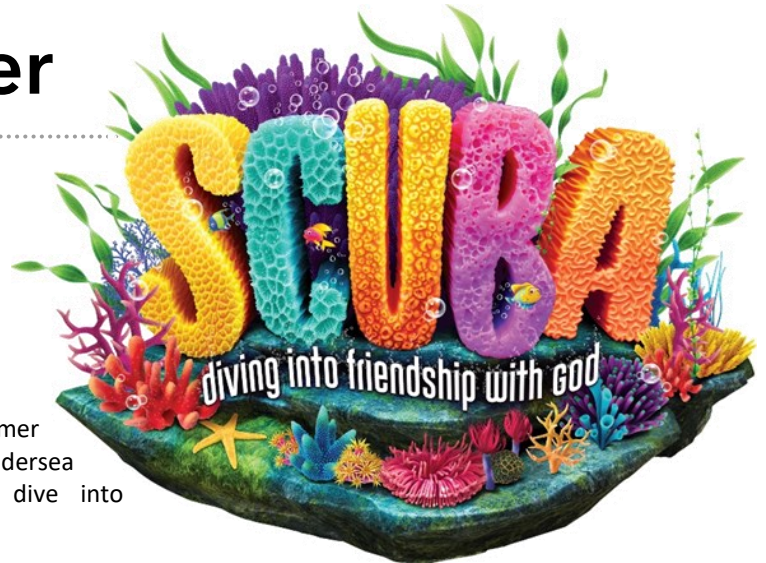
SCUBA VBS will be fun for children ages 3 years (and potty-trained) through completion of 5th grade. Each day the children will be a part of fun Bible learning they can see, hear, touch, and even taste!

So mark these dates on your calendar: June 24 - June 28. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and we will end at 12:00 p.m. Register online beginning May 1, at www.christsaviors.org/vbs or in the church narthex on Sundays starting May 19. There is a registration fee of \$10/maximum \$30 per family. When registering online, the fee can be paid on Sundays at the VBS table in the narthex, during office hours in the church office, mailed to the church office, or paid the first day of VBS.

Volunteers

Youth who have completed 6th grade, catechism students, teenagers, and adults will enjoy signing on as group leaders and assistants who help younger children.

Many volunteer positions are still available if you would like to help make SCUBA VBS an



exciting Bible-learning adventure for our children. To find out how you can serve in this year's VBS program, stop by the VBS table in the narthex or contact Karla at (734) 522-6830 or KarlaS@christoursavior.org

There will be a meeting (with lunch provided) for ALL Volunteers working VBS week on Sunday, June 23, 12:30-2:00 p.m. We feel it is important to get all of our volunteers together to give you an overview of the week, let you know what's expected of you, and unify our VBS team!

Decorating

Help transform Christ Our Savior into a spectacular underwater world for our SCUBA VBS. We will have a decorating day on Saturday, June 23. We will begin at 10:00 a.m. and work until we are done (at least 1:00 p.m.). Come join us for snacks, fellowship, and of course decorating!



Women's Ministry

News and Updates

I AM says I am...

Women's Retreat, April 19-20, 2024

We were blessed to have over 120 women attend our WOW Women's Retreat "I AM says I am..." held on Friday and Saturday, April 19th and 20th. We were excited that many of the participants were friends of our church members, those who heard about it through our LWML Zone, or other means by which we invited women. We enjoyed hearing from two excellent speakers, Marlo Rutz and Nicole Herman. Thanks to all of the hands that have helped make this happen, especially Alyssa, Laurie and Noreen. There will be a follow-up report in the next issue of the Disciplegram with pictures.

LWML Michigan District

Highlights and Convention News

Several grants, which were allocated for the past two years, have been 100% covered, including *Clark Park Street Ministry* in Detroit through the Family of God Church. A grant which is not 100% covered is *Gift's for All God's Children*. For more information on this organization visit: giftsforallgodschildren.org. Please continue to be a part of reaching the LWML Michigan District mite goals by placing your donations in the Mite Box located at the table by the exit doors in the Narthex. This is just one of many ways to share God's Love.

As of March 2024, Mite donations for the Michigan District: Biennium Goal: \$386,000
Biennium Giving to Date: \$378,886.

April 13—Wayne Oak Hills Spring Rally

The Spring Rally for our LWML zone was held at Shadow of the Cross Lutheran (Farmington Hills) on Saturday, April 13th. Pastor Joel Werner was installed as the new Wayne Oak Hills Zone Counselor and will be attending the LWML convention in June in Grand Rapids.

June 28-30—Michigan LWML Convention

The Michigan LWML convention will be held at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids, MI. The goal of this convention is to experience God's goodness and

grace as we grow
spiritually, being
nourished by His Word.

If you are planning on attending the convention, prepare to bring items for their ingathering, "Gifts from the Heart." This year they are supporting seminarians with Walmart gift cards (write the amount on the card). For local Lutheran schools, they are collecting markers, pencils, crayons, dry erase markers, glue sticks, and disinfecting wipes.

Proposed mission grants to be voted on at the convention are now on the LWML Michigan District website to be reviewed prior to the voting at the convention. If you take the time to review them and have a strong want for a particular one or more to pass, contact Dianne Sherman who is a voting delegate from Christ Our Savior.

Don't forget to bring your mitey change for the 80th birthday party games. Check the LWML MI District website often for updated convention information.

Banner for the Convention

The theme for the Michigan District LWML is *Taste and See that the Lord is Good* from Psalm 34:8. Our Wayne Oak Hills Zone has asked us to make a banner for the Rally. I (Dianne) have asked Amy Davenport, Ruth Dobberfuhl, Patsy Domingo and Judy Mayle to help design and put together a 3' x 5' banner for our zone. If anyone in the congregation has any ideas for our design please see anyone of us before May 15th. Thank you—Dianne Sherman (734-812-5172).

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

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.

**TASTE AND SEE THAT
THE LORD IS GOOD**



Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Eugene Rogers	Intended for:	Given by:
	General Fund Food Pantry Music Ministry Forever Young & Homeless Altar Guild	Charles & Patricia Bashor, Kathleen Kangas, Ron & Susan Meyer, Donna Paulson, Jill Ritzler William Bryant, Shirley Fabry Lois Drake, Margie Milz Barbara Karowich Stuart & Elisabeth Schluckebier
In memory of Carole Kovatch	Intended for:	Given by:
	General Fund	Richard & Lenore Fekete, Lori & LeRoy Heasley
In honor of Erna Heck	Intended for:	Given by:
	General Fund Food Pantry Family of God Ministry	Shirley Fabry, German-American Cultural Center, Christine & Dan Wiersig Kathleen Kangas, Diane Morrison, Phil & Sue Tamaroglio Lois Drake
In Memory of:	Intended for:	Given by:
Rey Juengel	Missions	Shirley Fabry
Carol Bird	Music Ministry	Susan Bird
In Honor of:	Intended for:	Given by:
The Quilters	Quilting Ministry	Lois Drake
Arlene Gumushian	Music Ministry	Kathleen Kangas

Membership Updates

*As of April 8,
2024*

To keep the congregation better 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.



Received by Baptism:

- Abigail Knisley on Mar 10, 2024

The Jerusalem Radio News

"This is Frank Marshall with the Jerusalem radio news. This is an exciting day today. People are waiting for a man they call "Jesus." "We are on the main street. People are crowding everywhere. Babies are crying, children are screaming to go home, and mothers and fathers are becoming impatient.

"Wait! I think, I think he's coming! Yes, I can see him now! He's riding a donkey! People are waving palm branches as if the branches are flags. Some people are even putting their coats on the ground. This is like laying out a red carpet for royalty. I think I hear them shouting that Jesus in their King. They are welcoming him as they would welcome a King. Is it possible that Jesus is going to lead a revolt to free the children of Israel from the rule of Romans? We're going to keep close watch on Jesus for future developments.

"Jesus is now headed for the Temple.

He's walking up the stairs rather angrily. What's the matter? Why is he yelling? Just a minute! If I can get closer to the Temple, I'll be able to see and hear more. People are running our of the Temple. Merchants, sellers, buyers, even chickens and animals! Oh, ladies and gentlemen, I think this is going to cause big trouble. I'll ask someone in the crowd for more information.

"Sir! Sir! What's going on in the Temple? I head Jesus come in and start yelling, "My Temple will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a hideout for thieves!"

"Thank you, Sir, thank you. Well, there you have it ladies and gentlemen. During this week we will be following this man Jesus and the excitement he is bringing to Jerusalem. Frank Marcell

This essay was written by Ellen Fabry Hoyer when she was in the 5th or 6th grade at St. Thomas School, East Detroit.

[Membership Updates cont.]

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 Individuals:

- Rey Juengel on Feb 17, 2024
- Eugene Rogers on Feb 23, 2024
- Ed Sloan on Feb 15, 2024
- Erna Heck on Mar 15, 2024
- Pat Simko on Apr 11, 2024
- Mary Wludyka on Apr 11, 2024

Unreachable Members:

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

The Lighter Side



Who's the arch-enemy of the Gsus chord?
The Dmin chord.



Where was Solomon's temple located?
On the side of his head.

Which servant of God was the worst lawbreaker in the Bible?
Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

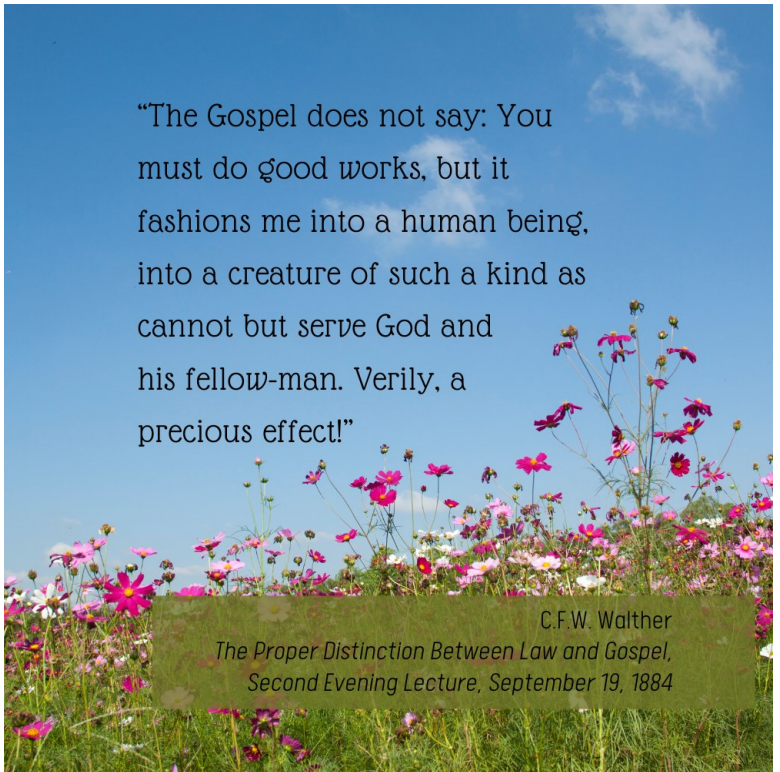
Why did Noah have to punish the chickens on the Ark?
They were using fowl language.

Moses had the first tablet that could connect to the cloud.



Which Bible Character is a locksmith?
Zaccheus.

Food for Thought



“The Gospel does not say: You must do good works, but it fashions me into a human being, into a creature of such a kind as cannot but serve God and his fellow-man. Verily, a precious effect!”

C.F.W. Walther
*The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel,
Second Evening Lecture, September 19, 1884*

MISSIONAL LIVING



STUDY

WORSHIP

Building on our strengths of worship and the study of God's Word, we are poised to increase our disciple making outreach through various avenues of service:

- ✝ Personal Life Situations
- ✝ Neighborhood / Community
- ✝ Around the World

Missional Living Workshop

As you read in pastor's opening epistle to this Disciplegram, we are launching a strategic emphasis on "Missional Living", a focus to bring us all into a greater awareness of where and how we can increase our outreach and disciple making efforts. The opportunities to serve abound, and here at COS we are already engaged in many. And now is the opportunity to live out the mission of service that we are given as Christians by "going further" as God directs us.

We have scheduled a workshop designed to help us define the areas of need where we can "go next" in missional living. The plan for this workshop is simple: we want to open the doors of our imaginations by brain-storming areas of need. No idea is too big, no idea is too small, no idea is too crazy. All suggestions will be recorded, and we will all participate in a voting exercise to help us prioritize the input.

The workshop will be held on **June 6**, at 6 p.m. in the gym. All church members are encouraged to attend. Dinner will be provided. Please come prepared with your ideas, and how they might be met. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

The Missional Living Planning Team – Pastor Davenport, Pastor Werner, Josh Kittleman, Laura Myers, Erik Kuszynski, and Mark Anders