

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, & SERVE THE WORLD IN WAYNE & BEYOND

DECEMBER 2023

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

BLESSED HOLIDAYS!

Dear Church of the Saviour family,

What are you thankful for as we approach the holiday season? So many things flood my mind, but five stand out (but there are so many more!) ...

1. Jesus – I am moved to tears regularly during our Sunday worship gatherings as we pour out our love to our triune God. I know I don't deserve His love, but I so deeply appreciate that Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so! And as we lean into December, we have the high privilege of remembering and celebrating His incarnation.

2. My Family & Friends – I can't believe I have two little grandsons and that Cheryl (my wife) and I get to be part of their lives on a weekly basis. My daughter and son-in-law live in the same town, and we are delighted that they are in our lives. And if that wasn't enough, I have friends who are like family. I am so blessed relationally.

3. My Church Family – There is nowhere else that Cheryl and I would want to be. We love COS because you all are COS! I love our heart for Jesus, the lost, God's Word, the hurting, and the world. I thank God regularly that I get to do life and ministry with you all in this corner of Jesus' vineyard. COS is one great church family! I love our long-time members and I love all our new family members, what a blessing you are.

4. Our Staff Team – We have an amazing staff team at COS. They are big-hearted, in love with Jesus, and extremely talented. I get to work with top-shelf people and collaborate with them daily. And along the way, I have been blessed to get to know them in deeper ways and hear their golden hearts and sacred stories.

5. Global & Local Partners – We have extremely dedicated and effective local and global partners. People who are reaching others for Christ here in the States and some even in greater Philly. And we have people scattered across the globe living for Jesus and making Him known. Servants that we get to lock arms with and support through prayers and finances. When we pool our money together in our Missions Fund we invest in what God is doing through 42 Global Partners/Families who serve in 17 countries (scattered across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas). God thank you for these remarkable Christians!

What a blessing to finish up Thanksgiving by worshiping with you this Thanksgiving Sunday (11/19) as we get ready for our national holiday. Then, we roll into December with Advent, Women's Christmas Gathering (12/2), Choral Advent Celebration (12/2), Christmas Concerts (12/15-17), and our Christmas Eve morning worship services (9:00 & 10:30), and then our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols at 9:00 pm. For more information please email info@coswayne.org or call [610-688-6338](tel:610-688-6338) or visit coswayne.org/holiday.

With gratitude for you my sisters and brothers in Christ,

Pastor Kevin

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MINISTRY UPDATES

CHRISTMAS EVE – COOKIES, CIDER, & HOT CHOCOLATE BAR 8:00-8:45 PM

Before our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols worship service, our ministry staff team at COS will be hosting cocoa, cider, and cookies in the Welcome Center / Corner Café. We will enjoy some “sweet” fellowship as we get ready to prepare our hearts for Christmas Day. This is a family service, so parents and grandparents please bring your kids and grandkids to this worship service and feel free to tell them it starts with holiday treats at 8:00 pm. We look forward to sharing this holiday season with you! Merry Christmas COS!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND A NEW VETTING PROCESS

One of the things we are most thankful to God for is a congregation of people who are inclined to work with their hearts, minds, and hands when it comes to the ministries of Church of the Saviour. On behalf of the entire church family, We are sending our deep appreciation to all of you who have served Christ by serving our church, community, and world. Thank you!

We continue to hold this as one of our primary goals, providing the safest context possible for all our ministries. To that end, we have complied with state background checks for all those who volunteer with kids and teens. As we are always striving to go beyond what is simply necessary and to excel in the area of safety, we have put our heads together and come up with a single volunteer form that will serve all our ministries and be tracked through our church management system (Realm).

Though we could have asked only “new” volunteers to use this new volunteer vetting tool, our heart for creating the safest context possible has led us to ask EVERYONE who volunteers at COS to complete this process. It is a GREAT time to do this because we have NO active concerns with ANY of our amazing volunteers who serve here at COS.

Anyone, who participates in the ministries at COS, including the Sr. Pastor, our entire staff team, our elders, and deacons are being asked to take 20 minutes to fill out this digital form by January 31, 2024. If you are new and you have not volunteered in the past, we are asking you to fill the form out ASAP so that we can get you into our system and do the necessary background checks.

If you are not comfortable filling in a digital form using a computer or smartphone, please talk to the leader(s) of your ministry, and they can help you fill it out. Or call the church office at [610-688-6338](tel:610-688-6338) and our staff would be happy to assist you!

As part of this process, you are going to be asked for two references from COS who know you and can vouch for you. Please start thinking about that before you begin to fill in the form, so you will have their names and contact details available.

On behalf of the staff team working hard to coordinate this effort and provide the safest ministry contexts, thank you for being willing to spend 20 minutes filling out this volunteer form. We appreciate you and your partnership in making all COS ministries as safe as possible!

Here is your link to the form coswayne.org/serve again if you have any questions or if you need help, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at info@coswayne.org or by phone at [610-688-6338](tel:610-688-6338). Our staff team considers it a high honor that we get to serve you and serve others alongside you! Until ALL have heard!!

MINISTRY UPDATES

GIVING TUESDAY

On Giving Tuesday, we will be funding a project initiated by our Global Partner, Christi. Next summer, Christi will provide urgently needed training to teachers serving children with disabilities among an unreached Muslim people group in the Balkans. Nearly 100 individuals (children and young adults) and their families will be directly impacted by training just 9 teachers. It costs \$6,000 to send 9 teachers and 3 translators for less than one week of training in nearby Italy, as adequate training facilities do not exist in the country. Any funds given over the amount (up to \$12,000) will go to additional training of teachers and/or materials for students. Funds raised beyond \$12,000 will be contributed toward Global Outreach at COS, providing continued support to our 42 Global Partners (including Christi) and local diaspora ministry. Donate now at coswayne.org/give (specify Giving Tuesday).

SPECIAL NEEDS BUDDY MINISTRY

As we go into the season of giving and compassion, we are excited to share a special initiative that goes beyond borders and touches the hearts of our own community right here at COS. In the spirit of Giving Tuesday, we not only seek to make a difference globally but also to enhance the inclusivity of our Sunday morning offerings. In the weeks ahead, we'll share details about an upcoming gathering in January 2024 designed for those who wish to be part of the COS Special Needs Ministry. Our goal is to create a warm and welcoming space for all our young members and their families, ensuring that they can fully participate in the enriching experiences we offer on Sunday mornings.

We understand that every child is unique, and our commitment is to provide individualized assistance through the introduction of "shadows" or "buddies" -- caring individuals who will support and accompany children and teens during our Sunday activities.

We are eager to build upon our team of dedicated individuals, and your participation in the Special Needs Ministry will contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our congregation. Stay tuned for further details!

UPDATE: PROJECT MERRY CHRISTMAS COS HAS LAUNCHED

This Christmas, we have a few exciting opportunities to express our generosity in Wayne and beyond. Giving Tuesday will be our main thrust of giving as we hope to share the gospel with unreached people groups in the Balkans. Another opportunity will help us update our gathering spaces at church to be more conducive to relational connection and life-on-life relationship building.

Our team has put together a plan to refresh our spaces and modestly but attractively redesign the Corner Café in the Welcome Center. We are planning to create five new seating areas in the Welcome Center and Front Lobby as well as sprucing up the Reception Room and surrounding areas.

We have created a registry for you to purchase individual gifts of furniture and décor and have created a monetary fund for the updates to the Corner Café and personalized wall décor highlighting our vision, mission, and celebrating our history.

Visit coswayne.org/merry for more information and to donate.

Please prayerfully consider participating in one or both of these exciting giving opportunities.

MINISTRIES UPDATES

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

For more information about all of our events visit coswayne.org/holiday.



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT
December 2 | 9:30 am - Sanctuary



CHORAL ADVENT CELEBRATION
December 3 | 3:00 pm - Sanctuary



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS
December 15-17
Friday | 7:00 pm - Sanctuary
Saturday | 3:00 pm - Sanctuary
Saturday | 7:00 pm - Sanctuary
Sunday | 3:00 pm - Sanctuary



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
December 24
Traditional | 9:00 am - Sanctuary
Modern | 10:30 am - Sanctuary
Cookies, Cider, & Hot Chocolate Bar | 8:00 pm
(Building A in the Welcome Center)
Lessons & Carols | 9:00 pm - Sanctuary



NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES
December 31
Traditional | 9:00 am - Sanctuary
Modern | 10:30 am - Sanctuary

We realize that Holidays can be some of the hardest times for those who have lost loved ones. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our [Care ministry](#). You are loved and we are here for you.

MINISTRIES UPDATES

GLOBAL OUTREACH UPDATE

27 years ago, COS members sent Global Partners Bob and Pam Snyder on a mission to Budapest, Hungary. Their step of faithful obedience, founding, and leadership of International Health Services, continues to impact in ways that can only be described as a movement of God. To date, 46,361 Christian healthcare workers have been equipped to serve in 126 countries (40 restricted or hostile) as witnesses for Jesus to patients. As the Snyders continue to serve as Emeritus Global Partners, let us celebrate their tenure as COS Global Partners by keeping them in our prayers as they continue to shepherd a work in North America called Salt and Light Process.

CARE CORNER

Blessed are those that mourn, for they will be comforted. *Matthew 5:4*

I am sure that most of us have been impacted by loss, as loss comes in many forms. The loss of a loved one, either a friend or family, either young or old, can be debilitating. It can take years to feel like we are finally functioning outside of a cloud. So why did Jesus tell us those who mourn would be comforted? It seems so contradictory to the condition of our hearts.

Jesus was trying to impart that the Father is always with us, even though it seems next to impossible to understand when we are in the middle of deep grief. But God uses everything we feel, and everything we experience if we turn it back to Him. Blessings to those who mourn. Have you ever heard anything that sounds so contradictory? While challenging to understand, comfort can come from sitting and being still in God's presence, and comfort can also come from our Christian brothers and sisters who walk beside us in times of unbearable hurt. But God has a reason for this grief – and rest assured; He won't waste it.

If you are experiencing grief, whether fresh or lingering, we want to walk alongside you. GriefShare is a global, Christ-centered, and biblical program that has been around for 25 years. We have our chapter at Church of the Saviour, and classes will be starting again in January. This 13-week group is led by volunteers who have experienced grief first-hand. They understand this difficult process of grief and provide a safe place for you to wrestle with feelings, emotions, and even God.

If you would like more information about GriefShare, please contact Sandy McCoy at sjmaide@comcast.net. If you are experiencing grief, and it seems impossible to wait until January, especially during the holidays, please reach out to our Care Ministries at care@coswayne.org.

YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

EMAIL & TEXT SCAMS

While not directly tied to giving, we have heard about several email and text scams that have impacted our church family recently. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Be alert to any email or text that requests that you send money or provide personal information, even if it appears to be from a pastor, friend, or family member. Follow up with your friend or family member directly (i.e. call them on the number that you have saved in your phone) before taking any action.
- Remember that the church and our staff will NEVER request donations or personal information via text message. **We will not send text or email requests asking you to purchase something on behalf of the church.** Please contact the church office if you have any concerns.
- Do not share or reuse your email password. If you haven't changed your email password recently, it may be a good time to do so.
- If you have not set up "two-step verification" or "multi-factor authentication" for your email accounts, we highly recommend doing this. For instructions, please contact your email provider.

Technology advancements have provided great benefits, but not without risk. Please use caution, and please reach out to the church office if you have any questions or concerns.

GIVING UPDATE

Join us in praying for our Ministry/Operations and Missions budgets, particularly as contributions to Missions are currently below target. Together, we can trust in God's greater plan for our church.

	<u>Ministry/Ops</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Love-in-Action</u>
GIVING TO DATE	\$982,860	\$176,556	\$26,941
BUDGET	\$883,495	\$200,418	(\$15,856)*
OVER/(UNDER)	\$99,365	(\$23,862)	\$11,085

LOVE-IN-ACTION is a fund managed by the deacons to provide financial aid for people in our church and community who are suffering. *Aid provided from 7/1/23 - 9/30/23.