

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

FEBRUARY 2024

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

WARMING UP OUR WORSHIP & FAITH IN CONTEXT

Dear church family,

God sends guests every Sunday to our worship services. Some already know Jesus as Savior, others come looking for hope. In either case, we get to extend the hospitality of Jesus to everyone in our sanctuary (e.g. long-time or recent members, regular visitors, and first-time guests). We want everyone to feel the warmth of true Christian fellowship as they encounter our exceptional church family at Church of the Saviour!

So, let me encourage you to keep doing what you do so well! Go out of your way to welcome warmly, those you see on the COS campus, in the classrooms, and in our sanctuary. A great way to greet people you don't know is to say something like, "Hello my name is _____. How long have you been attending COS?" This doesn't assume that they are new, but also invites people to respond. This sort of introduction can naturally lead to a more meaningful conversation.

The first three minutes after worship are particularly important for greeting new people and making them feel welcome. Let me invite those of you who are long-time members, to respond like this when someone greets one of you. Please tell them how much you appreciate the warm and welcoming environment they're creating!

One of the best things we can do for a first-time (or returning) guest is to introduce them to others in our church family. So, if someone you know walks by, invite them over and introduce them to this new person you just met. Let's make it impossible for a first-time (or returning) guest to come to our church campus without multiple people lovingly welcoming them!

Let's continue to pray that God would both bring guests to COS and send us out into Wayne & beyond so we can invite people to consider the person of Jesus Christ! As your pastor, who feels so honored to shepherd the greatest flock in the world, let me encourage you to pursue others with the tender love of God, in the name of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit!

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Letter From the Pastor
- Faith In Context
- Staff Transition
- Global Outreach Update
- Care Corner
- Ministry Updates
- YTD Financial Update

MINISTRIES UPDATES

FAITH IN CONTEXT WITH DR. SARAH SCHNITKER

Faith in Context is a speaker series that explores big questions at the interface of the Christian faith and our broader culture. Our goal is to create authentic spaces for students, their friends, and families, to explore faith commitments given emerging findings in the sciences. Wherever you are on your faith journey - a committed Christ follower, agnostic, or an atheist - these events are non-confrontational spaces for you to explore hard questions with a spirit of open-mindedness and curiosity.

Mark your calendar for our next event in the Faith in Context series. Our guest will be Dr. Sarah Schnitker, a Christian professor of psychology and neuroscience at Baylor who researches virtue development. Sarah will be giving a talk during the Friday night session focused on the enneagram and what science can tell us about personality and spiritual formation. On Saturday morning, she will host a half-day workshop exploring the science of gratitude with specific tips on how to grow in this vital virtue focused on parenting. On Sunday morning, she will spend time with our Student Ministry. You won't want to miss it!

Check out coswayne.org/context for an overview of past speakers. More details about the March event will be coming soon.

Until all have heard,

Pastor Kevin

STAFF TRANSITION

It is with much sadness that we announce Haig Shishmanian's decision to resign his position as Global Outreach Director at Church of the Saviour. His last day will be on February 11th. Haig has accepted a position that will utilize his extensive talents in the business arena. He has prayerfully engaged this big change as a good fit for his giftings as well as an opportunity that best suits the needs of his growing family.

Missions is a very important part of the founding and fiber of the vision and direction of Church of the Saviour. The Global Outreach director's role is a crucial one and not easy to fill. The Lead Team will be working on an interim plan until we can fill the role, and of course, Haig will help with the transition before he departs.

We are so appreciative of Haig and all the hard work, intelligence, and good humor he brought during his short time with us. Join us in wishing Haig and his wife Natalie the best of success and praying for the Lord's strong hand of grace and presence as Haig faces these new opportunities and challenges.

The Lead Team

MINISTRY UPDATES

IS A NEW VOLUNTEER APPLICATION PROCESS REALLY NECESSARY?

Did you know that God never intended for a select group of professionals known as the "clergy" to bear the entire responsibility of the church? Instead, his vision was for a multitude of empowered lay people to passionately overwhelm the world with the good news of Jesus' love for humanity.

Volunteers are the very backbone of the Church, and that is certainly true for COS. All gospel ministries, from teaching little kids about Jesus to facilitating community groups, and leading music, are populated by volunteers with big hearts, big talents, and big generosity to serve. Volunteers extend the reach of the gospel way beyond the capacity of a limited number of staff and elders. Starting this month, we are asking all volunteers including elders, deacons, pastors, and staff, to fill out and submit the new COS volunteer application.

So, you might be thinking: "If volunteers are so vital and already busy, why would we ever 'irritate' them with one more hoop to jump through, like a volunteer application?" "Isn't this new process over the top?" For the answer to why this new volunteer application process is necessary, check out the video below.



SPECIAL NEEDS BUDDY MINISTRY

Our Special Needs informational gathering is scheduled for **January 28 at 12:00 pm in room A110/112**, immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. Join us as we dream together and aim to broaden the inclusiveness of our Sunday morning offerings. Lunch and childcare will be provided. If you'd like to participate, please send an email to stephenc@coswayne.org.

THE ALPHA COURSE

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you watch an episode on a different question of faith - and then have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like or nothing at all. Everyone is welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back. Dinner is provided each week.

Visit coswayne.org/alpha for more details and to register.

Date: January 30

Time: 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: F101 (next to the gym)



MINISTRIES UPDATES

GLOBAL OUTREACH UPDATE

We continue to support more than 40 Global Partners sharing the Gospel and making disciples of Jesus in over 16 countries. We are excited to increase awareness and prayer for our Partners and local ministries at our Prayer Meeting every 4th Sunday of the month beginning **January 28 at 11:45 am** in the Reception Room. Those interested in learning more are welcome to stop by!

We also look forward to the start of 10 weeks of ESL classes on **February 24** and continue to anticipate students from around the world and a growing team of COS volunteers (see our registration at coswayne.org/esl to learn more about the results of ESL last Fall)

CARE CORNER - WHY DO WE "CARE"?

Paul says we are all part of one body, and that if the smallest part of the body hurts, we all hurt (Rom 12, 1 Corinthians 12). There are many ways we are called to love others as we learn to follow Jesus and care for the least of these (Matt 25).

One of the most common challenges we all face is shame. Our human struggle with shame began in the garden as Adam and Eve realized they were flawed after sinning and needed to cover themselves and hide. Being vulnerable enough to ask for help often means we must face our shame at being flawed in some way. Our current culture and context don't make it easy to admit when we're not measuring up to the standards of the culture around us. We may feel pressure to look good to others, keep up financial appearances, and always be able to handle the challenges of life. We don't like to be exposed as imperfect or in need.

Care Ministries are here for you, your family members, and even friends you know who are struggling. Sometimes, we need to humble ourselves for the Holy Spirit to work in us to shape us to be more of who we've been designed to be.

Discover the many ways our care ministries are here to serve and help at coswayne.org/care and contact me with any questions at roys@coswayne.org. In alphabetical order: Celebrate Recovery, Counseling (connection with licensed Christian counselors), Divorce Care, Financial Peace University, Grief Share, Stephen Ministry, Visitation.

We are here to serve with humility to accept, love, and help those who are hurting.

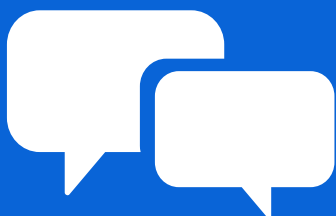


YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

GIVING UPDATE

	<u>Ministry/Ops</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Love-in-Action</u>
GIVING TO DATE	\$1,931,059	\$396,149	\$49,218
BUDGET	\$1,668,581	\$392,307	(\$32,463)*
OVER/(UNDER)	\$262,478	\$3,842	\$16,755

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 - 12/31/23.



Text Messaging

Text **"JOIN COS"** to **833-744-9334** to receive alerts or important messages from COS.

Questions & Feedback

We welcome and encourage all inquiries: info@coswayne.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media by searching "Church of the Saviour" on Facebook and Instagram!