

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

JANUARY 2024

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church family,

One of the hardest things in life is keeping the main thing the main thing. As we enter 2024, we want to prioritize what Jesus wants all churches to prioritize, discipleship. How do we make disciples of Jesus Christ here at Church of the Saviour? Or to ask it another way, what is our discipleship process?

Our process is stated on the front of our weekly bulletin and our hope is to make it easy for people in the pews to understand. It is our responsibility to help congregants understand our process so that we can all clearly convey it to others. So, if asked how COS moves someone from a new believer to a mature follower of Christ, how would you answer?

Love God, Love Others, & Serve the World! As you can see, there are three movements in this discipleship process. The goal is for all of us at Church of the Saviour to grow in:

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1. Passionate Worship - Let's gather regularly at our worship services to give our triune God His due by praying, praising, and hearing His Word proclaimed through preaching. We've summarized this concept with the phrase LOVE GOD.

2. Connection with fellow Christians - Let's unite around God's Word and in real life-on-life community. The way we do this at COS is through our Community Groups—small groups that focus on Jesus, His Word, and spiritually invigorating relationships. We've captured this concept in the phrase LOVE OTHERS.

3. Humble Service - Let's make an impact in our spheres of influence by using the spiritual gifts that God has given us to transform the world to His glory! This concept is described in our phrase SERVE THE WORLD.

God has blessed Church of the Saviour with a wealth of resources (treasure, time, and talents). As we enter the new year, we want to focus on how the Son of God is shining through our church family. No doubt we can make an impact in people's lives as individuals. Our desire is to allow God to make a GREAT impact through us as we lock arms and join our hearts in God-given purpose and calling. We are better, smarter, and stronger together than we are individually! United Christians who rely on God's Word and His empowering presence (i.e., the Holy Spirit) can make an eternal difference to our neighbors in Wayne, the surrounding communities, and ultimately across the world as we see God bring His gospel to unreached people groups. Let's glorify God in Wayne & beyond by making disciples of Jesus Christ through devoting ourselves to the biblical process of Loving God, Loving Others, & Serving the World!

Until all have heard,

Pastor Kevin

MINISTRIES UPDATES

READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Are you up for a challenge that will strengthen your spiritual muscles? In the YouVersion app (Android & iOS), you can pick various plans to read through different portions of God's Word. For those who would like to read a plan with others at Church of the Saviour, click [here](#) to join the "[The One Year® Chronological Bible](#)" or scan the QR code. We invite you to begin this plan on Monday, January 1, 2024.



This plan will help you gain a better understanding of the order of biblical events and the historical context in which they unfolded. The One Year® Chronological Bible gives readers a fresh look at the Bible. With the full text divided into 365 portions for daily reading, it allows readers the opportunity to read through the Bible in one year.

Regularly reading God's Word and communing with Him in prayer is the most powerful way to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. On average it only takes 10-12 minutes a day to read through the entire Bible in a year at a normal pulpit reading rate. Let's resolve to let the Lord renew our minds and saturate our hearts by reading His transformative Word in 2024!

In 2023 forty-eight congregants journeyed together, let's shoot for triple digits this year. It would be great if we could have more than 100 participating in this daily reading plan. Consider yourself warmly invited to be part of this family of faith reading through the entire Bible in 2024. Come be part of this wonderful spiritual experience!

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. 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 "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.

Our Special Needs informational gathering is scheduled for **January 28 at 12:00 pm in the Choir Room (A106)**, 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.

MINISTRY UPDATES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

Traditional | 9:00 am

Modern | 10:30 am

Evening Reception | 8:00 pm

Evening Service* | 9:00 pm

*Lessons and Carols

Join us at 9:00 pm on Christmas Eve for this special service of Christian worship that tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. The story is told through nine short Bible readings ("lessons") from Genesis through the Gospels, interspersed with familiar carols and hymns of the season including a special kids' moment.

Evening Reception

We will also have Cookies, Cider, and a Hot Chocolate Bar in the Welcome Center from 8:00 - 8:45 pm.

Childcare

Nursery, Preschool, and Elementary childcare and classes will continue for both Sunday morning services. For the 9:00 pm service, the Nursery will be open for children ages 4 months through 2 years old. We encourage children to join us for this special service!

ALPHA LAUNCH PARTY

Alpha Launch Party is a fun event where you will learn more about the Alpha Course, share a meal, and get excited about welcoming your friends into a conversation about faith, life, and God. Once you have learned more you can register for the full course.

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



Date: January 23rd

Time: 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: F101 (next to the gym)

UPCOMING EQUIPPING COURSES

9:00 am

Sharing the Gospel with Diverse Cultures and Religions - B205 - Begins January 21

Pre-Marital Class - C209 - Begins January 14

Hermeneutics Demystified - How to Study the Bible - B217 - Begins January 14

The Gospel-Centered Life - B201 - Begins March 17

10:30 am

Developing A Conversational Relationship with God - B217 - Begins January 21

Visit coswayne.org/courses to learn more about each of these courses.

MINISTRIES UPDATES

GLOBAL OUTREACH UPDATE

God blew us away with your generosity on Giving Tuesday by raising \$25,000+, which opened the door to share Christ with communities virtually cut off from the Gospel. Leading up to Christmas, Global Partners shared Christmas memories, praises, and prayer requests going into 2024 in our quarterly Zoom together with Haig, who couldn't help but be excited for the new year!

Our Plans for 2024 include:

- **Continuing our Diaspora ministries** through ESL, International Student, and Refugee ministries.
- **Offering Equipping Courses** to the whole congregation to catalyze relational evangelism with those who have not yet heard. Haig is excitedly preparing to lead the Equipping course, **Sharing the Gospel with Diverse Cultures and Religions**. Join us!
 - **When:** Sundays at 9:00 am from January 21 to March 10
 - **Where:** B205
- **Holding monthly Global Outreach Prayer Meetings** – For anyone interested in a deeper dive into who our Global Partners are, where they are serving, and how to pray for their impact around the world.
 - **Where:** Reception Room (A120)
 - **When:** 4th Sunday of the month after the Modern Service

Whether East Asia, Cambodia, Thailand, The Balkans, Turkey, the Middle East, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, the DR Congo, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Quebec, the Philly Metro, Harrisburg, or for global Sending and Support efforts (phew!), we look forward to better informing our Global Outreach-focused prayers and praying together in-person every month. We are looking forward to all God has in store in 2024!

CARE CORNER

Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Sometimes we need others who understand our pain and struggles, to walk alongside us on our earthly journey. Because cancer and other illnesses are an ever-present reality in a fallen world, these devastating illnesses touch our lives in challenging and unexpected ways. In conjunction with our Community Groups at COS, the Care Ministry is excited to offer two new community groups starting in January to help those struggling with cancer.

The first group is for both patients with cancer and survivors of cancer. This group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 5:00-6:30 pm at the church in the Choir Room. This group is a slightly new version of our Double Hope ministry, which was started over 20 years ago at COS. Because cancer treatments and battling cancer can be exhausting and unpredictable, you do not need to commit to attending all meetings. Please come when you are able. Both men and women are welcome. We will encourage, support, grieve, lament, and rejoice together.

The second group is for caregivers of those suffering from cancer or other long-term or terminal illnesses, or caregivers who have lost their loved one to a serious illness. This group will meet virtually on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 7:00-8:15 am. A Zoom link will be sent to you once you sign up. This group will use other resources to wrestle with hardships and trials related to long-term illness. We will encourage, support, grieve, lament, and rejoice together in a group that is safe and understands each other's trials. Please do not feel you need to attend all meetings; join as you can.

For both community groups, please sign up at the following link: coswayne.org/groups.

If you would like further information, please get in touch with Wendy Terry at wendyterry226@gmail.com.

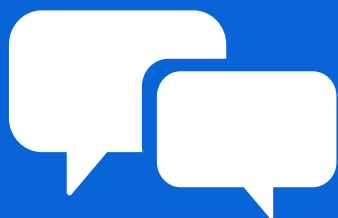
YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

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	\$1,338,410	\$260,440	\$33,627
BUDGET	\$1,287,354	\$318,374	(\$28,103)*
OVER/(UNDER)	\$51,056	(\$57,934)	\$5,524

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 - 11/30/23.



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!