

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

OCTOBER 2023

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

COS OPEN HOUSE (NOVEMBER 5)

Do you have friends, neighbors, coworkers, or family members who don't know Jesus or have a church home? Church of the Saviour is planning our annual Open House this fall as an intentional opportunity where you can invite those in your sphere of influence (those seeking or unconnected to a church) to experience a normal Sunday at Church of the Saviour.

Our COS Open House is always the first Sunday in November, this year it's on the 5th. Our hope is that everyone who visits senses God's presence and will be drawn to worship our great God and Savior—Jesus Christ. This specific Sunday is picked for several deliberate reasons.

1. People are especially receptive to spiritual things as the holiday season approaches because the holidays highlight our God-given desire for authentic relationships.

2. Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday (as we fall back!), so people get an extra hour of sleep; what better time to invite someone to church than when they are well-rested?

3. Everyone who attends our Fall Fest on October 28 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm will receive an invitation to join our Open House.

Wouldn't it be great to see our church filled with new and familiar faces all worshipping King Jesus together? Let's start praying now and asking God who we might bring. Invitation cards will be available beginning Sunday, October 8, so grab one (or a few!). Remember the secret sauce is not in the paper invitation, it is in the relationship you are building with the other person. So, we might say something like, *"Hey, you shared with me that you don't have a church home (or Hey, I've never asked you if you have a church home). We are having an Open House at our church next Sunday, to let people know what a normal Sunday at Church of the Saviour is like. If you might be interested, I'd love to invite you to be my guest and we can sit together and grab lunch after the service and it'll be on me."* IF the person shows interest, then give them the invitation. IF they don't, then keep it to invite someone else. People are more open to an invitation than we might think, if you don't believe it, [dig deeper into the research here](#). The paper invitation has no power in and of itself (of course!), but the relational capital we have with those in our sphere of influence does! Also, bear in mind that people who are going through hard times or transitions are especially open and looking for hope. So, let's show Spirit-filled love to those going through divorces, dealing with sickness, grieving a loss, looking for work, experiencing depression or anxiety, just having a new baby recently, etc. Times of disruption have a way of opening our hearts to Jesus.

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LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Our Sunday gatherings from the nursery, kids, teens, and adults will be preparing to sincerely welcome guests, as will our First Impression Team (greeters, ushers, Corner Café, etc.). Please go out of your way on November 5 (and every Sunday!) to warmly welcome those you see on campus, in the classrooms, and in our sanctuary. A great way to greet people you don't know is with something like, "Hello my name is _____. How long have you been attending COS?" This doesn't assume that they are new, but it also invites people to respond like they often do... "This is my very first Sunday." This naturally leads to more meaningful conversations.

Let's share the greatest gift in our lives with those around us! May God draw a great crowd to COS through our personal invitations, so that more people are worshipping Jesus with us!

Until all have heard,

Pastor Kevin

FAITH IN CONTEXT: CURT THOMPSON EVENT CANCELED 10/19

The Faith In Context Team wants to pass on the unfortunate news that the Curt Thompson event scheduled for October 19 has been canceled. Currently, there are no plans to reschedule this event, but we hope to have another speaker in our ongoing series at some point in the winter/spring of 2024. Thank you for your support of this stimulating and challenging opportunity to show how faith in Christ and scholarship/science can both be maintained in a world where all truth is God's truth. Stay tuned for future announcements!

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of Church of the Saviour!

To become a member, each person expressed their faith in Jesus Christ, attended our New Members Class, acknowledged the COS Covenant of Fellowship, and met with an Elder.



Leah Guerrero



Tim Peterson
Kelly Peterson



Katy Tanis



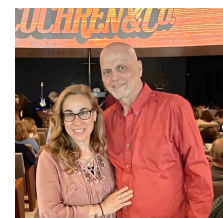
Walter Anderson
Liz Anderson



John Sherlock



Steve Tornetta
Vicki Tornetta



Dave Rodgers



Dan McNulty

ELDER NOMINATIONS

SEEKING GODLY SERVANTS

Joe Gallagher - Elder and Chair of the Recommendation Team

Our church will soon embark on one of its most critical undertakings, the search for new elders. **We need the help of the congregation.**

As a non-denominational church, Church of the Saviour holds no connection with the recognized denominations and mainline churches that hold a particular identity, set of beliefs, or traditions. Our church operates independently and is self-governed by a plurality of elders as modeled in scriptures. Selection of qualified God-fearing men to the role of elder is crucial to our mission to glorify God and make disciples of Jesus Christ in Wayne and beyond.

Church of the Saviour selects spiritually mature shepherding elders based on the teaching of Scripture, and in particular, the criteria shared in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9. From the full Session of Elders called and ratified by Church of the Saviour's membership, a subset – the "Elder Board", consisting of 8-16 elders, is responsible for oversight and governance of the overall church and its staff leadership.

However, all elders shall exhort and refute doctrinal error, shepherd the flock, devote themselves to prayer and ministry of God's word, and ensure that the church is faithful to its mission, and remains consistent with its Constitution, Statement of Faith, and Bylaws.

Reflecting the importance of the elder role as stipulated in Scripture, the process to become an elder at Church of the Saviour is soberly and prayerfully followed. It has four key components, which typically occur over a 9-month period:

- 1. Nomination by Members of the Congregation:** Such nominations will take place from **October 2 through 23 by members of the congregation completing an online form.** Such form will be completed with the knowledge and agreement of the nominee and supported by two other church members. All nominees should be actively serving in our church.
- 2. Recommendation Committee Endorsement:** A diverse Recommendation Committee with over half of the Committee as non-elders will review all nomination forms, interview the candidates and their supporters, and recommend qualified candidates for Board consideration. The Committee is chaired by a current Board Elder of the church.
- 3. Potential Candidate Consideration and Education:** Candidates endorsed by the Recommendation Committee are then reviewed by the Elder Board and a decision is made if they are invited to participate in the Elder Candidate Education Class (ECEC). The class takes place over 8-10 weeks and its purpose is to learn about eldership and to gain insight as to whether this calling to serve in this oversight role is what God would desire for them and for our church. It is clearly understood that completion of the class does not guarantee one will desire to be an elder or be asked.
- 4. Elder Approval and Church Member Ratification:** Upon completion of the ECEC, candidates confirming their desire to pursue eldership are formally interviewed with their wives, considered, and voted on by the full Session of Church of the Saviour Elders. As part of the Annual Meeting process with the full congregation, Session approved elder candidates are then ratified through a presentation and voting process with the church membership.

Please think about men you know who are actively serving our Lord and possibly meet the qualifications of elders.

If you have any questions please reach out to Joe Gallagher at joegallagher2326@outlook.com.

MINISTRIES UPDATES

STAFF TRANSITION

Rachel Dierking, our Executive Director of Operations, left our Church of Saviour staff team this week. Rachel graciously stayed on staff for several weeks to help ensure a good and complete transition of her duties.

Rachel and Adam have been sensing together that God has another good plan for them outside of Rachel's role at COS. Rachel will be hitting the pause button to engage in a season of watching and waiting for the Lord to reveal His will, especially regarding the direction of Rachel's calling, and the future engagement of her many gifts.

Rachel's time at COS was much shorter than any of us hoped. Rachel is quick to credit COS and all of us with much growth and learning, both personally and professionally. This was her first role on church staff and Rachel was a quick learner who rolled up both sleeves and plunged into the work with tons of passion. As Kevin shared with Rachel in our most recent meeting: "You are beyond a doubt one of the smartest and most talented people we have ever worked with. We are so much better as a church having had your talent this last year and a half than we would have been otherwise".

Rachel's letter to our congregation is included below. Rachel has brought godly and relational energy and wisdom to our team and has blessed our church in countless ways. Please join us in praying for Rachel and Adam to receive every good blessing from God's hands!

Drew & Kevin



[READ RACHEL'S LETTER HERE.](#)

MEN'S MINISTRY

We are excited to launch a new initiative in the men's ministry this fall! Our desire is to create spaces for connection and conversation through our existing community groups. We have 41 community groups running this fall. A few of them have chosen to journey with us by setting aside one time each month for the men in their group to gather. These gatherings will not involve study or teaching. The design is for them to be a place of story, authenticity, and a place to take off the mask. This could look different for each group, but we want to create spaces for men to know others and to be known. The beauty of launching this through our community groups is that some of those relationships already exist on some level. We hope to strengthen the foundations of our ministry here and offer larger enriching events that flow out of them. If you are interested in learning more, joining, or leading a group like this, contact Jim Dougherty at jjmd@coswayne.org.

Our next large event will be on Saturday, October 21 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in Berwyn. Mark your calendars. More details to follow.

FALL MINISTRIES

AMAZING GROWTH IN KIDS MINISTRY!

Our Sunday School and Tuesday night Awana classes are experiencing wonderful growth. We have not seen this many kids attend COS since before COVID. As a result, there is a big need for more volunteers to help us disciple our children. Could this be an opportunity God is calling you to fulfill? We don't normally recruit for ministry through our newsletter and we don't plan to make this a habit. However, this wonderful movement of God among our children compels us to invite laborers to participate in Jesus' harvest. Find out more about serving by contacting Katerina Simbo at katerinas@coswayne.org.

CARE CORNER

In the broken world we live in, with all of its challenges, we all need support and help. Studies show that the pandemic has changed our lifestyles and rhythms, leaving many struggling with loneliness, stress, and anxiety. As a family of faith, we are committed to supporting our brothers and sisters as they seek to be the unique person God has designed them to be to love God and others.

The Care Ministries cover a range of areas of hurt. One that we want to highlight in this issue is our Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers have been trained to provide one-on-one support, meeting weekly to listen, support, and pray during a challenging season in the life of a member of our community.

Our Stephen Ministry began less than a year before Covid hit, taking the wind out of our young sails. As we have been able to resume our work, we want our COS family to know we are here to serve. We also want to train another group to be prepared as caregivers; if you want to join our team, please let us know. Or if you know of someone who you think would be a good Stephen Minister, please consider suggesting it to them. And of course, if you are in need of someone to meet with you or know of someone whom you think would benefit from this ministry, please contact us at stephenministry@coswayne.org.

We will highlight other Care Ministries in the future so stay tuned. It's a privilege to be part of this team as we help hurting people love God, love others, and serve the world together!

PROJECT MERRY CHRISTMAS COS

This Christmas you will have an opportunity to bless Church of the Saviour with a Christmas gift.

We would like to make our Welcome Center and Lobby a warm destination for gathering, fellowship, and life-on-life relationship building on Sunday mornings. This will be done through individual gifts of preselected furniture, and decor, and refurbishing some of our current furniture and space. A webpage will be set up where you will be able to go and purchase an item to enhance our space.

Our design team: Jim Dougherty, Dave Rogel, Craig Tanis, Leah Raup, Nicole Malcein, and Tara Leamon have 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 with three in the Welcome Center and two in the Front Lobby. As well as sprucing up the Reception Room and surrounding areas. So, please look for more information going forward, and prayerfully consider participating in our Merry Christmas COS Project.

YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

GIVING UPDATE

We praise God for His provision to His church through the generosity of His people. The strong start to the fiscal year enabled ministries to kick off the ministry year well.

We're also thankful for the generous contributions of time and resources that have supported concrete repairs around the campus and weeding around the Missions House.

Overseeing a church budget is an exercise in daily faith. We know that all good gifts come from God and that He will build His church. We trust that He will provide for our needs and give us the wisdom to invest His money to make disciples of Jesus in Wayne and beyond. And we hold our goals and budgets loosely, placing our faith in His loving and gracious plan.

Please join us in praying for God's best for our Ministry/Operations and our Missions budgets, especially as giving to Missions is trending below our target.

	<u>Ministry/Ops</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Love-in-Action</u>
GIVING TO DATE	\$626,636	\$105,409	\$17,120
BUDGET	\$552,542	\$122,792	\$11,116*
OVER/(UNDER)	\$74,094	(\$17,383)	\$6,004

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 - 8/31/23.



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!