



DECEMBER 2020

THE COS NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Just you give Mary a little chance as well as Martha!

BY PASTOR KEVIN

Dear Church of the Saviour family,

Before rushing into Christmas wishes, let me also wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving! Please join us on Thanksgiving Eve (11/25) at 7:00 p.m. for a time to have gratitude as we focus on Psalm 136. I pray that you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

It is my prayer that this Christmas and New Year is a time of refocusing and renewal for our entire church family. What a privilege it is to be part of God's family that worships at 651 N. Wayne Ave. and online through our live stream during COVID. It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of Christmas and not feel the presence and power of God. The story of Martha and Mary is an appropriate reminder during the rush that accompanies the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior:

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'" (Luke 10:38-42)

I love the way The Message paraphrases this last sentence: "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and it won't be taken from her." It is easy to lose sight of the truly important when we are so hurried with the hustle and bustle that comes with the holiday seasons, but Jesus' words to Martha are a powerful reminder to us to set Christ as the priority. When we feel forced into having to choose between giving our hands (busyness) or our hearts (intimacy), Jesus helps us to see what is most important. C. S. Lewis's encouragement to an American lady fits our lives as well:

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR (CONT.)

“Just you give Mary a little chance as well as Martha!” Savor the sweetness of our Savior this Christmas. Pray that God will reveal more of himself to you during this season when we celebrate the birth of our Messiah. Jesus came to earth to reveal the heart of God (which is filled with what G.K. Chesterton called a “furious love”). God’s furious love wants to entice us into a deeper and richer relationship with the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Kevin

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Thanksgiving Eve Virtual Worship Service – Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us at coswayne.org/live
- Advent Sunday Worship (In-person and Virtual) | November 29, December 6, 13, and 20. The Traditional service will be at 9:00 a.m. and our Modern Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. To participate virtually, please join us at coswayne.org/live.
- Christmas Concerts (In-person and Virtual) – December 19 & 20 at 4:00 p.m. To participate virtually, please join us at coswayne.org/live. To participate in-person, [please register here](#).
- Christmas Eve Worship Services (In-person and Virtual) – Thursday, December 24 – Modern Services will be held at 3:30, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m., and our Traditional Service will be held at 9:00 pm. To participate virtually, please join us at coswayne.org/live.
- Christmas Collections until December 9. We are collecting toys, coats, gloves and socks for children ages 4-14, towels and laundry supplies. For more details [click here](#).

PERSPECTIVES COURSE 2021

From February 4 to May 6, 2021, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., Church of the Saviour will be hosting a virtual Perspectives Course on Thursday nights. Orientation will be held on Thursday, January 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., run by our own Fran Patt with FrontierVentures. Why Perspectives? God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose. Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and perhaps crucial, for any and every Christian. What is 'Perspectives'? 'Perspectives' is a fifteen-week course designed around four vantage points or “perspectives” – Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God’s global purpose. The Biblical and Historical sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day. The Cultural and Strategic sections underscore that we are amid a costly, but “do-able” task, confirming the biblical and historical hope. We believe in this course as an essential part of discipleship that COS is also offering a \$25 registration discount and a \$50 rebate upon completion of the certificate. Contact Debra G. for more information at debrag@coswayne.org. [To register and for further details click here](#). Early bird registration ends on December 28.



SATURDAY, 5:00 P.M. WORSHIP | 6-WEEK HOLIDAY HIATUS

Our 5:00 p.m. Saturday services have been a blessing during COVID. Just a heads up that we will press pause for 6-weeks from the Saturday after Thanksgiving (11/28/2021) through the first Saturday in January (i.e., 01/02/2021). Though we are staying flexible so we can pivot as necessary during this season, the plan right now is to start the Saturday service back up on Saturday, January 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the gym. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to attend, we open all the doors from the outside to create a nice airflow and encourage everyone to continue to wear masks and physically distance. We sing while masked and our worship music teams have continued to provide great opportunities for us to focus on Christ through great songs of praise. Because the doors are open, we encourage you to bring a coat and/or a warm blanket as well as your own seating to keep the atmosphere outdoors-like. Kids of all ages are welcome!



COVID SURVEY UPDATE – COMING DECEMBER 1ST

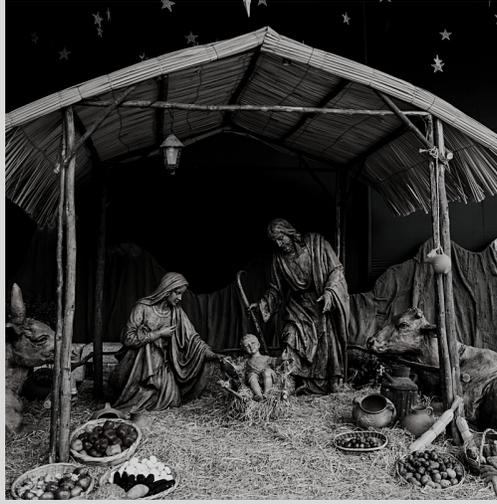
XP, Drew Angus, and I are working with a great team to build a survey that is effective and provides reliable data. We want to take the pulse on the congregation so that we can do a better job of ministering during this unusual season. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete, but by investing your time, Church of the Saviour will be able to make informed ministry shifts so that we can do a better job of ministering the gospel to our congregation and community. The survey will go live on Tuesday, December 1st and it will run for about a month. We will then cull the information from it so that we can sharpen our ministry focus during COVID as we enter 2021.

STAFF UPDATE

On October 28 our Executive Director, Stacey Sauchuk, resigned from her position to prioritize her health. Stacey shared her decision with the Operations and Ministry teams the week of November 2. While we are saddened by the news, we earnestly want what is best for her. Right now, we are still processing the next steps, however, to fill these functions in the interim period we will be taking the following measures:

- XP Drew Angus will be overseeing the communication function with our Communication Director Rachel Hicks
- Cindy Casey our Finance Manager will be supervising grounds, maintenance, and housekeeping with assistance from Drew and Kevin
- James Mazzone our Business Director will be supervising our IT function with Dan Klassen
- Senior Pastor Kevin Flannery will be overseeing the weekly meeting of our Operations team

This month marked her fourth anniversary at COS. We appreciate not only her contribution to the team but also the relationships that she built with us. Thank you, Stacey, for the last four years!



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN 2020

BY BETH DELISLE

Celebrating Christmas in 2020 will be different, won't it? It will likely include all sorts of grief and loss. Many of us will grieve the absence of our cherished routines and family traditions. Sadness will accompany our decisions to be away from those we love. We may be grieving the loss of loved ones or the inquietude of racial injustices.

In the midst of all of these griefs, however, there is hope – a real, tangible, lasting hope – Jesus was born in such a time as this and is born for such a time as this. The incredible blessing of Christmas is that we don't have to wait until Christmas 2021 or an end to the pandemic to experience hope and, even joy. And, we have a unique opportunity this year unlike any other – to bring that hope and joy to our grieving, hurting, searching friends and neighbors.

Let's keep two truths in mind especially this holiday season – people need connection, and people need Jesus. Christmas has always been a season that creates more opportunities to connect and more openness to Christ. Those are opportunities we shouldn't waste, even in a pandemic, ESPECIALLY in a pandemic. They may look different, but they're there, nonetheless.

So, how do we share our Christmas Hope and Joy amid pandemic messaging that says “distance”? Here are a few great ideas:

1. Host a watch party and invite your friends to join you for one of our Christmas concerts or Christmas Eve services. Make it a party! Get dressed up in your Christmas finest, sing the carols at the top of your lungs and then stick around and chat with your friends after the event about your Hope.
2. If you are planning to attend a concert or service in person, be prayerful about who you might invite to join you. Maybe consider planning a watch party for the rest of the family at home and attending an event with a friend or neighbor who doesn't know Jesus yet.
3. Share our Christmas event on social media with your spheres of influence, and follow up after the fact!

Beth DeLisle
First Impressions Director & Care Associate

CHRISTMAS, CONCERTS, AND TRADITIONS

BY ANDY LENKO

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here? I find that in a normal year I'm usually surprised at how quickly the holiday season seems to approach. But this year, with COVID, it seems even more of a surprise. This Christmas will be my third on staff at COS, and as I've come to learn, the further we get into the fall, the more questions I get about our long-standing Christmas season tradition: "What's in store for the Christmas concerts this year?" "Who will the soloists be this year?" "How big will the choir be?" As you can imagine, the questions this year have been a little different given COVID: "Are we having the concerts this year?" "Will there be a choir?" "Will it be virtual or in-person?" "When will they be?"

If you're wondering what our cherished tradition will look like this year, it is my hope to give some insight into the concerts and help you know what to expect.

EXPECTATIONS

This year is going to be different from what we've done in the past, but we believe it will be just as meaningful as past years, as we will all be gathered together whether that be online or in person for a night of music and fellowship!

WHEN

This year we will be holding two concert performances on Saturday, December 19th, and Sunday, December 20th, at 4:00 pm on both dates. The decision was inspired by our historic success with attendance for matinees on Saturdays and Sundays.

IN-PERSON OR LIVE-STREAM

Both! Just like Sunday mornings, we will offer in-person attendance with limited capacity and live-stream the event so you can join from home. To manage our capacity limit, we will have an online registration for attendees. If you want to watch the live-stream but are unable to on December 19th or 20th, no worries! We will have the concerts archived online and you can watch at a time that is convenient for you.

TO CHOIR OR NOT TO CHOIR

Unfortunately, we won't be able to have the choir participate this year. COVID makes unmasked singing in large groups impractical given our space and desire to be as safe as possible. However, there will still be a variety of solos and duets!

ORCHESTRA

Although we are reducing the size of the ensemble to an 8-piece string section and 4-piece modern horn section (trumpet, alto & tenor saxophone, and trombone) to maintain safe physical distancing, those sections will be paired with piano, organ, bass guitar, and drum set to create just as full of a sound for us to all enjoy!

OUTREACH

As always, our Christmas concert series is an outreach event that we hope shares the good news of Jesus and the reality-altering significance of His birth. We want this event to draw people to Jesus and push them to Alpha where they can dig into the Christian faith in greater depth. Inviting someone seems daunting, but I would encourage you to push through the discomfort and extend the invitation. There are multiple ways that you can encourage guests to participate.

1. Ask them to attend the concert in-person with you.
2. Invite them to watch from the comfort of their homes.
3. Host a watch party at your home.

With this variety of options, there should be a solution for just about anyone.

Friends, more now than ever, the message of hope, love, and peace that is the gospel is needed in our communities and world. Please partner with us in this endeavor by inviting guests to the concerts that they too might acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord this Christmas.



GIVING TUESDAY

Our culture has designated the Tuesday after all the post-Thanksgiving shopping to be Giving Tuesday to encourage people to give to non-profits. This year it is December 1.

This year has reminded us to lift our eyes to God and look for where He is working. He is our hope! We are blessed to hear reports from our Global Partners about how our God is on the move. COS has a burning passion to make sure the world hears the Good News and we feel the sense of urgency that Scripture teaches us.

For Giving Tuesday this year, COS will be using the money donated to support outreach and missions around the world through the Global Outreach budget. Last year we were able to raise \$52,695 for Global Outreach, and as we are 20% down in our current Global Outreach budget, we are praying for another year of generous giving. Would you prayerfully consider a gift for missions above and beyond your regular tithe for Giving Tuesday on December 1st?

We want to encourage you to think and pray about how God may be leading you to give this year. All donations to COS marked "Giving Tuesday" will go to the Global Outreach budget. [Click here](#) to give, be sure to select "Giving Tuesday" under 'Fund'. As Pastor Kevin shared this past week: COS's Mission of Missions is "To summon the nations, through holistic discipleship, to worship the one true God with us."



THE TECH WISE FAMILY SEMINAR: ANDY CROUCH

Save the date for "The Tech Wise Family Seminar" with Author Andy Crouch. This event is for anyone 6th grade and older. It will take place on Monday, November 30th, 8-9 p.m. This is a virtual event, so [click here](#) to register!