

Love God, Love Others & Serve the World! IN WAYNE & BEYOND

February 2022

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR

VOLUNTEERING AT COS

Church of the Saviour has a remarkable history of service to the community and to the world upon which we want to build. Volunteers are the engine of all the good work of our church! We so appreciate all of you who give your time and talents for the benefit of all of us.

The challenge all churches are facing right now, including COS, is a serious decline in overall church engagement that hinders the transformational impact in our ministries. Volunteers make or break our kingdom's influence!

When a church is deeply engaged and unified, the members grow in faith. The fruit of faith is service to those both inside and outside the church. Peter reminds us that we all have at least one gift provided to serve others as the hands and feet of Jesus. The ultimate purpose of using our gifts and talents is as an act of worship: "So that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ ... to Him be the glory...." 1 Peter 4:11.

Considering 1 Peter, we are thrilled to report on the results of the volunteer fair last Sunday. The Welcome Center was abuzz with enthusiastic conversation as folks visited with volunteer leaders and staff at the fifteen tables set up to inform and promote the awesome ministries we have at COS. Many wonderful conversations took place and to the delight of all, we now have **47 new volunteers!**

One gentleman participated in the first service via live stream and was compelled to drive over to church, to sign up in person for a role he felt God was placing on his heart. Another person emailed me today and said that God stirred him to serve in two different areas and he felt a lot of joy in how God was leading him.

So of course, it is never too late to volunteer. For a reminder of the volunteer needs and whom to contact go to coswayne.org/volunteer.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR

STAFF UPDATE

Speaking of gifts and talents... It is our joy to announce and congratulate two promotions within our very talented staff team.

Deborah Bitzer came to COS at the start of the pandemic to serve the student ministry as a Ministry Associate. Kevin and I, and many others, recognized her leadership ability quickly. We promoted her to Director back in October. Now that Deborah is in that role as a solo director for Student Ministries, we are especially grateful for her leadership, abilities, and gifts.

Debra G. has been a part of our staff team for 10 years serving as a Ministry Associate for Global Outreach. Most recently, Debra has worked with a team to pioneer our Global Outreach revitalization process as we developed a strategic plan for COS missions with a local focus on the diaspora and a global focus on Unreached Peoples. The change process is crucial, but never easy. Debra and the Missions Team have navigated the transition into the future we believe God has given us with grace and wisdom. We are grateful for the way Debra cares for our Global Partners, her commitment to Christ, and His great commission for COS. Debra is our new Director of Global Outreach.

In closing, may the words of Peter encourage and motivate your service for God's glory.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

WITH A GRATEFUL HEART FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST... TOGETHER,

Drew

EXECUTIVE PASTOR



**CHURCH OF
THE SAVIOUR**

**MONTHLY CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR
NEWSLETTER**

GLOBAL OUTREACH

SENDING CHURCH

Debra G., Director of Global Outreach

You may have heard the term “sending church” before and it can be used to mean a lot of different things. But at its heart, it is modeled after passages, especially in Acts, where you see variations of the phrase “sent them out”. This refers to how a specific church congregation sent out specific individuals (including Paul) to go to places to share the good news of Jesus. A lot of the New Testament epistles come from these “sent out” journeys. But have you ever thought how integral the church that sent these individuals out was to all that God accomplished through Paul and others? Through prayer, finances, encouragement, visits, a return base, and accountability, we see the Bible modeling for us the role we have as a sending church for missionaries today.

COS has a heart to faithfully fulfill the role of the biblical sending church to those we have sent out as Global Partners. We have a leadership team that serves under the headship of the elders to help catalyze our church body to fulfill this important sending role.

Finances are one component that a good sending church provides. At the beginning of missions at COS, the research showed that churches with the largest commitment to missions had a separate budget dedicated solely to missions. Because of our deep commitment to missions, we followed that advice and don't finance our missions work through the regular tithes given to the church. We have a separate Missions Fund, and we encourage the church body to give beyond their regular tithe to the church and to invest in missions for the advancement of God's Kingdom. However, mission giving does require that gifts towards missions be designated in the memo section of the check or a separate check be written. Online donations should also be designated separately from your regular donation for it to go to missions. We want to be clear with these details about giving towards missions so that your intentions can be honored and your generous gifts go toward the right place.

The money given to COS for missions is used to support our Global and Local Partners, provide benevolence for partners, fund special projects, raise future Global Partners from within COS, educate and mobilize our church body on the biblical importance of missions, fund our local diaspora ministry and allow us to do the work to be a biblical sending church.

We continue to move forward with the updated strategy and look forward to sharing more specific details with you soon. Here are some areas to watch for future updates:

- Missions Weekend - Our first Missions Focus weekend is coming this spring! We are putting together the speaker(s), schedule and forming a volunteer planning team for it.
- Bldg A Updates - We are updating Bldg. A to further reflect our mission's identity and how deeply it is integrated into our identity at COS. You can learn more specifics about this in another article in this newsletter.
- Strategic Focus - We are continuing to pray for where our strategic focus areas will be and we are putting together the mechanisms that we will use to gather information from you on whom God has put on our hearts and in our lives.
- Short-term missions - We are planning some short-term mission teams this summer and fall that will align with our direction and some vision and prayer trips to places that we are exploring for our strategic focus.

God has given the Church an important role for our personal growth and to declare His glory and desire for reconciliation to a broken world and we get to be a part of it!

GLOBAL OUTREACH CONT.

BETTER VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Debra G., Director of Global Outreach

First Impressions. We all know they matter but rarely do we think about the first impression a person might have when they see the inside of our church building. We all agree that we want to create a warm, welcoming space for people to enter to meet and worship Jesus. So how do we do that?

We've been thinking about what a person might need to know when they come to COS. A new person is looking for logistical and navigational things such as "Where are the bathrooms?" or "Where do I take my kids?". They are also asking "Is this church a place for me?" "Who is this church?" "What do they value?"

Therefore, some changes are happening in the Bldg. A entrance over the next couple of months will help us articulate those very questions. Here is what you can expect to see happen:

1. The hallway where the printed Global and Local Partners photos hang is changing! In today's world having photos with names and places of missionaries around the world hanging in your church is a security risk for them. All it takes is a delivery driver, someone attending an outreach event or funeral to see something, tell someone, and ministries and possibly lives can be at stake. On top of that, in today's technological world, it's better to have pictures on screens that can be easily updated anytime than printed pictures that take time and resources to update. We believe it would be better to tell the story of what God has done in missions through COS over the years in that space instead. The hallway is changing from a photo hallway to a COS missions timeline. It's been incredible to start putting together the story of what God has done through COS missions over the past 40+ years and I know you will be encouraged to see the stories as well!

2. "His Last Command Our First Concern" wall will be updated. That phrase was rolled out at the first COSMOS missions conference in 1980. It has hung on that wall ever since. We will be taking it down and giving it a place of honor on the timeline in the hallway. We will be replacing it with a sign that represents our church's mission of "Love God, Love Others & Serve the World".

3. The Global Outreach wall at the lobby entrance of Bldg. A is getting a facelift and a replica created at the Welcome Center entrance. At these two locations, there will be information about who COS is and why missions are a core part of our identity as a church. As the strategic focuses are selected, you'll see information about them reflected there as well.

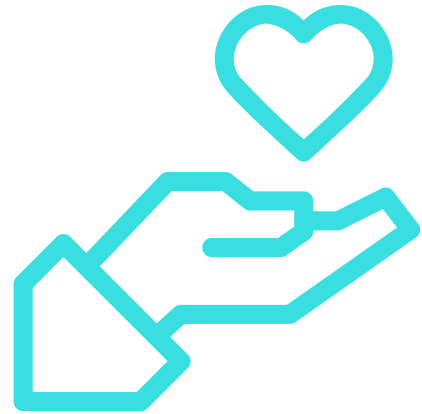
We're excited about these changes and how they more accurately reflect how we believe that missions are something for each person in the congregation to be a part of and that it's an important part of who we are as a church.

MINISTRY UPDATES

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The past two years have offered challenges and sorrows most of us never thought we would encounter in our lifetimes. Even recent news within the church can pose new thoughts with which we struggle to understand. Life is full of challenges and transitions, sometimes too difficult to bear alone. If you are interested in having an individual walk alongside you during a difficult season of your life please contact stephenministry@coswayne.org. We have trained Stephen Ministers available to offer Christ-centered care to you.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.



DOUBLE HOPE CANCER MINISTRY

If you have recovered from or are a current patient with cancer, or a caregiver to someone with cancer, we invite you to join Double Hope. We gather together each month to pray for one another, share experiences, and grapple with some difficult situations. We meet on-campus the second Monday of the month from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. both in-person and via Zoom. However, in February, we will gather in person ONLY on the 14th in room F101 for fellowship and a "warming" activity. For questions, please reach out to Wendy at wendyterry226@gmail.com.



FAMILY NEWS

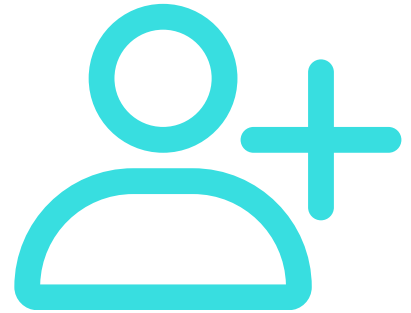
We know that change can be quite exciting or hard. We want our church family to be there with you through any season of your life. If there is a birth, marriage, graduation, or death in your family, please share that news with us at coswayne.org/family.



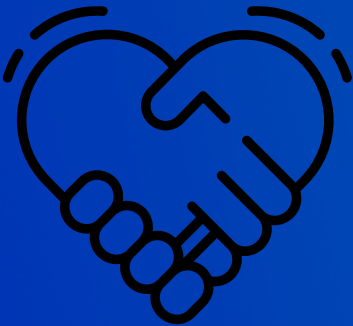
MINISTRY UPDATES CONT.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

We're excited to have you consider Church of the Saviour as the place you want to belong. Our New Members Class is the place to go to hear about what we believe God is doing through our church and beyond. You will learn about Church of Saviour's history, vision, mission, doctrinal positions, and church governance. This will also provide an opportunity for us to get to know you and your story with God.



Information about our New Members Class will be coming shortly. To stay updated visit coswayne.org/newmembersclass.



TOGETHER WON 18+ FEBRUARY 9

Community Group for Young Adults
with Special Needs

7 - 8:30 P.M. IN ROOM C200

We want to form a Christian fellowship where everyone is valued as an important member of our group, where we can socialize, have fun, and get to know one another, and where we can grow together in our faith as we look at the person of Jesus.

MINISTRY UPDATES

MONTHLY CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR
NEWSLETTER

KID'S MINISTRY

KIDS MATTER TO GOD AND US!

Katerina Simbo, Kids Ministry Director

Grace and peace to all our COS families and friends! We thank our God for you, and we have missed seeing some of you. We are always looking for ways to support and stay in touch with you. Let us know how we can be there for you and your family!

Kids are vital to our Lord Jesus (Matthew 19:14) and they are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3)! At COS, we teach and show His unconditional love to the "little" ones and teach them from a young age His ways and His path for their lives. Kids are most receptive to the Gospel, as statistics tell us that up to 80% of people come to Christ as a child (Barna Group). According to Barna, our worldview is established between the ages of 18 months to 13 years, so it is a high priority to build into their lives from a young age a biblical worldview. We often call children the next generation, but Kids Ministry can equip children to see the calling on their life and make a difference now.

Our Kids Ministry team is blessed to work with all our kids and their families in our church and our community. We get the opportunity to love our kids every week, during Sunday School, at AWANA on Tuesday, and our yearly events and summer camps! Their energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm can be contagious! We invite you to join our volunteer team as we build our ministry back from COVID. We pray that the values we instill in them now will remain for a lifetime and encourage them to be tomorrow's leaders!

Opportunities to help are available on Sundays (once or twice per month during our worship services), Tuesdays (evenings from now until the end of April 2022), and during special events and summer camps. Please reach out to me at katerinas@coswayne.org, Janice Shehan (our Nursery Coordinator) at janices@coswayne.org, or Leticia Altamirano (our Preschool Coordinator) at leticiaa@coswayne.org.

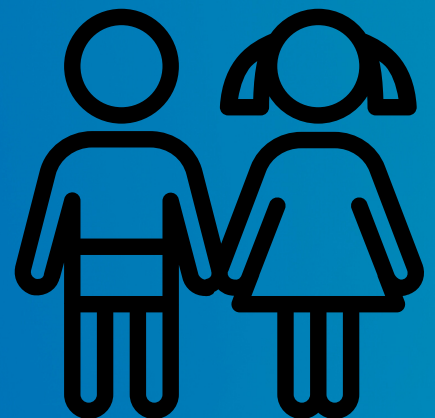
Our summer camps are back again this year with dates as follows:

Camp Little Bear: June 20 - 24 (kids ages 3 by June 1st and fully potty trained - going to kindergarten in fall 2022)

C-Camp: July 11 - 15 (kids going into grades 1-4 in fall 2022)

Adventure Camp: July 31 - August 6 (kids going into grades 5-7 in fall 2022)

Registrations will open in February and we will advise accordingly per camp. We are taking volunteer applications at coswayne.org/volunteer.



WORSHIP ARTS

CALLED TO SING

A REMINDER AND INVITATION FOR ALL

Andy Lenko, Worship Associate

Do you know that you were created to sing? God made you with the ability to sing for the purpose of praising him. If you've been blessed with the ability to speak, you've also been blessed with the ability to sing. I'm sure some of us resonate with this and have embraced singing as a regular part of our Christian expression. If that's you, awesome! Keep on using your voice and encouraging others.

But perhaps others of us might be thinking, "I'm not sure if that's true because I can't sing." Maybe somewhere along the way we were told by family, friends, teachers, or ourselves that we were bad at singing, and have since given up even trying. Whatever our reasons may be for not singing, the truth is that God delights in our singing.

For those of us who think we can't sing or at least sing very well, perhaps the words of Keith and Kristyn Getty from their book, *Sing*, might help us.

"He's far less concerned with your tunefulness than your integrity. Christian singing begins with the heart, not on the lips."

One of the primary ways we sing as Christians are in our corporate worship services. When we gather as a congregation and sing, we become the ultimate choir. The beautiful thing is that there are no auditions; everyone can and should be in it regardless of ability.

Remember, God cares that we sing, not how well we sing. So, whether we can match pitch and read music or not, we are part of the ultimate choir when we open our mouths to use our God-given voices to praise Him for who He is and what He has done, is doing, and will do. I pray that the next time you worship corporately through the song you would lift your voice with greater freedom, joy, and exuberance. May the words of the Psalmist encourage us.

**I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name forever and ever.
Every day I will praise you
and extol your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
His greatness no one can fathom.
Psalm 145: 1-3 NIV**



WORSHIP ARTS CONT.

CHOIR VOLUNTEERS

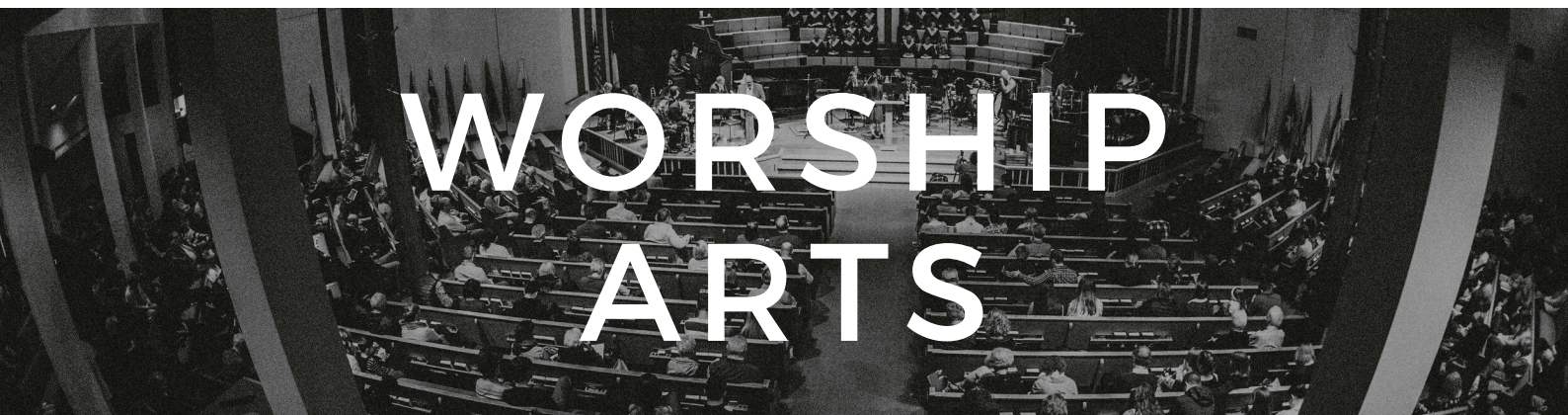
Andy Lenko, Worship Associate

Here at COS, we have various ways that our corporate singing is led, whether it be by a soloist, several vocalists, a choir, or some combination of the three. Over the years we have seen participation in the choir diminish and find ourselves in need of new volunteers. We want to revitalize the ministry and breathe new life into it, and we need your help to do that. If you are someone that enjoys singing, has an ability to match pitch, and has a desire to use your musical gift as an act of worship and service, please consider partnering with our choral ministry. There are various opportunities for involvement that are open to all ages including singing at both our traditional and modern services, concerts, and special events. All are welcome regardless of age. I think it would be a beautiful testament to the unity and diversity of the body of Christ to have multiple generations leading and ministering together through song.

If you are anything like me, the moment someone asks you to be involved in something you assess the commitment level, what your current schedule is like, and whether you have the time and energy to participate. We are in the process of creating various opportunities of varying commitment levels, so please reach out to me if you are even remotely interested. Let's talk and figure out how you might be able to get involved. Consider it an opportunity for us to get to know each other a little bit and be encouraged by how God is moving in our lives.

If you want to participate but aren't quite ready due to COVID concerns, I would still love to hear from you and talk things through and at what point you would be comfortable getting involved.

An easy-on ramp or trial for singing with the choir is Sunday, March 13. That morning the choir will sing during the 10:30 a.m. modern service and would rehearse earlier in the week on Thursday, March 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. If you're interested, please don't hesitate to contact me at andyl@coswayne.org so we know whom to expect.



MONTHLY CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR
NEWSLETTER

GIVING UPDATE

FISCAL YTD FINANCIAL UPDATE

	<u>Ministry/Operations</u>	<u>Missions</u>
GIVING TO DATE	\$1,808,995	\$434,280
BUDGET	\$1,688,394	\$528,834
OVER/(UNDER)	\$120,601	\$94,554

We want to be transparent with you about the impact of these numbers. Giving to missions is currently 18% below budget, with a shortfall of approximately \$95,000. The budget had very little overhead with the majority going to stipends for our Global and Local Partners. At our current giving rate, we will be unable to meet our financial commitments to our current Global and Local Partners as well as complete our off-boarding plan for those that were impacted by the strategy by the end of the fiscal year. We continue to use our reserves to meet our commitments but without both one-time gifts and an increase in regular, monthly gifts to missions we will have to make some difficult decisions as we will be unable to meet our financial commitments to our partners. However, to remain a financially healthy church, we ask that you do not decrease your giving to Ops/Ministry to help the Missions Fund as this negatively impacts both our local and global ministries. What we encourage is for you to consider prayerfully beginning or increasing your gift to the Missions Fund in addition to your regular giving so we can continue supporting the work of our partners around the world.



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