

# *Becoming a Member of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church*

## **Welcome**

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Thank you for your interest in joining the fellowship at Christ Our Savior, Livonia. Whether you have already made the decision to become a member or are merely open to that possibility, we praise God that the Holy Spirit has led you to this point. Now we pray that the Lord will help you make an active commitment to our ministry to *“share the love of Jesus.”*

We believe church membership is an expression of your Christian faith and a testimony of your assurance of eternal life. It is our responsibility to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus and to mature into the profile of discipleship. It is our hope that people join C.O.S. with full intentions of being involved. That is why we have developed a membership process which will help you develop a sense of belonging as quickly as possible, while also deepening your faith. Becoming a member is as easy as **1 - 2 - 3**.

## **1. First Step: Worship**

Christians gather together regularly with fellow believers to celebrate God’s love and goodness toward us. Worship helps us in a number of ways: it renews our relationship with God; we remember the words and work of Christ; we give thanks for God’s forgiveness; we rejoice in His presence with us through the Holy Spirit; God heals our brokenness; and He empowers us for meaningful living that reaches out in love to others.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, your first step is to begin attending worship here on a weekly basis.

Establish a pattern of regular attendance for 8 to 10 weeks.

## **2. Second Step: Discovery**

As you think about whether or not to become a member, it is important for you to get to know more about us. If you join, you need to be aware of how we do ministry, what we believe, and our vision for the future. Depending on your background it will be necessary for you to participate in one or both of the following classes:

### **A) Adult Information Class**

If you have no church background; a church experience from another denomination, or a Lutheran background – but are not presently a member of a Lutheran Church, then this 10-week “Life With God” class will give you an overview of the major teachings of the Bible and the Lutheran church. At the completion of this class, those who would like to join participate in the Newcomer Class.

### **B) Newcomer Class**

If you are transferring from another Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, or have completed the Adult Information Class, this five session class will help you learn more about what it means to be a disciple. You’ll learn more about our congregation’s history, catch our vision of the future and discover your spiritual gifts.

Both classes are offered throughout the year. You are invited to take either even if you are not sure you will officially join C.O.S. We do not assume that everyone in this process will automatically make that decision. This is a chance for you to

get to know more about us before making a membership commitment.

## **3. Third Step: Interview**

After completing the Newcomer Class, prospective members meet with a trained leader (Guide) so that we may learn more about your gifts, interests, and skills. This is the time to find out more about ministries at C.O.S. and how you fit into the big picture. You will identify areas in which you are interested in for service, fellowship, and small groups.

## **Why Join a Church?**

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All programs and activities at C.O.S. are open to guests as well as members. So you may be thinking, why join? We believe there are at least three reasons for having formal church membership.

**A)** First, we believe the concept of membership is biblical. Believers in the New Testament clearly identified themselves with a specific local body and were challenged to become devoted participants.

**B)** Second, formal membership is valuable to the leaders of the church. At some point it is important to identify those who comprise the “flock” – or core of believers. Membership is a way for the leaders to measure the effectiveness of their mission to make disciples.

**C)** Finally, and perhaps most importantly, membership benefits the individual. It is an important spiritual step that moves each of us out of the vague clouds of our good intentions and into the clear light of committed participation. The

membership process can be a significant “defining moment” in a Christian’s lifelong discipleship journey.

## **New Member Sunday**

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Three times each year we officially welcome our newest members during a worship service. Our new members come to the front of the altar and participate in a brief ceremony. It is an exciting moment when new members are given the opportunity to profess their faith and be welcomed into the family. Many have commented on how special they have felt on that day. You will not want to miss it!

## **Committed To Grow**

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Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church is dedicated to doing the joyful work our Lord has asked us to do. We are not interested in adding a lot of names to our roster. We want members who are excited about strengthening their relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing His love with others. If you want to be a part of a growing, dynamic church, COS is the place for you!

## **Here To Help**

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We pray that Christ Our Savior Church will be a blessing to you as we are sure you will be a blessing to the Church. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office at (734) 522-6830. Linda Hollman, Assistant to the Pastor for Assimilation, will be happy to meet with you and answer any questions you may have.

*“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

*-Acts 2:47*



### **Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**

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**Livonia,  
Michigan**