



church of the savior
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



CHURCH PROFILE

Seeking:
Director of Outreach and Youth Ministries

welcome

Thank you for your interest in Church of the Savior CRC! We hope that this profile will help you get to know our church and community a little bit better, but here is a preview. CotS is located in South Bend, a small city of about 100,000 residents in northwest Indiana, and located about two hours south of Grand Rapids, Michigan. We are the only CRC in town, and draw members from a variety of Christian traditions, both Protestant and Catholic. With several colleges in the nearby vicinity, including the University of Notre Dame, we welcome college and graduate students into our fellowship, but we also have plenty of established members who have decades in the church. Our worship is blended in style, utilizing both a worship band and an organ, time-tested hymns as well as contemporary worship songs.

We are currently seeking a Director of Outreach and Youth Ministries, to minister to our youth and children, and to help all ages reach out into our community. We are looking for a candidate who is first and foremost a person of prayer, and open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you are interested in learning more about us and about this open position, read on!

Blessings, COTSCRC Transition Team

Contact: Scott DeVries

Phone: (574) 272-8424

Email: office@cotscrc.org

Meet Our Transition Team



Back Row (Left to Right):
Scott DeVries, Brad Sytsma,
Tom Visker

Front Row (Left to Right):
Sheryl Dysert, Kathryn Shane,
Chris Rea, Leah Hanstra



What We Believe

We believe that God is redeeming the world through Jesus Christ, and the Spirit is at work to empower each of us to participate. Our vision is to be a safe and authentic church community where we are known and loved and we experience and share the healing grace of Jesus Christ. Our motto: Come as you are. Share God's grace.

One of our growing edges is in the area of spiritual disciplines, especially prayer and scripture reading. We believe that we bring the willingness, and God brings the growth. We have a dedicated Prayer Team, meeting weekly in small groups, and monthly as a team. We are learning to discern the Holy Spirit's movement in our church and our community, and to join in the work. A second growing edge is in the area of outreach, as we seek to be a blessing to our neighborhood and wider "Michiana" community.

As a Christian Reformed Church, we hold to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed), as well as the historic confessions of the CRC (the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort).

Our History & Culture

South Bend CRC began in 1956 in the basement of the church parsonage. Within two years, the church building was constructed, and twelve years later that building was slowly and painstakingly moved across town, to a newly purchased, larger parcel of land. An education wing was added at that time. In 2003 a new sanctuary was added on, as well as another kitchen, an atrium, and two nurseries. In 2014 SBCRC changed its name to Church of the Savior.



Crowds watch as the church is moved 1970



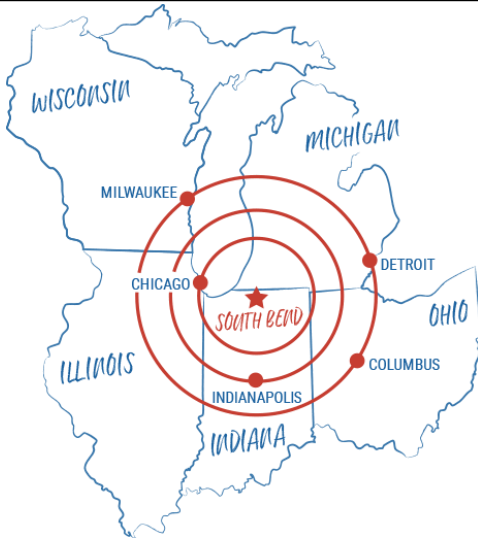
Ground Breaking Ceremony 1957

CotS remains the only CRC in the South Bend area, and draws people of various faith backgrounds. Presbyterians, Baptists, Lutherans, Catholics, and evangelicals of all types have found a home at CotS. This gives a unique flavor to our church community, different from many traditional CRCs. CotS has gained the reputation of being an oasis for those disillusioned by the church but still wanting to hang on to faith. It is a community where we have learned to be comfortable with differences, questions, and doubts, and not having everything figured out.

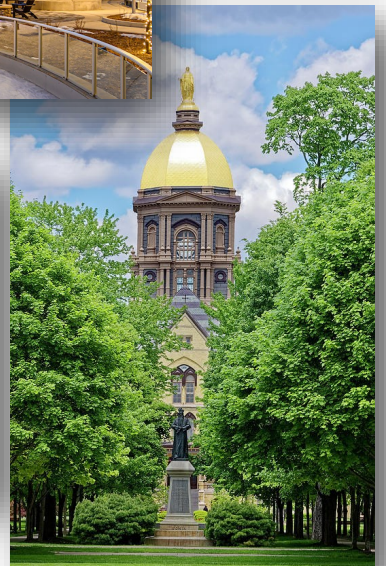
Because of our local community, we have many congregants who are involved in higher education either as faculty or graduate students at the University of Notre Dame, Bethel University, or Indiana University South Bend. We draw many of our members from teaching professions, and from health care and mental health care fields. We are an intergenerational church, with members in all age groups from birth to octogenarians.



Local Community



Located just south of the Indiana/Michigan border, South Bend is Indiana's 4th largest city with over 100,000 residents. South Bend is a bustling university town and Midwest destination on the banks of the beautiful St. Joseph river. Home to vibrant downtown communities as well as the iconic golden dome at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend boasts of many sporting events, visual and performance arts venues, cultural heritage attractions and events, extensive outdoor recreation, restaurants and shopping centers. South Bend is also centrally located to many other Midwest areas. A quick 45 minute drive will bring you to the beautiful beaches of Lake Michigan, or 2 hours will get you to either Chicago or Indianapolis.



Missions & Ministry

LOCAL



Ann Kapteyn
-Wycliffe Bible Translators



Steve and Chris Van Zanen
-Lithuania



George and Sarah de Vuyst -Ukraine



GLOBAL

Leadership & Staff

Council

Church of the Savior is led by our Council, five elders and four deacons, who meet once per month. In addition to making decisions on behalf of the church, Council oversees the ministry teams, who carry out the ministries and work of the church. We have a Prayer Team, a Hospitality Team, an Education Team (adult and children's), a Building and Grounds Team, a Communications and Tech Team, a Congregational Care Team, and an Outreach Team.



Staff



Rev. Dr. Chris Rea
Minister of the Word



Andrea Mihut
Director of Worship



Christina Rhebergen
*Budget & Payroll
Manager*



Emily McAndrew
Office Administrator

Our Worship

We worship at 10:30am on Sunday mornings,
with Sunday school for all ages at 9:15am
(September through May).

In the age of Covid, we have about 90-100 people
in our morning worship services, with others
joining by livestream.

Our worship is blended, with a mix of hymns and
contemporary music. On any given Sunday there
will be organ, piano, guitar, bass, drums, cello,
violin, or some combination of all of the above. We
welcome all members to contribute their gifts!

We celebrate communion on the first and third
Sunday of each month. We have an evening service
once per month during the academic year. Shorter
in length, and less formal than our morning service,
it is followed by a communal meal, typically paired
with a fun activity: chili cookoff, apple bakeoff,
curry potluck, trivia night... you get the idea.



Our Ministries

Kids



There are lots of ways for children to be involved at CotS! We have a children's message each Sunday, after which children three years old through second grade are invited to their own worship space. Children ages 3-5 go to TLC (The Little Children), where they hear a Bible story and do crafts. Children ages K-2nd grade go to Children and Worship, a Montessori-based, age-appropriate worship experience where they hear, see, touch, and respond to God's story. (CWC is currently on hold due to Covid.) In addition, there is Sunday school for ages K-5th grade before the morning worship service, September-May.

The youth group of CotS meet regularly on Sunday evenings throughout the academic year for a meal and Bible study. Throughout the year, the youth group is also involved in weekend retreats, including Winter Blast at Grace Adventures and Summer of Service at Bethel University. Throughout the summer, the youth get together informally for pool parties, cookouts, and beach days. CotS also hosts an annual lock-in for the youth doing 30 Hour Famine with World Vision, and volunteers monthly at the local homeless shelter, Hope Ministries.

Youth



Adults



Adult Sunday school meets at the same time as children's Sunday school. We study everything from books of the Bible, to faith and literature, to current events and topics from a faith perspective. We also have a Women's Bible Study that meets during the week, as well as small groups that form in the fall and study the same book of the Bible that is being used in the fall worship series. There are many other ways to get involved and to serve at CotS, including on Ministry teams (Hospitality, Outreach, Communications and Tech, Building and Grounds, and more!).