

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

CHOSEN IN LOVE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

363 S. Main St.
(Corner of 9th and Main)
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935
920.922.0020
oursavioursfdl.org

Pr. William Gruenstern

DECEMBER 2009

“And there were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Savior was born – Christ the Lord!”

(Luke 2:8-11)

When God acts in our lives it can be in a really unpredictable manner. In fact, throughout human history, it has been difficult for people to know exactly what God is up to. The above passage is both well-known as well as dear to our hearts. We can see in our mind’s eye these simple shepherds; they are minding their own business, the business of raising sheep. It is, it would appear, like so many other countless nights which they have spent in lonely vigil as they care for their flocks. Another night of watching and listening carefully with seemingly only the stars to be in company with them. It is certainly a profession which many of us would not enjoy – the solitude, the cold quiet interrupted only by the occasional bleat of a lamb not yet at rest. Yes, a night pretty much like any other night....

In the flash of a moment, however, their lives are changed; in an instant their existence is altered. They are horribly frightened in the manner in which this news is shared. It doesn’t come by official proclamation from the government or gossip in the marketplace. These humble people are chosen by God to be the audience of a messenger who brings incredible news, wonderful news. It is a message which *drives* them to hurry and to share.

Like the shepherds, we, too, are caught unawares by a loving God who gifts us with the precious present of his Son. Our lives can never be the same after we have heard the Great News that grabs at our hearts and takes us to a place where we would otherwise not be under our own power and decision. And it is because we

have received this wonderful news that we are also driven to share, driven to carry this message for those who have yet to receive it in their hearts. It is one thing to hear a message; it is quite another to have that message *change* your heart.

The history of the promise of the birth of the Messiah, the coming of Jesus into the world is richly recounted in Old Testament scripture. In fact, it is well likely that the very shepherds in our passage heard the story of hopeful prophecy again and again from parents and grandparents while learning their faith at very young ages. They believed in the God who had not forgotten them, for God is constantly about the business of remembering. Like a doting parent, God remembers our needs and well recognizes that our chief need is that of a Savior. The question put basically is this: Will we respond to our Lord’s remembering of us with the same enthusiasm that the shepherds did centuries ago? The shepherds “hurried off” to Bethlehem as is told later on in scripture. I don’t know about you, but I have never seen sheep *hurry*, which would indicate that these men dropped everything and took off to witness the beginnings of a life that would change the world. With this great day, God calls upon us to drop the routine, the norm, the customary schedule. We are reminded, as we are remembered, that God calls us together to be his people, to serve others even as we serve him. Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, has come into our lives and we will never be the same.

Take the opportunity to worship regularly as we begin our Advent season on the edge of December; plan to attend Advent services which will be held each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Services for our Christmas Holyday will take place Christmas Eve at 5 pm and 11 pm and Christmas Day at 10 am. May this be a Christmas season in which the Christ Child brings new meaning to your faith journey.

Pr. Bill

SERVICE SCHEDULE

If You Would Like To Volunteer For Any Ministry, Please Call the Following:

LECTOR / USHERS / GREETERS

Church Office—922-0020 OR
Natalie Wilburn-922-6532



YEAR ROUND WORSHIP HOURS

SUNDAYS: 8:00 A.M. AND 10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY Education Hr. (Fall-Winter) 9:15
WEDNESDAYS: 7:00 P.M.



PRAYER CHAIN: May we include you in our prayers? Do you have a prayer-need that we can help you with. If so, please call one of our prayer chair persons, Jill, 922-1556 or Maureen, 921-5474. If you would like prayers offered for you or others—please fill out the yellow prayer request forms in the pew/chair racks. We do need personal permission to publish names, however.

Prayer Chain Request: When you submit a request for prayers for someone on the Prayer Chain, please:

- 1.) Know that we'll keep that person on the Prayer Chain for 2 Weeks unless otherwise requested.
- 2.) Provide some feedback over those two weeks that can be passed along to those offering the prayers on the Prayer Chain. (i.e.- an update on the situation or persons condition).

Memorial Gifts Received At Church of Our Saviour:

\$420.00 – From Family and Friends
In memory of Alvera Rodman
Designated towards Debt Reduction.

BIRTHS:

11/09/2009 Twin Boys, Adam Lind Rabbit and Jacob Dean Rabbitt. Sons of Brian and Angie Rabbitt

11/10/2009 Ethan Cole Willner, Son of Steven and Nikki Willner

BAPTISM: Sydney Diane Rehbein, Daughter of Lori Marie Rehbein

ALTAR FLOWER FUND



Please remember your loved ones, birthdays, anniversaries and special moments by making a donation to the flower fund.

The arrangements cost \$25.00 PER vase. You may donate **any amount** towards the cost of the Altar flowers, please make your check out to “Church of Our Saviour” and drop off or mail it to the church office. We will be happy to print an announcement regarding your celebration or memorial. Include your announcement and the date you would like it published in the bulletin along with your check.

If you have any questions, please contact Kay at 922-0020. Thank you for your support.



Congratulations to Alfred & Genevieve Schmidt on their 68th Wedding Anniversary on December 20th



*Dear Pastor Bill & church family,
How I wish I was a poet to properly express my thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, delicious food, visits, cards and best wishes offered for me. Even then words would be inadequate. At this point God has granted me a reprieve from the cancer and I am anxious to return to normal activities. Thank God and Thank You. Love,
Karen Goldapske*

*Dear Confirmation Class,
Thank you for providing your time and energy to sort food, pack food boxes and shelve food items. We hope you were able to gain a better understanding of how the Fondy Food Pantry operates and will return to assist us again. Your help in getting food to those in need was much appreciated.*

*Sincerely, Terry Hansen-Beno
F.F.P. Vol. Coordinator*

Dear Bereavement Team,

Thank you for your kind words and the booklets you sent our family. Mom had a wonderful life and went home to the Lord peacefully. We are grateful for all the expressions of sympathy we have received.

Bette Evers



**ADVENT POTLUCK TO BE HELD
DECEMBER 3, 2009**



Church of Our Saviour's Advent Potluck is December 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. Plan to join us for this annual event. Our Advent message will be given by our guest speaker PAM WERTH, STAFF CHAPLAIN AT ST. AGNES HOSPITAL. Ms. Werth graduated in May 2006 with a M.A. in Diaconal Ministry. She then did a year residency at St. Agnes from September 2006 through August 2007. In October 2007 she started full time as a staff chaplain at St. Agnes. She also does chaplain work at St. Francis Home in the nursing home, the independent and assisted living areas. She has also had special training on end of life care, organ and tissue donation, prenatal losses and bereavement services for Moms who loose babies during pregnancy and domestic violence work. She is originally from Markesan and lives in Fond du Lac now. She is a life long Lutheran.

We ask all those who attend to bring a dish to pass. Table service and beverage will be provided. Christmas gifts for our own special members can also be brought this evening so they can be wrapped and then delivered to the members when caroling is done. Look for the gift list suggestions elsewhere in this Builder.

If you have any questions please call Jill Bjornstad at 922-1556



GIFTS FOR SHUT-INS

Christmas is fast approaching. Each year Women of the E.L.C.A. collect a variety of items to take to our Shut-ins for Christmas to let them know they are not forgotten. Please consider donating one or more of the following suggested items. Bring the items to church and place in the basket on the table near the elevator.

- Toothbrush/Paste
 - Hand Lotion Paper/Pens
 - Slippers/Slipper Sox Combs/Brushes
 - Hand Sanitizer Winter Scarves
 - Cologne/Aftershave Facial Tissue
 - Stamps/Stationary
 - Hats/Mittens Perfume/Nail Polish
 - Emery Boards Playing Cards
 - Puzzle-Adult & Child Greeting Cards
 - Men's Socks Lg. Print Crossword
- Money for Special Needs (Place in envelope marked "Shut-in Gifts")*

We will be gathering in the parlor on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 6:00 PM to wrap the gifts for distribution. We share some snacks and have a good time. We invite & WELCOME you to join us at any time!!!!

BIBLE STUDY

Monday, December 21st
10:30 – Noon



Please join in the fellowship and share your insights every third Monday each month. We are a small group of interested, inspired people who meet in the gathering area to share reflections about the Bible and our own faith. **Everyone is Welcome!**

XYZ



Monday December 21st
NOON IN PARLOR

Just Bring:

A dish to pass

Your own table setting

No need to sign up. Come, as you are able.

ALL ARE WELCOME-YOUNG AND OLD!!!

For a ride, please call 922-0020

EDUCATION

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Education Committee is looking to restructure. We feel that everyone would benefit if each group was represented, such as: Adult Forum, Confirmation, Youth, and FFF(Sunday School).

Currently-Deb, Leann, and Patty are representing FFF piece. By doing this we are able to each take a month to attend the meeting. Please consider attending the next meeting which will be on Monday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m.

We meet here at Church, we do need to work together to make all the programs successful.



Congratulations to the Youth who made their First Communion Sunday November 1st.

Brooke Bosin	Rachel Mahoney
Jorden Christensen	Faith Peebles
Justin Greuel	Lucas Vellema
Alyssa Jodarski	Cody Wondrash

Please keep our youth in your prayers!!

FEED THE PIG!!! There is a piggy bank in the Music Room that we are collecting money to try and purchase a pig "Gods Global Barnyard". We need to raise \$30.00 to purchase a pig-this will be our goal. Our lesson in FFF (Sunday school) is Rich Christians in a Hungry World.

FIRST FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 20TH AT THE 10:30 SERVICE

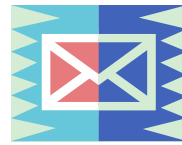
Rehearsal is December 6 and 13th at 9:15 a.m.

PICK N' SAVE WE CARE: Remember to fill out a "We Care" card to have a percentage of your grocery bill go towards the youth of COOS. Our "WE CARE" number is 119200

2009 CONTRIBUTIONS:



All 2009 contributions **must be** received by the church **NO LATER** than December 31st, 2009 to be included in your 2009 giving statement.



2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2010 Church offering envelopes will be ready for you to pick up starting Sunday December 6th. Please **do not** begin using the new envelopes until January 1, 2010.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ❖ The deadline for Committee Reports for the Annual Report Book is Monday December 14th, 2009.
- ❖ Annual Meeting January 24th immediately following 10:30 Service



HOLIDAY WORSHIP AT CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR:



DECEMBER 20th
First Footsteps in Faith
Children's Christmas
Program 10:30 A.M.

DECEMBER 24TH
Family Christmas Eve Worship
5:00 P.M.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
11:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 25TH
Christmas Day Worship
10:00 A.M.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 27
Sunday Worship
8:00 A.M.
10:30 A.M.

CAROLING AND SHUT-IN VISITS

December 13, 2009

Chili lunch following 10:30 a.m. Service.
Caroling and Shut-In visits right after
lunch!! Please join us in this great Holiday
tradition here at Church of Our Saviour!!

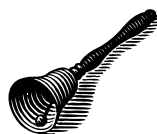


SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH:



- ❖ Thursday, December 3rd, 6:00 p.m. Advent Potluck & Program.
- ❖ Thursday, December 10th, 6:00 p.m. Wrap Christmas Gifts for our special members. Appetizer potluck for the meal.
- ❖ Sunday, December 13th: Chili lunch after 10:30 Service, Caroling and shut in visits after lunch.
- ❖ Thursday, December 17th, 6:30 p.m. Chancel & Tree Trimming
- ❖ Sunday, December 20, 10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
- ❖ Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Family Worship at 5:00 p.m. and Candlelight Service at 11:00 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, December 25, Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- ❖ Sunday, December 27, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship

SAVIOUR BELLS NEWS:



Happy Holidays one and all. I can't believe that it is that time already. The bellchoir did a wonderful job. Thank you Jimmy for filling in.

I would like to welcome Mary Arthur to the group. We could still use a few more ringers!!!

Saviour Bells will be playing at the Mall on Friday night the 4th of December from 6-7. See you there.

On Christmas eve at the 5:00 service we will be playing "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Have a blessed Holiday Season.

P.S. Everyone is invited to "Night of Silence" at the FdL High School PAC on Dec. 13 and 14 at 7:30. The Cardinal Ringerz will be performing prelude music. Jacob Lepien is part of this group.

Diana Jewson
Saviour Bells director

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 11/16/09

- Meeting called to order by President Mary Arthur at 6:00 p.m. Devotions led by Janet Rabbitt
- Reviewed previous meeting minutes and December calendar.

- **ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, PROPERTY**

Pastor's Report:

Pastor conversed with the other two ELCA churches in regard to attending a possible confirmation retreat in early 2010 at Crossways. Confirmation is going very well. Pastor's report is forthcoming.

Property Ministry:

The window painting is complete and paid in full.

Ushers will be showing people up for communion...will put in place for the next month.

The wedding policy discussion has been tabled.

Finance Ministry:

We did not borrow from the line of credit last month.

Pledges plus non pledge giving does not equal expenses. We need to introduce a balanced budget to the congregation. If we pull the mortgage and interest payment out of the monthly expenses and finance the debt separately (\$4,000/mo.) then we are almost balanced with the current pledges. Some ideas generated at the Larry Westfield meeting to retire debt: planned giving, special gifts to refine debt, church included in estate planning. There will be a letter going out this week from the finance ministry in regard to pledging.

Executive Ministry:

All Committee reports are due on Dec 15th to Kay for the Annual Report.

The date for the Annual meeting is set for Jan 24th at 11:45 am

Personnel Ministry:

No report

- **PARISH PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH**

Learning Ministry:

First Communion and Confirmation celebrations went well.

The ELCA Barnyard is in place and has collected \$2.50!

Cradle Roll will be continued by Linda Lepien. Adult forum progresses with the discussion of "Roots of our Faith"

A book study, "Reclaiming the E Word" has begun on Thursday afternoons and evenings.

Youth Ministry:

Sr. High Youth Gathering was a positive experience.

Caroling is set for Dec. 13th.....cookies will be baked on the 12th for the shut- ins.

Lock-in scheduled for Jan 15th.

Nov. 22 and 29th the Youth fundraiser will be set up with samples.

NYG billboard will be displayed from the gathering.

Worship and Music:

The Christmas Eve services will be 5:00p.m. family service and candlelight and 11:00 pm service with choir and candlelight.

Kim will be ringing the bell before each service begins.

Sandi will be purchasing (\$75) Easter music from the flood fund.

John Lepien is making a new Advent Wreath holder...thank you, John!

Healing service will be conducted at both services early next yr.

The 10:30 service will have a condensed bulletin...as music is already up on the screen.

Please sign up on clip board if interested in being a communion assistant.

Social/ Evangelism Ministry:

Steve Wilburn offered to help with the chili luncheon on Dec 13th prior to Youth caroling and distributing gifts to shut-ins.

Lynne Schibbelhut offered to take over Birthday Card Ministry... thank you to Joanelle Wheeler for her service this past year.

Bereavement Ministry asked to purchase 3 packets at \$9.95 ea. used to support grieving families.

Stewardship Ministry:

Pledge tree is complete.

Ministry members will be following up after finance letter is sent out to families that have not pledged.

On Dec 6th the Adult Forum will be an introduction to the proposed 2010 budget.

- **CLOSING**

Next Council meeting is scheduled for December 21 at

at 6pm .

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

**Church of Our Saviour
Church Council 2009**

Term Expires 2010

Mary Arthur: 579-1535 President
Lynn Schibbelhut: 923-9778
Tony Schwartz: 922-0187

Term Expires 2011

Loraine Lepien: 922-3165
Dennis Mertens: 921-9672
Bob Miller: 921-1245

Term Expires 2012

Bart Christensen: 251-6494
Steve Wilburn: 922-6532 Vice-President
Jan Rabbitt: 923-3844

Marabell Juedes Secretary
Marcia Snyder Treasurer

COUNCIL LIAISONS for the COMMITTEES

To insure good communication between the working committees of the church, Council members volunteered to attend committee meetings and bring a report to the Council. Following are the various committees and the Council liaison:

- EDUCATION:** Loraine Lepien
- ENDOWMENT:** Marabell Juedes and Janet Rabbitt
- FINANCE:** Mary Arthur, Loraine Lepien, Jan Rabbitt, and Marcia Synder
- PERSONNEL:** Mary Arthur
- PROPERTY:** Dennis Mertens and Steve Wilburn
- SOCIAL/EVANGELISM:** Toni Schwartz
- STEWARDSHIP:** Bob Miller, Jan Rabbitt, and Lynne Schibbelhut
- WORSHIP & MUSIC:** Lynne Schibbelhut
- YOUTH:** Bart Christensen

If you wish to participate on any of these committees or have a concern regarding any of them, speak to a liaison.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund- YTD

Through—Offerings	-Total Income	-Expenses	
10/31/08	\$170,515	\$183,517	\$208,616
10/31/09	\$163,098	\$178,816	\$207,620

Income Minus Expenses

10/31/08	\$(25,099)
10/31/09	\$(28,804)



OCTOBER 2009

Change Jug \$13.25
2009 YTD TOTAL
\$1,298.47

CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUEST

Please let the church office know if you move **OR** if your **zip code** has been changed. We pay return postage between .50-\$1.50 per “Builder” or letter to have it returned to the office. You can either call the office @ 922-0020 with your new address or email us at coosfdl@mcleodusa.net and let Sherri or Kay know.

BUILDER ARTICLES deadline is the 15th of each month. The Deadline for the Next Builder is; **Tuesday, December 15TH**

(Articles are always welcome earlier in the month!).

Remember! Please submit everything for Builder and announcements in electronic format, so we can integrate it for the website.

The Builder is also available on the churches website at

www.oursavioursfdl.org

December 2009

Church of Our Saviour
363 S. Main St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Phone: 920-922-0020

Fax: 920-922-0249

Office Email:

coosfdl@mcleodusa.net

Pastor Bill's Email:

pastorbill@oursavioursfdl.org

Web-Site:
oursavioursfdl.org

OFFICE HOURS:
M-TH-8:30-3:30
F-8:30-12:30

STAFF:

Pastor:

Rev. Bill Gruenstern

Choir Director: Sandy

Albano

Kim Jodarski: Organist

Diana Jewson: Bell Choir

Director

Kay Salzman: Parish

Administrator/Financial

Secretary

Sherri Bucher: Office

Assistant

Diane Vermillion:

Bookkeeper

Scott Warner: Maintenance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 2nd Week of Advent 8:00 Service 9:15 Adult Forum 10:30 Service	7 Noon Bible Study 6:00 Education Mtg. 7:00 WELCA Board	8 9-1 Quilters	9 5:30-6:15 Bells 5:45-6:55 7 & 8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:45 Choir 7:00 Mid-week Advent Service	10 1:00 Book Study 6:00 Gift Wrapping 6:30 Book Study 7:00 Dartball	11	12
13 3rd Week of Advent 8:00 Service 9:15 Adult Forum 10:30 Service Chili Lunch after service followed by Caroling and Shut In Visits	14 Noon Bible Study	15 9-1 Quilters 5:30 Finance	16 5:30-6:15 Bells 5:45-6:55 7 & 8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:45 Choir 7:00 Mid-week Advent Service	17 1:00 Book Study 6:30 Chancel & Tree Trimming 6:30 Book Study	18	19 12:00 Latvian Service and Christmas celebration in Parlor
20 4th Week of Advent 8:00 Service 9:15 Adult Forum 10:30 Service/FFF Christmas Program	21 10:30 Bible Study NOON XYZ 6:00 Council Christmas Party	22 9-1 Quilters	23 5:30-6:15 Bells 5:45-6:55 9th Grade w/Pr. Bill and Mentor- 7 & 8 Grade w/ Parent Volunteer 6:45 Choir No 7:00 p.m. Service	24 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 a.m. Service	26
27 8:00 Service 10:30 Service Pastor Bill on Vacation	28 Noon Bible Study Pastor Bill on Vacation	29 9-1 Quilters Pastor Bill on Vacation	30 No Confirmation Class 5:30-6:15 Bells 7:00 Youth Service Pastor Bill on Vacation	31 NEW YEARS EVE OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON Pastor Bill on Vacation		