

CARING & SHARING WITH RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY

Our closet opening at Riverside Elementary School in August broke all records for assisting families! Our totals for the day were 31 families with 91 children. Those numbers represented 13 schools. If there was any doubt in your minds that this outreach ministry was a necessary program for Fond du Lac, you can now put that to rest. We were blessed to have a great supply of clothing and are so thankful to all who continue to show their support. Your generous response to the needs within our community has meant more to families than we can ever comprehend. Thank you and tears are part of the process we see. We pass that on to you so you can share the joy.

Items we need for next month are as follows:

- ◆ girls and boys socks
- ◆ girls and boys sweat pants in sizes 4T to 14/XL
- ◆ boys and girls pajamas in sizes 4T to 14XL
- ◆ girls shorts in sizes 4 thru 8
- ◆ girls shoes **youth** sizes 4 through 9, not toddler
- ◆ boys shoes **youth** sizes 13 and 2 thru 11, not toddler

Feel free to make any clothing donations, they will all be put to good use.

Please bring your gifts to the Riverside baskets in the hallway credenza at church by noon on Tuesday, September 15.

As we thank God for all we are able to do and for all those who are helped through Riverside Closet, let us continue to make a difference for others. To be blessed to be a blessing is a gift beyond our understanding. God bless you for Caring and Sharing.

Please make checks for Riverside Closet out to WELCA with Riverside Closet in the memo line.

YOUTH CORNER

Youth will meet on **Wednesday, September 16 from 6:30—8:00 p.m.**

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- ◆ **Monday, September 7**, Labor Day — office closed
- ◆ **Tuesday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m.**—WELCA packing school kits
- ◆ **Sunday, September 13**—Backpack Blessing during 9:00 a.m. worship. Bring your backpack, schoolbag, laptop bag, etc. - children, youth, adults, teachers—all ages!
- ◆ **Sunday, September 27**—Rally Day with a multi-generational activity at 10:15 a.m.
- ◆ **Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m.**— Piano Concert by Jestin Pieper

Please check the back of the September calendar included with the Builder or the bulletin board for information about this year's plans for **God's Work. Our Hands.** All ages are invited to participate in this service project.

COMING IN OCTOBER

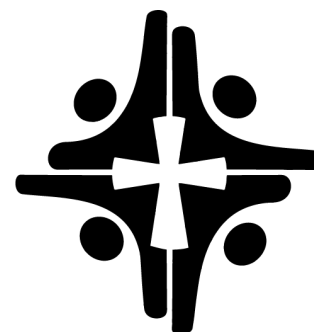
- ◆ **Saturday, October 17**—7:00 p.m. Leggiero Woodwind Quintet Concert
- ◆ **WELCA Sunday October 19**
- ◆ **Saturday, October 24** at TBD p.m. — Fulton Chamber Players
- ◆ **Sunday, October 26**—Reformation Sunday

WALKING BY FAITH, TRIPPING CONSTANTLY

Our Synod Women's Organization is organizing a Fall Retreat for **Saturday, November 4, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** at the Mount Morris Conference Center in Wautoma. Our theme is "Walking by Faith, Constantly Tripping" and the keynote speaker is songwriter and speaker Franki Moscato. We will also have crafts, fellowship, and relaxing workshops, including sessions on the labyrinth and tai chi. **Please register by Monday, September 7th.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Reverend Crystal Lee
Office Email: office@oursaviourfdl.org
Pastor Email: pastorcystal@oursaviourfdl.org
Music Email:
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.



SEPTEMBER BUILDER CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

WE ARE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY
CALLED TO SERVE OTHERS IN GOD'S LOVE.

• 363 S. MAIN STREET, FOND DU LAC • 920-922-0020 • www.oursavioursfdl.org •

VOLUME 92

NO. 9

Greetings Beloved,

September is often a month of transition. Summer begins to give way to fall. A new school year begins. Calendars fill up again, routines shift, and we settle into new rhythms.

This September, we are also entering a season of transition together. I am preparing for what comes next in my life and ministry, while Church of Our Saviour prepares for what comes next in the life of this congregation. Our next steps are different, but we are both stepping into something new.

Transitions have a way of making us want to know what comes next. We want a map. We want a timeline. We want to know where we are going and what it will look like when we get there. Yet faith rarely gives us the whole map at once.

Throughout September, we will continue our journey through Exodus. Again and again, God's people find themselves taking a step without knowing exactly what will come after it. Moses stands before a burning bush with plenty of questions. The Israelites leave behind what they have known without knowing what life on the other side of the sea will look like. In the wilderness, they learn to trust God one day at a time.

Maybe that is part of what faithfulness looks like for us, too.

We don't have to know every step ahead. We are called to take the next faithful one.

That next faithful step will look different for each of us. It will look one way for me as I prepare for what comes next in my life and ministry. It will look another way for this congregation as you enter a time of transition and discernment. And each of us has places in our own lives where we are wondering what comes next.

We may not have the whole map. We may have questions that cannot yet be answered. We may discover that the road takes turns we did not expect.

Still, we take the next faithful step.

Because the promise of God has never been that we will always know where the road leads. The promise is that wherever the road leads, we do not travel it alone.

God goes with us.

Blessings+

Pastor Crystal

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS	FOR THE RECORD						
Council met on August 21, after taking a summer break in August. Council was asked to reflect on this question: How do we build a financial structure that can support the congregation we are becoming, rather than depending on the giving patterns and financial practices of the congregation we have been? A request was received from Paul Thompson, president of FdL Music Parents, for COOS to consider providing space for small groups and individual music lessons in the evening. These programs have been cut from the school district curriculum. Council voted to have Pastor Crystal explore what this arrangement might look like and share detailed information with Council. Minutes from the last meeting of Council and committee reports from Worship & Music, Finance, and Property are posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway. Pastor Crystal’s last Sunday will be September 20.	October will mark the end of the 2023-2026 Capital Improvements Fund Campaign. The completion of our new sign was the final project. Thank you for your contributions! BACKPACK BLESSING A back-to-school blessing during worship on Sunday, September 13 is planned for all who are headed back to the classroom. Please bring your backpack, laptop, schoolbag, or lunch bag and participate! This is for children, youth, adults, teachers, or anyone who is involved in education at any level! RALLY DAY Sunday, September 27 will be the start of children’s formation for this school year. Mark your calendar and plan to join us at 10:15 a.m. for an all-ages, multi-generational activity. Creation Stations will be featured this year! FALL FORUMS There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for Sunday Forum leadership and topics. Forums can be led by members or guests on a variety of subjects: community outreach projects, a specific bible study, other work by non-profits in our community, and many other topics of interest. Fall Forums will begin on September 27. Jason Roberts will lead the Forums on October 4 and October 11. October 4 the topic is safety: fire safety and safety for older adults, as Fire Safety Week is October 4—10. On October 11 he will provide AED/CPR training.						
FINANCIAL REPORT							
Year-to-Date (YTD) As of 7/31/2026 <table><tr><td>General Fund Income (YTD)</td><td>\$171,438.72</td></tr><tr><td>General Fund Expenses (YTD)</td><td>\$194,141.87</td></tr><tr><td>Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</td><td>(\$22,703.15)</td></tr></table> MIF Loan Balance: \$164,160.43	General Fund Income (YTD)	\$171,438.72	General Fund Expenses (YTD)	\$194,141.87	Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$22,703.15)	
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WELCA NEWS	PRAYER LIST
FABRIC KITS Fabric Kits are collected in the months of September and October. Sewing is a valuable skill, one that leads to a reliable income for many women and men. Fabric kits supply vocational training programs with fabric for teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses. The following items are in each Fabric Kit: - Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and be cut into pieces measuring: 2 1/4 yards of 60 “ wide fabric, or 3 yards of 44” wide fabric, or 4 yards of 36” wide fabric - Two spools of matching general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each Donations of one or more kit items and money donations are appreciated. Please make check out to Church of Our Saviour WELCA and note on memo Fabric Kits. Donations may be brought to church on Sunday or to the office during weekly office hours. They can be placed in the credenza marked LWR. Thank you.	Please call the church office (920-922-0020) or Jill Bjornstad (920-539-9389) if you or someone you know is in need of prayers. You can request names to be listed in the announcements, eNews, referred to the Prayer Chain, or both. PRAYER GARDEN NEWS Thank you to everyone who has signed up to care for our Prayer Garden! The plants are doing well despite dry conditions thanks to faithful volunteers who water the garden. There are some opportunities to participate as the growing season continues. See the calendar on the bulletin board to sign up. PIANO CONCERT As part of our Performing Arts Series, Jestin Pieper will present a piano concert here at Church of Our Saviour on Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m. Extreme cold in January, when the concert was originally scheduled, necessitated a change of date. Jestin grew up in Fond du Lac, and he is an award winning and multifaceted New York City based pianist, vocal coach, organist, conductor, and educator. Free will donations will be received. All are welcome! Invite a friend or neighbor to this event.
SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION	SOLUTIONS CENTER DONATIONS
The Endowment Committee will be awarding the Martin Nelson; Megan Mauthe; and Bob and Delphine Miller scholarship monies to Church of Our Saviour members, or member children, who are enrolled full-time in post-secondary education for the 2026-2027 school year. The scholarship application can be picked up at the church office, or found online on the Church of Our Saviour website. Students interested in receiving scholarship monies for the 2026-2027 school year must complete the scholarship application and return to the church by October 1, 2026.	In September, trash bags (all sizes) are the requested item for donations. Please leave your donations in the hallway credenza. Thank you for your support!