

CARING & SHARING WITH RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY

Riverside Closet was open on Thursday, November 20, for all families in the school district to shop for needed items for their children. We served 16 families, including 53 children and seven schools. Your caring response to our request for waterproof gloves was amazing. Most of them disappeared during the course of the day and the parents were thrilled to see them! Among the shoppers were several first-timers who were overwhelmed with the generosity and support they felt as they saw the gifts you had donated. As usual, there were a huge amount of donations for us to organize for the shoppers. The parents and kids are excited to see sweaters, hoodies, winter jackets and all the things that will keep them warm. **Special needs for our next closet opening on Thursday, December 18 are girls undies-size 12 and size 6, snow pants-size 10/12, size 14/XL, sweatpants-size 14, size 16, boys pajamas-size 4, size 5, size 10/12, size 14(XL), girls pajamas-size 14(XL).** As always, any other clothing you share will be used. Rather than wait until Christmas to adopt one or two families, we decided to purchase food to make up 20 emergency food bags for those families in need. Food had also been brought directly to Riverside, so that was added to our bags. There were a few families who said they were doing all right, but most responded to the food with tears. We gave away more than half of what we purchased. The remaining food was brought to the school office at the end of the day. They will see that it gets to where it is needed. You are witnesses to the faith that call each of us to love our neighbors. Thank you for Caring and Sharing. **Please make checks for Riverside Closet out to WELCA with Riverside Closet in the memo line.**

YOUTH CORNER

Youth group will meet on **Thursday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m.** to assist with decorating the church.

DECEMBER EVENTS

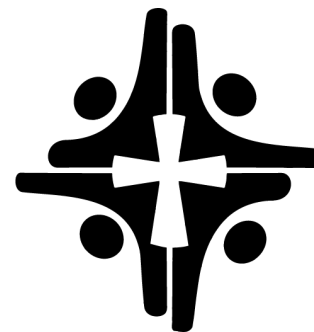
- ♦ **Monday, December 1**—Loaves and Fishes Meal Foil pans with the recipe are on the credenza.
- ♦ **Thursday, December 4**— at 6:00 p.m. Decorating, Shut-In Gifts, and Fellowship
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 10** — 12:00 p.m. Advent Music & Meal with Brass Menagerie
- ♦ **Sunday, December 14**— 9:00 a.m. Advent Festival of Hymns, Lessons, & Anthems
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 17**— 12:00 p.m. Advent Music & Meal with FdL HS Cardinal Singers
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 17**—6:00 p.m. **Blue Christmas Worship Service** at Salem United Methodist Church, 120 Sheboygan Street,
- ♦ **Sunday, December 21**— 9:00 a.m. Children and Youth will lead this special worship service.
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 24**—Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Worship services with Holy Communion, candle lighting, and special music.
- ♦ There is no service on Christmas Day.

COMING IN JANUARY!

- ♦ **Wednesday, January 7**—6:30 p.m. Decoration Take-Down with Youth assisting.
- ♦ **Friday, January 23**—7:00 p.m. Jestin Pieper will present a Piano Concert
- ♦ **Sunday, January 25**— Annual Meeting and Pot-luck following worship
- ♦ **Sunday, February 1**— 3:00 p.m. Symphonic Band Chamber Concert

CONTACT INFORMATION

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



DECEMBER 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 91

NO.12

Pastoral Highlights

- ♦ Preparing for Advent and Christmas
- ♦ Visitation, pastoral care, phone calls with members, presided at the funeral of Roger "Fife" Jones
- ♦ Confirmation lock-in Saturday into Sunday of our Reformation, Confirmation, 100th Anniversary Celebration (which was so much fun to lead with Bishop Anne Edison-Albright)

Beloveds,

Advent is upon us already. Advent is a season of holy waiting- a time to slow down, breathe deeply, and make room for the Christ's light to break into our world once again. However, waiting doesn't mean sitting still. In Scripture, God's people wait by preparing their hearts, strengthening their communities, and practicing hope in everyday ways.

This Advent I invite you and your households to take on a small, interactive practice that helps you watch for God's presence as you wait for Immanuel- God with us. Here are a few simple ideas:

1. Kindness Countdown- instead of opening a door on a calendar, write small acts of kindness on slips of paper and each day draw one!

2. Three-minute nightly prayer- Take 3 minutes, either silently or with a family member to pray: Thank You (one thing you're grateful for), Help Me (one thing you need courage for), and Be Near (one person or situation you are praying for)

3. Advent Check-Ins: pick one or two people you want to stay connected with during this season. Once a week, send them a text or short note (thinking of you, praying for you, etc.)

4 Looking for Light- Each day, look around you for a moment of beauty. Snap a picture or jot a note about what you noticed. However you practice waiting this season, may these small acts make room for hope, peace, love, and joy to grow in, and through, you this Advent.

Blessings+

Pastor Crystal

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our meeting this month we began work on updating policies: the child and vulnerable adult safety policy and the service and therapy animal policy.

We will continue refining these policies at our next meeting. The revised constitution was another topic we covered. Please see the notice below for further information.

Committee Chairs are reminded that completed reports from committees and organizations for the Annual Report are due in the office by December 30. Thank you for your timely submission.

CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The updated constitution will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on January 25. Copies of this document will be available at church, as an attachment in the Enews, or sent to you by calling the office and requesting a copy.

2026 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

On Sunday, November 16, the worship service included the blessing of the pledges received to support our mission and ministries in 2026. If you were not able to attend this service, your pledge cards may also be returned to the church office or mailed to the church. Thank you for your generosity and assistance as we plan for 2026.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of October 31, 2025	
General Fund Income:	\$21,598.95
General Fund Expenses:	\$20,455.05
Net Operating Expenses:	\$ 1,143.90
MIF Loan Balance: \$ 173,289.78	

COOKBOOKS

The Centennial Cookbook makes a great Christmas gift! They are available in the church office. Price is \$15 each for one or \$12.50 each for two or more.

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

A special worship service opportunity will be at Salem United Methodist Church, 120 Sheboygan Street, on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. in their Chapel.

For many, Christmas is anything but merry. The holidays can be difficult for those who are grieving, having difficult relationships, those struggling with addictions, physical and mental illness, stress, depression, and those who deeply feel the pain of those in our world who suffer the effects of war, poverty, and disease.

In our Blue Christmas Service, we gather as a community to express and to acknowledge these conflicting emotions, and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God. This service will feature readings from the scripture, soothing music, and the singing of hymns. There will be an opportunity for individuals to light a candle as a visible sign of their prayers of remembrance and hope. Plan to attend this service and bring a friend!

ADVENT FORUMS

For Advent, we will use the series “A Child is Born” based on the book by Amy Jill Levine. You are invited to read the book as we go, but it is not necessary to take part in the weekly Forum. Forums will include a short video and discussion. We will hear how the various nativity stories from Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) connect with the nativity story of Jesus.

JANUARY FORUMS	
January 4—Constitution Updates	
January 11—2026 Budget Discussion	

WELCA NEWS

Thank you to all who provided Thankofferings for WELCA in November. It is greatly appreciated. On Thursday, December 4, beginning at 6:00 p.m. we will put up our Christmas decorations and prepare shut-in gifts. WELCA members will provide appetizers, pizza, and beverages after the work is completed. Our youth will be joining in this project, and ALL are invited to come and help with this enjoyable, productive, all-ages Advent event. Donations of cookies for the shut-ins are also needed; there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Designated cash donations toward gifts for the shut-ins are appreciated. Please make checks out to **Church of Our Saviour WELCA**. Church of Our Saviour WELCA is grateful for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS YARD SIGNS

Yard signs and stands announcing the times for our Christmas Eve worship services will be available at church starting on December 1. Please take advantage of this opportunity to spread the word about our church and all the great things happening here!

MONDAY NOON BOOK CLUB

The Monday noon book club has started a new book for the Advent-Christmas season. **Christmas Stories: Heartwarming Classics of Angels, a Manger, and the Birth of Hope** is a collection of stories by pastor and best-selling author Max Lucado. These stories--like your favorite Christmas ornaments--come in various shapes and sizes. You'll be awed anew at God's gift to us with this beloved collection of yuletide tales. Newcomers are welcome to join the book club at any time. Contact Mary Arthur, 920-579-1535 or maryarthur@charter.net for more details and the Zoom link.

2026 GIVING ENVELOPES

Giving envelopes for 2026 will be mailed to your homes, with the full year included in one mailing. Thank you for your assistance with picking up your envelopes at church this past year.

PRAYER LIST

Please call the church office (920-922-0020) or Jill Bjornstad (920-539-9389) if in need of prayers. You can request names to be listed in these announcements, eNews, referred to the Prayer Chain, or both.

ADVENT MUSIC & MEAL CONCERTS

Church of Our Saviour will host two special noon Advent concerts which will be half an hour each. The first concert is Wednesday, December 10th at 12:00 p.m. Brass Menagerie, a quintet of brass musicians from the Fox Valley, organized by Jill Koerwitz, will be featured. The second concert is Wednesday, December 17th at 12:00 p.m. The Fond du Lac High School Cardinal Singers directed by Cory Schneider will perform. A light lunch is served following each concert. Both concerts and meals are open to the public - no reservations required. Free will donations are appreciated. All are welcome!

ADVENT FESTIVAL OF HYMNS, LESSONS, AND CAROLS

The Adult Choir and Handbell Choir will lead this special worship service on December 14th at 9:00 a.m. The service combines scripture and music to tell of the anticipation and preparation for the birth of Christ. The service will be interspersed with several choir anthems and congregational hymns. Invite a friend or neighbor!

SOLUTIONS CENTER DONATIONS

In **December, toilet paper** is the requested item for donations. Please leave donations in the hallway credenza. Thank you for your support.