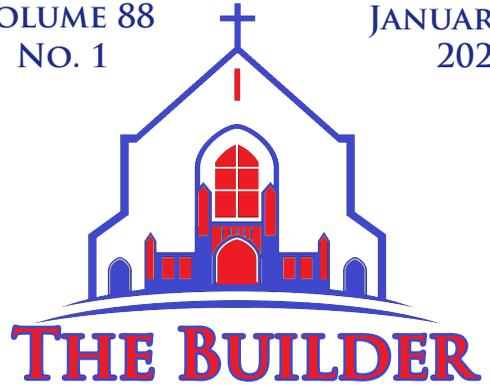




CHURCH OF OUR
SAVIOUR
— FOND DU LAC —

VOLUME 88
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JANUARY
2022



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Blessings, Beloveds!

We are about to enter a new year. Maybe you are excited for a new year and new possibilities, maybe you are apprehensive- which is reasonable after the last two years. Whatever your feelings, we are entering a new year. As we enter a new year, I want to place on your radar some things we can look toward happening at Church of Our Saviour in the new year. The new year will include more chances for us to get to know each other, chances for conversations about the identity and culture of Church of Our Saviour, and then to look forward together into how best we can live into that identity. The new year will include chances to dig into Martin Luther's teachings, spend time talking about an expansive view of stewardship (which is much more than talking about money) and conversations about worship: the history of worship, why we worship, how we worship. Our year will be filled with conversations as we look toward the future together. I will say - expect these conversations to move you out of your comfort zone, expect to learn, and in the middle of it all, expect to have fun.

I will leave you with a blessing for the start of a new year:

God of the past, God of the present, God of the future years, a new year is dawning. We celebrate with joy the good times from last year and the memories that will delight us for years to come. We reflect on the hardships, the unexpected changes, the setbacks, and we give thanks for your presence in our struggles.

Be with us in the year ahead. Give us courage to face challenges and to push out of our comfort zone. Give us love and laughter to lighten our days. Give us measures of peace, light, and hope that we may share these gifts with others.

Guide us as we make resolutions. Help us to listen more carefully to one another. Help us to get to know one person better in our church family. Help us to grow in one aspect of our Christian faith. Help us to put our faith into practice each day.

Remind us that with every step we take into the new year, you go with us. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Crystal

ELEVATOR REPAIRS

The weekend before Christmas our elevator stopped working. The next day, we learned a motor and circuit board needed to be replaced at a cost of \$6000. Given that the elevator is over 40 years old, we are fortunate that the needed parts could be obtained. Council approved the expenditure at the council meeting that night, and repairs were made in time for Christmas Eve worship - Praise God! While there are funds available in the pastoral contingency fund, special gifts are invited to offset this unexpected but essential expense. One gift of \$1000 has already been received. If you would like to contribute, please put "elevator repair" on the memo line of your check made payable to COOS. Thank You!

WELCA NEWS

Women of The ELCA Board will meet via Zoom on Monday, January 3 at 1:45 p.m.

Lydia Circle meets on Tuesday, January 25 at 1:30 p.m. Sue Schierstedt will be our Bible study leader using the January Gather magazine. All are invited to join us.

Tabitha Circle meets on Tuesday, January 18 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom with Pauline Wallendal leading the discussion of an article from "Living Lutheran" magazine. Copies of the magazine can be picked up at church, and the article and study guide will be emailed to circle members.

Thank you to everyone who baked and packed cookies, donated containers, purchased the poinsettias and delivered our gifts to our shut-ins. They put smiles on many faces!

On January 12 at 6:00 p.m. the decorations at church will be taken down and put away for another year. We need lots of help from youth, ladder movers and climbers, men and women. We need to have this done in an hour so the youth can be ready for Confirmation class at 7:00 p.m.

FOR THE RECORD

DEATH

Fran Hamilton • 12/6/21

BUILDING ON THE PAST... BELIEVING IN THE FUTURE VIA SIMPLY GIVING

Thank you to everyone who filled out a Personal Giving Plan for 2022. If you use Simply Giving (electronic fund transfers) and you increased your pledge for 2022, you must fill out a new Simply Giving Form with the new donation amount, the date you want it to begin, and your signature. (Simply Giving forms are in the office and on the usher table.) Alternately, you can email Kay at office@oursavioursfdl.org with a request to change your gift amount. Please state the new amount and the date you want it to start. Kay cannot change your donation amount without authorization. Once authorized, she will process the change to be effective on the date you specify. The sooner she gets your form the more likely it will take effect on the day you select. If you have any questions please call Kay at 920.922.0020.

CARING AND SHARING WITH RIVERSIDE KIDS

As winter is upon us, we are still asking for winter boots for girls and boys in any sizes to be given to the Riverside closet. There are only a few pairs of boots available at this time. Also needed are socks for girls and boys and underwear for girls and boys in sizes 3T to youth XL.



Caring & Sharing
with Riverside Kids

The love and support you have shown has had a huge impact in our community. Parents are in awe when they come to the closet and see that they can "shop" for whatever they need without worry about finances. Your gifts may mean that a family can eat better or more meals each day. God bless you as you share your blessings with others so generously.

Please put your donations in the Riverside baskets in the credenza in the hallway.

THANK YOU!



WORSHIP AT CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday worship services will continue to be held at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. through May 22.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD WITH INSTALLATION OF PASTOR CRYSTAL LEE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 6:00 P.M.

The feast of Epiphany concludes the Christmas season. The word epiphany means manifestation. Christ is revealed to all nations. The main theme is light. The magi followed the light of a star to find Jesus who is the light of the world.

Pastor Crystal's installation will be celebrated this day with Bishop Anne Edison-Albright presiding. Masks will be required. A reception will follow in Stecker Hall. All are welcome to attend this special event!

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JANUARY 9

This is the day that we celebrate Jesus' baptism. Many of you are godparents. Here are some ways to celebrate your godchild's baptismal anniversary:

- Do something watery together – play with water toys, swim, walk by a river, make flavored ices, go to a car wash, go to a splash pad.
- Make the sign of the cross on the child with water, light a candle and share memories of the child's baptism.
- Give watery gifts – bath toys, bubble bath, squirt toys, pool toys, water sports equipment.
- Give books that tell Bible stories, especially Noah, baby Moses, Red Sea.
- Give religious art for their bedroom.
- Make a charitable donation, and let your godchild help decide.
- Draw pictures together about baptism.
- Send a card to your godchild if you can't be together. Just say that you are thinking about them and remind them of god's unconditional love.

COVID CONCERNS INCREASE

All of our Synod counties now show a "critically high" or "very high" rate of covid transmission, fueled by the rapid spread of the omicron variant. Vaccinations and masks are the most effective tools against spread of the virus. If you have not yet been vaccinated, the vaccine is widely available, at little or no charge, through local pharmacies and health care providers

Masks are recommended for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people while in group settings indoors. We continue to ask that our members prayerfully consider WEARING A MASK when they attend worship, for both their safety and that of the people around them. Disposable masks are available on the credenza in the hallway.

Thank You!

BOOK STUDY

Mondays • Noon – 1:30 p.m. on Zoom

The Monday noon book study group has moved on to the fifth book, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* in *The Chronicles of Narnia* series by British author and lay theologian, C. S. Lewis. The Zoom link is included in eNews & Notes, and we can screen-share if you don't have the books. Newcomers are welcome!

Please call the church office (920-922-0020) or Jill Bjornstad (920-922-1556) if you or someone you know is in need of prayers. You can request them to be in the Prayers of the Church, the Prayer Chain or both.

FINANCIAL REPORT - YR TO DATE (11/30/2021)

General Fund Income \$182,100
General Fund Expenses: \$* 172,800
Loan Principal Payments: \$ 18,007
Total Gen. Fund Expenditures: \$190,807
Net Gain/Loss, YTD: \$ *-8,707

*Expenses include an additional \$10,000 transferred to Pastoral Contingency Fund for calling a new pastor. Balance in fund: \$.15,459

Addl. Qtrly. Principal Payments: \$ 4,385**
MIF Loan Balance as of 11/30/2021: \$138,920

** gifts designated for debt reduction

YOUTH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



In December, the youth helped decorate the church for Christmas and enjoyed the appetizer buffet prepared by members of WELCA. Our WELCA circles have traditionally decorated and prepared shut-in gifts during the first week of Advent. They were most appreciative to have help from the youth of the congregation!

The youth service event for January will be Wednesday, 19th from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. (different time than usual). We will be delivering beds for the organization **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. The local chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is led by Tom Otte, son of Darlene Otte, a long-time active member of WELCA and one of our loyal quilters.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!



RIVERSIDE CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Because of your generous spirits, our Christmas families at Riverside Elementary School have been blessed with a Christmas to remember.

Shown above with Pastor Crystal are Riverside Principal Jessica Hughes and Guidance Counselor Kristi Serwe, who picked up the bounty of boxes and bags for distribution.

Thank you for signing up to purchase gifts or donating money so we could purchase what was requested and needed. We were able to meet the families' needs and beyond. We also provided food for approximately one week for each family.

As children of God, we are called to love one another. We are asked to help those in need. We are reminded that we are God's hands and witnesses in our world. You have heard all that and shown that God's love shines through you. Your actions have greatly blessed two adults and ten children.

Thank you! Merry Christmas! God Bless You!

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

All youth in grades 8-12 who are interested in attending the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering July 24-28 in Minneapolis, please have the paperwork and deposits turned in by Sunday, January 9th. For questions or more information, contact Pastor Crystal or Christie Kaufman.

ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting
of the Congregation
will be held in the sanctuary
on Sunday, January 30, 2022
at 11:45 a.m.
following the late service.**

- The booklet of Annual Reports will be available at church on Sunday, Jan. 23.
- A copy of the reports will also be mailed to any voting member upon request to the church office.
- The Nominating Committee still has some vacancies to fill on the ballot, including one seat on the Congregation Council and other delegate and committee appointments. Their report will be made available as soon as it is complete. If you are interested in being a candidate, contact Nominating Committee chairman Kevin Mahoney at 920-251-1612.
- As a result of our budget forum in December, a separate letter will be mailed regarding the 2022 budget and what is needed from our members to ensure we can continue our ministries and support a full-time pastor.
- A quorum is required to approve the budget and complete elections. Your attendance is important.
- Those members who are not able to attend in person are invited to contact a congregation council member if you have an opinion or concern that you wish to have shared at the meeting.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



**WITH
RITE OF
INSTALLATION
THURSDAY
JANUARY 6 • 6 P.M.**

**ALL ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND!**

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright will join us on Thursday, January 6 to install Pastor Crystal as the Pastor of Church of Our Saviour.

We invite the community to attend and be part of this special occasion.

Masks will be required for the service- special disposable star masks will be available to help celebrate the theme of the evening "We Too Have a Star to Guide Us."

Join us in Stecker Hall for a reception following the service.

WINTER MUSIC AND FAMILY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

CULTURE ROCK

JANUARY 23 AT 6:00 P.M.

It's back! Come to Stecker Hall and enjoy simple and fun folk dances from other cultures. Dan Fee will lead this activity, repeating folk dances he did in elementary music class (so you KNOW you'll be able to do them!) Perfection is not the goal! Special skills are not required! This is just for fun and is a perfect multi-generation activity. Come give it a try! Bring a dessert to share and enjoy with everyone afterwards. If you don't feel like participating, you are still welcome to come, watch and enjoy dessert and fellowship.

CHAMBER CONCERT

FEBRUARY 6 AT 3:00 P.M.

Soloists and ensembles from the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band will present the 32nd annual Chamber Concert in our sanctuary on Feb. 6 featuring a variety of classical and popular selections.

TALENT SHOW

FEBRUARY 27

5:00 dinner served by youth, 6:00 show All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate! Here are some ideas – vocal solo, instrumental solo/ensemble, dancing, piano solo, standup comedian, karate demonstration, juggling, magic acts, card tricks, cooking demonstration, jump rope demonstration, whistling, dramatic reading, gymnastic routine, comedy skit and celebrity impressions. If you'd like to participate, but need help with an idea or need music, give Janet a call – 920-979-3416! Sign up on the bulletin board.