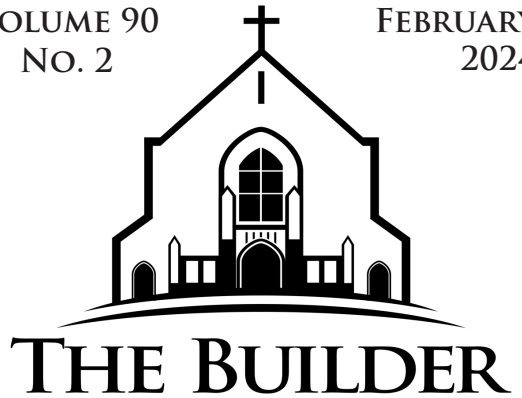




CHURCH OF OUR
SAVIOUR
— FOND DU LAC —

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From the Pastor

Greetings, Beloveds!

We have finished the first month of 2024! And with that, we are about to move on to Ash Wednesday and Lent. Lent is early this year with Ash Wednesday being February 14 (yes, Valentine's Day!).

For Lent this year, our theme for both Sunday and Wednesday will be "Faith Foundations." We all need reminders on what and why we believe what we believe. Also opportunities to wrestle with and question what we believe. This theme offers us those opportunities.

On Sundays we will focus on "Faith Foundations: God's Promises" where we will dive into the Old Testament lessons which include foundational stories of God's promises. These stories include: God's covenant in the rainbow; God's promise to Sarah and Abraham to make them ancestors to many; the covenant and gift of the commandments; a story of a serpent and stick; and we will hear about a new covenant that God will make with Israel.

Then on Wednesdays, the theme will be "Faith Foundations: Luther's Small Catechism." The emphasis will be on our foundational beliefs as Lutherans as we look at one part of Luther's Small Catechism each week- The Creed, 10 Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Communion. We will hear the question: What does this mean? And hear how these foundations continue to be important to our faith today.

I hope you will join as we take time to delve into our "Faith Foundations!"

Blessings +

Pastor Crystal

WELCA NEWS

Women of The ELCA Board will meet via Zoom on Monday, February 5 at 1:45 p.m.

Tabitha Circle meets on Tuesday, February 20 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Lydia Circle meets on Tuesday, February 27 at 1:30 p.m. in the parlor. All are invited to join us.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

WELCA is collecting items for Lutheran World Relief PERSONAL CARE KITS during the months of January and February. Money or actual items may be donated. Items needed are bath size towels, bath size bar soap, adult size tooth brushes in original packaging, combs and metal nail clippers. Donations may be brought to church on Sunday mornings or during weekly office hours.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

GET READY FOR THE 2024 FOND DU LAC MOBILEPACK!

The Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack will be Saturday, April 6, 2024, at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds. This year's goal is to pack 132,192 meals. To accomplish this, we will need -

- your donations to reach the \$38,800 needed to purchase the ingredients for the meal packs.
- your help on April 6 for the meal packaging. February is our City-wide "Have-a-Heart" Campaign month. Our giving tree is in the hallway.
- Use an envelope from the tree or
- Donate online at give.fmsc.org/fdl using the the MobilePack number, #2404-032SC.
- Volunteer to pack – see the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Contact Sue Schierstedt, rstedt@charter.net, with any questions.

Your prayers, helping hands, and financial gifts are all necessary to help us provide food and hope to those in dire need around the world.

Thank you for your generous prayers, gifts, and service!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Our Trivia Night, which was postponed due to severe weather, will take place Saturday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. Teams will be made up of 8 members who will compete in friendly competition. You can form your own team or come and you will be assigned to a team.

CHAMBER CONCERT › FEB. 4

Soloists and ensembles from the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band will present the 34th annual Chamber Concert at Church of Our Saviour on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. An organ prelude by Pam Lane and Bob Martin will begin at 2:45 p.m. There is no admission charge and the public is invited. A free-will offering will be received.

TALENT SHOW & DINNER SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

5:00 p.m. • dinner

6:00 p.m. • show

The Annual Talent Show and Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 25. The youth will serve a pancake dinner at 5:00 p.m. The Talent Show will follow at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend this fun evening! Invite a friend or neighbor! No reservations are needed. Freewill donations will be accepted to support youth activities. Deadline to sign up for participating in the show is Febr. 18.

WARTBURG COLLEGE CHOIR

Save the date! The Wartburg College Choir consisting of 81 singers will sing at our worship services on March 24 - Palm Sunday. They will also present a concert at Fond du Lac High School on Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. Watch for more details!

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY – FEB. 14

Worship services are at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. Both will include the imposition of ashes and holy communion. On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty day journey toward

Easter. By marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism.

CARING AND SHARING WITH RIVERSIDE KIDS

Our open closet day on January 18 was a busy one. We spent time sorting and organizing all the wonderful gifts you donated, and the families who came to find needed items for their families could see we had been working hard. We help around 18 families. Thank you so much for all your love and caring for our community by supporting the closet.

We will be open again on February 15.

Especially needed clothing are:

- -girls socks,
- -boys and girls underwear, sizes 4T through 14/16 XL,
- -boys and girls pajamas, sizes 4T through 14/16 XL.

Any warm clothing you care to donate will be gratefully accepted. Item for boys or girls such as warm shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, sweaters, jeans, sweat pants, athletic pants and warm slacks are always appreciated in the cold months. Any clothing in the range of 4T through 14/16 XL will help. We do have some of these items in the tubs, but we never know how many families to expect for the month ahead.

Please place your gifts in the baskets in the hallway credenza marked Riverside Closet by Tuesday, February 13.

Thank you for blessing our community with all you share. Your generosity does not go unnoticed. Many of the families we serve at the closet are quick to share their thanks. God bless you all.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP AND SUPPER SCHEDULE

Worship: 5:30 p.m. • Lenten Supper: 6:15 p.m.

This year for our midweek services, we will again be using the Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy. (Services will be livestreamed when there is a videographer available.) The worship services will be followed with a Lenten supper in Stecker Hall, prepared by various groups in the congregation. There is no charge for the suppers, but free-will offerings will be received to offset costs and benefit projects at COOS and beyond.

Our Lenten theme is **FAITH FOUNDATIONS**. Midweek services will cover Luther's Small Catechism. The schedule is as follows:

February 21: Apostles' Creed

Meal: WELCA

February 28: Ten Commandments

Meal: Council

March 6: Lord's Prayer

Meal: Worship & Music

March 13: Baptism

Meal: Youth & Sunday School

March 20: Communion

Meal: WELCA

THANK YOU'S

We would like to extend our thanks for the lovely poinsettia plant and delicious cookies. Although my mother, Arlene Neumann, passed away on December 16th, we know how much she would have appreciated and enjoyed receiving the Christmas gifts as she had in past years. We would also like to thank Jill for her faithfulness in bringing communion during the time my mom was homebound and while residing with us for the past 4 yrs. This ministry is certainly a blessing to our homebound/shut-in members.

Yours in Christ,

Chuck and Janet Halfman

Thank you for the poinsettia plant and cookies. I put the poinsettia plant in the sun room so others can enjoy it too and shared the cookies with the staff. Thank you for being such a caring church!

Carol Hinz

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ten new members were received into the fellowship of Church of Our Saviour on January 28. We extend a warm welcome to:

STEVE AND SANDY CARTER

ANDY AND PAULA DAMP

JIM AND MICHELLE MCGEE

MARTY, KIM, EMMA, AND BRYNN MCAULY

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

At the Annual Meeting on January 28, the Council recommended and the voting members present unanimously approved the 2024 budget as presented and discussed at the Sunday forum.

The following slate of candidates was approved by unanimous ballot:

Congregation Council (3 yrs.): Billie Giese, Corrine Freismuth (one position vacant)

Oshkosh Conference Assembly: Ramona Bennett, Carol Desing

East Central Synod of WI Assembly: Merle Knutson, Jean Hanisch

Personnel Committee: Rachel Koehler, Kevin Mahoney

Nominating Committee: Bruce Nyberg, Joanne Talaska, Patrick Schuppe (one position vacant)

Crossways Camping Ministries delegate: Wendy Koepp, Sue Schierstedt

Lutheran Campus Ministry: Jeff and Myrna Ryder

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2023 SUMMARY

General Fund Income \$271,052

General Fund Expenses: \$222,772

Loan Principal Payments: \$ 20,839

Total Gen. Fund Expenditures: \$243,611

Net Gain/Loss, 2022: \$ 27,441

Addl. Qtrly. Principal Payments: \$2,255**

MIF Loan Balance as of 12/31/23: \$147,542

***gifts designated for debt reduction are sent to MIF at the end of each calendar quarter.*

General Fund Income in 2022: \$251,229

General Fund Income increase in 2023: \$19,823

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRESS REPORT

The daycare ceiling project was completed during the daycare's holiday break. The old ceiling and lights were removed and replaced with new suspended ceilings and new LED light fixtures in the north classroom and two of our storage closets. The Property Committee members made minor repairs to the ceilings in the middle and south classrooms and the existing light fixtures were upgraded to LED's. Radiators were reattached and repairs made to a couple closet doors. The floors received their annual cleaning and buffing.

Because we decided to repair instead of replacing the ceilings in two of the rooms, this project was completed for \$9,352 rather than the new bid of \$22,183. The lower level window replacement was completed in early January. Scheduling is proceeding for replacement of parish hall doors facing Main Street and the parking lot. Replacement of the elevator lobby heater is next on the schedule.

To date all the expenditures have been covered with funds already donated. We will be drawing on our approved loan soon, so that the upcoming projects can be undertaken as soon as bids are approved and schedules set.

SOLUTIONS CENTER "ITEM OF THE MONTH"

February item is toilet paper. Donations may be left in the hallway credenza.

YOUTH CORNER

We will only be meeting on Feb. 7 this month.

Please join us for worship on Feb. 14 for **Ash Wednesday service** at 6:30 p.m.

Pancake Supper- Please put Feb. 25 on your calendars. We will need your help cooking and serving pancakes and sausage. We will start cooking at 4 p.m. This is a youth fundraiser before our Talent Show. Please let Pastor Crystal know if you are able to help!