

CARING & SHARING WITH RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY

Riverside will be open on Thursday, February 19, for all who are in need of clothing for their children. With the extreme cold temperatures and the strong winds we are experiencing, we are grateful for the gifts you have shared. Each family experiences their own issues when they have limited resources, but there is much relief and thankfulness when they find items they are looking for. Please know that your time and money in filling the Riverside Closet is a very special gift to many.

We are quite well stocked with most items, but some things always disappear fast. **Within the size range of 4T to 14/XL, we would appreciate: -long or short sleeved shirts for girls or boys, -hoodies for girls or boys, -sweatpants for girls or boys.**

Please place your donations in the Riverside baskets in the hallway credenza but Tuesday noon, February 17.

Thank you for making so many people happy. Your sharing gifts with the Closet lets others know that you have responded to God's call for us to help and love one another. May God bless you as you make this important witness to the community.

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

PIANO CONCERT

The piano concert by Jestin Pieper has tentatively been rescheduled for **Saturday, March 7** at 7:00 p.m.

YOUTH CORNER

Youth will meet from **6:30-8:00 p.m.** on Wednesday, **February 4**. All youth 6th—12th grade are needed to help with the Pancake Supper before the Talent Show on February 15. Please come by 3:45 p.m. to help with prep. No Youth Group on Feb. 18—Ash Wednesday_ worship with your families. The **Synod Youth Gathering is Fri. February 20— Sun. February 22.**

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- ◆ **Sunday, February 1**— 3:00 p.m. FdL Symphonic Band Chamber Concert
Small ensembles and solos will be featured at this annual event. All are invited to attend.
- ◆ **Sunday, February 8**—The next healing service will be included in the February 8 worship service. All who sense a need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives are welcome to receive a word of blessing and a prayer.
- ◆ **Sunday February 15**—Talent Show and Pancake Supper
- ◆ **Wednesday, February 18**— Ash Wednesday Worship services at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Wednesday, February 25**—5:45 p.m. Lent service followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m.

WINTER WEATHER

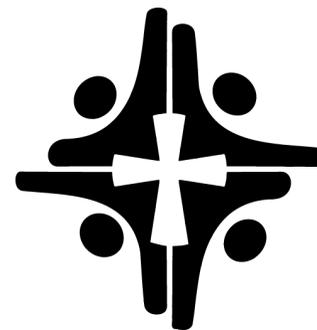
Please note that when it is necessary to cancel Sunday worship due to weather, we will notify local radio stations including B104.7 FM, KFIZ Radio (AM 1450), WFDL (Sunny 97.7) and WFRV TV-Channel 5 (Green Bay) as soon as the decision is made. We will also post the information on our Facebook page. Even if we decide NOT to cancel, please use your own good judgement on whether it is feasible for you to brave the weather, as the difference between city and country driving is often great. During the week, our events and office hours will be cancelled when the public schools are closed.

COMING IN MARCH!

- ◆ Saturday, March 7—Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack at the Fairgrounds
- ◆ Wednesday Midweek Lenten worship services at 5:45 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. will continue all month. No reservations needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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



FEBRUARY BUILDER CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

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

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NO.2

Beloved,

In February we step into Lent. We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, a day that is both honest and tender. We come forward to receive ashes on our foreheads and hear words that ground us in truth: *you are dust, and to dust you shall return*. These words are not meant to weigh us down. They tell the truth about our lives- God meets us not after we have everything figured out, but right where we are. Dusty. Fragile. Beloved.

This Ash Wednesday also invites us into our Lenten theme: **Encounter**.

With this theme, Lent is about paying attention. It is about making room to notice where God is already drawing near. It is about encounter- encountering God, encountering Jesus, and encountering one another. On Sundays, our worship will focus on **Encounters with Jesus**. We will walk alongside familiar and unfamiliar figures in the Gospels; people who meet Jesus in moments of curiosity, confusion, longing, and need. These encounters are not tidy or predictable. They are transformative. Jesus meets people where they are and invites them into something more, not with pressure, but with presence.

On Wednesdays, we will gather around **Encounters with God in the Psalms**. The Psalms give us language for prayer when our own words fall short. They hold joy and anger, trust and doubt, hope and lament. In these ancient prayers, we discover that God welcomes our whole selves, not just the polished parts. The Psalms remind us that prayer itself is an encounter, a meeting place between our lives and God's steadfast love.

Together, these gatherings shape a Lenten journey where we are reminded: we do not walk this season alone. We walk it together, trusting that God is already on the road with us.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the journey, but it is not the end of the story. The ashes point forward, toward resurrection. Lent invites us to slow down, to listen, and to remain open to the ways God might meet us anew. May this Lent offer a chance for encounter, with Jesus, with God, and with one another. And that in those encounters, we will be reminded again of grace that meets us exactly where we are.

Blessings+

Pastor Crystal

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At this month's meeting:

Pastoral Highlights were shared:

- ◆ Planning and worship leadership for Christmas and Epiphany
- ◆ Attended various meetings
- ◆ Started planning for Ash Wednesday and Lent
- ◆ Planned February Forum series: From Dust to Hope: Preparing Our Hearts and Our Plans

Council tabled discussion on the Child Protection Policy until the next meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

Church Council (for a three year term)

Donn Stout
Merle Knudtson
Erin Steward

Oshkosh Conference Assembly Delegates

Carol Desing
Ramona Bennett

East Central Synod of WI Synod Assembly

Corey Calvey
Wendy Koepp

Personnel Committee

Heddy Pahnke
Kevin Mahoney

Nominating Committee

Bruce Nyberg
Sue Schierstedt
Dan Calvey
Kevin Mahoney

Crossways Camping Ministry

Wendy Koepp
Sue Schierstedt

Lutheran Campus Ministries

Sue Schierstedt
Ramona Roberts

The revisions to the constitution were passed.

MIDWEEK LENT WORSHIP & SUPPER

The Wednesday Lent worship services will begin February 25 at 5:45 p.m. and will be followed by a dinner at 6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome - no reservations needed. Liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN 2026 FDL MOBILEPACK

The 2026 Fond du Lac area Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) mobile pack is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds. Our 2026 goal is to raise \$41,000 to pack 139,968 meals (18 pallets). We are looking for 600 volunteers on March 21 for packing. Please put event number 2603-024SC on the memo line of your check, or donate anytime using this event number to give.fmsc.org/fdl to help us reach our goal.

- ◆ February will be the city-wide "Have-a-Heart" Campaign month. Our giving tree will be in the narthex during February.
- ◆ Your prayers, helping hands, and financial gifts are all necessary to help provide food and hope to those in dire need around the world.

Please contact Pastor Crystal if you are interested in being our liaison. Thank you for your generous gifts, prayers, and service!

FEBRUARY FORUMS

From Dust to Hope: Preparing Our Hearts and Our Plans

- ◆ February 1—Funeral Pre-planning led by a funeral home representative
- ◆ February 8— Pastor will lead a funeral service planning session.
- ◆ February 15—Related legal forms, including Medical Power of Attorney, will be the discussion topic.
- ◆ February 22— open

WELCA NEWS

PERSONAL CARE KITS

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

Please make checks out to **Church of Our Saviour WELCA**. Church of Our Saviour WELCA is grateful for your generosity.

TALENT SHOW & PANCAKE DINNER

The annual Talent Show and Pancake Supper will be Sunday, February 15. The supper will be served by Youth at 5:00 p.m., and the show is at 6:00 p.m. New this year will be a special guest performance by the Fond du Lac Cardinal Skippers! They are a local competitive jump rope team. Please sign up on the bulletin board to participate in the show - all ages! Invite a guest to attend the meal and show.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship services will be held February 18 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.

BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday morning Bible Study will begin a study of the book of Ruth in January. The group meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. A zoom option is also available. Please contact Cindy Decker if you have questions. All are invited to participate.

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.

MONDAY NOON BOOK CLUB

The Monday Noon Book Club will begin a new book on January 26: *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance* by Reggie L. Williams follows Dietrich Bonhoeffer as he encounters Harlem's black Jesus. The Christology Bonhoeffer learned in Harlem's churches while living in New York City featured a black Christ who suffered with African Americans in their struggle against systemic injustice and racial violence--and then resisted. This Christianity included a Jesus who stands with the oppressed, against oppressors, and a theology that challenges the way God is often used to underwrite harmful unions of race and religion. "Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus" argues that Dietrich Bonhoeffer's immersion within the black American narrative was a turning point for him, causing him to see anew the meaning of his claim that obedience to Jesus requires concrete historical action – action that he then lived out upon his return to Nazi Germany. This ethic of resistance not only indicted the church of the German Volk but also continues to shape the nature of Christian discipleship today. Newcomers are always welcome to join the Monday Book Club, which meets on Zoom at noon. The format includes conversation until 12:30 p.m. followed by an hour of reading and discussion. Contact Mary Arthur, 920-579-1535 or maryarthur@charter.net for more information.

SOLUTIONS CENTER DONATIONS

In **February, toilet paper** is the requested item for donations. Please leave donations in the hallway credenza. support.