



CHURCH OF OUR
SAVIOUR
— FOND DU LAC —

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FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Beloveds!

Lent is coming! Lent is coming! Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2, which is Ash Wednesday and will continue for 40 days (not including Sundays) leading us to Easter. During these 40 days our congregation will start our journey to look at God's Story, Our Story. On Wednesday evenings, the theme for the services will be "The Story of God's Love." We will be using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*, to hear the stories in a new way. We will hear the story of God's love from creation to freedom from Egypt and the wilderness experience, we will hear of God's people entering and being in the Promised Land, coming back after exile, and we will hear of God becoming human as Jesus and his teachings. All these stories build us up to Holy Week where we will hear of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his last supper, his trial, and his crucifixion. We will hear the story of God's love that finally leads us to Jesus' resurrection on Easter.

While we focus in on the story of God's love during the midweek services, we will also be looking at "our story." During Forums we will spend time talking about the story of Church of Our Saviour, have chances to share our personal stories, and to see how they connect with God's story. There is also the devotional which you will receive that is made up of devotions written by your fellow members of Church of Our Saviour. These devotions look at connecting God's story with their individual stories and the stories of the congregation.

I am excited to explore "God's Story, Our Story" with you all in the coming weeks.

Blessings+,

Pastor Crystal

WELCA NEWS

Women of The ELCA Board will meet via Zoom on Monday, March 7, at 1:45 p.m.

Tabitha Circle meets on Tuesday, March 15 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom with Joanne Talaska 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.

Lydia Circle meets on Tuesday, March 22 at 1:30 p.m. Darlene Otte will be our Bible study leader using the March Gather magazine. All are invited to join us.

WELCA women will be serving the first Lenten supper on Wed., March 9. We need volunteers to make cookies or bars for dessert, and to work in the kitchen starting between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

CARING AND SHARING WITH RIVERSIDE KIDS

Typically we serve 6 to 8 families when the clothes closet is open at Riverside Elementary School. The parents are very grateful that they can choose needed items for their children and not have to worry about spending money that is all ready in short supply. Your generous gifts make that possible. You have blessed many, many people with your love for others.

We continue to need:

- snow pants, sizes 4, 5 and 6X
- assorted clothing for girls and boys, sizes 5-14
- boys underwear, sizes 4-youth XL

The baskets in the credenza in the hallway are waiting for your donations.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING!

THANK YOU

To all my friends at COOS. Thank you for your love and support for my recovery. I'm still not out of the woods yet. Ha Ha!

With Peace and Love, Denny Mertens

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

If your child is in third grade, or above and has not yet received instruction for Holy Communion, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 2nd, 2022 at 10 am. We will gather for 2-2.5 hours to learn about communion- what it is, why we celebrate it, and how we celebrate. First Communion will take place at the 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday service. Please RSVP to Pastor Crystal and with any questions you have.

YOUTH NEWS

The March youth service event will take place on Wed., March 16th. They will be serving the Lenten supper and tying blankets. Youth should arrive at 5:30 and will be finished at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

If your child is in 2nd grade or above and has not yet received a Bible from the church, please contact Pastor Crystal. We will look to schedule a presentation of the bibles in April or early May.

SOLUTIONS CENTER

"ITEM OF THE MONTH"

The Solutions Center's Twelve Months of Humanity Program features one item from their "wish list" each month, with a goal to collect enough of that item to last an entire year! The March item is **SOAP (LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, DISHWASHER SOAP, HAND SOAP)**. Donations may be left in the credenza in the hallway.

BOOK STUDY

Mondays • Noon – 1:30 p.m. on Zoom

The Monday noon book study group has started The Silver Chair, the sixth book in The Chronicles of Narnia series by British author and lay theologian, C. S. Lewis. The Zoom link is included in eNews & Notes. We are very informal, and newcomers are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR IS BACK!

Coffee and treats are again available between services in the Gathering Space. Please sign up on the hall bulletin board if you can provide snacks for the 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour.

BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR CRYSTAL

Starting Tuesday, March 8, we will gather at 6:30pm in the Parlor to dig into the Acts of the Apostles. This will be an 8-week study (there will be 2 weeks off in April). We will look at the historical, literary, and Lutheran contexts as we read through the major stories of the early church.

DISCOVER CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

If you are looking for more information about Church of Our Saviour or are interested in joining the congregation, join Pastor Crystal on Sunday March 13. We will meet after the 10:30 am service (around 11:45 am) for lunch and conversation. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Pastor Crystal at the church office (920-922-0020) or by email: pastorcrystal@oursavioursfdl.org

NEW SUNDAY FORUMS LED BY PASTOR CRYSTAL

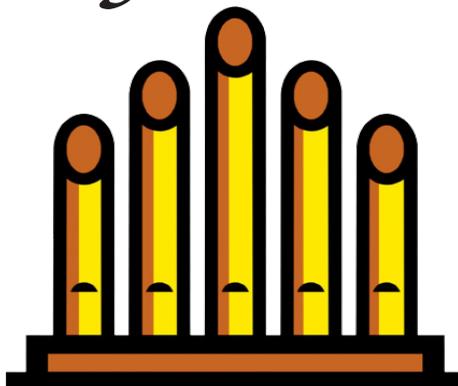
Starting February 27th, we will start our Story Journey. The first two weeks we will create a timeline. Week one, Feb. 27th, we will start the timeline with congregational events, and the second week, March 6th, we will add in highlights from our personal stories to that same timeline (think joining, baptisms, weddings, funerals, important pieces of your life). Each week we will talk about why those are important pieces of the congregation's and your own history. Whether you are new to Church or have been here for eons, your participation is needed and welcome.

COVID POLICY UPDATE

With the downtrend in covid cases, the Pandemic Task Force has returned to a voluntary masking policy for worship and other church gatherings.

The task force will continue to monitor local conditions, while recommending the voluntary use of masks to reduce the spread of covid and other illnesses. Disposable masks are available in the hallway. Thank You for Your Cooperation!

Organ Concert



Thomas Heidenreich will present an organ concert at Church of Our Saviour on Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m. Thomas is the organist and choir director at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Fond du Lac and also the chapel organist at the Nashotah House Theological Seminary. There will be a free will offering. Everyone is 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 (1/31/22)

General Fund Income *	\$28,976
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 21,065
Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 1,620
Total Gen. Fund Expenditures:	<u>\$22,685</u>
Net Gain/Loss, YTD:	\$ 6,291
Addl. Qtrly. Principal Payments:	\$0**

MIF Loan Balance as of 1/31/22: \$193,240

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

* General Fund Income in Jan. 2021: \$21,418
General Fund Income increase this yr: \$ 7,559

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE STEPPED UP TO HELP MEET OUR BUDGET NEEDS IN 2022!!

REGARDING OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There has been one major question floating around, and I want to take a moment to address the question. The question has been: have we (the congregation, leadership, etc.) thought about changing from two worship services to one. The answer to that is: yes, there have been conversations, and we will have more conversations in the future. The longer answer deals with the timeline of when we will get to that discussion. I have been at Church of Our Saviour for just over 3 months now, and I am still learning about the congregation and the people. As part of that, we will be spending time, starting on Sunday, Feb. 27 (Forum) looking at the stories of the people (you), the congregation, and how those stories connect into God's Story. As we hear the stories, and connect the stories, we will see the identity of Church of Our Saviour come through. And in that identity, our mission will become evident. Eventually we will take what we learned about our past, and look toward the future, to see how all our ministries fit into our identity and are guided by our mission. It will only be then that we will dive into worship- what is worship, why do we worship, how do we worship. That way, when we have conversations about what worship looks like

at Church of Our Saviour, they are grounded in the identity and mission of the congregation, rather than individual preferences for worship.

If we change worship times, that has an impact on other aspects of ministry- Sunday School, Forum, fellowship time (to name a few). These are pieces that deserve special attention, special conversations with parents about Sunday School, understanding how Forum will fit into a different schedule. This all means, we cannot decide one week and implement soon after. My hope is that by late spring we will be able to have in-person (and Zoom, if needed) conversations around worship. That way as we head into summer, and we change to summer schedule Memorial Day weekend, we will have a better idea on what the fall will look like: if we will continue with one worship service, or if we will return to our two-worship service schedule.

All of this to say- we have heard the question, we plan to address the question and have conversations, but they will be happening in later spring, with the hope of implementation of whatever is decided in the fall.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings, Pastor Crystal

EASTER FLOWERS • DONATIONS 2022

We are asking for monetary donations for Church of Our Saviour's Chancel Guild to purchase Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Any amount is appreciated. This form, with your check made out to Church of Our Saviour or cash, may be clipped and mailed to (or dropped off at) the church office, or put in the offering plate, no later than Monday, March 14th 2022.

Please check the appropriate category. We will group and publish the names of donors according to these categories:

- In memory of: _____
- In honor of: _____
- In Thanksgiving to God for: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Thank you for your generosity!





As a Christian nonprofit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit.

Church of Our Saviour volunteers have been involved in the Fond du Lac MobilePack since its inception, providing funds and volunteer hours. Volunteers work in teams to pack nutritious food for starving children around the world. During this two-day event, April 1st and 2nd, at the Fond du Lac Fairgrounds, two goals have been set: pack 101,088 meals and raise \$25,000. Covid protocols will be followed, and Church of Our Saviour volunteers will work together in a group(s) to limit contact beyond our group.

Each meal we pack costs approximately 25 cents. \$88.00 feeds a child for a year. There are two ways to donate towards the cost of the meals.

- Use a donation envelope from the tree in the hallway. Suggested donation amounts and the Fond du Lac MobilePack number, #2204-051SC, are with each envelope.
- Donate on-line at <https://bit.ly/FDLFMS2022>. Be sure to use Fond du Lac MobilePack number #2204-051SC. All donations must have this number so it will apply to our MobilePack.

Sign-up for Church of Our Saviour volunteers is underway. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway. We will work in groups of 10, so finding session times that work well for us will be important. All registrations will be made by our church's coordinator, Sue Schierstedt, as we need to register in groups. For more information, go to www.fmsc.org or contact Sue Schierstedt at rstedt@charter or 920-251-8027.



Working with and through ELCA congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, gifts to World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA

to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

In 2022, as the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people around the world rise, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests, and longed together for the time when we "will hunger no more, and thirst no more ... and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17). This very yearning is at the heart of who we are as church together. Yet our longing has never led to inertia or despair, despite the discouraging forecasts. We are an Easter people, ever journeying toward the cross but trusting in faith that God's story does not end on that hill.

As in years past, we encourage our members this year to commit to a giving goal for the Lenten season in support of ELCA World Hunger, by setting aside a portion each day, or making your gifts throughout the season as part of your regular Lenten practice. Our World Hunger Change Jar is again in place in the sanctuary entrance for your donations, or you may designate World Hunger on your envelope or check. Thank you in advance for your support of World Hunger.

LENTEN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 2

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. 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.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES THE STORY OF GOD'S LOVE WEDNESDAYS, 5:30 P.M.

- March 9- "The Beginnings" and "God Births a People"
- March 16- "The Wilderness School" and "The Covenant and the Covenant Gift"
- March 23- "Graduation and Settling Down" and "We Want a King"
- March 30- "Home Again" and "God's Surprise"
- April 6- "Manna and Mercy for All"

LENTEN SUPPERS

We will be holding Lenten suppers following our 5:30 p.m. mid-week Lenten services. They will begin the week after Ash Wednesday and end the week before Holy Week. The meals will be available to eat in Stecker Hall, with a "take out" option for those who prefer not to eat in a communal setting. Each week a different group will provide the supper. There is no charge, but a free-will offering will help offset costs, with proceeds going to various ministries. The schedule is:

- March 9 WELCA
- March 16 Youth
- March 23 Adult and Bell Choirs
- March 30 Church Council
- April 6 Sunday School