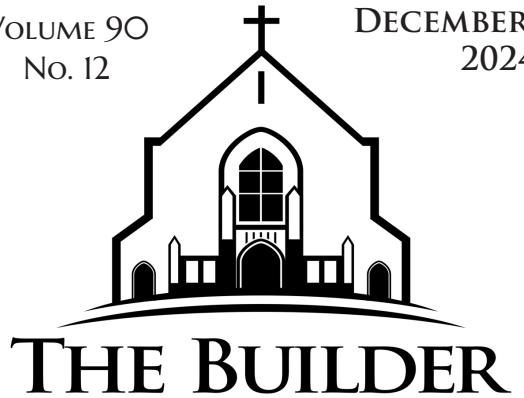




CHURCH OF OUR
SAVIOUR
 EV. LUTHERAN

VOLUME 90
 No. 12

DECEMBER,
 2024



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From the Pastor

Greetings, Beloved!

It is now (almost) December and the beginning of Advent. When you walk into any store now, you can find an abundance of Advent calendars with many ways to count down the days to Christmas (including my favorite, chocolate). I am providing a different type of calendar to count down the days to Christmas. On the credenza, there will be two types of Advent calendars. Both have words on them- one a list and the other also has a coloring component. I am including the words below; in case you are unable to grab a sheet at church. I invite you to either think about that word- what does it mean, how did you notice it that day; or you can take a photo inspired by that word. You can then post that photo on social media or keep it nearby to go back to during Advent.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Begin | 13. Enough |
| 2. Bless | 14. Goodness |
| 3. Courage | 15. Worthy |
| 4. Possibility | 16. Repair |
| 5. Remember | 17. Magnify |
| 6. Marvel | 18. Mercy |
| 7. Go | 19. Dream |
| 8. Together | 20. Hope |
| 9. Embrace | 21. Risk |
| 10. Journey | 22. Grace |
| 11. Peacemaker | 23. Joy |
| 12. Connection | 24. Love |
| | 25. Amazement |

Blessings +

Pastor Crystal

COMING EVENTS

January 5, 9:00 am: Healing Service
January 19, 10:15 am: 75th Anniversary video shown during Forum
January 26, 10:15 am: Annual Congregational Meeting
February 2, 3:00 pm: Symphonic Band Chamber Concert
February 9, 9:00 am –Pastor Connie Weiss
February 13, 6:30 pm – Leah Rockweit Opera Scenes Concert
February 16, 9:00 am – Pastor Bob Rosenberg
February 16, 3:00 pm – 100th Anniversary Trivia Event

CHRISTMAS YARD SIGNS

Starting Sun. Dec. 1, yard signs and stands announcing the times for our Christmas Eve worship services will be at church. This is a great way to spread the word about our church and all the good things going on here!

Grab one and put it in your yard to help us get the word out!

A SOUTH SHORE CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DEC. 7 • 7:30 P.M.

FDL HIGH SCHOOL PAC

COOS members and friends who sing in the choir include Wendy Koepp, Dan Fee, Bruce Nyberg, Claire Koehler, Libby Reinbold, Pam Lane, Paul Lane, Kirsten Rasmussen, Erin Steward and Billie Giese.

NIGHT OF SILENCE

DEC. 13 & 14 • 7:30 P.M.

DEC. 15 • 2:00 P.M.

FDL HIGH SCHOOL PAC

featuring Fdl High School Symphonic Winds and Percussion, Symphonic Orchestra, Bella Voce, Concert Choir and Cardinal Singers.

SOLUTIONS CENTER

“ITEM OF THE MONTH”

The Solutions Center’s December item is toilet paper. Donations may be left in the hallway credenza.

CARING AND SHARING WITH RIVERSIDE KIDS

November marks the second month that the Riverside Closet has been located on first floor in the old girls’ locker room. It is so much easier to get to, and it is much easier for the families to shop with clothing on hangers rather than in totes on the balcony floor. We continue to refine the process, but already we can tell it is much more efficient.

Your generous spirits have shown through immensely. When we opened to families on November 21, we served 27 families, with 58 children in those families. Additionally, several teachers and aides came to the closet and shopped for another 12 to 18 students.

Thank you so much for caring enough to put your faith into action. There is a thank you card on the bulletin board in the hallway from one of the families. Hearts are being touched.

Items especially needed for December are:

- snow pants - sizes 4T through 14 (XL)
- Snow boots - any child’s size through small adult
- Boys and girls pajamas - sizes 4T through 14
Boys sweat pants. - size 4T through 14
- Girls long sleeved shirts, sweaters and hoodies - sizes 4T through 14

God bless you as you hear God’s call to help others and then faithfully answer that call. You make a huge difference in the lives of others.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

It’s that time once again!!! Completed reports from committees and organizations for the Annual Report are due in the office by Sunday, December 22.

FOR THE RECORD

—DEATHS—

Walter Blumke- Oct. 24

Dolly Stuebs- Oct. 29

Nancy Gremminger- Oct. 31

THREE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROJECTS FOR 2024

Church of Our Saviour members have received approval for three (3) Thrivent Action Team projects to benefit Riverside School this Advent season.

PROJECT 1: “Warm Boots for Riverside Kids” will offer the opportunity to donate Winter Boots for the Riverside Closet inventory. Any childrens size is appreciated especially sizes 13 to 4. Please place boots in the Riverside cabinet.

PROJECT 2: “Adopt a Family for Christmas” focuses on providing a Riverside family in need with a few Christmas gifts on their wish list. Members can search the Riverside Christmas tree decorated with ornaments that itemize the gifts. Please have purchased gifts to church by December 18th and place them in the bucket labeled Riverside School. There will also be the opportunity for gifts of money and a member of the Action team will do the shopping for you. Label your check for Riverside Christmas.

PROJECT 3: “Helping a Hungry Family.” Please place nonperishable Food in the bucket Labeled for Riverside.

Through Action Teams, Thrivent provides some money to help with the projects. We thank you for your help and Thrivent for the opportunity to help the Riverside community in such a meaningful way. Any Questions?? Please contact Joanne Talaska or Char Bohnsack.

FINANCIAL REPORT - OCTOBER, 2024 (YTD)

General Fund Income YTD: \$218,778

General Fund Expenses: \$191,972

Loan Principal Payments: \$ 16,044

Total Gen. Fund Expenditures: \$208,016

Net Gain/Loss, to date 2024: \$10,762

Addl. Qtrly. Principal Payments: ****\$1,175**

MIF Loan Balance as of 10/31/24: \$180,696

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND to 10/31/24

Donations received: \$109,094

Amount borrowed from MIF: \$ 45,759

Expenditures: (\$125,699)

Available to spend: \$ 29,154

SUNDAY FORUM

SUNDAY DEC. 1 THROUGH DEC. 22

FILM SERIES:

THE LIGHT THAT GUIDES US

The Advent journey is not just about preparing for Christmas, but about embracing the ongoing work of Christ’s light in our lives. It is about learning to wait, watch, and wonder with hope, and to allow the light of Christ to lead us through the darkness toward a life more fully lived in divine love. Join us for viewing the films, followed by discussion.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Lighting upgrades have been installed in the parlor, upstairs hallways, and gathering space.

We will be able to pay for all work now in progress with funds already on hand (donations combined with loan advances). We will pay for the remaining projects out of donations as they are received, rather than increasing our loan with MIF.

A reminder - we are now in the second year of our 3-year campaign. If your pledge was made on a yearly basis, you may want to pay the second installment prior to the end of 2024 for tax purposes. The sooner we receive these pledges, the sooner we can proceed with the projects still to be completed.

YOUTH CORNER

Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m. - We will help WELCA decorate the church, followed by pizza and snacks. This will be our only gathering in December.

Our next Youth Group will be Jan. 22 (please note this is different than the schedule sent out at the beginning of the school year).

Synod Youth Gathering- “Inescapable Love” Fri., Feb. 21-Sun., Feb. 23. We will gather with other 6th-12th graders at Imago Dei as we learn how nothing can separate us from God’s love. Pastor Crystal will be sending information soon!



Advent & Christmas at Church of Our Saviour

Decorating, Shut-In Gifts & Fellowship

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 6:00 P.M.

On Thursday, Dec. 5 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. The youth will be joining in, and ALL are invited to come and help with this enjoyable, productive, all-ages Advent event. Designated cash donations toward poinsettias for shut-ins are appreciated. Donations of cookies for the shut-ins are also needed; a sign-up is on the bulletin board.

Advent Festival of Hymns, Lessons and Anthems

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 9:00 A.M.

The Adult Choir and Handbell Choir will lead this special worship service that will combine both scripture and music to tell the story of the expectation and birth of Christ. Invite a friend or neighbor!

Advent Music and Meal

WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 11 AND 18 AT 12:00 P.M.

Seasonal music will be performed followed by a light lunch. All are welcome! The concerts and lunches are free. Freewill offerings will be accepted.

December 11 - Brass Menagerie- brass quintet organized by Jill Koerwitz

December 18 – Fond du Lac High School Cardinal Singers directed by Cory Schneider.

Christmas Program

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 9:00 A.M.

Youth will lead this special worship service.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 • 3:00 AND 5:00 P.M.

Lessons and Carols Worship services will include Holy Communion, candle lighting and special music.

(No service on Christmas Day)

Healing Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 9:00 A.M.

The next healing service will be included in the January 5 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.