

*Our Mission: Growing in Faith and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with All People*

## ***A Devotional Thought: What Grace!***

The apostle Paul had lived a violent life, hating and persecuting Christians until the day Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. Paul was always brutally honest about his ugly past and his unworthiness to receive God's blessings.

January 6 is the Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord. The visit of the Magi to see the Christ child is the gospel account that is the focus of this day. But it's not really about kings (if they even were kings) or camels (if they even rode them). The significance of their visit was that Jesus came as the Savior not just of the Jews, but of all people.

That's the truth that changed Paul's life. He later wrote, "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus" (Eph 3:6). It is a mystery, because we could never know it unless God revealed it. Through the Scriptures, God reveals this amazing truth: Young and old, rich and poor, model citizen or moral failure, we are heirs of God's riches, members of one body with believers from every age and place.



It could only be true because our God is gracious and forgiving, because Jesus came to conquer sin, crush death, and get rid of guilt – not just for some but for all.

And now, we who have witnessed the mystery of God's grace get to reveal it to others. Paul wrote about his call into ministry: "Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ" (Eph 3:8).

That's our privilege too! What a marvelous, undeserved gift – to tell others about the "boundless riches of Christ," the good news that God forgives them and gives them eternal life with him. To be God's instruments to make known the mystery to all people.

In 2023 and always, let's celebrate the mystery of God's grace that forgives us and treasure God's grace that gives us the privilege of revealing that mystery to others!

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Tim Wagner*

# Membership News

## Meet Pastor and Linda Nottling

Hi! We're Pastor David and Linda Nottling. Pastor retired from full-time ministry the end of September and we moved to Appleton in October to be closer to two of our daughters. Pastor grew up in the south suburbs of Milwaukee (St. Francis and Cudahy) and attended Northwestern Prep and College in Watertown before going on to Seminary. Linda grew up in Crete, IL (south of Chicago) and graduated from Dr. Martin Luther College. We met in Florida - Linda was teaching her first year at Peace, Bradenton, and Pastor was vicaring at Bay Pines, Seminole (St. Petersburg area). Six months later we were married and last year we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. The Lord has blessed us with five children and eleven grandchildren (number twelve is due in April).



The Lord blessed us with the privilege of serving His people at Grace, Spring Hill, FL; Zion, Chesaning, MI; and the last 24 years at St. John's, Fox Lake, WI. Linda played organ at all three churches and did some substitute teaching. We're excited about joining Riverview and very much appreciate the warm and friendly welcome we've received. We look forward to getting to know you better as we together worship and serve our Savior.

---

## Membership Changes

### + Receive by Child Baptism

- Charlie Evers

### + Transfer Out

- Pastor Dennis & Rhoda Belter, to Bethany, Appleton, WI

### + Receive by Transfer

- Pastor David & Linda Nottling, from St. John, Fox Lake, WI

### + Released from Membership

- Katie Erstad (Abigail, Graham, Grayson)
- Kim LeTourneau
- Shawn Schmit
- Jason & Michelle Zuleger (Deacon, Amara)

## Next Divine Call Meeting

Pastor Dan Lewig has returned the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Riverview. Our next divine call meeting will be Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 pm.

## Congregational Meeting

Our next regular congregational meeting will be on Sunday, January 29, at 11:45 am. All members are encouraged to attend to hear mid-year updates on our ministry and review plans and goals for the upcoming quarter.

## Guest Preacher & Door Offering

On January 15, Pastor James Mattek of Christian Family Solutions will be our guest preacher and Bible study leader. He will share more about the healing and helping ministries of Christian Family Solutions, which include Christian counseling, in-home care services, and senior living solutions.

Our January door offering will also support the ministry of Christian Family Solutions. Give in the door offering plates on January 15 or using the "Other" line on your offering throughout the month. To learn more about Christian Family Solutions, visit [www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org](http://www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org).

## Women's Bible Study

Is happiness too much to ask of God? Because I just want to be happy. Ever think that to yourself or pray it out loud to God? Has He answered that prayer? Does He care about that prayer? What is happiness and where does it come from? Lots of questions. Come and be a part of our women's bible study group to explore these questions all in the light of what our Lord has told us about ourselves and His purpose for us. Through His Word our hearts will be filled with true joy and peace that only He brings! Starting Monday, January 23 at 6:30 pm in the church library, for a new study: "Happiness—'God I want to be happy.'" Bring your bible and a friend!

## Celebrating 40 years of Ministry

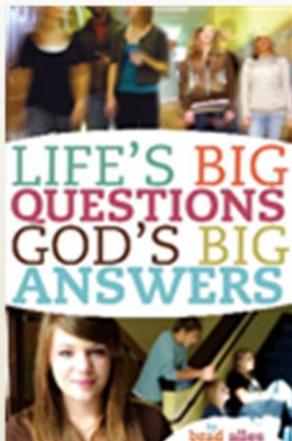
On Sunday, February 12, we will celebrate God's blessings upon 40 years in the teaching ministry for Miss Barb Arndt. The day will include special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary services (8:00 & 10:30 am) and a lunch to follow in the Activity Center. Watch for more details, and make plans to join us.



## Library Corner

We all have questions. What does this mean? What does God say about that? Why do we teach this? How do I respond to that? God's Word supplies many of the answers. Our library has several books with common questions and the Bible's answers. Check one out to grow your understanding and faith! Browse our entire library catalog at [www.librarything.com/catalog/RLC-Appleton](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/RLC-Appleton).

Contact Linda Zwieg with questions or suggestions.



### Growing in Grace Update

**Building Committee News.** Construction work has begun! Our groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 11. This week, crews were here to remove trees, scrape off top soil, and install construction fencing. We are still working through state planning approvals, so major construction work is likely still at least a few weeks off. But we will soon see the visual scale of the project start to take shape. God-willing, construction will be complete in time for the start of 2023-24 school year.



**Capital Campaign News.** Our loan application was approved at 5.25% for the first five years. Remember that the more funds given in support of the project early in the construction process, the less we will pay in interest and finance charges. To date, over \$232,000 has been given toward the capital campaign, in addition to other allocated funds. To God be the glory as we grow in grace!

## WELS Night with the HERD

The Wisconsin Herd are excited to be hosting our annual WELS Night on Saturday, January 28, 2023! There will be some in-game promotions to celebrate WELS and we wanted to invite your congregation out to enjoy the game together. All congregations are invited to take a photo together on court after the game to commemorate the experience together. Visit [fevo.me/welsherd](https://fevo.me/welsherd) for tickets.

## 2023 Men of His Word Conference

We are excited to announce our 2023 Oshkosh Men of His Word Conference: The theme is “MAN UP: in a man down world.” It will be on Saturday, February 18, from 7:15 AM – 3:30 PM, at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh. Find information and register at [menofhisword.org](https://menofhisword.org).

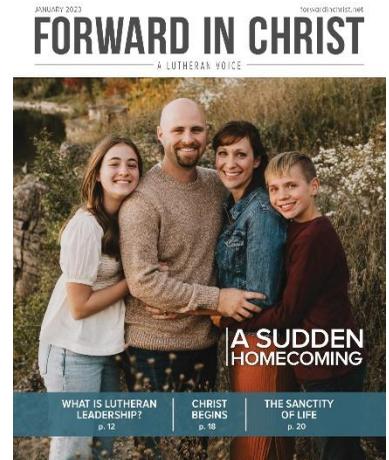
## January 2023 Issue of Forward In Christ

The January issue of Forward in Christ is now available in the entryway and online.

**A new editor.** James Pope starts as FIC’s new executive editor this month. His column, “Before you go,” offers insights on issues discussed in the magazine as well as other topics in Lutheranism today.

**A look at Psalms.** A new six-month Bible reading series (with online commentary) works its way through the entire book, while a Bible study highlights specific psalms and how they offer comfort and hope to each of us today.

**A focus on Lutheran leadership.** More than a thousand people are attending the WELS National Conference of Lutheran Leadership this month. FIC is going to build on the information shared at the conference, offering insights and ideas to help and encourage you as you strive to be a Lutheran leader in your congregation, home, and community. This month check out conference presenters’ views on what defines Lutheran leadership.



# Board Updates

## Board of Lay Ministry Notes

- Upcoming Guest Preachers:
  - 1/15 – James Mattek
  - 1/22 – Pastor David Nottling
  - 2/5 – Evan Chartrand (LPS)
- New usher and communion assistant schedules have been distributed. Altar guild assistance is still needed.
- Pastor David Nottling will begin assisting with shut-in visitation.

## Board of Stewardship

- 2022 Offering statements will be put in mailboxes before January 15.
- Volunteer hours are being tracked for planning purposes.
- We applied for financing for the Growing in Grace building expansion.
- A brochure is being finalized with information about planned giving and Riverview endowment funds.

## Board of Education Notes

- Welcome Ed VanDenHeuvel and Scott Schewe to the school board.
- Proposed the new tuition numbers for 2023-2024 school year.
- Reviewed Safety Drill and discussed new security updates

## Board of Evangelism Notes

- Thank you to all who invited or brought guests to worship this Christmas!
- Pastor Wagner is working to schedule additional Bible Basics classes for those who interested in membership. Those who are interested should contact him.
- Set outreach goals for yourself for 2023. Will you ...get to know your neighbors? ...invite a certain number of people to church? ...make an effort to greet guest in worship?

## Board of Church Properties Notes

- The trash cans in the school hallways and bathrooms have been replaced.
- Minor roofing repairs are to be addressed in the coming weeks
- Repairs have been made to the heating system for the gym.
- Welcome Joe Buege and Aaron Melso to the board.

## Board of Spiritual Growth Notes

- Our Women's Bible Study will resume January 23.
- Registration for Camp Phillip summer programs opens February 1.
- The board will begin meeting again this month.

## Riverview School Calendar January Highlights

- + Jan 6 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Jan 6 – Home Basketball Games vs. Martin Luther, Oshkosh (4:30, 5:30, 6:30)
- + Jan 9 – Robotics League Night at Riverview
- + Jan 13 – Goodies with GrownUps 7:00 am -7:45 am
- + Jan 13 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Jan 13 – Basketball Games @ St. Peter, Weyauwega (4:30, 5:30, 6:30)
- + Jan 15 – Grade 5-8 sings in Church (8:00 am)
- + Jan 19 – Home Basketball Games vs. Neenah Lutheran (4:30, 5:30, 6:30)
- + Jan 20 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Jan 23 – Robotics League Night at Riverview
- + Jan 24 – Basketball Games @ Martin Luther, Oshkosh (4:30, 5:30, 6:30)
- + Jan 27 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Jan 27 – Boys Basketball Games @ St. Paul, Green Bay (4:30, 5:30)
- + Jan 27 – Robotics at Xavier Middle School
- + Feb 1 – Basketball Games @ Shepherd of the Valley, Menasha (4:30, 5:30, 6:30)
- + Feb 3 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Feb 3 – RLS Spelling Bee
- + Feb 3-4 – B Team Basketball Tournament at Riverview
- + Feb 5 – Kindergarten sings in Church (8:00 am)



# Stewardship of God's Blessings

## Average Weekly Attendance

	Worship		Bible Study	Sunday School
	In Person	Online		
October	266	27	84	27
November	250	29	71	22
December	230	17	58	20

## Year to Date Offerings (July 1 – Nov 30)

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General	\$223,545.96	\$ 291,666.67	-\$68,120.71
Synod	\$11,883.60	\$14,166.67	-\$2,283.07
FVL	\$7,433.60	\$8,333.33	-\$899.73
TOTAL	\$242,863.16	\$314,166.67	-\$71,303.51

## Serving in January

### Ushers:

8:00 – Peter Wolfgramm, Don Eichsteadt, Steve Lehmann, Levi Wolfgramm, Pete Wolfgramm, Will Toshner

10:30 – Mike Melso, Aaron Melso, Ethan Melso, Ryan Melso, Rob Walker, Lucas Walker, Reagan Walker

### Greeters:

Jan. 8– 8:00-  
10:30- Spielbauer & Katalinick

Jan. 15– 8:00- Jaeger  
10:30- Krueger & Melso

Jan. 22 – 8:00- Winsor  
10:30- Walker

Jan. 29 – 8:00- Inniger  
10:30- Gentz

### Communion Assistants:

Jan. 8  
8:00 – Vandenberg/Wundrow  
10:30 –Witte/Melso

Jan. 22  
8:00 – Vanden Heuvel  
10:30 – Behm

Jan. 29  
8:00 – Wing/Wolfgramm  
10:30 – Bartels/Witte

### Powerpoint Assistants:

Jan. 8 – 8:00 – Anna Wagner  
10:30 – Nano Aragon

Jan. 15 – 8:00 – Pete Wolfgramm  
10:30 – Ethan Melso

Jan. 22 – 8:00 – Dashed Winsor  
10:30 – Lydia Walker

Jan. 29– 8:00 – Annie Inniger  
10:30 – Alaina Patchett

## General Fund Offerings

Each week **\$13,500 is needed** to meet operating expenses. As we begin this new year, we encourage all members to prayerfully plan their giving to reflect first-fruits, proportionate giving of your first and best, in response to our Lord's love for us.