

Messiah Lutheran Church



*When we “place share” with others,
We experience God.*



2025 Annual Report

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Council President's Message	3
Thank you to the Church Council.....	3
Congregational Meeting Agenda	
Sunday, January 25, 2026.....	4
Minutes from Last Year's Congregational Meeting	
Sunday, January 26, 2025.....	5
Message from Pastor Jeff	6
Message from Pastor Dan.....	7
Church Statistics 2025 and Website and Streaming Statistics.....	8
Worship and Music Report	8
Treasurer's Finance Report.....	9-10
Stewardship Committee Report.....	11
Memorial Fund Committee Report.....	11
Ministry Support Coordinator Report.....	12
Family Ministry Report	13
Children's Ministry - Christian Education Report.....	14
Youth Ministry - Christian Education Report.....	15
Adult Ministry.....	16
Senior Adult Ministry Report.....	17
Community Outreach Team Report.....	18-19
Reconciling in Christ Team Report.....	20
Green Team Report.....	20
Racial Justice Team Report.....	21
Human Trafficking Awareness Team Report	21
Property and Facilities Report.....	22

MESSAGE FROM MATT GITZLAFF | CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I have the privilege of being President of the Church Council and will get to hold that privilege for 2 years. As I reflect on my years being part of the Church Council, it's amazing all the changes Messiah has seen during that 3 year period:

- Added Positions - Associate Pastor (Pastor Dan), Media & Video (Clark Kellogg), Adult Education Coordinator (Pastor Renee)
- Added Justice Ministries - Green Team, Human Trafficking, Racial Justice and Reconciled In Christ
- Saw new Ministry Groups added - Outdoor Ministries, Men's Ministry, Boomerang Bags, to name a few
- Significant growth in Children and Youth Ministry

I'm sure I'm forgetting some and apologize if I am (that's how many changes there have been). All these changes show how our Messiah Family has grown over the years and were necessary to meet the ever-evolving needs of our congregation community. Pastor Jeff and Pastor Dan have both said that on a regular basis they receive comments about Messiah just having a certain feeling or they leave feeling different. That is a compliment to the entire congregation!

At this meeting, we will again decide how to allocate our excess funds from 2025 and approve our budget for 2026 to best serve Messiah, its members, and the community.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Thank you to our Church Council for your dedication to Messiah Lutheran Church and for guiding our congregation into a new year full of hope and promise.



Matt Gitzlaff
President
Children/Family Ministry



Cara Musick
Vice President
Women's Ministry, Music Ministry



Holly Tunak
Secretary



Tim Coulthart
Treasurer



Kathy Lukens
Senior Adult Ministry



Charlotte Miller
Youth/Family Ministry



Nancy Beszhak
Adult Ministry



Bruce Frey
Social Outreach Ministry



Kevin Firchow
Property



Andrea Voss
Stewardship



Jeff Vanden Heuvel
Lead Pastor



Dan O'Brien
Associate Pastor



Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA

2026 Congregational Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 25, 2026

I. Call to Order

II. **Opening Devotion** - Pr. Jeff

III. Adoption of Agenda

IV. Minutes from January 2025 Congregational Meeting

Additions/Corrections/Discussions

Vote to Approve

V. Reports

Pastor's Reports

Council President

Treasurer

Committees (Refer to Annual Report)

Vote to Approve

VI. 2026 Budget – Tim Coulthart

Discussion

Vote to Approve

VII. 2025 Excess Revenue (\$129,628)

Council Recommendation:

The council approved distribution plan consists of 10 percent going to staff, (excluding pastors) \$12,962, \$21,000 going to the Reserve Fund and the remaining \$95,665 to our Mission Partners. The Mission partners will receive \$9,566 each: Campus Ministries, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Porchlight, Jail Ministry, Road Home, NAMI Dane County, Project Home-Serving Those Who Serve, Just Dane, Center for Community Stewardship (Pierre Outreach) and the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Lutheran Camps.

Discussion

Vote to Approve

VIII. The Lord's Prayer

VIV. Adjournment

Messiah Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m. by President Kathy Lukens. Pastor Jeff opened with prayer. This is the first year that the meeting was streamed, and people were able to vote via the stream. There were 14 devices logged on for the meeting.

Agenda: Motion was made by Tim Coulthart, seconded by Mike Digman to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Motion carried.

Minutes-January 28, 2024 Meeting: The minutes were included in the Annual Report. A motion was made by Judy Armelin and seconded by Cara Musick to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: All the reports were included in the Annual Report. Motion was made by Mike Digman and seconded by Karen Dilley to approve the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

2025 Operating Budget: The budget was included in the January Column and included in the Annual Report. Tim Coulthart stated that he was amazed that we had the excess distribution funds this year with the added expense of a second pastor. Tim also noted that we still have 25% of members giving under the old system so these gifts have to be entered manually. Tim is willing to help anyone interested in using the new system, Realm, to get signed up and acquaint them on how to use it.

Tim shared that several expenditures went up due to inflation, and property insurance went up 50%. Tim did obtain some other insurance bids and went with a company we had previously used. We were able to save \$1,000. A question was raised why Pastor Jeff's salary was so much higher than Pastor Dan's. Tim explained that the ELCA Synod has guidelines that we must use based on years in the ministry. A motion was made by Tom Boehnen and seconded by Gene Qualmann to adopt the 2025 Operating Budget.

Motion carried.

2024 Overage Distribution: Tim stated that the \$106,000 was the second highest excess funds we have given away. Tim shared that a request had been made to include Felicia's Closet in the Excess Revenue Distribution Plan. This is a charity located in Stoughton that benefits domestic abuse victims with donated clothing, furniture and household items. Because there wasn't time to vet the charity as far as financial reports, the Council recommended that we make a gift of \$5,000 from the excess distribution funds and that the balance be gifted to: Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Porchlight, Madison Area Jail Ministry, The Road Home, NAMI Dane County, Project Home-Serving Those Who Served, Just Dane, Pierre Outreach Safe Home and Wellness Program, SCSW-Campus Ministry, SCSW-Summer Camps. Each charity would receive a check of \$10,100.

Tim noted that the Council is open to supporting other charities in the future and would ask that any suggestions be submitted by December 1st so Tim can have time to research the charities.

A motion to approve the distribution was made by Ray Robinson and seconded by Barb Herrod. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Tunak, Secretary

MESSAGE FROM LEAD PASTOR - JEFF VANDEN HEUVEL

The great poet and author Maya Angelou once said: *I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.* I am sure you have heard this before and we repeat these words often because they are so true. We remember deeply, what we have felt deeply.

Each year as I write my annual report I am tempted to talk about all the things we **do** here at Messiah, and rightfully so - faith is shown in action - and you have shown yourselves to be people of faith. As you will see in all the reports that follow, we take our discipleship seriously. To be followers of Jesus means that we need to participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus, a ministry of healing and feeding, justice and equity, inclusion and reconciliation. The next pages are filled with stories of what we **do**.

Still, Maya Angelou is correct, in the end people will most remember *how we made them feel*. I am always grateful (but never surprised) when people come up to me after a service on Saturday or Sunday morning and tell me about their feelings. Recently a married couple shared this: *We don't know what it is...it isn't just the music or musicians, it isn't yours or Pr. Dan's preaching about justice, or the cheerful teasing between you two, it isn't just the beauty of the church - all of those things are great - but when we leave here we feel better about life, more hopeful for the future, and more certain that we are loved. There is a **feeling** here that is hard to describe.*

I am honored to hear similar words every weekend - *I feel so welcomed. I feel like this is my family. I feel safe here. I feel joy when I come here. I feel like I am fed for the week. I feel the Spirit present when I am here. I feel, I feel, I feel* - constantly people tell me about their feelings. And this is what they will remember! And I will too.

During my sabbatical I learned so much, not least of all, how grateful I am to be on this journey of faith with you. While I was away, I had the opportunity to worship at a Methodist church, a Catholic basilica, a few ELCA Lutheran congregations, and even my home parish in Neenah where we celebrated the life of my mom. Each place held the sacred, and in each faith community I felt welcomed. Still, I missed the *feeling* that I get when I come here. I am deeply aware that this feeling is more than just the sum of its parts, and certainly more than what I bring to the table as pastor - there is something happening here - a Divine energy that comes as a gift, unearned and undeserved. My sabbatical taught me not to take this *feeling*, this moment, this specific community at this time in history for granted.

And so my annual report is more of a call really; a call to breathe in the Spirit of God when you are here for worship; a call to participate in all of the *doing* and receive the joy that comes from doing; a call to be aware and grateful for that *feeling* that is here among us. That *feeling* is a gift. That *feeling* is a grace. That *feeling*, I believe, is the action of God. In the years ahead, this is what we will remember.



Pastor Jeff

MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR - DAN O'BRIEN

A few months ago, I shared a letter from Detrich Bonhoeffer, who wrote: "It is not in the institution of the church that Jesus Christ is found, but in the communion of persons that we encounter the living Christ among us...**It is in *Stellvertretung*, place-sharing, with others that we encounter the Divine.**" This past year, I witnessed Messiah living this out in powerful ways.

As part of our Visitation Ministry, I have the privilege of hearing remarkable stories that remind me what it means to share life together. The members we visit, who can no longer leave their home, whatever home is for them, show me what hospitality and a deep capacity for *Stellvertretung* looks like. What makes this ministry so important is also what makes it so difficult. Many we visit are near the end of life. The presence that our ministers bring becomes more sacred with each day. When one of our beloved members dies, our whole visitation team grieves together. Thank you to our visitation ministers for every mile driven, every story heard, every prayer whispered, every moment spent place-sharing with another beloved child of God.

A hope you had, when you called me as your pastor, was to deepen our partnership with outdoor ministries and cultivate a stronger sense of environmental justice. Like our partnership with Kennedy Elementary, it's my hope that similar connections form with our outdoor ministry partners. That's why I've encouraged summer camp at Sugar Creek; a partnership reflected in our youth who have formed deep connections with their cabin mates and counselors. For one of our high schoolers, the relationships grew so strong, upon completing a four-week program, they went back for four more! It's also why we've partnered with Bethel Horizons for our Family Camp and YOW Retreats. These are not simply places we attend; these are communities we are a part of.

Another community we are growing close to is Wilderness Canoe Base, the ELCA camp we've partnered with for our Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) trip these last two years. It is a week filled with long paddles, quiet mornings on the water, and lots of laughter echoing between the pines. This trip creates space for relationships to deepen, confidence to grow, and for us to discover God in creation and in one another.

All these experiences return with us to Messiah and shape our commitment to being good stewards of our planet. I am grateful to everyone who played a part in the ways we leaned into caring for our land and space this year. Check out all five Justice Ministry reports for all the ways we have lived out *Stellvertretung* with our community and the world.

As our staff grew, Pastor Jeff and I wanted to ensure they felt advocated for in their work, which is why we formed the Human Resource (HR) Team. They updated all the job descriptions, the staff handbook, and met with each staff member individually to build a culture of support and care. The work our staff does matters, and the impact of their work is shown in the ways Messiah lives out our mission. Thank you to our HR Team for all you are doing!

It was with the HR Team's guidance that we were able to create a new role at Messiah this year! We welcomed Pastor Renee Kiel as our Adult Education Coordinator. She hit the ground running and already found her footing within Messiah. I am so grateful for her wisdom, knowledge, and leadership! Join her most Sundays between services for our Adult Education hour!

In July, I gathered with over one-thousand others in Phoenix Arizona for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. During that week, we called a new Presiding Bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry, and a new Secretary of the ELCA, Rev. Lucille "Cecee" Mills, among adopting, amending, and revising multiple social statements and governing documents.

One *new* activity that began this year was the formation of Messiah's Motorcycle Group! We organized one group ride this Fall and are already exploring routes for Spring! And no, Pastor Jeff cannot ride his scooter with us – he's too slow. Haha!

As you read, you will be reminded of all the ways that we have lived out our mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our neighborhood, our city, and the world, and I am so grateful for each one of you. Near the end of his letter, Bonhoeffer writes: "I believe that with God it is such that all who loved each other on earth – genuinely loved each other – will remain together with God, for **love is part of God.**" We encounter God, not through isolation, but through the holy act of *Stellvertretung* (place-sharing) with others. So, let's continue doing that, intentionally and courageously together.



CHURCH STATISTICS - WEBSITE/STREAMING STATISTICS 2025

Bold number indicates year 2025

number in parenthesis is 2024 for comparison

General Membership

Total membership as of December 31, 2025 is **2050** (2,005)

In 2025 a total of **32** (24) households or **45** individuals,
including children joined Messiah

25 (24) members were lost by death

6 (3) members moved or transferred membership.
(includes adjustments to member status)

Children and Family Education Enrollments

(as of December 31, 2025)

Sunday School Children (3 years old - 4th Grade): **50** (52)

First Communion: **10 from Sunday School** (16)

Pre-Confirmation + Confirmation (5th Grade – 12th Grade):
72 (76)

Confirmations: **13** (19)

Ceremonies/Services

Baptisms: **15** (24)

Weddings: **3** (5)

Funerals: **17** (20) member funerals

1 non-member funerals

Website / Streaming Statistics - Clark Kellogg

Streaming Statistics - 1/1/2025-12/12/2025

We had 29,200 total views by 4,804 individual viewers over the course of the year. There were 9,113 hours watched by viewers from 34 different countries. Top countries were US, Ireland, Mexico, and Sweden!

Most viewed video of the year was Jeff's sermon on July 6, 2025 with the message "God wants us to love the way God loves. Unearned and undeserved. No requirements. And then God says, go out there and do the same."

Website Statistics - 1/1/2025-12/12/2025

We had 42,261 total site visits with 73,213 page views. There were 223 forms submitted through the website.

Most visits were from
USA 91.5%
Canada 5%

Smart phones are used slightly more than desktop computers to access the website.

3 top pages viewed:
Homepage
Weekly news
Livestream



WORSHIP AND MUSIC - CLYDE NYHUS

This year, in addition to our Ash Wednesday service, we had two other Lenten mid-week services, each preceded by a soup supper. We joined with St. Paul's AME church for these. On March 19 we gathered at St. Paul AME, Our speaker was Jeff Wild from Guns to Gardens. On April 2 they joined us here at Messiah. Our speaker was Anthony Cooper of Focused Interruption.

We held our annual Messiah Day of Prayer vigil on Thursday May 1st.

Our Christmas Eve services were at 4:00 and 7:00 pm. The 7:00 service included children of all ages as well as the Senior Choir. In-person attendance for the three services was around 1,000.



TREASURER'S FINANCE REPORT - TIM COULTHART

In 2025, the General Fund revenues were \$943,362, compared to the budget of \$824,336, or \$119,026 more than the budget. The main component of the excess was the Pledged Offering. The actual Pledged Offering received was \$918,109, while the budget was \$803,336, or \$114,773 more than the budget. General Fund expenses were \$813,735, compared to the budget of \$824,336, or \$10,601 under budget. This generous giving, combined with our spending within budget, means that at the end of the year our General Fund revenues for the year exceeded our General Fund expenses, by \$129,628. In 2025, 604 families contributed to the General Fund.

Four budget items exceeded their budget by more than \$1,000.; Maintenance \$7,700, Admin and Office \$3,134, Altar Guild \$2,347, Coffee & Cookies \$1,305. The Maintenance line exceeded the budget due to several snow falls in 2025, tree trimming, AED battery replacement and mower repairs. Admin and Office line exceed the budget due to replacing out dated computers and increased printing costs. The Altar Guild line exceeded the budget due to the conversion to glass communion cups. Coffee and Cookies exceeded the budget due to the increased consumption of cookies and coffee during weekend services and group meetings.

Gundlach Family Fund – Expenses in 2025 totaled \$121,558. We provided \$32,799 for rent assistance to 96 families. We provided \$31,334 in total to the following organizations: Porchlight, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Road Home of Dane County, Jail Ministry, Salvation Army, Vogel Foundation for school supplies, Stoughton Food Pantry, and Roots Ethiopia. We also matched collections from various events: \$25,536 for the Second Harvest Virtual Pie sale, \$8,724 for the Mountain of Food, \$5,607 from the Bake Sale for Briarpatch, Movin' Out and Babies and Beyond, \$5,129 for Pierre Outreach Services Safe Home, \$4,864 for Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, \$593 for Focused Interruption, \$492 for The Beacon, and \$250 for Badger Childhood Cancer Network. In addition, we assisted 7 families with various hardships totaling \$6,150.

Excess Revenue – Similar to what was done at the end of 2010-2024, the council formulated a plan for the \$129,628 of excess revenues. That plan that will go before the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 25th. The council approved distribution plan consists of 10 percent going to staff, (excluding pastors) \$12,628, \$21,000 going to the Reserve Fund and the remaining \$95,665 to our Mission Partners. The Mission partners will receive \$9,566 each: Campus Ministries, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Porchlight, Jail Ministry, Road Home, NAMI Dane County, Project Home-Serving Those Who Serve, Just Dane, Center for Community Stewardship (Pierre Outreach) and the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Lutheran Camps. We will need the congregation's approval for this plan.

Online Giving – For those of you that do not know we participate in a program that allows the church to accept donations electronically. We currently have 174 families participating, 137 on REALM and 37 on Vanco. To those members on Vanco we would like to transition your giving to REALM. If you are not receiving a thank you email for your electronic donation you are on the old system, please contact the office to transition to REALM. The current monthly donation totals are \$23,432 for the General Fund.

2025 Proposed Budget – To prepare the 2026 budget we ask that congregation members complete a pledge form. The results for 2026 were amazing as 342 families pledged \$654,444.

TREASURER'S FINANCE REPORT - TIM COULTHART

General Fund Pledged Revenue (2021-2025)

Year	Parishioners who Pledged	Pledged Amount	Actual Pledged Revenue	Actual over Pledged
2021	308	452,189	623,301	37.8%
2022	316	486,989	687,679	41.2%
2023	334	558,372	740,335	32.6%
2024	360	611,871	841,943	37.6%
2025	350	672,227	918,109	36.6%
		Five Year Average		37.2%
2026	342	654,444	*854,653	30.6%

* Budget amount for 2026.

We use the General Fund Pledged amount to estimate our General Fund Revenue for the year. Over the past 5 years, the Pledged Revenue received has exceeded the amount pledged by an average of 37.2 percent, as shown in the above table. For 2026, we have set the Pledged Revenue budget at \$854,653 or 30.6 percent above the amount pledged, and \$63,456 below what we collected in 2025. The reason we are able to set the budget above the amount pledged is the 250 families that do not pledge but give to the General Fund.

There are a few areas that have increased budget amounts for 2026. Salaries increased by 4 percent. Historically, several groups would fall under the catch-all "Evangelism" line, but we decided to split them out to now have: Adult Formation, Family Ministry, Outdoor Ministry, along with the continued Senior Adult Ministry, and Evangelism lines. Collectively this group of expenses increased the budget by 28 percent (\$20,450 to \$26,300). Maintenance increased 16 percent (\$18,000 to \$21,000), and Coffee/Donuts increased 25 percent (\$4,000 to \$5,000).

Capital Projects – In 2026 we plan to complete some minor organ repairs \$10,000.

Financial Statements – There are three separate spreadsheets following: 1) 2025 Statement of Revenues and Expenses and 2026 Budget, 2) Balance Sheet and 3) Statement of Other Revenues and Other Expenses which are the non-budgeted revenues and expenses of 2025.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - KAREN WENGER



Stewardship Committee members include Bonnie Eastman, Andrea Voss (Zoom), and Karen Wenger.

One of the functions of this committee is to administer the Gundlach Family Fund (GFF), an outreach ministry to those in need, such as help with rental assistance in the community and local ministry support. GFF also matches budgeted ministries and special collections made by the congregation. Messiah is so very fortunate, through the GFF, to be able to serve our community, and beyond, in this way.

In July the committee met, along with Pastor Jeff, Tim Coulthart, Bonnie Eastman, Andrea Voss (virtual) and Karen Wenger to discuss the pledge drive for 2026. The theme for 2026 is "Mission in Action".

The mailing to all members and associate members included a letter from Pastor Jeff, pledge form, a revised time and talent sheet, and a return envelope. This mailing was sent the end of October, to be returned on Stewardship Sunday, the weekend of November 8 and 9. The 2026 pledge and Simply Giving enrollment can also be completed on-line at messiahchurch.com. Time and Talent sign-up can be completed on your REALM profile page under "Serving" by editing "Skills" and "Interests".



MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE - KAREN WENGER

The purpose of the Memorial Committee is to monitor money given in memory or in honor of friends and loved ones. The Memorial Committee tracks funds received, by whom, and in whose memory. Names of contributors are recorded as accurately as possible in the Memorial Book, and the money is often designated for a specific purpose, with the permission of the families of the deceased. The Memorial Book is located in the church office. Feel free to peruse the book and pray for those who have died, and the families who miss them.

Items purchased in memory or in honor of people are listed on the Memorial Boards next to the Hospitality Counter and across from the coat rack in the Gathering Space. Again, please take time to read the names, the gift, and the generous family who has provided the item.

The Memorial Fund received gifts from congregation members this year in memory of the following:



Tom Green
Paul Hill
Jean Gitzlaff
John Hefte
Linda White
Chris Brown
Loren Kylo
Barbara Gordon

Gary Lukens
Maryjean Popovich
Sharon Seely
Gloria Laundrie
Jim Klinkner
Sharon White
Bill Nelson
Sharon Winburn

Doris Zache
John Brendler
Eugene Wawrzyniak
Bob Hartwig
Brett Haise
Marlene Wold
Bradley Weinstock

MINISTRY SUPPORT COORDINATOR - ELIZABETH CRUMMY

Ministry Support Coordinator

As the ministry support coordinator, I primarily work behind the scenes to support the smooth operation of various ministries, serving as a thought partner and helping with the details of scheduling, advertising, reporting, record-keeping, technology, outreach, emails, phone calls, shopping, Zooms, refreshments, deliveries, volunteers, networking, editing, and grant applications.

This position is most strongly connected to the Worship & Music Committee and Family Ministries as well as the 5 teams in the Social Justice Ministry. In 2025, I also served as the Adult Education Coordinator through October, with a focus on Women's Ministry and RIC book studies.

Worship & Music Committee

- Created worship volunteer schedules for every month and 8 special services by working with the unique schedule requests and availability of over 200 volunteers
- Shopped for Love, Laughter and Libation supplies
- Project manager for the 2026 Lenten Devotional, working with Annette Durkin, Pr. Dan O'Brien, Pr. Renee Kiel and writers. I helped to choose the theme, verses and focus words; recruited and collaborated with writers to bring forth their best work, edited and previewed the layout before going to press.
- Organized volunteers for Lenten soup suppers.
- Facilitated the transition back to glass communion cups, revamped the altar ministry directions, recruited and trained cup washers and communion rack rotators during busy services.

Family Ministry - More details in Family Ministry Report

- Christmas Program Reception and Family Christmas Service
- Nursery
- Trunk or Treat
- Easter Baskets
- Old Befana
- Host Families
- Deliveries to the Family Shelter
- Spirit Weekend

Women's Ministry - more details in Adult Education Report

- Organized 10 Divine Yoga sessions with 3 instructors. Donations for the Beacon totaling \$422.00
- Two retreats
- Two 6-week book studies with Louise Fosdick & Karen Bosold and Renee Kiel.
- Monthly ladies lunch bunches were run by Claire Gensch and Mary Kedzie. Donations totaling \$1,150.00 were collected for organizations and individuals.

Social Justice Ministry - More details in their reports

- Green Team
- Reconciling in Christ Team
- Human Trafficking Awareness Team
- Racial Justice Team
- Community Outreach Team

Other

- Updates to Facebook, weekly news, reports and webpages
- Office coverage as needed



FAMILY MINISTRY - PR. DAN, ELIZABETH CRUMMY, TERESA PALUMBO, BRITTANY RUSCH

The Family Ministry team consists of Teresa Palumbo, Brittany Rusch, Pr. Dan O'Brien, and Elizabeth Crummy. We offer multi-generational programs and recruit volunteers of all ages to support one another.

January: Old Befana - Ken Lonquist and friends performed the Legend of Old Befana after the late service and a pizza lunch with approximately 100 people attending. In order to keep this event fresh, we are going to offer it every other year.

February: YOW youth made **Valentine bags** for the family shelter. SAM volunteers delivered them.

March: Easter Basket and Bags - The Messiah community created over 300 Easter bags and baskets for the homebound and various ministry partners. YOW packed the baskets, Sunday School created cards, many people contributed treats and personal care items, and CFM and YFM budgets bought bubbles, coloring books, and crayons.

June: Children & Youth Summer Camp - several children and youth traveled to Ferryville, Wisconsin, to attend Sugar Creek Bible Camp's summer programming, growing in relationships with one another, and connecting to themselves in new ways.

July: We worked with Tracy Frank to promote host families for foreign exchange students.

August: Boundary Waters Canoe Trip - 10 youth and adults joined for both the Island Camp and Canoe Trip

September: We hosted Spirit Weekend for the Messiah community to learn about over 20 ministries to become involved in, including in Children & Youth programming.

September: Family Camp - 25 parents and children attended Messiah's Family Camp at Bethel Horizon's Camp. This was an opportunity for them to disconnect from the busyness of life and connect with one another through conversation, hiking, crafts, campfires, and more!

October: Trunk-Or-Treat - We held our annual Trunk-or-Treat event right after the late service. Around 145 people attended, with 16 decorated trunks outside, 4 decorated rooms indoors, and the hallway was filled with candy donations from those who wanted to support the event but could not attend.

November: YOW youth made **Thanksgiving bags** for the family shelter. SAM volunteers delivered them.

December: Christmas Program Reception - The Children's program was supported by 4 volunteers from SAM who set up and served a reception of cake, pizza, and coffee. SAM volunteers delivered Holiday Bags made by YOW to the family shelter.

December: SAM Christmas Dinners were delivered to senior and homebound members of Messiah. They included cards made by the Sunday School.

December: 7 PM Family Christmas Service Six children from YOW and Sunday School played prelude music for the service. Children were also invited to ring bells and place straw in the manger.

Nursery: Staffed by either Christina Teschendorf, Kalli Selchert, or Rose Eilertson. In addition to the care they provide to children in the nursery, they maintain the activity bags for children to use in the Sanctuary during services, as well as maintain basic hygiene and first aid products in the bathrooms.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - BRITTANY RUSCH

The goal of the Children's Ministry within Messiah is to create meaningful opportunities for children and families to participate in worship and to educate children about the love God has for all people, as well as the love God teaches us to have for each other. We do this through a variety of programs and events including Sunday School, First Communion Instruction, the 3rd Grade Bible Blessing, Children's Choir, and the annual Christmas Program.



Sunday School

Sunday School has a group of committed adult and youth volunteers who make the program possible. Sunday school serves children 3-years-old through 4th grade. Each week we focus on one story of the Bible in addition to learning about bigger events in the church year such as Advent and Lent. For the 2025-2026 school year we currently have 50 children enrolled. The average weekly attendance is 35.5 students.

First Communion

On April 27, 2025, we had 10 children receive their First Communion at Messiah! These children learned about the significance and history of communion through a series of lessons in the spring led by Pastor Dan and Brittany. This year, the communion lessons have been revamped and are being embedded into the second grade curriculum in order to allow for adequate time for the lessons. The students baked their own bread with Tisa Kremer which they used during the Communion Service. This has not been done since prior to the COVID shutdown.

Third Grade Bible Blessing

At the beginning of October, four (4) of our 3rd-grade students received their own Bibles and had them blessed by the congregation during the service. Pastor Dan and their teacher Martha Netzloff taught them how to navigate their Bibles. They will continue to explore the different lessons using their Bibles for the rest of the year, as well as in the 4th grade curriculum.

Children's Choir

Martha Netzloff, Karl Schweitz and Camille Conway continue to lead our Children's Choir. Brynn Schulte and Cara Musick also volunteer their time to assist with the music instruction. The choir performed at the First Communion Service on April 27th, during the 10:30 service on November 2nd, and again at the Christmas Program on December 7th. The music instruction has been an excellent way to reinforce what our children are learning during the Sunday School lessons and it gives the children a way to actively be involved in the church services.

Christmas Program

Forty-six (46) Children participated in the 2025 Christmas Program by either singing, acting, or participating in the stage crew. This year we revamped the stable and many of the costumes. We also rewrote the script to better align with the scriptures. The Senior Adult Choir and the Children's Choir performed a song together! The program and the reception took place at 11:45 am, following the late service, and this seemed to be well received by families once again.



YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - TERESA PALUMBO



Messiah's youth ministry program provides opportunities for faith development, fellowship, and service for youth in grades 5-12. The ultimate goal is for the youth to know they are welcomed, accepted, and loved beyond measure by God and our community and for them to extend that love to others.

Youth on Wednesday Nights (YOW)/Preconfirmation and Confirmation

YOW is a relational ministry and educational program for youth in grades 5-9. The hybrid program includes in-person activity nights, online lessons, field trips, and service projects.

There were 72 youth in the program during the 2024-2025 academic year with 13 students confirmed in Spring 2025. There are 66 students registered for the 2025-2026 academic year. Preconfirmation (grades 5-6) focuses on Old and New Testament lessons while confirmation is rooted in the Small Catechism.

Field trips included a visit to Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Madison, a presentation by Porchlight, and a trip to Immaculate Heart of Mary with additional trips planned for the spring. Some of the service projects over the course of the year included making meals for the homeless shelter, making Easter baskets for local food pantries, Thanksgiving treat bags and holiday gifts for the Salvation Army Family Shelter. The youth also make seasonal crafts to be distributed by the Messiah care ministry team to the homebound community members. In fall 2025, a YOW group of 32 youth ventured to Bethel Horizons for a weekend retreat focused on the transformational power of love and kindness.

In-person nights for both programs are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 6-8:00 pm. These activity nights include dinner and activities. Online lessons via Zoom are held the second Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:00 pm for preconfirmation students and 7-8:00 pm for confirmation students. The third Wednesday of the month is reserved for field trips or additional on-line lessons.

Group leaders included Holly Anderson, Clark Kellogg, Ryan Krebs, Susan Krebsbach, Glenn Schmitz and Mary Russell, Kathy and Ray Robinson, and Pastor Dan. YOW is led by Teresa Palumbo.

Summer Mission Trip:

This summer we had a wonderful mission trip experience. The focus was to explore and serve Madison. Over the course of three days, 33 youth and 8 adults served in nine different service ministry sites. Each day had a different emphasis. Ministry sites and projects included making items for the Dignity Project, volunteering for United Way, Babies & Beyond of Wisconsin, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County, GiGi's Playhouse, Madison Senior Center, Advent Community Gardens, The River Food Pantry, and St. Mark's Food Pantry. The youth ended their days of service with a fun trip to Noah's Ark Water Park.

In just three days this group of youth came together to accomplish great things, but more importantly, to become a community of friends.

Thank you to all the adults who helped lead these experiences and mentor and guide the youth. Special thanks to Pastor Dan, Phil Neppel, Brad and Sue Meng, Holly Anderson, Clark Kellogg, and Mandy Underbakke. A special thanks to Ann and Scott DeBroux for providing a hot breakfast each day and to Nancy Beszhak for leading the Dignity Project.

High School Ministry: In fall 2025, we launched monthly high school programming: Waffle Wednesdays. These events bring youth together for food, faith, and fun. Every evening begins with a meal followed by an activity and faith discussion. There has been a great response with an average of 13 youth regularly participating.

Fundraisers: The youth prepared and sold concessions at the annual craft fair and sold annual Christmas ornaments.

Family Ministry: I continue to participate in Family Ministry events helping lead Family Camp at Bethel Horizons, the Easter Walk, and Trunk-or-Treat.

Preaching: I am blessed to be able to preach on occasion. In 2024-2025 I preached at the Maundy Thursday worship service and a weekend during Pastor's Jeff's sabbatical.

ADULT EDUCATION AND FORMATION - PR. RENEE KIEL

St. Anselm famously described theology as “*faith seeking understanding*.” Martin Luther likewise affirmed that faith and reason are not rivals but are ordered toward the same truth, since both come from God. Faith is therefore not irrational—it goes beyond reason, not against it. Simply put, our love of God moves us to seek deeper understanding. In that spirit, the adults of Messiah Lutheran Church continue to engage in rich opportunities for learning, reflection, and spiritual growth.

In October, **Pastor Renee Kiel** was hired into a newly created staff position as **Adult Education Coordinator**. Since beginning work on October 1, she has supported and led a variety of studies and formation opportunities throughout the year.

The **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**, led by Ray Robinson, continues to be a steady and faithful gathering. This group studied the Gospels of John and Matthew for eight weeks each, and after a summer break undertook a fourteen-week exploration of Revelation. Originally formed as a men’s group, it has since opened to women. The group meets Wednesdays at 7:00 am.

The **Thursday Morning Women’s Book Study**, led by Pastor Renee, met in the spring to read *Loving Jesus* by Mark Allan Powell, focusing on spiritual practices that help believers grow in love for Christ. In the fall, participants studied *Chosen: A Study of Esther*, meeting September 10 through October 15. Together they explored how God’s presence and purposes are revealed even when God’s name is never spoken.

Out of this study grew a **Women’s Conversation Group**, which met every third Thursday of the month for the remainder of the year. These gatherings provided space for thoughtful conversation about integrating faith into daily life and navigating its challenges in community.



Sunday Morning Adult Education offered a variety of focused studies throughout the year. In late winter, a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) book study of *One Coin Found* by Emmy Kegler emphasized that the story of Scripture belongs to everyone, without exception. In early fall, Pam Shellberg led an RIC study of *Transforming* by Austen Hartke, which wove together biblical texts and contemporary stories to deepen reflection on gender and Scripture. In October Renee led a study on Martin Luther and the Reformation, examining Luther’s life, theology, and lasting influence. This was followed in Advent by a study exploring the themes of the season and the connections among its biblical texts.

Messiah offered a **home-grown Lenten Devotional** titled *The Transformative Power of God’s Love*. Printed copies were made available to the congregation and shared on Messiah’s Facebook page.

In October, a **Women’s Retreat** led by Heather Rainwater invited participants into an overview of biblical Wisdom Literature, focusing on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job. The retreat explored how each book offers a distinct perspective while contributing to Scripture’s understanding of wisdom.

Through these offerings, Adult Education and Formation at Messiah continues to encourage faithful curiosity, thoughtful engagement with Scripture, and growth in love for God and neighbor.



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY - KEITH SCHLESINGER

If you are 55 or older, then Messiah's Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) is your home within Messiah Lutheran Church. If you meet the age requirement, but have not experienced SAM, you are missing the boat and not even close to the lake! Take time to experience a SAM event and yes, you just might become a SAMie. Let's take a journey together and look back at SAM 2025.

Our year technically runs from September through May. We traditionally meet the last Wednesday of the month for a potluck and a program featuring an educational speaker or some form of entertainment. We average 60 people at these potlucks. September is our kickoff for the new year, and this is a fully catered event with special entertainment. SAM's Christmas Party in December is also catered along with special Christmas music. These two events average 100 people per event. Every potluck/catered event starts with The Empty Table which symbolizes those in our community fighting food insecurity. Members fill the table with non-perishable food items before they eat.



The "M" in SAM should really be in boldface type. Why, you ask? That "M" stands for Ministry and SAM comes through when it comes to outreach ministry. We started a new partnership this year with the Badger Childhood Cancer Network (BCCN). SAM made a financial contribution to the organization and provided volunteers for the BCCN summer picnic. The picnic is for young cancer patients and their families. SAMies were onsite to help make the day special for these cancer warriors.



Second Harvest Food Bank, just a couple of miles south of Messiah, is another outreach ministry for SAM where our focus is on helping people fighting food insecurity. Every other Monday, we have 15 SAMies who volunteer for three hours to label canned goods, affix ingredient labels to packages, etc. Oh yes, we stop at 2:00 pm for "Recess" where we share a homemade treat over fellowship. This activity is extremely popular, and volunteer slots fill months in advance. This is a great way to meet fellow SAMies in a small group setting and have a ton of fun while volunteering! To inquire about volunteering, send an email to Keith at **SAM@messiahchurch.com**.

Then there is the virtual pie sale that SAM has conducted since 2019 when COVID-19 came calling. This year we presented a \$5,000.00 check to Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church in Altadena, CA and checks totaling \$46,060.72 to Second Harvest Food Bank and WMTV15 Share Your Holidays. A special thank-you to the Gundlach Family for doubling the initial gifts of \$23,030.36. WMTV15 sponsors then doubled the gift to become \$92,121.44. That is over 210,000 meals for more than 300 food pantries in 16 south central Wisconsin counties. WMTV15 recognized our efforts by presenting SAM with a Be Like Mike Award. You can watch the story here -- <https://vimeo.com/1145453473>



SAM also offers two day trips each year. We kick off summer with a trip in June. Recently we have enjoyed narrated lunch cruises on the Wisconsin River and Milwaukee River. In addition, we enjoyed lunch while traveling aboard an inter-urban dining car at the East Troy Electric Railroad. The second trip is either a fall color trip in October, or a Christmas show in late November or early December. SAM tours are known to have a unique spin on them which means they sell out quickly!



It's time to head to the lake and cruise with SAM in 2026!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Activities of the past year were as follows:

Craft and Bake Sale - managed by Dawn Olson, Louise Fosdick, Louise Uttech, Karen Verhagen and Nancy Battist. \$5,606.75 was raised, \$1400 more than 2024. Between that and a GFF match, Briarpatch, Babies and Beyond and Movin' Out each received a check for \$3,738.

The Road Home and Circles of Support - Karen Verhagen made multiple deliveries of household and health care items donated by members.

Mountain of Food Campaign/St. Stephens Food Pantry - Dee Schwoegler and Bonnie Eastman serve on the board and volunteer at the pantry. Mountain of Food donations were matched by the GFF enabling St. Stephen's and St. Mark's Food Pantries to each receive \$8,724. Jim Alsmo makes regular deliveries to St. Stephen's. In addition to food and plastic bottles for detergent, we were asked to supply laundry detergent as the previous supplier was no longer donating. The weekend of May 3-4, Mark Taylor, Food Pantry Coordinator at St. Mark's, joined the services to educate us about food insecurity in Madison.

Adopt a School Partnership with Kennedy School and the Family Shelter - managed by Paula Darr and Elizabeth Crummy. We used 20% of our \$2,575 budget for staff treats and 80% for gift cards for families to purchase food and other necessities. Paula attended Adopt a School meetings, volunteered at school events and made multiple deliveries of winter gear and clothing. We continue to problem-solve transportation for the children living in the family shelter by securing a grant, weighing in on a PTO complaint to DPI and being part of the process to obtain a van. YOW made Valentines Day, Thanksgiving and Winter holiday treat bags for the children in the shelter and Messiah volunteers delivered them. We regularly post opportunities to help at the school in our Weekly News and The Column newsletter. Pr. Dan attended "A Principal Experience".

Clothing for 10 Madison elementary schools - managed by Bernie Hartwig. This project supports Lori Mann Carey, Cesar Chavez, Elvehjem, Henderson, Lake View, Lapham, Lincoln, Midvale, Sandburg, Schenk, and Whitehorse elementary schools. New and thrifted socks, underwear, leggings, t-shirts, sweatpants, etc. were purchased using the budget of \$2,790, a donation of \$500 and \$1,705 from the Dignity in Schools collection to total \$4,995. This project helped 4,432 students.

Dignity Project - managed by June Nyhus. Members of this group sew sanitary pads and send panties to "Little Dresses for Africa" so girls have a better chance of remaining in school all month long. 4,000 pads and 946 panties were sent in 2025.

Dignity in School Collection - managed by June Nyhus and Bernie Hartwig. \$3,410 was collected and split between purchasing materials for the Dignity Project and clothing for local elementary students.

Christmas collections:

The Road Home (Christmas Fund) - managed by Karen Verhagen. We collected \$1,950 to enable 26 people to choose a \$75 gift card of their choice.

YWCA Christmas Project - managed by Bernie Hartwig. 56 gifts were donated by Messiah members to permanent residents of the YWCA. Marlene Green and Sharon Ryan helped with wrapping the gifts and Chip and Nancy Plummer delivered them to the YWCA.

Christmas Pudding Collection - managed by Darilee Nelson. 200 large boxes of pudding were collected for the East Side Community Center at Truax for their Christmas food baskets and the extra boxes of pudding were sent to St. Stephens Food Pantry.

Waterproof Mitten Collection - managed by Darilee Nelson. The collection is ongoing at the time of this writing. All items will be delivered to local elementary schools in January.

Triangle Community Ministry (TCM) Collection - managed by Paula Darr. Messiah collected towels for distribution during their Christmas party. In November, we ran a very successful non-perishable food collection to bridge the gap with the temporary loss of SNAP benefits. The donated items were taken to Triangle by Rev. Peder Johanson to help replenish their pantry.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Meals at Triangle Community Ministry (TCM) and Healing House - managed by Scott DeBroux and Elizabeth Crummy. We provided 3 meals at TCM averaging 10 volunteers for each meal, totaling 90 volunteer hours. Messiah received the TCM Three Sides Award at the annual TCM meeting. The award was accepted by Scott DeBroux and Paula Darr on behalf of Messiah. Volunteers created 49 dinners for Healing House, serving an average of 8 people a week for a total of 392 meals.

Goodman Center Thanksgiving Basket Collection - managed by Karen Verhagen. We collected \$6,536 which provided 4,000 foil pans and \$390 to purchase food for the baskets.

Madison Area Jail Ministry - We collected items for people who were incarcerated during the summer and were released during cold weather. We collected so many blankets, underwear and personal care items that MAJM made two pick ups.

Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Altadena, CA - in an effort to help victims of the fires in California, a collection was taken up for this church which survived while all around it was destroyed. We sent a check for \$5,014 from Messiah and a matching check from the Gundlach Fund. Two boxes of prayer shawls were sent to be distributed to CTS members as well as \$5,000 from SAM's Virtual Pie sale went to their food pantry. Pastor Harrison expressed her gratitude for the care and support from Messiah.

Prayer Shawls - managed by Maren Anderson and Paula Stadtmueller. Eighty (80) shawls were dedicated this year and went to people at Christ the Good Shepherd, the YWCA, Messiah's Visitation Ministry, Agrace, and Messiah's Confirmation, and First Communion Recipients.

Easter Project - managed by Elizabeth Crummy. The entire Messiah Community teamed up to provide 300 Easter baskets to 5 organizations, 63 Easter bags went to TCM and 35 bags to the Messiah Visitation Ministry.

Backpack and School Supply Collection - managed by Pam Aldrich and supported by Elizabeth Crummy and a delivery team of 5. Over \$1,300 was donated along with enough supplies to fill 203 backpacks for 6 elementary schools as well as DAIS and The Road Home.

Habitat for Humanity - managed by Jim Stolzenburg and Elizabeth Crummy. 5 volunteers worked this summer to build walls and sheds at the warehouse area. We made the community aware of ways they can independently volunteer at Habitat.

Messiah-Gunderson Blood Drive - managed by Elizabeth Crummy. We collected 45 pints of blood from 59 donors. 13 volunteers helped to organize the day. We also made people aware of other drives happening throughout the year.

2026 Community Outreach Ministry Planned Collections

February/March	Goodman Thanksgiving Baskets (foil pans) & Easter Baskets
May	Mountain of Food
July	Backpacks for Schools
August	Dignity in School
October/November	Virtual pies-"Share Your Holidays" (to benefit Second Harvest)
November	Craft/Bake sale
November/December	"Christmas Collections" The Road Home (Christmas Fund) YWCA Gift Giving- Triangle Ministry East Side Community/Truax - Pudding Collection Madison Public Schools – Waterproof Mitten Collection

RECONCILING IN CHRIST -PASTOR DAN O'BRIEN

As a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) congregation, Messiah is committed to always be learning, growing, and becoming a more diverse and inclusive community. This past year, there have been four noticeable ways we have engaged in this work. A special thank you to Joan Andrusz and Karl Schweitz, who have been integral leaders of these activities, alongside Pastor Dan and Elizabeth Crummy.

The first is our annual RIC Weekend, where we celebrate the ways, our world is more whole with our LGBTQIA+ community, an active part of it. This year, we invited Marie Lefblad, one of our Associates to the Bishop to come and share greetings, a bit of her story, and a bit of how this work is happening around our synod.

This past winter, 31 people read *One Coin Found* by Emmy Kegler, a memoir about the inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ community within scripture.

In the Fall, 36 people read, *Transforming*, by Austen Hartke, which dove into the life and perspective of the Trans community and how our scriptures and our faith call us into support, love, and inclusion of our Trans community members.

In the summer, Messiah hosted a movie night and discussion around the documentary *1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture*. This film walked us through the discovery of just how recent the insertion of the term "homosexual" is into our scriptures, and the effects that it has had on our society, our church, and our communities.

GREEN TEAM - PASTOR DAN O'BRIEN

In this last year, our congregation has invested much time, effort, money, and education into becoming a more ecologically friendly space and a voice of advocacy for our environment. There have been several people who we give special thanks to for all their work as part of the Green Team, their names are listed below in the project/event they were a part of.

- Messiah moved to only purchase biodegradable paper products. Although the cost is higher than other products, the environmental impact is much greater!
- Messiah began (again) using glass communion cups, reducing the amount of single-use plastic we are using. A special thank you to Roger Marty for building the receiving tables, and Kathy Lukens & Elizabeth Crummy for adapting and creating a cleaning process for the glass cups.
- This spring, after preparing for it the previous year, we planted a 1300 plant-Wisconsin-native prairie on the hill to the north of the church building. Thank you to Rob Remiker for leading this initiative!
- Thirty eight (38) people took part in the Dane County Landfill Tour learning about the effects of waste in our area. Then 40 people took part in a dinner and conversation with Brian Johnson from the Madison recycling program to learn more ways we can be better at recycling and using products in our area.
- One of the biggest investments Messiah has made this year to change our ecological footprint, was installing a 121 solar panel array on our roof. We were able to accomplish this project with the help of grants that supplied half of the panels and monetary support, along with some memorial funds. Though the investment was large, the money we are already saving on our electric bill will "give us back" the money in 7-9 years. A big thank you to Tim Coulthart, John Nerad, and our council for all their leadership, support, and commitment to living our call to be good stewards of the land we are on.
- Since our Boomerang Bag group started a few years ago they have made over 2000 Boomerang Bags. That is a lot of material saved from ending up in the landfill.

Here is a breakdown of where all those bags have gone:

- 600 Craft & Bake Sales (2024 and 2025) 300 at each Craft & Bake Sale.
- 12 Activity Bags for children to use in the Sanctuary
- 10 Given to St. Paul's AME Church
- 500 Given out at Messiah in Fall 2023, Earth Day 2024 and Spirit Day 2025
- 36 Given out at the Ladies Lunch Bunch
- 50 Given out to individuals at church
- 50 Given to camp participants
- 24 Given to St. Stephen's Food Pantry

The group is now preparing 400 bags to be given out at Synod Assembly in May.



RACIAL JUSTICE - TRACY FRANK, TARA VON DOLLEN

The Racial Justice Team educates us about injustice and offers opportunities for individual and collective action such as letter writing, donating to and affiliating with organizations, advocating for changes in policies and procedures.

The team posts anti-racism resources in the Weekly News and monthly newsletters with ways to educate, donate and affiliate with the work of justice, including our connections with MOSES and Just Dane. Consider checking out a book from our lending library in the lower level meeting room.

Several Messiah members participated in the Madison Day of Action, helping WISDOM get their priorities on the minds of legislators who are making the state budget decisions.

Two people participated in the Black History for a New Day Course.

Several members walked in the Madison Juneteenth Parade.

Ten people participated in the Guns to Gardens safe surrender training from Presbyterian Peace Fellowship in preparation for an event in March 2026.

We invited people to the Journey to Justice Bus Tour to help raise awareness of the National Campaign to End Solitary Confinement.

Rock Greendeer spoke at the 10:30 am service in June about the Ho-Chunk language classes he leads, one of several efforts to save the language and culture of the tribe. We supported his work with a \$500.00 donation.



RACIAL JUSTICE & HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

The Racial Justice and Human Trafficking Awareness teams partnered with St. Paul AME church, hosting Lenten soup suppers and speakers in order to raise awareness about and take action against gun violence in our community.

The teams also raised our awareness about racially motivated land covenants that still exist in Dane County and how to remove it if your home had one.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS - NANCY BATTIST

The team works for long-range change in the intersection of racial justice and homelessness, and responds to immediate needs through our Community Outreach Team.

Jevon Diming co-preached and hosted a conversation about Pierre Outreach Services Safe Home (POSSH). Her work centers on healing generational trauma with mothers & teen girls. POSSH received \$10,187 from our 2024 excess distribution funds and over \$10,258 through donations and a GFF match.

Pastor Jeff was a featured speaker at a Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center fundraiser. They reduce trauma and promote healing for children and adults with intellectual disabilities who are victims of or witnesses to crime. We invited director Jennifer Ginsburg to speak at our worship services. She shared staggering statistics about child abuse. Child abuse, domestic violence, trafficking — it's all part of the same problem.

Briarpatch received \$3,738 from the Craft and Bake Sale funds. Briarpatch assists youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS - DAN BATTIST, JOHN NERAD

2025 Building and Grounds Accomplishments:

Routine Building Maintenance

- Required Building Inspections: (Elevator Inspection, Elevator Mechanical Testing, Fire Alarm Sprinkler Testing, Water Retention Testing, Fire Extinguisher Testing)
- HVAC Maintenance and Inspection
- Water Retention Maintenance
- Painting and Carpet Cleaning in the Social Hall
- Kitchen Maintenance and Cleaning
- Sanctuary Cleaning and Maintenance
- Setup / Takedown for groups (Voting, YOW, Rally Day, Craft and Bake Sale, Special Services, Scouts, SAM, Blood Drives)
- Small Engine and Tractor Maintenance
- Mowing Team Coordination
- Snow Team Coordination
- Spring and Fall Cleanup Day Coordination

Special Projects

- Installed Accordion Door in Social Hall
- Treated the Legacy Oak Tree on East Side of Property
- Solar Panels and System Installed and Operating on Rooftop
- Assisted Green Team on installation of Prairie Grass/Rain Garden on North Hill
- New Aluminum Exterior Door in Community Room
- Patch, Crack Fill, Seal and Re-Stripe Upper and Lower Parking Lots
- Quote & Schedule Removal of Fallen Tree on Church Grounds
- Get Grease Pumped from Pit in Utility Room
- New Sound/Speaker System for Social Hall
- Hung First Aid Kits and Nitrile Gloves throughout the Facility
- Replaced Broken Hot Water Recirculating Pump Timer with Digital
- Updated Various Items: Toro Hand Mower, Hose Reels, Upright Vacuum, etc.
- Installed Slat Boards for Brochures, Flyers, Papers, etc. from the old Kiosk
- Replaced Various Cables, HDMI Cables, Security Cameras, Software, etc.
- Troubleshooted and Updated Paging System in Nursery Room

