

November
2025

Volume 32
Issue 11

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Hello! I'm Pastor Renee Kiel, and I am thrilled to be joining the staff at Messiah Lutheran Church as your new Coordinator of Adult Education.

I retired from the U.S. Army in October 2024 after serving as a Chaplain (Colonel). My husband, David, and I recently relocated to the Madison area to be near our three sons, all of whom live and work locally. I am an ELCA pastor and previously served two congregations before being called to active duty as an Army Chaplain, including one combat tour in Afghanistan. Earlier this year, I served as Interim Pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Middleton, WI.

David and I began worshiping at Messiah shortly after moving to Middleton in 2024 because two of our sons, Justin and Kristopher, were already worshipping here. They told us about the pastor who preached fascinating and inspiring "singing sermons." We had to see for ourselves—and we're so glad we did!

I hold a B.A. in Theology (1985), a Master of Divinity (2000), a Doctorate in Pastoral Theology (2019), and a Master of Strategic Studies (2020). My husband, David, is also an ELCA pastor and currently serves as Interim Pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in McFarland. We've been married for 38 years and are thrilled to be expecting our first grandchild soon!

I am deeply excited to be serving here at Messiah. Adult education has always been one of my greatest passions in ministry, and I look forward to learning, growing, and exploring faith together with you!

Pastor Renee



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Friday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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Greetings friends,

As the days become shorter, the air becomes cooler, and the leaves continue to fall, I am again drawn back to the words of Gerhard E. Frost, in his book, "Seasons of a Lifetime,". The very first poem to begin the Autumn season is titled, "I'm Glad."

*"Does the road wind uphill all the way?"
"Yes, to the very end," writes Christina Rossetti.*

*The right road winds, and uphill too;
There are few lazy stretches, no coasting places.*

*They didn't tell me that, or maybe I wasn't listening.
Oh, I expected some hard times – a slip and a loss now
and then,
But nothing I couldn't regain.
I thought I'd be in control.*

Today I see. I know.

*I've savored joy, but I also know the great peace
that comes with an accepted sorrow.
And I'm glad the control
is not left to me.*

For many, these months may mean traveling to warmer climates and visiting family and friends. While for others, it may mean leaving home less, staying safe from the slippery ice, and maybe even feelings of isolation. And how these foreseeable winter months can feel like a winding uphill road, all the way. But how we tend to ourselves and tend to each other, gets us through. How we accept the things we can control, and let go of that which we cannot.

My friends, as we enter into a new season, I invite you to join me in that discernment, always tending to ourselves and each other, finding the joy in knowing we aren't alone, we don't have to do it all, its not all left to me or you, but shared between us.

With gratitude,
Pr. Dan

Stewardship Weekend November 8 - 9, 2025

2026 Stewardship *"Stewardship Mission in Action"*



All members of Messiah should have received a letter from Pastor Jeff, and a commitment form for 2026.

We ask that you give this commitment some thoughtful prayer and return the completed form on or before the weekend of November 8TH & 9TH.

The church council will use these commitments to prepare the budget for 2026 and to continue the mission of Messiah Lutheran Church. This year's commitment form contains only one line to pledge; the General Fund, for the day-to-day operations of the church. Examples are salaries, mission support, utilities, Christian education, fellowship and evangelism.

The form also contains a section for how you would like to make your contributions; weekly, monthly, none or electronically, please choose one.

If you do not receive a stewardship mailing by Wednesday, November 5th, contact the office at 608-222-3833 or ourchurch@messiahchurch.com.

Treasurer's Report

We are nine months into the budget year and the Pledged Revenue received to date is \$671,700 the budget for the same time period is \$602,500, so we are \$69,200 ahead of the budget.

The excess can be attributed to a large IRA distribution. General Fund expenses were \$588,900 compared to the budget of \$618,300, so we are \$29,400 under budget.

The Gundlach Family Fund supported 12 rental requests, \$4,150, with requests received from Hope Inspired.

Tim Coulthart - Treasurer

Thanksgiving / Christmas Worship Schedule

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Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 26th

5:00 PM



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

4:00 & 7:00 PM

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

10:00 AM

Welcome New Members

*Please Welcome
New Members*

**John & Maureen
Fehling**

Terri Mullens

*We're Glad You Have Chosen
Messiah as Your
New Church Home!*

Holy Baptism

Beau Conrad Graham

Child of Wesley & Jane Graham

*I have called you by name,
you are mine.*

Finding the best way to share information is challenging, and we are constantly looking to improve. The good news is that there is so much going on at Messiah, and we want to ensure you can find and be a part of all that draws you in. The bad news is our Weekly News has become a bit unwieldy, especially if you are accessing it on your phone.

Weekly News Update

Starting October 31st, you will see changes to make it truly be what its title suggests: the news of the week at a glance, with key details like the date, time, and location of upcoming events, activities, and news. Sometimes it will also include a special event down the road that needs even more notice.

The full details of each event will be just a click away on the appropriate page of our website. The website pages will also include historical and future information for the various Messiah teams.

This is a work in progress, and we would like your feedback as we make this transition. Please share any feedback with the office by sending an email to ourchurch@messiahchurch.com.

Thank you!

High School Ministry - Friendsgiving - November 30th

Faith, Food and Fun! We have launched a high school get together/bible study on the last Wednesday of each month. We call it Waffle Wednesdays as there will be waffles with toppings, sausage, and bacon along with an activity and faith discussion.



Please encourage your youth to join us..

**The next event is going to be on
Sunday, November 30th
for a Friendsgiving event at 6:30 PM.**

Please RSVP in order to have enough materials and food available.



Sunday School Sings & Christmas Program

Please join us on Sunday, December 7th following the 10:30 AM service for the annual Sunday School Christmas program!

Our littlest members will perform songs for the congregation and this will be followed by the Nativity Story featuring music by our Angel Choir.

Immediately after the program, cake and juice will be served in the Social Hall.

Women's Ministry

Divine Yoga Advent Series

We will meet in the Community Room on
Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 6:00 - 7:15 PM.

It is free to attend for all members of Messiah and their friends.
There is an optional free-will donation for The Beacon.



Women's Ministry Conversation Group

This women's group meets every third Thursday of the month from 10:30 AM - noon.

Next Meeting Dates: November 20th and December 18th in the Meeting Room.

This is an informal conversation opportunity. Sometimes we have a topic chosen ahead of time or an article or podcast to discuss, and sometimes we just open the floor to ideas. The group is open to all women of Messiah and their friends.

Contact Elizabeth at volunteer@messiahchurch.com for more information.

Men's Ministry

A group of about 19 men have been meeting and exploring several of the ELCA Book of Faith Series bible studies. The group is now exploring the book of Revelation.

Book of Revelation

**The Men's bible study continues Wednesday mornings
through November 19
at 7:00 AM**



Seventh Annual Virtual Pie Sale Is Underway

November is an incredibly special time of the year for Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) and for that matter, Messiah as a whole. Our Seventh Annual Virtual Pie Sale has started, and we need your help to add to its success.



Our primary recipient is Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB).

We will also send a donation to our brothers and sisters at Christ the Shepherd Church ELCA in Altadena, California. They went through that horrible fire earlier this year. We do not want to forget them just because the fire is out.

SHFB has suffered some serious cuts in federal funding, yet the need for food continues to grow. Yes, the food bank is where SAM volunteers every other Monday. SAM has a strong partnership with SHFB.

The food bank presently distributes to over three hundred food pantries in sixteen south central Wisconsin counties.

SAM made 200 homemade apple pies ten years ago and the proceeds went to SHFB. We did this for three years and then COVID-19 came calling. That is when we switched to virtual pies and the rest is history!

We encourage you to donate to the virtual pie sale, knowing that your gift will be multiplied **FOUR** times! I do not know of any other fundraiser that quadruples donations and feeds so many people. Please note...not one penny stays at the church—it all goes to SHFB and Christ the Shepherd Church ELCA.

Many of you may be making year-end donations to different organizations. Right now is the time to donate to virtual pies and have your gift quadrupled. A Messiah family first doubles your donation. Then that amount is doubled again by NBC15's corporate sponsors at the Share Your Holidays Grand Finale in early December.

So how do you "buy" a virtual pie? It is quite easy. You can go online to **messiahchurch.com** and click on "Giving." Then use the drop-down menu and select "Virtual Pies." You may also write a check to Messiah Lutheran Church and in the memo line, write "SAM Virtual Pies." Place your check in an envelope and mark the front of the envelope "SAM—Keith." Do NOT leave a pie envelope in the offering plate as your donation can easily get misdirected.

The last day of the virtual pie sale is Sunday, November 30th.

Thank you for making an impact on food insecurity in southern Wisconsin.

Social Justice Ministry - RIC Team

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Reconciling In Christ Team

Thank you to the 39 people who were part of the *Transforming Book Study*.

If you would like to be added to the group to receive information, please contact Elizabeth at volunteer@messiahchurch.com.



Social Justice Ministry - Green Team - Boomerang Bags



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 (last year and this year) 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
- 50 - Given to camp participants
- 24 - Given to St. Stephen's Food Pantry



They are now preparing 400 bags to be given out at Synod Assembly in May

5th Sunday Speaker - Human Trafficking Awareness Team

Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center speaker coming to Messiah November 22-23

Jennifer Ginsburg, Director of **Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center**, will speak at all the services on November 22 & 23, 2025. Jennifer will also have a chat session Sunday, November 23rd from 9:20AM -10:20AM in the Community Room.

The mission of Safe Harbor is to reduce trauma and promote healing for children and adults with intellectual disabilities who are victims of, or witnesses to, crime. Safe Harbor provides a trauma-informed, safe, child-friendly environment for best practice forensic interviews; immediate and ongoing advocacy for affected children and families; coordination and support of multi-disciplinary investigations and responses.



Any information you have to share about Human Trafficking Awareness issues to share with others can be emailed to Nancy Battist at battistnancy@gmail.com.

Triangle Community Ministry Monday Meals

The Monday lunches are on hold until further notice pending some updates in their community space.



Healing House Meals

We will provide a meal the week of December 14-20. Please contact Elizabeth if you are interested. volunteer@messiahchurch.com



Thanksgiving Foil Pans for the Goodman Center

You did it! During Lent, we ran a fundraiser to purchase the foil pans needed by The Goodman Center for their Thanksgiving Basket Drive. An order of ALL 4000 pans has been delivered to the Goodman Center. Thank you to all who made this possible.



Dignity Project



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Dignity at School collection. This enables us to continue to purchase between 80 and 100 panties every month to send along with the pads that have been completed. Thanks also go out for the panties that are donated by other individuals. These donations not only helps reach more girls but also replenishes pads and panties to the girls as theirs wear out. There is always a constant need for both items. Please keep us in mind when you're out shopping.

Thank you also to the participants of the Messiah Youth Mission Trip this summer who made pads during their free time at church. Every contribution to the cause helps.

All are welcome to join us at a our workshops. You don't need to sew to help Our next Workshop will be on November 8th from 9:30 to 11:30AM. Stop in and find out what we are doing. Come in door "C" on the lower level at church and a sign will point you in the right direction.

Contact June Nyhus at 608-516-4364 or jnyhus1@yahoo.com with any questions.

Community Outreach Christmas Collections

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YWCA Christmas Collection►



The Community Outreach Team is once again asking the congregation to provide Christmas gifts for the women who are permanent residents at the YWCA. There is no other group sponsoring them at Christmas and our help is needed.

There will be a poster on an easel in the Gathering Space around Thanksgiving with names and their wishes.

Messiah members should write their name next to each person they wish to buy for. Then bring the item UNWRAPPED to church by December 10th. Remember to attach the name and room number to the unwrapped gift. Thank you!

Bernie Hartwig – Project coordinator

Mittens & Glove Collection ONLY►

Please note the change from last year.

We will be collecting **ONLY child-sized waterproof gloves/mittens** for several Madison schools. We recognize these can cost more, but they are really what the children need to stay warm and dry.

We are **NOT** collecting scarves, hats or gloves in any other sizes.

If you would prefer, you could make a donation to "Mitten Collection" and we will shop or the gloves and mittens.



Donations for the Christmas Fund, pudding and mittens/gloves can be dropped off Tuesday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Friday from 8:00 AM to noon.

Collection bins are located in the Collection Area by the Community Room.

The Road Home Christmas Collection►

The Community Outreach Team will again collect money to provide gift cards to individuals through The Road Home.

Whether they choose a gift card to Walmart, Woodmans, Kohl's, etc., this may be one of the few gifts these individuals receive for the holidays.

You may donate online at "Giving" on our website ***messiahchurch.com*** or by check with Road Home Christmas in the memo line so it gets to the appropriate place. This collection will run through the month and end on November 30th.

Thank you for your continued generosity to The Road Home!

Pudding Collection►

We will be collecting **LARGE** boxes of **INSTANT** pudding (all flavors) to be included in the Christmas food boxes for the East Madison Community Center.



**Our goal this year is 200 boxes.
Please help us meet this goal!**

Triangle Ministry Christmas Collection►

As part of a collaborative Christmas gift drive, we will be collecting bath towels and washcloths which are lightweight and dark colors.

The Triangle Community Ministry provides support to low income adult residents in Madison, many of whom struggle to find full-time, life-supporting income due to various circumstances, including developmental disabilities.



St. Stephen's Food Pantry Wish List

**Clear 16.9 oz.
Soda Bottles**

*no water, green or Gatorade bottles
please be sure they are rinsed & dry.*

Ronald McDonald House

We collect pull tabs from all
types of aluminum cans.



Kennedy School Wish List ►

- Boots
- Smaller sized sweatpants sizes 5-8
- **Waterproof** mittens/gloves
- New, unopened packages of socks and underwear for boys and girls



**WE ONLY COLLECT CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
FOR KENNEDY SCHOOL**

No Adult sized clothes for any groups

Boomerang Bag Workshop

**Tuesday, November 18th
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON**

In the
Social Hall



Circles of Support Wish List ►

*(Just Dane's Circles of Support
provides a support system for
individuals leaving prison)*



Items needed include:

laundry detergent, laundry basket
shampoo/conditioner, soap, toilet paper
bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
toothpaste, deodorant, razors, shaving cream
dish soap, kitchen towels, dish cloths and scrubbers
facial tissues, paper towels, garbage bags
multi-surface spray cleaners
blankets (full or queen)

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet

**Monday, November 24th
1:00 PM**

**LOWER LEVEL
MEETING ROOM**



Dignity Project Workshop

**Saturday, November 8th
9:30-11:30 AM**

In the last Sunday School classroom
on the right

Last Dignity Shipment

462 pads - 90 panties

Project Total

17,148 pads - 3,544 panties



The Road Home Wish List►

- Cleaning supplies
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Laundry and dish detergent
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Gift cards for gas and groceries



We only accept unopened full-sized items.

No Adult sized clothes for any groups

Messiah

LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

5202 Cottage Grove Rd.
Madison WI 53716

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
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Permit No. 999

Streamed Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5:00 PM Evening Worship

Sundays

8:15 AM Worship Service

10:30 AM Worship Service

You can watch services
anytime from the "Recent
Sermons" on our website.

Office Hours

Monday- Office closed

Tuesday - Thursday

8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM-12:00 NOON

Altar Flowers



The Flower Chart is Back!

Last year we returned to the use of our flower chart. Please sign up for flowers on the flower chart for 2026.

The chart will be placed on an easel in the Gathering Space on November 1st for people to begin to sign up.

Cost of flowers is \$35.00 which can be paid by check or online

We will only have 2 bouquets each week.

Please put only your name on the chart.

The office will email/call those signed up the month prior to find out the bulletin message. You can contact the office at any time to let us know 608-222-3833
ourchurch@messiahchurch.com

Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will be meeting on



**Wednesday
November 12th
11:15AM - 1:15 PM**

at Mr. Queso

1609 Landmark Dr ste 120, Cottage Grove, WI

Sign up sheet is posted on the Kiosk in the Gathering Space.

Women of any age are invited.

Please be sure you are there by 11:30AM as orders will be taken at that time.

If you have any questions, please contact Claire Gensch at (920) 319-6731