

October  
2025

Volume 32  
Issue 10

## In this Issue

- Pr. Dan's Message
- New Members
- Treasurer's Report
- Hospital Visits
- Landfill Tour
- Kennedy School News
- Community Meals
- Lenten Devotional
- Visitation Ministry
- Children & Family Ministry
- Senior Adult Ministry
- Women's Ministry Retreat
- Women's Chat Group
- RIC Book Study
- Racial Justice
- Human Trafficking
- Community Outreach
- Dignity at School



As I write this, I am trying to place myself in the October Fall weather, but it is still lingering at 80 degrees! So, I'm reflecting on the summer we had together instead! I was reminded of a quote our outgoing Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, shared during our week at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Written in a letter from prison, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes:

**"The Church is the Church only when it exists for others... not dominating but helping and serving. It must tell people of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."**

This past month has been a very busy one. So many great events, including the new Messiah Motorcycle Club! But one event that has really stuck with me was when I was invited to bless the new home of Natasha Iverson as the renovations near completion. Seeing the site of such destruction, pain, and fear be transformed and reclaimed as a site of life, love, and safety was so powerful. And as Steve Lyons mentioned in church, I echo now: Thank you! Between Messiah, two other ELCA churches in Stoughton, other business, organizations, and churches, every penny raised has gone to this family as they reclaim their home, their lives, and their future. It has been a true example of the church existing for others. I am so proud of the love you all share every day. And to Steve and Kathy Lyons, for your leadership and dedication to supporting your neighbor in such a tremendous way, we thank you!

As we moved through the month of September, and I did what I could to 'hold down the fort' as you all keep putting it while Pastor Jeff is on Sabbatical, I want to say how grateful I am to all the leaders of Messiah who have continued to go above and beyond and truly exist for others. But it is really you all who are doing the work of living out Messiah's mission to help and serve others as the hands and feet of Christ. It is all the people who help set the altar, straighten the pews, restock the connect cards, who are showing up throughout the week and early on the week-ends to get everything just right, and it's all our staff who continue to blow me away with their wisdom and skill. Yeah, I get to lead worship, but it's you all who make this community what it is. It is you who live out our

*Pastor Dan's message continues on page 2*

**Office and Contact Information**

**PHONE** ..... 608-222-3833

**OFFICE EMAIL**  
..... ourchurch@messiahchurch.com

**OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE DROP BOX**  
..... outside the main front entrance

**WEBSITE** ..... messiahchurch.com

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday - Thursday .. 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Friday ..... 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**LEAD PASTOR** ..... Jeff Vanden Heuvel  
..... pastorjeff@messiahchurch.com

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR** ..... Dan O'Brien  
..... pastordan@messiahchurch.com

**BUSINESS MANAGER** ..... Tim Coulthart  
..... timc@messiahchurch.com

**EXECUTIVE MINISTRY ASSISTANT**  
..... Judy Armelin  
..... ourchurch@messiahchurch.com

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC** ..... Clyde Nyhus  
..... music@messiahchurch.com

**MINISTRY SUPPORT COORDINATOR**  
..... Elizabeth Crummy  
..... volunteer@messiahchurch.com

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** ..... Brittany Rusch  
..... CFM@messiahchurch.com

**YOUTH MINISTRY** ..... Teresa Palumbo  
..... youth@messiahchurch.com

**SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY**  
..... Keith Schlesinger  
..... SAM@messiahchurch.com

**FACILITIES MANAGERS** ..... Dan Battist  
..... Rich Valenta, John Nerad  
..... building@messiahchurch.com

**VISITATION TEAM** ..... Pastor Dan

**MEDIA & AV** ..... Clark Kellogg  
..... AV@messiahchurch.com

**VIDEO SPECIALIST** ..... Steve Cheramy  
..... video@messiahchurch.com

**JANITORIAL SERVICES** ..... Larry Kaltenberg

calling to live for Christ and to exist for others. And that is reflected in the pages to come. As you read through this month's column, you will notice there is a lot happening right now. Sunday School is in full swing, YOW has begun, and we began a High School group, 'Waffle Wednesdays!' SAM is back in session, and we are continuing our Adult Education program in a new and exciting way!

As more programs, events, book/Bible studies, and conversation groups have begun, we've noticed a clear hunger for learning and growing in our faith and theological discourse. And with our team already stretched in many directions, it was decided by the staff, the HR team, the council, and finally by you, the congregation, at last June's annual meeting, that Messiah's staff needs to grow to accommodate our growing program needs. How exciting! So, we developed a new adult education position to help lead some of these discussions, provide theological grounding as we discern what books to use for book studies, and listen to the Spirit for other ways to share and deepen the wisdom that surrounds us at Messiah. And the wait is over! Messiah is excited to welcome Pastor Renee Kiel as our new Adult Education Coordinator. Pr. Renee spent much of her ministry as a military chaplain, ending her time having earned the rank of full Colonel! She also holds a Doctor of Ministry and has taught at the college level. Having served in multiple countries, and in a variety of ways, Renee brings a wealth of wisdom and experience, knowledge and skill, and deep faith and love of Lutheran theology. We are so fortunate to have her step into this role, and we are so excited about the journey we get to embark on with her! Be sure to say hello to her when you see her. Join us for worship on October 11/12 to hear Renee share a message with us! As we wrap up our 'Spirit Weekend' where we were invited to wear our spirit (sports) gear, and visit with the many ministry teams, I want to continue our discernment of the question we asked each other: As we be the church, as we exist for others, where might the Holy Spirit be calling us this day? Let's discover that together. *Pastor Dan*

*Please Welcome  
New Members*

**Kathi Bennett &  
Debbie Whitman**

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



**Stewardship**  
*"Mission in Action"*

We are eight months into the budget year and the Pledged Revenue received to date is \$627,000, the budget for the same time period is \$535,600, so we are \$91,400 ahead of the budget. The excess can be attributed to the 55 families that have met their 2025 commitment and a large IRA distribution. General Fund expenses were \$519,100 compared to the budget of \$549,600, so we are \$30,500 under budget.

The Gundlach Family Fund supported 12 rental requests, \$4,200, with requests received from Hope Inspired and Journey Mental Health Center.

August was our second full month of the solar panels operating and we saw our bill go down by about \$750 compared to last year's August billing period.

*Tim Coulthart, Treasurer*

## If you or a Family Member are in the hospital...

Every morning, Judy calls the Madison hospitals to see if any of our Messiah family has been admitted. But recently we have missed a few of you, and Pastor Jeff and I want to apologize for this.

Sometimes the hospital care team forgets to ask if you are a part of a church community however, when they do, we are not notified.

To be as proactive as we can, Pastor Jeff and I ask that if you or your loved one is admitted to the hospital, please give the church a call, or you can call or text Pastor Jeff and myself directly.

If you let us know, we will come. Pastor Jeff and I are never too busy to come sit with you, pray with you, and laugh or cry with you; we want to see you. And always remember, you have a whole community of faith supporting you in your times of need.

With Christ's love, Pastor Dan



We had a very positive learning experience about trash and recycling in our community.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, nine Messiah folks took the tour at the Dane County Landfill, then on September 10th, thirty more people took the tour and that evening we had 38 people come for pizza and salad from Ian's pizza and learn about recycling.

Thank you to Jim Stolzenburg for suggesting this fun and informative opportunity.



## Kennedy - Our Adopt a School

Once teachers and students have had the opportunity to establish routines, Kennedy will be ready to welcome volunteers into the school in a variety of capacities such as helping in classrooms, working in the lunchroom, etc. You can be ready to volunteer by completing The Volunteer Training for the current school year at <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/partnerships/volunteering/volunteer-training>

Clothes for Kennedy, Message from Bridget, the social worker.

We are in desperate need of clothing for kiddos, both to stock our health office as well as to have clothing to send home to families in need. Items we are most in need of:

Underwear--Youth size XS-XL

Socks--Youth size XS-XL

Sweatpants--Youth size XS-XL

Leggings--Youth size XS-XL

T-Shirts--Youth size XS-XL

Sweatshirts--Youth size XS-XL



We will also take adult and little kid clothing as well as we have families reaching out for those sizes as well.



# Community Meals

The Column  
OCTOBER 2025 | page 5



Healing House - Thank you to the nine volunteers who prepared and delivered meals in September. Our next meal preparation is October 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.

Triangle Community Ministry-The next opportunity is October 13th and there is a sign up on the Kiosk. You can prepare food at Messiah around noon and/or set up, serve, eat with residents, clean up 4:00-6:30 PM, and/or prepare dessert ahead of time - lots of options to be involved!

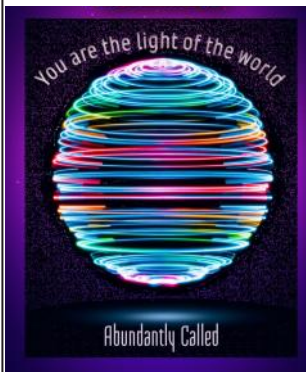


Contact Elizabeth to be involved in either of these community meal activities.  
**[volunteer@messiahchurch.com](mailto:volunteer@messiahchurch.com)** or call/text 608-235-6910 .

## Lenten Devotional Writers Needed

### We are looking for writers for the Lenten Devotional.

This year's theme is "Abundantly Called." Our country and communities are so richly blessed, allowing us to take much for granted - clean water, food, fuel for our cars, jobs, homes - the list is long and full. How do we view our abundance as a Call to Action?



Each entry will have a Bible verse and a focus word provide assistance in thinking about and writing your reflection. You may choose to focus your writing on one or both of these concepts.

Entries are due to Elizabeth on October 31<sup>st</sup> so we have time to edit them. We also need a headshot photo (Elizabeth can take one) and a 2-3 sentence bio about yourself.

Please contact Elizabeth **[volunteer@messiahchurch.com](mailto:volunteer@messiahchurch.com)** call/text her at 608-235-6910 to volunteer or to ask questions.

## Visitation Ministry Team "Thank You"

As we begin a new ministry year, we would like to say "thank you" to all Messiah members who are a part of the visitation ministry team. Members of the team are assigned a homebound member of the congregation to visit each month and to bring them the Word of God and holy communion. I bet if you asked them, they would tell you that they receive just as much from the visits as the person they are visiting. If you are interested in information about the team contact Pr. Dan.

**The next Visitation Team Sacred Circle will be held October 26<sup>th</sup>.**





## There is still time to sign up for Sunday School!

Children 3 years to 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for Sunday School! Our Sunday School curriculum teaches children more about many of the Bible stories they hear during services.

Throughout the years children can spend in Sunday School, we explore almost 80 different stories, from Genesis to Paul's letters, through read-alouds, discussions, hands-on activities, and creative play. We also do lessons related to the special seasons in the church such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Reach out to **[cfm@messiahchurch.com](mailto:cfm@messiahchurch.com)** to register.

**Trunk-or-Treat** - All families are welcome to join us for Trunk or Treat following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. More information below.

**Sunday School Sings!** -The Sunday School Children's choir will perform their new music on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the end of the early and the beginning of the late Sunday services.

## Trunk or Treat - Sunday October 26th

Trunk or Treat is Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> at/after the late service.

You can sign up on the kiosk to be part of our community-wide event,

Here is the full event. Choose what parts apply to you and your family:

- ♦ Sunday School meets at 9:15 AM and will have a special lesson on All Hallows' Eve and All Saint's Day,
- ♦ Those people who signed up to provide treats, provide a trunk in the lower level parking lot or to decorate a classroom in the education space, arrive whenever it makes sense in order to be ready on time. If you want to set up the night before, please contact Elizabeth.
- ♦ Over the past few years, we've seen a decrease in the number of people passing out candy and treats. Please know that you do NOT have to decorate a trunk or even wear a costume. Just bring a bag of treats and you're good to go!
- ♦ Attend the late service (in a costume if you like!) for a prayer and glow stick blessing/remembrance of those who have died.
- ♦ Join us for a pizza lunch at 11:30 AM (please sign up on kiosk so we order enough!), with trunk or treating to follow.



If you have questions or can't come in to sign up, please contact Elizabeth at **[volunteer@messiahchurch.com](mailto:volunteer@messiahchurch.com)** or call/text her at 608-235-6910.

## **Oklahoma! Tickets Are Still Available**

Yes, there are three tickets still available for our October 16th fall color tour to the Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson for the matinee performance of **Oklahoma!** Send an email to [\*\*SAM@messiahchurch.com\*\*](mailto:SAM@messiahchurch.com) if you are interested.

## **October 29<sup>th</sup> SAM Potluck Will Be Extra Special**

Bring your favorite dish to share at 12:00 PM as we gather for lunch and a very special program. SAM will provide plates, napkins, plasticware, coffee and water. In addition to your favorite dish, please also bring non-perishable food items for The Empty Table which benefits the Extended Hands Pantry. Please be generous with your donations since we have not met over summer and we need to help stock up the pantry shelves. The program focuses on SAM's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Virtual Pie Sale and why this year's sale will be all the more special. To help us kick off the sale, our speakers will be Barbara McKinney (Madison alder and most important, Mike's Mom) and Leigh Mills, NBC and Share Your Holidays Anchor. We will also have a speaker from Second Harvest Food Bank to talk about the needs of the food bank because of funding cuts.

## **SAM Fall Color Hikes**

### **Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>--CamRock County Park, 68 County Hwy B, Cambridge, WI**

This park is about twenty miles from Messiah and has a mixture of woods and prairie areas that should take us two hours to hike about two miles. There are benches enroute. Meet at the CamRock Park Area 2 parking lot at 10:00 AM. A shelter and restrooms are available at the parking lot. **Those who wish can stay and picnic if it is not too chilly.**

### **Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>--Owen Conservation Park, 6021 Old Sauk Road, Madison, WI**

This park on Madison's west side has both wooded and prairie trails. We will do a wooded loop (and maybe spot deer and turkeys) before we head down the hill onto a trail that encircles a large prairie. About two miles with some hilly areas, but we will take it slowly, and there are benches along the way. Meet in the parking lot at 10:00 AM.

**PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL HIKEs:** We ask you to notify us if you are coming, so in case of change or cancellation, we can let you know. Call or text Barb Herrod's cell (518) 567-6816 or email [\*\*bwhfam@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:bwhfam@gmail.com).

## **Limited Dates Open at Second Harvest Food Bank**

Have you been thinking about volunteering with SAM at Second Harvest Food Bank? Limited slots available include January 26<sup>th</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and May 18<sup>th</sup>. To check availability, send an email to [\*\*SAM@messiahchurch.com\*\*](mailto:SAM@messiahchurch.com). Be sure to indicate if you are willing to go on the wait list.

# Women's Ministry Retreat - October 11<sup>th</sup>

The Column  
OCTOBER 2025 | page 8



The Women's Retreat with Heather Rainwater will be held **from 8:30 AM - Noon. Breakfast at 8:30 AM- Retreat 9:00 AM-12:00 noon**

The retreat is an overview of wisdom literature touching on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job. We will briefly explore each book separately and then analyze how the books work together to give a full picture of God's wisdom. This study will help to explore why different parts of the Bible seem to contradict each other. It also opens discussions of the question "why do bad things happen to good people?"

Participants will engage in question asking as a method of interacting with scripture. We will also learn through videos, slides and interactive group activities.

Takeaways:

- Gain comfort with asking questions of scripture
- Discover what the Bible means by "wisdom"
- Explore scripture through Bible Project materials
- Practice holding different perspectives of truth presented by conflicting scripture passages

**There is no cost for this retreat, however, you are welcome to make a donation to offset our expenses.**

## Women's Ministry Chat Group - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

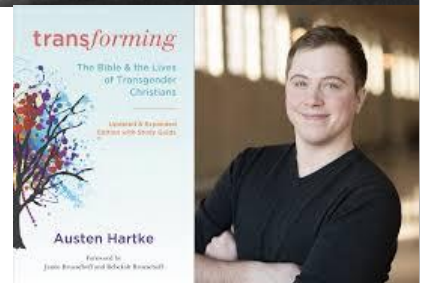
**Women's Ministry Chat Group** meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday - 10:30 AM - noon

"Women's Ministry Chat Group" is an informal conversation opportunity which organically emerged after the Loving Jesus Book Study this spring. Women were having such good conversations that they wanted to keep the connection going. The group is open to all women of Messiah and their friends. Contact Elizabeth for more information.

## Reconciling in Christ Team (RIC)

Thirty-three people participated in reading and discussing the book *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austen Hartke.

We had very informative conversations about how we can support transgender and gender expansive people in our church community, as well as recognize the gifts diversity brings to us all.





# Racial Justice Team - Journey to Justice Bus Tour

The Column  
OCTOBER 2025 | page 9

You're invited to a powerful community event, the **Journey to Justice Bus Tour** in Madison hosted by Unlock The Box - The National Campaign to End Solitary Confinement, MOSES and FREE.

**Sunday, October 12 - 12:00 –3:00 PM**  
**Madison Christian Community**  
**(7118 Old Sauk Road)**



The afternoon features a **panel discussion** including Rep. Ryan Clancy, Rep. Darrin Madison, survivors of solitary confinement, and faith leaders on the urgent need to end the use of solitary confinement in Wisconsin. There will also be a conversation led by FREE about the impact of solitary confinement on women.

Explore the **Journey to Justice Bus**, an immersive mobile museum connecting mass incarceration, solitary confinement, and other justice issues and get a chance to view a replica solitary confinement cell created by WISDOM's Talib Akbar.

Don't miss this chance to learn, connect, and take action.

**Register in advance today.** Together, we can build a more just Wisconsin.

## Human Trafficking Awareness Update - Safe Harbor Speaker

Jevon Diming, whom Messiah members support with funds for her counseling services, recently updated us. The Pierre Outreach Services Safe Home (POSSH) collaboration with families helped graduate seven young women experiencing challenges who are now registered for college in Madison and Green Bay. She has been working in Dane County schools and recently resubmitted her proposal to work in the Madison schools in particular. The social well-being lab is a success and POSH has been working on expanding by moving into its own space.

To share information about Human Trafficking Awareness issues contact Nancy Battist at ***battistnancy@gmail.com***



**On Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>,** Jennifer Ginsburg, Director of Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center, will speak at all the services. She will have a chat session between services 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; co-ordination and support of multi-disciplinary investigations and responses.



## Save the Date

The Fall Craft & Bake Sale will be held on **Saturday, November 1, 2025**  
**from 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

Lunch items will be available for sale by Messiah's YOW Group  
**from 11:00AM - 1:00PM**

## Kris Kringle Shoppe at the Fall Craft & Bake Sale

### Kids Shop for Family Gifts Each Under \$5

Kris Kringle is looking for handmade crafts, **NEW** small toys, games, books, puzzles, painted rocks, birdhouses, ornaments, cards, jewelry, craft & art supplies, socks, calendars, stress balls, coasters, etc. Paper gift bags are also needed. **Join the Fun!!!**

**Place your donations in the Kris Kringle Box in the Collection Area at Messiah.**



## Gift Baskets at the Fall Craft & Bake Sale

Cash and carry gift baskets were a big hit last year!

- Decide on a theme - some suggestions:  
date night, Mexican meal, Italian meal, coffee, chocolate, kid's activities, bakers supplies, pet, garden, kitchen, spa, store gift cards, etc.
- Sign up on sheet on the kiosk
- Value of the basket needs to be at least \$30
- Include a list of all items with the basket
- Wrap (use clear plastic wrap or get premade basket wrappers (at Dollar Store)
- Deliver to church between October 19 and 26 (we cannot take baskets before the 19th)
- Last year we sold 18 baskets x \$30 = \$540 our total was \$1080 with the Gundlach Family Fund match. **Let's see if we can sell more!**

## Bake Sale at the Craft & Bake Sale

Our Craft and Bake Sale is coming up soon. Last year, all of the goodies sold out by 1:00 PM. Please consider donating your favorite cookies, bars, treats, etc. so we don't run out early (many people come just for the Bake Sale !)  
Watch for further information and reminders about drop off times.

"Thank you" all for your support of the Craft and Bake Sale!

**All proceeds go to  
Babies & Beyond, Briarpatch, and Moving Out.**



## 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**

## Boomerang Bag Workshop

**Tuesday, October 21<sup>th</sup>  
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, October 27<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM**

**LOWER LEVEL  
MEETING ROOM**



## Dignity Project Workshop

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
9:30-11:30 AM**

In the last Sunday School classroom  
on the right

### Last Dignity Shipment

259 pads - 33 panties

### Project Total

16,656 pads - 3,454 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**



LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

5202 Cottage Grove Rd.  
Madison WI 53716

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Madison, Wisconsin  
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**

## Dignity at School Collection

The collection for the "Dignity at School" fundraiser totaled \$3,410.00.

The donations will be used to purchase clothing for local schools and fabrics, pins and underwear for the Dignity Project.

These donations will provide immediate assistance to children as well as making a long-term investment in their education.

Bernie Hartwig reported that the nurses from 11 different Madison Area Schools give Messiah a big "Shout Out" thanking Messiah for the underwear and other supplies they have received through your donations.



**Thank you  
Messiah!**



## Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will be meeting on



**Wednesday  
October 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:15AM**

**at Rodeside Grill**

6317 Rostad Circle Windsor, 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