

September
2025

Volume 32
Issue 9

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We have had just a whirlwind of a summer here at Messiah, and I am feeling so full (and exhausted) from all the fun, all the impact, and all the love I got to be a part of and witness! As you may have read in last month's column, we had nearly 30 youth participate in our mission trip around Madison. Walking alongside our young people as they grow, learn, and discover all of who they are is such a gift. And I am so grateful for Teresa and all the adult leaders who made this week possible.

The week after that trip, I flew to Phoenix, Arizona where I participated in our ELCA Churchwide Assembly, where members from all sixty-six synods in the United States come together every three years to vote on important matters of the church. Much of the focus is around memorials, social statements, edits to our ELCA constitution, but what gained the most excitement was the election of our new Presiding Bishop and Secretary of the ELCA. Being a part of the flow of the Spirit as all 803 members voted for whom they felt is the best fit for this role was an exciting, nerve-wracking, Spirit-filled experience. And its results? My former bishop from Chicago, Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the first person of color to serve this role. And Rev. "Cecee" Mills was elected as the first person of color to serve as the Secretary!

It may feel overdue, or strange to think it's as big deal as it is, but the ELCA is still considered one of the largest protestant churches in the United States, and its membership consists of predominately white Americans. For our church body to listen to the Spirit and elect these two phenomenal individuals to lead our church is proof that our church is becoming a more complete body of Christ. The tears of joy I saw on the faces of others as the results were shared is the reason we rejoice together. If you missed my adult forum on the details of the assembly, the PowerPoint of information is in the weekly news!

And if that wasn't enough, after landing at the Madison airport at 11:30 pm, I woke up the next morning and hit the road with six others as we traveled north... and then kept going! North of Lake Superior, and north of Grand Marais, Minnesota, at the end of the "Gunflint Trail". We boarded three canoes and paddled...and paddled...and paddled...nearly 40 miles of paddling, across 15 lakes, crossing 13 portages, sleeping at 4 campsites, and walking through 2 countries! And through the rain, sun, wind, and way too many bugs, we left renewed, connected, and changed.

Each person reflected on just how impactful the week was. How much they learned about themselves, how much they loved being disconnected from the internet, and how much more at peace they were with themselves. One of the

Pastor Dan's message continues on page 2

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MEDIA & AV.....Clark Kellogg
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high schoolers wrote, "It changed my relationship with social media. I don't feel as dependent on it...It also helped me realize that it's more important to follow my own ambitions and do what I want in life." This trip had a deep impact on each of us, and I am so grateful to all the people who helped make this trip possible!

And now, as the summer is ending, and many of us begin our school seasons, there is so much excitement in the air. I am cheering for you all as you discover and rediscover your habits and schedules for this season. As you do, I encourage you to think about how Messiah might fit into all of that by coming to our "Spirit Weekend" the last weekend of September, as we discern where the Spirit is leading us, while we showcase our spirit for our favorite sports teams!

But there's still one more thing on my mind...The office next to mine has gotten much quieter. September 1st Pastor Jeff began his two-month Sabbatical. For those who may not know, a Sabbatical is an extended "time away" for rest, renewal, and growth. Being a pastor is a unique vocation, and it is so rewarding, and so fulfilling. Being a part of your most joyous moments is such a gift; and being a part of your most difficult moments is such an honor, and we are both so grateful to be able to share these moments with you. But we are only able to do this if we take care of ourselves as well. Which is why we are encouraged to take times of sabbath throughout our years of ministry. To ensure we are finding rest, to help discover more of who we are now, and to help us discern where the Spirit is leading us into the years to come.

As Pastor Jeff embarks on these next two months, I ask two things. First, and this is mostly a reminder for myself, try to give him space. He will have his email notifications turned off, and he will relay any incoming messages to me. Him not responding isn't because he doesn't want to, or doesn't like us, but is an intentional break from ministry to live into the process of sabbatical and sabbath. Maybe we should send him to the boundary waters??

Second, pray for him. One thing Pastor Jeff and I talk about often when we return from vacation is just how much we miss being here and how much we end up praying for Messiah when we are away. So let us, for these next two months, hold Pastor Jeff in prayer, and support him in this way as a thank you for all the ways he has supported us for the past 24 years. (And Jeff, if you are reading this, put it down and go do something fun today!) *Pastor Dan*

*Please Welcome
New Members*

Karen Komprood

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

Holy Baptism

Calvin Joseph Zimmerman

Child of Derek and Jennifer

Porter Bradley Kosharek

Child of Kaytlyn and Paul

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

Nature and Inner Peace By Jim Yerman

*May we be blessed to acknowledge all the wonders in our life
that have, for us, thus far accrued...
and to begin each day with a word of thanks... and thoughts of gratitude.
Today I'm thankful for nature... may her wonders never cease...
for it is widely understood.... that...out in nature is where we can find our inner peace.*

This is one of the poems that Rich Valenta found for our trip to the Boundary Waters. I am not sure when he and the Island Camp group read it, but I shared this poem with the canoe trip group as we watched the sun set below the trees, listening to the water splash against the rocks below us.

How often do we forget about the world outside our routines and habits? And how much rest we find when we break from those patterns. Though reaching places like the Boundary Waters has become a memory of the past for many, discovering places even in our own homes can still be made possible. I pray, as we journey from Summer into Fall, each one of you can find moments of peace amid the chaos of our lives, and that we can each find thanks for every breath we are gifted.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

The next Sacred Circle is September 28th



Messiah Madison Mission Trip

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It was epic fun and meaningful service!



Our youth served locally for this year's Mission Trip, from July 21-July 23. There were many wonderful service opportunities planned including helping these organizations: The River Food Pantry, St. Mark's Food Pantry, The Boys and Girls Club, The United Way, Babies and Beyond, Madison Christian Community Garden, Habitat Restore, plus visits to several nursing homes.



Boundary Waters Trip

Seven (7) members of Messiah traveled north! North of Lake Superior, and north of Grand Marais, MN, at the end of the "Gunflint Trail". They paddled nearly 40 miles across 15 lakes, crossing 13 portages, sleeping at 4 campsites, and walking through 2 countries! Through rain, sun, wind, and too many bugs, we left renewed, connected, and changed.

Each person reflected on just how impactful the week was. How much they learned about themselves, how much they loved being disconnected from the internet, and how much more at peace they were with themselves.



Treasurer's Report

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We are seven months into the budget year and the Pledged Revenue received to date is \$570,800, the budget for the same time period is \$468,700, so we are \$102,100 ahead of the budget. The excess can be attributed to the 49 families that have met their 2025 commitment and a large IRA distribution. General Fund expenses were \$462,000 compared to the budget of \$492,500, so we are \$30,500 under budget.



The Gundlach Family Fund supported 7 rental requests, \$2,300, with requests received from Hope Inspired and the Dane County Crime Victim office.

July was the first full month of the solar panels operating and we saw that our bill went down by about \$950 compared to last year's July billing period.

Tim Coulthart, Treasurer

Community Meals

Triangle Community

"Thank you" to the 16 volunteers who served the Triangle Community Ministry meal on July 7th. The next opportunity is October 13th and there will be a signup 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 - there are many ways to be involved in this ministry!



HEALINGHOUSE
A JustDare Initiative

Healing House

"Thank you" for to the 9 volunteers who prepared and delivered meals in July. Our next week to serve is September 7-13. Sign up on the Kiosk to prepare a meal for 12 people and bring it to Messiah to be delivered.

Please contact Elizabeth at volunteer@messiahchurch.com or call/text 608-235-6910 .

Senior Choir Resumes - Come Join In the Song



Senior Choir resumes with our first rehearsal on Thursday, September 18th.

We meet at 7:30 PM in the Community Room. We provide music at the 8:15AM worship service two to three Sundays per month, from October through May. We also sing on Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday.

If you are interested in joining, have musical gifts you would like to share, or would like to hear about other music opportunities, contact Clyde Nyhus, Coordinator of Worship and Music, at (608) 516-4926 or music@messiahchurch.com.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed Registration Form Information!

Sunday School resumes September 28th and we are in need of teachers, assistants and substitutes to help educate our children about our faith. You do not have to be a certified teacher, lesson ideas and materials are provided. Working with our Sunday school youth is a great way to build connections across generations within our congregation!



Please email cfm@messiahchurch.com if you have questions or want more information.

Spirit Weekend - September 20 - 21



Where might the Spirit be calling you to serve?

Wear your favorite team attire, enjoy tailgate snacks and check out the different ministries at Messiah to find your niche. Ministry leaders will be available before and after the Saturday service and before, after, and between the Sunday services to answer questions and sign you up.

YOW Registration Information

Register Now for 2025-2026 Youth on Wednesday Nights (YOW)

YOW is the religious education and faith formation program for youth in grades 5-9 and encompasses both Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation.

Pre-Confirmation is a two-year program for students in 5th and 6th grades.
Confirmation is a three-year program for students in 7th-9th grades.

Building relationships and connecting with the youth is key to encouraging faith formation and exploration. We have had much success with a hybrid model of zoom lessons (Zoom invite info will be provided) along with in-person activity nights and community field trips. The times for online lessons are:

Preconfirmation 6:00-6:45 PM

Confirmation 7:00-8:00 PM

Preconfirmation lessons focus on Old and New Testament bible stories and important people of faith. Confirmation lessons focus on the Small Catechism and this year will center on The Apostles Creed, Lutheran history, Communion, and Baptism.

ALL YOUTH ARE WELCOME.

For more information, please contact Teresa youth@messiahchurch.com

To register, please use the QR code.



The SAM Fall Hike Season Is Here!

Tuesday, September 9th

Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 Co. Hwy. M, Middleton, WI

The lovely grounds here include woods, pond, and a prairie. With any luck there will be some color on the prairie. We will be on the trail for about 90 minutes to two hours. Meet in the parking lot at Holy Wisdom and we will head out at 10:00 AM. There are restrooms available to us in the main building.



Wednesday, September 17th - Governor Nelson State Park, 5140 Co. Hwy. M, Waunakee, WI

We will walk the Woodland Trail. There are a couple of short hilly spots on the trail but overall, it requires moderate exertion. Meet at the beach parking lot at 10:00 AM (it is the second turn off the main park road - if you miss that turn you will end up at the boat launch parking lot). There is a vehicle admission fee to the park.

Thursday, September 25th - UW Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Hwy, Madison, WI

This can be a very colorful walk of about 90 minutes through the woods. The west entrance to UW Arboretum is on Seminole Highway, just north of the Beltline (exit 258A). Meet in the big parking lot opposite the visitor center and we will depart from there at 10:00 AM.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL HIKE: 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's cell 518-567-6816 or email bwhfam@gmail.com.

Fiesta de Mexico Comes to SAM

Join your SAM friends on Wednesday, September 24, as we kick off the 2025-2026 SAM season by celebrating our neighbors to the south—Mexico!

We will start at noon in Social Hall with a catered Mexican lunch. Afterwards, we will all enjoy the music of Mariachi Corcel de Madison. There is no cost to attend, and you do not need to sign up in advance. Your "admission ticket" is non-perishable food items for The Empty Table which benefits the Extended Hands Pantry. Let's fill up The Empty Table and Dave's car!!



Women's Ministry Retreat - October 11

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

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.

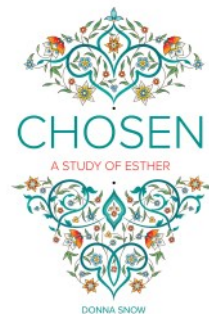
There is no cost for this retreat, however, you are welcome to make a donation to offset our expenses.

Women's Book Study - Chosen - A Study of Esther

**Wednesdays, September 10th-October 15th
4:00 - 5:30 PM in the Conference Room**

Esther is one of the most fascinating books of the Bible because in all of its words, God's name never appears, yet God is ever present, weaving the Divine plan through every part of Esther's narrative. Set at a lavish feast in the Persian Empire and following a beauty contest, you can see how God uses Esther to save an entire nation from annihilation.

We anticipate asking participants for \$10 a book, but we never want cost to be a barrier to attendance. Please pay what you can.



Men's Bible Study - From Beginning to End - Studies in Revelation

**The Men's bible study continues beginning September 10th, through October 15th
Wednesday mornings at 7:00 AM**



For many in the church, Revelation is a confusing book. Martin Luther himself thought the images in Revelation were incomprehensible and found the book's meaning unclear. It is a book that disturbs us and, especially given many popular interpretations, frightens us.

The bizarre, confusing images, however, have inspired poets and artists, musicians and movie-makers. They also offer us glimpses into who Jesus is and who we are called to be in response.

Come join us as we explore Revelation together!



Please join us Sundays, **September 14th through October 5th** for our RIC book study "*Transforming*" by *Austen Hartke*. We will meet in the Social Hall between the services from 9:25-10:25 AM.

Our facilitator will be Pam Shellberg, who holds a PhD in New Testament studies and who was our guest presenter at our book study in the spring.

Goodreads summary: Many people—even many LGBTQIA+ allies —still lack understanding of gender identity and the transgender experience.

Trans biblical scholar Austen Hartke brings a biblically based, educational, and affirming resource to shed light and wisdom on gender expansiveness and Christian theology.

The book offers updated terminology and statistics, weaving ancient and modern stories that will change the way readers think about gender, the Bible, and the faith to which Jesus calls us.

Human Trafficking Awareness Team - Safe Harbor Speaker

On Saturday, November 22nd and Sunday November 23rd, 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.

You may be asking yourself "What is Human Trafficking?"

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception in order to be exploited. In every region of the world, traffickers exploit vulnerable women, girls, men, and boys of all backgrounds for profit. Even without knowing, we might have come across its victims. Traffickers often use violence, blackmail, emotional manipulation, removal of official documents, fraudulent employment agencies, and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.

Human Trafficking takes place for many exploitative purposes:



38.8 %
Forced labour



38.7 %
Sexual exploitation



10.3 %
Mixed forms



10.2 %
Criminal activity



0.9 %
Forced marriages



0.7 %
Begging



0.3 %
Baby selling



0.2 %
Removal of organs



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 starting September 1st.



Gift Baskets at the Fall Craft & Bake Sale

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

Please consider donating a basket with at least a \$30 value.

Some popular themes: coffee; date night; movie night; garden; s'mores; kitchen tools; happy hour; store gift cards.

Sign up sheet will be posted September 13th.

Completed baskets will be due in church **no later than October 26th.**

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

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



Dignity Project Thank You and News



A big "thank you" to everyone who made a monetary donation to the "Dignity at School Fundraiser". At the time of this writing, the fundraiser is still going on with \$2,760.00 donated. We want you to know, in advance, how much we appreciate your support of this fundraiser.

In January of this year, we started buying underwear with the fall of 2024 "Undies Sundays" fundraiser money. In those six months 512 undies were sent while 103 were sent along from individual donations. Having the donated money definitely helped us do our part in providing the girls with dignity. **"Thank you!"**

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, September 16th
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, September 29th
1:00 PM**

**LOWER LEVEL
MEETING ROOM**



Dignity Project Workshop

**Saturday, September 13th
9:30-11:30 AM**

In the last Sunday School classroom
on the right

Last Dignity Shipment

388 pads - 100 panties

Project Total

16,397 pads - 3,421 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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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

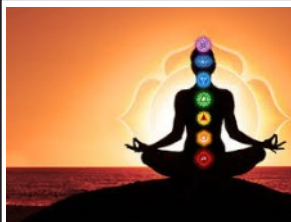
Monday- Office closed

Tuesday - Thursday

8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM-12:00 NOON

Divine Yoga Returns



Divine Yoga

meets in the
Community Room
6:00-7:15 PM

**Tuesdays: September 16, 23, 30,
and October 7**

All women of Messiah and their friends are
invited to attend.

The sessions are free.

There is an optional free-will donation to
the Beacon which will be matched by the
Gundlach fund.

Ladies Lunch Bunch



We will be meeting on

**Wednesday
September 10th
at 11:15AM**

at Olive Garden

4320 East Towne Blvd, Madison, 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