

July
2026

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Issue 7

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"Therefore, as God's Chosen ones, Holy and beloved, clothe yourself in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patients...And above all, clothe yourself with love, which binds all things together in perfect harmony." – Colossians 3:12-14

This is the theme verse for Sugar Creek, and many other ELCA camps this summer, holding to the theme: "Wear Love." What a powerful reminder as we enter the second half of our year. In all that we do, say, and encounter, we are called to wear love, "your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it," as they describe at camp. I write to you from the deck of my cabin, listening to the birds chirping, the wind blowing through the trees, and the kids laughing as they tend to the horses. Throughout the week I spent at camp, walking alongside our youth, I witnessed such great acts of love. From the warm welcome the campers received from the staff and volunteers to the warm embrace of campers at the end of the week, knowing the friend they made in such short time is driving in opposite directions.

And that's the challenging part of love, right? The greater love is, the greater the loss will feel. Though they might stay in touch and hopefully see each other next summer, there is still loss in the departure. You think it's only one week, how close can you get? But an entire week – 120 hours together – from waking up to falling to sleep is a lot of time! And throughout the week, I witnessed the youth supporting one another, lifting one another up, and one of the greatest things to see was them praying together.

Every Wednesday night, just over the halfway point, the camp intentionally slows them down and leads a prayer worship. We start with a couple of fun songs to get the jitters out, then move into a time of prayer. Every song sung is a prayer, and as musicians played, each counselor pulls their campers to the side, one by one, to pray with them. And after each camper returned, they would, unprompted and unexpectedly, turn and pray with the campers around them. And it is amazing the peace that washed over them after that night. The flow and harmony they had the remainder of the week was just amazing.

My first experience with Messiah Visitation Ministry was when my Mother-In-law was in assisted living. Doris Zache was the parishioner who visited members who were in care facilities or at home unable to attend services.

If you knew Doris, you knew someone who lived her faith everyday, She came with a smile, a treat and sometimes a small gift. She spent time listening and sharing God's word and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. She lifted spirits and filled us all with hope. A few years Later, Doris approached me and asked if I would like to accompany her. I jumped at the chance and cherished the time I spent with Doris, as well as the members we visited.

Recently, I have re-committed myself to Visitation Ministry and I can't think of a team more caring, talented and willing to help others, Meeting monthly to offer support, wisdom and provide a safe place to share. Thanks to our "Coach" Pastor Dan, we continue to grow in our faith and service to others.

In Memory of Doris Zache:

Psalm 86 verse 11

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name,

Louise Fosdick



Next Sacred Circle: July 26th between the services

If Louise's reflection has inspired you and you feel that you might be called to this important ministry, please contact Pastor Dan at pastordan@messiahchurch.com

Give Families a Lift

We are getting closer to purchasing the van!

As of June 15th, the total donated by Messiah folks is \$31,943.

Breaking News! Kennedy staff just learned of an additional grant opportunity. We will let you know how that turns out.

In the meantime, if you have pledged but not yet paid, please try to do so in the next few weeks. Remember, the goal is to purchase the van this summer!



Holy Baptism

Kate Joan Gundlach

Child of
Matt & Ann Gundlach

Isabelle Ann O'Leary
Beauden Joseph O'Leary

Children of
Robert & Rachel O'Leary

MESSIAH FAMILY CAMP!

BETHEL HORIZON CAMP

SEPTEMBER 11-13

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY	\$150/PERSON
SATURDAY TO SUNDAY	\$80/PERSON
SATURDAY ONLY	\$40

CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER ARE FREE!!



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT PR DAN AT
PASTORDAN@MESSIAHCHURCH.COM





We are five months into the budget year and the Pledged Revenue received to date is \$406,800, the budget for the same time period is \$356,100, so we are \$50,700 ahead of the budget. The excess can be attributed to the 44 families that have met their 2026 commitment. General Fund expenses were \$348,100 compared to the budget of \$365,100, so we are \$17,000 under budget.

The Gundlach Family Fund supported 10 rental requests, totaling \$3,493. The requests came from Hope Inspired and the Dane County Crime Victim office.

Our June MG&E bill was the lowest it has ever been thanks to the installation of the solar panels, the total bill was \$201.41. The value of our exported energy was \$711.02. In other solar panel news, we received a letter from the IRS that our application for the Direct Pay Solar Tax Credit was approved and we should be receiving \$29,400 shortly.

Tim Coulthart, Treasurer

Adult Ministry Updates

Men's Breakfast - Will meet at Denny's in Monona, Thursdays through the summer.

Morning Bible Study - Will take a break for the summer and resume Wednesday, September 9th.

Women's Book Study - will resume Thursday, October 1st, more information to follow.

Women's Conversations - will meet in June, July and August, the third Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM. All women are welcome to join this time of fellowship and informal conversation as we seek to integrate our faith with our daily life.

Adult Education on Sunday - will resume in September.

Mountain of Food Collection

Thank you for supporting the Mountain of Food Collection.



The final amount that Messiah has collected for St. Stephen's and St. Mark's Food Pantries is **\$19,297.00**.

This total was matched by the Gundlach Family Fund and both St. Stephen's Food Pantry and St. Mark's Food Pantry have received checks totaling \$19,297.00.

"Thank you" Dee Schwoegler for delivering the checks to the food pantries.



Summer Mini Mission

Learn

Serve

Play

Summer Mini Mission Opportunity for children July 13 and 14 - 8:00 - 12:00 noon

The Mission takes place here at Messiah on Monday, July 13th and Tuesday, July 14th from 8:00 AM until 12:00 noon.

Children will have a hot breakfast prepared for them and should bring a sack lunch to eat later in the day. This opportunity is open to all children currently ages 4 years through 4th grade. We hope you can join us!

Bread Breakers – An Adult Fellowship Opportunity for folks over 18

Barb and Walt Herrod are the organizers of the Bread Breakers Adult Fellowship Group.

Here is how it works!

Assigned groups may contain 5 -8 people. You'll each host the other group members in your home for a meal at least once, roughly between fall through early summer. The host provides the main dish and beverages and asks others to provide items to round out the meal. The style of the meal is absolutely your choice when you host – brunch or dinner, cook-out/fancy/casual, on a weekend or weekday.

New for 2026-27: If enough people are interested, we'll create "Snowbird Bread Breakers" groups for those who spend a significant portion of the winter away from Wisconsin. We'll assign your special group in September, and you can decide together when you'll start meeting. We'd suggest getting together at least once before the holidays, and resuming when you all return in the spring. The option to be in "Snowbird Bread Breakers" is on the enrollment form.

Enrollment forms are on the Kiosk now. Fill out and return to the specially marked box in the church office by Labor Day. Include your name and the name of any person who will or may regularly accompany you. We'll email your group assignment in mid-September.



If you want the enrollment form sent to you electronically, Barb & Walt will send it to you. Their email is bwhfam@gmail.com



Kids from Wisconsin Salutes America's Birthday -Sold Out

Join SAM on July 10th as the Kids from Wisconsin celebrate America's 250th birthday. It all starts with a 5:00 PM group dinner at the VFW on Cottage Grove Road in Madison. Then pre-show starts at 7:00 PM at the Monona Grove High School Performing Arts Center. The Kids from Wisconsin take the stage at 7:30 PM.

SAM Summer Tour Heads to Horicon Marsh - Tickets Sold Out

The tour date is Wednesday, July 15th. Enjoy a narrated, one-hour, educational boat tour of the Horicon Marsh, tour the visitor center and the unique gift shop with awesome honey, eat lunch in the auditorium, and then stop on the way home for a scoop of ice cream. The tour cost is just \$73.00 and includes everything listed above plus transportation and all taxes and gratuities.



"Producing" for the St. Stephens Food Pantry

The SAM vegetable plots at St. Stephens Food Pantry in Monona are starting to yield produce for the pantry. But your help is needed too. Yes, last month's Mountain of Food campaign yield was fantastic. When you are out at your local farmers market, please consider picking up another couple of pounds of green beans or a box of cucumbers or a few pounds of tomatoes and bring them to the St. Stephens Food Pantry which is part of St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona, Wis. The pantry is located in the back of the church and is open for donations Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to noon. There is no produce collection at Messiah.



Sunday School Volunteers Needed



Sunday School resumes September 20th 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 to be a successful Sunday School 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! If you are interested please email Brittany Rusch at cfm@messiahchurch.com.

Sharing food is a timeless tradition of friendship, support and community. We have a great committee working hard to collect, organize, and create this special keepsake of favorite recipes from Messiah members and friends.

Please send your recipes to Shirley Klinkner, Committee Chair:

Shirley.messiahcookbook@yahoo.com

Include the recipe name, your name and the recipe category:

Appetizers & Beverages	Soups & Salads	Vegetables & Side Dishes
Main Dishes	Breads & Rolls	Desserts
Cookies & Candies	This & That	

"Recipes for Two" are welcome and will be included in the appropriate category.

You may also include a brief note with the recipe, 12-14 words.

Example: *These cookies are a favorite of my children and vanish within two days.* Please do not include brand names in the recipe name. Example: *Hershey's Best Chocolate Chip Cookie.* **All recipes are due by July 31st.**

How to submit a recipe:

- Email to Shirley: **Shirley.messiahcookbook@yahoo.com**
- Recipe sheets will be available at church for you to handwrite your recipe
- Take a photo of your recipe and email it to Shirley

Cookbooks will be available for purchase beginning November 7th at the annual Craft & Bake Sale. "Thank you" for helping make this community collection a joy to give and to receive!



Community Meals at Healing House & Triangle Community Ministry

"Thank you" to those who prepared dinners for Healing House in June. We serve another week in July and one in August. Check the Kiosk to sign up.

We serve a meal at Triangle Community on Monday July 6.th Please let Elizabeth know if you are interested in helping.

You can: prepare food at Messiah around noon and/or set up, serve, eat with residents, clean up 4:00 PM-6:30 PM, and/or prepare dessert ahead of time - lots of options to be involved!

To get involved with our Community Meal Ministry, sign up on the Kiosk or contact Elizabeth at **volunteer@messiahchurch.com** or call/text 608-235-6910.



Love, Laughter, Libations moves to using glass cups.

We are now using glass cups for Love, Laughter and Libations instead of plastic. "Thank you" to the LLL and the communion cup washing teams for making this possible!



Help Keep Our Prairie Well Rooted

We are looking for volunteers to help keep our prairie rooted well. Please sign up for a week during the summer to come and weed the prairie hill.

If you are interested, sign up on the Kiosk and Pastor Dan will email you to find your summer availability and assign you a week. We will provide some images of what to pull and what not to pull. **This will require you to be on the ground on a hill.**

Social Justice Ministry - Human Trafficking Awareness Team



During their mission trip in July, the YOW students will be packing therapeutic art bags for Safe Harbor.

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. They support 400 youth and their families from 13 counties in Wisconsin.

Social Justice Ministry - Racial Justice Team

Juneteenth Parade and Celebration was held on June 21st

Messiah members participated with St. Paul AME Church and Moses in the Twenty-Fourth Annual Historic Juneteenth Freedom Parade & Celebration on June 21st from the Madison Labor Temple grounds to Penn Park.

What is Juneteenth? Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The name comes from combining the words "June" and "nineteenth." It was originally celebrated in Texas on June 19, 1866, marking the first anniversary of the day that Black people there first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, more than two years after it was initially issued.



Community Outreach Collection Schedule

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Please visit the Community Outreach team's page on Messiah's website for a list of ongoing collections that we have for The Road Home, Circles of Support, and St. Stephen's Food Pantry.

Hard copies of these collection items are available in the Collection Area at Messiah, between the Gathering Space and the Community Room.

Community Outreach Team Collections for 2026

April - Give Families a Lift Special Collection 2026

May - Mountain of Food

June / July - Backpacks for Schools

August -

September - Dignity at School

October/November - Virtual Pies for "Share Your Holidays" (Second Harvest Food Bank)

November - Craft/Bake Sale

November/December - Christmas Collections for: The Road Home, YWCA, Triangle Ministry, East Side Community/Truax, & Madison Area Jail Ministry

Dignity at School Fundraiser

Community Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a fundraiser during the month of September to help two long-term projects focused on dignity for students.

One project, headed by Bernie Hartwig, involves 11 local elementary schools and one middle school. Bernie scours garage sales and thrift stores for gently used sweatpants and other clothing items. She also launders the clothes to get them ready for distribution by the social workers or nurses. New underwear is also provided for students in need.

The second part of this fundraiser is the Dignity Project, led by June Nyhus. In addition to making the pads, the Dignity Project also sends new underwear and safety pins with the pads, so the girls have what they need. Money collected will be used to supplement fabrics, pins and underwear when donations do not cover the group's needs. Both of these projects produce immediate assistance to children.

Boomerang Bag Workshop

Tuesday, July 21st
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

In the
Social Hall



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet

Monday, July 27th
1:00 PM



**LOWER LEVEL
MEETING
ROOM**

Dignity Project Workshop

Saturday, July 11th
9:30-11:30 AM

In the last Sunday
School classroom
on the right.



Dignity Project

May mailing

278 pads - 76 panties

2026 Totals

2002 pads - 470 panties

During the month of July, we will collect school supplies for nine area schools and organizations which support families.

This year, we are using a signup poster to make it a little easier to collect exactly what we need to fill over 200 backpacks.



Please visit the signup in the Gathering Space, or contact Elizabeth to make a donation. Her email is volunteer@messiahchurc.com. Monetary donations can be dropped off in the office, in the offering plate or paid using the giving tab on the website through Realm.

"Thank you" in advance for your generosity! This is always a well-funded collection.

The best way to reach our coordinator Pam Aldrich is to call or text her at 608-695-7934 or email her at p-taldrich@sbcglobal.net

Social Justice Ministry - RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Team

Below are some RIC related events to put on your calendar for the near future:

"1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture" - July 14th - 5:00 - 7:00 PM

On July 14th, we will have dinner and watch "1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture," a documentary about how the word "homosexual" was inserted into the Bible and how we've addressed it since. Please sign up on the Kiosk or contact Elizabeth at volunteer@messiahchurch.com so we can have enough food.

Madison Outreach Magic Pride Festival – August 16th 1:00 - 6:00 PM

Messiah's RIC Team is inviting you to join us at the Madison Outreach Magic Pride Festival. This is a family friendly event to celebrate our LGBTQIA+ siblings and to be a presence of love in the community. Keep an eye out for a sign-up to volunteer at our table.

Guest Speaker: Mikah Meyers – August 15th & 16th.

Messiah's RIC team is excited to welcome National Parks Expert Mikah Meyer, a classically trained singer and award-winning filmmaker. Raised as a Lutheran pastor's kid in Nebraska, Mikah is passionate about exploring the outdoors and helping people of divergent backgrounds find joy and common ground through their shared love of nature. This advocacy is seen in his short film *Canyon Chorus*.

Mikah is the creator of the Outside Safe Space symbol (seen here) which is sold at park gift shops and recreation stores including REI, and is currently being worn by over 100,000 people in the United States as a non-verbal signifier of LGBTQ+ allies in outdoor, rural, and active spaces.



Messiah

LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

5202 Cottage Grove Road
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

Altar Flowers

If you sponsored flowers for the altar and you have the vase at home and are not going to use it, please return it to Messiah.

When we order the flowers for church, we bring the vase to the florist to have the flowers put in it. This saves us money and you get more flowers for your money.

Please DO NOT return all types of vases to the church, only ones that look like this and are 8 inches in height.



Ladies Lunch Bunch



**Wednesday,
July 8th at
11:30 AM**

El Gallo

6309 Monona Drive Monona, WI

Please sign up on the Kiosk.

**Please be there by 11:15 AM
Orders will be taken at 11:30 AM**

For questions call Claire at 920-319-6731
or Mary at 262-716-4600.

**The Ladies Lunch Bunch June Gathering
donated \$60.00 for Messiah's RIC
mission.**