

June

2026

Volume 33

Issue 6

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One day, a young father was shopping in a crowded supermarket. His three-year old son was with him. The little boy was riding in the grocery cart and he was misbehaving terribly and causing all kinds of problems.

Every time the father would put something into the cart, the little boy would grab it and throw it back out. If the cart went close to the shelves, the three-year old boy would just rake stuff off onto the floor. At one point, the little boy crawled out of the cart and ran down the aisle knocking over every display he could get his hands on, with his father in hot pursuit.

People who were in the store at the time could hear the father saying out loud over and over: Just be patient, Tommy. It won't be much longer, Tommy. It'll be O.K., Tommy. Be calm, Tommy. Hang in there, Tommy.

Finally, a distinguished looking woman came up to the man and she said: I just want to compliment you. I've been watching you and I want you to know that I admire you and the remarkable patience you have with little Tommy. O, but Lady, the man said. You don't understand. His name is Michael. I'm Tommy!

It's a cute story but one with a remarkable point – if there is ever to be change in others, we must concentrate on change within ourselves first. It is what I refer to as the first principle of the gospel challenge – Jesus was always, always preaching the need for metanoia – a Greek word that simply means to turn around in the other direction. Jesus meant that each person needed to turn around and not wait for others. Metanoia was a personal event, and metanoia was a decision that each person had to make, and mostly metanoia had to begin with the one standing before Jesus. That's why Jesus spoke about not speaking of the splinter in your neighbor's eye until you removed the plank from your own; why he reprimanded the Pharisees for their attitudes of judgment; why he made personal demands like come and follow me – and stand up and live – and go and sin no more. For Jesus, it always began with the individual. In short, metanoia starts with me!

During the month of May, our church held a prayer vigil to celebrate The National Day Of Prayer. Sitting quietly in our sanctuary, I reflected on how prayer impacts our lives. How many times have you heard someone offer to “pray for you”, or say they would “keep you in their prayers”?

This brings to mind my 97 year old father-in-law. He begins every day, upon waking, by praying for all 10 of his children and their families, his nieces and nephews and friends, calling each one by their name. What a powerful act of love and compassion.

Prayers From A Stranger

In December of 2024, while we were at a local restaurant, a woman came to our table and asked if she could pray with us. She was part of a group that had travelled to Madison to support and pray for those involved with the Abundant Life tragedy. Our granddaughter, Kaylee, spoke up and recited her favorite bible verse (one that had been given to her at her confirmation). Isaiah 41:10 *“So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”*. The woman remarked that this was her husband’s favorite verse. He was so moved that he came to our table and gave Kaylee his bracelet, which had Isaiah 41:10 inscribed on it. Kayle still wears the bracelet today.

Visitation ministers are called to bring fellowship, support, and prayer to those who cannot attend our services in person. Communing and praying with them in the name of Christ, is a powerful way to share God’s presence.

This is a prayer we sang in Sunday School at Messiah Church in the 1990s

If we all said a prayer for each other every day,
What a wonderful world it would be,
I would ask God to bless you and keep you every day
knowing you’d say the same prayer for me

Written by Denise Cheramy

Denise has been a visiting members of Messiah for about 25 years.

Next Sacred Circle: June 28th between the services

If Denise’s reflection has inspired you and you feel that you might be called to this important ministry, please contact Pr. Dan by emailing pastordan@messiahchurch.com



Please Welcome New Members

**Joseph Green
Jennifer Savoy**

and their child Phoenix

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

Holy Baptism

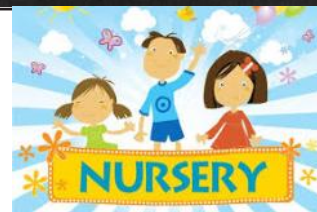
Aleksi Antonio Mejia

Child of
Jessica and Fernando
Mejia

Summer Nursery Information and Hours

Starting Memorial Day and ending Labor Day weekends, the nursery will be staffed only at the 10:30 AM Sunday service, from 10:15 - 11:35 AM.

All people are welcome at Messiah, children, too!
Your child is welcome in the Sanctuary even if they are talking, singing, crying and wiggling! But if you feel like you or your child would benefit from an alternate space or other activities, here are some ideas:



- ◆ The nursery space will be open all morning, so you can go there with your children if you would like a space for them to play while you can watch the livestream on the TV. Please wash any toys that become soiled - there are wipes in the cabinet.
- ◆ Consider trying out the activity bags which are located in the Gathering Space across from the water fountains. These can be brought into the Sanctuary and children can use them during the service.
- ◆ The Gathering Space is available if you or your child would like to be able to move around more.

Blood Drive Thank you!

Our 2nd Blood Drive of 2026 was held on May 6th. We collected 32 units of whole blood. Thank you to those who donated blood and those who volunteered.



We are three months into the budget year and the Pledged Revenue received to date is \$270,600, the budget for the same time period is \$213,600, so we are \$57,000 ahead of the budget. We have 38 families that have completed their pledge for 2026. The general fund expenses were \$198,500 compared to the budget of \$219,100, so we are only \$20,600 under budget.

The Goodman Center Thanksgiving foil pan collection total is \$7,471.00 as of April 13th. We have not ordered the pans yet because the cost is rather high at this time. The Gundlach Family Fund assisted 7 families with rent in March; total assistance was \$2,100.

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 1, 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.

Weekend Ministry Volunteers

Volunteering at the services – the most flexible opportunity ever!

We are looking to add people to the serving teams at the weekend services. Many positions are ones that couples and families can do together. Serving time is usually just a few minutes before, during or after a service. We welcome you in any capacity that interests you.

Many hands make light work, but here are the positions that we are especially looking to fill:

- ◆ Altar Ministers at the early service and the weekend setup on Saturday at any time that works for you.
- ◆ Communion Ministers at all the services as well as people to rotate the communion racks at the late service.
- ◆ Ushers at the early and late services.

Contact Elizabeth, 608-235-6910 or volunteer@messiahchurch.com for more details.



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. Students 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!

First Communion

Messiah celebrated the first communion of 15 children at the 10:30 AM service on April 26, 2026.

The children who received their First Communion are:
Sam Robert Becker, Makenzie M. Feiner, Cotter Martin, Haylee Mathews, Sydney Mae McBeth, Abigail Jacquelynn Montague, Dylan Theodore Montague, Iris Elisabeth Ogren, Eleanor Jane Rusch, Samantha Joy Samerson, Anna Elizabeth Stepien, Marit Elizabeth Schweitz, Virginia Mae Teschendorf, Nora Ann Thompson, and Amera Lou Kiana Wagner.



Confirmation

We celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism/ Confirmation of Fourteen young people at the 5:00 PM service on May 9, 2026.

Congratulation to the following:
Karah Bentler, Mia Blum, Avery Brown, Kaili Deutscher, Dean Gingher, Raleigh Herfel, Sophia Hollar, Luke Kirschner, Claire Miller, Liliana Randl, Max Reno, Brecken Stiller, Zane Voelker, Zoe Weber



Last SAM Hike for the Spring Season

Thank you, Barb and Walt Herrod, for a great spring season of SAM hikes! We appreciate all the work you both put into the hikes. Plan to join your fellow SAMies for the spring finale. Be sure to sign up by texting Barb Herrod (518) 567-6816 or email bwhfam@gmail.com. Leave your phone number, so you can be notified of last-minute changes or cancellations.

Monday, June 8th – Hike and Picnic! CamRock County Park,

68 County Hwy. B, Cambridge, WI 53523 This park has a mix of woods and prairie areas that should take us about two hours to hike about two miles. Here and there along the trail are benches to take a break. Drive on your own to the park, which is about twenty miles from Messiah. Meet at the CamRock Park Area 2 parking lot at 10:00 AM. There is a shelter and bathroom by the parking lot. Pack food, leave it in your car, and enjoy lunch together after our hike. Directions: Drive to Cambridge on Rt. 12/18. Once in town, turn right onto County B. Go about a mile and see the entrance to Area 1 on the right. Do not turn here! Go almost another mile and turn in when you see the sign for Area 2 on your right. Follow the road to a large parking lot. You will see a playground and large picnic shelter on the left side of the parking area. Check out the map here: <https://goo.gl/maps/Wee982g8TLHL2faR8>



SAM Volunteers Are Needed At BCCN Picnic



The Badger Child Cancer Network picnic is set for Saturday, June 20th. The event will again be held at Little Amerricka in Marshall, WI. Last year was our first year assisting BCCN staff with this special event. SAMies registered folks, ran indoor games, served food, and made sure every BCCN family knew how special they were! Our mission was to make their day special and we succeeded. Oh yes, we got to ride the train! If you have not been to Little Amerricka, this is a great event to volunteer at as the amusement park will take you back to your childhood days. We do not yet have details on our responsibilities but now is the time to sign up to volunteer. Send an email to SAM@messiahchurch.com to volunteer.

SAM Summer Tour Sales - Everglades Tour at Horicon Marsh

Mark your calendar for June 6, 2026, at 4:00 PM. That is the date and time when SAM's Everglades Tour—Wisconsin Style goes on sale in the church office. The tour date is Wednesday, July 15th. Enjoy a narrated, one-hour, educational marsh tour, tour the visitor center and the awesome 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. Now is the time to call a friend and save the date. Preference is given to people in line at 4:00 PM on Saturday, June 6th.



Messiah Cookbook is Underway!!

The Column
JUNE 2026 | page 8

Our committee of 10 will meet in June as we continue to work on this project. We look forward to showcasing your favorite recipes in this special collection. Food is central to hospitality and so many traditions. As we share these recipes, our community can connect in new ways.

Beginning June 1st, submit your recipes to Shirley Klinkner, Committee Chair
Shirley.messiahcookbook@yahoo.com

Please 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 provided meals for Healing House April 26th - May 2nd.

Our next weeks to serve are June 7th-13th, July 19th-25th and August 30th-September 5th.

Our next dates for preparing/serving meals for Triangle Community Ministry are: July 6, 2026 and October 5, 2026.

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

Jevon Diming with Pierre Outreach Services Safe House (POSSH) has been awarded a state Violence Prevention Grant enabling her to step forward in securing a permanent space for a Wellness Lab for Women and Girls. They will be able to walk in and receive care without barriers. This space will offer curated healing modalities, culturally responsive support, and resources tailored to the personal and family needs of each woman and girl served, where healing can happen daily, not just in moments of crisis. It is to provide a space where women and girls know they belong, where they can rebuild, restore, and reimagine their lives. POSSH is actively pursuing additional grant opportunities and partnerships to sustain and expand this vision, ensuring services remain accessible to those who have historically lacked support.

Staff from Briarpatch Youth Services will speak at the services on June 27th-28th. Briarpatch offers a broad array of services to strengthen the lives of families and their youth who have run away, are experiencing homelessness, and/or facing other challenges. Each year, they serve approximately 2,000 youth. Although their mission is not explicitly to serve victims of human trafficking, building stronger family and community connections is a preventative measure to help keep youth from being exploited.

Safe Harbor has asked us to create therapeutic art bags for children and teens.

If you are reading this online ***Here is a flyer showing what goes into each bag.***

Our goal is to create 20-30 of each kind of bag. Many of the items can only be purchased in bulk and would require a bit of running around.

Therefore, we feel the best way to accomplish our goal is to collect donations and have one or two people do the shopping. We estimate the cost will be around \$400. The YOW students will decorate the bags and pack the items during their mission trip in July.



Community Outreach Collection Schedule

Please visit the Community Outreach team's webpage 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

May - Mountain of Food

June -

July - Backpacks for Schools

August - Dignity at School

September -

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

Boomerang Bag Workshop

Tuesday, June 16th
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

In the
Social Hall



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet

Monday, June 15th
1:00 PM



**LOWER LEVEL
MEETING
ROOM**

Dignity Project Workshop

Saturday, June 13th
9:30-11:30 AM

In the last Sunday
School classroom
on the right.



Community Outreach Information

Adopt a School Donation Deliveries

In May, deliveries of donations were made to Elvehjem Elementary School, Kennedy Elementary School, The Road Home and Circles of Support.

Give Families a Lift Campaign

As of May 26th the Give Families a Lift campaign has collected \$26,611.00 and we have more money pledged.

We are making progress on the fabric bus shown to the right.



Dignity Project

April mailing

291 pads - 98 panties

2026 Totals

1,724 pads - 394 panties

The annual Backpack Collection will be held in July. We will be collecting backpacks and school supplies for 6 local schools and 3 local organizations. Stay tuned for details! This year we are going to post a donation signup in the Gathering Space. Monetary donations will also be appreciated. If you see any sales between now and June on school supplies, including backpacks, notebooks, markers, crayons, folders, etc. feel free to pick them up and save them for the collection!

Mountain of Food Collection

Thank you for supporting the Mountain of Food collection.

As of this printing Messiah has collected **\$17,957.00** for St. Stephen's and St. Mark's Food Pantries which will be matched by the Gundlach Family Fund.

Social Justice Ministry - RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Team

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

Sun Prairie Pride Festival, June 27th - Tracy Frank

You are invited to join members of Messiah at the Sun Prairie Pride Fest! Reach out to Pastor Dan or Tracy Frank for more info! Tracy - jtracyfrank@me.com

"1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture" Watch Party! - July

We are planning to host a second watch party in July! We will keep you posted for more specifics in the coming weeks.

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 at the end of June to volunteer at our table!

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

That same weekend, Messiah's RIC team is excited to welcome National Parks Expert, Mikah Meyer, a classically trained singer, award-winning filmmaker. Raised as a Lutheran preacher's kid in the flat state of Nebraska (Larry Meyer, U-of-Nebraska Lincoln 1989-2005), 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 through 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 nationwide, 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



Women's Self-Defense class opportunity being offered HERE at Messiah!

Saturday, June 27, 2026 starting at 9:00AM

Instructors: Brad and Sue Meng. Brad has 40+ years of Martial Arts experience, 25 years of Law Enforcement experience and has been teaching this course, with Sue's assistance, for almost 20 years.

Please see the Kiosk in the Gathering Space for a flyer and contact Sue at smeng100@hotmail.com with questions and for registration.

Ladies Lunch Bunch



**Wednesday,
June 10th at 11:30 AM**

Rodeside Grill

6317 Rostad Circle Windsor, 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 May Gathering
collected \$165.00 for Mountain of Food.**