

May
2026

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Issue 5

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It's hard to believe May is already here. We have moved so fast, done and saw so much happening at church, in our neighborhood, and throughout the world just this year and it's difficult to keep all of it straight. So, I would like to slow down, invite you to take a deep breath...and join me reflecting on what we are thankful for this month.

I want to say a "special thank you" to everyone who played a part in our Holy Week services. Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for your message on Palm Sunday setting the tone for a meaningful week together. Thank you to the volunteers who, on Maundy Thursday, stood in honor of the people often pushed to the margins of society. Thank you to Pastor Renee for your Good Friday Message, bringing Jesus' story into the lives of those around us, including your own. Thank you to Brynn and her grandma Jean Boehnen for arranging all our flowers and sanctuary for Easter. And a big thank you to Kathy Lukens and the Altar Ministry, and Elizabeth Crummy and *all* our amazing leaders at all the services; none of it would have happened without them! On behalf of Pastor Jeff, myself, and all of Messiah, thank you!

And now we get to take all that we've experienced, all that we've learned about God and ourselves, and all the relationships that have formed and bring that into the world to share with those around us. The month of May reminds us of how new life can bloom in even the most unexpected places. Even as we come to many ends – school, clubs, activities, programs – new life is coming from it even still.

And one of those moments will happen on the 15th and 16th at our Synod Assembly. And this is a big year! Bishop Joy's six-year term is coming to an end, and it's time to either re-elect her for a second term or call someone new to the role of bishop. It's a powerful and exciting work of the Holy Spirit! Much like when you called me, this is a position called by the people. Each congregation sends a number of delegates determined by the size of the congregation. Messiah is sending two male, two female delegates, in addition to me and Pastor Jeff as your ordained leaders. This year, Jeff and Paula Stadtmueller, Gary Delgaard, and Karen Dilly will serve as Messiah's lay delegates. Please hold all of us in your prayers as we discern the many leaders we will elect for our synod.

As I began thinking of what to write, I was led back to this poem.

GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME

God has been good to me.
To tell in part demands new words.
His gracious power in so many ways
Has blessed me through long years of happy days.
I have not eloquence to voice his praise;
I can but say with grateful heart
"God has been good to me."



Author Unknown

As I reflected on this poem, it brings back many memories of that last few years of visiting congregants in their place of residence, whether it be a senior center, apartment, or memory care unit, the common denominator here is that they could no longer come to their place of worship. So I brought the 'worship' to them. But, what I also realized is that I brought it to their respective families as well.

In ministering to those who are confined to these places, the Scriptures offer a clear pathway for us as Visitation Ministers working beside the medical science we are seeking to work with God, in restoring normal physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

As Visitation Ministers we bring the spiritual and sometimes the mental well-being to those that we visit. We bring WORSHIP to them. Worship is the way of showing honor and devotion to God. When we set foot into their residence, whatever that may be, we bring a smile, a laugh, a story. Sometimes we just bring the presence of God as we listen to them. We share prayer with them. We share HOLY COMMUNION with them. We bring WORSHIP to them and sometimes to their family.

If and when we can no longer attend worship here at Messiah, I pray that someone will come and visit us. Let this ministry grow in God's service to all that are no longer able to come and worship with us. Bring God's LOVE and Presence.

Ray Robinson has been a visitation minister since 2023.

Next Sacred Circle: May 24th between the services

If Ray'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*

Barbara O'Neil

Elizabeth Howe

Joy Kroeger

Julie Rozwadowski

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

Holy Baptism

Addilyn Ann Lea Crary

Child of Brandon & Lynsey
Crary

Messiah Day of Prayer

Messiah will join in celebrating the National Day of Prayer by holding a prayer vigil on

Thursday, May 7st

from 6:00AM to 10:00PM



There is a sign-up sheet on the Kiosk in the Gathering Space for members to sign up for one hour slots.

Please come and spend some time in quiet reflection in our beautiful Sanctuary.

Please contact Clyde Nyhus by email at music@messiahchurch.com or phone (608) 516-4926, with any questions.



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 34 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 so far totals \$7,471 as of April 13th.

The Gundlach Family Fund assisted 7 families with rent in March, total assistance was \$2,100.

Tim Coulthart - Treasurer

Men's Breakfast - Morning Bible Study

Looking for ways to grow in your faith and connect with others? Join us during the week for prayer gatherings, Bible study, and engaging conversations.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

All are welcome to join the weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast every Monday at 9:00 AM at Denny's on E. Broadway in Monona. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, conversation, and prayer as we begin the week together. Come enjoy good food and meaningful connection—we'd

love to have you join us!

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 7:00 AM in the downstairs meeting room at church. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark, a study that will conclude on May 6th. All are welcome to join us for thoughtful conversation and learning as we explore Scripture together each week.

Blood Drive - Next Drive is Wednesday May 6th



Our annual spring Blood Drive with Gunderson Funeral Home is May 6th 1:00 - 5:45 PM.

Our goal is to achieve 46 units. _

CLICK HERE to schedule an appointment or contact Elizabeth at **volunteer@messiahchurch.com** or call/text 608-235-6910.

MAY DONOR PROMOTION: Give blood May 1-17 and get a \$20 eGift Card.



Messiah
Lutheran Church

Summer Mini Mission

Learn

Serve

Play

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

We are excited to invite our littlest learners to join us for a summer learning opportunity here at Messiah. Our summer "Mini" Mission is an opportunity for our children to serve others in our community. Children will learn about the importance of serving and the different ways we can serve through stories, discussion, and hands-on experiences. We will work with the YOW group to complete service projects that will help others in our community and we will spend some time playing and eating together.

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



Congratulations to our children who celebrated their First Communion this year. A "special thank you" to all their parents, and teachers for helping our young members along their spiritual journey.

Messiah celebrated the first communion of 15 children at the 10:30 AM service on April 26, 2025.

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.

Each child received a prayer shawl from our Prayer Shawl Ministry Group. Stay tuned next month for the first communion group photo.

Let's Go Hiking With SAMies

May is a great time to go hiking with your fellow SAMies. To sign up, please call or text Barb Herrod's cell (518) 567-6816 or email bwhfam@gmail.com. Leave your phone number so you can be notified of last-minute changes or cancellations. Hike leaves from parking lot of the place of the hike at 10:00 AM.



Tuesday, May 12 - Governor Nelson State Park, 5140 Co. Hwy.

M, Waunakee, WI 53597. The Woodland Trail has a couple of short hilly spots on the trail, but overall, it requires moderate exertion. Maybe we'll see spring flowers. There's a vehicle admission fee to the park. The day use fee is \$3 per car (age 65 and older), \$13 under age 65. If you have a 2026 state park pass (\$13 per vehicle for age 65+) there is no additional charge. Meet at the beach parking lot (it is the second turn off the main park road).

Wednesday, May 20 - UW Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, WI 53711. The arboretum can be pretty and fragrant for our hike. We'll wander on trails through the woods and conclude in the horticultural gardens, where the trees should be quite pretty. The west entrance to the UW Arboretum is on Seminole Highway, just north of the Beltline (Exit 258A). Come to the parking lot closest to the visitor center.

Friday, May 29 - Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 Co Hwy M, Middleton, WI 53562. Another favorite place to hike! The lovely grounds here include woods, a pond, and a prairie. We'll be on the trail for 1.5-2 hours. Turn into the driveway from Co Hwy M and bear to the right and go up a little hill into the parking lot. There is a large Kiosk board there.

Ellie Meng Closes Out SAM's Potluck Season

May 27th will be the last SAM potluck for the 2025-2026 season, and we will celebrate it with two special speakers. Susannah Peterson, Executive Director, Badger Childhood Cancer Network, will provide the opening talk. Ellie Meng will follow with her presentation on interactions between birds and windows. She is working on a special Girl Scout award, and her presentation will meet the award requirements.

SAM Volunteers Are Needed At BCCN Picnic

The Badger Childhood Cancer Network picnic is set for Saturday, June 20th. The event will 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. And, yes, we got to ride the train! Please sign up now, we will get details on our responsibilities soon. Send an email to SAM@messiahchurch.com to volunteer.



Give Families a Lift - Kennedy Fun Run

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Our Adopt a School partner, Kennedy Elementary, is purchasing a van! This will be used to provide transportation for children in the family shelter, children living on other edges of the walkable zone, families who need rides to school events and community resources, and for picking up large donations.

The goal is to raise \$60,000 to get the van on the road on September 1st and to have the first 2 years of gas, insurance and maintenance in the bank. We already have \$19,000 from the EHC grant Messiah received last year. We are joining with the PTA and other community partners to raise the other \$41,000.



Sign up on the poster in the Gathering Space or email volunteer@messiahchurch.com to contact Elizabeth to sponsor a day or days and watch the fabric bus take shape! Choose a day that is meaningful to you like perhaps a birthday or an anniversary. Every time we get to an increment of \$1,000, we will add a piece to the bus poster.

Kids having what they need to succeed in school is an equity issue. Family involvement sets kids up for success! Get on the bus and Give Families a Lift!



The Kennedy Elementary Fun Run will take place during the school day on Friday, May 15th (rain date May 22nd). This is a fun event for all students to participate in and is their biggest fundraiser of the year!

If you are considering helping, please contact Elizabeth at volunteer@messiahchurch.com for more information.

Community Meals at Healing House & Triangle Community Ministry

Thank you to those who provided dinners for Healing House the week of March 1-7. Our next 2 weeks are April 26 - May 2 and June 7 - 13.

"Thank you" to the 18 volunteers who made the Triangle Community Easter Monday meal possible. The food provided by Messiah was delicious and there were lots of positive comments! We also distributed 63 Easter gift bags which were a big hit, so thank you to all who donated, decorated and filled the bags.



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.



The Guns to Gardens collaboration with St. Paul's AME was a huge success. A total of 26 guns were destroyed: 13 on the day of the event and 13 more when someone heard about our event via an internet search and was able to get in touch with Jeff Wild to come to their home and destroy them later.

One gun turned in came with a heavy story of loss by suicide, others were inherited from family members, while some were just unused. Some people had found out about the event weeks in advance, while others saw our road sign and were beyond grateful that we were providing a safe, healing place to get rid of their guns.

This could not have happened without the thirty amazing volunteers, especially our planning team, led by Tracy Frank and Elizabeth Crummy from Messiah, Kay Corbin from St. Paul AME, and Sharla Miller from Focused Interruption. We thank everyone who volunteered, who contributed toward the gift cards, who came with guns to destroy. We are deeply grateful that you are part of this movement to eradicate gun violence, and to transform metal that once had the potential to harm, into tools that support life, provide healing, and bring hope.

If you have guns to dispose of, we can put you in touch with other Guns to Gardens events. We also are talking about the possibility of a fall event.

Continue to visit the Racial Justice Team page on the Messiah website to learn about actions being taken on the legislative level and to keep updated on the work of the organizations we support.



Social Justice Ministry - Human Trafficking Awareness Team

Jill Pfeiffer, Director, & Staff of Briarpatch Youth Services will be speaking at the services May 16 & 17. Briarpatch offers a broad array of services to youth who have runaway, are experiencing homelessness, and/or facing other challenges. Each year, they serve approximately 2,000 youth.

Continue to visit the HTA Team page on the Messiah website to learn about actions being taken on the legislative level and to keep updated on the work of the organizations we support.



Community Outreach Collection Schedule

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

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

Community Outreach Team Collections for 2026

April - Give Kids (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, May 19th
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

In the
Social Hall



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet

Monday, May 18th
1:00 PM



**LOWER LEVEL
MEETING
ROOM**

Dignity Project Workshop

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

In the last Sunday
School classroom
on the right.



Dignity Project

February mailing

536 pads - 79 panties

Grand Total

19,116 pads - 3,953 panties

Goodman Center Foil Pan Collection



"Thank you" to all who donated funds to purchase foil pans for the Goodman Center's Thanksgiving meal baskets.

Approximately \$7,471 has been raised as of April 13th.

Although it is early in the year to think about Thanksgiving, collecting funds now helps to spread out our fundraising over the year instead of so many requests in the last few months. It also fits into the Lenten Season where the church proclaims the season to be for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As it gets closer to November, we will update the membership on this project.

May is the Annual Mountain of Food Fundraiser in support of St. Stephen's and St. Mark's Food Pantries.

As pantry usage and food needs continue to increase, support from our community becomes even more important. Each contribution helps to provide for those in need. Food costs continue to increase which impacts the average cost of providing for a family as shown in these estimates:

\$230-\$350 can feed a family of 4 for a week
\$300-\$450 can feed a family of 6 for a week



We know everyone has been impacted by the increase in food prices. ***Indeed, the above estimates are twice what we had listed in the column and weekly news last year.*** However, as prices increase, so do the number of clients in need. Our donations will allow the pantries to support more families with their food needs.

Messiah Cook Book Gets an Update!



Messiah Cook Book Returns

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." John 21:17

Food is often the heart of hospitality. As we share meals, we bond in fellowship and community.

Messiah would like to revive our tradition of offering a cookbook, "Feed My Sheep." Favorite recipes shared among members and friends as we gather at tables together and apart. We are fed and blessed in so many ways at Messiah.

The team for this project is forming. We will begin meeting in June with the goal of completing the cookbook by the Craft Fair, November 7th and having it available for holiday gifting.

Your help is needed! There will be many specific tasks to smoothly organize and complete the project.

Contact Shirley Klinkner, sjklink1@gmail.com or Pastor Dan, pastordanmessiah@gmail.com to find out more and to volunteer.

Messiah

LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

5202 Cottage Grove Road
Madison WI 53716

Nonprofit Organization
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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,
May 13th
at 11:30 AM**
Bridges Golf Course
**2702 Shopko Drive
Madison, WI 53704**

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 April Gathering
collected \$70.00 for Give Families a Lift.**