November
2026

Volume 33
Issue 11

The Column

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"So, God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it, God rested from all the work that God had done in creation." Genesis 2:3

In September, Teresa and I were joined by a number of families and three amazing volunteers for our Family Camp Retreat. I cannot thank Teresa enough for all the leadership and support she brought to make the weekend impactful and fun! And we would not have made it to Sunday without the amazing cooks: Dan, Nancy, Jody and Clark!

This year, we focused on how important Sabbath is in our lives. One thing I have been paying close attention to this Fall is how quickly our lives are thrown from one thing to the next, leaving little room to reflect, rest, and reorient ourselves to wonder *why* we do what we do. Throughout the retreat, in the play and in the learning, in the quiet moments and the loud ones, we did our best to enter that space as a time of rest, not so much to regain energy, but to intentionally reflect, or reorient, toward *why* we do all that we do.

Everywhere I look, life seems to be speeding up. The more connected we become electronically, the greater the expectation to respond faster has become. Jobs continue to expect more out of people, school and sports fill more of our children's time. As a kid, I remember being told I can only stay home if I am *really* sick, instilling a sense of guilt to even take a half day. And now, social media feeds us continuously leaving every moment of our day filled with consuming, with doing, with *something*.

But sabbath, or 'productive rest' as one parent called it, is knit into the fabric of creation. Genesis 1 poetically describes the formation of this earth, ending not on the sixth day, but the seventh. **Rest is the crown of the formation of creation.** Sabbath is a gift from God, which helps us to redirect our lives back to our Creator.

That's been on my mind ever since the Family Camp Retreat. With our lives pushed to move faster and faster, we must be intentional in how we slow down to practice sabbath, or productive rest. Because when we do, we not only find ourselves feeling physically rested, but also with the

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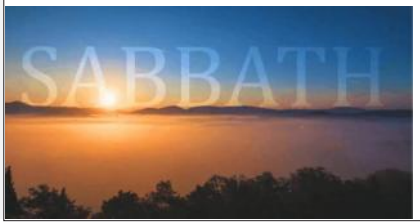
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space to reflect on all that we've done, and everything that is coming soon. That is what I invite you to reflect on with me. Reflect on even this past week, month, or season and ask yourself, "why did I do all of that?" Reflect on what is coming soon in your life. What experiences, trips, meetings, celebrations, deadlines, projects, or hard conversations are coming soon. Why are you participating in all or any of those? And how is God reflected in all of it? Sabbath is not just rest. For rest is oriented on the self, but sabbath is oriented on the Divine.

And if all of that feels overwhelming, instead, join me in wondering: **How are you practicing sabbath today?** I'll confess, this is the hardest question for me to answer. I am always moving from one thing to the other. This summer was an obvious reflection of that. And I came into the Fall realizing I have not been the best example of sabbath. It is not easy to change our perception of rest from "being lazy or unproductive", to instead see rest as "a necessary and vital part of our lives." Because sabbath is woven into the fabric of creation itself.

I chuckle as I write this, knowing it comes just one month after Spirit Weekend where we invited you into the many things Messiah is up to. But that is exactly why I am writing this now. You all do so much for family, friends, and community, both within and outside the walls of Messiah. Having the capacity to join a team, group, or committee within Messiah is such a meaningful thing, and I am grateful for that. And I want us to be attentive to how we say "yes" in all areas of our lives. Balance is needed, healthy, and is something God invites us into. As we move into November, I cannot wait to see the ways we serve, laugh, worship, and be together. But more importantly, I cannot wait to hear of all the ways God moves in us, both in action, and in rest.



Pastor Dan

Visitation Ministry

I am beginning to think I don't need a television anymore. The programming has a lot to be desired. These choices have led me to my I-Pad and what's on YouTube. What a pleasant surprise.

The program I am watching is called *Larry's Country Diner*. It takes place in a small town near Nashville, TN. The diner is open to all people who live by the Word. At the opening of the show, Larry reads the "Promise" card. It's a quote from the Bible and scripture to live by. They speak of God's word and promises. They also have special country singers who perform their unforgettable hits.

In the next segment of the show, a comedian named Nadine comes to the diner every morning for her chocolate pie and coffee. She comes through the back door with her stylish floral dress, her fancy box hat and her larger than life bible. She has been hired by her church to put up a new sign every Monday morning in front of the church. The sayings are very inspirational. For example: *If you want Jesus to guide your footsteps, you have to get up out of your chair and start walking.* She loves making people laugh. I love that because it's good clean humor. Just as we have at Messiah. We love to laugh and know that all of us are blessed.

For me, the world is spinning way off course. I would like to believe there is a Larry's Country Diner somewhere close so that I and our Visitation team feel safe. I am praying that our team brings the seriousness of scripture and the humor of Nadine's signs to the people we visit. Speaking of Nadine, here's another quote, *It's better to walk alone than to go with the crowd in the wrong direction.* Amen. Blessing to you all! Linda Olson

Next Sacred Circle: November 22nd between the services

If Linda'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***

Adult Education - Continues through November

Please watch the Weekly News for more information on the topics listed:

November 1 – Break – No Adult Ed.

November 8, 15, 22 – Soteriology
(the study of Salvation)

Why did Jesus Die on the Cross?
Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 - Pastor Renee



Welcome New Members

Please Welcome New Members

Bill & Carol Barreau

Vivian Zurbuchen

Tom & Margie Czechowicz

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

Holy Baptism

Callahan Harlan Shepherd

Child of

Anthony & Emily Shepherd

Thanksgiving / Christmas Worship Services



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 25th

5:00 PM



Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24th
4:00 & 7:00 PM

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25th
10:00 AM

Christmas Brunch - 11:00 AM

The November Love, Laughter, Libations will be held the first Saturday instead of the second to correspond with Stewardship Weekend. See you on the 7th!

Stewardship Weekend
November 7 - 8, 2026
2027 Stewardship
"G-I-F-T Growing in Faith Together"

All members of Messiah should have received a letter in the mail from Pastor Jeff, and a commitment form for 2027.

We ask that you give this commitment some thoughtful prayer and return the completed form on or before the weekend of November 7th & 8th.

The church council will use these commitments to prepare the budget for 2027 and to continue the mission of Messiah Lutheran Church. This year's commitment form contains only one line to pledge; the General Fund, for the day-to-day operations of the church. Examples are salaries, mission support, utilities, Christian education, fellowship and evangelism.

The form also contains a section for how you would like to make your contributions; weekly, monthly, none or electronically, please choose one.

If you do not receive a stewardship mailing by Friday, October 30th, contact the office at 608-222-3833 or ***ourchurch@messiahchurch.com*.**

Treasurer's Report

We are nine months into the budget year and the Pledged Revenue received to date is $635,800, the budget for the same time period is $641,000, so we are $5,200 behind of the budget.

General Fund expenses were $620,000 compared to the budget of $657,200, so we are $37,200 under budget.

The Gundlach Family Fund supported 7 rental requests, $2,300, with requests received from Hope Inspired and Dane County Crime Victims program.

In August the solar panels exported, $258 of electricity. ***Tim Coulthart - Treasurer***

Children's Family Ministry - Trunk or Treat

On October 25th **50** children and their families celebrated All Hallows Eve with pizza, candy, and oh yeah, more candy!

Nine "trunks" and 3 classrooms with tables to visit brought countless smiles, laughter, and joy to people's lives. I think the adults had as much fun as the children.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible!













Sunday School Christmas Program - December 6th



Please join us on Sunday, December 6th following the 10:30 AM service for the annual Sunday School Christmas program!

Our littlest members will perform songs for the congregation and this will be followed by the Nativity Story featuring music by our Angel Choir.

Immediately after the program, cake and juice will be served.

Senior Adult Ministry (SAM)

Last Hike for SAM this Fall

To sign up for this hike, please call or text Barb Herrod's cell (518) 567-6816 or email her at ***bwhfam@gmail.com***. Be sure to include your cell phone number in case there is a change in plans with the hike. *Departure time for the hike is 10:00 AM from the hike parking lot*. Here are the hike details:



Monday, November 9th, Governor Nelson State Park, 5140 Cty. Hwy. M, Waunakee, WI. Meet at the beach parking lot (second turn off the main park road). There is a $3.00 day use admission fee if you do not have a state park decal. Restrooms are closed due to construction in the area.

Potluck Speaker Presents on Cancer Treatments

Due to Thanksgiving, the date for the November potluck has been changed to Wednesday, November 18th, at 12:00 NOON. Bring a dish to pass. SAM will provide the coffee and water and plates and plasticware. Our UW speaker will address "Interventional Oncology and Minimally Invasive Cancer Treatments."

SAM's Virtual Pie Sale Is Underway

With Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching quickly, now is the time to stock up on several of SAM's virtual apple pies and put them in your freezer. We had made two hundred apple pies from scratch before Covid-19. Then we switched to virtual pies and the rest is history! The pies remain at the original price of $12.00 each. Our goal is to sell $50,000 worth of pies this year. This goal is reachable—with your help. Make your check payable to Messiah Lutheran Church, Attn: SAM Virtual Pies. You may also donate online to messiahchurch.com. Click on "Giving" and then. click the drop-down arrow for "General" so you can select "Virtual Pies."



Special Needs for Kennedy School

With winter approaching, and children going out to play during recess, Kennedy is looking through their supplies to see what is needed for the season.

Items needed are:
Snowpants - children's size 6 and adult medium
Boots - children's sizes and adult size 5 and 6.

Items can be gently used or new.

"Thank you" for all of your support to Kennedy School.

JF KENNEDY ELEMENTARY Cougars

Social Justice Teams Updates

Craft Fair and Bake Sale - November 7th - 9:00am - 3:00pm

We would love to see our Messiah family and friends join us that day to support the charities chosen this year – State Street Medicine, Friends of State Street Family and Briarpatch.

Messiah does not keep any of the money this event raises, and we have the added support of being matched by the Gundlach Family Fund. Please come out and patronize the vendors (10 new for 2026), our Youth Group (they sponsor the lunch) and all the people who have donated to the Bake Sale, Gift Shop and Book Nook! "Thank You"



Social Justice Ministry - RIC Team - RIC Sunday Jan. 31st

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

Members of the RIC team met on October 15th to look towards RIC Sunday, on January 31st, 2027. This is an annual celebration where we join hundreds of churches across our country to celebrate the beauty and fullness belonging brings. Is there something special you'd like to happen this year? Contact Pastor Dan!

The RIC team put together a "RIC" basket for the Craft-Bake Sale to share love and joy in the world!

Social Justice Ministry - Community Meals

The next Healing House Week is December 27th-January 2nd

Triangle Ministry - We anticipate our next meal will be in January, but it is not yet confirmed. Stay tuned!



Signups for both of these opportunities are, or will, be on the Kiosk or contact Elizabeth at ***volunteer@messiahchurch.com***

"Thank you" to those who served at Triangle Community on October 5th and provided meals to Healing House in October.

Social Justice Ministry - Justice for a New Day Course

The Racial Justice Team is paying the tuition for seven participants in the Nehemiah Center's lecture series from UW professors and guest speakers who share their experiences as formerly incarcerated people. Check out the Weekly News for each week's summary as well as the Racial Justice Webpage for the cumulative summary.

Social Justice Ministry - Guns to Gardens

The Messiah Racial Justice Team would like everyone to know that at the Guns to Gardens Safe Disposal Event, on October 17th, **22 guns were dismantled, (8 single shot,10 hand guns, 4 semi automatic).** Someone who showed up thinking it was the craft fair has four more that he will bring to Jeff Wild so our total is 26 once again. Several people attended the forging event.

Thank you to the **25 volunteers** from St. Paul AME, Messiah and Focused Interruption for making this service possible and to people who made us food, brought in a gun or got the word out!

We needed to go out and get an additional $1,300 in gift cards. If anyone would like to donate toward them, you can put money in an offering envelope and label it Guns to Gardens or donate online via REALM and select Guns to Gardens from the drop-down menu.

Social Justice Ministry - Community Outreach Team

Through the diligent work of our Cookbook committee, this 643-page gem is ready!



As the holidays approach, find inspiration for your gatherings in this collection of favorite recipes from our members:

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

Also included are pages about our faith community, what we believe, the history of Messiah, our community outreach and services, and a collection of prayers written by our members – truly a keepsake cookbook!

This hard cover, high-quality ring binder book also makes a great gift for Christmas. Cookbooks are $20 and will be available at the November 7th Craft and Bake Sale. Beginning on Sunday, November 8th, you may purchase these before and after worship services.

"Thank you" to our Committee: Shirley Klinkner, *Chair*, Jessica Arnold, Susan Ashley, Elizabeth Crummy, Gretchann Dalgaard, Annette Durkin, Annya Fahey, Gloria Hehenberger, Sue Lux, Pastor Dan O'Brien and Annette Salm.

Community Outreach Christmas Collections

The Road Home Christmas Collection►

Several years ago, The Road Home switched from asking for gifts to asking for gift cards for their families at Christmas. For many, this may be the only Christmas gift they receive. Whether they choose a gift card to Woodman's, Walmart, Kohl's, etc., we can play a part in giving them a bright spot over the holidays. Please consider making a monetary donation to the purchase of these gift cards - we will provide some money and the staff at The Road Home will purchase the requested cards. Each card is for $75 and the recipient chooses the store.

You may donate online at "Giving" on our website ***messiahchurch.com***, or by check with The Road Home Christmas on the memo line so it gets to the appropriate place. This collection will run through the month and end on November 30th.

"Thank" you for your continued generosity to The Road Home. Michael Ethridge and Elliott Valentine spoke at services on September 19th and 20th and expressed their gratitude for our support over many years. This Christmas collection continues that partnership with a very worthy organization!

Dignity at School Monetary Collection

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Dignity At School collection last month. A total of $3790 was collected.

This will be divided between the Dignity Project and Bernie Hartwig's collection of sweatpants, underwear and other needs of the nurses or social workers in 12 Madison area schools that is ongoing throughout the school year.

The Dignity Project will be able to go on purchasing the items necessary to make the pads that are made by the group here at Messiah to be sent to Little Dresses For Africa for them to send where needed to over 90 countries around the world.

Thank you for your generosity.

June Nyhus and Bernie Hartwig

Boomerang Bag Workshop

Tuesday, January 19th
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

In the Social Hall

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet

Monday, November 23rd
1:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry
KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

Dignity Project Workshop

Saturday, November 14th
9:30-11:30 AM

In the last Sunday School classroom on the right.

Dignity Project

October mailing
300 pads - 200 panties

2026 Totals
3352 pads - 932 panties

Ronald McDonald House

We collect pull tabs from all types of aluminum cans.

Place your tabs in container on the Hospitality Kitchen shelf.

Thank You!

Community Outreach Christmas Collections

YWCA Christmas Collection ►

eliminating racism empowering women ywca

The Community Outreach Team is once again asking the congregation to provide Christmas gifts for the women who are permanent residents at the YWCA. There is no other group sponsoring them at Christmas and our help is needed.

There will be a poster on an easel in the Gathering Space around Thanksgiving with names and their wishes.

Messiah members should write their name next to each person they wish to buy for. Please bring the item UNWRAPPED to church by **December 10th**. Remember to attach the name and room number to the unwrapped gift. Thank you!

Bernie Hartwig – Project coordinator

Mittens & Glove Collection ONLY►

We will be collecting **ONLY child-sized waterproof gloves/mittens** for several Madison schools. We recognize these can cost more, but they are really what the children need to stay warm and dry.

We are **NOT** collecting scarves, hats or gloves.

If you would prefer, you could make a donation to "Mitten Collection" and we will shop for the gloves and mittens.

Items are due by December 31st

Donations for the Christmas Fund, pudding and mittens/gloves can be dropped off Tuesday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Friday from 8:00 AM to noon.

Collection bins are located in the Collection Area by the Community Room.

Christmas Card Project for Jail Ministry ►



Over the past several years we have been part of the Madison Jail Ministry's Christmas Card writing project.

This year YOW is going to write all 75 cards.

"Thank you" YOW!!

Pudding Collection►



We will be collecting **LARGE** boxes of **INSTANT** pudding (all flavors) to be included in the Christmas food boxes for the East Madison Community Center.

Our goal this year is 150 boxes.
Please help us meet this goal!

All pudding boxes over our goal will be sent to St. Stephen's & St. Mark's Food Pantries

Items are due by December 10th

Triangle Ministry Christmas Collection►



As part of a collaborative Christmas gift drive, we will be collecting **dark colored, medium weight bath towel sets.**

The Triangle Community Ministry provides support to low income adult residents in Madison, many of whom struggle to find full-time, life-supporting income due to various circumstances, including developmental disabilities.

Items are due by December 13th

Messiah
LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

5202 Cottage Grove Road
Madison WI 53716

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Madison, Wisconsin
Permit No. 999

Return Service Requested

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

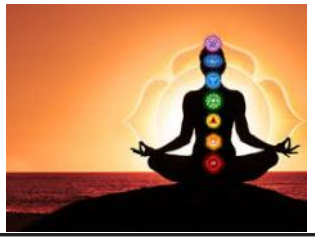
Divine Yoga

We will meet in the community room on

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 from 6:00 - 7:15 PM.

It is free to attend for all Messiah folks and their friends. There is an optional free-will donation to provide snacks and winter gear for the walking school bus at our newest Adopt a School Partner school, Ada Deer (Elvehjem) Elementary.

Bring your own mat!



Ladies Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, November 11th at 11:30 AM

Daly's Bar & Grill

1086 Emerald Terrace, Sun Prairie, 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 October Gathering donated $80.00 to the Virtual Pie Collection .