

October
2026

Volume 33
Issue 10

In this Issue

- Pr. Jeff's Message
- Visitation Ministry
- Adult Education
- New Members
- Senior Choir
- Lenten Devotional
- Treasurer's Report
- Trunk or Treat
- Family Camp
- Senior Adult Ministry
- Social Justice Ministry
- Community Outreach Ministry
- Dignity at School Collection
- Craft Fair & Bake Sale
- Divine Yoga
- Ladies Lunch Bunch



C.S. Lewis once said: *You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.*

The further I journey into my 60's, the more I need to remember these words. The next time you find yourself thinking you're too old to chase your dreams, think of C.S. Lewis - or better yet – Othmar Ammann.

If you've never heard of Othmar Ammann, well I hadn't either until I read a story about him in the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Ammann was a structural engineer who worked on projects around the country from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Lincoln Tunnel. He enjoyed a long and successful career with the New York Port Authority and is best known for his suspension bridge designs, including the George Washington Bridge and several others connecting the boroughs of New York City. After years of creative work, Ammann retired from the port authority at the age of 67. This is what struck me as I too am 67! Rather than calling it quits however, at an age when many sit back and relax, Ammann put into practice Lewis' maxim - *You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream*. So Ammann decided on yet another great adventure. He went into partnership with a colleague and friend and co-founded an engineering firm to attempt projects no other firms would tackle.

During this second phase of his career Ammann designed an engineering masterpiece. His final design, completed just one year before his death, was the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in New York City. For seventeen years the Verrazano Narrows was the longest suspension bridge ever built, one of the wonders of the modern world, and a bridge that many thought *unbuildable*.

What is most amazing is that much of the design work continued to be done by Ammann well into his 80's. Even on his death bed from the 32nd floor of his Manhattan Apartment, Ammann would look through a telescope and watch the traffic cross his magnificent bridge. He believed the last twenty years of his life were his best and most creative. He believed that *you are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream*.

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Friday8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

JANITORIAL SERVICE.....Chrissy Moore

Do you dream new dreams? Have you set new goals for yourself? Are you living your life as a great adventure from God? There are so many times that we find our lives stagnating; we are sleep walking through our days; we become bored with our daily routines. As we live through the autumn of yet another year, we need to remember what a blessing it is to be given a chance at life. We need to embrace this marvelous journey. I don't believe God is finished with me – I know that God is not finished with you. *You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.*

"But life is a great adventure, and the worst of all fears is the fear of living."



Theodore Roosevelt

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things
...from "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver



While in flight, wild geese call to each other, thereby connecting the flock and keeping the feathered family together as they head towards home. Likewise, God calls us to be motivated by love, community and connection to keep our families, including our church family, together.

For me, participation in the Visitation Ministry is one way to answer this call as it provides me with the opportunity to connect with members of Messiah's home-bound, "extended" church family. When we visit members of our extended church family, we provide a connection to God through fellowship, Communion and prayer, as well as a connection to others in the Messiah family through the friendships we develop. Like a family, we share laughter, memories and wonderful stories of life experiences, as well as hopes, concerns and worries. I hope that through shared connections such as these, those we visit will remember that they are valued members of Messiah's church family, and that they will always have a place in God's loving and all encompassing family of things. ~ Lou Jellings

Next Sacred Circle: October 25th 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

Adult Education - Begins Sunday, October 4th

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

October 4 – ELCA Faith and Civic Life – Kacy of LOPPW

October 11, 18, 25 – Christian Nationalism

What is it? - History and Today - A Biblical/Lutheran View – Pastor Renee

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



*Please Welcome
New Members*

Sara Rebarchik

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

Senior Choir rehearsals have begun. Come Join Us!

We meet at 7:30 PM in the Community Room. We provide music at the 8:15 AM 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**](mailto:music@messiahchurch.com)

2027 Lenten Devotional

The 2027 Lenten Devotional is anchored in the Gospel of Mark—the primary Gospel focus of the Year B Lectionary cycle—and the rich tradition of Old Testament covenants which find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.

While Lent is often viewed through the lens of penitence, guilt, or the traditional practice of "giving up" something, this year's Devotional invites us into a deeper journey, to explore how God's ancient covenants continue to bind us in love and responsibility today. We are called to reimagine penitence, beginning with honest inward reflection and using what we discover to turn purposefully outward.

Visit the [**messiahchurch.com/weeklynews**](https://messiahchurch.com/weeklynews) and scroll down to the Lenten Devotional section to see the verses which are still available. Please contact Elizabeth at [**volunteer@messiahchurch.com**](mailto:volunteer@messiahchurch.com) or call/text her at 608-235-6910 to volunteer or to ask questions.



We are eight months into the budget year and the Pledged Revenue received to date is \$580,900, the budget for the same time period is \$569,800, so we are \$11,100 ahead of the budget. The excess can be attributed to the 60 families that have met their 2026 commitment. General Fund expenses were \$548,300 compared to the budget of \$584,200, so we are \$35,900 under budget.



The Gundlach Family Fund supported seven rental requests, \$2,290, with requests received from Hope Inspired and Dane County Crime Victims program.

In August, the solar panels exported, \$500 of electricity.

Stewardship
"Mission in Action"

Tim Coulthart, Treasurer

Trunk or Treat - Save the Date - October 25th

Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 25th at/after the late service. Look for the sign up on the kiosk to be part of our community-wide event.

Here is the full event.

Choose what parts apply to you and your family:

- Sunday School meets at 9:15 AM and will have a special lesson on All Hallow's Eve and All Saint's Day.
- Those people who signed up to provide treats, provide a trunk in the lower level parking lot or to decorate a classroom in the education space should arrive whenever it makes sense in order to be ready on time. If you want to set up the night before, please contact Elizabeth.
- Over the past few years, we've seen a decrease in the number of people passing out candy and treats. Please know that you do NOT have to decorate a trunk or even wear a costume. Just bring a bag of treats and you're good to go!
- Attend the late service (in a costume if you like!) for a prayer and glow stick blessing/remembrance of those who have died.
- Join us for a pizza lunch at 11:30 (please sign up on kiosk so we order enough!), with trunk or treating to follow.



If you have questions or can't come in to sign up, please contact Elizabeth at **volunteer@messiahchurch.com** or call/text her at 608-235-6910.

Family Camp - September at Horizons

The Column

OCTOBER 2026 | page 6

Messiah Family Campers returned rested and filled from their 'Sabbath' weekend! Filled with campfires, hikes, lots of songs and games, and deep connections. I can't wait to see how that tie-dye turned out!



A big "thank you" to Teresa and the volunteer kitchen crew for all the yummy food!

Now's the Time to Hike with SAM

To sign up for one or more hikes, 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 all hikes is 10:00 am.* Here is the hike schedule:



Friday, October 2nd, Governor Nelson State Park, 5140 Co Hwy M, Waunakee, WI 53597. Meet at the beach parking lot. It is the second turn off the main park road. If you miss that turn, you will end up in the boat launch parking lot. We will walk the Woodland Trail. There are a couple of short hilly spots on the trail which require moderate exertion. There is a vehicle admission fee to the park. The day use fee is \$3.00 per vehicle. If you have a current state park pass, there is no additional charge.

Friday, October 16th, UW Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, WI 53711. Meet at the large parking lot closest to the visitor center. This is a nice 90-minute walk, mostly through woods. Some years, it is very colorful.

Monday, October 26th, McCarthy Park, 4841 Co. Hwy. TT, Cottage Grove, WI 53527. We will have a picnic after the hike. Meet in the parking lot at the park shelter. This is a favorite 1.5-mile walk on unpaved and uneven trails in woods and along fields with open views and gentle hilled areas. There is a non-flush comfort station at the parking lot.

Potluck Speakers Focus On Aging and Disability Resources

Plan on bringing a family member with you to the SAM potluck on Wednesday, October 28th. The event starts at 12:00 pm. The speakers are from the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Dane County. They will talk on topics such as how the ARDC can help you, assistance for caregivers, assistive technology for independent living, dementia and memory loss, transportation, and more. Bring your questions and a family member and be ready to take good notes.

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.



POSSH (Pierre Outreach Services & Safe House), founded and led by Jevon Diming, helps teen and young adult women and their families address and heal from generational racial trauma. Her services and work have grown throughout the years, and she finally has a physical space for her and her clients to meet. POSSH Wellness Lab has been one of Messiah's 10-Mission Partners that receives support from any surplus funds available at the end of Messiah's fiscal budget.

As she nears the opening of the Wellness Labs physical location, Ashley Furniture has offered her the tables and stools at a discounted price. Having new, solid furniture helps ensure the space feels warm, inviting, and sends the message to the young women and teens that they are worth every penny. And she is asking for your help to cover the costs of this furniture. Any donation will help the team at POSSH more effectively walk alongside young women of color to heal and become the best versions of themselves.

If you would like to support the Wellness Lab, you can donate online by going to her website, <https://www.possh.org/donate>

Or you can mail a check here; **C4CS 116 N Few Street, Madison, WI 53703**

Make checks payable to: Center for Community Stewardship "C4CS"

Memo line: "POSSH Wellness Lab"

Social Justice

COMMUNITY
MEALS



**The next Healing House Weeks are
October 11-17 and December 27-January 2**

Triangle Ministry - We will make and serve a meal on October 5th.

Signups for both of these opportunities are on the kiosk.

"Thank you" to those who provided/served at the September Healing House and TCM meals.

Social Justice - Racial Justice Team

Justice for a New Day

Check the Weekly News each week for thoughts and updates from the eight Messiah people participating in a new course from the Nehemiah Center called Justice for a New Day. It will focus on understanding incarceration and building stronger communities, and give a glimpse into the criminal legal system we were never taught.



What are those pronouns all about?

If you are interested in the use of “they” as a singular pronoun, explore these two of many articles explaining how it and other pronouns have morphed over time. Ultimately, language serves people and changes as society does.

- <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/parts-of-speech/use-the-singular-they/>
- <https://www.oed.com/discover/a-brief-history-of-singular-they/>

Second Guns to Gardens Event - October 17, 2026

Our first Safe Gun Disposal event in March 2026 at St. Paul A.M.E. resulted in 26 guns being removed from our communities.

We are organizing our 2nd event to be held on **Saturday October 17, 2026, at Messiah Lutheran Church at 5202 Cottage Grove Road, Madison, WI 53716.**

The gun disposal is from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, followed by a forging demonstration open to the public from 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM.

This partnership is part of the “Guns to Gardens” movement, which works to relieve our communities of unwanted guns within a safe environment, and ensure that these weapons will not be resold, but instead transformed into useful tools and art. The national model for the gun disposal events comes from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship with the support of RAWTools for the forging components.

Safe Gun Disposal



October 17

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

**Messiah Lutheran Church
5202 Cottage Grove Rd Madison**



**Scan QR-CODE for
more details**



Community Outreach Collection Schedule

The Column
OCTOBER 2026 | page 10

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

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

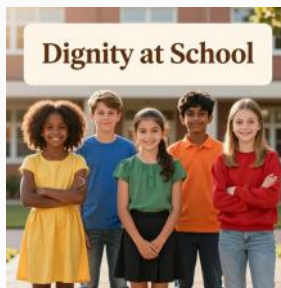
Dignity at School Monetary Collection

We would like to thank everyone who has made a monetary donation to the Dignity at School fundraiser. At this time, the fundraiser is still going on until the end of the month; we don't have a total yet. That will be in the next Column. "Thank you" to everyone who made a donation to help us help the girls be able to stay in school.

As of the end of August, we have sent 3,052 pads so far this year. When that is added to the 18,380 sent since 2020, when the project started, that comes to 21,432 pads.

Another way to make a donation is by purchasing panties (size 5 and 6 womens sizes and 14 and 16 girls sizes) and place them in the Dignity bins in the Donation Area. (This can be packages with multiple #'s of panties).

"Thank you!"



Boomerang Bag Workshop

Tuesday, October 20th
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

In the
Social Hall



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet

Monday, October 26th
1:00 PM



**LOWER LEVEL
MEETING
ROOM**

Dignity Project Workshop

Saturday, October 10th
9:30-11:30 AM

In the last Sunday
School classroom
on the right.



Dignity Project

August mailing

373 pads - 86 panties

2026 Totals

3052 pads - 732 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!





The Craft Fair is full of new and favorite craft vendors. Join the donation lists for baked goods and gift baskets. Check out the tips on the sign-up board and let your creativity flow. Please drop your favorite reads in the book bin in the Community Room collection bin area. We're sorting! Please stop at the Volunteer sign up in the Gathering Space to add your name to the opportunities for set up, presale, sale, and clean up. **We need helping hands. Come and enjoy the fun!**

Join the Craft Fair & Bake Sale Team! - Help us make the Craft Fair & Bake Sale a HUGE success!

All interested volunteers, feel free to contact the coordinator with questions and availability as helpers before, during or after the sale.

Area-Lead	Donations	Volunteers (Flexible shift times)
Crafts Dawn Olson Olson_dawn54@sbcglobal.net	Direct New Vendors to Lead	• Vendor setup Fri. 3:00 - 6:00 PM • Sale host Sat. 8:00 AM - 12 noon or 12 noon - 4:00 PM
Bake Sale Louise Fosdick fosdickmad@gmail.com	Homemade baked goods. Sign up on Craft Fair board in Gathering Space	• Baked goods intake Fri 4:00 - 6:00 pm • Sale host Sat. 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Gift Shoppe Karen Verhagen Verhagen@charter.net	Gift Baskets Sign up on Craft Fair board in Gathering Space Info and theme ideas in the Weekly News	• Sale host Sat. 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Basket intake/setup week of Nov. 1
Book Nook Nancy Beszhak nbeszhak@gmail.com	Books - Gently used, gift ready, recent editions Child, Teen, Adult	• Sale host Sat. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Set up Fri. 3:00 - 6:00 PM • Pre sale: Sort and Cull donations • Post sale: Box donations & transport to charity
Miscellaneous Dawn Olson Olson_dawn54@sbcglobal.net		• Set up spaces Fri. 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM • Clean up Sat. 3:00 - 4:00 PM • Final Cleanup Sun. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Craft Fair & Bake Sale - Gift Baskets

We are again running a gift basket cash and carry sale. It has been very successful the last two years and we received very favorable comments from shoppers.

For information on how the Gift Basket Sale is organized, check out the Weekly News.

If you still have questions or need more information, please contact Karen Verhagen at **verhagen@charter.net** or 608-335-6304. Thank you for participating!

Craft Fair & Bake Sale - Book Nook

We are having a new area of our Craft Fair & Bake Sale called the Book Nook. **We are collecting gently used, gift ready, recent editions. Children, Teen and Adult books.** Books can be placed in the collection cart in the Collection Area between the Gathering Space and the Community Room.

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

Divine Yoga



Save the Date for Divine Yoga

We will have
Divine Yoga
Fall and Advent
sessions.

All Messiah folks and their friends are
invited to attend on Tuesdays from
6:00 - 7:15 PM in the Community Room.

Bring your own mat.

Fall Series: October 6, 13, 20, 27 and
November 3

Advent Series: December 1, 8, 15, 22

Ladies Lunch Bunch



**Wednesday
October 14th
at 11:30 AM**

Norske Nook

100 E. Holum St. - DeForest, WI 53532

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 September Gathering
donated \$90.00 to the Dignity at School
Collection and \$60.00 to purchase laundry
detergent for St. Stephen's food pantry.**