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the MESSENGER

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At the beginning of the summer, we called on our Great Consistory – all past and present elders and deacons – to help us in our discernment as a congregation about God’s direction for our denominational future. In May the Consistory put out several pages of information about the restructuring of the RCA and two other newly formed church networks and asked elders and deacons to have conversations in their circles about what would be best for our church. Of all those we sent information to, we heard back from nearly two-thirds of them, and I trust that each elder or deacon represented several other family members or church members with whom they discussed things. On behalf of the Consistory, we appreciate the thoughtful and prayerful feedback we received.

In our August meeting, the Consistory reviewed what we received, and the general tenor of the feedback was a sense that, while there is a lot of uncertainty no matter which option we choose, the strongest interest from the congregation is for moving from the RCA to the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC), a newly formed church network, which holds clarified theological positions (particularly on marriage) and includes some nearby churches in Waupun, Alto & Brandon. When asked for recommendations, 61% of Great Consistory members favored moving to the ARC, while 31% advocated remaining with the RCA, at least for the time being.

Another thing that came up in Great Consistory conversations was a sense of confirmation on the slow pace our church is taking in this process. Some relayed comments from friends in other churches that moving too quickly risked unanticipated problems or short-circuiting communication. We want to avoid that. Consistory’s plan for the fall is to set up meetings with ARC representatives, but we want to ensure we have time to ask the right questions and form proper expectations as we explore a new relationship with an organization that is itself new. Keeping this pace should also help in allowing communication to flow through our church, so members have time to be informed, pray, and raise questions. And to be clear, no official moves will be made without a congregational vote.

As a final note, I want to thank the wise and careful attention of elders and deacons in this process, both those currently on Consistory and those not. It’s a reminder that being ordained to an office in the church is more than just serving a two-year term. It’s about responding in obedience and trust officially and unofficially to Jesus’ amazing call, “*Feed my sheep*” (Jn.21:17). As we all know in our own lives, feeding – be it children, pets or cattle – is in one sense simple, but also essential work. Soon, we’ll be contacting men and women in our church to consider taking on elder/deacon roles for a new year, and I pray expectantly for those who, trusting God’s Spirit, will feel themselves prepared to offer what they have to the care of Christ’s people.

God’s Kingdom come, Pastor Luke



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Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 1 Susan DeVries
- 6 John VerHage
Marlene DeYoung
Kiana Tietz
Lois Wendlandt
- 7 Abigail Stiemsma
- 11 Corinna Leystra
Ryan Alvin
- 12 Cindy VanBeek
- 13 Don Cupery
Amy Vredevelt
- 16 Janice Syens
- 17 Ember Leystra
- 18 Rylea Alvin
- 19 Julie Nieman
- 20 Micah Vander Velde
- 23 Jacob Anderson
- 24 Karen Meekma
- 26 Nadia Dybvik
Linda Moore



Happy Anniversary

- 3 Bob & June Tillema
- 5 Jerry & Mary Ann Westra
Ken & Judie Ireland
- 7 Matt & Paula Van Buren
- 11 Don & Jackie Cupery (45)
- 19 Todd & Sarah Leystra
Bruce & Amy Vredevelt
- 21 Jeff & Jodi Vander Velde(30)
Reuben & Jane Horton
- 23 Justin & Kim Parks (15)
- 25 Jason & Tanya Stiemsma
- 26 Tom & Tammie Tietz



If your birthday or anniversary is missing or wrong, please contact Jana at 210-2784 or 1strandolph.office@gmail.com

Serving the Congregation

Date	Nursery	Kids Church
October 5	Sarah Leystra	Jacqui & Bryelle Hollander Saige Pfeffer
October 12	Patti Hiley	Lydia VB, Emma G, & Annika R
October 19	Abigail Stiemsma	Amy & Vince Reed Harold Baneck
October 26	Emma Grieger	Holly & Saige Pfeffer Frederick Baneck

Youth Group Schedule

Cornerstone **Sundays 5:00-6:15pm**

Date	Activity
October 5	Bunco@Randolph Healthcare Assisted Living
October 10-12	Silver Birch Retreat
October 19	Bonfire@Harold & Darlyn DeYoung
October 26	Drive Thru/Dine In Soup Supper

RCYF **Sunday 6:15-7:30pm**

Date	Activity
October 5	World Table Night
October 12	Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt
October 19	Game Night
October 26	Drive Thru/Dine In Soup Supper



September Consistory Minutes

Consistory Meeting September 8, 2025 - 7:00pm

Present: Pastor Luke, Mary Paul, Rita Hookstead, Bob Johnson, Mike Grieger, Jason Stiemsma, Hugh Roberts, Ryan Alvin

Opening Prayer – Mary Paul

Devotion – Jason Stiemsma

Pastor's Report – Pastor Luke:

Getting everything revved up for September – some cool ideas for the fall.

Ran experiment with the "Postgame" exegesis group. Went pretty good and was nice getting into the text more. Will keep doing it with school started

Youth Group Board: Met at the end of August. Range of people talking about things. Now hosting Youth Group on Sunday evenings.

Wants to keep his ear to the ground with respect to a Men's Ministry.

Jay Vandenberg: Pregnancy Support Center of Dodge County: Working on a capital campaign for a refurbished pregnancy center. Has thankfully raised ½ of the campaign in the last few weeks. Simply asking churches to bring awareness to our congregation. Presented a handout to share with the congregation.

Consults parents for free and provides services to pregnant moms. Services for up to 3 years post birth. They are not a political organization.

Campaign will wrap up by the end of October and at that time they will begin the interior renovations due to pledges received.

All contact info is on the bottom of letter provided.

Team Reports

Elders Report – Mary Paul

Matt Hoffman will be preaching at the end of September
Al Vanhuizen will preach at the end of October

New Member Interests: Pastor is working on putting together a group.

Finance Report – Bob Johnson

General Fund: \$125,607.26

Benevolent Fund: \$374,881.48 (Gathering Place: \$329,229.38)

Building Fund: \$75,687.56 – (Sign: \$31,583.19)

Education Report – John VerHage

Decorating Team – Mike Grieger

Discussion on adding seating in the church narthex. This will be tabled until after the Gathering Place is completed.

August 2025 Financial Report.....

General Fund:

Offerings	\$17,787.00
Disbursements	\$15,222.95

Benevolent Fund:

General Offering	\$ 2195.00
Special Offering	\$ 5365.00

Disbursements	
Autumn Rain (Pollasch)	\$ 250.00
RCYS	\$ 20.00
Emily Dykstra	\$ 425.00
Fishers of Men	\$ 100.00
RCS	\$ 350.00
WNWC	\$ 1260.00

Building Fund:

Offerings	\$ 883.89
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September Consistory Minutes cont..

Mission Report – Ryan Alvin

Gathering Place

Framers were here Wednesday. Building will go up in the next week and a half
Almost all finishes are done and ordered
Should wrap up on HVAC soon
Metal Roof is done and ordered
Windows will arrive in 1 week from today.

Sign

Cabinet was wrong and had to go back to be resized

Ryan plans on returning to North Carolina with a group from his company: Will be working on siding. Inside of Lynn Peterson's store that the team worked on is almost fully complete.

Chris Pollasch: Asking for prayers and asking to be adopted for prayer purposes.

Property – Jason

Will seek a couple of quotes for the furnace at the parsonage.

Spectrum is going to do the install on the Gathering Place on October 15

Ken Ireland: Did some repair on cracks five years ago on the northwest sidewalk to the church and feels it should be done again soon or the sidewalk should be removed.

Personnel Report – Rita

Youth Leader Contract has been signed and returned

Additional Business:

Diane Homan met with Pastor and it was decided that October 5 would be a good Sunday to bring awareness regarding PAVE. Might put out specific needs of what the shelter needs.

Discussed questions presented by Pastor Luke regarding roles on Consistory.

MSC to adjourn. Closing prayer offered by Pastor Luke

Thank You

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who sent cards, made phone calls, and visited during my recent health challenges. I am also thankful for the prayers offered by Pastor Luke and my church family. Your thoughtful support and concern have been truly appreciated.
-Janice Syens

Dear First Reformed Church Family,
Thank you for your recent donation of \$100 to Fishers of Men Ministries. We are grateful to God for your faithful investment in what He is doing at Refuge Ranch and through the Evangelistic Medical Mission Caravans in Mexico. We deeply appreciate your support of Fishers of Men. To God be the glory!
-The Fishers of Men Team

Youth Group Thank You

Thank you for all of those who donated pies for the Labor Day pie stand. We did it a little differently this year and served slices of pies already dished up. It worked out great! (less bees, needed less help on Labor Day) We ended up with 430 pieces of pie, we took in \$1,700.00. Thanks to those who came Sunday night to help dish up the pies, Mary Meyer, Deb Beekman, Anna Johnson, Pastor Keith and Josie, Patti Hiley, Ron and Ayden, for those who helped out at the park, Harold Banek, Kaylee Bates, Saige Pfeffer, Vince and Amy Reed, Hugh Roberts, Pastor Keith, Ron and Ayden and for those of you who bought pieces of pie! It could not be a success without all the pies and help!

-RCYF and Cornerstone Youth Groups



Cornerstone



Cornerstone had a good turnout for the Amazing Race. They had to follow clues with challenges to different areas of the church. the first one back to the Amazing Race mat were the winners. All were really winners by completing their tasks. When the game was over we talked about how they could run their race with faith in their lives. Afterwards, we had some Macaroni & Cheese with fixings and brownies for dessert.



See You at the Pole 2025



There was a good turnout at See You at the Pole on Wednesday, September 24. This year we did it a little differently, we wanted more participation from all. We had different topics to pray for as in the past, for school, teachers, staff, for students, friends, for families, for our country and the world. Everyone could fill out a sticky note about those certain topics and stick it to the appropriate board. At the end we said a prayer together. Then donuts were served at the Roberts'. Thanks to all who came and participated and Jana for helping with the donuts. God is good, let us continue to pray for our students.



You are invited to join **Cornerstone** and **RCYF** for a soup supper hosted by our youth on

Date: Sunday, October 26

Time: 5:00–6:30 pm

Service Options: Dine-in or Drive-thru available

Soup Selections:

Chili

Chicken Noodle

Pea Soup

A muffin, cookie, or dessert bar will also be provided.



OCTOBER

Spiritual Warfare

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ephesians 6:11-12 | 19. Ephesians 6:16 |
| 2. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 | 20. Revelation 12:11 |
| 3. James 4:7 | 21. Romans 13:12 |
| 4. 1 Peter 5:8-9 | 22. Psalm 91:1-2 |
| 5. Ephesians 6:13 | 23. 2 Corinthians 2:11 |
| 6. 2 Timothy 2:3-4 | 24. 1 John 5:4 |
| 7. 1 John 4:4 | 25. Isaiah 59:19 |
| 8. Romans 8:37 | 26. Matthew 18:18 |
| 9. Isaiah 54:17 | 27. Colossians 2:15 |
| 10. Luke 10:19 | 28. 2 Corinthians 11:14 |
| 11. 1 Corinthians 10:13 | 29. Hebrews 4:12 |
| 12. 2 Chronicles 20:15 | 30. Joshua 1:9 |
| 13. 1 Timothy 6:12 | 31. Psalm 144:1 |
| 14. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 | |
| 15. Zechariah 4:6 | |
| 16. Deuteronomy 20:4 | |
| 17. Matthew 16:18 | |
| 18. Exodus 14:14 | |

[Get The Free Reading Plan Printables](#)





— a message from —

EMILY DYKSTRA

MAKING MULTIETHNIC MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES IN THE MILWAUKEE METRO AREA

NEW STUDENT LEADERS RISE UP FOR WELCOME WEEK

“Let’s see the haul!” Sierra, a new leader at UWM, called to students as they approached our table on their way back to their dorms from the Panther Shop. To our surprise, they stopped and pulled out their new UWM gear and to show us! From there Sierra talked to them about Cru and invited them to take our survey. It’s incredible to believe that just one year ago, Sierra was not walking with the Lord, but one of our first weeks events back in the spring brought her to our community where she was able to thrive! This led her to go on our Spring Break trip to Panama City Beach where she learned how to share her faith. This fresh spark that Jesus placed in her heart last school year has propelled her toward a compelling intentionality as she reaches out to others as the new school year kicked off. This is just one story of our 19 UWM leaders (14 of which are brand new!). Each of our leaders have been taking admirable steps of faith to reach students during welcome week! We are so excited about how God will be work through these students!

Right: students lining up at UWM for our annual cheese curd outreach! Below: Sierra interacting with students at welcome week



Ways to Pray:

- Praise God for changing students lives like Sierra’s and raising them up to be leaders!
- Pray with us that the Lord would continue to open the hearts of the Freshman class!
- Our Brewers Tailgate outreach is September 12th - pray that the Lord would use this event to connect students to himself.
- Due to the increased cost of living and ministry expenses, I will need to significantly increase my financial goal. Please pray for the Lord’s provision.



Left: Zach using the skills he learned on Summer Mission in North Myrtle Beach to spark a spiritual conversation with new students over a game of Spikeball.

Because of your prayers and support, students are being transformed by the gospel and empowered to reach their peers - thank you! Let me know how I can be praying for you this month!

For the Kingdom,

Emily

Children's Activity Page



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.



What you need:

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

What you do:

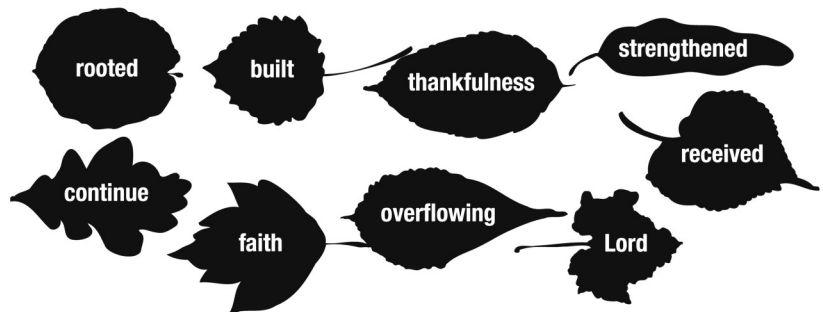
1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone.
For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acronym **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.



Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____ ,

_____ to live your lives in him, _____ and

_____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you

were taught, and _____ with _____ .

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness.





OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30pm Cate- chism	2	3	4
5 9am Worship Communion CS-5:00pm RCYF-6:15pm	6 6:30pm Women's Bible Study Lesson 28	7 8:30am Ephesians Bible Study 6:30pm Prayer Team	8 3:30pm Cate- chism	9	10 3:30 CS de- parts for Silver Birch	11 CS at Silver Birch
12 9am Worship 1pm CS Home from Silver Birch RCYF 6:15pm	13 6:30pm Elder's Meeting 7pm Consistory	14 8:30am Ephesians Bible Study	15 3:30pm Cate- chism	16	17	18
19 9am Worship CS-5:00pm RCYF-6:15pm	20 6:30pm Women's Bible Study Lesson 29	21 8:30am Ephesians Bible Study	22 3:30pm Cate- chism	23	24	25
26 9am Worship Youth Group Soup Supper 5-6:30pm Drive Thru or Dine In	27	28 8:30am Ephesians Bible Study	29 3:30pm Cate- chism	30	31	