## November 2025

## the MESSENGER

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Among the wide variety of natural gifts that God grants is the ability to clearly envision a project long before it physically takes shape. This year, as we move into the season of Thanksgiving, I'm finding myself especially appreciative of folks like Ryan Alvin, Jerilyn Alsum, and Excel Engineering designers, and of hands-on guys like Jim, Jeff and Micah VanderVelde and others as over the past two months

I've watched ideas and drawings transform into walls, rooms and a home for new ministry.

I'm grateful to say that The Gathering Place project has remained on budget and on schedule for completion by the beginning of December. Because of generous contributions that continue to come in, we are about \$40,000-\$50,000 away from complete funding, and the Consistory has decided that given the healthy cushion of our General Fund, we are in good position to loan ourselves the money to finish, instead of seeking bank financing, while we complete our fundraising. Looking ahead, the Deacon Board is also compiling The Gathering Place's annual cost estimates in preparation for the December Congregational Meeting.

As I said, we are deeply thankful to those whose logistical gifts – the ability to see things before they're there – have kept us on track, but what I've also noticed is that for some of the rest of us, seeing things physically take shape is what's stirred fresh thoughts about how Christ might work through The Gathering Place. One conversation has raised the idea of capitalizing on easy, no-stairs accessibility by offering a place for community members to share Meals on Wheels together. Others are pursuing the idea of bringing in worship bands for occasional special nights of community worship. In addition to its immediate uses for Sunday School and Youth Group, there have also been community inquiries for family gatherings and grad parties.

Even as we begin forming our initial plans, I'm also excited to discover the purposes God has in mind for this project that we haven't yet anticipated, and perhaps one of those purposes is an idea that's stirring in your mind! To stay faithful, though, in all gifts God has given us, individually or as a church, what we need above all is, as Paul calls it, "the mind of Christ". "Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others" (Phil.2:4). God's purpose in every church is to plant a light of the good news, an embassy of his glorious Kingdom in communities all over the world. I trust that Christ's Holy Spirit will respond to prayers as we explore new ways to invite others to share in God's grace to us and to gather in Christ's name.

God's Kingdom come, Pastor Luke



#### Inside this issue.....

- 1 Pastor's Article
- 2 Birthdays, Anniversaries
- 3 Nursery-Kids Church Youth Group Schedule
- 4 Consistory Minutes
- 5 Consistory Minutes Cont. Save the Date
- 6-7 Youth Group News
- 8 Veterans
- 9 Thanksgiving Offering
- 10 November Reading
- 11-13 Missionary Letters
- 14 Dodge Cty Pregnancy
- 15 Center Fundraiser
- 15 Children's Activity
- 16 November Calendar



## Birthdays and Anniversaries





## **Happy Birthday**

- 2 Seth Cupery
- 4 Jamie Weaver
- 5 Brian Cupery Deb Cupery Melanie Hughes
- 6 Michelle Retzlaff
- 8 Zach Hughes
- 12 Dennis Vander Werff
- 13 Rich Hiley
- 15 Josh Meyer
- 23 Zoe Kok
- 24 Cason Retzlaff
- 27 Jason Kok

## **Happy Anniversary**

- 1 Richard & Diane Hicks (50th)
- 6 Fred & Stacy Saeman
- 9 Gerry & Karen Meekma
- 18 Randy & Marlene Alsum
- 22 Jim & Pam Bylsma (50th)
- 26 Brian & Deb Cupery



If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, contact Jana at 920-210-2784 or 1strandolphoffice@gmail.com

## Serving the Congregation

Date	Nursery	Kids Church	
November 2	Jessica Spors	Tessa,& Annika Reed Abigail Stiemsma	
November 9	Tessa Reed	Lydia VanBuren, Emma Grieger, Saige Pfeffer	
November 16	Kati Hiley	Abigail Stiemsma, Annika & Vince Reed	
November 23	Stacy Saeman	Amy & Annika Reed Abigail Stiemsma	
November 30	Deb Wells	Holly & Saige Pfeffer, Frederick Baneck	

## Youth Group Schedule

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

Date	Activity
November 2	TBD
November 9	TBD
November 16	Service Project: Pack Shoeboxes
November 23	TBD
November 30	Thanksgiving Break

## RCYF Sundays 6:15-7:30pm

Date	Activity
November 2	World Table
November 9	Game Night
November 16	Service Project: Pack Shoeboxes
November 23	Thanksgiving World Table
November 30	Thanksgiving Break

## October Consistory Minutes

#### Consistory Meeting October 13, 2025 - 7:00pm

**Present:** Pastor Luke, John VerHage, Mary Paul, Bob Johnson, Ryan Alvin, Mike Grieger, Darren Alsum, Jason Stiemsma, Hugh Roberts, Todd Leystra

### **Devotion and Opening Prayer – Darren Alsum**

Darren opened with devotions and prayer citing Mathew 7:7, James 1:5-6, Philippians 4:11-13, as verses that keep us grounded and focused on our faith in God.

### Pastor's Report – Pastor Luke:

Pastors Report: Pastor Luke expressed his desire to more finely tune Profession of Faith classes and New Member class to more precisely fit the circumstance. He also shared a potential opportunity in supporting several young adults in starting Bible studies.

#### **Elders Report – Mary Paul**

Mary reported that discussion was held on congregational needs and prayers were offered.

#### Deacon Report - Bob Johnson

Bob reported that the deacons discussed protocols in receiving requests for financial assistance.

#### **TEAM REPORTS**

#### Finance Report - Bob Johnson

General Fund- \$123,527.00 Benevolent Fund- \$47,077.00 Building Fund- \$72,736.11

**MSC:** to borrow funds from the General Fund for the Gathering Place if necessary.

**MSC:** to approve the finance report.

### **Education Report – John VerHage**

John reported that Shirley and Stacy are happy with how smoothly things are running at all grade levels.

#### **Decorating Team – Mike Grieger**

Nothing to report.

#### Mission Report - Ryan Alvin

Ryan stated the sign by High street will be installed by October 24 and the Gathering Place should be finished by December 1.

#### Property – Jason Stiemsma

It was brought to the Deacon Board's attention that the pavement leading from the northwest exit of the church to the sidewalk needs repair. Since this pavement is rarely used, the Deacon Board decided to remove the pavement and replace it with grass.

The furnace in the parsonage will need to be addressed at some point in the future.

September 2025 Financial Report		
General Fund: Offerings Disbursements	\$17,787.00 \$15,222.95	
Benevolent Fund: General Offering Special Offering	\$ 2195.00 \$ 5365.00	
Disbursements Fishers of Men Emily Dykstra Pollasch RCS WNWC Gathering Place	\$ 100.00 \$ 425.00 \$ 250.00 \$ 350.00 \$ 1260.00 \$ 951.05	
Building Fund: Offerings	\$ 883.39	

## October Consistory Minutes Cont.

#### Personnel Report - Rita Hookstead

2026 staff salaries were discussed. **MSC:** to hold salaries in place.

#### **Additional Business**

Consistory discussed potential nominees for 2026-27 elders and deacons. With 3 elders and 3 deacon terms coming to an end in 2025, Consistory is seeking a slate of at least 5 elder nominees and 5 deacon nominees for selection by lot at the December Congregational meeting. 14 potential nominees were agreed upon with an elder or deacon assigned to contact each person. The deadline for the 2026-27 Elder/Deacon Nominee slate is Sunday, November 23.

MSC: to adjourn. Closing prayer offered by Pastor Luke

October 2025 Financial Rep	ort	
<b>General Fund:</b> Offerings Disbursements		2,983.00 5,906.67
Benevolent Fund: General Offering Special Offering	\$ \$	4125.00 25.00
Disbursements Local Needs Emily Dykstra Pollasch Fisher of Men WNWC	\$ \$ \$ \$	400.00 275.00 250.00 100.00 25.00
Building Fund: Offerings Disbursements Parsonage Refrigerator Gathering Place Building	\$ \$ \$	3160.93 1528.67

## Save The Date



### Women's Christmas Tea

Sisters Keepers invites you to their annual Christmas Tea

on Saturday, December 6 at 9 a.m. This year's theme is "At Christmas All Roads Lead Home." All women, girls, friends, and family are welcome. More information will be shared soon.



## **Harvest Soup Supper**

Wednesdays in November 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m Free Will Offering—Proceeds to benefit Fox Lake Food Pantry

Nov. 5—Chicken Noodle & Chili

Nov. 12—Butternut Squash & Chicken Wild Rice

Nov. 19—Broccoli Cheddar & Minestrone

Nov. 26—White Chicken Chili & Ham Potato



## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 26, 6:15p.m. following Harvest Soup Supper

Thanksgiving offering will be received.



## Surviving the Holidays

Saturday, November 22 8:30am-10:30am

For any inquiries, please contact Lois Wendlandt at 920-382-3859.



## Youth Group News

Cornerstone sent 8 Students and 2 adults to travel about 3 hours to attend Silver Birch Retreat the weekend of October 10-12. The theme for the weekend was "Be Transformed". We enjoyed activities, wall climbing, zip lining, and air soft that were offered to us. We also enjoyed card games between us and hanging out at the Cafe. We also attended worship with singing and a speaker. We had our own devotions after each session. A few students did the Polar Plunge on early Saturday morning, brrr. It was a fun weekend for all.









## Youth Group Soup Supper

Thanks to everyone who came to the Soup Supper or did the Drive Thru. Thanks to parents for donating food. I was appreciated and delicious. Thanks to Pastor Keith, Deb, Travis and Becca for your help. We were able to raise \$1,354.75 to buy items for Christmas Shoeboxes. We will be going shopping November 16 and I am sure we will have a good time shopping and stuffing the shoeboxes.











## Honoring Church Members Who Have Served

Clarence Alderden

**Bernard Bartelt** 

George DeVries

Bill Dykstra

Severyn Dykstra

Albert Homan

Larry Kok

Gerry Meekma

Bill Minnema Jr

**David Pickhardt** 

**Curtis Smedema** 

Jim Smedema

Clifford Syens

Gerald Syens

Robert Systma

Ted Tamminga

Henry VanHewaarden

Melvin VanderMeer

Kenneth L. VanderWerff

Louis VanderWerff

Rudy VanderWerff

Lawrence Vredeveld

John Carl Westra

Lawrence Westra

Ken Zieman, Sr.

Marvin Alderden

Leo DeBoer

Melvin DeYoung

Howard Dykstra

**Butch Dybvik** 

Reuben Horton

Jack Levy

Wayne Meekma

**Howard Minnema** 

Henry Posthuma

Ellis Smedema

Ralph Smedema

**Delbert Syens** 

Ronald Syens

Nathan Tamminga

Al Tillema

Brian VanderGalien

Gordon VanderVelde

Kenneth G. VanderWerff

Paul VanderWerff

John VerHage Jr

Gerrit Vredeveld

John H. Westra

**Garret Wiersma** 

Robert Alderden

Louie DeBoer

Roger DeYoung

Joseph Dykstra

John Haima

Phil Karow

Bill Meekma Jr

Jon Meyer

Richard Nieman

Ben Smedema

George Smedema

Alfred Syens

Eldon Syens

Theodore Syens

Norris Tamminga

Dale Tillema

Casey VanderGalien

Aric VanderWerff

John VanderWerff



2025 Thanksgiving Offering, Wednesday, November 26 at 6:00PM—This is your opportunity to designate your gift to any of the projects listed below. Prayerfully consider your gift and give as the Lord has blessed you this past year. Make your gift one of sacrifice. Please make you checks payable to Randolph First Reformed Church.



### **Our Partners in Mission (PIM)**

Brian & Beth Bruxvoort (RCA - Alaska)
Wayne & Miho Jansen (RCA - Japan)
Roger & Sue Scheenstra (RCA - Kenya)
Blaine & Kathleen Newhouse (RCA - Bahrain)

### Other Mission Partners

Julie Claassen(Fishers of Men) Mexico
Emily Dykstra—Cru Milwaukee Metro
Tom & Colleen Fraser—Cru Pennsylvania
Chris & Sarah Pollasch—France
Bob & Chris Prouty—Cru Australia
John & Karen Zilens—Barnabus International

## Other Mission Organizations

Bethany Christian Services Child Evangelism Fellowship of Wisconsin **Church Health Services** Crisis Pregnancy Centers (Columbia & Dodge County) Focus on the Family Ministry Gideons International Habitat for Humanity LifeLine Connection of Dodge County **Local Food Pantries** Haiti Empowered Randolph Christian School Randolph Public School Teacher Care Fund Salvation Army Samaritan's Purse WNWC - Christian Radio - Madison Life 102.5 Words of Hope

\*This list may be subjected to changes or additions.

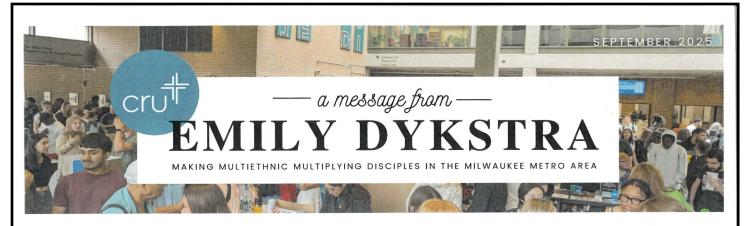
## November Rest in God's Peace

- 1. Philippians 4:6-7
- 2. John 14:27
- 3. Isaiah 26:3
- 4. Matthew 11:28-30
- 5. Psalm 4:8
- 6. Colossians 3:15
- 7. Psalm 29:11
- 8. Romans 15:13
- 9.2 Thessalonians 3:16
- 10. Isaiah 32:17
- 11. John 16:33
- 12. Psalm 23:1-3
- 13. Romans 8:6
- 14. Psalm 46:10
- 15.1 Peter 5:7
- 16. Isaiah 9:6
- 17. Psalm 62:5-6

- 18. Proverbs 3:24
- 19. Numbers 6:24-26
- 20.1 Corinthians 14:33
- 21. Matthew 6:34
- 22. Romans 5:1
- 23. Isaiah 48:18
- 24. Hebrews 4:9-10
- 25. 2 Corinthians 13:11
- 26. Psalm 34:14
- 27. Zephaniah 3:17
- 28. James 3:18
- 29. Proverbs 16:7
- 30. Isaiah 57:2
- 31. Psalm 119:165

**Get The Free Reading Plan Printables** 





## GOD ALREADY AT WORK AT UW-PARKSIDE

Right: leaders

first weekly

students in

Perspective

banners

welcoming new students atUWM's

meeting Below:

Hilary engaging

"Oh, Cru? I actually just went to the Bible Study for the first time on Friday!" was Kylie's response when my co worker, Hilary and I approached her at UW-Parkside. As we got to know her, we started seeing the traces of God at work in her life. She explained to just that she didn't realize that her faith could be her own until her friend invited her to church back in March. We went through the Knowing God Personally booklet with her, and as we approached the page talking about what it looks like for Christ to be at the throne of her life, she chose the circle where Jesus is on the throne. We asked her when she feels like she made that decision. "When I started going to church and bible study, the messages started making sense and it started effecting my life. Before Jesus felt like a side thing, but now I can't get enough of him! Meeting you is just one of the many ways God is showing up in my life!" She shared with us her excitement about the Cru Bible Study that had about 20 students attend. This is huge as we relaunch at Parkside! What a beautiful indicator that God is at work on college campuses!

Ways to Pray:

- Praise God for being at work on college campuses! We are seeing God bring students to himself all over the state - including Parkside!
- Praise God for our Brewer's
   Tailgate outreach that had it's
   largest attendance in the events
   history!
- Praise God that I am still able to connect to seeking students from last school year! Please pray that God would bless conversations.
- Pray for continued depth in community being formed at UWM



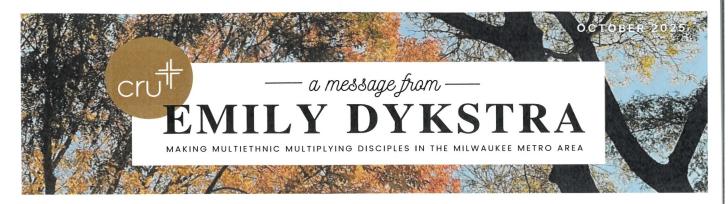
Left: A metro group photo from the Brewers Tailgate Outreach - over 130 students from all over the metro were in attendance!

Because of your prayers and support, the Lord is bringing students to himself and into community - thank you! Let me know how I can be praying for you this month!

For the Kingdom,

Emily

2125 N 52ND ST MILWAUKEE, WI 53208 I 920.382.7566 I EMILY.DYKSTRA@CRU.ORG



## "I THINK I'VE REALLY FOUND MY PEOPLE HERE"

After Fall Retreat, I was able to sit down with Sofia, a freshman in UWM's ASL (American Sign Language) program. I learned pretty quickly that although Sofia grew up going to church, she had faced some serious mental health struggles when she entered college. She chose to drop out and return home. At that time, Jesus met her and she dedicated her life to the Lord. Little did she know that when she enrolled at UW-Milwaukee, there would be another freshman girl in her class that would invite her to Cru! At Fall Retreat she was able to experience authentic community to which she said, "I think I've really found my people here." Now, Sofia is eager to grow in her faith. I asked her what would be a good next step for her, she replied, "I want to go on a mission trip, and I want to be discipled. Could you show me what that looks like?" It just so happened that my disciple and student leader, Kate, had already reached out to her about discipleship! Kate and Sofia will start meeting soon to go over the essentials of the Christian life.

Ways to Pray:

- Praise God for students like Sofia being brought into community and wanting to grow closer to Jesus!
- Praise God that student leaders like Kate are growing a desire to make disciples - We're so excited to see discipleship chains forming at UWM!
- Please pray with us that our students eyes would be searching for where God is at work and how he might be inviting them to join him in his mission.



Right:UWM's
group photo at
Fall Retreat
Below:
Celebrating
Latine Heritage
Month with staff
and students on
campus

Left: Sofia (back in red) with other students enjoying Fall Retreat

Because of your prayers and support, students like Sofia are finding a place to thrive in their relationship with God - thank you! Let me know how I can be praying for you this month!

For the Kingdom,

Emily

2125 N 52ND ST MILWAUKEE, WI 53208 I 920.382.7566 I EMILY.DYKSTRA@CRU.ORG



## **40 DAYS OF PRAYER**

Tom & Colleen Fraser/Campus Ministry

October 2, 2025

#### Dear First Reformed Church,

"The intentional prayer life is a nonnegotiable constant of lasting, fruitful Christian life and leadership." (Lead with Prayer by Skoog, Greer, & Doolittle)

That is how **Shannon Compere** (Exec Director for Campus Ministry - right

with Colleen's Prayer Catalyst Team) ended her update about Cru's 40 Days of Prayer. She was encouraged and desires us to move forward as changed people, radically dependent on Jesus. We are in a unique moment. God is drawing many students to Christ, but we also live amid anxiety, polarization and turmoil. May our disciples and those we lead, see in us men and women who have been with Jesus.



To the one.

Kitty Hurdle (left) is one of the Team Leaders at University of Mississippi. As she was sharing on our zoom update, one of her students walked by. She told him she was sharing with campus staff what God was doing. He shouted back, "What is God NOT doing here?"

When Covid ended, the Ole Miss team came back to **1 student leader**! Today they have **90 student leaders.** This spring and summer 202 students went on international trips. This fall, 25% of

freshman wanted to connect with someone in Cru! (Nationally, 140,000 students wanted someone to reach out to them! As of September 17, 8,000 students attended Fall Retreats, with possibly another 8,000 with Fall Retreats still happening.)

**But it is always about "the ONE", isn't it?** These numbers represent thousands of ONE student hungry for Jesus! **Connor is a freshman at University of Mississippi who came to trust Jesus two days before their retreat**. He wanted to go but he didn't have a Bible or know anyone. They all said "COME!" At the end of their time, he said, "This is the family I never knew I needed. And the message of hope I've always longed for." Thank you, Father, for Your great love to call these students to Yourself.

Kitty exclaimed, "We've been here 14 years, and we have never seen this kind of fruit!"

One student leader, pondered, "Isn't evangelism and discipleship what life's all about?"

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) And He is doing just that! EVERYWHERE! The Lord is answering many prayers. Hallelujah! And we believe He has only begun!

Please Keep Praying, Tom & Colleen



"The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) is able to accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God – it is dynamic and can have tremendous power.]" James 5:16

#### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray that God would provide follow up and discipleship for all the new believers in the nation and the whole world.
- Pray for Tom to have wisdom and guidance as he begins a Faith and Finance class.
- Pray for Collegiate Day of Prayer preparation for the Partners' Summit November 4-5
- Continue to pray for protection over us and our sons and their families.



1121 Paoli Pike West Chester, Pa 19380



tom.fraser@cru.org colleen.fraser@cru.org



Tom 484-356-6447 Colleen 484-947-7971

## Your Donation Helps Save Lives!



**Facility Improvements Capital Campaign 2025** 



Give online at pscdcsupport.com

## Sponsorship Levels



**PSCDC Building Sponsorship** 



PSCDC Room Sponsorship Seven Prominent Rooms (multiple sponsors)



**Platinum** 



Gold



Silver

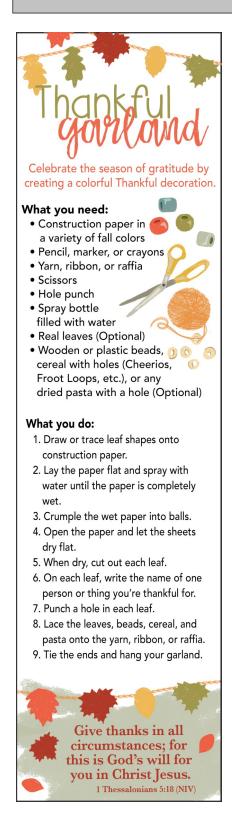


**Bronze** 

Thank You! Every Gift makes a difference.

Donations can also be mailed to PSCDC, PO Box 845, Beaver Dam, WI 53916

## Children's Activity Page



# Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column of letters to complete the hidden phrase below.

FEAST, KHAKI, MOUTH, ESSAY, LLAMA, ORBIT, CARRY, UDDER, BRUSH, ITEMS, APPLE, LEARN, CIDER	A P P L E
P	

Answer: Praise the Lord!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						8:30am GriefShare
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am Worship Communion 5:00pm CS 6:15pm RCYF	6:30pm Women's Bible Study Lesson 30	8:30am Ephesians Bible Study 6:30pm Prayer Team	3:30pm Catechism 5:30pm Harvest Soup Supper			8:30am GriefShare
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am Worship 5:00pm CS 6:15pm RCYF	6:30pm Elder's Meeting 7pm Consistory	8:30am Ephesians Bible Study	3:30pm Catechism 5:30pm Harvest Soup Supper			8:30am GriefShare
16 Dam Worship 5:00pm CS 5:15pm RCYF OCC Boxes are	17 6:30pm Women's Bible Study Lesson 31	18 8:30am Ephesians Bible Study	19 3:30pm Catechism 5:30pm Harvest Soup Supper	20	21	12 8:30-10:30an GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays
23 9am Worship	24	25	26 No Catechism	27	28	29
5:00pm CS 5:15pm RCYF		8:30am Ephesians Bible Study	5:30 Harvest Soup Supper 6:15pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	Thanksgiving		

9am Worship No CS No RCYF 1st Sunday of Advent