

The Friendly Communicator

October 2026

A Word from the Pastor

As September draws to a close, please join us for the **Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue** on September 30th at 6 pm in the church fellowship hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a meal and meaningful conversation with neighbors of different faith traditions, building relationships and understanding across our community. Whether you've attended one of these dialogues before or this will be your first time, all are welcome.

There's a special surprise coming at the **ABCWI Annual Gathering**, and I'd love to see our congregation well represented at the business meeting on October 10th, from 9:00 until approximately 10:30 am, at Emmanuel Chin Baptist Church. Along those lines, the **ABCWI Nominating Committee** is still seeking people to serve on the Board of Managers. There are two 3-year terms open (ending in 2029) and one unfilled term ending in 2027. Board members meet three times a year via Zoom (the first Saturday of November, March, and August) and also serve on one of the region's Commissions or Committees, which meet 4–6 times per year. Per our bylaws, the Board must maintain at least 1/3 laity and 1/3 clergy, and at least 1/3 men and 1/3 women — currently, we're specifically in need of a layperson and a man to fill these open positions, along with a broader interest in diversity of culture, theology, region, and setting (urban, suburban, town, or rural). We're also looking for one person to serve on the Nominating Committee itself, with no laity/clergy or gender requirements for that role. If you feel called to serve in either capacity, please reach out — I'd be glad to talk with you about what's involved.

Don't forget our **Quarterly Congregational Meeting and Potluck** on October 18th. This is an important time for us to gather, share a meal together, and hear updates about the life and direction of our church. I hope you'll plan to attend and bring a dish to pass.

Finally, there's still time to join me for the remaining sessions of the **Leadership Training Academy** course I'm teaching this fall at the regional office: "Extraordinary Mission through Ordinary Administration." The final two sessions meet Saturdays, November 7 & 14, from 9 am–12 pm, hybrid (at the region office or via Zoom). These sessions will focus on the councils, boards, and committees responsible for sound decision-making, and the financial practices that sustain and reflect the church's integrity. When this often-unglamorous work is done faithfully, it quietly sets the church free to pursue its mission with energy, focus, and joy.

With gratitude,

Pastor Stephen

The Friendly Communicator

October 2026

August 2026 Financial Income Report

General Receipts

Envelopes	\$10,385.00
Loose Offerings	181.00
Church School	126.00
Tithely	77.67
Thanksgiving	40.00
Total	\$10,809.67

Miscellaneous Receipts

Pow Wow	50.00
MMCC	400.00
Sorenson-VBS donation	101.42
Total	\$601.42

Communion Offering

Milwaukee Community Crossroads	225.00
Total	\$225.00

Memorial Fund

	0.00
Total	\$0.00

Mission Offering

Grand Avenue Club	150.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	60.00
Milwaukee Community Crossroads	150.00
Total	\$360.00

Deposited Total **\$11,996.09**

Suggested items for the third Sunday (Oct. 18th) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **lunch items, soup/ravioli no ramen & razors/shaving cream.** Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.

October Birthdays

- 3 Pat Shawgo
- 6 Samuel Koss
- 7 Christopher Spitzer
- 8 Barb Winski
- 12 Charles Graves
- 13 Chad Beutin
- 15 Michelle Caswell
- 15 Kim Kosobucki
- 18 Adriann Kupka
- 24 Michael Arnold
- 26 Margery Krueger
- 28 John Keinert
- 29 Jane Cordie

October Anniversaries

- 4 Jeremy & Nancy Koss, 29 years
- 9 Lynn & Lorna Stoecker, 61 years
- 10 Joseph & Alisha House, 18 years
- 18 Karl & Nancy Byleen, 52 years
- 27 Chad & Sheila Beutin, 36 Years

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.

The Friendly Communicator

October 2026

October Communion Offering

The Communion Offering that will be taken on Sunday, October 4 is designated for Global Servants Eric and Yuree Lembke.

Eric and Yuree serve at the Thoo Mweh Khee Learning Center in Thailand, close to the Thai-Myanmar border. The Center is an educational haven for nearly 3,000 migrant children. At the Center, Eric and Yuree teach language courses in English and Thai, and classes in ministry, sewing, and engineering/design.

Eric and Yuree are well-known to our congregation. When Bonnie Sorenson lived in Green Bay, Eric was a student in her junior high Sunday School class. Many of our men know Eric because he and his dad Mark were regulars at the Men's Winter Retreats at Camp Tamarack.

Global Servants (formerly known as missionaries) are appointed by the International Ministries agency of our denomination. Some Global Servants are pastors while others are medical doctors, teachers, or experts in agriculture, business, or engineering.

How are Global Servants funded? By gifts from individuals and churches that are designated for a specific Global Servant.

Please consider making a generous gift on Sunday, October 4 to help support the ministry of Eric and Yuree Lembke in Thailand.



The Friendly Communicator

October 2026



October is the beginning of a lot of changes. The temperature begins to drop, leaves begin to turn colors, baseball comes to an end, school children have settled into their routines, and choirs are back in rehearsal.

Change is scary and many people resist any changes to their routines. But what if we looked at change as creative variation? Just like music has variations (think Mozart) our lives can have variations that spark new ideas or interests. Making a small change can make a big difference. It can make a difference in our lives but it also affects the lives of the people around us.

October is the month of change so prayerfully consider how you can change your Wednesday evening routine and join us at church for choir rehearsal. Your routine will change for the better and our group will be better because of your participation. It's a win-win situation!!

Mary Schecher

The Friendly Communicator

October 2026

The church freezer will be emptied & defrosted on Sunday, Oct 25th. Please plan ahead - remove any personal items from the freezer & do not put anything in the freezer in the meantime.

Please join our **American Baptist Women** in their Fall Collection for Milwaukee Community Crossroads. Now through Sunday, October 11, bring in school supplies & toiletries to support the programs at MCC.

Rescheduled Annual Bike Ride

The **16th Annual First Baptist Church Bike Ride** on the Hank Aaron State Trail has been rescheduled (it was unfortunately rained out on August 1). Please mark your calendar for 3:00 p.m., Sunday, October 25. We'll meet at the church bike rack. Bicyclists of all abilities are welcome. Please supply your own bicycle and helmet. We'll adjust the length of the bike ride to accommodate all who show up on October 25.

182nd Annual Gathering: "Radical Hospitality in a Hostile World" (Hebrews 13:2).

October 9-10 at Emmanuel Chin Baptist Church in Greenfield

Friday 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. & Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Our speakers include:

- Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for ABCUSA
- Rev. Dr. Hrang Hlei, Indiana Chin Baptist Church
- Rev. Max Ramsey, Immanuel Church in Brookfield.

Rev. Deliris Carrion and Moise Joseph, our global servants from Tijuana, will also be with us.

The Friendly Communicator

October 2026

Proposed Budget for 2027

First Baptist Church of West Allis

<u>Line Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>2027 Budget</u>	
01-5105	Secretarial	9984	10,296	3%
01-5110	Custodial Services	3500	3,500	0%
01-5120	Insurance	13500	15,000	11%
01-5128	Fuel	13000	13,000	0%
01-5140	Water & Sewer	1800	1,900	6%
01-5150	Electricity	8500	8,500	0%
01-5160	Telephone	2200	2,200	0%
01-5180	Per / Non-Per Supply	300	600	100%
01-5188	Services	3500	3,500	0%
01-5208	Building & Equipment	14000	12,000	-14%
01-5220	Equipment Purchases	1000	1,000	0%
01-5230	Social Security/Medicare	2526	2,638	4%
01-5260	Trash Removal	1100	1,300	18%
CHURCH - Total		74,910	75,434	1%
01-6100	Pastor's Salary	0	0	-
01-6101	Pastor's Expenses	800	1,000	25%
01-6102	Pastor's Sabbatical	0	0	0%
01-6110	Pastor's Pension	4996	5,793	16%
01-6111	Medical Insurance	3786	0	-100%
01-6130	Pulpit Supply	2400	2,500	4%
01-6135	Pulpit Committee	0	0	0%
01-6140	Convention Expense	250	2,000	700%
01-6210	Continuing Education	250	500	100%
01-6240	Housing	29004	33,636	16%
01-6260	Social Security Offset	2220	2,573	16%
PASTORAL MINISTRY - Total		43,706	48,003	10%
01-7100	Music Director	18000	18,900	5%
01-7110	Musicians Conference	1200	1,200	0%
01-7120	Music Committee	1300	1,300	0%
01-7121	Piano / Robe Cleaning	600	600	0%
01-7130	Organ Maintenance	600	600	0%
01-7140	Office Supplies	700	700	0%
01-7150	Ads / Public Relations	600	600	0%
01-7170	Social Committee	400	400	0%
01-7180	Finance Committee	200	200	0%
01-7190	Diaconate	600	600	0%
01-7200	Postage	400	400	0%
WORSHIP SERVICE - Total		24,600	25,500	4%
01-8100	Sunday School	250	250	0%
01-8110	Vacation Bible School	200	300	50%
01-8120	Camp Scholarships (was Audio Visual Aids)	2000	2,000	0%
01-8130	Youth Activities	0	0	0%
01-8150	Missionary Education	500	500	0%
01-8160	Christian Ed. Ministry	400	500	25%
01-8170	Youth Leader (was Christian Ed. Programs)	0	0	0%
01-8190	Annual Gathering - Delegate Attendance(was Eqi	0	200	0%
01-8200	Lay Minister	5040	5,292	5%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Total		8,390	9,042	8%
Budget Subtotal		151,606	157,979	4%
Capital Fund - 1.5% Unified		2,527	2,633	4%
02-9021	Missions - 8.5% Unified	14,318	14,920	4%
GRAND TOTAL		168,451	175,532	4%