

The Friendly Communicator

September 2025

A Word from the Pastor

Our Congregation's Values:

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| 1. Community (belonging, fellowship, togetherness) | 4. Care for each other |
| 2. Worship | 5. <u>Mission work</u> (time, talents, & offerings) |
| 3. Music | 6. Welcoming the stranger |

As summer winds down and we step into the month of September, I am filled with appreciation for the ways this church embodies the Christian call to mission and service. To quote activist Lilla Watson, **“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”** As we look forward, I encourage you to keep embracing the idea that mission does not flow in one direction but is a shared journey of giving, receiving, and growing together in Christ's love.

This month, the church council is excited to take a step further in fostering connections within our own congregation by creating a **Directory of Expertise**. Many of you possess incredible skills, talents, and knowledge that could be a blessing to someone else in the church. Whether it's financial planning, home repairs, cooking, computer skills, or prayer ministry, we want to create a space where these gifts can be shared and utilized to support one another. If you'd like to have your name added to this directory, please email the church office this month at firstbaptistwestallis@gmail.com with a brief description of your area(s) of expertise. Also, let us know whether you'd like this information shared solely with the office or with the wider congregation.

In addition to this new initiative, I want to remind you of our connection to other churches throughout Wisconsin. This year's **ABCWI Annual Gathering will take place, September 26th and 27th at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Madison. The theme is “Be Strong and Courageous” (Joshua 1:9).** You can register for the event by visiting www.abcofwi.org/annual-gatherings/. This is a great opportunity to reunite with our faith family as we learn more ways to share our time, talents, and financial resources for mission work throughout the state and beyond.

With peace and joy,

Pastor Stephen

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June 2025 Financial Income Report

General Receipts

Envelopes	\$9,102.00
Capital Fund	100.00
Church School	101.00
Elevator Fund (M. Krueger)	750.00
Total	\$10,053.00

Miscellaneous Receipts

Pow wow	50.00
MMCC	0.00
ABF-2 nd Qtr.	729.01
Funeral – Graves	50.00
Total	\$829.01

Communion Offering

GAC	0.00
Eras Senior Network	85.00
Total	\$85.00

Mission Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing	330.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	150.00
MCC Collections	0.00
Total	\$650.00

Deposited Total **\$11,597.01**

Suggested items for the third Sunday (Sept. 21st) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **peanut butter & jelly and toilet paper**. Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.

Corn Roast

Thank you to all who participated, cooked, served, and helped set up and cleanup at our annual ABMens Corn Roast this past Sunday. We raised a total of \$851 which will be used to support the ongoing mission work of our ABMens group. Your support is always appreciated.

Golden Guys and Gals

The 3G's: On Wednesday, September 17, the Golden Guys and Gals (3Gs) will picnic and cruise at the home of Debb and Jeff Jaeck on beautiful Phantom Lake in Mukwonago. Plan to arrive at the Jaeck home (W300S10317 Lakeside Dr) at 11 a.m., with whatever you'd like to grill and a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Please sign up in the Education Wing foyer, indicating whether or not you need transportation--the deadline is Sunday, September 14.

15th Annual Bike Ride: The 15th Annual Bike Ride on the Hank Aaron State Trail will start at the church at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept 20. It will end at the Byleen home (9322 W Garden Ct), with refreshments and a 5:15 p.m. supper. If you have participated in at least one of the annual bike rides, or know someone who has, we invite you for supper, even if you will not be riding this year.

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September Birthdays

- 7 Stanley Holl
- 8 Bill Schuttenhelm
- 9 Craig Holl
- 13 Charlotte Jaeck
- 14 John House
- 19 Kathy Vichich
- 19 Brittany Radakovich
- 24 Lynn Stoecker
- 25 Ramon Hernandez
- 25 Owen Thayer
- 28 Haley Daly
- 30 John Wothe

September Anniversaries

- 23 Mike & Pat Shawgo, 47 years
- 28 Brian & Dianna Brophey, 29 years

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

Kodiak Baptist Mission

The Communion Offering for September is designated for the Kodiak Baptist Mission. Today, the Kodiak Baptist Mission is an innovative Christian mission that specializes in children and family ministries. It is located on Kodiak Island, about 250 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska. Our members Klaus and Jane Zunker visited the Kodiak Baptist Mission on one of their travels. The Kodiak Baptist Mission had its roots in 1891 when the American Baptist Churches sent a young couple, the Roscoe's, to start a school on Kodiak Island. They discovered many destitute children living on the streets and reported that an orphanage was a more urgent need than a school. The American Baptist Women's Home Mission Society funded the orphanage. The Roscoe's provided a home and Christian training to the children of the orphanage, 30 children at the end of the first year, 50 children by the end of the second. A day school and Sunday school were soon established. The autobiography of Frederic Roscoe, son of the missionaries, is recommended reading: Suggested items for the third Sunday (Sept 15) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are peanut butter & jelly and toilet paper. From Humboldt to Kodiak, 1886-1895, Recollections of a Frontier Childhood and the Founding of the First American School and the Baptist Mission at Kodiak, Alaska.

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Capital Fund Drive

The anticipated expense for elevator repair will almost deplete the amount in the Capital Fund. If you appreciate the elevator, please make designated contributions to the Capital Fund, beyond your regular giving to the church and its missions, by marking "Capital Fund" and the amount on your offering envelope.

Fellowship Time

Until the church elevator is repaired, Fellowship Time after worship will be held in two locations: the Church Parlor (which is on the sanctuary level) and Fellowship Hall.

Welcoming New Members

Congratulations to our 6 new members who were extended the right hand of fellowship by Sue Moreno on Sunday, August 17th



(left to right,) Pastor Stephen, Gary Grosz, Fred Schecher, Passmore Felts, Bonnie Sorenson and John Sorenson. Welcome!

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Here we go again! Everything is starting – schools, choirs, sales – Halloween is here and Christmas is right behind it. It is exhausting to see time flying by so quickly. Maybe we need to put on the brakes or at least slow down.

There are so many wonderful and interesting things in this beautiful world God created for us. Yet we often miss them because we are so busy being busy.

Don't get me wrong, there is plenty to do in this world to share God's kingdom but I can't find any place in the Bible where God tells us to do it all on our own.

The choirs in this church are a great example of not doing it all on your own. We have a full bell choir this year and that means that some ringers will have less bells and we can do more challenging music. The bonus is that it is much more fun.

Our chancel choir has grown this year and so that means we have more voices to help praise God. It is always better to sing with someone than to carry a part all by yourself.

You don't have to do anything alone. Not only is God always with you as a source of guidance and strength, but this community is always here supporting each other and cheering each other on.

Mary Schecher

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