# The Friendly Communicator

## November 2026

## A Word from the Pastor

As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter, November invites us to slow down and take stock of our blessings. This month, I'm especially grateful for the people of this congregation, who keep showing me what it looks like to love God and neighbor in ordinary, everyday ways. October gave us some wonderful examples, and November has a lot in store as well.

**Looking Back on October**

**A Surprise Worth the Wait.** For those who have been wondering what the special surprise was at this year's regional annual gathering, we can finally tell you. This morning, the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin presented its first-ever **Spirit of ABCWI Award** to our very own "Mr. Karl" for his dedication to living out the gospel through radical hospitality. Congratulations, Karl! We can't think of a more deserving recipient. Karl has made countless people feel welcomed, seen, and at home among us, and now the whole region knows it too. Please take a moment to congratulate him in person.

**New Nursery Murals.** Be sure to stop by the nursery and see the new murals. Our littlest members now have a bright, joyful space to play, and we have Catherine W. to thank for it. She did a marvelous job, and her talent and generosity are a gift to every child (and every weary parent) who walks through those doors. Thank you, Catherine!

**Coming Up in November**

**Pastor's Trip to Liberia.** I will be traveling to Liberia this month to attend the International Theological Education conference. I'm honored to take part and look forward to learning from sisters and brothers in Christ from around the world, and to bringing back what I learn. Please keep me, my travel, and the conference in your prayers. I'll share stories and reflections when I return.

**Holiday Bazaar: November 13-14.** Mark your calendars! Our annual Holiday Bazaar is a wonderful time of fellowship, creativity, and generosity. Whether you're baking, crafting, shopping, setting up, or simply stopping by to say hello, there's a place for you. Bring a friend or neighbor, too. It's a great way to introduce someone to our church family.

**Advent Begins: November 29.** The season of waiting and hope starts on the last Sunday of the month. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, I invite you to join us in worship and to consider how you might make room for quiet, prayer, and wonder amid the busyness of the holidays.

**A Closing Thought**

In a season of giving thanks, let's remember that gratitude is best lived out loud: in a kind word, a warm welcome, a painted mural, a shared meal. Thank you for being a congregation that does just that.

Pastor Stephen

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## November 2026

### September 2026
### Financial Income Report

| | |
|---|---|
| **General Receipts** | |
| Envelopes | $9,880.00 |
| Loose Offerings | 79.00 |
| Church School | 50.00 |
| Christmas | 60.00 |
| **Total** | **$10,069.00** |
| | |
| **Miscellaneous Receipts** | |
| Pow Wow | 50.00 |
| MMCC | 400.00 |
| Kyle Williams Global Servant | 20.00 |
| **Total** | **$470.00** |
| | |
| **Communion Offering** | |
| Kodiak | 205.00 |
| **Total** | **$225.00** |
| | |
| **Memorial Fund** | |
| Fred Schecher | 125.00 |
| Fred Schecher-Music Ministry | 500.00 |
| **Total** | **$625.00** |
| | |
| **Mission Offering** | |
| Grand Avenue Club | 150.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | 10.00 |
| Milwaukee Community Crossroads | 150.00 |
| World Mission | 290.00 |
| **Total** | **$600.00** |
| | |
| **Deposited Total** | **$11,969.00** |

### Hanging of the Greens
### & Family game night

Please help decorate the church for Advent at 4:00 pm on Saturday, November 28th. More information will be posted in the Tuesday News.

Suggested items for the third Sunday (Nov. 15th) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **canned vegetables & body wash.** Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.

### November Birthdays

8 Glenn Kupka
9 Christine Leitner
13 Regina Hernandez
19 Angela Wothe
21 Terry Arnold
24 Joseph House
26 Zoey Zunker

### November Anniversaries

5 Dave & Barb Winski 38 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 Annual Holiday Bazaar** will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 13th from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, and on Saturday, November 14th from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm.

We are now accepting donations of attic treasures for the Holiday Bazaar. **We recommend donating books, jewelry, holiday decorations, cookware, and kitchenware**. Please **do not** donate glassware of any kind, stuffed animals, clothing, electronics, furniture or anything that is not clean or in working order. Bring items to the upper room (that is, the room above the church office). Contact Becky Holl if you have any questions.

**Christmas is Coming**!! We are in need of people/families to do the Advent candle readings and prayers. The script is all written out. If you would like to be part of this special part of worship during the Advent season, please let Mary Schecher know.




## Fall Financial Campaign

Each year, during the month of November, the Finance Committee conducts a campaign to raise funds to support the next year's budget. We encourage our members to take stock of all that God has given them in 2026, and then to set goals for their use of time, talents, and finances in 2027.

As part of the campaign, each member will be asked to complete an *Estimate of Giving* for 2027. Only one person in the church, the Financial Recorder, sees those estimates, but the total of all estimates is helpful to the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees in their roles as stewards of the church's financial resources.

At the October 18 quarterly business meeting, the congregation adopted a 2027 budget of $175,532--an increase of 4% over the 2026 budget. Please participate in the campaign by making an *Estimate of Giving* for 2027. *Estimate of Giving* forms will be distributed at church and sent by mail or email. Completed forms may be placed in the offering at worship or mailed to the church in care of the Financial Recorder.

## November Communion Offering

The Communion Offering that will be taken on Sunday, November 1 is designated for Global Servants Luis and Sarah Matos.

Luis and Sarah serve indigenous communities in Oaxaca, Mexico. Luis uses his background in business and leadership to help local churches empower leaders in community development. Sarah is an educator and trains women to be mentors in the Talita Cumi Girls Club. Luis and Sarah gave presentations about their ministries when they visited our church one year ago.

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, November 1 to help support the ministries of Luis and Sarah Matos in Mexico.

## Golden Guys and Gals

If you are at least 50 years old, consider yourself invited to the Golden Guys and Gals annual Christmas Party at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10. We will meet in the semi-private Atrium room at Open Flame, 5081 S 108th St in Hales Corners.
We will be able to order off the menu and receive individual checks. We do need to confirm the number who will attend, so please sign up in the Education Wing foyer.
**Leadership change**: Karl Byleen and Kathy McDonald have resigned their positions as leaders of the Golden Guys and Gals effective at the end of 2026. We have enjoyed planning the group's activities for the past three years, but now it's time for a hand-off. Kathy is moving to Arizona, the scenic Grand Canyon State. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to lead the 3Gs in 2027, please inform Karl or Kathy so we can make the announcement at the Christmas Party. We will be happy to pass on what we know to the next leaders.




Thank you to everyone for their prayers, words of comfort, and support following the passing of Fred. Grief is powerful but the love of community and God is stronger!

**FROM THE DIREKTR**

I had to say that word in rehearsal last week – Advent – the start of the Christian calendar and the start of the commercial frenzy known as shopping. I will not be participating in the shopping, but I will be enjoying the way our worship works towards Christmas Eve.

Advent is the first step in a four-week hike. All the scriptures, readings, prayers, and candles move us along the path of anticipation **of** the birth to participation **in** the birth. Each week we focus on another aspect of our Christian faith. It really is an exciting time of year.

If you want to know more about Advent, check out the hymnal, pages 709-710. There is a brief explanation of Advent there. Of course, there is Google – always check your sources. As we approach the first Sunday in Advent, fill your mind with information and fill your spirit with hope, peace, joy, and love – the four pillars of Advent. As the old song says, ”Get all excited, go tell everybody…”

**Mary Schecher**







Be sure to stop by the nursery to check out the new murals. Let's all thank Catherine W. for doing such a marvelous job.

