



1450 Second Street  
Fennimore, WI 53809

***September and October 2025***  
Newsletter

# September and October 2025 NEWSLETTER



September 1, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I extend a warm greeting to all of you, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I also welcome those of you who are returning after our summer break from Sunday School.

The Christian Church has been composed from the beginning to the present time with those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, who have been baptized, trained, and incorporated into the body of Christ. Then they are sent out as disciples into the world to spread the message of salvation and thus, fulfill the great commission to make disciples in all nations.

During the first century, the preparation and sending of Jesus's disciples into the world took more than three and a half years. This was the sufficient time Jesus considered necessary to train his disciples for the task to which he called them. This period of preparation extended almost to the end of the first century. However, his disciples kept learning all their lives...almost to the very hour of their death.

During those years of Christian formation and growth, first by John the Baptist and then by Jesus Christ—they needed more time for

reflection, practicing their faith, spiritual growth, and discernment of God's plan. They quickly assimilated God's plan for their own life and the life of the Church. It is good to know that everything we know about the life and teachings of Jesus has come down to us through the apostolic community.

It was a process of much internal struggle, reflection, and revelation through the Holy Spirit until the church, over a period of time, assimilated much better God's call and what the mission of the church should be like. It was not a revelation that came down from heaven that the disciples could implement in any community. They needed to adjust, plant the seeds, and deal with the members in each community according to their own understanding and development of their faith.

They did not immediately understand God's amazing grace and his future plans. For this particular reason they had discussions in Antioch, Jerusalem, and Samaria about Christian faith in Jesus Christ and the things the Gentile community would need to know about new life in Christ. Over the years, the apostles reached a consensus, but not before facing the new challenges that arose in the formation of new communities of faith. In each subsequent century, the Church has had to face new conflicts, new forms of heresy, and worldly practices contrary to the faith once delivered to the saints.

Over the years, these new challenges and heretical practices strengthened the Church in its struggles. In other words, the challenges were not entirely negative but rather served to formulate new approaches and new teachings regarding new conflicts the Church faced in each century. Again, the Church's struggle throughout the centuries has always been two-way: internal and external. Internally, by those who question the Church's doctrines and practices from within.

Inside, some members of the Christian church made alliances with false teachers and practices foreign to the faithful community. Some of them, not conforming to the apostolic

teachings and believing they were correct, struggled with the apostolic community to implement their beliefs. Many renewal movements arose, desiring to fulfill God's will (the Council of Nicaea, the Protestant Reformation, among many others). Others, however, were movements of regression to the darkest ages of the Church (The Crusades, the Holy Inquisition, the payment of indulgences, and the fight between the Anabaptist, Catholic and the Lutheran Church. etc.).

In the past, those who resisted the abandonment of the principles handed down by past generations fought from within and from without against the heretical practices contrary to the apostolic teachings handed down from generation to generation. In turn, ordinary people in the new communities of faith sought the need to reformulate the ecclesiastical practices and creeds that continued to be the foundation of our Christian heritage, thus contributing to the sustainable development of the faith and the discernment of the signs of the times according to the guidance indicated by the Holy Spirit.

The history of the Christian Church records 20 centuries of continuous internal and external struggles. The bad news is that these struggles will not stop, nor will they disappear. Quite the contrary, these disputes will remain as a faithful prophetic testimony until the final consummation of history as observed in Jesus's parable of the wheat and the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30). Jesus warned his disciples that, at the time of the harvest, the wheat would be separated from the weeds, to differentiate one from the other. What do we need to do then? We need to continue sowing the wheat (The Gospel of the Kingdom of God).

Jesus instructed his disciples not to pull up the weeds because they could make a big mistake. We must let them grow together until the time of harvest (that is, the Final Judgment). (Matthew 13:24-30). At the time of the harvest, Jesus, assisted by his angels, will gather and separate the wheat from the weeds. The wheat will be gathered for salvation; the weeds will be

burned in the fiery furnace. Jesus Christ will be the Righteous Judge who will send his servants to gather the harvest and determine who is wheat and who is weeds. We must discern the message of this parable.

This metaphor about the wheat and the tares (weeds) represents, on the one hand, believers saved by faith in Jesus Christ. They are the wheat and bear fruit for eternal life. The weeds, on the other hand, have been sown by the enemy who has come to sow discord and to bring confusion among the children of God. The weeds represent those who do not produce the fruits of the kingdom of God. They have doubts about the Word of God; their thoughts are confused because the devil has planted false ideas in their heads. They produce church division.

The weeds represent those who have not accepted Jesus as their Savior who died to freely save, we humans. Although they may look a lot like wheat, they are in reality weeds. They do not produce the fruits of the kingdom because they are not connected to Jesus or his Holy Spirit. Now, at harvest time, the Lord will send his angels to gather the wheat into his barn, and the weeds will be pulled up from the earth and thrown into the fiery furnace (hell) to be burned forever. We must examine ourselves to discern whether we are truly wheat or weeds. If we are wheat, we will produce the fruits of God's kingdom. If we are weeds, then we will bring confusion and division into the life of the church.

Although wheat and weeds look very similar, one bears fruit for God's kingdom while the other does not. The Lord Jesus said, "You shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16-20). A good tree produces good fruit, while a bad tree produces bad fruit. The enemy, none other than Satan, sows doubt in the fields of our brains and hearts and motivates humanity to do evil deeds, denying the Lord who created them. The unfaithful use their intellect and knowledge in a worldly way, reasoning in ways to justify themselves, but by doing so they are bringing greater condemnation upon

themselves. The enemy sows doubt, resentment, internal conflicts in their conscience, hatred, and divisions, producing deep contradictions that arise in opposition to the Christian faith. Those who think and act like this cannot submit to God's will.

The prophet Isaiah (in Isaiah 57:20) says: "But the wicked are like the stormy sea, which cannot be still, and its waters cast up mire and clay. 'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked.'" Unbelievers have no peace because they do not have the Spirit of Christ and, therefore, cannot obey or submit to God's will. The Bible also says: "The Lord knows those who are His; and let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (2 Timothy 2:19).

Please join me in welcoming back Chelsea Wanek-Bedward, our Administrative Assistant, who has returned to her job in the office after taking several weeks off to have and care for her baby, Walker William. Congratulations on your new baby boy!

Note: Students will soon return to classes and Sunday School will again be held at church. We will also be returning to adult Bible study just like last year.

*Pastor Rey*



**Fennimore United Methodist Church:**

8:00 AM Worship

9:15 AM Christian Education

6:30 PM SEW "Sunday Evening Worship"

7:15 PM Confirmation

**Stitzer United Methodist Church:**

10:30 AM Worship

# FENNIMORE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*September and October*

*Article by Judy Nelson*

As the crisp air of early autumn settles in, we gather together to celebrate a new season of faith and fellowship. September brings with it a spirit of beginning—children return to school and routines fall into place.

***A few highlights in September:***

9/5 Cheese Pizza Day

9/11 Patriot Day

9/12 National Video Games Day

9/22 Autumn Equinox Dax

9/25 National Comic Book Day

The United Women in Faith had a busy summer. We served a meal for bible school and meals for youth groups. We also served a funeral.

Our Salad Luncheon was a success! We sold 105 tickets. Thank you to all who made and donated the delicious salads and desserts. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful congregation, willing to work and attend these events.

Thank you all for—the prep, making German potato salad, deviled eggs, salads and desserts, setting up the dining room, selling tickets, serving and clean up. It takes many hands to make it a success!

**ACTIVITIES COMING SOON:** Our next meeting will be held on October 22 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome. We will also be hosting Bingo at the nursing home on October 6. The Creation Team will be starting again this fall. Normally, it is the third Monday and Tuesday of the month. Watch the bulletin or contact Nadine Schrader or Kim Cathman.

We would also like to thank Phil Alm and Dave Hipenbecker for trimming the bushes around the church! They did a great job – the Church looks great.

Let us enter September with hearts open to God's grace and eyes attuned to new possibilities. May this season be filled with encouragement, compassion, and hope for all.

Recipe from the 1996 Church Cookbook

### **Apple Crisp**

Shirley A. Olson

1 cup all purpose flour  
¾ cup rolled oats  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
½ cup butter or margarine, softened  
4 cups chopped, peeled apples  
1 cup sugar  
2 T cornstarch  
1 cup water  
1 tsp vanilla

In a mixing bowl, combine first 4 ingredients; cut in butter until crumbly. Press half into a greased 9 inch square pan, cover with apples. In a saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch, water and vanilla, cook and stir until thick and clear. Pour over apples; sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Bake at 350 for about 1 hour.



Bible Study with Pastor Rey

Every Wednesday at 1:00 PM **OR** 6:00 PM.

## *Care Facility Residents*

Please keep our residents in your prayers!

### **Divine Rehabilitation and Nursing**

Vicki Quincy  
Sue Lewison

### **Orchard Manor**

Bill Rotramel

### **Park Place Senior Living**

Duane Furrer  
Joann Schrader  
Anna Grunder

### **Riverside Transitional Care (Lacrosse)**

Donna Blackburn

### **Aspire Senior Living (Oshkosh)**

Harriet Brun

## *My Dad is Better Than Your Dad!*

Three boys on the playground were bragging about their dads. One said. "My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a song and they pay him \$50." "Oh, yeah. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a poem and they pay him \$100." "That's nothing," said the third kid. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon and it takes six people to collect all the money in the room!"