



Sunday, September 7, 2025

Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15:2

Holy Communion served today

Today we invite you to come forward and receive Holy Communion. The Wesleyan Church practices open communion and everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is welcome and encouraged to partake in this means of grace. By faith we come forward to Christ and He meets us and offers us His grace. Youth are served communion by the endorsement of readiness from their parents or guardians.

Family Business for September 7, 2025

- 1) Holy Communion instructions
- 2) Getting ready for our special guests next week- Dr. Kalembo and Dr. Smith
- 3) A new season of BSW Underground starts Wednesday
- 4) Prayers for the sea container and the Johnson's trip to Zambia needed
- 5) Instructions for the research project participants

Sermon notes:

A man two sons ... a story Jesus told in Luke 15:11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners are the younger son. The older son is the Pharisees and scribes who are grumbling. Jesus embraces all those who turn to him.

Week one of four in Pastor Milt's doctoral research project.

This Week at BSW

On Sunday (9-7) – Micro-churches meet in the Wood County Jail. Pastor Lonnie and Pastor Milt lead.

On Monday (9-8) – Women’s study group meets at 5:30 pm in the church lobby. Joelle Lemke leads.

On Monday (9-8) – Men’s study group meets in the Family Center at 7 pm. Alex Miller leads.

On Tuesday (9-9) – The Shepherd’s Loft clothing ministry is open to people in need of clothing, bedding, and towels with appointments at 9:30, 10, 10:30, and 11 am available. Donations will be accepted from 9 am until noon.

On Tuesday (9-9) – Bible study in the Loft processing area at 11:15 am. Pastor Milt begins a study of the book of Revelation. Join us for a fresh perspective on Revelation.

On Wednesday (9-10) – Micro-church at Waterford nursing home at 10:30 am. Pastor Milt leads.

On Wednesday (9-10) - Next Level ministry for youth from Youth for Christ held in the Family Center from 3:30 to 5:30 pm ... then the BSW Underground season begins at 6 pm until 8 pm. Youth attending both are welcome to stay in the Family Center between events.

On Thursday (9-11) – Pastors staff meeting at 11 am.

On Friday (9-12) – The Shepherd’s Loft clothing ministry is closed today so that processing team members can attend the funeral of Pat’s husband. Donations accepted, but no patrons today.

On the calendar at BSW:

- Dr. Alfred Kalembo and Dr. Henry Smith are here on September 14th to share how our partnership is making a difference in Zambia.
- LBA meeting on Tuesday, September 16th at 7 pm.
- Men’s breakfast is Saturday, September 20th at 8 am.

Also:

- The Christmas showbox collection is underway for 2025. All the details are available on Tech Booth. The collection boxes are there also!
- Please continue to pray for Pastor Carri Johnson as she prepares to travel to Zambia in October to speak at a women’s conference there.

By The Numbers

Celebrating new life in Christ:

For the 2025-26 Church year (June 1, 2025 until May 31, 2026):

Those confessing Christ as Savior and Lord: 4 (Crystal and Kyle in jail in August)

Those recommitting their life to Christ: 4 (Eric, Moet, James, and Zachary in jail in August)

Those being baptized: 0

Call-to-Ministry: 0

Attendance Report

Date	Sanctuary	Micro-Churches	Online Raw #	X 1.7 Reporting Number	Total Foot Print
Y-T-D Averages To 8/31	99	40	29	50	189
August 3	97	37	37	63	197
August 10	117	45	15	26	188
August 17	102	53	21	36	191
August 24	107	40	29	49	196
August 31	95	52	26	44	191
Average	104	45	26	44	193

Supporting BSW: There are four ways that you can support BSW with your tithes and offerings.

- 1) Securely online at bakerstwesleyan.org using the “support BSW” tab on the right-hand side of the homepage.
- 2) In the jar provided in the sanctuary on the tech booth.
- 3) By mail to Baker Street Wesleyan Church, 640 Baker St. Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, 54494. Attn: Treasurer.
- 4) Donation of stock and securities to our Edward Jones account.

Tithes and Offerings Report

Date	General Fund	Zambia Partnership	Warehouse Partnership	Wish List	
Y-T-Date As of 8/31	44,193	6,514	5,260		
August 3	3,788	2			
August 10	1,944	2	610		
August 17	2,041	102			
August 24	2,871	2	550		
August 31	4,405	52			
Totals	15,049	160	1,160		

Earmarked Giving last week: Jail Bibles \$420, Youth Fall Retreat \$200, Christmas Shoeboxes \$50.

Leadership Team 2025-26:

Local Board of Administration as elected at the Local Church Conference on Sunday, June 22, 2025 serving until the next local church conference.

Chairperson: Rev. Milt Van Natta, Senior Pastor

Treasurer: Jamie Mlsna

Secretary: Kimberly Bier

Members-at-Large: Kat Esser, Mike Hamilton, Diane Jackson, Bonnie Lemke, Brandon Pautz, and Kevin Lien (Vice-Chair).

Your BSW Staff Team

Lead Pastor/Teaching Pastor/Shepherd's Loft: Rev. Milt Van Natta

Next Generations Director/Music Leader: Pastor Seth Dykstra

Assistant Pastor of Discipleship/Zambia: Rev. Carri Johnson

Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Care/Prayer Chain: Rev. Jim Leston

Jail Ministry Missionary: Rev. Lonnie Selje

Building and Grounds Care Team

- Project Managers: Mike Hamilton, Brandon Pautz and Mimi Sievers.

Hearts on Fire: Four Spiritual Journeys in 2025

Journey One- *First Time Through:* Reading/Listening to Good News Bible

Monday, 9-8: 2 Peter 3

Tuesday, 9-9: 1 John 1

Wednesday, 9-10: 1 John 2

Thursday, 9-11: 1 John 3

Friday, 9-12: 1 John 4

Saturday, 9-13: 1 John 5

Sunday, 9-14: 2 John

Journey Two- Daily Holiness Devotional Reading: *When Morning Gilds the Skies* by Dr. John Oswalt. Read the devotional for each day.

Journey Three- Praying for the World from World Almanac and Book of Facts: Be a cot-bearer and pray for the world by name. Also pray as the Lord leads you.

- 1) Read the intercession prayer from page 18 of the Field Guide for Daily Prayer
- 2) Pray for President Trump and Vice-President Vance. Also, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson and Senate leader John Thune.

- 3) The congressional delegations of Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin (Senators on pages 11 and Congressional Representatives on page 17).
- 4) These five countries and their leaders; Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria on pages 837-839.
- 5) Pray for the United States Supreme Court on page 558 (lower right).
- 6) Pray for Governor Evers and the 33 state senators and the 99 state assembly persons of the state of Wisconsin.

Journey Four- Morning and Evening Surrender. Read John Baillie's *Diary of Private Prayer*. One prayer for morning and one prayer for evening. Please read out loud over your own life and heart.