

# GALILEE LUTHERAN CHURCH



## JANUARY 2026



### ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS DUE ASAP!!

Annual Report submissions are due in the office ASAP! To submit your report, along with photo's, email it to Claire at [galilee@galileelc.org](mailto:galilee@galileelc.org).



### JOIN US FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



### Table of Contents

Pastor Amanda.....	Page 2
With Gratitude.....	Page 3
Galilee Happenings.....	Page 4-7
Community Events.....	Page 8
Birthdays & Prayer list.....	Page 9
Calendar.....	Page 10
Who's who at Galilee.....	Page 11

**WALKING WITH JESUS, SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE, SERVING ALL FAITHFULLY.**

# PASTOR AMANDA APPLEHANS



Ah January, the month of eternal optimism! The month when we believe that if we just try a little harder, if we just make a plan and stick to it, if we just resolve once more to do all the things, that our lives will fall into place. We will achieve everything we have ever desired – we will lose that extra 20 pounds, read all the books, and eat healthier – if we just stick to our resolutions.

But, of course, that's not really the truth of things. Some insanely high percentage of New Year's Resolutions are abandoned by the end of February – I'd look it up, but we all know from personal experience how high that level is! I have had a couple of resolutions that "stuck" in my life, but to be honest those were mostly things I enjoyed doing that I resolved to do more of. A much easier resolution to keep than one that means to change something about one's self.

But, as December gives way to January, there is still something in me that yearns for the fresh, newness that the changing year brings. A fresh, clean slate, as open and clean as the snow that has been falling all throughout this December. There is just something about a new year that inspires one to take on something new.

At Galilee we will be taking on a new project as we enter 2026. We have been invited to be a part of the "Raising Faithful Kids" Project with the Vibrant Faith Initiative. Raising Faithful Kids is a spiritual/relational process where parents, kids, and the whole worshipping community will engage around questions of why we worship and sharing our experiences of God. The goal is to help kids and families to be more engaged in the worship experience, and more able to see God's presence in their lives.

If you are interested in working on this project, please get in touch with me, as I am seeking to get a group of people together to help lead this program. Also, watch for more information on being involved with this project as it unfolds across 2026 – there will be several ways to engage the Raising Faithful Kids project throughout 2026.

And most of all – whether you are planning to take on a new resolution for 2026, or whether you think you'll be lucky to make it through given what's already on your plate, know that God is already walking by your side, and will walk with you through all that the coming year has in store. We may not know what the new year holds for us, but we know that the God who has brought us this far will walk with us into whatever the new year brings.

Yours in Christ ~ Pastor Amanda

# With Gratitude



PRESIDENT  
Alissa Braatz

VICE PRESIDENT  
Dipti Krishnan

SECRETARY  
MJ Gilfillan

TREASURER  
Jay Cashmore

PAST PRESIDENT  
Alan Johnson

DIRECTORS  
Ryan Carlton  
Amy Farrow  
Julie Ellensbecker-Lipsky  
Stephanie Geiger  
Bonnie Locke  
Chief Landon Nyren  
Maria Sanders  
Shireesha Vijayapal  
Charles Wright  
Paul Wuteska

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Angela Mancuso

December 2, 2025

Galilee Lutheran Church  
Deb Kohler  
N24W26430 Crestview Dr.  
Pewaukee, WI 53072-4502

Dear Deb,

As we look back on the first half of the year, we're filled with one word: gratitude.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we have already made a meaningful impact on countless survivors this year, and we couldn't have come this far without your support. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your donation of coats.

Your partnership reminds us that progress is always possible when we come together with purpose and compassion. In 2024, The Women's Center provided services to 16,364 community members in need across all our programs, 24-Hour Hotline, and community education efforts. We served nearly 500 children and young adults through the C.A.R.E. Center, provided over 7,000 nights of safety in our shelter, conducted 93 community education presentations to over 7,000 attendees, and answered over 6,000 calls to our 24-Hour Hotline. Our work would not be possible without you.

Thank you for believing in our mission, for being a part of this community, and for making a difference.

Peacefully, *+ with many thanks*  
Capey  
Angela Mancuso  
Executive Director

*Joyce, Mary, Carol & Deb*

*Thank you so much for  
all of your help at my mom's  
memorial service. It was  
such a blessing to have your  
help & support. Love Diane  
Christopoulos*



I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for all the ways that you all remembered me and my family this Christmas. From photo cards and sweet treats to experience gifts and meals shared, your Christmas gifts warmed my heart and Grant and Sam's hearts as well. Thank you for all the generosity you have shared with our family this Christmas!

Pastor Amanda

# THANK YOU



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2812 W Wisconsin Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(414)933-7825  
[StPaulsMKE@yahoo.com](mailto:StPaulsMKE@yahoo.com)

December 2025

Galilee Lutheran Church  
N24 W26430 Crestview Dr  
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Thanx for your contribution of \$712.50 to St Paul's Lutheran Church

(No goods or services were received for this donation)

Sincerely:

Mark Van Engen – Treasurer St Paul's Lutheran Church



December 4, 2025

Galilee Lutheran Church  
N24W26430 Crestview Drive  
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Re: Mission of Healing 2026

Pastor Amanda Applehans and Congregation:

Thank you for your check for \$1,180.00 to support UNITY's 2026 El Salvador Mission of Healing.

We deeply appreciate your part in creating an important legacy through the ministries to this important partner. We will be good stewards of your gift, mindful always of how each act of generosity is an expression of faith, hope, and love.

Thank you,

Matt Grieppentrog, Bookkeeper  
UNITY Lutheran Church  
Brookfield, WI 53045



# Galilee Happenings



## Sock it to Poverty - Now Through Jan 25

Let's walk with people at Hope Center to help support their the low-income guests!

Galilee will be collecting donations that will be used for Hygiene Packs distributed via Hope Center's clothing closet. Items needed are:

- NEW men's socks (dark colors referred)
- NEW women's socks (dark colors preferred)
- Chapstick (approx. \$1.70 each)
- Arm & Hammer Deodorant 2.5 or 2.6 ounce stick (approx. \$2.20 each)
- Zest Aqua Bar Soap (approx. \$1.00 each)
- Colgate Toothpaste 6 ounce tube in box (approx. \$1.90 each)
- Toothbrushes individually wrapped

There is a donation box in the Narthex, or feel free to order via Amazon for delivery to the church office.

We will be scheduling a service project day in February to pack the Hygiene Kits.

## Galilee's Go Getters

*We're taking a winter break!  
The next gathering  
will be in March.  
(Look for an announcement  
mid-February)*

Please contact Carole Brinkman at  
[carole.brinkman@yahoo.com](mailto:carole.brinkman@yahoo.com)

Worship + lunch + games + fellowship

Knitters & Crocheters Group  
Next gathering: **January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**1:00pm in the Gathering Place**  
All abilities welcome!  
Come join this fun group!



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026, 3:00 P.M.**  
Contact Barb Barthel at (262) 691-0711.



# MUSIC AT GALILEE



## "Radio J-O-Y!"

Thank you!

You all shone brightly in worship in 2025! When you read, sang, clapped, smiled, collected noisy offerings, ushered, greeted and helped with communion. Your hard work, beautiful smiles and singing made "Radio J-O-Y!" come alive with all the BEST songs about Christmas and Christmas is all about Jesus. Everyone was reminded about Jesus's birth through you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

J-O-Y-fully,  
Patricia DeBlaey  
Director of Music

## ***In Case of Inclement Weather...***

If the weather results in worship services being cancelled, the following will take place:

-An Constant Contact email will be sent out to all Galilee members.

-Local TV stations CBS 58, Fox 6, WISN 12, & TMJ4 will be contacted to add Galilee on their cancellation/closing list.

-Members are encouraged to contact those who do not use email to let them know if services are cancelled for that day/weekend.



## **THE BIBLE IN A YEAR!**

Have you ever wanted to read the *entire* Bible? This year we will have an opportunity for congregation members to read the whole Bible in a year. We will all read on our own, but each week Pastor Amanda will post a prompt on Facebook where we can connect with one another about the reading we have been doing. We will be following the Bible Project's "Read the Bible in One Year" reading plan. There's a sign up sheet and reading plans are available on the sign up table in the narthex.

## **January Adult Education Info**

- January 4th - No Adult Ed
- January 11 - Annual Report Review
- January 18 - No Adult Education - Congregational Meeting**
- January 25 - NAMI Representative - Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness



## **Have you ever heard a whisper?**

In his Christmas message to the church, ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry delivers a children's sermon, describing the night when Jesus was born. "One silent night, far away in a town called Bethlehem, the stars twinkled brighter than ever. And the angels were there too. It was as if the whole sky was whispering: 'Something wonderful is happening.'"

Curry emphasizes that "whispers make us stop, listen and pay attention" and reminds us that, this Christmas, we should listen closely because "the heavens are still whispering: 'Jesus is here. God loves you. Share that love with the world.'"



## **Message of Thanks from Rev. Joy**

On Tuesday, December 20, 2025 Rev. Joy McDonald Coltvet, past Assisting Pastor at Galilee (2001-2005) sent the following message via Caring Bridge:

*Today, I had my seventh of 14 infusions. So, it's good to be halfway to the finish line.*

*Today, we watched a movie during the waiting time. It was my second time seeing it and Ben's first - *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers) - if you haven't seen it, it's worth a watch for its beautiful themes of feeling emotions without judgement, releasing anger through spiritual practices, and choosing forgiveness and healing.*

*We wish you all, who have been praying for us and cheering for us throughout 2025, blessed days of Christmas and a new year full of grace, joy and renewal.*

*With love,  
Joy and family*



## **Living Lutheran**

### **The New LivingLutheran.org Free Digital Membership**

Ring in the holiday season with our free gift to you: the new [LivingLutheran.org](https://www.livinglutheran.org) is now live! Set up a free digital membership and enjoy these can't-miss features:

- A welcoming, easy-to-access format.
- A personalized, custom dashboard that prioritizes the stories that interest you.
- Access to members-only content.
- E-news email delivery options to get the stories you want, both online and in your inbox.

# ***The PoP Squad is returning to Galilee!***

PoP stands for the Power of Prayer and this is your invitation to become a prayer partner at Galilee in 2026. In 2023 the PoP Squad paired Sunday School students with members of the congregation. We began in February and revealed partners during worship in May. This year we will begin collecting names in January. Interested in getting involved in this prayer adventure? Here's how to join the team:

1. Indicate your willingness to participate by filling out a simple PoP Squad participation form, available in the narthex. You will be asked for your name, birthday month and date, your grade or occupation (past if you are retired), things you like to do, and up to three suggestions of how someone can pray for you.
2. Shhh! It's a secret! PoP Squad team members will be given the name of someone to pray to pray for and that person's information. The person you are praying for will not be the same person who is praying for you.
3. Pairings will be chosen at random, or as I like to think, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Please keep the name of the person you are praying for a secret. Names will be revealed in November.
4. ALL ages are invited to participate, and we'd love to have more men involved this year.

In addition to praying for your person, feel free to send a birthday card or leave a note in your partner's mailbox at church. Not only will we be tapping into God's amazing power through prayer, we'll also be creating new relationships in the Galilee community. You do not need to be an official member to participate.

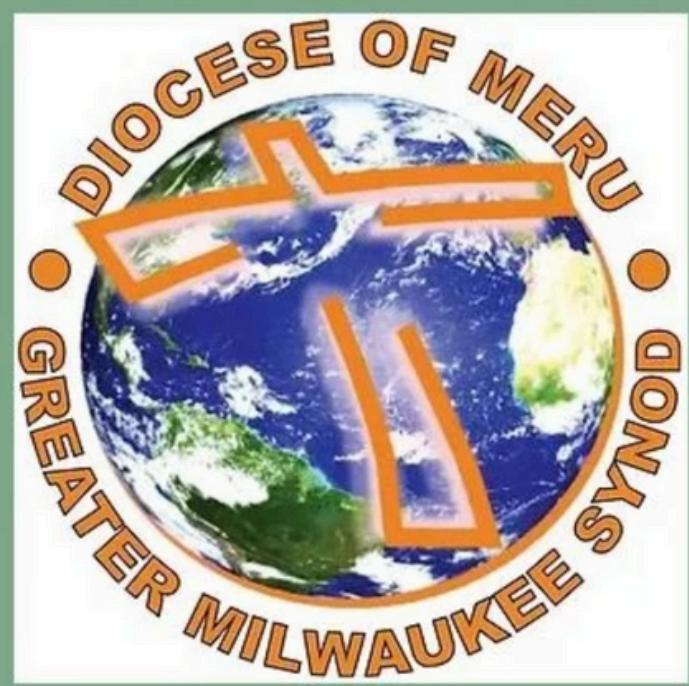


## ***Speaking of Pop...***

Support the Ronald McDonald House Charities by dropping off your soda can tabs in the box located in the Narthex or lower level kitchen counter. Collections are being coordinated on behalf of Pewaukee School District, from now until January 22nd.



# Community Events



**Next Zoom meeting  
January 10th!**

Join Greater Milwaukee Synod youth as we explore stories of Remembrance, Resistance, Redemption, and Reconciliation

1/17/26 1pm

For 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and their adult leaders

Questions? [linktr.ee/GMSFirstThird](https://linktr.ee/GMSFirstThird)

Register by 12/15/25: [tinyurl.com/GMSyouthABHM26](https://tinyurl.com/GMSyouthABHM26)

Museum Information: [abhmuseum.org](http://abhmuseum.org)

FREE!



The ELCA, in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, will observe the 2026 National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) with a free evening program on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6-8 p.m. Central time:

“Just Us Narratives: A Night of Centering Multiracial Voices Across the ELCA”

Online and in person at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Naperville, Ill.

**Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6-8 p.m. Central time**

We invite you to save the date and check back for more details



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

## January 1

Ley Kler  
Colleen Koehn

## January 4

David Roberts  
Dan Bowman  
Naomi Ackley  
Ellen Feldman

## January 6

Dick Winkelmann  
Shaun Graham

## January 8

Leah Braunschweig

## January 9

Estella Levas

## January 10

Suzanne Schroeder

## January 12

Duane Vitek

## January 14

Jim Praeger

## January 15

Richard Winkelmann  
Katelyn Connolly

## January 16

Roger Weiland

## January 17

Shelly Dohlbey  
Carmen Glover  
Peter Friend

## January 18

Karen Roberts

## January 19

Pamela Graham

## January 21

Janet Millard  
Marjory Kloth  
Courtney Sullivan

## January 22

Marilyn Morgan

## January 23

Dana Sobotik

## January 24

Gloria Musil

## January 25

Jacob Raschka  
Penny Williams

## January 27

Harold Sloan  
Thomas Brinkman

## January 29

Deacon Lukomski  
Kathryn Berg

## January 31

Nicole Plesh



## PRAYER NEEDS

Please keep in your prayers - Patricia Alters, Ann Dee Austin, Mary Benrud, Mike Bohlmann, Donna Chudada, Pastor Joy McDonald-Coltvet, Isaiah Cramer, Jessica Connelly, Matthew Dehler, Jake Drover, Donna Frederick, Dan Heger, Tony Hofstede, Katie Hollister, Pastor Karen Klatt, Marjory Kloth, Bill Koehn, Deb Kohler, Richard Knutson, Margo Krumnow, Britany Lindert + her baby, Kerry MacKay, Ray Mansker, Dan Maske, Laurie McGroarty, Carol Merik, Eliana Metzger, Carol Miller, Marilyn Morgan, Calla Nelson, Dennis Olson, Paul Osmundson, Justin Peare, John Ruf, George Slavsky, Rachel Stephens + her baby, Scott Wille, Penny Williams, and Nancy Wojcicki.



Pray for our  
military.



Mike Anderson  
Andrew Connolly  
Jeremy Fossier  
Tim Gilestad  
Bill Groth  
Morgan Mosher  
Andrew Richardson

Are you or someone you know in  
need of prayer?  
Simply contact the church office at  
(262) 691-2380  
or  
email [galilee@galileelc.org](mailto:galilee@galileelc.org) or  
contact Mary Stauber  
[mdstauber@att.net](mailto:mdstauber@att.net)  
with your prayer requests.

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<b>9a</b> Worship Service <b>6p</b> Al-Anon Group		<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>9:30a</b> *NO Text Study <b>3p</b> Office closing early <b>8p</b> AA - Room 41		<b>12p</b> 12 Step Group Room 4 <b>7:30a</b> Men's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship Service		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>9a</b> Worship Service <b>4p</b> Troop 87G Scouts <b>6p</b> Al-Anon Group	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>9:30a</b> Text Study <b>5p</b> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <b>6p</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:15p</b> Troop 87 Scouts <b>8p</b> AA - Room 41	<b>12p</b> 12 Step Group Room 4 <b>8a</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10a</b> Funeral Service for <del>Wes</del> <b>5p</b> Worship Service			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>9a</b> Worship Service <b>4p</b> Troop 87G Scouts <b>6p</b> Al-Anon Group	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>9:30a</b> Text Study <b>1:30p</b> Grace Group <b>5p</b> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <b>6p</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:15p</b> Troop 87 Scouts <b>8p</b> AA - Room 41	<b>12p</b> 12 Step Group Room 4 <b>7:30a</b> Men's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship Service			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>9a</b> Worship Service <b>10a</b> Annual Meeting <b>12:30p</b> Eagle Scout Ceremony <b>4p</b> Troop 87G Scouts <b>6p</b> Al-Anon Group	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>3p</b> Loss & Living Support Group <b>6:15p</b> Ministry Coordinator	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:15p</b> Troop 87 Scouts <b>8p</b> AA - Room 41	<b>12p</b> 12 Step Group Room 4 <b>8a</b> Women's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship Service			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>9a</b> Worship Service <b>4p</b> Troop 87G Scouts <b>6p</b> Al-Anon Group	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>9:30a</b> Text Study <b>5p</b> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <b>6p</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:15p</b> Troop 87 Scouts <b>8p</b> AA - Room 41	<b>12p</b> 12 Step Group Room 4 <b>5p</b> Worship Service			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>9a</b> Worship Service <b>4p</b> Troop 87G Scouts <b>6p</b> Al-Anon Group	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>9:30a</b> Text Study <b>5p</b> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <b>6p</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10:30a</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:15p</b> Troop 87 Scouts <b>8p</b> AA - Room 41	<b>12p</b> 12 Step Group Room 4 <b>7:30a</b> Men's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship Service			

# MINISTRY STAFF

**Pastor:** Pastor Amanda Applehans, email: [pastoramanda@galileelc.org](mailto:pastoramanda@galileelc.org)

**Director of Music & Worship Accompanist:** Patricia DeBlaey, email: [patricia@galileelc.org](mailto:patricia@galileelc.org)

**Choir Accompanist:** Jean Nelson, email: [pianogirl1966@gmail.com](mailto:pianogirl1966@gmail.com)

**Financial Administrative Assistant:** Dave Reish, email: [finance@galileelc.org](mailto:finance@galileelc.org)

**Office Coordinator:** Claire Johnson, email: [galilee@galileelc.org](mailto:galilee@galileelc.org)

Church office is open Monday—Thursday 8:30-4:30pm



## MINISTRY COORDINATORS

### WELCOMING

**Hospitality** - Susan Keller & Vivian Dethloff | [susieqz2@aol.com](mailto:susieqz2@aol.com) & [dethloff5@gmail.com](mailto:dethloff5@gmail.com)

**Connecting** - Mary Winter | [marywinter1322@gmail.com](mailto:marywinter1322@gmail.com)

### EQUIPPING

**Worship & Arts** - Diana Conway | [dlmc@milwpc.com](mailto:dlmc@milwpc.com)

**Faith Formation** - Pastor Amanda Applehans | [pastoramanda@galileelc.org](mailto:pastoramanda@galileelc.org)

**Administration** - Building & Grounds | Nicholas Riegert | [riegs4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:riegs4@sbcglobal.net)

**Administration** - Church Office & HR | Kathy Taylor | [htmachine@centurytel.net](mailto:htmachine@centurytel.net)

**Godly Play** - Sue Olson | [olsonmsusan@gmail.com](mailto:olsonmsusan@gmail.com)



### SENDING

**Partnerships & Global-Gifting** - Deb Kohler | [deb.kohler.mke@gmail.com](mailto:deb.kohler.mke@gmail.com)

**Compassion Care** - Ann Dee Austin | [anndee@austin@gmail.com](mailto:anndee@austin@gmail.com)

**Columbarium** - Bill Braunschweig | [bbraunschweig1@gmail.com](mailto:bbraunschweig1@gmail.com)

## LEADERSHIP BOARD MEMBERS, 2025

**Steve Dethloff** - President | [dethloff5@gmail.com](mailto:dethloff5@gmail.com)

**Mary Dehler** - Vice President | [biddymarka@gmail.com](mailto:biddymarka@gmail.com)

**Darrin Kehl** - Secretary | [dlkehl@quad.com](mailto:dlkehl@quad.com)

**Carole Brinkman** - Member at large | [carole.brinkman@yahoo.com](mailto:carole.brinkman@yahoo.com)

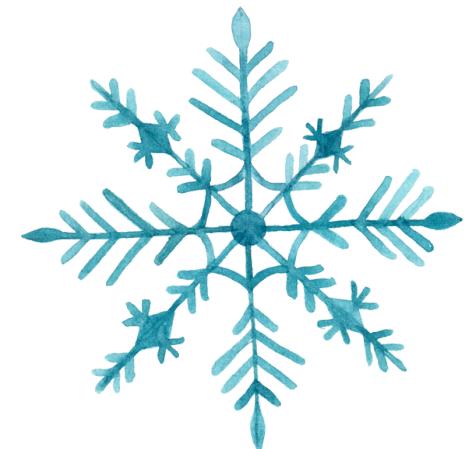
**Carl Spencer** - Member at large | [carlspencerv66@gmail.com](mailto:carlspencerv66@gmail.com)

**Andrea Smith** - Treasurer | [andreasmith3@wi.rr.com](mailto:andreasmith3@wi.rr.com)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Galilee's monthly calendar is now available on our website. Go to <https://galileelc.org>, scroll down and click on the 'Church Calendar' button.

**Galilee Lutheran Church**

N24W26430 Crestview Dr.  
Pewaukee, WI 53072