

North Shore Church News

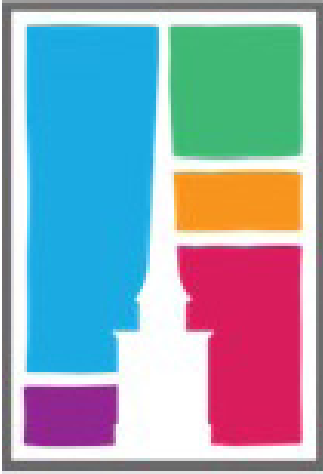
Faith - *Community* - *Service*

HELLO
September

A decorative illustration of autumn foliage. It features a large, bright yellow maple leaf with detailed vein patterns. To its right is a smaller branch with several oval-shaped leaves in shades of orange, red, and light pink. Two small brown acorns are positioned near the base of the yellow leaf.

Our Purpose is to Grow and Deepen Christian
Discipleship in a Faith Community
Guided by the Holy Spirit.

September 2025



North Shore Congregational Church

Sunday Worship

10:00am - Worship
(*Sanctuary/YouTube*)

10:15 - Music & Movement
and Godly Fun
(*September - Early June*)

In This Issue...

Beyond Our Walls - 8
Loaves and Fishes - 9
Children's Ministries - 10

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“A Few Thoughts On...”

Comparative Crises

Dear Friends,

I'm often amazed at how quickly the 'comparative crisis' mentality creeps in as a coping mechanism in the midst of the challenges that life throws our way. I heard it many times in the wake of the flooding that we experienced earlier in August. The impact was extensive, for sure. The restorative work in our basement here at our meetinghouse is one of hundreds if not thousands of similar stories from our region. The day after the floods, we hosted a memorial service that was followed by a reception at the Town Club, which was dealing with flooding in their basement as well. The same was true for a number of our church members, as well as family and friends throughout the area. In the context of southeast Wisconsin, this was a generational flood experience. In the context of the recent floods in Texas, however, or those in North Carolina due to Hurricane Helene last fall, it can quickly begin to feel like little more than a drop in the proverbial bucket – and that's where what I am calling our 'comparative crisis' mentality kicks in.

It seems to be a natural coping mechanism that we begin to compare our crisis of the moment to what we see to be the 'worse' fates of others around us. I have heard it so many times over the past few weeks – from one person to the next I hear their story of flood damage and its related challenges, only to have their story followed by, 'but we were lucky in comparison to...' Sometimes it's a neighbor or friend who had it worse, sometimes it's a reference to those devastating natural disasters in other parts of our country, and sometimes it's an allusion to a situation or circumstance of human strife that is completely different than the current experience we know. No matter the comparative, however, there seems to be a human predisposition towards evaluating our experience in light of that of others around us.

Sometimes, this makes us feel better, knowing that it could have been much worse. Sometimes, it makes us feel worse, judging ourselves for feeling our stress and sorrow when others are so much ‘worse off.’ The true challenge to this comparative mentality, however, is that devalues the true nature of our experience, and that is the experience into which God promises to enter!

The reality is that our experience is our experience. Whether there are others that have it better or worse than us in a given moment doesn’t change the highs and lows of life as we experience them. When we encounter life’s blessings, we shouldn’t tamper our joy because we see someone else that we perceive as being better off, and when we encounter life’s challenges, we shouldn’t dampen our sense of strife because we know that others have it better. Our experience is our experience, and God wants to enter into that experience in real and meaningful ways, regardless of how it might compare to that of another.

‘It could be so much worse’ is a comforting platitude, and to some extent a reasonable coping mechanism. Buried beneath that comforting platitude, however, is a risk of devaluing the truth of experience and, in doing so, clouding the comfort and solace of God that we need in our times of despair. My pain and sorrow is my pain and sorrow – and yours is yours. It’s one thing to look for the silver lining in such moments, but we must never diminish the reality of our experience, because doing so, whether we realize or not, diminishes the comfort and peace that God longs to bring to the reality that is ours!

In Faith,
Marty

Commissioning Sunday

As the new program year kicks off, join us for **Commissioning Sunday, 10am on Sunday, September 7**. Worship in the sanctuary, and online, led by Rev. Marty and our Chancel Choir as we kick off

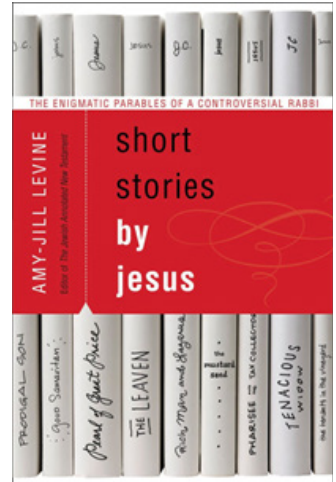
the new program year. And... An Ice Cream Social, hosted by our Fellowship Committee, immediately after worship. If you have been ‘away’ for much of the summer, we’ve missed you. Come to be a part of launching an exciting and important year at North Shore Congregational Church.



FORMATION AND ENRICHMENT

Tuesday Morning Book Group

The Tuesday Book Group will gather again on Tuesday, September 2, we will begin reading *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine. Amazon offers this description: “In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus’ narratives. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, she analyzes these “problems with parables,” taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables’ connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.”



Book Group meets every Tuesday via Zoom at 9:00am and in-person at 10:00am. Please note that, for the month of September, the 10am Book Group gatherings will take place in the Library. Even if you have not joined us in the past, new voices are always welcome! We look forward to another year of robust discussion and fellowship!

Lizz Loder and Susan Wauck

lizzloder@yahoo.com

Thursday Bible Study: 9:30am

The Thursday morning Bible study group will continue to meet at 9:30 each week. Like the Book Group, we will meet in the Library for the coming weeks. Please join us as we read the Acts of the Apostles.



If you have any questions or would like to receive more communication about our study groups, contact anyone in the church office.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

North Shore Blood Drive

For several years our church has sponsored a blood drive in September in memory of North Shore's long-time pastor, and regular blood donor, Rev. Karl Schimpf. The Schimpf family continues this tradition and requests our members and friends who are able, to donate to this annual blood drive.

This month the drive will be held in partnership with the Fox Point Farmers Market on Saturday September 20, during the hours of 9am and 1pm. It will be located in Fellowship Hall.

September is also significant for Children's Cancer Awareness Month and Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month. Both of these affect the youngest in our community and rely heavily on repeated blood transfusions in their course of treatment. Sickle cell crises, largely affecting our African American neighbors, cause intense pain and can lead to stroke and disability.

Scheduling in advance is preferred for a successful drive. We hope to secure 20 donors. Information will be posted on the electronic monitors at church, via the NSCC FaceBook page, and limited numbers will be available in print.

We encourage you to share our North Shore Church mobile drive information with friends, neighbors, and at your workplace. NOTE: Remember the power of a personal ask. If you are unable to donate yourself, ask someone to donate on your behalf.

Here is a link on how to be a successful donor:

[versiti.org/ways-to-give/about-blood-donation/blood-donation-faqs](https://www.versiti.org/ways-to-give/about-blood-donation/blood-donation-faqs)

The NSCC mobile drive donor list is open. There are other drives in the area, so please secure your spot now. Scan the QR code, visit bit.ly/NorthShoreCC920 or call 800 BE.A.HERO

Save the Date:

*Rev. Karl D. Schimpf Memorial Blood Drive
Saturday, September 20, 9am-1pm
Sign up at [versiti.org](https://www.versiti.org).*



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
31 10:00am Worship w/ Rick Ruenzel Preaching 11:00am Fellowship	1 Labor Day - Office Closed 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	2 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club 5:30pm Benevolence Board (Friendship Lounge) 6:00pm BCE (Youth Room) 6:00pm Deacons (Large Upstairs Classroom and Zoom) 6:00pm Stewardship Board (Small Upstairs Classroom) 6:00pm Trustees (Library)
7 Communion 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Commissioning Sunday Worship 11:00am Ice Cream Social 11:00am Repairers of the Breach - Bag Lunch Express	8 9:00am PEO (Friendship Lounge, Kitchen) 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	9 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club
14 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:10am Memoir Group	15 Newsletter Deadline 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	16 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club 4:00pm Loaves and Fishes 7:00pm Council
21 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	22 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	23 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club
28 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	29 Women's Fellowship (offsite) 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	30 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club

2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 9:30am Bible Study (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 3:00pm Steve A. Memorial 7:30pm RR Historical Society	6 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:00am Bel Canto Chorus Auditions 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge
10	11 9:30am Bible Study (Casserole Making) 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 4:00pm Wininsky Wedding Rehearsal	13 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 2:00pm Wininsky Wedding
17 8:30am Quilters 6:00pm Midweek Manna Meal 6:45pm Midweek Manna Worship	18 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	20 NSCC Blood Drive at Farmers' Market 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
24	25 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	27 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
1	2 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	3 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:30pm RR Historical Society	4 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge



Just One More Ministry

Please continue to donate non-perishable food items for Just One More Ministry Food Bank. Food insecurity rises for the youngest and most vulnerable in our community when schools are closed. Peanut butter and plastic bags are always a necessity! If you donate plastic bags, please remember they should be usable grocery type bags (not sleeves from newspapers). Thank you! Also, donated canned goods (mac and cheese etc.) are also appreciated.



Soles for Jesus

We continue to collect shoes for Soles for Jesus (bins can be found inside the south entrance).

Repairers of the Breach

There is no Repairers in September. Join us on Sunday, October 5, in the kitchen after the service to help make PBJ sandwiches for Repairers of the Breach.

St. Ben's Community Meal

After taking a three month break for the summer, Loaves and Fishes will resume on September 16. In partnership with St. Benedict the Moor parish, for over 50 years, North Shore Congregational church members have provided a hot meal for the homeless once a month at St. Ben's downtown Milwaukee campus. The program relies heavily on volunteers to prepare, drive and serve food to guests. More information and a volunteer sign up form is also included on the next page and posted to the bulletin board in the hallway. The form can be filled out and left in the church office or emailed to Dona Wininsky. Questions and more information can be received by calling Dona at 414-426-3086 or emailing Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com.



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

LOAVES AND FISHES

2025-2026

St. Ben's Meal is an outreach program that serves Milwaukee's neediest citizens. On the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, NSCC provides casseroles, desserts and servers for the evening meal. Please consider joining our NSCC volunteers who already help out on this much needed, and personally gratifying program. **If you have questions, please contact Dona Wininsky, 414-426-3086 or Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com.**

I will provide casseroles (ONE RECIPE – ONE LARGE LOAF PAN IN CHURCH KITCHEN) RECIPE WILL BE PROVIDED.

Monthly (September-May) _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

I will prepare desserts (30 pieces) (Your choice of "finger food" – cookies, bars, brownies, cupcakes, etc.)

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

I will serve (5:00 – 6:30pm) at St. Ben's (please list number of servers) _____

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

I will drive food from church to St. Ben's (pick up at 3:30pm)

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

Name _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please return form to church or to Dona at Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com. Thank you.



Godly Fun and Music & Movement return on Sunday September 7!

As summer speeds to a close, we look forward to the return of the children for worship, fun, and friendship during our weekly lessons. Join us as we begin the fall learning all about prayer: what it is, why do we do it, how do we do it, and more!



KidsConnect Scheduling

Let's get the school year off to a great start and schedule another KidsConnect! For kids in grades 2-6, KidsConnect is a fun afternoon of games, crafts, friendship, and pizza! Please fill out the availability survey here: <https://forms.gle/hRq6rXYYHRSBNKMP6>



Enrollment Forms for 2025/26

Please complete the enrollment forms for any child participating in weekly Godly Fun lessons on Sundays, KidsConnect, and more! Return the form to Kelsey via email (kelseymolinari@NSCChurchWI.org) or in person. Printed forms are available in the office.



PARDON OUR DUST

In Print

Due to upcoming changes in software availability and the timing of our transition into a new Office Administrator, we are going through the process of exploring various publication programs for our newsletter. Things may look a bit different for a few months until we settle into new systems, and we appreciate your patience while we work in that direction.

In the Building

The lower level of our meetinghouse experienced significant water damage from the floods on August 9-10. We have been working diligently to mitigate the damage and a restoration company has been onsite and at work. At this time, there are still a number of questions and projects that remain ahead. Please bear with us as we seek to utilize and share our space in new ways until we are able to move back into those lower level spaces.

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*A member church of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
and the Wisconsin Congregational Association.*

MINISTERS

All members of North Shore Congregational Church

ASSISTED BY

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Kelsey Molinari, Children's Ministries

Trinny Schumann, Music Director

Julia Holmes, Office Administrator

Justin Montello, Maintenance

Heide Hongsermeier, Organist

Haley Krueger, Social Media Coordinator and Children's Ministry Assistant

Jay Hall, Walker Ford and Morgan Pilling, Sunday Custodians