



# WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

STEWARDSHIP 2026



Luther Memorial Church



## *Beloved in Christ,*

Our group of young adults traveling together in Asia was in the belly of a cave, flashlights just turned off. Water dripped into a shallow pool, echoing off the rock walls, when one of us, a soprano, hummed the starting note. The next moment, we filled the dark with voices, finding our harmony with what had become our signature song, “We are walking in the light of God.” First in Zulu, then in English, wrapping up as we started. This simple tune, ringing out in the darkness, filled us with light.

This fall our congregation sang this same hymn when we gathered with our sister congregation, Santa María. Zulu, Spanish, English. Simple enough lyrics, pleasing tune, gracious harmony. And yet these words, “we are walking in the light of God,” are a bold statement of faith. They proclaim that whoever is gathered moves through this world as one, basking in God’s abiding grace.

When visiting our congregation members in their homes, I am privileged to hear the stories of how God’s light penetrates the lives of those who walk with

God, some for nearly a century. Many find walking not what it once was, but they are patient with themselves and willing to share how they walk in God’s ways. They raise children, love their neighbors, give generously, bear burdens and share joy.

**During this season of discernment, we ask that you consider how your pledge this year will sing out. How might your gift share God’s light not only into the life of Luther Memorial but to a world that yearns for it? What would it look like if all of us gave out of our gratitude for the ways in which this congregation has shaped us to care for one another, our city, our world?**

Thank you for considering your gift to our General Ministry Fund in 2026. May it keep our congregation walking in God’s light.



In gratitude,  
Amy Grunewald Mattison  
Visitation Minister

# Embraced by a congregation

Since becoming members of Luther Memorial Church in 2022, we have been deeply nourished by its worship—marked by profound reverence and the enduring richness of a musical tradition faithfully rooted in ancient liturgy.

**From the very beginning, we were embraced by a congregation whose kindness and grace reflect the love of Christ.**

We are grateful for Luther Memorial's vibrant connection to the university and its steadfast commitment to serving neighbors in need. In thanksgiving, we give joyfully—trusting that our stewardship will help future generations encounter God's love through worship, music and community.

All this, with grateful hearts and joyful purpose, to the glory of God.

Derren Slinde and sons, Corbin and Calvin



## Dear friends,

What a blessing it is to experience God's church at Luther Memorial! Over the past three years, I've had the privilege of forming many relationships with our young people, our elders and many in between. It has truly been a way to experience God's kingdom on earth.

In my work as youth & family ministry coordinator, I constantly see God's gifts of faith, hope and love. People at LM care deeply for one another in so many ways. They pray constantly for one another, serve one another with generous spirits and actively support one another in worship, learning and growth. This church's tender care for its own, as well as its members' earnest longing to do God's work in this changing world, are what inspire me and bring me joy every day.

No one has ever seen God, but when we love one another, God lives in us. **May the affirming, inclusive and prodigious grace of our creator be made complete in this church's faithful and loving community.** Thank you for welcoming my family, and encouraging me to lead and to serve.



In peace and fellowship,  
Margaret  
Szczykutowicz  
Youth & Family  
Ministry Coordinator



# PLEDGE TODAY

Please take time to prayerfully consider your support for 2026 and pledge to the General Ministry Fund.

Through your pledge, you help sustain all of Luther Memorial's ministries. That means worship, Sunday School, music programs, The Keep Food Pantry, congregational gatherings, youth & family activities, service projects, light bulbs, livestreaming, snow shoveling and more.

And if you've pledged to the General Ministry Fund in the past, kindly consider a 3% increase for next year.

To pledge, simply go online to [www.luthermem.org/pledge](http://www.luthermem.org/pledge), or use the enclosed pledge form and return envelope. Extra forms are available at the welcome desk.

Have a question? Contact Suelyn Swiggum, Director of Shared Ministry, at [swiggum@luthermem.org](mailto:swiggum@luthermem.org) or call (608) 258-3160 ext. 15.

## Note about Resound, Restore, Rejoice Capital Campaign

We are in the midst of a 3-year capital appeal (July 2024–June 2027), wholly separate from this annual fall appeal for the General Ministry Fund. To support the capital appeal, visit [www.luthermem.org/give](http://www.luthermem.org/give), speak with a pastor or contact Suelyn.

*Thank you!*

# WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

STEWARDSHIP 2026

Luther Memorial Church | 1021 University Ave | Madison, Wis. 53715 | [www.luthermem.org](http://www.luthermem.org)