

**Our Mission:**

La Crosse Jail Ministry offers inmates spiritual direction, rehabilitative support, and connections to faith communities.



Volume 28 ■ Number 1 ■ Winter 2026

## MEET THE NEW CHAPLAIN

### JASON KALEMBER

Jason Kalember serves as the La Crosse County Jail Chaplain, bringing with him a deep passion for Christ-centered ministry and a heart for walking alongside those in seasons of brokenness. Jason has a Bachelor of Science in Religious Studies from Viterbo University and has spent many years investing in the spiritual growth and restoration of individuals throughout the Coulee Region.

Jason is actively involved in several Christian ministries, including Celebrate Recovery, where he serves as Ministry Leader in both La Crosse and Sparta, where he resides. He has also been engaged in discipleship work with men in addiction recovery through Shine the Light Collective in Sparta and previously through Next Chapter La Crosse.

Jason is married to his wife, Amy, who also works in the recovery community at Adult and Teen Challenge of Western Wisconsin,



**Jason Kalember**

and together they are raising six children along with three energetic dogs.

Jason's greatest joy in ministry is witnessing the transformation that happens when people encounter the hope, grace, and healing of Jesus Christ. His life and ministry are grounded in the truth of James 4:8: *"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."*

## LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY 2026 BOARD MEMBERS

**Chris Magnuson**  
*President*

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**Laura Wright**  
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**Brad Gerdes**  
Bethany Church

**Mark Stevens**  
Horizon Christian Fellowship

**Willa MacKenzie**  
First Presbyterian

*"I could not have gotten through this incarceration without the jail ministry chaplain, video visits from Pastor Jerry Hatlevig, and volunteers coming in for studies."*

**– Resident**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Greetings! Let us welcome the New Year with renewed hope!**

Dear Friends of La Crosse Jail Ministry:

The holiday season brings excitement, hustle and bustle, and hopefully some peace when we make the time to work towards that goal. It is peaceful to start each day with prayer and tea (*or coffee*); watching the birds at your feeders; whatever leads your mind to those strived for moments of peace.

Feeling good about where we are in life is important. Most of us tend to give more during the holiday season in one way or another. It is a fact that donations to the Jail Ministry increase during the months of December and January. I believe it is safe to say, however, that we who support the La Crosse Jail Ministry Mission have been looking at those in the La Crosse County Jail with compassion year-round. We have an understanding that the residents



**Christine Magnuson**

of the jail are not just individuals who have broken the law, they are also our brothers and sisters who struggle with addiction, mental health and homelessness. One bit of bad luck, and/or one bad choice can lead to a downward spiral. Rising above the complications that result can be incredibly hard. Only with our continued support, will those struggling manage to find faith in God and hope for each new day.

When our volunteers help residents find verses in the bible that demonstrate Gods love; when community members provide support, when each of us reaches out and provides support in some way, the world is a better place. Knowing that God created each of us in his own image is proof positive that no individual is a lost cause. Providing continued support ensures that one day, the lessons learned will stick and our jail residents will rise above the evils that are dragging them down. With support, they can discover what Jesus emphasized during his ministry; faith, hope and love; but the greatest of these is love. God is love. Never give up.

May God Bless you and your family.

**Christine Magnuson**

*La Crosse Jail Ministry Board President*

## WHY I GIVE

I give to the La Crosse Jail Ministry because my faith tells me to care for the marginalized and forgotten. As a past Board Member I saw how donating funds provides goods and services to jail residents. It gives them tangible proof that somebody out there remembers and cares.



**Karilyn Parrot**

When they feel gratitude they can turn from bitterness to hope and work towards a better future.



**"Hate put me in prison.  
Love's gonna bust me out."**

**– Denzel Washington –  
"The Hurricane"**

## WHAT'S NEW IN 2026!

We are collecting items for our residents at our new drop-off location:

**DaaBin Store** located at 3800 WI-16, La Crosse, WI Ste #101, in Valley View Mall!

Saturday: 9am-6pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm

Monday: 9am-6pm

Tuesday: 9am-6pm

Wednesday: 9am-12pm

We are excited about this new location as it will be more centrally located for everyone. You all might recognize people working there as the owner Willa (*a jail ministry board member*) hires folks getting out of jail to give them job experience.

**Right now, we need larger sized boots and shoes. We could also use more warm coats for men and extra-large, long sleeve shirts.**

## OTHER LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY NEEDS

- Winter Coats, Gloves, Mittens & Boots (*all sizes*) (*gently used*)
- Sports Bras (*new*)
- Underwear for women (*new*)
- Socks for women (*new*)
- Puzzles (*gently used*)
- Paperbacks (*complete series & westerns*) (*gently used*)
- Magazines (*gently used*)
- Magazine Subscriptions: (*Skateboarding (Thrasher), Sports Illustrated, Men's Health, The Week, People, Us, Wired, Pets, National Geographic, & All Recipes magazines*) can be sent to Jail Chaplain at 333 Vine Street, La Crosse WI 54601





# CONNECTIONS

## WITH FORMER RESIDENTS

I have been blessed to volunteer with the La Crosse jail ministry with Horizon Christian for over 2 years. I remember being so nervous my first time (*and each time if I'm honest*); worrying that I wouldn't have anything authentic or of value to share with the women. Every time I go, the Holy Spirit meets me there and uses me in surprising ways. Every time I go with my team for bible study, I always make sure to emphasize the importance of connection once they have been released. Their old life, friends, addictions, and habits will be right there to overwhelm them the minute they are released. It is so important to find a Bible-teaching church community that will welcome them in, love and disciple them well, and



**Alicia Moore**

walk alongside them through their new season of growth. No one should go through this life and its challenges alone - we were meant for fellowship and community.

There have been many people from jail ministry who have come to be a part of the Horizon family. I think the most amazing testimony I know of is with a dear friend who I served with in jail ministry, Emily Parker. She was given the opportunity to hear the gospel message because of the jail ministry and gave her life to the Lord. She radically changed her life, her heart, and her purpose. It is such an honor and privilege to know her, call her a sister in Christ, and see her pour into the women in a place she used to be. She is so inspiring for the women to see that there is hope for their future.

I am always humbled by the women's interest in knowing more about Jesus, so encouraged when they reach out for video visits, and hope to be a small part of their testimonies of freedom for years to come.

**Alicia Moore**

*Horizon Christian Fellowship*

# WHY I SERVE

## LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY

A YouTube video about men on death row inspired me to get involved with the La Crosse Jail Ministry. It made me feel sad knowing that many of these men might not know Jesus, so I reached out to a friend of my grandpa's who introduced me to the ministry.



**Landen Nichols**

Now, I meet with residents at the La Crosse Juvenile Detention Center two to three times a month. We get an hour each visit—sometimes we talk about Jesus and the Bible, and other times we just play basketball. A lot of the ministry is simply showing up, being present, and listening. I try to follow the rule of 20% talking and 80% listening, trusting the Holy Spirit to work in the room.

Attendance varies. Some days only one person shows up, other days three, and sometimes as many as ten. We even had one young man fully give his life to Christ after just a few sessions. Moments like that remind me why this work matters. If their hearts don't change, they're likely to reoffend—and true heart change only comes through Jesus Christ.

**Landen Nichols**

*Juvenile Detention Volunteer*

## 2025 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Jail ministry volunteers were honored at the 2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church this past November. Volunteers were treated to breakfast, treats and coffee catered by Festival Foods and Linda's Bakery. Volunteers who served five to ten years were given a special gift, and all volunteers were entered into a raffle for prizes donated by FSPA, First Presbyterian Church and other fellow volunteers. Chaplain Ann Wales was also gifted flowers and a bird feeder as her retirement gift for her five years of service at the La Crosse County Jail.



**LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY**

P.O. Box 2675

La Crosse, WI 54602-2675

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**Looking for an easier way  
to donate funds?**

Donations to support the  
La Crosse Jail Ministry can be made  
online at [Lacrossejailministry.org](http://Lacrossejailministry.org)  
(Support & Donate).



**Your gift is greatly needed!**

Donations to our ministry can be made online at [lacrossejailministry.org](http://lacrossejailministry.org) (Support & Donate)

*Please cut and mail*

**La Crosse County Jail Ministry Gift Form—Your Support is Welcome!**

Please consider helping Jail Ministry with a tax-deductible donation.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I would like to make a donation to Jail Ministry in the amount of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is "in memory of" \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is "in honor of" \_\_\_\_\_

**Plases make checks payable to:**  
Jail Ministry  
P.O. Box 2675  
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