

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — January 2024

Monthly newsletter of the Ebenezer Moravian Church
N8095 High Road – Watertown, WI 53094
920-206-0222 - Church



FROM OUR PASTOR

"Two Constants in the New Millennium" by Ralph F Wilson

A full century ago my great, great grandfather reminisced in a New Year's sermon over the changes he had witnessed in his 79 years.

"Our letters were sealed with wax, and postage was 15 cents. There were no stamps, no envelopes, no steel pens, but our thoughts were 'wafted on the pinions of a gray goose quill.' The typewriter, photograph, telephone and telegraph have been invented. In college I saw Morse's horse-shoe magnet," he recalled. Perhaps you can remember the first televisions. Today the Internet shrinks the globe.

"The first of the century grass was cut by a scythe; grain by a sickle, and thrashed with a flail," recounted the Rev. Charles Henry de Long. "I remember cradling my father's wheat and holding horses to tread out the grain." Today huge combines do the work of many men.

My 93-year-old mother can remember her father's horse and buggy. In our lifetimes men have walked on the moon, and every five years our scientific knowledge doubles.

What has been constant throughout the past century? Change. Yet the pace of change itself seems to be accelerating.

How do we prepare for change?

One of my heroes is Joshua. Moses, that towering figure who had led Israel for 40 years, was dead. Now his assistant had to step into Moses' giant sandals and assume leadership in the most precarious and unsettling of times. Israel was about to cross the Jordan River at flood stage and attack the heavily fortified city of Jericho. The Israelites had been slaves, then desert nomads. What did they know of war? They couldn't stay where they were, but to go where God was leading was frightening, fraught with change.

God prepared Joshua with these words: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Change is one constant, but the other constant is God, the One who never changes, who sees the end from the beginning, and for whom the future holds no surprises. God has made us a solemn promise: to be with us always. That promise holds wherever we are, and is not invalidated by the unexpected. In whatever success we enjoy, amidst whatever failure we suffer, God has promised to be there with us.

I really don't like roller coasters. I don't like to scream all the way down. I don't like fear. Unfortunately, life is likely to be that kind of ride, with its dizzying heights, its gut wrenching turns, and its freefall downslopes. But we have a seatmate who is God, there to steady us, protect us, and guide us. Today God repeats to us those timeless words that echo across the centuries and millennia: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."



**DEADLINE for
the
February
Newsletter is
Wednesday, January 24th**

(Earlier would be better.)

Important January Dates!

Sunday, January 7
Due date for annual reports.....to Dawn

Sunday, January 14
Annual report packet available

Sunday January 28
Annual Church Council Meeting



Tuesday
10am to 2 pm
Thursday
10am to 2pm

Please contact Pastor Katie to make arrangements for other times.

November 26:

\$1,090.00
Hometown Missions - \$50.00
Adopt-A-Family - \$780.00

December 3:

\$2,215.00
Loose Coin - \$12.00
Adopt-A-Family - \$563.00
Insurance - \$4,000.00
Rent - \$250.00

December 10:

\$2,940.00
Loose Coin - \$30.00
Adopt-A-Family - \$360.00
On-line - \$550.00
NFS Reimbursement - \$160.00

December 17:

\$1,375.00
On-line - \$100.00
Community Building (Welcoming Watertown) - \$500.00
Lift Replacement - \$1,800.00

Thank you.



LOAVES & FISHES

Contact Linda Lippens

The free meal is served every Monday evening, except holidays at the Watertown Moravian Church, 510 Cole Street.

Curbside Pick Up: 4:00 - 4:45 (NO later)

Dining Inside and Carry-out: 4:00 – 5:30

We serve a population in need so we need to do what we can to keep serving. Please pray for friends that need food.

MEAL — January

1: CLOSED - Holiday

8: Hot Sandwiches – Turkey, Burgers, German Potato Salad & Vegetable

15: Chicken Drumsticks on Rice with Cream of Chicken Soup, Vegetable & Fruit Cup

22: Pork & Kraut, Potatoes, Vegetable & Fruit Cup

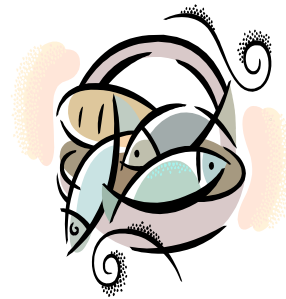
29: Spaghetti, Garlic Bread & Salad

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SERVERS — January

Sorry....serving schedule not completed prior to newsletter printing.

If you are in a group/organization, please consider helping. Please pass the word that we are looking for people to help serve our weekly Loaves & Fishes Meal. We have a yearly rotation and each group serves twice a year.



Ebenezer offers online giving through the Moravian Ministries Foundation. The link is: <https://mmfa.info/ebenezer-moravian-church-donation-form/>.



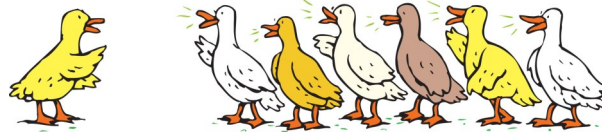
Annual reports for our meeting are due January 7th!!!

Our church bylaws require printed copies of our annual report published two weeks prior to our Annual Church Council Meeting.

Reports are due to be available by January 14th.

This means we need your information submitted to Dawn Westenberg no later than January 7th.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn directly. Thanks in advance for your diligence in these reports. These are the written records of our church.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday January 28th

All members are invited to attend our annual church meeting, held on Sunday January 28th following worship. We will have a shorter worship that morning and move into our meeting to discuss the business of the church. We will be electing board members, appointing leadership positions, thanking board members who are leaving and updating the congregation on the different ministries and milestones throughout the year. This is a very important day and we hope as many can come (in person) as possible.

Please mark your calendars as the church is not just those in leadership, but all of us. We all have a voice and a vote and all determine the decisions of our church. Please come and hear updates,

Socks and Undies Sunday

It is a New Year and time for a Fresh Start

The congregations of the Shared Community Mission Group are inviting you to participate in the Third Annual Socks and Undies Sunday collection. Children at school often need clean spare underwear and dry socks. Some families cannot afford replacements. Additionally, winter is the snow time of the year when some kids come in from recess with cold, wet clothing. New underpants and socks are needed in all sizes from children's small thru adult large for children in the elementary schools and Riverside Middle school.

This year we are going to focus on the elementary schools by also collecting new or clean gently used sweat shirts/hoodies and sweat pants. Since they are soft and stretch it is easier to find a comfy fit when dry clothing is essential. During the month of January please join us in donating new socks and undies or sweat shirts/pants. All items collected will be delivered to the schools in early February.

Thanks for sharing the Blessing of being warm and dry.

ACTIVITY GROUP "B" — Co-Leaders

Dennis & Linda Rabbach (920-699-3781)
(920-941-0696) Linda cell

AND

Tom & Virginia Naatz (920-248-1029) Tom cell
(920-248-9452) Virginia cell

November 2023 - January 2024

Nathan & Angela Baum - (920) 988-2230

Chris Bender - (920) 342-4218

John & Nancy Braatz - (920) 261-4333

Carol Britts - (920) 261-9493

Seth Brown & Teaya - (920) 220-0166

Bohdi Degrandt - (920) 342-5277 OR

(920) 988-6281 (Shelly)

Joe & Shelly Degrandt - (920) 699-2178

Jon Gehler - (920) 342-2945

Amanda Harris - (920) 248-9304

Paula Harris - (262) 617-6579

Sue Kopp - (920) 699-3504

Darrick Krueger

Dalton Krueger - (920) 220-9626

Darrin & Trudy Krueger - (920) 220-9626

Brian & Lynette Mertz - (920) 988-3542 (Brian)

(608) 490-3602 (Lynette)

Tom & Ginny Naatz - home - (920) 699-3118

Tim & Julie Pattengale - (920) 988-6130

Dennis & Linda Rabbach - (920) 699-3781

(920) 941-0696 (Linda cell)

Barbara Rich - (920) 421-3133

Jozelle Roberts - (920) 248-9304

Andy Roberts - (920) 285-4723

Yolanda Strombeck - (920) 253-6617

Theresa Vesper - (920) 342-8021

John Vesper - (920) 941-0152

Charles & Judy Wesemann

(920) 285-9212 (Chuck cell)

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL ADVENT TALENT SHOW! What an amazing group of talented folks we have here at church. This annual tradition is loved by participants and the congregation and we cannot be more grateful to those who participated. It was a great and meaningful morning.

thank you

CHOIR

Nothing to report this month.

Glennis



YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Remember, there are many ways to stay current with your gifts:

- **Auto Bill Pay:** Through your bank or credit union
- **Mail:** Mail check to the church
- **Moravian Ministry Foundation:** See article.
- **QR Code:** Scan code to make donation on your phone.



**USHER
SCHEDULE**

January 7

Charles & Judy Wesemann

Jon Gehler

January 14 & 21

Tom & Virginia Naatz

January 28

Joe & Anne Walsh

*If you are unable to usher, please contact head usher
Reine Petig @ 920-261-6892.*

AMONG FRIENDS GAME NIGHT

Come and join us for a night of fun and fellowship on Wednesday evening January 30th at 6pm when we will be playing poker.

Join us if you like to play poker or want to learn how to play poker. We will be playing draw poker and stud poker for chips. Hope to see you there.



*Confirmation
Class* 

Sunday School and confirmation will continue to meet every-other week at 10am.

January 7: Anne, Annie & Shelly
January 21: Kris, Annie & Anne

Kris Schefft, Anne Walsh, Shelly Degrandt and Trudi Wesemann work in teams as teachers. Tom Naatz is the confirmation teacher.

Please contact Kris Schefft with any questions.....920.285.1048



MORAVIAN WOMEN

Moravian Women has changed its meeting date in January. New meeting date is Wednesday, January 10.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Two Sisters Cafe for a time of fellowship.

All women are invited to join us for breakfast and fellowship.

Western District Synod is coming April 25-28 to Mt. Morris

Every four years, representatives from all Moravian churches and ministries gather in their districts to hold district synods. These gatherings elect district boards and the district president, elect leaders of local ministries and create space to vision and grow in our churches and as a whole.

Ebenezer elects two delegates to go to Western District Synod in addition to Pastor Katie. At the December 10th Church Council meeting Chris Lilek and Kris Schefft were elected with two alternates (Linda Lippens and Linda Rabbach) who will keep the dates open in case a representative is unable to attend.



Pastor Katie Van der Linden:
(610) 442-3790

IF NOT AVAILABLE CONTACT

Tom Naatz, Vice-Elder Chair:
920-248-1029

Megan Weihert, Trustee Chair:
920-253-8139



This year, due to the generosity of the Ebenezer congregation, we were able to adopt 12 families with

27 children between them. We raised \$3,117.00 which allowed us to spend a little extra on the families this year.

Thanks to all who donated money, to those who shopped and wrapped gifts, and to those who delivered gifts.

A special thank you to Bob and Dawn W for supplying food and banana boxes from the food pantry to help with the distribution to our adopted families.

Tom

Are You Tuning In?

Want to worship with us without coming to the sanctuary? You can join us each Sunday on Zoom.

Watch your email for the address and log in a few minutes early. You will see everything on the screen and have the opportunity to share prayer concerns and announcements. It is a great alternative to coming in person.

BLESSING BOX

The Blessing Box is in need of donations of personal care items such as toothpaste, toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo, etc. Those items cannot be purchased with FoodShare cards.

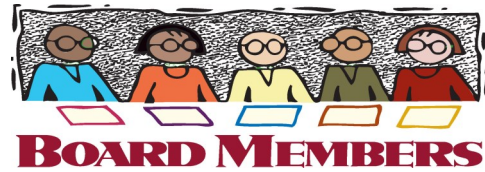


With the cost of food going up, it leaves less funds available for these other necessities.

Feel free to drop these items off and leave in the Library.

If you have any questions, please contact

Kris Schefft kschefft@hotmail.com or 920-285-1048.



ELDERS: 2023-2024

Pastor Katie: Chair

(610) 442-3790 ** Pastor.kvdl@gmail.com

Tom Naatz: Vice Elder

920-248-1029 ** tanacer@charter.net

Shelly Degrandt

(920) 988-6281 ** degrandts@gmail.com

Kris Schefft: Secretary

(920) 285-1048 ** kschefft@hotmail.com

Joe Walsh

(262) 894-1652 ** JoeRapide@gmail.com

Glennis Zastrow

920-261-3731 ** glennis.zastrow@yahoo.com

TRUSTEES: 2023-24

Megan Weihert: Chair & Secretary

920-253-8139 ** lippensm@live.com

Chuck Wesemann: Vice Chair

920-285-9212 **

chuckwesemann@gmail.com

Dennis Rabbach AND Linda Rabbach

(920) 699-3781

(920)941-0696 (Linda Cell)

rabbach1950@yahoo.com

Scott Beerbohm AND Jordan Beerbohm

(920) 988-4714 (Scott)

beerbohmswi@gmail.com

(920) 988-3949 (Jordan)

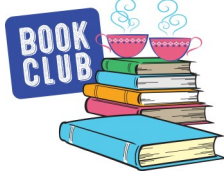
beerbohm.s@hotmail.com

Jean Walker

920 206-1812 (landline)

608 504-8300 (cell)

Jwalker_409@yahoo.com



“Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger

Told from Frank’s perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

Join us on Wednesday January 10th at 6pm at Biggs to discuss this powerful book about life and faith.

NOISY OFFERING

Bring your change on the third Sunday of the month, and we will collect funds for important ministries. Bring your change and make lots of noise as we look to help others who need our support.

The 4th quarter noisy offering will be going to Hometown Missions. As of now, the October and November total is \$171.18.



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests or want to be included on the Ebenezer Prayer Chain, please contact Pastor Katie at (610) 442-3790 OR pastor.kvdl@gmail.com.

The most important thing to remember is to have permission of the person or family before you request it be included on the Prayer Chain. Please use any information you get just for the prayer re-



Join us at our annual **Couples Retreat** at Mount Morris. This year it will be Friday, January 19th thru Sunday, January 21st.

This is a most enjoyable and relaxing weekend and get away from our busy schedules. Plus, don't worry about going hungry. Joy will feed you from morning until night and don't forget the snacks we all bring along as well.

Please let Linda Lippens know if you and your significant other would like to attend or have any questions.

Ebenezer Kids Christmas Party fun!

We had a blast with seven kids and 5 adults who played trivia, ate snacks and passed around wrapped and unwrapped presents. It was lots of fun.

Watch in February for an indoor event and let Pastor Katie or Trudy Krueger know of activities the youth would like to do.



Building a Welcoming Watertown Next Gathering January 14, 2024

Our world seems more and more divided everyday, and Watertown is no different. We see politics, opinions, decisions and challenges we face as reasons to fight and disagree, rather than ways to work together and find common ground.

In an effort to learn more about our community and build bridges, four pastors have been creating a gathering space to “build a welcoming Watertown.” At our first gathering in October, 70 people came to hear a pastor from Milwaukee and his attorney colleague share about the struggles to create change in a community. They spoke about WISDOM, a faith-based community that works for justice and change.

At the November gathering, we welcomed the president of WISDOM, to share what community building is and how do we connect with others around us through listening. We even got a chance to practice our listening skills with new friends in the room. David left us with the challenge of finding others in our church and community who would like more training in listening and wish to be part of the voice of change and connection in our community.

On January 14th, we will once again gather at the Watertown library following worship (12:30) to dive further into the steps to connect, listen, and find common ground in folks around us.

These gatherings are free and lunch is provided. We hope to discover what the passions are in our community and connect people to each other to inspire change and also support one another in faithful efforts. Mark your calendar to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday with others who are inspired by his legacy to create equity and peace.

REACHING OUT...

These are members that may not be able to attend church regularly. Please feel free to contact them via mail. If you wish to have your contact information or someone close to you added, please contact Pastor Katie.

Loretta Zubrod

1405 Prospect St., Watertown, WI 53098

Janet Parmley

N8352 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094



**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1: Tammy Meyer
- 3: Chase Warren
- 6: Quinn Thomas
- 11: Pam Jacobson
- 13: Jill Beerbohm
- 13: Cory Cahill
- 13: Craig Cahill
- 16: Diane Tuhy
- 16: Brandon Finley
- 17: Sarah Wegner
- 19: Anne Walsh
- 23: Simon Britts
- 27: Andre Caratachea
- 29: Jordan Beerbohm
- 30: Kari Maass
- 31: Karen Lee



**DECEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES**

None

Are you our Facebook Friend?

Please “like” our Facebook page to keep updated with the newest info, fun stories and updates. Feel free to share it with others. If you wish to share info, please message the page and our FB admin will add it to the page! Our FB page is “Ebenezer Moravian”.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3 5-7pm Building a Welcoming Watertown lay leaders meeting @ 1st Congregational UCC	4 10:45am Shared Community Mission — Ebenezer's turn to pack bags 5:30pm Joint Board	5 BDCleaning	6
7 10am Worship Communion 10am Sunday School DUE DATE: Annual Report	8 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	9 10am Cemetery Board Meeting 12 Noon Watertown Clergy Roundtable Meeting	10 10am Moravian Women breakfast @ Two Sisters 6pm Book Club @ Bigg's Bar & Grill	11 6pm Board of Elders	12	13
14 10am Worship 12:30 Building a Welcoming Watertown Meeting @ Library	15 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	16 5:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting	17 6pm CEF meeting	18	19	20 CONFIRMATION REGREAT @ Mt. Morris 19-21
21 10am Worship 10am Sunday School	22 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	23	24 	25	26	27
28 10am Worship Church Council Meeting	29 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	30 6pm Game Night - Poker	31			



AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THIS YEAR
AND WELCOME THE NEW YEAR,
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE COMING YEAR
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

QR Code

Just scan the QR Code on your
phone to make a direct offering
through the Moravian Ministry
Foundation to Ebenezer.

