

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — November 2023


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



What's in a name?

Good question. My full name is Katie Ruth Van Der Linden and my whole life I have had to correct folks who call me by my "real name." Apparently anyone named Katie must actually be named Katherine or Kathleen, but I am quick to point out that I am "just Katie." I do appreciate my name as it is from two great grandparents, both of whom were nicknamed Katie. One had a German name and the other Hungarian, but chose to go by a simpler name, Katie. Instead of choosing one full name over the other, my parents chose to go by the nickname that both women had chosen. I love that story. It tells of my heritage and my connection to generations past. I never met either of these women, but somehow I still feel a connection. Names matter and are important because they are who we are, our identity. I remember when I was getting married and having the discussion about taking on Aaron's name and the challenge that was, not only because I was the last person in my family with my maiden name, but also because I would be my mother-in-law...Mrs. Van Der Linden. I chuckle about it now, but it mattered.

Nobody wants to be called something or someone they are not. For my entire life, my step-dad has been called "Magee." No, it is not the name he was given nor is it on any legal documentation, but as a child and a story-teller, he was quickly nicknamed "Fibber Magee" after a popular character at the time. It stuck, and 60 years later, he is still Magee. He isn't ashamed or saddened when folks call him the name he was given, but he does share that he prefers his nickname. So what? Does it matter? Should he be forced to go by Jerry, his legal name? Right now we have a lot of folks who are questioning their identities and trying out new names. So? Is it the end of the world to go from Richard to Rich or from Richard to Sue? I get that it may feel uncomfortable or even wrong. And your feelings are valid. However, your feelings do not supersede the other person's identity. As we grow, we get to choose who we are. I know Bobby's who are now Roberts, Timmy's who are now Tim, and Roger's who are now Jessica. In the end, what someone chooses to be called is their own choice. Nicknames were not questioned before, so why now? And I understand that nicknames may feel different than gender changes and style choices, but in the end of the day, when you lay your head on your pillow, it really doesn't matter if you accepted someone else's change. It simply matters that you respected someone enough to let them be them. Let God sort out if it's right or wrong. Let God figure out what it means to change identities or genders or names. Let God sort out all these challenges and let us simply respect others enough to accept them as they are. I know it is challenging and I know it is not easy and I especially pray for those parents who are struggling with their children's choices. But I will say, a parent who loves their child through these difficulties will have a much healthier child than one who forces, threatens or neglects how a child feels. Yes, it can be a phase. Just like a little kid is a dinosaur, this could be a phase too. But just as you let a little kid dress up like a pterodactyl, you might just do better letting your child dress as they feel. Once a child feels supported, phases usually subside. But phase or not, allowing someone to be themselves is a true gift. Jesus met many on his travels, and he never asked them to change. I think fondly of the woman at the well who was living with a man she was not married to. Jesus never told her to move out or change, instead he gave her living water. Too often, Christians make it their mission to change others when the true understanding of faith is change in yourself. So let God sort out what others do and focus on what God is changing in you.



**DEADLINE for
the December
Newsletter is
Tuesday,
November 21st**

*(Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday,
earlier would be better.)*



Fall Back
Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 5th



COMMUNITY
RESOURCE

FALL FAIR


FREE ENTRY

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES | RESOURCES | GIVE AWAYS

Join us to learn about the many local resources available in our community, AND how they can help you!

Saturday **12pm**
November 4th **to**
 3pm

Watertown Senior Center
514 S 1ST ST, WATERTOWN, WI 53094




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

Among Friends Game Night

Among Friends is sponsoring a game night on Wednesday, November 29th at 6pm.

We will be playing a dice game called Farkle. In Farkle you get 6 dice to roll. You must score with every roll. If you don't score points on a roll, your turn is over, your score is 0, and it is a Farkle!



If you like to play Farkle or would like to learn how to play, join us for an evening of fun and fellowship on November 29th.

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 — November
6: Pork / sauerkraut
13: Egg bake
20: Chicken
27: Tuna casserole

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SERVERS — November
6: Good Shepherd
13: New Hope
20: Methodist
27: OPEN



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.

September 24: \$2,028.00
October 1: \$2,110.00
On line October 2: \$100.00
October 8: \$2,025.00
October 15: \$1,490.00

Thank you.



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)

(920) 342-1017 (Judy cell)

Emma Wegner - (920) 285-1370

Alex Zubrod - (920) 261-8289

Tuesday

10am to 2 pm

Thursday

10am to 2pm



Please contact Pastor Katie to make arrangements for other times.

NO BAKING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

The Ebenezer Fruit Pie Sale to raise money for the camp scholarship fund will be the weekend of November 10th-12th. The pies will be made on Friday and Saturday. We are looking for volunteers to help make the pies – no baking experience necessary. For those unable to help make pies, we will also need donations of ingredients. And most of all, we need people to purchase pies.

We will have cherry, blueberry, and both streusel topped and double crust apple pies for \$14 each or 2 for \$26. They are frozen pies that come with baking instructions, so you can bake them for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or any day you want a fresh-baked pie, so stock up!!! If you don't want a pie for yourself, then order one (or two) to give away.

Please order by November 6th. Order sheets are in the church narthex or call the church (920-206-0222) and leave a message with your name, phone number, and order. We will confirm all telephone orders. Pies can be picked up after worship on Sunday, November 12th.



November 5 & 12

Kristine Schefft

Mary Kopp

Scott Kopp

November 19 & 26

Scott & Jill Beerbohm

Jordan Beerbohm



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

**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. Because of our membership, Ebenezer elects two delegates to go to Western District Synod in addition to Pastor Katie. We also need two alternates who will keep the dates open in case a representative is unable to attend. If you are interested in serving, please see Pastor Katie for more information. We do have a nominating committee currently working on delegates but are open to those who may feel called to be our synod delegate.



CHOIR

If anyone interested in getting a choir together, please contact me.

Glennis



Sunday School and confirmation will continue to meet every-other week at 10am. The November schedule is:

November 5th: Shelly & Anne
November 19th: Shelly & Kris

Kris Schefft, Anne Walsh, Shelly Degrandt and Trudi Wesemann work in teams as teachers.

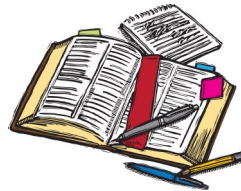
Tom Naatz is the confirmation teacher.

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

MORAVIAN WOMEN

Thank you to all Ebenezer women and choir who helped with Moravian Women Sunday on October 15th. We learned a lot about Esther and her role in Bible history.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, November 1st, at the church We have started our new year with the Bible study "Practical Wisdom for Living a Christian Life" and mission study "God's Call: Yesterday & Today". All women are invited to join us for a time of study and fellowship.



Special Offering Envelopes

You will find the last special offering envelope for 2023 between the October & November envelopes. It's designated for a Special Event. This year the offering from these envelopes will help pay for higher than expected electric and gas costs at both the parsonage and the church.

Throughout the year there have been other special offering envelopes included with your weekly envelopes. The first three envelopes were designated for Helping Hands, Music Ministry, and Church Facilities. If you would still like to contribute to these special offerings, these special envelopes can be put in the offering plate. Or you can attach a note to any offering stating which ministry you would like it to go towards. Thank you for your faithful giving throughout the year!

Annual Chili Supper

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Takeout Only!

Order Deadline: November 1st

Pricing: Pint: \$6 .. Quart: \$10

Gallon Container: \$33

Gallon (4 Qt. Containers): \$40

Combo Meal: \$10

(Pint of Chili, Ham Sandwich, Dessert)

Watertown Moravian Church

510 Cole Street

Phone: 920-261-7494

Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
watertownmoravianchurch@yahoo.com



Ebenezer Kids hit the pumpkin patch!

13 of God's children headed to Schuster's Farm on Sunday October 22. We enjoyed lots of activities including a corn maze (or three), apple canon, candy canon, spider web, triples races and more. We ended with some sweet treats with some great connections.

Our next event will be our annual Christmas Party, tentatively scheduled for December 17. Watch the bulletin and Facebook for more information.



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

Important Dates coming up in December!

Sunday December 10

Church Council Following Worship. Budget approval and election of Western District Synod Delegates

Saturday December 16

Adopt-a- Family shopping day, beginning at 9am

Sunday December 17

Christmas Talent Show during worship

Saturday December 23

Adopt-a-Family deliveries beginning at 10am

Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve Schedule

10am worship (fourth Sunday of Advent)

Christmas Eve with candles 4pm and 7pm

Ebenezer's Got Talent!

Bring your talents to our Gifts of the Spirit Talent Show For the Sunday School Christmas Program this year, we would like to showcase the talent of our youth: Do you play an instrument? Do you sing? Dance? Do you draw or create? Are sports your thing? Skateboarding? Dirt bikes? Are you a comedian? A magician? A poet? Do you act or read dramatically? Do you know a lot about a topic?

Whatever your talent, we want to see it on **Sunday, December 17th** during worship. Watch for more details in the December newsletter.

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

Bobby Hahn

N8319 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094

Janet Parmley

N8352 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

Sunday, November 19 at 4:30pm

Hosted by the Congregations of the Watertown Clergy Roundtable, everyone is invited to join together for an ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service at First Congregational United Church of Christ at 120 Kuckkan Lane.

Monetary gifts will be collected for Hometown Missions and socks and underwear will be collected for area schools through the Shared Community Mission Group.

Refreshments will be served following worship.

All are welcome!

Book Club Adventures!

We are all about trying new places! We enjoyed our dinner at Little Italy last month and we will gather on Wednesday November 8th at Mazatlán Mexican restaurant in Johnson Creek.

The current book is by Rona Jaffe titled "The Road Taken".



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.

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



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

2023 HOLIDAY TRAIN



The Canadian Pacific (CP) Holiday Train will return Watertown on its 25th anniversary annual cross-continent trip. The train will again raise money, food and awareness for local food banks in communities along the CP network.

The train will be making a stop in Watertown on **Monday, December 4th**, at the Brandt/Quirk Park parking lot (by the ball diamond), located on Carriage Hill Drive in Watertown. (From West Main Street, turn north at Kwik Trip on Carriage Hill Drive. The Park is at the end of the street.) **The train will arrive at 7:50 pm.** Musical performances by Tenille Townes & Breland will be from 8:00pm to 8:30pm.

Holiday Train shows are free to attend. CP asks everyone attending to bring a cash or non-perishable food donation. The Watertown Food Pantry will set up collection stations. Because the food pantry buys food at a discount, cash donations can go further than food donations to help those in need. We hope to see you at the Holiday Train!

The Watertown Food Pantry Board of Directors is also looking for volunteers to help collect food and monetary donations at this event. If anyone can help, please contact Dawn at: dawn@watertownfoodpantry.org.





BOARD MEMBERS

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

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.



This year we plan to be part of the Jefferson County Christmas Neighbor Adopt-A-Family ministry. In this program we are paired with needy families providing

gifts for the children, family, and food for a Christmas meal for them.

Due to the generosity of our congregation last year, we were able to adopt 13 families with a total of 28 children. Since we first started adopting families in the mid-1990s, over 200 families have been helped at Christmas.

Envelopes for donations to our Adopt-A-Family ministry will be available starting Sunday November 12. Look for more news in the December newsletter about times and dates when you can help with shopping, wrapping, and delivery of food and gifts. Prayerfully consider being a part of this worthwhile program this year.

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 request.



Food to Go and Grow is GROWING!

Soup, Soup and More Soup is needed weekly for our food to go and grow program. This year, due to rising grocery costs, we have more families beginning the year in the program than in any year since 2020. This means we need more food. We have been graciously gifted a weekly donation of soup from one of our members through amazon. We do still need more. Please bring your soup cans into the narthex and we will be glad to get them to the methodist church for weekly packing.

THANKS for your generosity!

Reverse Advent Calendar RE-Focus!

We have loved the gifts of the reverse advent calendars under our Christmas Tree each year! This year, the Board of Elders wanted to focus our giving on two important ministries.....Camp scholarships and Adopt-a-Family.

Although we love the opportunity to give to others, and encourage members to continue to do so, we want to invite all members to participate in our pie sale and the Jefferson County Adopt-a-Family.

Envelopes will be out on November 12 and we want to reach a record collection again this year. We appreciate your understanding as the Board wants to encourage giving in many ways. We did not want members to feel overwhelmed with so many worthwhile gifts. We do, however, encourage you and offer any ways we can support you in your own generosity this year.

Thank you for understanding and we look forward to hearing from you about ways to continue to encourage and support our generous church family.



- 1 - Paula Harris
- 1 - Kris Kerr
- 4 - Yolanda Strombeck
- 7 - Caleb Lee
- 13 - Hannah Baum
- 16 - Andrew Roberts
- 16 - Rosemary Berger
- 17- Everett Strauss, Jr.
- 19 - Katie Van der Linden
- 26 - Alex Zubrod
- 30 - Shyanna Powell



- 5 - Clifford & Dianne Schuett
- 20 - Tim & Julie Pattengale
- 24 - Jon & Jane Gehler

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.

June: \$58.14
July: \$51.26
August: \$78.62
September: \$78.01
October: \$82.56



**BUILDING A
WELCOMING WATERTOWN**

Community, Conversation, and Christian Welcome

Sunday, November 5 from 12:30pm-2:30pm

Community Room at Watertown Public Library

Join folks from Watertown area congregations for lunch, learning, and conversation as we build a more inclusive community together! We'll be joined by David Liners, Watertown native and Executive Director of WISDOM.

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".



IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18, KJV



NOVEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LOOKING AHEAD: December 10: Church Council Meeting After Church Service December 16: Shopping for Adopt-a-Family December 17: Christmas Talent Show during worship December 23: Deliveries for Adopt-a-Family December 24: 10am worship/Christmas Eve with candles January 19-21: Couples Retreat @ Mt. Morris			1 10am Moravian Women	2	3 BDCleaning	4  Noon-3pm Family Resource Fair @ Senior Center
5 10am Worship Communion 12:30-2:30pm Building a Better Watertown speaker @ Wttn.Library	6 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	7 5:30pm Joint Board	8 6pm Book Club @ Mazatlán Inn in Johnson Creek	9 9am Shared Community Missions @ CUMA 6pm Board of Elders	10 9am	11 9am <div style="background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pie Making</div> 2pm Birthday party rental
12 10am Worship New member get together lunch	13 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining Festival of the Chief Elder	14	15 6pm CEF Meeting	16	17	18
19 10am Worship 4:30pm Community Thanksgiving Service UCC Church	20 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	21 5:30pm Board of Trustees	22 	23  HAPPY THANKSGIVING	24	25
25 10am Worship	27 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	28 5:30pm Joint Board Meeting	29 10am Clergy Roundtable 6pm Among Friends Game Night	30		