

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — December 2022

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



Twas the Night before Deer Season...

In February, my son took his Hunters' Safety Course online. In an effort to learn everything, my well-seasoned hunting husband had my son take apart every gun in our house, learn every piece of knowledge on the course and insert more questions than were required to pass. I joked with my son that he would have had it easier with the in-person course. Even though Zeeq passed both the online course and the extended course taught by my husband, tonight is an evening of excitement and anxiety. They have been going over gun safety, checking gear and looking at the weather. No, it is not opening day, but it is their opening day. I can tell Zeeq is very nervous, so much that some tears were shed as he was concerned of injuring a deer and not killing it, the worry of every good hunter. I have no doubt, tonight will be filled with an upset tummy and possibly more tears. But, when the alarm goes off, a hesitant new hunter will emerge with his some-what less anxious but still nervous father. It is a new experience. It is dangerous, it is hard. Both could easily choose to not go, nobody would blame them.

Sometimes our anxiety forces us to make different choices. But other times, our anxiety asks us to rise up, to overcome those nerves and walk out into a new territory, upset tummy and all. It is not easy to know the difference. I want my son to challenge himself, to not backdown out of his own nerves, but give it a shot. So we talk, share how the opportunity itself is a blessing even if nothing ever comes of it. We talk about not having to be perfect, how showing up may be the hardest part and just going into the unknown woods is an accomplishment by itself. I remind him that every time he tries something new and works through his anxiety, it is one reminder that he really can do anything.

I understand anxiety is a real deterrent. I also understand there are many times we must listen and follow what those voices tell us. I also know, and believe, that there are many times we must face our fears, our anxieties, our stress and realize that we have something far more powerful than our biggest fears. We have a God who has overcome everything, even death. Now, as a former vegetarian, am I completely in love with hunting, not necessarily. But as a parent who wants to support my family in all their pursuits, whether it is what I would choose or not, I am behind them. Tomorrow is not about me, my fears or my choices. It is about my son, trying something new, my husband, demonstrating and passing on his knowledge and passion, and my family remembering that each time we face our fears, we are reminded just how much power the Holy Spirit gives. Like I said, sometimes we must submit, knowing the right choice is to back away, but other times, often when we are fearful the most, we trust in a God who protects us and a Spirit that ignites us.

Let the flame of the Holy Spirit inspire you to go beyond your own limits...knowing God will be with you, especially in the toughest times.

**DEADLINE for the January
Newsletter is
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20th**



(Earlier is always better.)

Christmas, Christmas Time is Near....

It's coming fast and will be here soon! Just a quick reminder of our service times...

Christmas Eve Services

4:00pm, 7:00pm and 11:00pm. No tickets or reservations needed.

4:00pm and 7:00pm will include candles and carols (on line available)

11:00pm will be carols, candles and communion (in person only)

Church COUNCIL

WHEN: Sunday, December 4

TIME: Following a shortened worship service

PURPOSE:

#1: Budget approval for 2023

#2: Synod delegate voting

If you took a paper copy of the budget, please bring it along with you.....let's save a tree!

You may join us in person or on line.

Pastor Katie Van der Linden
(610) 442-3790

IF NOT AVAILABLE CONTACT



Trudy Krueger, Vice-Elder
Chair
(920) 220-9626

Jon Gehler, Trustee Chair
(920) 342-2945



Sunday, December 11th

Stick around after church for some lunch and bring a wrapped gift (cost under \$10).

We will be playing lots of crazy games. Everyone goes home with a gift or prize.

All ages are welcome!

Party will go until around 1:30pm

LOAVES & FISHES

Contact Linda Lippens

In partnership with the Watertown Moravian Church, we provide dinner for our community free of charge. The meal is served every Monday evening, except holidays, from **4:15 to 5:30 p.m.** at the Watertown Moravian Church, 510 Cole Street.

Loaves & Fishes will continue to serve carry-out meals and are keeping the safety of everyone at the forefront of our minds.

15,000 meals have been served between November 2021 and October 2022. To date (October 2022) we have served 90,784 meals! We anticipate hitting 100,000 next year! On June 7, 2023, we will be celebrating our 13 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

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 — December

5: Beef stroganoff

12: Chicken bowls

19: Baked chicken

26: CLOSED - Holiday

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SERVERS — December

5: Rotary

12: Kwik Trip - Todd

19: Eric Phillips

26: CLOSED - Holiday

We have had several groups/organizations retire from helping serve meals. If you are in a group/organization, please consider helping. Or if you have friends in an group/organization, please speak with them to see if they are interested in helping. Or if you are an area business and your employees would like to help, please contact us. (emc1853@aol.com)

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.



ACTIVITY GROUP "A" - Co-Leaders

Leaders Bob (920-342-4304) &
Tammy (920-342-3849) Meyer
AND

Joe & Anne Walsh - (920) 699-2884
(920) 342-0909 (Anne cell)

November 2022 to January 2023

Karissa Bender - (920) 342-3347

Kaylin Bender - (920) 285-6984

Shari Bender - (920) 285-6984

Pat Counsell - (920) 261-4158

Kris Kerr - (920) 261-1523

MaryLou Kopp - (920) 261-2096

Christine Kopp - (920) 253-1919

Scott Kopp - (920) 988-2748

Bob & Tammy Meyer - (920) 342-3849

Arlene Molly - (920) 699-2133

Allison Rein - (920) 206-1411

Emmaleigh Rein - (920) 206-1411

Eric & Tracey Rein - (920) 206-1411

Lee & Tracy Saxby - (920) 261-6251

Everett, Jr. & Judith Strauss - (920) 261-2006

Ken & Linda Strauss - (920) 262-0094

Aaron & Katie Van der Linden - (610) 442-3790

Joe & Anne Walsh - (920) 699-2884

(920) 342-0909 (Anne cell)

(262) 894-1652 (Joe cell)

Donald & Karol Wesemann - (920) 261-7388

Trudi Wesemann - (920) 342-4133

MORAVIAN WOMEN

The Moravian Women's Fellowship will be doing a Cookie Exchange at their December 7th meeting.



Christmas -Day- Service

10:00am

Christmas is on a Sunday this year, so wear your pjs, bring a blanket, and plan to snuggle up in our cozy sanctuary for a "less-than-traditional" Christmas Service for All Ages!



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Caroling will be December 14. All are welcome to join! Interested singers should meet at Ebenezer at 5:45 pm.

We expect to visit 4 – 6 Ebenezer families (not decided as yet). The expectation is that we will carpool from church to the residences where we will sing. We will be ending with custard at Culver's.



Join us at our annual Couples Retreat at Mount Morris on Friday, January 20th thru Sunday, January 22nd.

Couples' Retreat No program has been selected yet. But it's always a wonderful time to relax, enjoy quiet time and spend the weekend with friends. Oh, and let's not forget all the great food to eat as well.

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



ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held **Sunday, February 19th**. We will provide the option to join us virtually, but kindly request those not in attendance to pick up an Church Council Packets (Annual Report) or request it mailed. The Church Council Packets will be available to pick up beginning Sunday, February 5th. Church Council is the largest governing body of Ebenezer church and being a member means you get voice and vote.



Annual reports are needed from all of our ministries and are due Friday, January 20 to Dawn Westenberg.

If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Katie, a joint board member or Dawn.

CHOIR

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

Glennis



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.

Thanks so much to our tech people who are working hard at making all worship experiences possible. We may change formats and are still learning each week, but we are so grateful for the opportunity to gather in a variety of ways.

Advent Calendars Coming.... & GIFT CARD TREE

Over the past few years, we have filled boxes and jars for our reverse Advent Calendars.



We will once again be doing those (available November 20) and also offering a new option....GIFT CARD TREE!

We are collecting gift cards for the Watertown Family Center. They have been instrumental in helping families with small children through parenting education, rent help, kid events and more. Throughout the year, they hold many events and help parents by giving them gift cards for gas, incentive cards for attending and more.

This is your time to think outside the box! Check out those walls of gift cards at local stores and consider grabbing a few (any amount will help) to give to this non-profit that helps our most vulnerable.

Feel free to be creative, perhaps looking at unique cards like chamber gift certificates, taxi vouchers, amazon cards and more.

There will be a tree in our sanctuary designed just to hold the cards. All amounts welcome. Having the option of a variety of ways to give during Advent helps so many.



Thank you for considering filling a box, donating gift cards and helping with the adopt-a-family program too.

Advent is a season to give, thank you so much for your continued generosity.



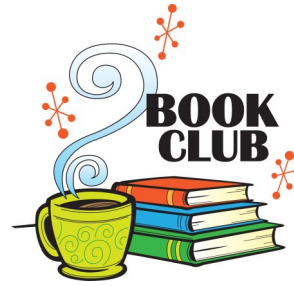
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Brandon Prust
- 4: Eldyn Prust
- 4: Olivia Hamann
- 6: Allison Rein
- 7: Janet Parmley
- 12: Chris Cahill
- 13: Jameson Baum
- 14: Barbara Braasch
- 16: Brittany Kopp
- 18: Patrick Braatz
- 18: Lee Saxby
- 18: Ken Strauss
- 19: Jon Gehler
- 19: Erin Walsh
- 23: John Braatz
- 23: Tom Naatz
- 24: Donald Wesemann
- 28: Theresa Vesper



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12: John & Nancy Braatz



December 15th
 Lindberg's By the River,
 413 Oconomowoc Ave, Watertown
 6pm

Book is The Catcher in the Rye, a classic novel by J.D. Salinger that deals with teenage angst, rebellion, scandal and much much more. Often listed on banned books because of it's raw and powerful characters and actions,

The Catcher in the Rye will definitely bring about some good discussion at book club. Even if you don't get the chance to read the book, come out for dinner, drinks and a lovely discussion

October 23: \$1,392.84

NOTE: \$344.13 Total to Board of World Missions

October 30: \$6,615.00

NOTE: \$4,000 from Cemetery Fund with \$1,000 going to Memorial Fund

November 6: \$1,835.00

November 13: \$2,275.00

NOTE: As of today, \$1,255.00 has been received for Adopt-A-Family



Tuesday
 10am to 2 pm

Thursday
 10am to 2pm

Please contact Pastor Katie to make arrangements for other times.

Thank you.



tithes and offerings



Ebenezer will be participating in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Ministry. Adopt-A-Family is part of the Jefferson County Christmas Neighbors program.

Last year 184 families in Jefferson County were adopted and provided for by this program. Ebenezer has been a part of Adopt-A-Family since the mid 1990's. Through the generosity of the Ebenezer congregation, last year we were able to raise \$1,976.00. This allowed us to adopt 10 families with a combined number of 14 children.

Envelopes for donations to support this ministry will be available with the church information sheet starting November 6th. Prayerfully consider being a part of this worthwhile ministry.

We will be shopping on **Saturday, December 10th**. Meet at the church at 9am. Lunch will be provided.

Shopping and delivery of the meal will be **Saturday, December 17th**. Meet at the church at 9am.



December Schedule



December 11: Trudi & Anne



Tom Naatz

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.

Bobby Hahn

N8319 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094

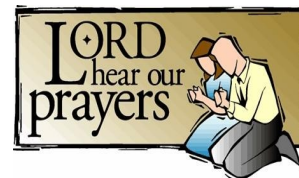
Janet Parmley

N8352 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094

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 be sure to just give facts and don't add any rumors or assumptions. Please use any information you get just for the prayer request.



GIVING

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.



Thank you for your generosity.



BOARD MEMBERS

ELDERS: 2022-2023

Pastor Katie: Chair

(610) 442-3790

Pastor.kvdl@gmail.com

Paula Harris

(262) 617-6579

phgh76@gmail.com

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

Trudy Krueger: Vice Chair

(920) 220-9626

3djtkrueger@charter.net

TRUSTEES: 2022-23

Jon Gehler: Chair

(920) 342-2945

Gehler.ja2@gmail.com

Chuck Wesemann: Vice Chair

920-285-9212

chuckwesemann@gmail.com

Dennis Rabbach AND

Linda Rabbach: Secretary

(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

Bob Meyer

(920) 342-4304

Meyerrobert0669@gmail.com

Synod Returns in 2023!

I am sure by now you are quite tired of all the political ads. We are bombarded with flyers, commercials and more to remind us about candidates and elections.

The church has elections too, only in a very different way. This Summer (June 22-25), the Synod of the Northern Province will take place in Bethlehem, PA. Provincial synod is the highest governing body in our church besides Unity Synod that meets every 9 years.

Unique to Moravians, every church has a voice and vote at synod, every one. Most have two actually, the pastor and a lay person. But, unlike politicians who are supposed to support those who elect them, synod delegates answer to their understanding of God, not a representative of our individual churches. It is an important responsibility that we hold dear in our church polity.

Due to the fact that our church gets the opportunity to send the pastor and a lay person, Pastor Katie and the Elders are currently searching for those who feel called to be a synod delegate to come forward.



Unity Prayer Watch Sunday, December 21st

Ebenezer times:

12 - 1am

5 - 6am

10 - 11am

3 - 4 pm

8 - 9pm



USHER
SCHEDULE

December 4 & 11
Charles & Judy Wesemann
Jon Gehler

December 18 & 25
Tom & Virginia Naatz

If you are unable to usher, please contact
Alex Zubrod at 261-8289.

(This was submitted by Barbara Rich)

Letter From Jesus Christ, concerning His birthday celebration:

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth just, GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that let Me continue:

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santa's and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can & may remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching explaining who I am in relation to you & what each of our tasks is. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1-8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it.

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing George complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile. It could make the difference. Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes My love & Good News to those who have never heard My name. You may already know someone like that.
9. Here's a good one. There are individuals & whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them (and I suspect you don't) buy some food & a few gifts & give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me & they will make the delivery for you.
10. Finally if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine. Just love Me & do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. I'll help you. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love, and remember, I LOVE YOU!

Jesus



Ebenezer now has online giving enabled through the Moravian Ministries Foundation because we are an investor in the Common Fund. Here's the link: <https://mmfa.info/ebenezer-moravian-church-donation-form/> This is your one-stop, 24/7 online giving destination. You can now give at any time from the convenience of your home.

Online giving can be a way for members, friends and family to support Ebenezer. As an added benefit, it allows giving to Ebenezer from afar. You can make memorial gifts in lieu of flowers, honor a loved one, schedule tithing, and more.

Payments will be made to Ebenezer monthly, at no cost to the church.



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!

When: Sunday, December 18th during worship
How: You can perform live, bring samples to present live, or submit a photo/video of your talent to: lippensm@live.com

If submitting photos or videos, they must be submitted in person or emailed to the above address by December 11th.



2022 HOLIDAY TRAIN

The Canadian Pacific (CP) Holiday Train will return to the rails this season on its first cross-continent tour in three years. This, following virtual concerts in the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.

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 **Friday, December 9th**, 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 7:45 pm**. Musical performances by Alan Doyle and Kelly Prescott will be from 8:00pm to 8:30pm.

Holiday Train shows are free to attend. CP asks attendees to bring a cash or non-perishable food donation if they're able. 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 their volunteer coordinator at: dawn@watertownfoodpantry.org.



Confirmation Discipleship Retreat January 20-22

Our confirmation class is invited to a weekend at Mt. Morris for learning, fun and fellowship. All area Moravian churches invite students in confirmation class to this weekend event that encourages friendship and connection. Youth will be invited to study with others and discover their own faith journey with the help of other students and adults. Confirmation parents and guardians, please check your schedules and bookmark the dates for this important event. We are excited to offer this great opportunity for all our confirmation class.



If you are an 'on-line buyer' and purchase from AmazonSmile.com, Ebenezer is part of their Charity Support Program. For every purchase you make on AmazonSmile.com, Ebenezer will receive a portion of your order as a donation to the church. All you need to do is make sure you are using **Smile.Amazon.com** and not Amazon.com. On your initial purchase you will need to select Ebenezer Moravian Church as the recipient of your donation. We will automatically receive quarterly payments. If you have any questions on how this works, feel free to contact Dawn.


End of the Year Giving Reminder

Thank you for your generous financial support throughout the year. December 25th is the last Sunday of 2022. All offering received at that service will be credited to the 2022 contribution statements. The table below provides information on how other end of the year contributions are credited.

Type of Contribution	Report in 2022	Report in 2023
Check written in December 2022 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2022 but not received by the church until January 2023	XX	
Check dated December 2022 and deposited in church offering in January 2023		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in January 2023 but "back-dated" to December 2022		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in December 2022 but "post-dated" to January 2023		XX
Check written in December 2022 and deposited in the mail in December 2022 but not postmarked until January 2023 and not received by the church until January 2023		XX



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LOOKING AHEAD: January 20: Deadline for annual reports to Dawn January 20-22: Couples Retreat @ Mt. Morris January 20-22: Moravian Confirmation Discipleship Retreat @ Mt. Morris February 19: Annual Church Council Meeting				1	2 BDCleaning	3 Celebration of Life - Doug Schefft 9-11am Calling 11am Service Lunch to Follow
4 10am Worship Service Church Council Meeting after Worship	5 4:15-5:30pm Loaves & Fishes (carry-out meals)	6 5:30pm Nominating Committee	7 9am Women's Fellowship Cookie Exchange 6pm CEF	8 9am Shared Community Mission Group Meeting (CUMC) 6pm Board of Elders	9 Holiday Train @ Brandt Quirk Park	10 9am Adopt-a-Family Shopping Lunch Provided
11 10am Worship Service Communion 10am Sunday School and Confirmation	12 4:15-5:30pm Loaves & Fishes (carry-out meals)	13 5:30pm Board of Trustees	14 5:45pm Christmas Caroling	15 6pm Book Club @ Lindberg's By the River	16	17 9am Adopt-a-Family meal shopping & delivery
18 10am Worship Service — Gifts of the Spirit Talent Show	19 4:15-5:30pm Loaves & Fishes (carry-out meals)	20 	21 Unity Prayer Watch (See times in article)	22	23	24 4pm 7pm 11pm Christmas Eve Services
25 10am Restful Worship Service (in PJs)	26 4:15-5:30pm Loaves & Fishes (carry-out meals)	27	28 7:30pm Religion Recovery @ Lyon's Pub	29	30	31