



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



From
the
Pastor

When is the appropriate time to hang up Christmas Lights? Perhaps a better question is when to turn them on. My daughter has several loud opinions of them, the most important being that nothing Christmas is lit, acknowledged or played until after Thanksgiving. I get it.

We “prepare” for holidays earlier and earlier each year, more like the stores try to sell us the holidays earlier and earlier. I was in a store yesterday and happened upon some Valentine decor, which seems early as it is November. But that is what our culture tries to push, buy more for the next holiday. What else can be sold in time for the next? I guarantee you swimsuits will be on the store shelves before valentine cards are exchanged and here in Wisconsin, we can’t even think about a swimsuit until June!

Advent is the season of preparation, but what does it look like to truly prepare for Christmas?

Is it lights, decorations, gifts, wrapping, online orders, candles, stars?

Does preparing for Christ’s coming need to involve spending even a dime?

What if Advent meant getting ready in a different way?

What if you rebuild relationships?

What if you let go of unhealthy relationships?

What if you worked on good boundaries?

What if you spent time on your mental health?

What if you went to the appointment you have been dreading or called the doctor for the first time?

What if the Advent season was about you getting yourself ready...not in fashion or purchases, but in learning more about yourself and working on yourself to be the healthiest person you can be. Not just physical health, but emotional by working through past trauma and learning healthy coping skills. Spiritually healthy by reading, praying, finding God in everyday life, meditating and being grateful. Mentally healthy through calming practices, therapy and other ways to deal with depression, anxiety and moments of difficulty in life.

This Advent season, why not prepare for Jesus in a really meaningful way, not just one that lasts for a short while until the next big purchase. Prepare your heart, your mind, and your spirit for God, not just your Christmas tree.



**DEADLINE for the January
Newsletter is
Wednesday, December 20**

(Earlier would be better.)

**Important January Dates
to remember!**

Sunday, January 7

Due date for annual reports.....to Dawn

Sunday, January 14

Annual report packet available

Sunday January 28

Annual Church Council Meeting

Advent and Christmas Eve, rolled into one!

This year, we have the wonderfully unique opportunity to celebrate the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve on the same day.

Join us for traditional morning worship at 10am where we will light the Advent wreath and gather for the last moment of waiting for the Christ child to appear.

Then, as sun sets, we will gather at 4pm and 7pm to celebrate our Christmas Eve service with candles, music, choir and more. We are grateful to the musicians and singers who will be part of the services and look forward to the joy of waiting in the morning and the celebration of birth in the evening.



Candlelight
Service

Please join us for as many services as you can on December 24th.

October 22: \$1,750.00
On line: \$450.00
October 29: \$1,450.00
November 5: \$3,056.00
On line: \$200.00
Rental fees: \$400.00
Wttn. speaker: \$100.00
November 12: \$2,195.00
Daily Texts: \$89.15
Wttn. Speaker: \$300.00
November 19: \$2,054.00
Funeral: \$150.00
Daily Texts: \$17.10
Noisy Offering: \$38.62
Online Giving: \$450.00
Adopt A Family: \$1,370.00



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 — December

4: Chili, bread/rolls, fruit salad

11: Baked fish, tator tots

18: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, bread/rolls

25: CLOSED - Holiday

1 (January): CLOSED - Holiday

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SERVERS — December

4: Kwik Trip — Todd

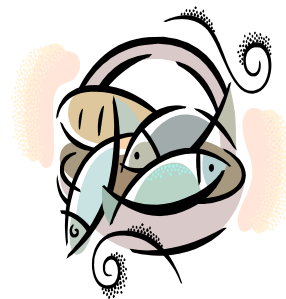
11: Marquardt

18: Rotary

25: CLOSED - Holiday

1 (January): CLOSED - Holiday

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/>.

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

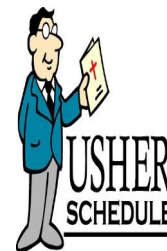


Please contact Pastor Katie to make arrangements for other times.

PIE FUNDRAISER RESULTS

Over one hundred pies were made on November 10th and 11th to raise money for the camp scholarship fund. Thanks to everyone who donated supplies. And a special thanks to Kris Schefft who was able to get all the blueberries, cherries, and apples donated, so that all money made from selling the pies went into the scholarship fund. Thanks to all the volunteers that took the time to help make the pies. And thanks to all who purchased pies. Over \$1,200 was added to the camp scholarship fund.

There are still some pies available for purchase. They are in the church freezer (in Heiser Hall). You can take what you need and either pay Trudi W. or Kris S. or put the money in the offering plate (with a note that it's payment for pies).



December 3 & 10

Karol Wesemann
Bob & Tammy Meyer

December 17 & 24

Buzz Orval
Diane Schuett
Shelly DeGrandt

December 24 — 4pm

Eric Rein
Paula Harris
Anne Vander Linden
Tammy Meyer

December 24 — 7pm

Greg & Linda Lippens
Craig Cahill
Trudi Wesemann

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

We would like to have the choir sing for the 2 Christmas services. Please talk to Glennis if you are interested and willing to participate.



Glennis



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

December 3
December 17 — NO Class
December 31 — NO Class

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

The December meeting will be held at 10:00 at the church. We will have a cookie exchange at this meeting. Women are asked to bring cookies to exchange with other members. We will share a time of fellowship and Bible study.



**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.

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.

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".





We are in the midst of our Adopt-A-Family ministry.

Donations will be accepted through December 3rd.

Shopping for gifts and wrapping will take place on Saturday December 19th at 9am. Lunch will be provided.

Delivery of gifts and food will take place on Saturday December 23rd. Meet at church at 10am.

If you can help out in any way please contact Tom Naatz.



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

IF NOT AVAILABLE CONTACT

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

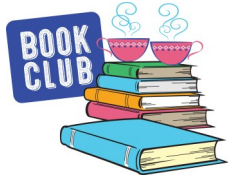
Megan Weihert: Trustee Chair:
920-253-8139

End of the Year Giving Reminder

Thank you for your generous financial support throughout the year. New Year's Eve Day, December 31st is the last Sunday of 2023. Even though they will not be deposited in the bank until 2024, all offerings received at that service will be credited to the 2023 contribution statements.

The table below provides information on how other end of the year contributions are credited.

Type of Contribution	Report in 2023	Report in 2024
Check written in December 2023 and deposited in the mail and post-marked in December 2023 but not received by the church until January 2024	XX	
Check dated December 2023 and deposited in church offering in January 2024		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in January 2024 but "back-dated" to December 2023		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in December 2023 but "post-dated" to January 2024		XX
Check written in December 2023 and deposited in the mail in December 2023 but not postmarked until January 2024 and not received by the church until January 2024		XX



“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.

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

Our Annual Ebenezer Talent Show!

Looking for a variety of talent for Sunday morning, December 17th. We will enjoy the morning with musical acts, skits, jokes and more. It is a great day to showcase the many gifts and talents God has shared with our congregation.

This is for all ages, so if you have a talent you wish to share, chat with Pastor Katie and get on the list. And if you forget, no worries, audience participation is encouraged that day, so just let her know you have something to do and she will put you on the list.



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.

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.

Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Liñle Drummer Boy
- Liñle St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



S G R D A M A F C I F Z Z X F K U H J X
 W A W A Y O B R E M M U R D E L T T I L
 C K M B H P L O D U R J T G J I H Z N O
 Z D W T Z E D S Y E L C B Y R T G C G K
 G N O S S A M T S I R H C E H T I J L L
 Q A N K O I D Y A L F D G I R L N B E D
 X L S O X Q R T B T I N W X N E T O B J
 D R T J T I R H V A A H X I P S N A E W
 F E I F W V T E C M B E U U B T E S L S
 N D T U C C H S A Y A A I N S N L C L Q
 B N E V X E G N X I L M T R I I I Y R W
 F O L N I A I O Z T K L I N X C S J O U
 B W V E S Y N W K M G F O O A K T E C N
 G R O K A C Y M V Z E U A J Y S L D K U
 M E Q W Q O L A O H K P I T Y K B N M Q
 G T A P U I O N T S L L E B E L G N I J
 L N F G C Z H N S L L E B R E V L I S E
 I I Y E K N O D E H T K C I N I M O D S
 L W B T K S L L E B E H T F O R I O H C
 U I M U Y F C J H B X B V R U M Q C Y B

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...

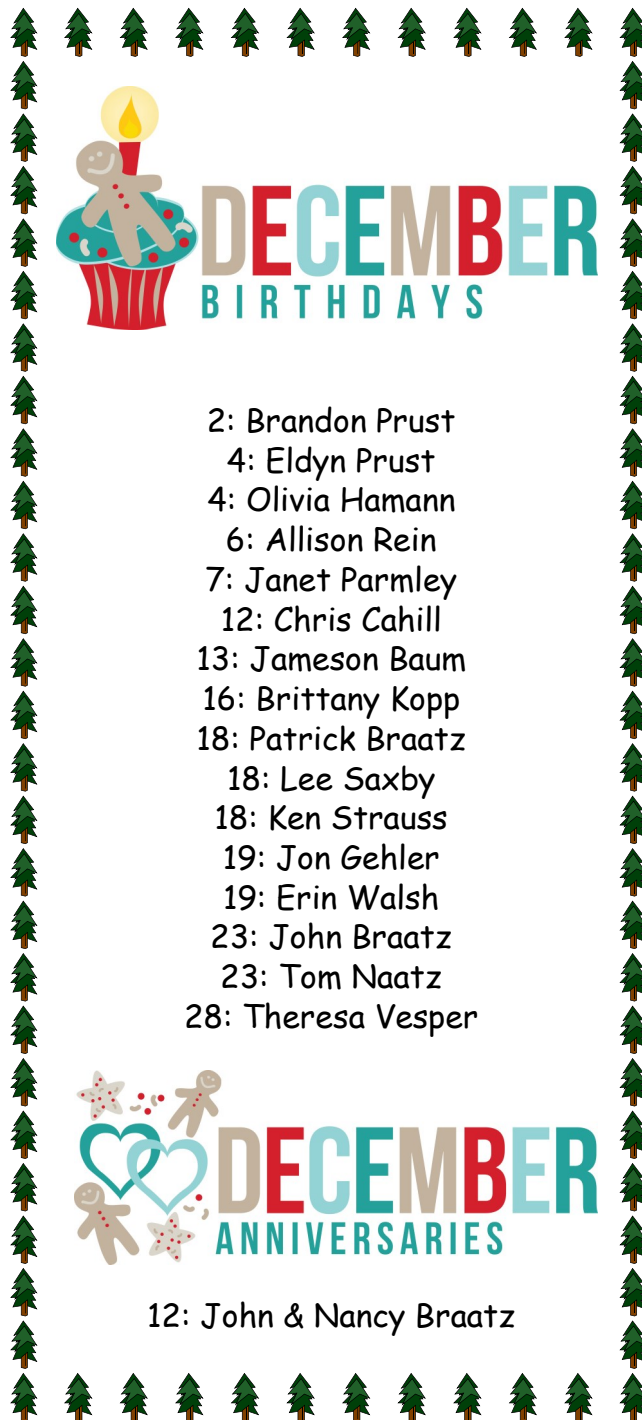
These are members that may not be able to attend church regularly. Please feel free to contact them via mail. If you wish to have your contact information or someone close to you added, please contact Pastor Katie.

Loretta Zubrod

1405 Prospect St., Watertown, WI 53098

Janet Parmley

N8352 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12: John & Nancy Braatz

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.





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.



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LOOKING AHEAD: January 7: Due date for annual reports.....to Dawn January 14: Annual report packet available January: Welcoming Watertown Meeting @ Watertown Library January 19-21: Couples Retreat @ Mt. Morris January 28: Annual Church Council Meeting					1 BDCleaning Unity Prayer Watch	2
3 10am Worship 1st Sunday of Advent guest preacher Vicki Jens-Page 10am Sunday School	4 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	5	6 10am Ebenezer Women — Cookie Exchange	7 6pm Board of Elders	8	9
10 10am Worship Welcome New Members Communion Church Council	11 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	12	13 6pm CEF	14	15	16 9am Adopt-A-Family holiday gift shopping
17 10am Worship Christmas Talent Show Ebenezer Kids Christmas Party	18 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	19 5:30pm Board of Trustees	20 	21	22	23 10am Adopt-A-Family Delivery
24 10am Worship 4pm & 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 10am Worship NO Sunday School						