

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — February 2024



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




What do Moravians believe about....

This is such a tough question to answer. The beauty and challenge of the Moravian Church is that we do not have hard and fast rules about a lot of things. But then, when it comes to the tough topics, we don't have

hard and fast rules. So when someone asks what do Moravians believe about homosexuality, gender identity, legalization of marijuana, illegal immigration, veganism, the war in Israel and Ukraine...the answers are varied. We don't say that one lifestyle, one belief, one way is the only way, although some of us do. We don't say this is right or wrong, but some do. We don't say we support one side or the other, but some do. We don't say we are all one political party, one belief system, one understanding....we don't. The simple truth is Moravians don't agree on a lot. We don't agree on who should be president of the US, who we should love, who should make decisions, how government should be run, what are the "correct" ways of living, etc. But there are a few things we do agree on.

We agree that Jesus Christ is our Lord. We agree there is one God (although what forms and names vary). We agree that all are loved by God. We agree that all are important, deserve respect and care, no matter what label, background or identity. We know that there is nobody God doesn't love, even if there are people we struggle to love. We know that we don't know everything and therefore allow space for others. We welcome all to our tables.

I recently sat with some folks from other churches who discussed some challenges and wondered why there are so many denominations and why people can't just be welcomed at the table, everyone. I agreed with their statements, knowing full well the churches these folks attend do not ordain women. I then listened as one shared that their church will not collect items for people they cannot "share the gospel with." This includes food, clothing, personal items. They will not collect them physically, because they cannot share the gospel. But doesn't the gospel say, when you fed me and when you clothed me. It made my heart hurt. There are churches that will not collect item for our most vulnerable if they cannot "share the gospel," which to me, means tell them what Jesus means and have them accept there understanding of faith. It hurts my heart. You would rather have children go hungry because you cannot "minister to them," rather than collect and give, freely. I am so grateful that in all the times that Jesus met with everyone, he never once said, you must listen to me first, you must believe my message first, you must proclaim me as God first, then I will heal, feed, clothe, listen. Never, never in all of Jesus' ministry, did he ever require proper belief, faith or understanding in order to help, heal or give hope. Never. Ministry is not about believing the right things or saying the right things, it is about doing what's right...feeding, clothing, visiting, caring, healing. Although I am a preacher, preaching is not on the list of what you must do for others. Love, serve, heal, reach out, respect, care... it isn't about sharing a message, but living the message. So, every Monday, we minister at Loaves and Fishes, even if we never say a word....we share the Gospel.




**DEADLINE for
the
March
Newsletter is
Thursday, February 22nd**

(Earlier would be better.)

PLEASE NOTE

Ebenezer is on the schedule to serve Loaves and Fishes this year on:



February 19
May 20
August 19

Please mark your calendars. Thanks!



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

Please contact Pastor Katie to make arrangements for other times.

December 24 - 10am service

General - \$4,347.00
Noisy - \$46.80

4pm AND 7pm service

General - \$1,760.00

December 31

General - \$2,155.00
Helping Hands - \$50.00

January 7

General - \$1,701.00
Room Rent - \$250.00
On line - \$550.00

January 14

General - \$2,025.00
Building Rent - \$150.00
Welcoming Watertown - \$100.00
(from Immanuel)

January 21

General - \$2,745.00
Online - \$200.00
Noisy offering - \$20.00
Welcoming Watertown - \$150.00
(from 1st Congregational & private donation)
Vision Fund - \$500.00
(rebate from Pastors Wellness)

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 — February

2: Hot sandwich - chicken or beef
Cold pasta salad, Fruit

12: Veggie burger soup
Cold sandwich, Fruit

19: Hawaiian chicken legs
Rice, Veggie, Soup

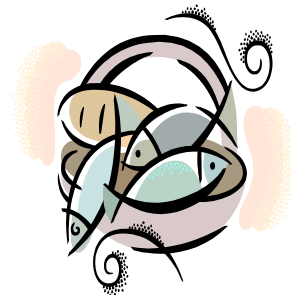
26: Pulled pork
Baked beans, Fruit

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SERVERS — February

5: Stan Jones Auctioneer
12: White Stone Community Church
19: Ebenezer Moravian Church
26: Watertown Moravian Church

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.



ACTIVITY GROUP "C"

Co-Leaders

Linda (920-253-8137) & Gregg Lippens
(920-253-8136) HOME: (920-261-2061)

Kris Schefft 920-285-1048
February to April 2024

Scott & Jill Beerbohm - (920) 988-4714 Jill cell
(920) 988-4724 Scott cell

Jordan Beerbohm - (920) 988-3949

Craig & Melissa Cahill - (920) 699-2867

Bob & Dianne Hamann - (920) 261-6685

Dianne cell (920)342-8103

Todd Hamann -(920) 342-0151

Travis & Emily Hamann - (920) 262-8257

Chris Lilek - (920) 912-7304)

Greg & Linda Lippens - (920) 261-2061 home

Kari & Matt Maass - (920) 253-7297

Francis & Kathie Orval - (414) 416-0225 (Buzz cell)

(920) 723-1173 (Kathy cell)

Reinhold Petig - (920) 261-6892

William Petig - (920) 261-2486

Kris Schefft - (920) 285-1048

Clifford & Dianne Schuett - (920) 261-9120

Carole Schumacher - (920) 261-2005

Daniel Virgil - (920) 206-5250

Brian & Megan Weihert - (920) 253-8139

Bob & Dawn Westenberg - (920) 261-7068

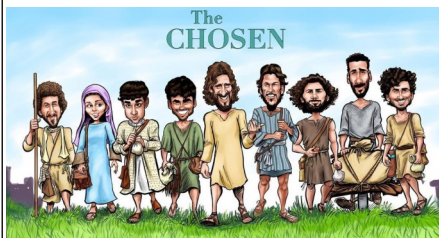
Glennis Zastrow - (920) 261-3731

QR Code

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



Lent: Are You 'The Chosen?'

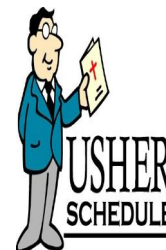


Have you watched the series "The Chosen" just yet? It is based upon scripture, but definitely takes

some liberties that make you think, bring the characters to life and make you look at stories in a new way.

This year's Lenten journey will follow some of the episodes, inviting us to watch some clips and then discuss our impressions, ideas, concerns, and more. We will be invited to think about our own responses and how these characters connect (or not) to our own lives.

Each week, we will be given the episode we will talk about and we can watch it in advance if we wish, knowing we cannot watch the full 45 minute episode each week. Then again, maybe if we want to come early and eat while watching, it might work too! Either way, reserve Wednesdays beginning at 5:30pm as our time to gather, eat and discuss as we journey to a more deeper understanding of God through the 40 days of Lent with 'The Chosen.'



February 4

Joe & Anne Walsh

February 11 & 18

Dennis & Linda Rabbach

Theresa Vesper

February 25

Kris Schefft

Mary Lou Kopp

Scott Kopp

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

CHOIR

As plans progress, updates will be announced in church. Also, please watch the bulletin or e-mail for updates.

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.



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



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

February 4
February 18

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

Agape Meals Needed!

Throughout Lent, we gather on Wednesday evenings to break bread, pray and learn. These agape meals are graciously provided by church members. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who wish to share a meal. Feel free to connect with others to distribute meal responsibilities.

With the cost of food rising, there is a stipend available for anyone wishing to provide a meal that may need assistance to purchase items. Please see Pastor Katie for info on the stipend.

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

Building a Healthy Community for All

Watertown deserves to be a safe place where it's easy for children and their families to do healthy things and make healthy choices. Much of what makes healthy behavior easier or harder depends on what we do as a community. Things like not having access to healthy, affordable food, homelessness, or even physical surroundings like sidewalks, streets and places to bike and walk safely can impact our health.

We're asking people to come together to learn about these issues, and how they can support the health of all Watertown's children and their families. Join us to learn skills in talking and making good arguments to solve problems in a way that addresses root causes.

Where: Ebenezer Moravian Church
N8095 High Road

When: 12:00-4:30 p.m., Sunday February 4th

Snow date: Sunday March 3rd

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/73m7drdt> or follow this QR code:



Building a Healthy Community for All

Watertown Health Equity Workshop

February 4, 2024 12:00 - 4:50
Ebenezer Moravian Church
N8095 High Rd., Watertown WI 53094



<http://tinyurl.com/73m7drdt>



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)

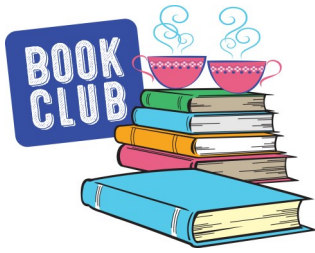
beerbohm.s@hotmail.com

Jean Walker

920 206-1812 (landline)

608 504-8300 (cell)

Jwalker_409@yahoo.com



“The Jesus Cow” by Michael Perry is his fictional debut about a holy icon that goes amiss. There is humor, challenge and fun in this tale set in our very own WI.

Check out the book and join us for a fun evening of great BBQ at CJ’s Barbecue and great discussion.

Don't Forget the SOUP!

As we collected a nice amount of socks and undies, the bin for Shared Community Missions Group filled! However, soup wasn't inside anymore. We focused on this amazing chance to collected socks and undies, we may have left out the soup!

We do need more soup and canned pasta. We have gotten such a positive response to the pasta, that we are adding two cans on those weeks.

So, as you hit up those bargains or clip those coupons, think about bringing a can or two to church to help with our weekend food to go and grow program.



We need soup, soup and more soup!

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 went to Hometown Missions. We collected \$217.98 for this program.



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

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-



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.



Holy Week Readings (Sunday - Wednesday)

The Readings for Holy Week are offered at Marquardt Village in the evenings. Please feel free to join them in the Chapel for the readings, read by Pastor Jane, Pastor Kurt and others.

 **Maundy Thursday**

 **Good Friday**

At Ebenezer at 7:30pm

 **Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service @ 6am, beginning in the sanctuary then processing to the cemetery

Easter Breakfast to follow

Easter Traditional service at 10am

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.



God is Good.....(say it with me) all the time:) Thank you!



FEBRUARY *Birthdays*

- 2: Eric Rein
- 2: Ken Kreuzscher
- 5: Megan Weihert
- 6: Thea Esther Maas
- 6: Jeff Weihert
- 7: Amanda Schultz
- 10: Dena Weihert
- 12: Dianne Hamann
- 14: Glennis Zastrow
- 15: Paige Hamann
- 16: Trudy Krueger
- 19: Karol Wesemann
- 23: Emily Hamann
- 23: Simon Britts
- 26: Carrie Finley
- 26: Dawn Westenberg
- 27: Scott Kopp

FEBRUARY *Anniversaries*

- 27: Roland & Karen Lee

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".



Joint Board Provincial Challenge

In 2023, we missed our assessments by \$5100. We are asking members to consider an extra donation to help. These funds support larger ministries. Let's pitch in!

Currently, \$1,050 has been designated toward this challenge. While others may have donated more to go toward this cause it was not designated. If you have already given, but it was not designated, please reach out to a trustee to count your giving toward this challenge.



Bridge Builders: The Listening Campaign.

On January 27, church is blessing three members plus Pastor Katie to embark on a listening campaign of our church members. What is a listening campaign? It is an intentional time for trained members to reach out and have 20 - 30 minute conversations to learn about our members. It is not a traditional conversation nor is it an interview. It is a time to learn about each member, what drives them, what discourages them, memorable experiences and what passions they possess.

As we learn about the members, we will hopefully find commonalities in our community, which can help lead us into new ministries and missions. As these members reach out, please be open to a conversation. Conversations will remain confidential with topics being shared rather than persons or personal information. The purpose is to find connections among us and then with other churches to see where we can do greater good in our community. But we can only do it, with your help.

Please be willing to chat with a bridge builder for a short time, inviting them to learn more about you. Although we worship together, there are so many things we may not know about each other. It is so important to not just worship together, but to connect deeper in relationships and faith. If you think you have a friend who could also benefit from a moment of listening, please let Pastor Katie know, as that person can be added to our list. This is not just for Ebenezer members, but that is where we are choosing to begin. We would love to get to know more about everyone, so let's start with you!

Ebenezer Kids Movie Night!

Looking to head over to the Towne Cinema for an afternoon matinee on Feb 24th. We won't know the movie options/times just yet, but keep the afternoon open for some movies and popcorn!



MORAVIAN WOMEN

The Moravian Women will meet on Wednesday, February 7, 10:00 a.m. at the church.





Christine Lilek - N4914 Butternut Trail, Juneau - dob 5-9-59

I was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. When I was 9 years old, I gave my heart to Jesus at Beacon Light Chapel. Living near Lake Michigan gave me a love for water and nature at an early age. I studied to become a water scientist and worked for the State of Wisconsin for over 35 years protecting water and our natural resources. I plan to retire next year on April 19, 2024.

I was blessed with two marriages and three children from my first marriage (Andy – 42, Liz – 39, David – 33). Half of their life they were challenged with my being a single mother. I was widowed twice when the kids were growing up and the early years were hard for us. My parenting style consisted of long talks about truth and consequences. Many times they would have preferred being grounded in silence.

Being a grandparent of two teenage girls (Jaeleigh and Jazelle) is much easier. Listening and sharing times together seems to be working for grandparenting.

I went back to college and earned a Master degree in Religious Studies (1985) and became a Lay Pastor with the Methodist Church (1998). Ten years ago, I bought a lake house on Lake Sinissippi and have been surrounded by water, nature and peace. God is good.

I own 6 kayaks (5 single and 1 double) and can host a “Worship on the Water” Day if anyone is interested in experiencing the “spirit moving over the waters”. I am also a Wisconsin Master Naturalist and can offer nature programs on most topics. I do have an “inside life”. I enjoy Community Theatre, our local library programs and services, reading and watching science fiction with my sons and grandchildren, and playing Bridge when we can get 4 people together. I look forward to learning a little bit about all of you!

Judy Tholen - N7551 Rock Lake Road, Lake Mills – dob 1-1-64

I am excited to be part of this congregation. I volunteer for Loaves & Fishes every Monday and I am your new church treasurer. I live just outside Lake Mills on a farm. The farm is quiet these days with only one French bulldog named Russell and a neurotic cat named Little Bit.

I have two children and three grandchildren. My daughter and family live near LaCrosse and my son and family live next door to me on the farm. I work part time for the city of Lake Mills as the Lab Manager at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I like to read, watch movies, visit my grandkids, garden and make quilts.

Jeff & Dena Weihert - W4498 Emerald Drive, Watertown - anniversary 4-22-21

DENA - dob 2-10-73

I have lived in many different places, gone to many different churches...from Amish to Baptist to non-denominational. Hopefully this will be my last move.


I have three grown children, Jonah 25, Caleb (wife Nicole) and Anna 20.

JEFF - dob 2-6-71

I was born and raised in Watertown. A farm boy. I have worked at Archie Monuments for the past 22 years.

I have three kids (23 - 22 - 14), two girls and a boy. I have two grandkids (3 - 2), both girls.

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 24-31: Holy Week March 24: Palm Sunday Worship @ 10:00am - guest speaker Sylvie Hauser from Board of World Missions Monday-Wednesday: Holy week readings @ Marquardt Village (with Marquardt, Watertown Moravian & Ebenezer) March 28: Maundy Thursday Worship @ 7:30pm March 31: Easter Sunrise Worship AND Traditional Easter @ 10:00am				1	2 BDCleaning	3
4 10am Worship 10am Sunday School 12:30-4pm Watertown Health Equity Workshop	5 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	6	7 10am Moravian Women	8 9am Shared Community Mission Group Meeting @ Christ UMC 6:00pm Elders	9	10
11 10am Worship	12 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	13 10am Cemetery Committee Meeting 12noon Watertown Clergy Roundtable @ Ebenezer 6:00pm CEF	14 10:45am Shared Community Mission pack bags @ Christ UMC 7pm Ash Wednesday Service Communion	15	16	17
18 10am Worship 10am Sunday School	19 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining Ebenezer Serves	20 5:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting	21 5:30pm Agape Meal 6:00pm Discussion	22 	23	24
25 10am Worship	26 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb-side pickup 4:00-5:30pm Inside dining	27 6pm Game Night - Poker	28 5:30pm Agape Meal 6:00pm Discussion	29 5:00pm Book Club @ CJ's Barbecue	 Valentine's Day	