

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — March 2024

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



Are you feeling "Chosen?"

Have you ever really felt chosen? What does being chosen feel like? It is a great title for a show, a great concept from our faith, but do we walk around feeling or acting "Chosen?" Probably not. It is not something we think about on a daily basis, God chooses us. I have the privilege of marrying a couple this fall who I met through my husband and his hunting connections. The bride was adopted from another country and has always been grateful to her mother who chose her. She has not researched her birth family nor has any real desire to find out more, rather spending her energy on appreciating her mother. Now, that isn't to say that mom is always right or that there are not difficulties, but for many other adoptees, the feelings of confusion, abandonment and isolation are often overwhelming and difficult. Many adoptees spend years in therapy trying to understand what happened so long ago. It is not easy. Not being adopted, I can judge or assume my priorities, but one cannot really say for sure. But to grow up feeling completely chosen, special, wanted, is a real gift. Adopted or with a birth family or something else, many people do not feel wanted and often feel the opposite, a burden, or a hindrance, or worse, a mistake. However, if we realized that there is one who chooses us, no matter what our background or history. There is one who chooses us no matter how we got here or even if we know. There is one who chooses us willingly and without any pressure or coercion. God simply chooses us, no strings, no restrictions, no exceptions. And what we choose to do with that fact, is up to us. We can embrace it and live life more fully, knowing that the one who created all wants even lil' ol' me. Or we can struggle with the wishes of wanting someone more tangible to want us, to love us, to choose us. It is hard to go through life with unmet needs. Yet, God continued to choose us even if we fail to choose God.

Life is about perspective, what we choose to do with our energy, our time, our talents, our treasure. We can spend it feeling alone and unwanted. We can spend it working on those feelings, realizing that they are just one of many emotions we have and we do not have to let it overtake us. And we can choose to work and focus beyond that, realizing that the imperfect love we have here cannot even compare with the immeasurable love of God that we can barely even scratch the surface. So, do we dwell on the difficulties or embrace the love? Do we seek those who sadly cannot meet our needs, or do we focus on a God that handles all our needs? It sounds simple, but we know it is more than that. However, it starts with the little steps, the reminders of God choosing us, the reassurance of God's love, the remembrance of the imperfection of humanity and the forgiveness needed to get through. And we realize and embrace a God who can choose anything, chooses to love us, right here, right now. Thank you God, for loving us, when we forget to love you back and especially when we forget to love ourselves. Help us to accept your choice of choosing us, everyday.



**DEADLINE for
the
April
Newsletter is
Wednesday, March 20th**
(Earlier would be better.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

*We will be suspending Sunday School
classes. Our last class will be
March 17th.*

*Confirmation classes will continue
according to the schedule through
May 5th.*

We will address this again in fall.



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

Please contact Pastor Katie to make arrangements for other times.

MORAVIAN WOMEN

The women planned a time of fellowship at a local restaurant. Because of weather conditions, some women were not able to come.

We have decided to meet on Wednesday, March 6, at 10:00 at the Rose Garden. All women are invited to come for a time of food and fellowship.



January 28:
\$1,060.00

February 4:
General-\$2,543.00
Loose-\$20.00
Sunday School-\$1.00
Provincial-\$1,050.00
Rent-\$250.00

February 11:
General-\$2,090.00
Provincial-\$1,100.00

February 14 & 18:
General-\$3,520.00
Sunday School-\$1.00
Building Use-\$100.00
Welcome Watertown-\$100.00

Thank you.



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

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 — March

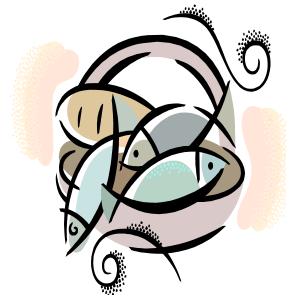
4: Ham & baked potatoes
11: Meatloaf & mashed potatoes
18: Chicken legs & stuffing
25: Beef casserole

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SERVERS — March

4: Lake Area Free
11: Kwik Trip - Carrie
18: 4-H
25: Methodists

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.



MARCH 10th



Here are some logistical notes about Easter:

Online services are available from our Ebenezer zoom link on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Traditional service (10am).

The journey to the cemetery at sunrise is varied as some walk, ride in cars, bring chairs and blankets or even stay in cars as mobility allows. There will be amplification of voices at the cemetery.

Unfortunately, our lower lift remains broken (currently awaiting architect approval), so feel free to drive or walk outside for those that might need to avoid stairs. Our lift from the narthex into the sanctuary is working.

We have visitors with us who might not “know” what we have done, so please invite, explain and welcome those new to our traditions.

PLEASE NOTE

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

May 20
August 19



Please mark your calendars. Thanks!

2024 Mt. Morris Camps

Chetek
July 14 to 20

Winmor
July 21 to 27

Junior Camp
July 28 to August 1



Watch for further information in future newsletters.



March 3
Kristine Schefft
Mary Lou Kopp
Scott Kopp

March 10 & 17
Scott & Jill Beerbohm
Jordan Beerbohm

March 24 & 31
Karol Wesemann
Bob & Tammy Meyer

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

CHOIR

Please watch for e-mails and announcements for Easter practice/preparation.



Glennis

Are You Tuning In?

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

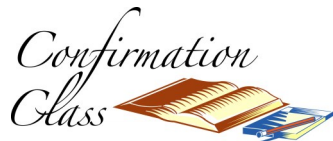
Watch your email for the address and log in a few minutes early. You will see everything on the screen and have the opportunity to share prayer concerns and announcements. It is a great alternative to coming in person.



Sunday School classes will be held for the **last time** in March.

March 3rd
March 17th

Classes will be suspended and addressed again in fall. Kris Schefft, Anne Walsh, Shelly Degrandt and Trudi Wesemann work in teams as teachers.



Confirmation classes will continue to meet every-other week at 10am.

March 3rd
March 17th
April 7th
April 21st
May 5th

Tom Naatz is the confirmation teacher.

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

EASTER is COMING!

Good thing...it's a long 40 days!

Moravians call themselves "Easter People" for a reason. We really enjoy the journey on those last few days leading up to the crucifixion and Easter. This year, we are partnering with Watertown Moravian and Marquardt to offer Holy Week Readings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25-27. These will be in the Marquardt Chapel located in the "The Grove." Each night, the readings are read to those attending, with different voices used for different persons in the stories. Please make plans to come and hear the stories and sing along to the music accompanying.

Maundy Thursday will be held at Ebenezer and online through our zoom link at 7:30pm. We will gather together and hear the promise given to us in the sacrament of communion and then have a chance to take communion together. Following worship, the sanctuary will be prepared for Good Friday as well as the rehearsal of the drama for Good Friday as well. If you wish to take part, please see Pastor Katie or Tom Naatz to join in.

Good Friday gathers us in darkness in the sanctuary and online at 7:30pm. We will experience the final moments of Jesus' life, culminating in silence, as the congregation leaves in quiet darkness.

The Great Sabbath is a time on Saturday to reflect, wonder, wait, as we anticipate the Easter morning. Some will gather at church at 10am to prepare for Easter Breakfast or band rehearsal.

Easter morning begins in our sanctuary with a beautiful cross and light illuminating the changed cross. We will spend a short time in the sanctuary before journeying to the cemetery, gathering at the resting place of our most recently departed member. We will sing, listen, and be together as we celebrate the empty tomb with all the saints who have gone before us. Then head down to fellowship hall to enjoy a hearty meal and good fellowship.

You can even come back at 10am for a more "traditional" worship service at 10am in the sanctuary.

As we look at these many experiences, we invite you to see where you can take part...join the choir or band, help set up with the activity groups as they both prepare the sanctuary and the meal, take part in the drama, attend Holy Week Readings, pray, meditate, read, sing...there are so many ways to be part of this journey. Don't miss your opportunity. Join with us as we all take the journey together.

Ebenezer Sends Love

We remembered our college students this time of year by sending them Valentine Care Packages. Please continue to keep Allison Rein, Dalton Krueger, Jozie Roberts, Emmaleigh Rein, and Bohdi Degrandt in your thoughts and prayers for the rest of the semester, especially Allison Rein, who will be graduating this spring. Thank you to Barbara Rich for making her a special item in honor of her college graduation.

The four other care packages included various sweet treats, other snacks (granola bars, mac-n-cheese cups, beverages, etc.), school supplies, personal supplies, study break items (puzzles & toys), and homemade snack bags (more Barbara Rich creations).

A special thanks to Barbara Rich for everything she made, Dawn Westenberg for helping gather items, the Sunday School teachers and students for wrapping, packing up all the goodies, and shipping the packages.



QR Code

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



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

Linda Rabbach: Chair

(920) 699-3781
(920)941-0696 (Linda Cell)
rabbach1950@yahoo.com

Todd Hamann: Vice Chair

(920) 342-0580

Megan Weihert: Secretary

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

Buzz Orval

(414) 416-0225 ** buzzorval@yahoo.com

Dennis Rabbach

(920) 699-3781 ** rabbach1950@yahoo.com

Scott Beerbohm AND Jordan Beerbohm

(920) 988-4714 (Scott)
beerbohmswi@gmail.com
(920) 988-3949 (Jordan)
beerbohm.s@hotmail.com

EBENEZER KIDS - MOVIE, Second Try!

Hello Kids and Kids at Heart!

We came into a bit of a conundrum with schedules in February and chose to postpone our movie until Spring Break!

Watch the bulletin, emails and Facebook as we look to take the kids to the Towne Cinema and enjoy popcorn, a movie and a sweet afternoon.

We appreciate as many kids going as possible, so once we send out the date, watch for info and invite your friends!



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.



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-



Don't Forget the SOUP!

Ebenezer did a great job collecting socks and undies for the Shared Community Mission Program. Now we need to get back to collecting food. We still need soup and canned pasta.

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.



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



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!



Happy
SPRING!

THIS SPELLS
HELP FOR LOTS OF
FAMILIES THIS
YEAR!



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE**

**Mark your calendars!!
The annual food drive will be
Saturday, May 11th.**

We are always looking for help.
If you can help this day, please contact Dawn.
dawn@watertownfoodpantry.org

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.

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".



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



**BUILDING A
WELCOMING WATERTOWN**

Community, Conversation, and Christian Welcome

next steps!

As we are reaching out and listening to our members, we are excited to share what we have been hearing. Again, no names will be used, but we are happy to share the joys and challenges that some of our members are going through. As we look to see where God is calling, we listen to see what is on the hearts of our members.

On Sunday March 10, we plan to host a fellowship time after worship to share some of the insights discovered during our listening sessions. Please mark your calendars to enjoy snacks and learn more about our members.

Then keep Sunday April 14th on your calendar as that is the next gathering of the larger group at the Watertown Public Library, 12:30 - 2:30pm



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Sharon Prust
- 2 - Cody Saxby
- 3 - Arlene Molly
- 4 - Linda Strauss
- 9 - William Kopp
- 16 - Nicholas Finley
- 23 - Roland Lee
- 25 - Michael Braatz
- 28 - Linda Lippens
- 29 - Trudi Wesemann
- 30 - Joe Walsh



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

22 - Paul & Pam Jacobson

Through him you
BELIEVE IN GOD,
 who raised him
FROM THE DEAD
 — and —
GLORIFIED HIM,
 and so your
 faith and hope
ARE IN GOD.



1 PETER 1:21, NIV

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

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

- **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.

ACTIVITY GROUP "A" - Co-Leaders
Leaders Bob & Tammy Meyer AND
Joe & Anne Walsh
MAY-JUNE 2024

Shari, Kaylin and Karissa Bender
(920) 285-6984
Dylan and Monica Brown- (920) 342-4379
Pat Counsel - (920) 261-4158
Kris Kerr - (920) 918-1523
MaryLou Kopp - 920) 261-0296
Scott Kopp - (920) 252-1919
Bob & Tammy Meyer
(920) 342-3849 (Tammy cell)
(920) 342-4304 (Bob cell)
Arlene Molly - (920) 699-2133
Eric, Tracy, Emmaleigh and Allison Rein -
(920) 206-1411
Lee & Tracy Saxby - (920) 988-7981
Everett, Jr. & Judith Strauss - (920) 261-2006
Judy Tholen - (920) 285-6174
Aaron & Katie Van der Linden - (610) 442-3790
Joe & Anne Walsh
(920) 342-0909 (Anne cell)
(262) 894-1652 (Joe cell)
Jean Walker - (608) 504-3200
Karol Wesemann - (920) 261-7388
Trudi Wesemann - (920) 342-4133

ACTIVITY GROUP "B" — Co-Leaders
Dennis & Linda Rabbach AND
Tom & Virginia Naatz
AUGUST-OCTOBER 2024

John & Nancy Braatz - (920) 261-4333
Simon & Carol Britts - (920) 261-9493
Joe, Shelly, Jillian and Bohdi Degrandt -
(920) 988-6281 (Shelly cell)
Jon Gehler - (920) 342-2945
Amanda Harris and Jozie Roberts
(920) 248-9304
Paula Harris - (262) 617-6579
Sue Kopp - (920) 699-3504
Darrin, Darrick, Dalton & Trudy Krueger -
(920) 220-9626
Tom & Ginny Naatz
home (920) 699-3118
(920) 248-1029 (Tom cell)
(920) 248-9452 (Ginny cell)
Tim & Julie Pattengale - (920) 988-6130
Dennis & Linda Rabbach
(920) 699-3781
(920) 941-0696 (Linda cell)
Barbara Rich - (920) 421-3133
Theresa Vesper - (920) 342-8021
Charles & Judy Wesemann
(920) 285-9212 (Chuck cell)
(920) 342-1017 (Judy cell)
Emma Wegner - (920) 285-1370
Jeff & Dena Weihert
(920) 253 6919 (Jeff cell)
(608)-628-5147 (Dena cell)
Alex Zubrod - (920) 261-8289

ACTIVITY GROUP "C" — Co-Leaders
Linda & Gregg Lippens AND
Kris Schefft
FEBRUARY-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
(920) 253-8137 (Linda cell)
(920) 253-8136 (Gregg cell)
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



Western District Synod is coming!

April 25 - 28 marks the dates of the 2024 Synod of the Moravian Church Western District. Pastor Katie, Chris Lilek and Kris Schefft will be gathering at Mt. Morris for a time of discernment, relationship building and decision-making concerning the leadership and direction of the Western District and its' ministries.

Please be in prayer for all those who will gather and for the important decisions including Western District president and Western District Executive Board. Prayers for Bruce Nelson who will be concluding his terms as WD president and for the Holy Spirit to move to find his successor.

Please watch for more information regarding this important gathering in future newsletters.



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mt. Morris Camp Chetek: July 14 to 20 Mt. Morris Camp Winmor: July 21 to 27 Mt. Morris Camp Junior Camp: July 28 to August 1					1 March 1, 1457 Founding of the Unity BDCleaning	2
3 10am Worship 10am Sunday School	4 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining	5	6 10am Moravian Women — Rose Garden 4pm View The Cho- sen 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Discussion	7 6pm Board of Elders Meeting	8	9 
10 10am Worship Fellowship following church	11 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining	12 10am Cemetery Board Noon Clergy Roundtable 6pm CEF Meeting	13 4pm View The Cho- sen 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Discussion	14	15	16
17 10am Worship 10am Sunday School — LAST CLASS	18 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining 5:30pm Board of Trustees	19	20 4pm View The Chosen 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Discussion 	21 5:30pm SCMG Planning Meeting @ Ebenezer	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 10am Worship — Guest Preacher Sylvie Hauser from Moravian Board of World Missions	25 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining Holy Week Readings @ Marquardt	26 Holy Week Readings @ Marquardt	27 Holy Week Readings @ Marquardt	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30pm Service w/communion	29 GOOD FRIDAY 7:30pm Tenebrae Service	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 6pm Sunrise Service Breakfast 10am Worship						