

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — September 2020

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



"Can you recall what the sanctuary looks like? How many light fixtures or the color of the banners? It has been 5 months (March 15) since we gathered together in our building and 4 months since we began worshipping on wheels. Is time going fast or slow? To me, it still seems like March, like a never-ending March that will only move once this pandemic is over. Missed are the birthdays, holidays, vacations and visits that many of us planned for throughout the year. We have been in five months of uncertainty and concern, separation and loneliness. It has not been easy. But here we are, five months later, discovering the joy of the trees, beauty of the flowers (thanks Dennis and Linda!), the cool breeze and the morning air. Its refreshing to see one another, check out the sweet rides and creative church options like tailgating and pickup truck bed seats! I am so thankful that you continue to find meaning and joy in our church family and am also quite thankful for the ones who continue to stay at home. I have heard from many who are tuning into online worship and finding ways to connect to Moravians all over the world as well as ones in our own backyard. I have heard people watching pastors they have been away from and experiencing music and worship with a variety of faith communities. The joy in all of this is that God is with us everywhere and we truly can worship in such a vast number of ways, praise God!

We will get back inside, our Wisconsin winters definitely remind us of the importance of heat! The boards were kind enough to offer to get me a parka if we wished to continue outdoor worship through the winter months. I assure you, the feedback we are getting is that we come back inside, thoughtfully and practically. The boards are diligently researching best safety practices and making space for all to feel safe in worship. But let's be honest, for some of us we will be lined up ready to go in and for others, the thought of indoor worship is not even on our radar. And this is OK. We are dealing with life in more uncertainty that we have ever faced and we just don't know the right answers. It is very important that you take the best action for you and your loved ones. Please be safe and cautious. I also encourage you, when we open, to consider coming. As I shared with a friend this morning, some of the learning in all this is to be ok with discomfort. Life gets uncomfortable and maybe we have taken our comfort for granted over the years. Well it has been 5 months of discomfort without an end in sight. However, from experience, it is worth trying something, even if uncomfortable, to see how things really are. At first, when the gym opened, there was fear and uncertainty, the challenged of what to do and not to do and the real fear of a breakout. Over the last few weeks, it has gotten more comfortable, more at ease, more "normal" as we find comfort in being cautious and seeing others just like us. This has been the joy of our outdoor worship and will continue to be the joy inside as well, seeing others just like us. So please remember, in all of this....others are worried, just like us, others are uncertain, just like us, others don't know the right answers, just like us, others aren't sure what to do, just like us, others are praying, just like us, others are hopeful, just like us, others are going through this without ever having done this before, just like us. None of us know exactly what will happen, but please continue to pray for one another, look to the hope of the risen Christ and know that God is with us, from wherever we worship, kneel, praise and are thankful.

Wednesday,
September 23
for the
October
Newsletter



OFFICE
HOURS

Tuesday
10am to 2 pm

Thursday
10am to 2 pm

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 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Watertown Moravian Church, 510 Cole Street.

During Covid19, Loaves & Fishes will continue to serve carry-out meals and will probably be serving curbside until at least the end of September. We are keeping social distancing at the forefront of our minds.

Our carry-out meal numbers have continued to increase weekly and are now serving between over 275 every week. 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 — SEPTEMBER

7: OFF - HOLIDAY
14: Pork Roast
21: Roasted Chicken
28: Fish Sticks

SERVERS — SEPTEMBER

7: OFF - HOLIDAY
14: Lebanon Lutheran
21: Saturday Club
28: Hope Lutheran



MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 Shelly Degrandt at (920)988-6281 or at degrandts@gmail.com.

Leroy Gronert, Sr.

Dycora Nursing Home, Apt. 201
430 Wilcox St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Joyce Kopp

317 Lauren Lane
Watertown, WI 53094

Carol Schultz

Park Terrace, 1047 Hill Street, Room 2528
Watertown, WI 53098

Todd Hamann #627678

Thompson Correctional Center
434 State Farm Road
Deerfield, WI 53531-9562

PRAYER MINISTRY



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6.

If you would like to add a prayer request, please contact one of the Elders. Please submit prayer requests BEFORE Wednesday of each week to Pastor Katie (pastor.kvdl@gmail.com).

Adult Sunday School Class



There will be no Adult Sunday School class starting in September.

Class may resume at a future date.

Watch for updates in the bulletin and newsletter.



Do we have your e-mail address?

Trustees would like to clear the slate with unpaid Provincial Quotas.....

The Ebenezer Church finances have been stable and no complaints at all as we are meeting all obligations to date. But as great as finances are in spite of the disruption of the pandemic we can not get ahead enough to pay off the \$1204 amount that we are behind for this year 2020. Plus we still owe \$1523 from 2019.

We would like to propose combining the two amounts to the tune of \$2727 and ask that you would use the Special Event envelope that you will find with the last Sunday of October in your offering pack to help clear the slate and bring Ebenezer up to date.

The reason we fell behind is that we just did not have the funds in 2019 and again in Spring of this year, so we only were able to pay a portion of what we owed. Thank you in advance for your considering an extra gift above and beyond your faithful giving.

Sincerely, Your Trustees

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. Also, 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.

EBENEZER KIDS ... Fall Back into Church!!

Come out for a fun evening of games and activities outside on Sunday evening, September 20. Kids will not need masks, but will be staying distant playing some crazy games like fun noodle tag and hula hoop dodge ball. No need to rsvp, just come for a good time. You may even go home messy!

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 above article

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Thank you for your generosity. We will give you a HUGE hug once we are allowed to!

Western District Synod Postponed



Every four years, district synods are held to elect the leadership of the district, report ministries over the years and make decisions to guide our district churches. Originally, the Western District Synod was scheduled at the end of April at Mt. Morris. Our representatives elected at our church council are Theresa Vesper, Joe Walsh and Pastor Katie.

The synod has been postponed until November 19 - 22. Please be in prayer for the leadership of our district and province. All district synods have been changes, which will definitely cause more challenges and disruptions. We continue to pray for the leadership of our churches on all levels and for all those who continue to support through this difficult time.

EBENEZER MORAVIAN WOMEN

The Ebenezer Moravian Women are planning on resuming their meetings this fall. If you are able and comfortable with joining us, come to church about 9am on September 2nd. We will have the coffee pot on and hopefully Linda will have our new lesson books for the year. If you have any questions, you can call Linda R or Karol.

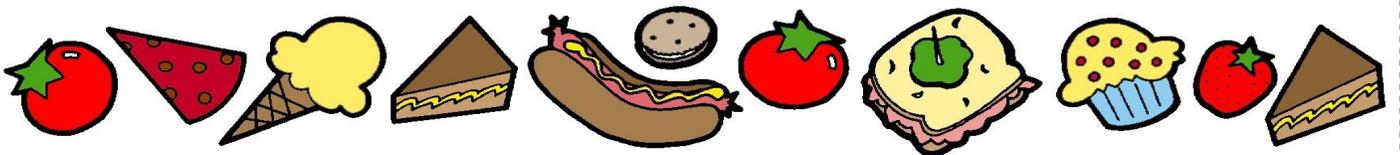
“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
1 Peter 4:10

I can’t believe I am writing an article for Sandwiches in the Park, in the last week and a half of August. Where has the summer gone? Well, to recap: we served our first bag lunch on June 12th at Watertown Moravian Church’s parking lot. With everything going on, we felt that offering a “drive-thru” pickup was our best and safest option in being able to provide lunches for people in need in the Watertown area. Over that time, we served between 45-65 lunches in any given Friday. We tried to offer some variety and even had specialty foods such as brats, grilled cheese, and chicken salad. All of which I believe were a big hit. As I’m writing this, we have 2 more Friday’s to serve; August 21st and August 28th.

I would like to offer a HUGE “Thank You” to every single person who made Sandwiches in the Park happen. Whether it was donated time, food, or money.....we couldn’t have done it without each of you. The time dedicated to this program is so worth it when you see the appreciation on the people’s faces. I feel so honored to be able to care for our community in such a small way and I realize it wouldn’t be possible without the support from Ebenezer. So again, Thank you!! I ask that you continue to keep this ministry, and all ministries like it in your prayers, for the need really is great. God’s Blessings to each of you.

In Christian Love!

Theresa Vesper, Elder and Co-Coordinator of Sandwiches in the Park



“Justice and Equity is Ebenezer Ready?”

It is so hard to know how to respond to everything going on not only in the world, but right here in Watertown.

What is the right thing to say to fight racism?

How do I go about making sure all kids have access to an education?

How can I see what the needs are and how can we help others?

What is my role in making the world a better place?

These ideas may seem very abstract and hard to define, yet we all have a God-given purpose on this earth. If we wish to make the world better than what we had, what are actual steps we can take to stop racism, fight for equality and have even our own little area more connected. Come out on September 24th @ 7pm to an informal discussion about ways our church can work together to make the world better. Come with your ideas, your creativity, your complaints, your questions. This will be an honest and open dialogue about how we can minister in new ways and work toward a better world. If you wish to be involved and cannot make it that night, please talk to Pastor Katie. No need to RSVP, please come, all ages welcome.



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.

Joint Board Updates!

We continue to be amazed at the flexibility of our church and the joy of being with one another on a Sunday morning. We also appreciate all those who are staying isolated for various reasons and continue to pray for and connect in various ways. We met in July to talk about our plans due to the pandemic and chose to seek your suggestions and ideas. We have received many surveys and it is NOT TOO LATE to send yours in as well. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z6Q8BRL>

We have our next Joint Board meeting on August 30th to work on a final plan for getting back into the sanctuary. In the meantime, we are planning on lots of cleaning and sanitizing, researching safety procedures and looking into making sure everyone is welcome at church. We continue to have masks available, please just let the usher know if you need one (kids and adult sizes). We are working on sanitizing areas and a new projection system to alleviate the need for bulletins. If you have any ideas or thoughts you wish to share, please contact a joint board member prior to the August 30th meeting so he/she can share your information with the whole board.

SOS - Support Our Schools Backpack Program

Thank you so much to all those who brought in school supplies! If you recall, this was one of our Advent Boxes in December and we have been collecting ever since. With all the donations, we were able to give away supplies for 190 students! We also had enough leftover to send boxes of supplies to each public school and even some private ones! We were not sure how everything would go, having to register and offer drive-thru only, but it went off so well. Families were thankful, we had interpreters present and every child had the opportunity to choose a backpack.

This program is through the Shared Community Missions group and we will be once again looking to provide weekend food bags to kindergarten families in need in the upcoming school year. Please start collecting those soup cans.

Watch for more information in the bulletin and newsletter. We plan to start delivering food for the weekend program in October, as we do every year.



Please help keep our website updated with current pictures of church activities, ministries, church grounds and church facilities. We are also looking for new group pictures of the church boards and committees.

Send pictures as jpg files to Dawn Westenberg at dawn22658@gmail.com. We desperately need to update the photographs currently on our website.

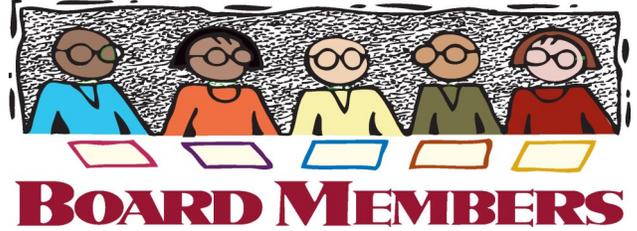


Pastor Katie Van der Linden
(610) 442-3790

IF NOT AVAILABLE CONTACT

Tom Naatz, Vice-Elder Chair
(920) 699-3118

Jon Gehler, Trustee Chair
(920) 342-2945



ELDERS: 2020-2021

Pastor Katie: Chair
(610) 442-3790
Pastor.kvdl@gmail.com

Tom Naatz: Vice Chair
(920) 699-3118
tanacer@charter.net

Tammy Meyer: Secretary
(920) 342-3849
rtmeyer6971@yahoo.com

Linda Lippens: Communication
(920) 253-8137
lindalippens@charter.net

Theresa Vesper: Musician Liaison
920-342-8021
tlynnr83@gmail.com.

Trudy Krueger: Visitation
(920) 220-9626
3djtkrueger@charter.net



REMEMBER: OUR Facebook page is "Ebenezer Moravian".



To meet our 2020 budget, weekly offerings need to be approximately \$2,400. Thank you for your consideration.

July 26: \$ 1,025.00

August 2: \$ 2,734.00

August 9: \$ 1,631.60

August 16: \$ 2,220.00

TRUSTEES: 2020-21

John Gehler: Chair
(920) 342-2945
Gehler.ja2@gmail.com

John Vesper: Vice Chair
920-248-6910
johnvesper.jv@gmail.com

Megan Weihert: Secretary
(920) 253-8139
lippensm@live.com

Chuck Wesemann:
CEF Representative
920-285-9212
chuckwesemann@gmail.com

Kris Kerr
(920) 261-1523
4malsmom@gmail.com



The choir will be continuing to "stay safe". I am missing our Ebenezer voices/participants! But have been enjoying Tom & Noah's music Sunday mornings during Worship on Wheels.

Glennis

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

The nation's largest food drive re-emerges with a whole new look. During this time of Covid19 you might be wondering what will be happening in the future for the Food Pantry. Originally the annual Postal Food Drive normally held the second Saturday in May was postponed to either August or September. With no immediate end in sight for this pandemic, the National Association of Letter Carriers has developed a new plan to address the problem of hunger.

All the nation's food pantries, as well as ours here in Watertown continue to be willing to work with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC). The result is a "virtual" food drive created to fit the current circumstances facing us all. A website has been created for this express purpose.

It's simple to do.

- ** Log onto nalc.org/food
- ** Scroll down and select "Wisconsin" from the drop-down box
- ** Scroll down and select "Watertown Food Pantry"
- ** You will be taken directly to the Watertown Food Pantry website where you can make your on-line donation.

Every dollar raised will go directly to our food pantry so we can purchase food for the hungry. By selecting the Watertown Food Pantry as the recipient of your donation, you are assured that all food purchased will be for our food pantry to help residents in the City of Watertown and surrounding rural area residing in the Watertown School District.



This isn't the normal food drive; but these aren't normal times. The one good thing rising from this approach is that rather than a one-day event, donations will continue as needed.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dawn at dawn@watertownfoodpantry.org. Thank you.

Calling Communion Samplers!

Thursday September 10th is the Watertown Annual Wine Walk!

Last year, a few of us went together and even had shirts made! We wish to make sure we do not leave anyone out. If you wish to participate, contact the Watertown Chamber of Commerce to purchase your \$30 ticket. We will make arrangements to meet off First Street that evening.

If you want to come and either need child-care or other assistance, please talk to Pastor Katie. It does sell out, so if you wish to participate, you may want to get your ticket early!

You shop. Amazon gives.

If you are an 'on-line buyer' and purchase from AmazonSmile.com, Ebenezer is now 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 AmazonSmile.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.



- 1 - Will Brown
- 2 - Virginia Naatz
- 2 - Judith Strauss
- 3 - Kathleen Orval
- 11 - James Parmley
- 11 - Benjamin Berger
- 15 - Robert Hahn
- 19 - Sally Parmley
- 20 - Carol Schultz
- 25 - Robert Hamann
- 25 - Dalton Krueger
- 28 - Kathy Liederbach
- 29 - Liz Walsh



- 12 - Scott & Jill Beerbohm
- 14 - Bob & Tammy Meyer
- 18 - John & Jean Walker
- 18 - Travis & Emily Hamann
- 30 - Joe & Shelly Degrandt
- 30 - Robert & Dianne Hamann

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX MINISTRY

In mid-October any interested Ebenezer members will have the opportunity to participate in Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Ministry. You may remember the program from previous years.

Christmas gift items for children are purchased and packed in shoe boxes to be distributed by a Christian relief organization called Samaritan's Purse. Children around the world receive the shoe box for Christmas.

Watch for more details in the October Messenger.



JoAnn Draheim would like everyone to know her new mailing address:

149 Walter Street
Madison, WI 53714

Sunday School

Sunday School was the main topic of discussion at our last CEF meeting. Teachers expressed their thoughts on availability to teach, should classes be started, if we have Sunday school when, where, and how would this take place. It was decided that parents, grandparents, and guardians of the students would be contacted by Tom to gather their opinions.

After further discussion a tentative once a month schedule for classes was decided upon. The first Sunday School class for children will be held in October during worship. Class will be held in Heiser Hall so students can be spaced 6 feet apart. Masks will be required and all ages of children will be together in a single class.

The adult Sunday School class will decide its own time and place to hold class.



FAMILY

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,
'Oh excuse me please' was my reply.

He said, 'Please excuse me too;
I wasn't watching for you.'

We were very polite, this stranger and I.
We went on our way and we said goodbye.

But at home a different story is told,
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal,
My son stood beside me very still.

When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.
'Move out of the way,' I said with a frown.

He walked away, his little heart broken.
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed,
God's still small voice came to me and said,

**'While dealing with a stranger, common
courtesy you use, but the family you love,
you seem to abuse. Go and look on the
kitchen floor,**
You'll find some flowers there by the door.

Those are the flowers he brought for you.
He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue..

**He stood very quietly not to spoil the sur-
prise,**
you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes.'

By this time, I felt very small,
And now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his bed;
'Wake up, little one, wake up,' I said.

'Are these the flowers you picked for me?'
He smiled, 'I found 'em, out by the tree.

I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.
I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue.'

**I said, 'Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted
today;**
I shouldn't have yelled at you that way..'
He said, 'Oh, Mom, that's okay.
I love you anyway.'

I said, 'Son, I love you too,
and I do like the flowers, especially the blue.'

FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the
company that we are working for could easily
replace us in a matter of days.

But the family we left behind will feel the loss for
the rest of their lives.

**And come to think of it, we pour ourselves
more**
into work than into our own family, an unwise
investment indeed, don't you think?

So what is behind the story?

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?
FAMILY = (F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER (I) (L)
OVE (Y)OU

Pass this message along....

Don't ignore and God will bless



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMING EVENTS: November 19-22: Western District Synod @ Mt. Morris						1
NOTE CHANGE OF TIME FOR CHURCH SERVICES BEGINNING THIS MONTH!!!		1	2	3 6pm Board of Elders	4 BDCleaning	5
6 10am Worship on Wheels NO Sunday School	7 NO LOAVES & FISHED MEAL 	8	9	10 9am Shared Community Missions Group Meeting @ St. Henry's 6pm CEF Meeting	11	12
13 10am Worship on Wheels NO Sunday School	14 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out)	15 6pm Board of Trustees	16	17	18	19
20 10am Worship on Wheels NO Sunday School 6-7:30pm Ebenezer Kids (weather permitting)	21 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out)	22	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 7pm "Justice & Equity: Is Ebenezer Ready?"	25	26
27 10am Worship on Wheels NO Sunday School	28 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out)	29	30 Joint Board Meeting			

