

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — November 2020

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



November 3rd is quickly approaching. With this day brings, relief for some who are very tired of political ads, anxiety for others who fear what the outcomes will be, mixed emotions for many as we wait to see what happens. Some of you have already voted, some are waiting for voting day and some are filling out their ballots and dropping them off today.

It is a privilege to vote and we must remember both the responsibility and honor we have to do so and work to make it most available for all. I am so grateful that residents at Marquardt as well as the other residential care centers/nursing homes in Watertown have systems in place to get people to vote.

If you need a ride or help, please feel free to contact church as we will help to make sure everyone has the opportunity to vote. The most difficult part of the election process through is not the voting, but the emotions that get wrapped up into politics. I get it. Politics challenge and fluster us. We find it hard to love people who strongly oppose our views and beliefs. We get outraged at opinions, rants and discussions that make us question our friendships and relationships. We make connections between people and politics and get personally hurt by each other's comments. When politics flair, it can be hard to be loving. But this is when we need it the most.

Loving your neighbor isn't supposed to be easy. Living a Christian life is not meant to be stress-free and wonderful. The commandments we are given are not simple, but real, hard, a struggle. Jesus said to love our enemy, to love those who persecute us, to pray for those who are against us. Jesus never said to hate, belittle, judge or defame anyone. Jesus said the commandments of loving God, self and one another as possibly the hardest things we will ever do. We like to think it is easy to love God and maybe it is. But loving God means loving yourself (you are God's image), flaws and all, and loving everyone else.

Let's face it, people are really hard to love. And during elections (and pandemics), people get even harder to love. Sadly, the people who need love the most are often the first to lash out and the hardest to love. So try your best. Love others, even if it means simply praying for them. You don't have to engage in arguments, prove your points or stress yourself. Let God handle their hearts. Simple be the best person you can be. Be the most loving you can be. God will sort out the rest.

**Wednesday,
November
18th for
the
December**

**TURN
YOUR
CLOCKS
BACK**

**Sunday,
November
1st**

**OFFICE
HOURS**

Tuesday 10am to 2 pm	Thursday 10am to 2pm
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Please contact Pastor Katie to make arrangements for other times.

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 will probably be serving. 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 — NOVEMBER

2: Taco Casserole

9: Turkey Dinner

16: Spaghetti

23: Chicken Chow Mein

30: Scalloped Potatoes w/Canadian Bacon

SERVERS — NOVEMBER

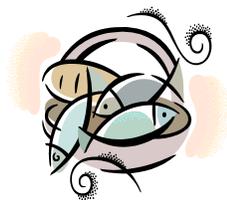
2: New Hope

9: Marquardt

16: Rotary

23: Kwik Trip - Carrie

30: 4H



MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Adult Sunday School Class



There will be no Adult Sunday School class.

We will re-evaluate the situation and decide in 2021.

Watch for updates in the bulletin and newsletter.

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).

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Coming Soon!

Last year, we began a tradition of a "Reverse Advent Calendar." 10 ministries were chosen, two boxes each, and individuals and families were asked to put something in the box each day. Then, on Christmas Eve, families brought the boxes to church and placed them under the Christmas Tree to be delivered to those ministries. This was a great success and we wish to do it again!

Do you have a ministry that could benefit from a collection?

Do you know a local ministry that needs our support?

Please talk to Pastor Katie and let her know a ministry you think could benefit from a reverse advent calendar box. Please share your ministry idea to Pastor Katie by November 8th, boxes will be available November 22.



Live Nativity

Due to the corona virus restrictions and safety precautions, the Christian Education and Fellowship Committee is looking into putting on a live nativity with Sunday school students, teachers, and some animals, in place of the children's Christmas program.

The live nativity would take place outside the church after the regular worship service on Sunday, December 13th. Watch for more details in the December newsletter.



Christmas Eve will be here soon!

The boards are currently discussing the plans for Christmas Eve. In the past, we have offered two services one at 7pm and the other at 11pm. We are looking at expanding to more services to allow for social distance during worship. We have not made any final decisions just yet, but watch the newsletter and bulletin announcements for more information.

We appreciate your flexibility as we look into multiple services with reservations or tickets. We also appreciate your help as more services will require more help. Thanks for your patience, opinions and willingness to come to church at different times.

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
430 Wilcox Street, Apt. 201
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



The CEF Committee has decided that Sunday School for pre-school and elementary students will resume on Sunday November 1st to coincide with indoor worship returning to the sanctuary. A combined children's Sunday school class will be held in Heiser Hall during the church service. Children and teachers will be required to wear masks and social distance will be maintained.

Sunday School will be held twice per month. November dates are the 1st and 15th; December dates are the 6th and the 13th with December 13th possibly being a Christmas program.

Parents are asked to bring their Sunday school aged children into the church narthex where a teacher will escort them downstairs to Heiser Hall. When worship is over the teachers will escort the students back up to the narthex to meet their family. As with many things right now, adjustments will be made as needed. If you have questions about Sunday School, please contact Tom Naatz 920-248-1029.

EBENEZER MORAVIAN WOMEN

The Moravian Women will NOT hold a meeting in November. Future meetings will be held depending on the pandemic situation. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Rabbach.

Adopt A Family



The Adopt-a-Family ministry began, as a part of the Jefferson County Christmas Neighbors program in 1986, to help low income families to provide a better Christmas for their children. A group or individual is paired with a family who has signed up for the program. Gifts for the children and food for a Christmas dinner are purchased and delivered to each family personally.

Ebenezer has been a part of this ministry since the early 1990s. It was started as a youth group project of adopting one family, and has since grown into a congregation-wide ministry which last year adopted nine families.

The generosity of our congregation has been enormous. Last year \$1,400 in donations were received. Nine Jefferson County families celebrated a more blessed Christmas because of your generosity.

Envelopes for donations to Adopt-a-Family will be available starting November 15. Prayerfully consider being a part of this worthwhile ministry. Watch for more details in the December newsletter about shopping, wrapping, and delivery dates.

Fall Back into Church and Sunday school...

Starting back on November 1, here are some reminders about being in the sanctuary.
(Also remember to set your clocks back one hour, daylight savings ends!)

It will be and feel different, give it time.

- **Practice 6 foot distance** from those you aren't related to (or you can from them too, if you want)
- **Wear a mask** (if you need a "breath break" please be away from others, no judgments)
- **We will sing!** But you must have your mask on
- **Sit away from the center aisle**, this gives space for those walking by
- **Ushers are Joint Board members** who will assist with everything, don't hesitate to ask!
- **Offering plates are at the door** for those who wish to give
- **Prayers cards can be put in the basket** before church begins. The basket will be in the front, please just one person coming up at a time.
- **Fellowship time outside** is encouraged!
- **Bathrooms are open** no worries, they are clean!
- **Preaching unmasked** but from the pulpit, just to keep a safe distance

We have a whole new projection system, much better and easier to use than before. Screens are easily seen from all parts of the church, even on the brightest day, and the sound is great.

We are excited for the opportunities of new ways of worship as we gather back together.

Again, please do what you think is best and we appreciate you following these guidelines when you return back to worship.



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.

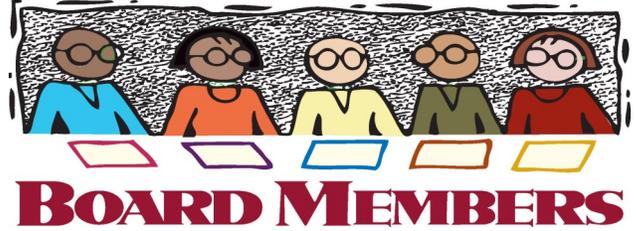


Pastor Katie Van der Linden
(610) 442-3790

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

TRUSTEES: 2020-21

Jon 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



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.

September 27: \$2,178.34

October 5: \$2,073.00

October 11: \$1,736.00

October 19: \$2,180.25



The choir will continue to "stay safe".

Glennis



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.

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 on previous page.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

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

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.

The AmazonSmile logo, featuring the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with the orange arrow under "amazon" pointing to the "i" in "smile".

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.





Roll with The ROC for the Food Pantry!



On **November 7th** the **Watertown ROC** is hosting a "food and check" drive for the **Watertown Food Pantry** from **9am-3pm**.

These are difficult times for many and hunger is hard to spot. Please pray and consider helping stock the Food Pantry before the holidays and cold weather.

The pantry serves the hungry year round. Through the generosity of local businesses, the pantry can package needed items at a discount by the case. Take a look at their website for examples. (watertownfoodpantry.org)

Bring your food to the ROC parking lot at 213 N3rd Street from 9am to 3pm and the ROC youth will get it to the pantry. Show your kids or grandkids what it means to serve others. The ROC will have a barrel inside for earlier donations. Call Matt at 920-342-9226 for hours.

Matthew 25:37-40 Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Kris Kerr
- 4 - Yolanda Yahn
- 7 - Caleb Lee
- 11 - Jessica Draheim
- 13 - Hannah Baum
- 16 - Andrew Roberts
- 16 - Rosemary Berger
- 17- Everett Strauss, Jr.
- 19 - Katie Van der Linden
- 26 - Alex Zubrod
- 29 - John Parmley
- 30 - Shyanna Powell



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Clifford & Dianne Schuett
- 20 - Tim & Julie Pattengale
- 24 - Jon & Jane Gehler



Anyone who is interested in participating in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Ministry please pick up a shoebox and choose a label for either boy or girl, and an age category. The boxes are ready for pick up in the narthex.

You may remember from previous years' participation, that Christmas gift items for children are purchased and packed into shoeboxes. The filled boxes are distributed by the Christian relief organization called Samaritan's Purse.

Please purchase the gifts, pack the Christmas shoe box, and return it to the church on or before November 15th.

A \$9.00 check, made out to Samaritan's Purse, should be included in the box to pay for shipping costs. Please consider being a part of this worthwhile ministry.

**Ebenezer kids will return
in the new year
.... Stay tuned!!**

"The Mystery of Holy Night" is a collection of poetry by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran minister who was imprisoned and killed in a concentration camp during WW2. In his writings, he tells of the joy and beauty of the world, even in the midst of the worst atrocities in the world. In this collection, he shares moments of the joy, mystery and beauty of Christmas night. In a world that is very chaotic and troublesome, it is important to find the moments of joy, excitement and peace. Please join in the Piper Room for a small group discussion of some of his beautiful poetry. We will meet the first four Mondays of November @ 6pm.

December 6th



A few years ago, we began having a Church Council meeting just to approve the budget. Instead of going a month into the new year without an approved budget, it is a better practice to get the budget approved and in place before the year begins!

This year, we will meet on Sunday, December 6 following worship. This meeting is just to approve the budget. We will be socially distanced for the meeting, but we want to be sensitive to anyone who may wish to be present but is uncomfortable coming into church. If you wish to be part of the meeting but unable to make it to church, please let Pastor Katie or a Joint Board member know. We are working on options for anyone who wants their voice/vote heard but cannot come to the building that day. We wish to have every voice heard, so please let us know if you need accommodations to be present with us that day.

Ushers...coming back soon!

This article is for our faithful ushers who have been without their role for many weeks now. As we look to settle back inside, we plan to return to the usher schedule either in December or January. We want to make room for those who are wishing to wait to usher for a bit. If you are uncomfortable ushering and on the list, please contact the church office by phone or email. We will make sure to remove you from the list for now and check back in with you about serving once again. We want everyone to use their best judgment in all of this. We are so grateful for all our help and want to make sure people are sharing their gifts in the safest way possible.

Book Club survey coming!

Watch your emails for the newest book club survey. Mark your calendar to join us (even if you haven't read the book) on Monday December 7th at 6pm at Rock Bottom Express in Jefferson.

A prayer as I put on my mask:

Creator God,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth -
let it be "an outward sign
of an inward grace" -
a tangible and visible way of living
love for my neighbours,
as I love myself.

Christ, the Son,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
As the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully -
and full of care -
to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth be
shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.
In your Triune Name and
in that love,
I pray.

May it be so.
May it be so.

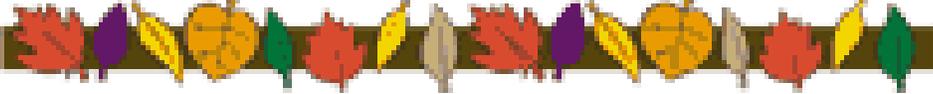
*Rev. Dr Richard Bott, moderator
of the United Church of Canada (adapted)*

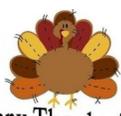
**#PrayTogether
#StaySafeTogether**



**World Council
of Churches**

November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship 10am Sunday School	2 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out) 6pm Poetry Study	3 	4	5 6pm Board of Elders	6 BDCleaning	7
8 10am Worship NO Sunday School	9 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out) 6pm Poetry Study	10	11	12 9am Shared Community Mission Meeting @ St. Henry's 6pm CEF Meeting	13	14
15 10am Worship 10am Sunday School Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes DUE Joint Board Meeting after Worship	16 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out) 6pm Poetry Study	17	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19	20	21
22 10am Worship NO Sunday School Optional communion following worship Reverse Advent boxes available	23 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out) 6pm Poetry Study	24 6pm Board of Trustees	25	26  Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
Pastor Katie on vacation November 23 - December 2						
29 10am Worship Guest preacher Justin Rabbach NO Sunday School	30 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out)	Dec. 1	2	LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, December 6th: Church Council Meeting Sunday, December 13th: Live Nativity December 20th: Unity Prayer Watch		
Pastor Katie on vacation November 23 - December 2						

**Ebenezer Moravian Church
N8071 High Road
Watertown, WI 53094**

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

