

# THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — December 2020

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



## From the Pastor

Navigating life has never been so hard. Is it safe to go to the store, church, salon? Should I stay outside whenever I want to talk to someone or can we be inside? Is take out or delivery safe? What about the pharmacy or the doctor's office?

We fear the simple, the things we used to take for granted now cause us anxiety. We never before thought about passing by someone at Kwik Trip or how close or far we were from a stranger in the checkout line.

Now, everything we do is suspect and hard. We judge our own actions and the actions of others. We are uncertain, so we avoid, avoid all the "normal" things we used to do, hoping it gets better. And, frustratingly, it doesn't appear to be helping. This has been possibly the most challenging part, nothing is seeming to work. And it is hard because we want to take the right steps to get society healthier.

So what do we do? First, we realize that things will be different, for a long time, and that it is ok to be sad, uncomfortable, mad and anxious. We are all feeling the weight of stress and anxiety more than ever, so give yourself and others some grace. Second, we pray and take comfort in knowing God is still working.

The media tells us the bad news in many ways, but the good news is...most people survive, the death rate (percentage) is going down, new technology is coming out everyday, and most of our daily activities are safe. We can still go for walks and talk with friends, we can get fresh air and support local businesses (you can call and order things right over the phone). We can pray for all those who are dealing with Covid daily and for the world who really is divided, unsure and weary.

No matter what media or social media says, we are surviving, we are healing, we are hoping. There is Good News to be shared and the creativity throughout this pandemic has been amazing.

Lastly, maybe the best lesson out of all of this is to not take things for granted, because they can change in an instant. Recently, we are reading the Gospel of Matthew and the passages about keeping awake and not knowing when the second coming will happen. For a long time, we have lived assuming everything will be just as we plan or expect each day. We now know things can change instantly.

So, when we can, enjoy hugs, visits, and time together. We won't take for granted our morning coffee group or our ability to go shopping or go to the movies. We won't forget the gift it is to live life as we wish, knowing for right now, it is different. After all of this is over, hopefully we will find more gratitude, patience, grace, and healing, in our hearts and our world.



**Monday,  
December  
21st For the  
January  
Newsletter**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

*Please contact Pastor Katie to make*

## 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 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 — December

7: Pork Roast

14: Sweet & Sour Chicken & Rice

21: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Patty

28: Chicken Sandwich

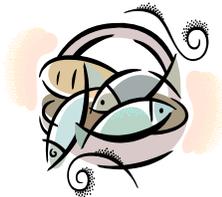
### SERVERS — December

7: Boy's Basketball - Eric

14: Hope Lutheran

21: Carmen Otto - Summit Harvest

28: Pick'n Save



**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 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

We have 22 Calendars available for families, households or groups to gather each day in the month of December.

There are boxes for school supplies and women's shelters, baby places and humane societies.

There are boxes to be filled and jars for monetary donations each day. Papers/Boxes are available until December 4 and can be picked up in the church narthex.

Please use the list provided and fill the boxes and jars with the items asked. These should be new items, although some allow for gently used.

Please return filled boxes to church on Christmas Eve or call the church office to arrange for box pick-up. This Advent season, where so much is so different, we can still take each day to give.





Due to the worsening of the corona virus pandemic youth Sunday School will be cancelled until January. It was a difficult decision to make,

but for the safety of everyone involved we believe this is the best decision.

This decision means that there will be no Sunday School Christmas program and no live nativity.

We pray that when the corona virus pandemic improves, we can go back to offering Sunday School for all ages.

## 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](mailto:degrandts@gmail.com).

### 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



October 25: \$2,842.00  
November 1: \$2,490.00  
November 8: \$1,366.00  
November 15: \$1,555.00  
November 22: \$1,878.34

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

## EBENEZER MORAVIAN WOMEN

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

# Adopt A Family



We are moving forward with our plans to participate in the Jefferson County Christmas Neighbors Adopt-A-Family ministry. Because of the coronavirus pandemic more families than ever will be in need of help. Some changes will be made to allow safe participation.

Envelopes for donations to Adopt-A-Family are available at church if you wish to use one. Checks may be designated for Adopt-A-Family and can be sent to church or to Dianne Hamann. The number of families we adopt depends on the donations we receive, so prayerfully consider a donation to this worthwhile ministry.

The shopping and wrapping date for gifts will be Saturday December 12 at 9:00am. Shoppers will meet at Wal-Mart in Watertown at 9:00 am. Look for Tom Naatz by the Subway restaurant to receive instructions for shopping and checking out. We are hoping that family units will participate in the shopping. When you are finished shopping text or call Tom at 920-248-1029 for checkout. After checkout shoppers should meet Pastor Katie at Subway to give her your sub order for lunch.

Proceed from Wal-Mart to church to start wrapping the gifts for the families. Gift wrapping materials will be spread out in Heiser Hall. Subs will be brought to church for lunch. Masks are mandatory except when eating.

On December 19th at 9:00am we will meet at church to load up gifts for the families. Then we will shop at Wal-Mart for the food to make a Christmas dinner. After checking out we will split up and deliver gifts and food to the families.

If you wish to be involved in the Adopt-A-Family ministry, please contact Tom Naatz for further details. (920-248-1029) We encourage family groups to consider participating so that contact with non-household members can be kept to a minimum.

Thank you for your support to help make Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Ebenezer kids will return in the new year**

**.... Stay tuned!!**



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.

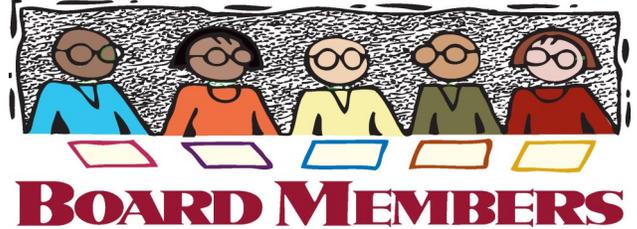


Pastor Katie Van der Linden  
(610) 442-3790

**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



**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!

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, December 6 following shortened worship. We will remain in the sanctuary and vote on the budget. (The budget is being mailed to everyone.)

If you wish to participate and not come to church, please let the church office know and we will call you that morning to take part in the meeting and decision.



**REMEMBER: OUR Facebook page is "Ebenezer Moravian".**



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.



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



Thank you to everyone who purchased Christmas gift items and packed up shoeboxes this year.

Your generosity has provided a Christmas shoe box for 23 children somewhere in the world.

The shoeboxes from Ebenezer were delivered to the Watertown Community Church, and from there will be delivered to Madison.

From Madison the shoe boxes go to Minneapolis for world distribution.

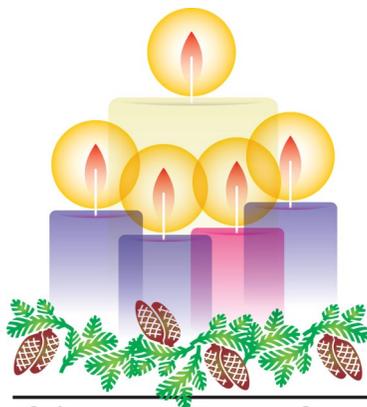
## PRAYER CHAIN

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](mailto: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.



## Christmas Eve Services...4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 11pm



### Christmas Eve

With our 7pm service usually seating maximum capacity, we decided to allow for 25% capacity by spreading our services out. We require a reservation, which can be done by calling the church office and reserving a “whole pew” for three to seven people or a “half pew” for two or less people. We are not planning on “assigned seats” but for reservations, it is important to know just how many we will have. The same requirements for Sunday morning will be in place (masks, distance, dismissal). We plan on having candles that you take yourself upon entrance. We will also have an offering plate in the narthex if you wish to give. We will minimize contact by having only a few ushers and only one or two people to begin the candlelight. There will be no choir present, but with the amazing gift of technology, we will have some of our “Moravian Traditions” shared in new ways. We must have reservations, so even if you are uncertain the exact number you may bring, please call ahead and reserve a pew, you can always update the church with any changes to the reservation. Reservations can be made December 4 - December 17.

As with all of 2020, we continue to appreciate you and your flexibility. We hope to fit everyone in for their requested time reservation, but may have to request movement if one or two services have too many people. Please make your reservation by calling the church office 920-206-0222 and leaving a voicemail or emailing Pastor Katie directly at [pastor.kvdl@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.kvdl@gmail.com).

We are diligently working on making a Christmas Even online option. We cannot guarantee, but our hope is to record the 4pm service and put it online afterwards. Again, this is our hope and we will keep you updated. Lastly, if you wish to have your own Christmas Eve at home and would like a Moravian Candle to light, we will have the Church narthex open on December 22 and 23 from 10-4 if anyone would like to stop by and get a candle. If you need to arrange another time, just let Pastor Katie know.



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.

## Ushers Returning in 2021!



A new usher schedule will be coming out for the year 2021. If you wish to be added or taken off, please talk to Alex Zubrod (920-261-8289) as he is organizing the list. We know that some have moved or are away for school; and we will be updating the list. If you are unsure of being and usher and wish to wait, please let Alex know. Ushers are necessary for church each week.

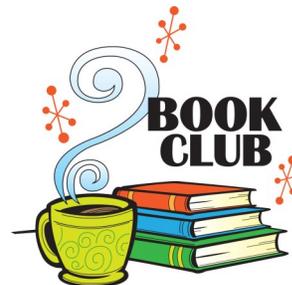
Thank you for those who are willing to help and for those who are stepping down for a bit. Please consider joining the list if you are able especially as we have some who cannot come. It is a great opportunity to be involved without having to be up front.



- 2: Brandon Prust
- 2: Dorothy Rein
- 4: Eldyn Prust
- 4: Olivia Hamann
- 6: Allison Rein
- 7: Janet Parmley
- 12: Chris Cahill
- 13: Jameson Baum
- 14: Barbara Braasch
- 16: Brittany Kopp
- 18: Patrick Braatz
- 18: Lee Saxby
- 18: Ken Strauss
- 19: Jon Gehler
- 19: Erin Walsh
- 23: John Braatz
- 23: Tom Naatz
- 24: Donald Wesemann
- 28: Theresa Vesper
- 29: Alan Berger



12: John & Nancy Braatz



The Book club will meet on Monday, December 7th at 7pm at Rock Bottom Express in Jefferson.

The Book is "Two By Two" by Nicholas Sparks.

### UNITY PRAYER WATCH

Moravians are praying literally every minute of the day! I know of no other church, worldwide, that has people praying every single minute. Yet, in the Moravian Church, this tradition has lasted many years and continues to be important to this very day.

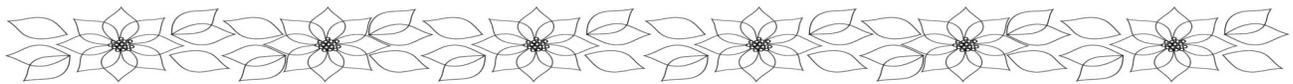
Our opportunity to take part in this non-stop prayer is Sunday, December 20. Watch the narthex for a sign up sheet (yes, more than one person can take a time slot) with our times for the day. We have five one-hour slots that will be separated into 30 minute segments. Feel free to take 30 minutes or the whole hour. Packets will be available for ideas on what to pray for or you can pray as you wish, there is no right or wrong way to pray.

Please sign up and mark your calendar for your time slot. It is so amazing to join with Moravians worldwide to keep prayer alive and well in our faith.



# Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



- |     |            |       |       |
|-----|------------|-------|-------|
| 1.  | TGLBEHHEME | _____ | _____ |
| 2.  | NEAGLO     | _____ | _____ |
| 3.  | NRMEDAG    | _____ | _____ |
| 4.  | ODEKSNY    | _____ | _____ |
| 5.  | AMGYR      | _____ | _____ |
| 6.  | OHESJIP    | _____ | _____ |
| 7.  | EFJUSS     | _____ | _____ |
| 8.  | ITEENMSW   | _____ | _____ |
| 9.  | SPHHDSREEO | _____ | _____ |
| 10. | EMCFAL     | _____ | _____ |
| 11. | TLSRA      | _____ | _____ |
| 12. | CSSNUEO    | _____ | _____ |
| 13. | HEVSPE     | _____ | _____ |
| 14. | ENIN       | _____ | _____ |

,

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9		10		11		12	
13			14				

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E); God's gift of love

## End of the Year Giving Reminder

Thank you for your generous financial support throughout the year. December 27<sup>h</sup> is the last Sunday of 2020. All offering received at that service will be credited to the 2020 contribution statements. The table below provides information on how other end of the year contributions are credited.

Type of Contribution	Report in 2020	Report in 2021
Check written in December 2020 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2020 but not received by the church until January 2021	XX	
Check written in December 2020 and deposited in church offering in January 2021		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in January 2021 but "back-dated" to December 2020		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in December 2020 but "post-dated" to January 2021		XX
Check written in December 2020 and deposited in the mail in December 2020 but not postmarked until January 2021 and not received by the church until January 2021		XX



Due to Covid, & the safety of our bellringers, the Watertown Salvation Army Kettle Campaign will look a little different this year.

New this year is a way to donate to the Virtual Kettle. Please text **Local** to **24365**.

Donations made online will be credited to Jefferson County's Kettle Campaign.

Check donations may be mailed to PO Box 774, Watertown, WI 53094.

Thank you for all the past generous contributions to the local Red Kettle Campaign.

Marie Miller, Volunteer  
 Angela Swinehart, Salvation Army Field Representative  
[angela.swinehart@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:angela.swinehart@usc.salvationarmy.org)



## Board of Elders November 7, 2020

These minutes will be included in the January newsletter.

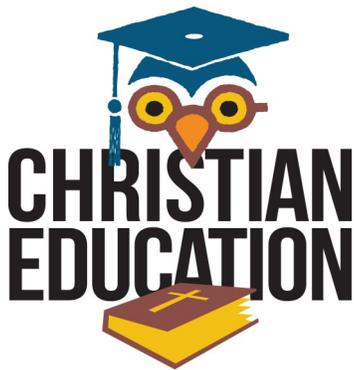
**\*\*Elder for the month of December: Theresa Vesper\*\***



## Board of Trustees

The Trustees not meet in November.

**\*\* Trustee for the month of December: Kris Kerr\*\***



## CEF Committee

These minutes will be included in the January newsletter.



Church council annual meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 7, 2021.**

Deadline to have all committee reports to Dawn is **January 18, 2021.**

Annual report will be out on **January 31, 2021.**



# Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center Christmas Cookie Bake Sale 2020 Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## All cookies \$6/dozen

Indicate # of dozen for each type of cookie.

**Chocolate Kringle Cookies:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen

A soft dark chocolate cookie base topped with a white chocolate/peppermint kiss.

**Christmas Monster Cookies:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen

A chocolate chip, peanut butter, M&M and oatmeal cookie customized for Christmas!

**Eggnog Cookies:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen

Eggnog cookies are tender and rich and melt in your mouth delicious.

Coated in powdered sugar with a hint of rum flavor, they'll "nog" you off your feet!

**Christmas Meltaway Cookies:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen

Meltaway cookies are a soft, lightly sweet shortbread cookie that literally melts away in your mouth and is topped with a thin glaze and red and green sprinkles for a festive Christmas cookie treat.

**Peanut Butter Cup Cookies:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen

A peanut butter cookie with a chocolate-covered peanut butter cup in the middle!

**Oatmeal No Bake Cookies:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen

Packed with peanut butter, oatmeal and chocolate - a classic combination!

**The Christmas Sampler:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen

(2 cookies of each of the above):

Total # of Dozens Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

@ \$6.00/Dozen = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due

Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center  
W6016 Blackhawk Rd  
Wautoma WI 54982  
920-787-2861  
info@mt-morris.org

Please indicate your choice of pick-up date/location.

**Dec. 17 or 18**

\_\_\_ Mt. Morris Camp (9a-3p)

**Dec. 17**

\_\_\_ Lake Mills Moravian Church (10a-11a)

\_\_\_ Glenwood Moravian, Madison (12:30p-1:30p)

**Dec. 18**

\_\_\_ Westside Moravian Green Bay (11a-12p)

Cookies can be shipped. Shipping costs will vary and will be billed to you. We estimate minimum shipping to be between \$10-\$15. Contact us if you'd like us to ship your order.

You may include payment with this form via US Mail. You may also scan and email this form to:

info@mt-morris.org and pay over the phone or when your cookies are picked up. You may also place orders over the phone.

**All orders must be received by December 11.**

# DECEMBER

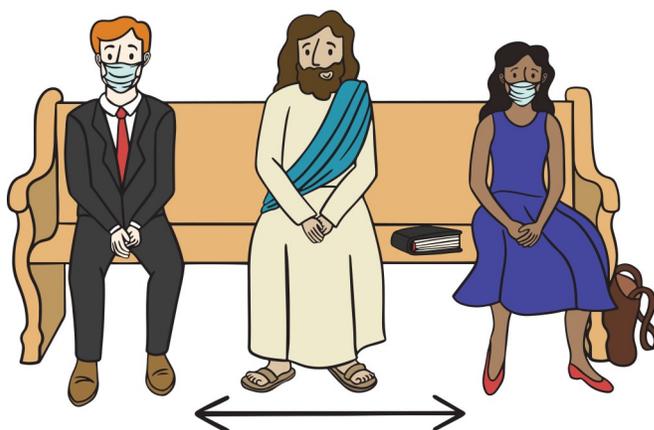


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					4th - 17th: Reservations taken for Christmas Eve Services	
6 10am Worship Church Council Meeting	7 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out) Book Club	8	9	10 9am Shared Community Missions (Zoom meeting) 6pm CEF	11	12 9am Adopt a Family
	4th - 17th: Reservations taken for Christmas Eve Services					
13 10am Worship	14 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out) 6pm Elders (Wttn.Moravian)	15 6pm Trustees	16	17	18	19 Food Shopping & Delivery for Adopt a Family
	4th - 17th: Reservations taken for Christmas Eve Services					
20 10am Worship Unity Prayer Watch	21 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out)	22 Narthex Open for Candles	23 Narthex Open for Candles	24 Christmas Eve Services: 4pm 6pm 8pm 11pm	25	26
27 10am Worship	28 4:15-5:30 Loaves & Fishes (Carry Out)	29	30			

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

**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**

**LEAVE ROOM FOR JESUS**



**Please sit 6 ft. apart**