

THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — September 2023

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



The World Divides...

My kids always say that I did not want them. Now that is not totally true, but yes, I did not have dreams of growing up and having a family. Actually I didn't have plans, just never had a huge desire for kids. My concern was for them to grow up in a world that was unkind, hard, unsafe. I wanted a better world for my kids than I had, not that I really had a bad world, I just knew there was bad in the world. Aaron always wanted kids and so I knew that if we were to get married, kids were hopefully part of the plan. I am grateful for my kids, and very happy to have them in my life. I cannot even imagine life without them and watching them grow has been an absolute joy. I have loved every stage (maybe not every minute), seeing them become their own personalities and independent thinkers.


What I have not liked is the concern I have over their world, not just the "world" in a far off imagination, but their world right here, in Watertown. I know there is a big divide among beliefs and what is "right" or "wrong" and what "God says" about different identities, backgrounds, and lives. And there has always been disagreements and there will always be disagreements. Everyone is different. Faiths are different, understandings are different, cultures are different. This is not new. What is new, at least to me, is the concern of safety over these differences. My daughter has gone to Riverside park on many occasions, hung with friends, fed ducks, wandered through the Farmers' Market. Never have I had to worry about her safety, make a plan of exit or make sure she knew which houses were safe in the area. Yet, that is exactly what we had to talk about on July 29th, when she left my car to attend Pride in the Park.

Now I get there are many who do not support this gathering. I know I do not support some gatherings in parks in the area either. There are many church groups that rent the parks to preach a gospel message I do not agree with. Yet, they are free to do so. They are free to do so in safety. You should not be afraid to gather at a park with your friends. You should not fear those who have different beliefs, understandings or interpretations. Differences shouldn't lead to threats, intimidation or harm. But that is what is happening.

I believe, there was a time when difference meant thoughtful discussion and new insights. Now, for some, differences are cause for "taking up arms," retaliation, harm. Why? What does that accomplish? Our society was built upon freedoms. The same people are fighting for freedoms on both sides. My prayer is that those freedoms are not worth violence, terror, fear. One should be able to walk the streets without hearing derogatory comments or threats simply because of attire or any other reason. I do not care your stance on an issue, but I do care about how you interact, how you model decency, respect, and grace.

Even when Jesus confronted those who opposed him, he never once called them to arms or asked them to fight. Jesus very clearly said you fight your enemies through loving others, through accepting those they don't, though modeling behavior you wish them to have. In a world of great division, I hope we can model grace, humanity, humility and love.

Every kid at every park should feel safe, whether it is a church event, public picnic, Riverfest gathering, Pride in the Park, or just going for a walk. Nobody, nobody should feel unsafe. My prayers are that we all work towards understanding, safety, and compassion. It is not about who is right or wrong, but about the safety for all and the freedoms we all enjoy of simply being in this town we call home.



**DEADLINE for
the October
Newsletter is
Thursday,
September 21st**
(Earlier is always better.)

From the office of Dave Bennett, PEC president...

Sister Sanette Fleming and Brother Garritt Fleming announced their resignation from joint call to Covenant and First Moravian Churches in York, PA on August 20th. They have also resigned from the ministerial roster of the Moravian Church, Northern Province. Please be in prayer for our former pastor Sanette, her husband Garritt, their family and the churches they served.

June 25: \$1,780.00
(plus \$4,000 from cemetery
for insurance)

July 23: \$1,420.00

July 30: \$1,814.00

August 6: \$3,466.00

August 13: \$520.00

August 20: \$2,056.00

Thank you.



MORAVIAN WOMEN

Moravian Women meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10am. Their next meeting will be September 6th. Every one is invited to attend.

Camp Fundraiser October 8th

"Booyah".....excuse me? Yes, Booyah.

Booyah is a traditional hearty Belgian soup of meat and veggies. It is famous in the Green Bay area and we are lucky enough to be able to try some here! Our volunteer cook, Joe Greatens, will be bringing his cast iron 50 gallon kettle (or cauldron, you decide) and cook it outside on a fire at church. We will be offering delicious Booyah as a fundraiser for the camp scholarship fund on Sunday, October 8th.

In addition to offering the soup for a free will offering at fellowship that day, we will sell by the quart, or bring your own container and we will serve by the ladle.

I will be looking for volunteers to help prep the ton of ingredients, as well as donations of ingredients. The sign up sheet will be in the Narthex the beginning of September. Please contact me with questions.....Kris Schefft, 920.285.1048

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

In July we served 1,561 meals!!

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

4: CLOSED — Labor Day

11: Pork sausage patty, mac & cheese, salad, fruit

18: Pork/mashed potato casserole, green beans, applesauce

25: Chili dog/hot dog, baked beans, fruit salad

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SERVERS — September

4: CLOSED — Labor Day

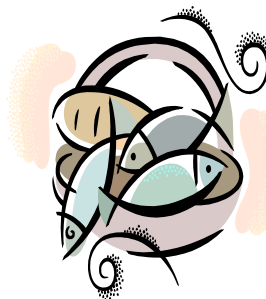
11: Kwik Trip - Carrie

18: 4-H

25: Faithful Friends

We have had several groups/organizations retire from helping serve meals. If you are in a group/organization, please consider helping.

Please pass the word that we are looking for people to help serve our weekly Loaves & Fishes Meal.



We have a yearly rotation and each group serves twice a year.

ACTIVITY GROUP "A" - Co-Leaders

Leaders Bob (920-342-4304) &
Tammy (920-342-3849) Meyer
AND

Joe & Anne Walsh - (920) 699-2884
(920) 342-0909 (Anne cell)

August - October 2023

Karissa Bender - (920) 342-3347

Kaylin Bender - (920) 285-6984

Shari Bender - (920) 285-6984

Pat Counsell - (920) 261-4158

Kris Kerr - (920) 261-1523

MaryLou Kopp - (920) 261-2096

Christine Kopp - (920) 253-1919

Scott Kopp - (920) 988-2748

Bob & Tammy Meyer - (920) 342-3849

Arlene Molly - (920) 699-2133

Allison Rein - (920) 206-1411

Emmaleigh Rein - (920) 206-1411

Eric & Tracey Rein - (920) 206-1411

Lee & Tracy Saxby - (920) 261-6251

Everett, Jr. & Judith Strauss - (920) 261-2006

Ken & Linda Strauss - (920) 262-0094

Aaron & Katie Van der Linden - (610) 442-3790

Joe & Anne Walsh - (920) 699-2884

(920) 342-0909 (Anne cell)

(262) 894-1652 (Joe cell)

Donald & Karol Wesemann - (920) 261-7388

Trudi Wesemann - (920) 342-4133

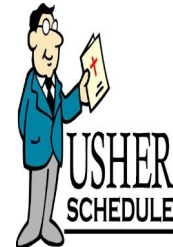
SOS Backpack THANK YOU

We had 411 kids registered for school supplies this year. That is the LARGEST AMOUNT EVER! The churches were able to collect supplies and money enough to make sure every registered kid got supplies. We even had some supplies left over at the end of the day. Many of the Shared Community Missions Members took lists and went shopping, funded by both SCMG and their own churches. We want every kid to have enough.

Thank you to those who shopped, donated, volunteered and helped make this amazing program a BIG SUCCESS!

We desperately need to update the photographs currently on our website. Please take and send pictures of church activities, ministries, church grounds and church facilities. We are also looking for new group pictures of the church boards and committees.

We desperately need to update the photographs currently on our website. Send pictures (in jpeg format) to Dawn Westenberg at dawn22658@gmail.com.



September 3

Gregg & Linda Lippens

Craig Cahill

Trudi Wesemann

September 10 & 17

Charles & Judy Wesemann

Jon Gehler

September 24

Tom & Virginia Naatz

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



Tuesday

10am to 2 pm

Thursday

10am to 2pm

*Please contact Pastor Katie to make
arrangements for other times.*

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.



June: \$58.14

July: \$51.26

August: \$78.62



Sunday School will resume on September 24th at 10am. Confirmation will be offered again (as before, Tom Naatz is that contact). We will meet every other week as follows:

September 24th
October 8th
October 22nd
November 5th
November 19th
December 3rd
December 17th

Kris Schefft, Anne Walsh, Shelly Degrandt and Trudi Wesemann will be your team of teachers. Kris and Trudi will be your teachers in September.

On Sunday September 10th we will provide a contact information sheet to students to return on September 24th. Looking forward to another fun year!

Suggestions and friends are always welcome. Please contact Kris Schefft with any questions.....920.285.1048

“End of Summer Splash!”

Sunday September 10

Are you ready for fall? Us neither - so let's have one last Summer Celebration. We will begin with outdoor worship at 10am and flow right into our lunch...a love feast! We are excited to offer worship in a variety of ways, singing, scripture, food and fun.

Plan on staying after lunch for some games like bean bags and ladder ball. Feel free to bring a chair and a game if you have one. There will be board games and card games as well.

This is rain or shine, so mark your calendar and join us. Church is about connections, and these opportunities invite us to connect on different levels and provide a space to share, relax and just have fun. No need to dress up for church, come in your casual wear, you might even get wet...it is a splash after all!

Ebenezer Kids - Falling back to school!

We are excited to start back to Sunday school and confirmation classes beginning September 24. On September 10, at our “End of Summer Splash” we will have some cool games for kids to enjoy and silly games to play with kids of all ages. We are excited to see everyone return and looking forward to more connections.

Parents - please email Pastor Katie any important schedules and events for your kids coming up this Fall. We wish to highlight their achievements and encourage church members to support kids in various activities from sports, to shows to joyful experiences. Please share the information as we will add it to the newsletter and email connections. We are more than a church together on Sundays, but we are a community together outside of the walls too, and so we want to share our support, express our pride and be excited about what our youth are doing in and around our community.



Confirmation class will be starting again on Sunday September 24th during the church service. We will be meeting every other week. Tom Naatz will be teaching.

Students are:

Zeeq Van Der Linden
Lily Orval
Jackson Hamann

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, leave in the Library, or contact Kris Schefft with questions

kschefft@hotmail.com or 920-285-1048.

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



Among Friends is hosting a game night on Tuesday evening September 26th at 6pm. We will be playing Mexican Train Dominoes. This game is a Domino game that is fun to play and one that anyone can easily learn to play.

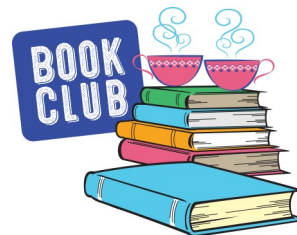
Come and join us for a night of fun and fellowship. Invite your friends!

What happens when 4 churches worship together?

Beautiful community!

On August 13, Ebenezer Moravian, Immanuel Lutheran, First Congregational UCC and St. Paul's Episcopal Churches gathered together at Bentzin Square in downtown Watertown. Over 130 people came to this ecumenical service, a beautiful day and a beautiful event. This was made possible through the musicians and technology from Immanuel, coordination with the clergy, volunteer ushers and a choir, and kids who played throughout the service. We were even greeted by a neighbor playing the violin.

Watch for our next community worship gathering around Thanksgiving. In a world that has so much religious division, it is important to show our unity in community.



Tuesday September 19th @ 6pm

"Beyond Justice" by Joshua Graham

A powerful thriller with an inspiring tail. Join us on Tuesday September 19th at the new "Little Italy" restaurant (formerly Deegs) at 6pm.

We do plan on making reservations, so if you might come, please let Pastor Katie know to add you to the list.

All are welcome!



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

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 request.



Summer Sandwiches in the Park

The summer sandwich program will end on Friday, August 25th . This program has been a huge success thanks to your generosity! To date, we have served 723 lunches to families in our community, with one more week to go. We have provided nourishment to these families, and we have fed the children’s minds by supplying a variety of books every week that they can keep and take home with them. It’s so uplifting to see how excited the kids are to pick out a book!

A very big thank you goes out to all those that have participated in this program, which includes making lunches, packing the lunch bags, filling coolers with juice, water, ice packs and sandwiches, and then carting it all to the park. And most of all, a big thank you to all of you who helped provide the food we used to share our love with our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Harris



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



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



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

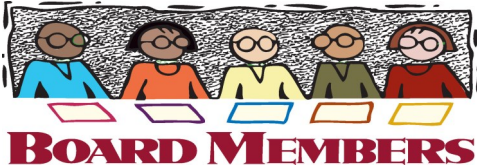
WOMEN’S RETREAT

The Moravian Women’s Retreat is September 15-17 at Mt. Morris. The guest speaker will be Pastor Katie.

The Lake Mills Moravian Women invite you to come for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, laughter and reflection to shape who we are with God and one another.

Katie will focus on self-care.

Invite a family member or friend, all are welcome!



BOARD MEMBERS

ELDERS: 2023-2024

Pastor Katie: Chair

(610) 442-3790 ** Pastor.kvdl@gmail.com

Tom Naatz: Vice Elder

920-248-1029 ** tanacer@charter.net

Shelly Degrandt

(920) 988-6281 ** degrandts@gmail.com

Kris Schefft: Secretary

(920) 285-1048 ** kschefft@hotmail.com

Joe Walsh

(262) 894-1652 ** JoeRapide@gmail.com

Glennis Zastrow

920-261-3731 ** glennis.zastrow@yahoo.com

TRUSTEES: 2023-24

Megan Weihert: Chair & Secretary

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

Chuck Wesemann: Vice Chair

920-285-9212 **

chuckwesemann@gmail.com

Dennis Rabbach AND Linda Rabbach

(920) 699-3781

(920)941-0696 (Linda Cell)

rabbach1950@yahoo.com

Scott Beerbohm AND Jordan Beerbohm

(920) 988-4714 (Scott)

beerbohmswi@gmail.com

(920) 988-3949 (Jordan)

beerbohm.s@hotmail.com

Jean Walker

920 206-1812 (landline)

608 504-8300 (cell)

Jwalker_409@yahoo.com

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.



Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Thanks so much to our tech people who are working hard at making all worship experiences possible. We may change formats and are still learning each week, but we are so grateful for the opportunity to gather in a variety of ways.

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 Pastor Katie.

Loretta Zubrod

1405 Prospect Street, Watertown, WI 53098

Bobby Hahn

N8319 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094


Janet Parmley

N8352 Airport Road * Watertown, WI 53094



september



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 BDCleaning	2
3 10am Worship	4 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining	5 6:30pm Elders	6 10am Moravian Women 6pm CEF	7	8	9
10 10am Worship - followed by church picnic End of Summer Splash	11 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining	12 5:30pm Joint Board	13	14	15	16 Women's Retreat @ Mt. Morris: 15th - 17th
17 10am Worship Guest preacher TBD	18 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining	19 6pm Book Club @ Little Italy	20 5:30pm Board of Trustees	21 	22	23
24 10am Worship 10am Sunday School & Confirmation Class	25 Loaves & Fishes 4:00-4:45pm Curb- side pickup 4:00- 5:30pm Inside dining	26 Among Friends Game Night	27 7:30pm Religion Recovery @ Lyons Pub	28	29	30



CHOIR

If anyone interested in getting a choir together,
please contact me.

Glennis