

# THE EBENEZER MESSENGER — March 2019

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

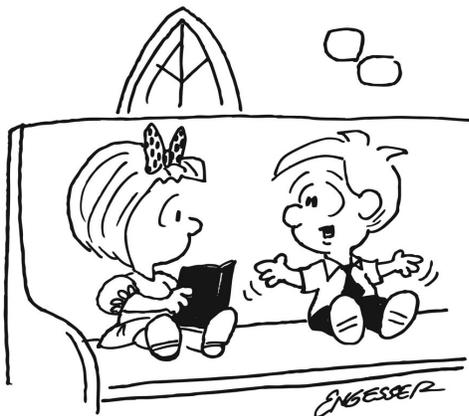


What is ministry? That is a broad question and can be answered so many ways. Perhaps a better question is what supports and enables ministry to happen? Ministry is God working in the world and this is done not only by the abilities of God's children (all of us) but also by the resources and support we have.

For instance, is electricity a ministry? Probably not. But is electricity needed in our church to help us "do" ministry? Absolutely. Is our heat or plowing or insurance a ministry? Again, not necessarily, but each of these things allows us to do God's work. We don't consider our eyes a ministry but when they help us to see a need, they are supporting ministry.

Over the years, I have heard many complaints about why do churches need money or why do they only care what is in the offering plate? The reality is, we don't only care what is in the offering plate. We care about doing God's work. And to do God's work, we need resources and support. This includes the people (all of us, yes even YOU), the place (N8095 High Rd) and the abilities (supporting resources, finances, and more...). All of these are vital to making ministry happen. So instead of complaining about the church "needing money" consider the ways in which you are a support to do God's work. Are you able to support ministry through your time, your talent (Sunday worship, Sunday school teaching or attending, mission projects, youth activities, loaves and fishes, women's fellowship, etc, etc...) and your treasure (financial resources and/or time that helps lower church expenses).

Everything we do is an effort to share the good news of God's love and to do this, we need all of us. For some, we have the financial resources to share more. For others, we have the creativity to find ways to help (offering to clean on clean-up days, offering to purchase needed items for the church or ministries, offering rides or volunteering for help). Every bill we pay and every expense we incur is to help us do ministry. Thank you for being part of this unending task and for the ability to share what we have. Thankfully, so many of us are doing well and able to give. Thoughtfully, those who may not have the same resources find other ways to make support ministry. The greatest gratitude is to God, who reminds us that we are not in this alone. Let us all work together to make ministry thrive at Ebenezer. Thank you for all you do and for understanding our calling to "do ministry."



"If we're all dust, why take a bath before the service?"

**REMEMBER**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 10th**

# 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.

For prayer requests to be included in the weekly bulletin, please contact Pastor Katie (pastor.kvdl@gmail.com) BEFORE Wednesday of each week.

## THE JOINT BOARD WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The church is not located at N8095 High Road. The Church is the people gathered everywhere and anywhere. Because we are all the Church, the Joint Board wants to hear from all of us! What ideas do you have for our church? What ministries are needed or what ways can we share God more? What are some unique and creative ways to share just who we are? 10 years ago we had a crazy idea to feed people. This has turned into 50,000 meals for our community. Don't let fears or failure stop you from sharing your ideas. Share your ideas with Pastor Katie or a Joint Board member before our March 2nd retreat. We will be having an "out of the box" creative idea session and would love to include yours! Share your thoughts, ideas, passions, wacky ministries or ideas, we need to hear from you.

## PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests or want to be included on the Ebenezer Prayer Chain, please contact Pastor Katie Van der Linden 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.

## LENTEN PROGRAM: FAITH ALIVE!



### LENTEN WORSHIP

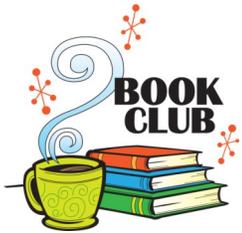
Join us Wednesdays in Lent for our traditional Agape Meal beginning at 5:30pm. Afterwards, we will remain in fellowship hall and watch a short video inviting us to think about where God is working today. Thankfully, the Bible isn't the only way God speaks to us. God speaks through video and media, friends and family. This Lenten season, we will be invited to dig deeper into our own faith journey and understanding of where God is working in our daily lives. We will be challenged and invited to think just where God is calling us each week. Come with an open mind and open heart. Deeper discussions mean deeper connections. Join us for weekly for the opportunity to talk about God and our own understanding of faith, love, hope and peace.

## GREETERS, LAY READERS & FELLOWSHIP HOSTS



If you are interested in being a greeter or lay reader, or hosting Fellowship Hour after the church service, please sign up.

The Elder on duty each month will pass around the clipboards before worship begins and will collect them at the end of announcements. If you wish to sign up after the service is over, the clipboards will be in the Narthex.

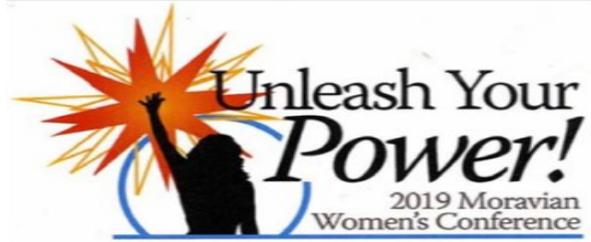


**Tuesday March 19th**  
**El Mariachi, Watertown**  
**7:00 pm**

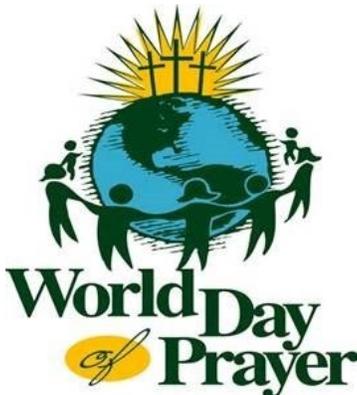
Come out for some margaritas and chatter about our newest book choice.

A survey was sent out to the email newsletter recipients with choices for our newest book read. We are currently tied with two books... Jodi Picoult "A Spark of Light" and Kristen Hannah "The Nightengale." Voting ends Sunday morning, February 24th and the book winner will be shared that morning.

You can go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LX9SZXS> to take the survey by February 24th. Even if you can't read the book, please join us for fellowship, good food and meaningful discussion. Everyone is welcome! We all can use a relaxing night out (and chips and salsa!).



The 2019 Moravian Women's Conference will be **June 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>** in Winston-Salem, NC. Go to [www.moravian.online/women](http://www.moravian.online/women) to register!



On March 1<sup>st</sup> Church Women United will observe World Day of Prayer 2019. This celebration will be held here at Ebenezer. The service will begin at 1 pm in the Piper Room and be followed with a time of fellowship.

Our service this year was written by women in Slovenia, one of the smallest countries in Europe. The theme will be "Come - Everything is ready", based on Luke 14:15 – 24. The writers will tell us of the many injustices they have had to face and encourage us to pray that God will open our hearts with compassion, understanding and leave with a prayer for freedom, justice and peace for all. Pastor Katie will be there to help us decide how each one of us can answer the call – Come; everything is ready.

Everyone is invited to participate in this World Day of Prayer. Donations to PEP and the food pantry would be appreciated. Any questions, check with Karol Wesemann.



Weather permitting, the choir will practice on March 5th and 19th at 6:30pm and will sing on March 10th and 24th. Please watch the church bulletin and/or e-mails from Glennis. If you enjoy singing, please join us!

**ACTIVITY GROUP "A"**

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

JoAnn Draheim - (920) 285-8978 OR  
 (920) 285-9983

**February - April 2019**

Karissa Bender - (920) 342-3347

Kaylin Bender - (920) 285-6984

Shari Bender - (920) 285-6984

Pat Counsell - (920) 261-2730

Kris Kerr - (920) 261-1523

MaryLou Kopp - (920) 261-2096

Scott & Christine Kopp - (920) 253-1919

Bob & Tammy Meyer - (920) 342-3849

Arlene Molly - (920) 699-2133

Dorothy Rein - (920) 261-4269

Allison Rein - (920) 206-1411

Emmaleigh Rein - (920) 206-1411

Eric & Tracey Rein - (920) 206-1411

Lee & Tracy Saxby - (920) 261-6251

Carol Schultz

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

Donald & Karol Wesemann - (920) 261-7388

Trudi Wesemann - (920) 342-4133

**ACTIVITY GROUP "B" — Co-Leaders**

Dennis & Linda Rabbach (920-699-3781)

AND

Tom & Virginia Naatz (920-699-3118)

**May - July 2019**

James & Amanda Baneck - (920) 285-6248

Nathan & Angela Baum - (920) 988-2230

Chris Bender - (920) 342-4218

John & Nancy Braatz - (920) 261-4333

Carol Britts - (920) 261-9493

Seth Brown & Teaya - (920) 220-0166

Bohdi Degrandt - (920) 342-5277 OR  
 (920) 988-6281 (Shelly)

Joe & Shelly Degrandt - (920) 699-2178

Jillian Degrandt - (920) 342-1289

Jon Gehler - (920) 342-2945

Amanda Harris - (920) 248-9304

Gerald & Paula Harris - (262) 617-6579 (Paula)  
 (920) 723-8587 (Gerald)

Yolanda Yahn - (920) 253-6617

Sue Kopp - (920) 699-3504

Darrick Krueger

Dalton Krueger - (920) 220-9626

Darrin & Trudy Krueger - (920) 220-9626

Tom & Ginny Naatz - home - (920) 699-3118

Tim & Julie Pattengale - (920) 988-6130

Dennis & Linda Rabbach - (920) 699-3781

Douglas Rabbach

Barbara Rich - (920) 421-3133

Jozelle Roberts - (920) 248-9304

Andy Roberts - (920) 285-4723

Marion Schwartz

Theresa & John Vesper - (920) 941-0152

Charles & Judy Wesemann - (920) 261-6880

Emma Wegner - (920) 285-1370

**ACTIVITY GROUP "C" — Co-Leaders**

Linda (920-253-8137) & Gregg Lippens

(920-253-8136) HOME: (920-261-2061)

AND

Doug (920-285-1045) & Kris (920-285-1048)

Schefft

**November 2018 - January 2019**

Scott & Jill Beerbohm - (920) 988-4714

Janet Butzine - (920) 390-2264

Chris Cahill - (920) 699-2867

Craig & Melissa Cahill - (920) 699-2867

Robert Hahn - (920) 261-5849

Bob & Dianne Hamann - (920) 261-6685

Todd Hamann

Travis & Emily Hamann - (920) 262-8257

Joyce Kopp - (920) 261-7972

Greg & Linda Lippens - (920) 261-2061

Megan Lippens - (920) 253-8139

Kari & Matt Maass - (920) 253-7297

Francis & Kathie Orval - (414) 416-0225

Reinhold Petig - (920) 261-6892

William Petig - (920) 261-2486

Doug & Kris Schefft - (920) 285-1048

Clifford & Dianne Schuett - (920) 261-9120

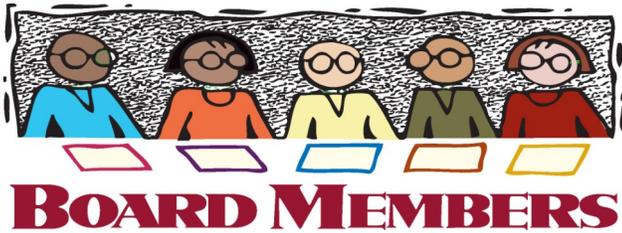
Carole Schumacher - (920) 261-2005

Diane Tuhy - (920) 253-1481

Bob & Dawn Westenberg - (920) 261-7068

Glennis Zastrow - (920) 261-3731

**LAST UPDATE: January 2019**



**ELDERS: 2019-2020**

**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: 2019-2020**

**John Vesper**

920-248-6910

johnvesper.jv@gmail.com

**Megan Lippens**

(920) 253-8139

lippensm@live.com

**Anne Walsh**

(920) 699-2884

adwcs@tds.net

**Kris Kerr**

(920) 261-1523

4malismom@gmail.com

**John Gehler**

(920) 342-2945

Gehler.ja2@gmail.com

(Board positions not yet appointed.)

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

**Meal & Servers: March**

4: Lasagna — Hope Lutheran

11: Chicken — Kwik Trip, Carrie's Group

18: Beef Roast — Carmen / Summit Harvest

25: Taco Salad — Methodist

**LOOKING AHEAD.....**

Ebenezer will be serving on

July 1

September 30

*Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex prior to these dates.*



**MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Loaves & Fishes,

I understand that Loaves & Fishes recently served its 50,000th meal. CONGRATULATIONS and thank you for your enduring service to the Watertown community. Please know that we're pleased and proud at the Community Action Coalition to support Loaves & Fishes through our Food Bank.



David Vobora, Deputy Director  
Community Action Coalition

**MORAVIAN WOMEN**



The Moravian Women plan on meeting March 6th at 9:00am at the church. Let's hope the weather cooperates this month. If you have any questions, please call Linda - 699-3781.

**Moravian Young Adult Convo  
June 25 - July 2, 2019**



**U.S. Virgin Islands: St.  
John & St. Thomas**

**Walk in the steps of the first Moravian missionaries  
and explore our "roots"**

**Spend time in Hands-on Mission Work**

**Program by Bishop Chris Giesler**

**Enjoy Island Hospitality**

*Experience this opportunity with young adults from across the Northern  
and Southern Provinces ages 18-26 years.*

*Cost: \$1850\* (includes most meals, housing, travel in St Thomas,  
a variety of activities and tours, and Convo 2019 t-shirt!)*

*A non-refundable deposit of \$700 (US) and completed registration form is  
due by January 27, 2019. Find the form at:*

<http://moravian.online/ConvoRegistration>

*Checks may be mailed to: Convo 2019, Board of Cooperative Ministries,  
500 S Church St, Winston Salem, NC 27101*

*\*Travel to and from St Thomas is the responsibility of the individual and  
not covered in the cost of Convo 2019.*

*For more information contact Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer, DYYAM, ED, NP at  
[cynthia@mcnp.org](mailto:cynthia@mcnp.org) or at 484-554-0102*

**STAMP OUT HUNGER  
FOOD DRIVE DAY**

The second Saturday in May (May 11th) is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. It is appropriately named Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day. This event occurs in more than 10,000 cities and towns, and the food is collected by the men and women carrying our mail across the country. As they deliver your mail, you get to do your part by filling their mailbag with non-perishable food donations.

The Watertown Food Pantry is seeking volunteers to help. Help will be needed at two locations .....

The post office (back loading dock) beginning  
at 11 am  
AND

The food pantry (located at Immanuel Lutheran  
Church, 204 N. Tenth Street) beginning at 2 pm

If you can help in any way or have questions,  
please contact Dawn Westenberg at 920-261-  
7068 or [dawn22658@gmail.com](mailto:dawn22658@gmail.com).



**SHARED COMMUNITY MISSIONS GROUP: FOOD TO GO & GROW**

Many churches in the Watertown area participate in the Shared Community Missions Group, including Ebenezer. This group has two primary ministries, feeding children and providing school supplies. Currently, this group provides 50 families with weekend meals. These are just the families of kindergarteners in the Watertown area schools. This group wishes to see no family go hungry. Each week, food is donated by the local churches and the bags are packed on Thursday afternoons at Webster Elementary School. Because of the challenges of bus transportation, some of the bags are delivered after being packed. Each church is responsible for one part of the bag (ours is soup!) and for packing and delivery volunteers every 6 weeks. Our turn is on March 6/7. We will be packing on Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) instead of Thursday because of a conflict in the school schedule. Delivery will be Thursday. Ideally, we need about 5-6 people to pack and 2 cars of at least 2 people for delivery. Please talk to Pastor Katie if you are able to volunteer for one or both of those days. Also, please keep filling the box in the narthex of soup every week. It is hard to think that there are so many families in need, but it rewarding to be able to help as best we can.

## NOISY OFFERING

January to March 2019 — Helping Hands Fund (Ebenezer Moravian)

April to June 2019 — Jefferson County Senior Nutrition (formerly Meals on Wheels)

July to September 2019 — Haus of Peace



### COLLECTIONS

July to September — \$131.20 went to Shared Community Mission  
October to December — \$160.17 went to Watertown Humane Society

If you have any suggestions for future rotations, please share your idea with one of the Elders.



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.



## ATTENDANCE

January 13: 51

January 20: 41

January 27: 37

February 3: 54

February 10: 33

## E-MAIL FILE

We would like to keep our mass e-mail list up to date so Pastor Katie can send messages to all church members at once.

It would be a huge help if all church members would forward their e-mail addresses to me,



Trudi will then update the file at church for Pastor Katie to use.

This information will also be relayed to the Interprovincial Board of Communications (IBOC) so you receive your Moravian newsletter.

Thank you. Dawn

## VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES

Valentine's Care Packages for college students were sent at the beginning of February. Packages and cards were sent to Liz Walsh, Monica Meyer and Jillian DeGrandt. This ongoing ministry of the youth and Sunday School reaches out to those students currently in college. Through the years, the youth who wrapped and prepared the packages look forward to receiving them when they are in college.





## ARTICLE DEADLINE

**Monday, March 18th**



## USHER SCHEDULE

**March 3:**

Donald & Karol Wesemann  
Bob & Tammy Meyer

**March 10 & 17:**

Buzz & Diane Orval  
Shelly Degrandt  
Bohdi Degrandt

**March 24 & 31:**

Gerald & Paula Harris  
Jozelle Roberts  
Dalton Krueger

*(Please contact Head Usher Alex Zubrod at  
920-261-8289 if you would like to assist in this ministry.)*



## Office Hours

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

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



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Sharon Prust
- 2 - Cody Saxby
- 3 - Arlene Molly
- 4 - Linda Strauss
- 5 - JoAnn Draheim
- 9 - William Kopp
- 12 - Elijah Vesper
- 16 - Nicholas Finley
- 20 - Gerald Harris
- 23 - Roland Lee
- 25 - Michael Braatz
- 28 - Linda Lippens
- 29 - Trudi Wesemann
- 30 - Joe Walsh



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

22 - Paul & Pam Jacobson

Our Face book name is  
**Ebenezer Moravian**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## WESTERN DISTRICT CAMPING!

It's not too early to get ready for camp at Mount Morris. The dates for summer camp have been released and are listed below.

A few other pieces of information:

- ◆ In order to hold a camper's spot, a \$35 non-refundable fee is due at the time of registration.
- ◆ The prices listed by each camp are the total cost to be paid for each camper. The registration fee will count towards this amount. **FUN FACT:** Each camp is offered at a reduced cost (between \$55-115 per camper!) thanks to a generous subsidy from a donor funded account to help alleviate the cost of camp to families and congregations. Every camper (Moravian or not) automatically benefits from this gift.
- ◆ Ebenezer has a "camp fund" and will pay the balance.

**Camp Mindyy** (Minnesota) June 16-19 —  
\$200

At Mt. Morris, Wautoma WI:

**Chetek** July 14-20 (high school age  
through 21) — \$290

**Winmor** July 21-27 (middle school) —  
\$290

**Junior Camp** July 28-August 1 (3rd  
through 5th grades) — \$200

**4M Camp** August 5-7 (grades 1 and 2) —  
\$135

Please watch the bulletin and future newsletters for more information.



## REACHING OUT...

This is a list of 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).

### Janet Butzine

Lilac Springs, Room 115  
403 O'Neil Street  
Lake Mills, WI 53551

### Leroy Gronert, Sr.

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

### Marion Schwartz

Marquardt Memorial Manor  
1020 Hill St. Room 706  
Watertown, WI 53098

### Douglas Rabbach

Park Ridge (Zinzendorf)  
1148 Bayberry Drive  
Watertown, WI 53098

### 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



Pastor Katie Van der Linden  
(610) 442-3790

### IF NOT AVAILABLE CONTACT

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

## POT LUCK GAME NIGHT



### GAME NIGHT

Among Friends will be sponsoring our annual game night on Friday March 15, 2019.

Last year we made the meal pot-luck and have decided to do that again this year. Bring your favorite dish to pass and your favorite game to play as well. We will eat at 6pm. Beverages and dessert of schaum torte with toppings will be provided.

Invite your friends, and come join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.



### VBS Planning

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dawn Westenberg has been directing the annual VBS program since the torch was passed to her from Shelly DeGrandt. Dawn has done an awesome job at directing VBS and we thank her (and Bob!) for that! At this time Dawn would like to step down from that position, so we are looking for those people who might be interested in being involved with helping set up the VBS program. The more people the better, to make light work of it. We also have the option of attending the VBS program at the Watertown Moravian Church. The added benefit of that is the opportunity for the kids in both of our churches to get to know each other early on, since they will be attending lots of events together through the years, as they grow in the Moravian church.

Respectfully Submitted by Paula Harris



### Benefit Dinner

## PATTENGALE BENEFIT DINNER \*\* SATURDAY, APRIL 6th \*\* 5 to 7 pm EBENEZER FELLOWSHIP HALL

Tim Pattengale was diagnosed with kidney cancer in January after an unexpected appendectomy. With Tim being the sole provider and medical bills growing, the family is in a really challenging position. Ebenezer will be holding a benefit extravaganza to raise money to help Tim, Julie and their grandson. We need your help in several ways...

1. **Monetary donations.** Instead of asking for food donations, the church is seeking monetary donations to cover all food expenses. We can buy in bulk and from suppliers and get deeper discounts. If you are able to give to help offset the dinner, please make checks payable to "Ebenezer Moravian Church" and include "benefit dinner" in the memo line.
2. **Sponsorships.** We need individual and business sponsors of items for a raffle/silent auction. A letter has been drafted and can be picked up or emailed from church. If you are going to a business, please write on the clipboard accompanying the letters so that businesses are not duplicated. Individual sponsors are asked to create a basket or gift incentive that is donated to help raise funds. Be creative...think of something you would love to bid on or win!
3. **Volunteers.** We would love to host over 100 people at our dinner, which means lots of helpers!
4. **Support.** Talk to an Elder about ways you can help or ideas you have. Also pick up some flyers and take them to local places to get the word out about this important mission.
5. **Prayers.** Cancer is never a word anyone wants to hear, let alone the sole provider of a wife and young grandson. Please keep Tim and Julie and their grandson in your daily prayers.
6. **Come and Eat!** The more we have at the dinner, the more support the family feels. Invite your friends and neighbors...food, fellowship and supporting a family all in one night!



# BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America



that the work in some of the areas of Eastern NC after hurricane Matthew and Florence continues? Rev. Chris Thore, of Clemmons Moravian Church, has informed us that “After a much-needed rest, our partners in Lumberton NC (United Methodist Church disaster relief) report that they have just started working on the "Step Program" which is 75% funded through FEMA and 25% funded through the State. We get a pre-approved list from FEMA that gives us the survivors that are eligible for this program. This program allows you to go in and do the muck out (tear out)

and you only fix the home enough to get the survivor back in and living. You can only do a few things to make this happen and its really complicated, at first. You can only put in a sink held up by a piece of wood to keep it in place, you only have a door on the bathroom, no walls are done, no floors are done except to make sure the sub flooring is in place.”

So what this means is that new work will be different than what we have typically done in the past; however, volunteer labor is still needed. This funding from FEMA is for materials only. We have been told there are over 1600 approved survivors in Robeson County alone out of approximately 7000 total homes affected by Florence in Robeson County. That number is just mind boggling! Hopefully this gives you some insight as to what is going on in that area. We hope to have start dates for the next teams soon. Please contact Chris Giesler, Director of Mission Engagement for the Board of World Mission, if you would like more information about joining or forming a team. [chris@moravianmission.org](mailto:chris@moravianmission.org)



## WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO COME BACK TO CHURCH?

For many of us, the answer would be “yesterday.” But the reality is, when we are unable to get to church for a little while, it becomes very challenging to return at all. What will people say? Will I be judged? When is the right time or wrong time? Just like gym memberships or lodge connections, when you fall away for a while it is hard to come back. It is even harder if you feel like nobody noticed you were gone. More people leave church because nobody notices they are gone. This is sad because all of us matter. We know the feeling of not mattering and the hurt that causes. The Elders wish to make sure nobody is forgotten! This Spring, we are launching a new program to keep us all connected. The “6-3-6-1-2 Program” is a way to connect with church members. That is it. It is simply a way for the Elders to check in on members and remind everyone they are part of our church family. It may take a little time to get used to, but attendance pads will start to show up in the pews, just so we can make sure we aren’t missing anyone. The Elders really want to make sure nobody goes unnoticed or feels like they do not matter. We know this has happened in the past and want to right the hurts the church has caused. This program is going to help by making it easier to return, checking in on members and reminding them of their importance in our church life and maybe even discovering a need for alternative worship or creativity. The Elders care about every name in our book and it is time we make sure that all of us are being cared for and reminded that God and Ebenezer Church love you.

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- ◆ Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- ◆ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ◆ Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- ◆ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ◆ Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- ◆ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- ◆ Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- ◆ Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- ◆ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- ◆ Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ◆ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Do we  
have  
your  
**e-mail**  
address?

Worship  
the LORD  
in all  
his holy  
splendor.

Psalm 96:9, NLT

