**WD News & Notes**

The Newsletter of the Moravian Church,

Western District

**May 2022**

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Bruce’s Babblings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The month of May is here which means more signs of spring, graduations, Mother’s Day celebrations, greener grass, warmer and longer days, and even more signs of new life.

I have been in a nostalgic mood over the past couple of weeks. I was able to cross something off of my bucket list during the last week of April that I have been working on for a while. About 15 or so years ago, I decided to make it a goal to try to attend every major league ballpark. On April 26, I attended a ball game at my last ballpark on the list – Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona. This adventure is something I started doing with two of my children and I deeply enjoyed doing that with them. As they got older, became adults, and had more responsibilities they were not able to get away as easily. (Don’t you hate it when your adult children become responsible??!!) With my children not able to get away as easily, I continued to get to some of the ballparks on my own, with my wife, with a brother, and finally with some work colleagues. I have learned some things as I attended those 30 ballparks and perhaps I will write more about that in the future.

Another thing that has occupied my mind is realizing that it was just a little over 6 years ago that I was elected to my first term as the Western District Executive Board President. I was very humbled to be elected and continue to be humbled as I try to remain faithful to the calling that I have been elected to. Some days it is more humbling than others.

I continue to feel blessed by what I have been able to do in my leisure time, by the love of my wife, children, and grandchildren, and by what I have been entrusted to do through my calling and profession. I continue to pray for our congregations, particularly those in the call process, on a regular basis.

What have you been blessed with???

Serving Christ with you,

*Rev. Bruce J. Nelson*

On behalf of the Western District Executive Board

Members of the You Belong leadership team recently attended the Inclusion Fusion Conference presented by Key Ministry in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference focused on equipping churches across the nation to design ministries that work to include all people of all abilities and are universally accessible in design, meaning they are created for everyone to participate equally.

While many churches today might think they are accessible, or might say to themselves "we don't have anyone with special needs in our church" the reality is that there are families and individuals in your community who have felt lost and forgotten by churches overlooking them or not inviting them to the table to consider their insights on how to make their church more accessible.

We at You Belong want to help by offering resources to churches to consider what steps you can take to move towards universal accessibility in your setting. Take a few minutes to check out some of our free resources at YouBelongWI.org (click “Resources”) or email Pastor Greg Behrend greg@youbelongwi.org to learn more.

**Join us @ the Plus 50 Retreat**

**@ Mt. Morris**

**for Everyone in the Over 50 Crowd**

**August 11 – 14, 2022**

**“Breathe on Me …”**

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**Fellowship, Faith, Food & Fun**

**as we enjoy God’s creation!**

Registration begins @ **4 p.m. on Thursday** followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. We end with breakfast and worship on Sunday. Cost per person is $200 which includes all meals and 3 nights lodging in Black Oak Lodge.

Reserve your spot now with a $75 deposit\* by **July 1**.

Our registrar Dr. Debby Ford

[drford920@yahoo.com](mailto:drford920@yahoo.com) or 920-262-9413

Our program director Rev. Mary Lou Plummer

[mlplummer01@gmail.com](mailto:mlplummer01@gmail.com) or 715-451-9992

Our musician Jason Pues

***\*Deposit is non-refundable***

Church Anniversaries

May 22 Christ’s Community 39 years

May 24 Goshen 144 years

May 25 West Salem 178 years

May 26 Ephraim 169 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

May 1 Christie Melby-Gibbons

May 9 Katie Chatelaine-Samsen

May 10 David Melby-Gibbons

May 16 James Hillander

May 24 Lois Harke

May 27 Naomi Thomas

Ordination Anniversaries

May 5 Jonathon Lee (15 years)

May 9 Frank Jones (57 years)

May 19 Larry Christianson (42years)

May 24 Gregg Schafer (24 years)

May 25 Betsy Miller (37 years)

May 25 Jonathan Lee (15 years)

May 26 Bruce Nelson (31 years)

Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors throughout the Northern Province:

Our Saviors Moravian in Altura, MN.

Unionville Moravian in Unionville, MI.

West Salem Moravian in West Salem, IL.

Good Shepherd in Calgary Alberta

Tremont Terrace Moravian, Bronx, New York

New Dorp Moravian, Staten Island, New York.

Covenant Moravian, York, Pennsylvania

First Moravian, York, Pennsylvania

Trinity Moravian, New Carrollton, Maryland

Battle Hill Moravian, Union, New Jersey

Central Moravian, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Prayer Concerns

Herman Weinlick is undergoing cancer radiation treatments and has about one third of them done, reporting no side effects. Continue to be in prayer for him.

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving with Br. Kurt Liebenow, pastor of the Watertown Moravian Church in Watertown, Wisconsin, and his spouse Kathy Liebenow Harberg (daughter of retired pastor Jane Harberg). Kurt reports that after “four years of treatment, Kathy no longer has any cancer in her body. This is a bit of a miracle as four years ago they told us there was no cure for her. Kathy and I are very grateful for the prayers and support which is a part of this healing to be possible.”



The Moravian Board of World Mission in North America (BWM) continues to be in conversation with our Moravian partners in Europe to see how we can best help those who are giving refuge to families fleeing the war in Ukraine. Please continue to pray for them.

To date, we have received close to $130,000, and we thank you for this critical support. Using these donations, funding has been sent to the Czech Province of the Moravian Church where a number of congregations are hosting refugees. Among them is the Moravian congregation in Nová Paka, which is renovating space in a hotel they own to house up to 15 families. They are also hosting a Ukrainian primary school, allowing them to set up classes for the children.

Moravian congregations in Germany are also sheltering refugees, and we have sent monetary support to the Moravian European Continental Province to assist congregations in places like Herrnhut, Königsfeld, Ebersdorf, and Cottbus. The money that we collect will help all these congregations provide food, shelter, personal hygiene products, household essentials, school supplies, and transportation for the families. These are tangible ways that the love of Christ is being shared. In addition, refugees are being offered places to worship and a welcoming Christian community.



For ongoing updates, pictures, and videos, please visit MoravianMission.org. For further information, contact the Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler at chris@moravianmission.org or 610-868-1732. To contribute to these efforts, please send checks to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018 or make your donation online at MoravianMission.org/Give. Please indicate that your gift is for "Ukraine."

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Tricklebee 2022 Spring Work Days

You are Invited!

Come as an individual. Come as a work team. Come as a youth group…there is plenty to do!

**Dates**: (rain or shine)

Saturday May 7th and/or Sunday May 8th\*

\*Christie will be leading worship at Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

Saturday May 21st and/or Sunday May 22nd

Saturday June 4th and/or Sunday June 5th

**Details**:

Saturday work will begin as early as 8:30 am.

* Snacks, lunch, dinner provided
* For those wishing to stay for the weekend, lodging is available at Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (bunks and showers available!) ***The Board of World Mission will be underwriting the cost of lodging for volunteers***.

Sunday work will begin after worship and lunch (approximately 12:30)

**Projects to be completed** ~there is something for ALL skill levels!

* Assemble 5 metal picnic tables including umbrellas and bases
* Secure the table to the ground with rebar
* Install post and Little Library (purchased from Ukraine!)
* Build and install the new stage area under the direction of Maureen
* Paint the new mural of the wall under the direction of Julio the Artist
* General spring clean up of empty lot and area around the building
* Indoor tasks for the cafe

**Contact**: Questions? Ready to sign up?

* Pam Streich. 920.723.7360
* pam.streich@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendar  
**June 3-5, 2022 - Family Fun Weekend!** A great weekend of relaxing, having fun, and enjoying your family as well as new friends! The weekend schedule offers a lot of time for recreation, family time, and free time with plenty of planned activities.   
  
Lastly, please keep Mt. Morris Camp in mind for your next "getaway"! Our cabins make a great place for families to relax and escape from the business of life. Call the office for availability! *-Dan Scharnhorst*

*Executive Director*

# Summer Church Camps

# Listed below are the camps being held this summer. Our camps are heavily subsidized thanks to gifts from past donors to the District Camping Fund. Contact your local congregation to inquire about possible camp scholarships.

# Junior Camp

Director: James Heroux, [jhero274@gmail.com](mailto:jhero274@gmail.com" \t "_blank)

**When**: July 31 - Aug 4

**Where:** Mt. Morris Camp

**Campers Invited**: Completed 2nd grade - 5th grade  
**Cost:** After subsidies, cost of Junior Camp is **$200 with a $35 registration fee.**.

# Camp MINDYY

This camp will not be held this year.

**Winmor**

Director: Jordan Forbes, [fibs567@gmail.com](mailto:fibs567@gmail.com" \t "_blank)

**When**: July 24th - 30th

**Where:** Mt. Morris Camp

**Campers Invited**: Completed 6th - 8th grade

**Cost:** After subsidies, cost of Winmor Camp is **$290 with a $35 registration fee.**

# Chetek

### **Directors: Jason Andersen, [pastor\_jason\_andersen@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor_jason_andersen@hotmail.com" \t "_blank)** and

**Amy Andersen**, [smilesfromamy@yahoo.com](mailto:smilesfromamy@yahoo.com" \t "_blank)   
**When**: July 17 – 23

**Where:** Mt. Morris Camp

**Campers Invited**: Completed 9th grade - age 21

**Cost:** After subsidies, cost of Chetek Camp is **$290 with a $35 registration fee.**

Tar Hollow – July 17-23

Illiana – July 25-29

Bethany – August 1-5

**Next grant cycle begins June 1**

All your gifts on the Moravian Day of Giving to the Moravian Field of Interest Funds have replenished those grant-making accounts. Our next grant cycle begins June 1 with a July 15 application deadline. Grants will be awarded on August 13. The following funds will be making grants:

* Hunger & Thirst
* Clothing
* Prison Ministry
* Healing & Health
* Housing
* Environmental Stewardship
* Racial Awareness, Equity, & Reconciliation

Be thinking about how your Moravian congregation, fellowship, emerging ministry, or agency could benefit from grant funding for ministry. Look for more details about how to apply in the June newsletter or visit MMFA's **Grant Central Station** <https://mmfa.info/grant/> *- Vince Holbrook*

A Message from Dr. Jill Peters, Missional Leadership Developer Moravian Theological Seminary

This year Crossroads will have an emphasis on getting people ready for lay pastoring. I'm giving you some advanced notice of an Info Session to be held on Saturday, June 18 at Moravian Seminary. We will talk about the program in general and the upcoming courses specifically.

Many of you have talked to me about the availability of Lay Pastors and Pulpit Supply. We will be focusing on that this year. We will be offering the following courses in 2022/2023: Old Testament, New Testament, Preaching, Theology (Mapping the Route), Traditions Mercies (Congregational Care), and Culture & Change.

If you have someone in mind for these courses, Please send their email addresses to me for follow-up. We want to respond to the current needs in our congregations. As always, there is no application for Crossroads.