

# WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the  
Moravian Church,  
Western District  
January 2023

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## Bruce's Babblings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in this New Year! As I am writing this, the ball has dropped in the Big Apple while differing celebrations have taken place in other ways. I hope you were able to celebrate in some way with those whom you love. I do know that some people had to work on that day. I have people in my family who have worked holidays in the past and I always appreciated the opportunities that we had when the family could be together. Having the family together is not something I have taken for granted.

I have never been one to set New Year's resolutions. It is just not something that I have done for several years. However, I often take the end of one calendar year and the beginning of another to set some goals for myself. These goals help me to measure how I am doing. Let me be clear that I do not set a goal to be better than someone else. I set a goal to be a better version of me.

In my travels around the District, I have been amazed by how many Joint Boards do not set annual goals. I find this to be puzzling. I always felt that you don't know what you are shooting for if you don't have a destination or an end point. Now I do realize that sometimes we set goals and God has a better idea. There have been times when I have set goals with a Joint Board and we thought we had mapped out a pretty good plan. Sometimes we as a group met those goals and sometimes we did not. Other times we set the goals and God revealed to us that something else was more important than our goals.

In the first church that I served, one of the leaders impressed upon me a saying that I have never forgotten. That saying is: "Failure to plan is planning to fail."

If you have not yet set any goals for the New Year it is not too late to set them. If you are a Joint Board member or a pastor and your board has not set goals for several years as a board, you can still do it. Proverbs 24:27

states, "Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house."

Serving Christ with you,  
**Bruce J. Nelson**

## Pastors, Save the Date

The Western District Clergy Retreat will be held at Mt. Morris from January 16-19. Pastors, we encourage you to attend this retreat. Lay members we would ask you to encourage your pastors to attend this event.

## Consecration

Brother James Heroux, pastor of the Freedom Moravian Church in Freedom, Wisconsin, will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 3 pm CT. Brother Paul Graf will be the consecrating bishop. James was ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on June 16, 2018. Consecration as Presbyter is the second order of ministry in the Moravian Church.

All are invited to join James and his family in this celebration of the church and affirmation of James' ministry. The congregation will host a meal following the service. Those unable to attend in person may join via livestream on the Freedom Moravian Church's YouTube page. That can be found here - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6J4etgo6ywZdAucqtYUzew>.

Please be in prayer for James, his spouse Alli, and their whole family, along with the Freedom congregation at this time of celebration.

## New Home for You Belong

You Belong has found a new home. Our new 6,000 square foot facility will be the home for all of our programs, activities, and faith formation gatherings. We are located 2960 Allied Street, Suites 103 & 104, Green Bay, WI 54304. Our new space will include our family classrooms, sensory room, sanctuary and multipurpose activity room, offices, and will be the future home of The Adventure Zone - an indoor fully accessible and inclusive children's learning and play center for children 0-10 years old.

-Greg Behrend

### Mid-Winter Retreat

Theme: Meet Him at Midnight  
Location: You Belong's New Space  
2960 Allied Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin  
Dates: Feb 3 - 5  
Program: Led by Greg Behrend

### Camp Dates for 2023

Chetek: July 16-22  
Winmor: July 23-29  
Junior: July 30-August 3

## Mt. Morris Update

We have had a very exciting year at Mt. Morris Camp! In addition to seeing many groups enjoying the camp and being renewed by God's Spirit, we have been able to make many repairs and updates to our facilities. This was all done with the help of awesome donors and many volunteers!

*With your support we have:*

- Converted the entire camp from LP to Natural Gas.
- Installed new boilers in Arrowhead Center.
- Installed new fascia & gutters to Arrowhead Center.
- Installed new gutters on the cabins.
- Replaced one of our swimming pool filters.
- Stained the Arrowhead deck.
- Continued tree trimming and clearing.
- And so much more!!!

Our 2023 calendar is filling fast as families, church groups, summer youth camps, and retreat groups keep returning to rest, relax and renew at Mt. Morris. It is pure joy to see the camp being used for its intended purposes and to witness what God is doing at this Holy place!

During 2023 we will be sharing all the news and information we have about our new building project. Our board of directors has been hard at work on this and we are excited to share with you all that is coming in the future.

-Dan Scharnhorst

## Church Anniversaries

Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chaska	164 years
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Waconia	107 years
Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wis. Rapids	133 years
Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sturgeon Bay	158 years

## Ordination Anniversaries

Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Weavil	46 years
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## Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Greg Behrend
Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Krauss
Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Holly Weavil
Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Volpe
Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Christianson
Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Smith
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jackie Bell
Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Matthew Knapp
Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Weavil
Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Betsy Miller
Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Faith Fliegel

## Northern Province Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors

Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey  
Central (Associate Pastor), Bethlehem, PA  
Covenant, York, PA  
York First, York, PA  
New Dorp, Staten Island NY  
Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY  
Trinity, New Carrollton, MD  
Our Savior's Moravian in Altura, Minnesota  
Berea Moravian Church in St. Charles, Minnesota  
West Salem Moravian in West Salem, Illinois  
Good Shepherd in Calgary, Alberta

Additionally: two congregations that are not in the call process but are currently without pastors are Grace Moravian in Westland, Michigan and Daggett Moravian, in Daggett, Michigan.



**BOARD OF  
WORLD MISSION**  
of the Moravian Church • North America

## Reflections on 2022 from Executive Director Justin Rabbach

The end of one year and the beginning of another is a perfect time to look back in reflection and ahead in anticipation. As the year ended, we lit the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, and I gave thanks for the many ways in which those things were reflected in our work.

We shared HOPE through the Moravian Disaster Response (MDR) program. Natural disasters take no breaks, and the La Mosquitia region of Honduras and Nicaragua was once again hit by a hurricane and tropical storm. The BWM has responded to severe flooding of agricultural fields, which destroyed many crops. We are working with our partners to distribute emergency food packs and restore safe drinking water. The BWM is also in the early stages of providing an agronomist to adapt planting and harvest patterns, as well as constructing food storage facilities to prepare for times when crops are impacted by disaster.

We worked to offer PEACE as we responded to the war in Ukraine. Unprecedented donations were received to support refugee families. The BWM was able to support renovations on a hotel in the Czech Republic, which became housing for refugee families. We provided a full year of salary and benefits for five teachers at a Ukrainian school that was forced to relocate due to the violence. Now, families resettling around the world continue to experience the welcoming presence of Moravians offering a safe haven, even as the conflict continues.

We witnessed JOY at the Moravian Resources Conference we held in Panama for all of our Spanish-speaking partners. This inaugural event brought together Moravians who had never met before, but were deeply connected by the end of the week together. The group discussed history, theology, financial management, and mission planning... all in Spanish! The joy present in the worship services, side conversations, and lasting relationships built will strengthen our worldwide Unity!

Finally, we experienced the LOVE of God in so many settings. In this space I want to highlight the work of our staff. Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler, Rev. Angelica Regalado Cieza, Rex Knowlton, Sue Adams, and Sylvie Hauser form our current staff, with thanks to Rick Nelson, Jill Kolodziej, and Elizabeth Thiele who were also part of

our team last year. I can't say enough about the tremendous contributions of these individuals who care deeply about our work and always ensure we are not sidetracked by details or challenges. These folks are on a mission!

## Crossroads 2023 Winter and Spring Courses

Note: All courses are in person for those who are able AND also real time on Zoom.

Your choices:

- Ministry Journeys of the New Testament* with Rev. Dr. Joanne Marchetto, Mondays, Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 6-9 p.m.
- Mapping the Route - Conversations in Theology* with Rev. Dr. Bill Falla, Thursdays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 6-9 p.m.
- Traveling Mercies Congregational Care* with Greg Krausz and Diane Kareha, Mondays March 6 - May 1 (except April 3), 6-9 p.m.
- Traditions - Exploring Denominations & Religions* with Rev. Dr. Bill Falla, Thursdays March 9 – May 4 (except April 6), 6-9 p.m.

For more information, Contact Jill Peters at [petersj2@moravian.edu](mailto:petersj2@moravian.edu) or go on the website at [www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads).

## Moravian Day of Giving is

Imagine  
the possibilities

Moravian  
DAY OF  
giving  
February 21, 2023

What could our  
congregation do  
with \$10,000?



2/21/23

Imagine the possibilities! Think of all the good your congregation could do with \$10,000! The one U.S. Moravian congregation or fellowship with the highest level of participation on this year's Moravian Day of Giving will receive \$10,000.00 (unrestricted).

The congregation with the second highest level of participation will receive \$5,000.00 and the third highest level of participation will receive \$2,500.00. Help your congregation do more good by making a gift on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 to your congregation on the Moravian Giving Portal.

- Vince Holbrook