

# WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the  
Moravian Church,  
Western District  
July 2023

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## *Bruce's Babblings*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The 2023 Provincial Synod has come and gone. It was wonderful to be together with people doing the work of the wider church once again. This was the first in person synod (District or Provincial) that we have had in five years. It was almost like it had been so long that we had to get back in the swing of things to remember how synods had worked.

One of the things that did not take long to figure out how to do again was the fellowship. It was obvious that we missed being with each other. I felt badly that there were some people that I wanted to talk with but just did not have the time to do that. The worship services were very good. The presentations from the various ministries and agencies were informative and sometimes even entertaining.

We elected a new Provincial President. Rev. David Bennett had previously served three terms as the Eastern District President and more recently had been serving as a chaplain at Morning Star Senior Living in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. I served with Dave for a few years on the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) and am excited for the church that he is our new Provincial leader.

We also elected two new Bishops. Rev. Michael Johnson and Rev. Amy Gohdes-Luhman were elected as our newest Bishops. I understand that these are the first Bishops we have elected in the Northern Province in 13 years.

The fellowship and the worship and the elections at synod were all very wonderful and good things. However, I believe the most important thing we did was pass some very meaningful resolutions. These resolutions have given the PEC much work to do over the next three years. It is almost a bit overwhelming with all that we have been asked, encouraged, or directed to do.

The PEC was not the only group given things to do. I would encourage you to check in with your pastor and/or synod delegate(s) to hear more about what occurred at synod. You see, it really doesn't matter what synod decided if we don't act upon and live out the decisions that were made at synod.

I am reminded of the Christian song, "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together..." I encourage you to continue doing and being the church.

*Serving Christ with you,*

*Rev. Bruce J. Nelson*

*On behalf of the Western District Executive Board*

## *Opportunity to Hold Chetek Community in Prayer*

Link for folks to sign up electronically - [CLICK HERE](#)

Greetings! The theme for Chetek 2023 is "The Amazing G-Race". As a part of the program, we are hoping to let campers know one way they are connected to their neighbors in Western District Congregations is through prayer. Please consider selecting one of the slots below to offer your prayerful support July 17-21st during the camp week. It is as simple as signing up, and offering a prayer during your chosen time for the campers and staff gathered at Chetek. Multiple slots are available here for each day, but if people want to double up at the same time, that works too! More prayer the better!

Themes for the prayer should be as you feel led, but prayers for a shared experience of community, and faithful discernment are especially appreciated!

### **Camp Dates for 2023**

**Chetek:** July 16-22 (Mt. Morris)

**Tar Hollow:** July 16-22

**Winmor:** July 23-29 (Mt. Morris)

**Illiana:** July 24 - 28

**Junior:** July 30-August 3

**Camp Bethany** (Michigan and Ohio 2nd grade through 6th grade): July 31 - August 4

*Join us @ the Plus 50 Retreat @  
Mt. Morris for Everyone in the  
Over 50 Crowd*

**August 10 – 13, 2023**

**"Scrolling & Strolling"**



Jesus was a rabbi on the move!  
Join us at beautiful Mt. Morris  
Camp and Retreat Center as we  
scroll through scripture to look  
at the strolls of Jesus. Take  
time to unwind, rest and  
consider your personal walk with  
Christ while renewing  
friendships or building new

ones. You can expect great food, lots of  
singing, and plenty of free time to do as  
you would like. Come and see!

**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 \$240 which includes all  
meals and 3 nights lodging in Black Oak Lodge. Reserve  
your spot now with a \$75 deposit\* by **July 31**.

Registration forms are available at your church.

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

*\*Deposit is non-refundable*



The Debt Jubilee Project: For the Healing of the World  
is a collaborative effort of the Board of World Mission,  
the Commission on Congregational Development, the  
Moravian Ministries Foundation in America, and the  
Interprovincial Board of Communication. Based on our  
biblical call to care for the sick and our belief that  
healthcare is a fundamental human right, this project will  
work to offer grace and hope through the forgiveness of  
medical debt. Because our call is to our siblings in Christ  
here in North America and throughout the world, this  
project will forgive medical debt in the United States as  
well as at the Moravian medical ministry of the Clínica  
Evangélica Morava in Ahuas, Honduras.

Through this effort, we hope to build on the energy and  
witness of the recent work of Moravian congregations  
such as Trinity in Winston-Salem, which raised about

\$15,000 earlier this year to forgive over \$3,000,000 in  
medical debt. The Debt Jubilee Project; For the Healing  
of the World aims to provide an opportunity for more  
Moravians to join in this freeing and life-changing  
initiative. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in 50 days with  
the project concluding on August 13th.

75% of your gift will support the elimination of medical  
debt in the U.S. through a partnership with RIP Medical  
Debt, an organization that purchases medical debt for  
pennies on the dollar and erases that debt, which would  
otherwise have been sold to for-profit debt collectors.  
RIP Medical Debt only abolishes debt for those earning  
less than 4x the federal poverty level and/or hold debts  
of 5% or more of their annual income. The Debt Jubilee  
Project: For the Healing of the World will specifically  
forgive debts for those living in U.S. counties with a  
Moravian presence (through a congregation or ministry).  
The individuals and families who owe the medical debt  
purchased will receive a letter informing them that their  
debt is forgiven. Jubilee!

25% of your gift will buy debt owed by patients of the  
Clínica Evangélica Morava, a Moravian medical  
ministry in Ahuas, Honduras, that has been serving the  
remote area of La Mosquitia for over 75 years. Medical  
debt held in this area is a burden on the indebted  
patients, the clinic, and the community as a whole. The  
individuals and families who owe the medical debt  
purchased will receive notice informing them that their  
debt is forgiven. Jubilee! Learn more and donate at  
[www.moravian.org/debtjubilee](http://www.moravian.org/debtjubilee).

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

Please pray for the following churches who are without  
pastors: Canadian District:

Two congregations that are not in the call process but are  
currently without pastors: Edmonton Moravian and  
Heimtal Church, both in Edmonton, Alberta.

Eastern District: Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey; Central  
(Associate Pastor), Bethlehem, PA; Egg Harbor, Egg  
Harbor City, NJ; Schoeneck, Nazareth, PA; Tremont  
Terrace, Bronx, NY

Western District: Glenwood Community Church in  
Madison, Wisconsin

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

Fall Western District Justice Conference  
**Building the Beloved Community**  
 September 1-3, 2023



**Goals:**

-  Understanding of the Beloved Community that God desires for us
-  Increased awareness of barriers to Beloved Community
-  Tools for talking respectfully with those with whom we disagree, even as we express our own truth.
-  A sense of connection with the broader work in the Province around justice and increased tools to nurture Beloved Community at home (e.g. starting or strengthening your congregation's justice team)
-  Recognition of responsibility of people of faith to work collectively and intentionally to promote diversity in Beloved Community, address the violence directed at others, as well as our own complicity with unjust systems

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**



**Location:** Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center  
 W6016 Bleckhawk Rd, Wautoma, WI 54982

**Costs:**

- Black Oak: \$150
- Cabins: \$120
- Saturday Day Guests: \$25
- Linens upon request at \$15 per person



Scan to Complete Registration Form

**Questions:**

- Contact Rev. Marian Boyle-Rohloff by phone at 920-499-4433 or email [pastor@wsmoraviangb.org](mailto:pastor@wsmoraviangb.org)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 15**

**Keynote Speaker:**  
 Pardeep Singh Kaleka

• Author of "The Gift of Our Wounds" • Co-Director, Not In Our Town • De-radicalization Specialist with Parents4Peace • Columnist with Milwaukee Independent • Trauma Clinician • Adjunct Professor of Peace Studies UWM

longtime Moravian Missionary Rick Nelson, of Dan Nelson who is currently serving as associate pastor at Friedberg Moravian Church in North Carolina, and of Christine Stack who previously had served as pastor of Rudolph and Kellner Moravian Church in central Wisconsin. He is also survived by another sister, Mary Nelson Sloan of Hart, Michigan.

Please keep David's children Valerie Nelson Smith, Stephanie Nelson, and Scott Nelson as well as their significant others and children in your prayers. A private family graveside service will be held."

**Sr. Esther Glas** passed away July 1<sup>st</sup> surrounded by her family, after a brief illness. Esther was the long-time Administrative Assistant at the Western District Office, first in Madison, and later in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Please keep Esther's husband Ray, their children and extended family in your prayers at this time.



### *Pastor & Spouse Birthdays*

July 1	Janet Wetzel
July 9	Paul Graf
July 12	Valeria Johnston
July 12	Amy Behrend
July 16	Thomas Luhman
July 22	Beth Rohn-Habegger
July 28	Dawn Volpe
July 31	Judy Ganz

### *Ordination Anniversaries*

July 3	James Johnston (57 years)
July 13	Harvey Prochnau (52 years)
July 16	Beth Rohn-Habegger (22 years)
July 17	Mike Eder (12 years)
July 21	Dawn Volpe (38 years)
July 21	Andy Kilps (16 years)
July 30	Bob Smith (62 years)

### *Our Prayer Concerns*

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of **David Nelson**, brother to Bruce Nelson.

Bruce writes, "Lieutenant Commander David E. Nelson, 80 years old of Chesapeake, Virginia, oldest brother of Western District President Bruce Nelson passed away on Tuesday, July 04 in Virginia. He is also the brother of

### **Crossroads Info Session by Zoom on Sat. Aug 5 at 10 a.m.**

Learn more about the Crossroads Lay Leadership Program at Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem PA.

Our classes are always on Zoom and in person - your choice. But our Info Session will only be on Zoom! For more information and to get the Zoom link, connect with Jill Peters at [petersj2@moravian.edu](mailto:petersj2@moravian.edu). We will talk about upcoming courses and what to expect from attending a course. Bring all of your questions to this Zoom event and you might be surprised by the answers!

### **Crossroads 2023 Fall Schedule:**

We are offering Unpacking the Scriptures: Teaching on Monday nights starting Sept 11th and Compass on Thursday nights starting Sept 7th. Compass is a great place to start - build your skills in writing, research, and presenting - and at the same time explore your sense of call. Special: If you want to take both of these courses but feel that it might be too much, we can get you started this summer with the readings and a jump on the assignments. If that sounds good to you, contact Jill Peters at [petersj2@moravian.edu](mailto:petersj2@moravian.edu) and after you have registered for both courses, she will forward syllabi and instructions to you. It is very manageable.