

WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the
Moravian Church,
Western District
September 2023

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Bruce's Babblings

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I can't quite believe it is already September. September is often a month for change. Students and teachers are back in school. In some areas, school started already in August but pretty much everyone is back in school by September. For some this is the first time in college, the first time in high school, the first time in middle school, the first time in Kindergarten, or the first time having our children or grandchildren at pre-school/daycare.

This is also a time when programming returns for many of our churches. Things like Sunday school, youth activities, Bible studies, and other activities that took the summer off are back to being in session.

The older I get the quicker it seems that summer seems to go. There were things that I had hoped to do this summer and some of them I can still do but some of them are strictly summer activities that will need to wait until next year.

The more I think about it, the more I realize that time is finite. We only have a certain amount of time to get things done. We only have a certain amount of time to make a difference. We only have a certain amount of time to affirm the people who do so much for us. We only have a certain amount of time to say the tough words that are difficult to deliver and to receive but will ultimately help those whom we say them to.

As the programming at our churches increases, I encourage you to take the opportunities to become involved in the ministries in your local context. I encourage you to take the moment to thank your children's or grandchildren's Sunday school teachers. I encourage you to say thank you to the youth leaders, the musicians, your pastor, and all of the people who are doing ministry at your church.

I look forward to hearing stories and seeing pictures of the wonderful ministries going on within our districts in the month of September and beyond.

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

On behalf of the Western District Executive Board

Save the Date

The next Western District Synod will take place April 25-28, 2024 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. It is not too early to be thinking and praying about our next District Synod. It will be the first time we will be together in person as a District for Synod in 8 years.

Personnel Update

It was announced recently that Brother James Heroux has accepted the call to serve the Glenwood Moravian Community Church. James' last Sunday at Freedom Moravian will be Sunday, October 22 and his first day at Glenwood will be Monday, November 06. James will be installed at Glenwood on November 12. Please keep the Glenwood and Freedom congregations in your prayers as well as James and Allie during this time of transition.

Consecrations

The Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America, held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, June 22-25, 2023, elected Br. Michael Johnson and Sr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman as bishops of the Unity.

The consecration for Br. Michael Johnson has been scheduled for October 1, 2023, 4:00 p.m. at John Hus Moravian Church, Brooklyn, NY.

The consecration for Sr. Amy Gohdes Luhman has been scheduled for November 5, 4:00 p.m. at Waconia Moravian Church, Waconia, MN.



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Blessings Flow in La Mosquitia

Waterborne illnesses are a persistent issue in many of our global partner areas, due to contamination of local water sources. In some areas, like La Mosquitia, this issue has been exacerbated by a recent increase of heavy rains and flooding. The Board of World Mission, in collaboration with a clean water organization called One Atta Time, is seeking to address the need for clean drinking water through our new Blessings Flow project, which was launched this spring in the Honduran villages of Tumtum Tara and Warunta.

The first step of the intervention in each community is to take an initial census of the population, assess water quality and determine the prevalence of waterborne illnesses. (In Tumtum Tara, 100% of families reported symptoms of waterborne illness within the past two weeks). We then offer a clinic to address any existing waterborne illnesses, before distributing water filters to each household and training community members on how to use the filters effectively. Finally, we conduct a post-intervention assessment of the project.

This project is particularly meaningful because, in an area where the church has been divided for nearly 25 years, this effort is intentionally led in collaboration with both sets of leadership of the Moravian Church in Honduras. They are working together to provide life-giving water to EVERY family in these communities, no matter what their connection is to the Moravian Church.

We are extremely grateful to MMFA for walking alongside the Blessings Flow project through a generous grant of \$25,000 and to our senior high campers at Mt. Morris, Tar Hollow, and Camp Hope for assembling 750 water filters, which are now ready for distribution in Honduras. Several congregations will also be assembling water filters during this year's Moravian Day of Service. This effort is truly made possible through the joint efforts of Moravians worldwide. Thank you!

Church Anniversaries

Sept. 10	Daggett	112 years
Sept. 11	Watertown	169 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

Sept. 13	Marian Boyle-Rohloff
Sept. 21	Rita Andersen
Sept. 22	Jason Andersen
Sept. 27	Sharon Benson
Sept. 27	Peg Chamberlin

Ordination Anniversaries

Sept. 5	Peg Chamberlin (41 years)
Sept. 6	Christie Melby-Gibbons (14 years)
Sept. 7	Vicki Jens-Page (15 years)
Sept. 10	Olaf Andersen (56 years)
Sept. 12	David Glasser (41 years)
Sept. 15	Barry Lehman (48 years)
Sept. 24	Jane Gehler (17 years)
Sept. 29	Sharon Benson (26 years)

Northern Province Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors

Please pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Canadian District: The following congregation is not in the call process but is currently without a pastor:
Heimtal Church in Edmonton, Alberta.

Eastern District:

- Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
- Calvary, Allentown, PA
- Covenant, York, PA
- Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor City, NJ
- First York, York, PA
- First New York, NY
- Schoeneck, Nazareth, PA
- Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY
- Trinity, New Carrollton, MD

Western District:

Freedom Moravian Church in Appleton, Wisconsin
Daggett Moravian Church in Daggett, Michigan is not in the call process but is currently without a pastor.

Grace Moravian in Westland, Michigan voted recently to conclude their ministry in Westland. Their final worship celebration will be held on Sunday, September 10.



Spotlight on Stewardship

Thriving ministries pay attention to these four critical areas of stewardship:

- **Theology (What does the Bible say about stewardship?)**
- **Leadership**
- **Mission and vision**
- **Year-round action**

If your church is ready to look at its [steward formation](#) efforts with fresh eyes, let MMFA help. Together we'll identify:

- Short term goals you'd like to achieve
- Long term changes you hope to see
- Steps to accomplish both

Contact [Laura Watson](#), Vice President/Director of Programs, to get started today! (336.725.2589 or lwatson@mmfa.com)



New From IBOC

Get ready for back-to-school with this stylish new tote. Carry your laptop, Sunday School projects, and much more, all while showing your Moravian pride. This tote has an outside slip pocket that allows for easy access to keys and cell phone, with special pockets for pen and business cards. Two side pockets hold water bottles without damaging inside items. Reinforced shoulder straps make this sturdy tote a must. Royal Blue/Black size 17"W x 14"H x 5"D. \$18.95.

Order online at store.moravian.org or call Jill at 1-800-732-0591, ext. 703.



Unpacking the Scriptures:

Teaching with Rev. Roberta Kearney, Monday nights 9/11 - 10/30/2023 from 6-9 p.m. This course covers teaching through the various ages and stages including how to give a Children's Sermon.

Compass - Thursday nights 9/7 - 10/26/2023 from 6-9 p.m. Participants in this course will explore their sense of call while brushing up on basic communication skills that leaders need including writing, researching, and presenting. Taught by several instructors.

All courses are taught in person at Moravian Theological Seminary or on Zoom. Participant's choice. Go to our website for more information or to register. www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads