

WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the
Moravian Church,
Western District
October 2023

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Bruce's Babblings

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:



Where did summer go? I am not sure where it went. I realize that people (including myself) seem to say this frequently. However, for me this particular summer went extremely fast.

Officially fall or autumn began on September 23rd, but because of abnormally warm weather, we had July type of weather into the end of September.

Perhaps it is because as I get older, time seems to go more quickly. I don't believe I have ever had a summer that seemed to fly by like this one did. I look forward to autumn. I know many people think all things pumpkin are over-rated. I am not one of them. I like pumpkin. I like the colors of the fall leaves. I like the cooler air. I like watching post-season baseball. I like gearing up for college basketball.

But more than anything, I like reading about the activities of many of our churches and our ministries as the fall schedule gears up. I hope you are taking advantage of the opportunities that present themselves at your church.

What is your favorite thing about autumn?

*Blessings,
Rev. Bruce J. Nelson*

Consecration

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

Focus on Missions

You Belong and the Southern Wisconsin Moravians for Mission invites you to come to the London Moravian Church, located at N5610 County Road O outside of Cambridge, on Sunday, October 15th at 2 p.m. to hear Pastor Greg Behrend.

Pastor Behrend will talk about the wonderful things happening at the You Belong faith community in beautiful Green Bay. Pastor Behrend looks at new ways to worship and bring people of all abilities into an inclusive way of worship and fellowship and he promotes the feeling that you belong, we all belong. Pastor Behrend is so very blessed and is a blessing to many. Come and invite a friend or neighbor.

There will be light refreshments following Pastor Behrend's presentation.

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.



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Unity Synod, the constitutional body of the Unitas Fratrum, convenes representatives from all Provinces and Mission Provinces every seven years to make decisions about the worship, witness, and work of the Worldwide Moravian Church. This gathering took place in Cape Town, South Africa, from September 4-10, 2023.

One Synod action that was particularly noteworthy as it relates to the work of the Board of World Mission was the approval of Brazil and Bolivia as Prospective Mission Areas. The BWM has walked with both of these areas in their initial discernment process as they explored the idea of joining the Moravian Unity and we look forward to their continued mission and ministry.

Additionally, the Unity Mission Agreement written at the 2017 Unity Mission Conference was officially accepted by the Synod and will be included in the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF), which is the Book of Order for the Unity as a whole. This agreement helps us understand our call to mission as a church in a globalized world.

More generally, resolutions were adopted to direct the future work of the church in our collective goals to confront climate change and to understand the historical complicity of the Moravian Church in the institution of slavery and work toward racial justice.

Church Anniversaries

Oct. 6	London	134 years
Oct. 23	Canaan	142 years
Oct. 31	Lake Auburn	165 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

Oct. 3	Carol Jones
Oct. 16	Jane Harberg
Oct. 16	Dave Sobek
Oct. 21	Jane Graf
Oct. 21	Scott Wheeler
Oct. 22	Paul Moran

Ordination Anniversary

Oct. 18 Marian Boyle Rohloff 21 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.

Spotlight on Stewardship

Improved Technology Coming Soon to MMFA
by Chris Spaugh

Technology changes are coming to MMFA. In late October we are converting to a new system called [CommunitySuite](#) by the technology firm Foundant. For years we have needed one system that fully integrates the ministry work of MMFA and now we have that solution. This new system will integrate our accounting with the Giving Portal. It will also enable us to both track communications with Moravians while performing the complex accounting required by the [Common Fund](#), and to take online grant applications starting in 2024.

Please [click here](#) to continue reading.