

# WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the  
Moravian Church,  
Western District  
November 2023

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## *Bruce's Babblings*

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We find ourselves in the month of November. Where I live that means shorter days and cooler temperatures and the possibility of snow. It means pumpkins and falling leaves, and sweaters and flannels. More important to me is the fact that it is the month that contains the holiday we call Thanksgiving.

I'm not sure that I can continue to get excited about reliving and glamorizing the first Thanksgiving when I realize how the people who at first had settled this land were treated. It is more than just unfortunate that our forebears treated them the way they did.

When I think of Thanksgiving, I don't think as much of the historical aspect. I think more of the idea of setting aside time to be thankful or grateful. I have said for years that I believe we ought to live as though it is Thanksgiving day every day of the year. That doesn't mean that I think we ought to eat Turkey and pumpkin pie or watch parades and NFL football. It means I think we ought to have an attitude of gratitude every day of the year.

It is easy to be thankful when things are going swimmingly. I find myself being grateful when I get to spend time with my grandchildren (especially when they aren't cranky – most of the time they aren't cranky). It is easy to be thankful when I get to see an old friend from high school and we pick up right where we left off even if it has been a few years.

It is more difficult to be thankful when things aren't going so well. I recently got both a flu and a covid booster vaccine. There is NOBODY who despises

shots more than I do. I didn't immediately break into songs of thanksgiving and wonderful praises as the needles were being put into my arm. But, as I reflect upon this, I am thankful that I was able to get two free immunizations and that as a result of those immunizations I should be healthier as the weather turns even colder.

Recently I did something that I do annually. I went to eat at the Cheesecake Factory and had a slice of pumpkin pecan cheesecake. I love lots of things pumpkin. Please don't hate on me. I like them all times of the year but it is difficult to find some of them anytime other than in autumn. The Cheesecake Factory is a little more pricey than many of the restaurants that I normally go to. I rarely go more than one or two times per year. I am thankful that I am able to go and to enjoy something that I should not have more than a few times a year.

However, here is the rest of the story goes. The very first time I ever went to The Cheesecake Factory I was there with a family member who was wheelchair bound at the time. There was no guarantee that this family member would not be wheelchair bound for the rest of their life. This was an outing to figure out how to navigate going out to a restaurant in a wheelchair. I had never heard of The Cheesecake Factory before and had it not been for this situation where a family member had to go there to figure out how to navigate in a wheel chair I maybe never would have gone there.

It was a situation that I was not immediately thankful or grateful for. Today I am very grateful that I discovered The Cheesecake Factory. Sometimes those events in life that don't seem to be so lovely and wonderful, can be very meaningful when we have a chance to look back on them and realize what has grown out of that experience.

This is the month of Thanksgiving. I encourage you to be thankful every day, not just on Thursday in November. I especially encourage you to look back on past experiences that may not have been so joyful but that you can now in the rear view mirror be thankful for.

Gratefully,  
**Rev. Bruce J. Nelson**

### ***Church Anniversary***

Nov. 17                      Green Bay West Side      173 years

### ***Clergy & Spouse Birthdays***

Nov. 3	Kerry Krauss
Nov. 6	Amy Andersen
Nov. 8	Gary Straughan
Nov. 9	Thomas Christianson
Nov. 10	Diane Lee
Nov. 12	Vicki Jens Page
Nov. 14	Hermann Weinlick
Nov. 19	Katie Van Der Linden
Nov. 23	Reid Lauderman
Nov. 28	Judy Bergmann
Nov. 30	Jane Gehler

### ***Ordination Anniversaries***

Nov. 18	Jim Hilander	72 years
Nov. 21	Mary Lou Plummer	19 years
Nov. 23	Jim Hicks	43 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.

## **YOU BELONG**



### ***An Invitation***

Western District Moravians -- you are invited to join the Board of World Mission and You Belong for an open house and end-of-year workshop. We will be providing a variety of service opportunities along with the chance to learn about and explore You Belong! Dinner, Christmas music, and fun will be provided. Please contact Sylvie Hauser ([sylvie@moravianmission.org](mailto:sylvie@moravianmission.org)) with any questions or to RSVP.

Where: You Belong - 2960 Allied St.  
Green Bay, WI

When: Thursday, November 30th –  
3:00pm - 8:00pm

3:00 - 6:00pm -- Stop in anytime to explore You Belong's new Adventure Zone and help out with a variety of Board of World Mission and You Belong projects, including end-of-year mailings, water filter assembly, and more.

6:00 - 8:00pm -- Stay to experience You Belong's weekly Better Together gatherings. This week they will be wrapping presents for children in need!

### ***Save the Date***

The next Western District Synod will take place April 25-28, 2024 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. In some of the emails sent out last month, an incorrect date of April 25-27, 2024 was listed. Please accept my apologies for this error. -Karen