

# WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the  
Moravian Church,  
Western District  
November 2021

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## *Bruce's Babblings*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I greet you today from Unionville, Michigan where I am preaching a couple of times, doing some home visits, and meeting with the Unionville Joint Board as they continue in the call process.

I find it hard to believe that we are already in the month of November. The calendar year is already more than 80% behind us. We have already celebrated Halloween. Many of us have put our summer clothes away and have replaced them in our closet with fall and winter clothing. I have actually seen a snowflake or two in the past few days. We are beginning to see Christmas decorations in some of the stores. I like the Christmas holidays and the decorations and the music that comes with the season but my favorite holiday is Thanksgiving.

I used to like Thanksgiving because of parades and football and pumpkin pie. I still like some of those things but they are not the main reason that Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It is my favorite holiday because I believe we ought to be thankful. I believe we ought to practice giving thanks each and every day. To me, one day of giving thanks seems so insufficient for all of the ways that we have been blessed.

Now, as I write this I am aware that there are many who are struggling. COVID 19 continues to be a challenge for many. Some of us have lost loved ones. Some of us know of family members or friends that are suffering long-term effects of a battle with COVID. Still others have had their work significantly affected by the pandemic. If that has been your experience, I am sorry that you have had to deal with that.

In spite of the challenges, God continues to walk with us and bless us and help to care for us. As we continue our

journey toward Christmas, don't forget to give thanks! Don't forget how much you have been blessed.

Thankfully yours,  
Rev. Bruce J. Nelson

## *Grant for Lay Ministry*

The Western District has received a generous bequest from the family of Rt. Rev. Wil and Ruth Behrend. With some of this gift, your Western District Board has developed the **Behrend Memorial Grant for Lay Ministry**. We are encouraging churches to write requesting a grant for \$1,000 per congregation for use with an ongoing or a new **lay-led** ministry.

This grant is open to any congregation or emerging ministry in the Western District and the grant money will be distributed after the local congregation or emerging ministry has filled out the grant application and any other requested materials. Grant application forms have been sent to all congregations and emerging ministries in the Western District. Completed application forms should be sent directly to District President Bruce Nelson either via email ([bruce@mcnp.org](mailto:bruce@mcnp.org)) or via snail mail at: Rev. Bruce J. Nelson, 221 East Mills Drive, Lake Mills WI, 53551.

## *Church Anniversary*

Nov. 17                      Green Bay West Side      171 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	70 years
Nov. 21	Mary Lou Plummer	17 years
Nov. 23	Jim Hicks	41 years

## *The Call Process*

Please hold the **West Salem Moravian, Our Savior's Moravian and the Unionville Moravian** congregations in your prayers as they continue in the call process.

The District Board continues to be grateful for the leadership of the Joint Board at **Grace Moravian** as they continue to lead their congregation.

## *Prayer Concerns*

Jane Harberg has requested prayers for her 16 year-old grandson, Levi who had reconstructive surgery on his leg. This surgery occurred after a year-long bout of chemotherapy for Ewing's Sarcoma. Please keep his parents Susan and Chris in your prayers as well during this time of recovery.

Please continue to be in prayer for Carita Nelson, the 103 year-old mother of Bruce Nelson. Carita, who lives in Sturgeon Bay was hospitalized after falling and breaking her hip and is recovering from surgery. Please also continue to prayer for Bruce and his siblings as they care for their Mom through this time of recovery.

## *Annual Reports*

The 2021 Annual Report Forms have been sent out to church offices. The Annual Report Forms are also available in the Public Documents section of the Portal and can be found in the Current Communications folder. There have been changes to the forms again this year, so please do not use a previous year's form that you may have saved to your computer.

As always, if you have any questions or need assistance with any portion of the report, please contact me. It has been my pleasure to work with you over the years.

*Blessings,  
Gloria Reisinger*

## YOU BELONG



Part of the vision of You Belong is to be a resource to help all of us think more deeply about accessibility and inclusion. We are working to help make all aspects of our community universally accessible.

As a church, asking the question - "What can we do to help everyone have access to the good news of Jesus and feel included in our family of faith?" is a great place to start.

Several churches are already doing a great job of thinking about inclusion and accessibility, but we can always do more. Whether your church has thought long and hard about these things, or if your church hasn't yet considered them, our team at You Belong wants to help. We can provide some basic resources for you and your congregation to help you start the process towards universal accessibility. Our team would also be happy to perform an inclusion and accessibility assessment for your congregation. This assessment will help highlight your strengths and uncover where your areas of opportunity are. We hope this process will help you think creatively and thoughtfully about how you can create a sense of belonging for people of diverse abilities.

To receive our universal accessibility resources or to set up an assessment email us at [info@youbelongwi.org](mailto:info@youbelongwi.org) or call/text Pastor Greg at 920-522-3580.

## *Greetings from Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center!!*

It's been quite a while since I have sent out an update - so today seemed like a good time to change that! The main reason we have been quiet on social media and via emails is because we have been SO BUSY around here!

Following an awesome summer season which included a fantastic Family Camp weekend and the return of our Moravian Summer Youth Camp programs, we launched into the busiest two-month stretch of guests since well before the pandemic began.

It's been a whirlwind of serving groups, making meals, cleaning, and resetting facilities just in time for the next groups to arrive! Are we complaining? No, we are not! It's been a joy and pleasure to have a lot of people enjoying our camp and being able to relax in the presence of God and each other.

### **Summer Camps**

As mentioned above, the Western District Youth Summer Camp programs were back at Mt. Morris in 2021! It was fantastic to have music and laughter in the air once again! The camp directors and staff did a great job of creating and maintaining Covid-19 protocols to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. The weather also cooperated (for the most part) and having the campers here was a huge blessing for all of us. As is always the case with summer camps - God was praised and many lives were changed!

### **New Building Project**

Yes, we are still working towards getting our new facility built. Like you, I too thought that construction would be underway by now, but some unforeseen delays have slowed things up a bit. Our Building Committee is committed to making sure that the building details and mechanical systems are what will be needed and required. Of course, asking for, receiving, reviewing, and making changes to all these plans takes time. But, in the end, we will be getting the best possible building we can afford that will best serve our needs. This committee has spent countless hours working on this project and I am extremely thankful for their commitment, energy, thoughtfulness, and expertise. We **thank you** for your support, your interest, and your patience as we continue to move the project forward. There has been a LOT of progress made behind the scenes. We will update all of you as soon as we know when construction will begin!

### **What's coming up!?**

Family Camp is BACK in 2022! Details will be available early in 2022 as we will once again be hosting

our Family Fun Weekend from June 3-5. We will also be hosting a Worship Leaders Retreat and a Golf Fundraiser in 2022. Details will be made available as soon as they are completed.

The camp calendar is quickly filling up for 2022. If you, your family, your church or organization are interested in hosting an event at Mt. Morris in 2022, please contact us ASAP as space is limited and going fast!

We will continue to host families in our awesome cabins for winter weekend getaways. If you're planning a weekend at Nordic Mountain or any other area attraction - stay with us!! Contact the office for more details.

### **Camp Sunday!**

If your congregation is interested in having Dan visit your congregation to share updates, information, and fun stuff from Mt. Morris, please contact the office by phone, or email Dan at [dan@mt-morris.org](mailto:dan@mt-morris.org)

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement as the ministry at Mt. Morris Camp continues. We appreciate all the ways you make this ministry possible!!

*May God's Blessings be upon you today!*

*Dan Scharnhorst  
Executive Director*



Crossroads is pleased to offer the following courses. All courses are offered in person at Moravian Theological Seminary and online, real time through Zoom. Registration and more information is available at [www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads). Contact Dr. Jill Peters at [petersj2@moravian.edu](mailto:petersj2@moravian.edu) with any questions.

Looking ahead:

*Missional Leadership*, Mondays 1/3 - 2/21/2022 Dr. Jill Peters

*Road Hazards* (Congregational Ethics), Thurs 1/6 - 2/24/2022 Rev. Derek French & Dr. Jill Peters

*Story of Christianity*, Mondays 3/7 - 5/2/2022 (Except Holy Week 4/11) Rev. Dr. Bill Falla

*My Journey* (Formative Spirituality) Thursdays 3/10 - 5/5/2022 (Except Holy Week 4/14) Rev. Maggie Wellert

