**WD News & Notes**

The Newsletter of the Moravian Church,

Western District

**February 2022**

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Bruce’s Babblings

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

February greetings to you! I find it hard to believe that January is already passed us. On some days it seems like the days go by so fast and at other times they seem to drag. I have found myself, like many of the rest of you, in sort of a holding pattern. I make plans to go somewhere or do something and then find out that the Covid numbers are not conducive to being out and amongst lots of people.

I have heard some people say that we have “decision fatigue” associated with having to make decisions concerning the Corona virus. We are all trying to make the best decisions for ourselves and those we love. Often those decisions mean being flexible because a decision made several months ago might not be the best decision today. Those decisions include things like should we go on that vacation that we had planned, should we have worship indoors, should we take precautions during our worship service, should we have online only worship services? There is no easy answer to these questions. We need to do what is the safest for all people involved. That safety includes things like mental and physical health.

Please know that as our congregation’s boards are making these difficult decisions, your district board is praying for you. I would be less than honest if I didn’t also say that part of my prayers are that we will not have to continue to have to make these types of decision.

Serving Christ with you,

*Rev. Bruce J. Nelson*

On behalf of the Western District Executive Board

District Clergy/Staff Meeting Put on Hold

As District President, Bruce Nelson has traveled around the District, he had shared informally with some of the pastors a desire of the District Board to get all of the pastors together for a clergy/staff meeting in the spring of 2022. After careful thought and reflection, the WDEB has decided to NOT hold this meeting in 2022. Rather, we are looking at a Western District clergy/staff meeting in the spring (hopefully sometime in May) of 2023. As we firm up plans for this event we will let our clergy know. Thank you for your patience with this.

Church Anniversaries

Feb. 2 Bethel 131 years

Feb. 3 Morongo 65 years

Feb. 13 Unionville 151 years

Ordination Anniversaries

Feb. 15 Jane Harberg 30 years

Feb. 26 Kurt Liebenow 27 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

Feb. 19 Amy Gohdes-Luhman

Feb. 26 Olaf Andersen

Prayer Concern

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Winnie Michel, who passed away January 13, in Chaska, Minnesota. Winnie is the widow of Rev. Dick Michel and mother to retired pastor Sharon Benson and grandmother to Jenny Moran, Chaplain at Auburn Homes in Chaska. Winnie was blessed with a family full of love. We offer our prayers of comfort and grace to the family at this time

The Call Process

Please hold the **West Salem Moravian, Our Savior’s Moravian, Unionville Moravian, and Canaan Moravian** congregations inyour 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.

Part of our vision at You Belong is to help all faithful followers think more deeply about inclusion and accessibility. We are committed to helping provide resources and learn with others as we work together to help build a more accessible world. Attached with this newsletter are three different resources that we hope individuals, groups, and churches use to help them on their own journey towards building a more universally accessible church. If you would like to learn more about ways to be universally accessible or to ask for additional support please reach out to our You Belong team at info@youbelongwi.org. To find more resources and support you can also check out our website [youbelongwi.org](http://youbelongwi.org/)

**Resources attached:**

**Building A Universally Accessible World For Churches -** This resource is geared to help churches and small groups begin the journey of making their church and church building more accessible. It offers a self assessment tool and some great starting questions. This is great for boards, small groups, teams, or committees that want to improve their accessibility.

**Sensory Room Guide** - For those interested in including a sensory room/space in their building, this is a simple starter guide to help groups consider how they might approach this important task.

**5 Stages of Disability Awareness** - This is a resource provided by the ELIM Christian Services and Dan Vander Plaats. It helps faith communities reflect on their own attitude toward individuals living with disabilities and provides ideas on how to move towards a more engaging and inclusive image of church.



Throughout 2022, the Board of World Mission will be hosting a series of virtual conversations and written trainings for our Spanish-speaking partners, culminating in an in-person conference called Conferencia de Recursos Moravos (Moravian Resources Conference). The goal of this project is to provide participants with Moravian resources in their own language as well as to network with one another, share experiences, and strengthen our Christian relationships. The Board of World Mission is collaborating with the Unity in bringing key topics of discussion to the conference, such as the Book of Order, the role of Bishops, the Covenant for Christian Living, and more.

Each province and mission area participating in this program (Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Cuba, and the Ahuas Clinic) will be represented by church leaders who are familiar with their area’s structure, ministries, and finances.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated as our planning committee and speakers continue to coordinate this project. We also invite prayers for each of the partners mentioned above as they begin preparations for their participation in the conference. The Moravian Churches in Cuba and Costa Rica appreciate your prayers for their upcoming Synods, as well. May God continue to bless the worldwide Moravian Church in our individual and joint efforts to do His will.



Upcoming Crossroads Courses:

**STORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

Mondays 6-9 pm March 7 - May 2, 2022 (except Holy Week 4/11)

Instructor: Rev. Dr. William Falla

In-person instruction (tentative), as well as real-time distance learning via Zoom

Price $240 Learn More & Register

**MY JOURNEY/OUR JOURNEY**

Thursdays 6-9 pm March 10 - May 5, 2022 (except Holy Week 4/14) Instructor: Rev. Maggie Wellert

In-person instruction (tentative), as well as real-time distance learning via Zoom

Price $240 Learn More & Register

IBOC February Specials

**Moravian Daily Texts Sale**

The 2022 Moravian Daily Texts are now 20% off! Paperback Ed. $11.50 SALE $9.20; Large Print Ed. $14.00 SALE $11.20; Hardcover Ed. $16.00 SALE $12.80; Journal Ed. $17.00 SALE $13.60.

**Readings for Holy Week Special Bundles**

Experience the story at home or in your small group with these special Readings for Holy Week book and CD sets: Audio CDs and Large Print Edition Set: $30.00 (save $6.90) Audio CDs and Music Edition Set: $32.00 (save $6.90)

**Readings for Holy Week Print Editions:** Special pricing: Large Print Ed. $11.95 SALE $7.50; Music Print Ed. $13.95 SALE $10.50 Readings for Holy Week Audio Edition: This 5-CD set brings Readings for Holy Week alive with complete texts and hymns, ideal for use by small groups and congregations. Also makes a great gift for those who may not be able to attend local services because of distance, infirmity, conflicts in schedule, etc. $24.95

Don’t forget the IBOC carries a wide variety of music CD’s like Sing Hallelujah, performed and recorded by the choirs of Schoeneck Moravian Church $16.00; Osterkantate/Easter Cantata CD $16.00; and Church, Rejoice by the Moravian Lower Brass $16.00.

Log onto the website to see more. To order, visit store.moravian.org: call Jill Bruckart at 800.732.0591 ext. 703 or email jill@mcnp

Mid-Epiphany Services

To help break us out of these mid-winter blahs, we’re offering a special online “Mid-Epiphany” service series on Feb. 2 and Feb 9 at 7:30 p.m. EST. These services will feature discussion and study of the Epiphany season through a celebration of the Moravian Liturgy for Epiphany.

We’ll also look at this season in the context of two movies – the classic “Groundhog Day” and a more recent film, “The Map of Perfect Little Things.” Both of these films deal with the same day occurring over and over again, and the impact that has on the protagonists. How does the repetition in these two stories speak to life in this long season of Epiphany?

Services will be hosted via Zoom. Each will begin with a celebration of the Liturgy for Epiphany (Moravian Book of Worship pp. 65-71), followed by small group discussions that dig deeper into the meaning of the season. Participants will then come back together to discuss the stories in the films and have opportunities to share thoughts on how these stories relate to the season of Epiphany.

The Wednesday, Feb. 2 service, led by the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber, will discuss “Groundhog Day” and the Feb. 9 service, led by the Rev. Jennika Borger, will discuss “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things.”

The Mid-Epiphany service series is presented by an interprovincial team from the Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Music Foundation, Interprovincial Board of Communication, Southern Province Commission on Congregational Development and local congregations.

To prepare for these services, we invite you to seek out and watch these films. “Groundhog Day,” starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell, can be streamed on Starz via Amazon Prime Video; “The Map of Tiny Perfect Things” is also available to watch via Amazon Prime Video. For links to clips and the Zoom Information visit: https://www.moravian.org/2022/01/join-us-for-mid-epiphany-service-series-feb-2-and-9

An Invitation from the Emerging

Ministries Team

Join the Emerging Ministries Team, of the Moravian Church Northern Province, for an empowering virtual event.

Emerge 2022 with the theme, Going Beyond In-House Ministries, is designed to journey with you in your ministry endeavors even after the event is over. No matter where you are in your journey, we will help you discern where God is leading you.

You will learn skills and be given tools to grow an existing ministry, start a new ministry, or start a new church plant. You will also be a part of a team that will do periodic check-ins to ensure progress, provide feedback, and give encouragement.

Emerge 2022, Saturday, February 19, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Call-in options will be made available.

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8562978 5453?pwd=aWM3WlRPYitySXBsUHpVdUxlOUVaUT09 Meeting ID: 856 2978 5453 Passcode: 968020 Call in options will be available.



## Register for Mid-Winter 2022

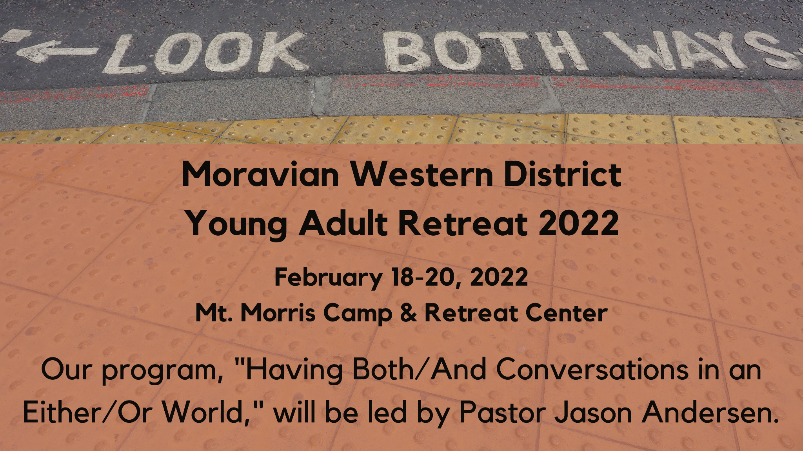
Welcome back to Mid-Winter in person! \*masks will be required\* Marion Boyle Rohloff will be leading us in program, "Come to the Table".

When: February 4th - 6th, 2022

Who can attend: Youth in 9th grade - Age of 21

Where: Waconia, Minnesota

Registration: TBD, Cost $45



Western District young adults (ages 18-30ish) are invited to spend the weekend of February 18-20, 2022 at Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center to learn and fellowship together. Program will be led by Pastor Jason Andersen and will explore how to have Christ-like attitudes and mindsets when we interact with people with whom we disagree. The weekend will also include outdoor activities, games, conversation, and more.

The cost of this year’s event is $50, $75, or $100 (pay what you can), which includes all food and lodging. Please email sylviachauser@gmail.com to receive the registration link or to learn more about the retreat.

# Family Camp

Director: Dan Scharnhorst, [dan@mt-morris.org](mailto:dan@mt-morris.org)

**When**: June 3rd - 5th **Where:** Mt. Morris Camp, W6016 Blackhawk Rd, Wautoma, WI 54982

# Junior Camp

Director: James Heroux, [jhero274@gmail.com](mailto:jhero274@gmail.com)

**When**: July 31 - Aug 4 **Where:** Mt. Morris Camp, W6016 Blackhawk Rd, Wautoma, WI 54982 **Campers Invited**: Completed 2nd grade - 5th grade  
**Cost:** Our camps are heavily subsidized thanks to gifts from past donors to the District Camping Fund. After these subsidies, cost of Junior Camp is **$200 with a $35 registration fee.** Contact your local congregation to inquire about possible camp scholarships.

# Camp MINDYY

Director: Tiffani Glime, [tiffani@glime.us](mailto:tiffani@glime.us)

**When:** TBD **Where:** Luther Crest Bible Camp, 8231 County Road 11 NE Alexandria, MN, 56308 **Campers Invited:** Completed 2nd - 5th grade **Cost:** Our camps are heavily subsidized thanks to gifts from past donors to the District Camping Fund. After these subsidies, cost of MINDYY Camp is **$200 with a $35 registration fee.** Contact your local congregation to inquire about possible camp scholarships.

# Winmor

Director: Jordan Forbes, [fibs567@gmail.com](mailto:fibs567@gmail.com)

**When**: July 24th - 30th**Where:** Mt. Morris Camp, W6016 Blackhawk Rd, Wautoma, WI 54982 **Campers Invited**: Completed 6th - 8th grade**Cost:** Our camps are heavily subsidized thanks to gifts from past donors to the District Camping Fund. After these subsidies, cost of Winmor Camp is **$290 with a $35 registration fee.** Contact your local congregation to inquire about possible camp scholarships.

# Chetek

### **Directors: Jason Andersen,** [**pastor\_jason\_andersen@hotmail.com**](mailto:pastor_jason_andersen@hotmail.com)and

**Amy Andersen**, [smilesfromamy@yahoo.com](mailto:smilesfromamy@yahoo.com)   
**When**: July 17 - 23**Where:** Mt. Morris Camp, W6016 Blackhawk Rd, Wautoma, WI 54982 **Campers Invited**: Completed 9th grade - age 21**Cost:** Our camps are heavily subsidized thanks to gifts from past donors to the District Camping Fund. After these subsidies, cost of Chetek Camp is **$290 with a $35 registration fee.** Contact your local congregation to inquire about possible camp scholarships.

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We welcome 2022 with our second annual Moravian Day of Giving, which will be Tuesday, March 1 (also the anniversary of the beginning of the Unity of the Brethren, Shrove Tuesday, and Mardi Gras). Our sponsoring bishops this year are [The Rt. Rev. Blair Couch](https://mmfa.info/uncategorized/the-rt-rev-m-blair-couch/) and [The Rt. Rev. Carol Foltz](https://mmfa.info/uncategorized/the-rt-rev-carol-foltz/). Stay tuned for more information from them in the Moravian Magazine and social media.

We have two matching donors this year: Susan & [Herbert Spaugh, Jr.](https://mmfa.info/guest-blogger/extraordinary-tribute/) of Charlotte, NC will match dollar for dollar the first $25k given to any Field of Interest Fund through the [Giving Portal](https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/) on March 1. These grant-making funds include:

* Hunger & Thirst
* Housing & Shelter
* Healing & Health
* Clothing
* Prison Ministry
* Environmental Stewardship
* Prevention of Violence Against Women
* Racial Awareness, Equity, & Reconciliation

In addition, Vince Holbrook will match dollar for dollar the first $10k given to any Moravian Worship Community through the [Giving Portal](https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/) on March 1. These include: all Moravian congregations in the United States, fellowships, and emerging ministries listed in the Worship Community section.

### **2022 Goals**

In faith, we are increasing our goals for this year. While many continue to face illness and loss of income, some of our brothers and sisters are not in a position to give as they had planned or have decided not to give. And yet the need is great. Many of our neighbors rely upon Moravian ministry more than ever this year. If you have been blessed to be in a position to do so, and feel called by the Spirit, please consider a one-time gift above and beyond your pledge or tithe on March 1. Our goals are:

* 300 gifts in 2022 (last year, we received 200)
* $100,000 in 2022 gifts (last year, we received $80,000)
* 50 first-time donors (last year, there were 70 on the relatively new Giving Portal)

**mmfa.info/giving-portal/**

119 Brookstown Ave., Suite 305, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

[www.mmfa.info](http://www.mmfa.info) (336) 725-2589

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