**WD News & Notes**

The Newsletter of the Moravian Church,

Western District

**March 2022**

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Bruce’s Babblings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are coming up on my favorite time of the year. I love spring for so many reasons. I am happy to see and hear the signs of life. I love seeing grass that has not yet turned green but is trending toward that rather than being under a blanket of snow. I love seeing the buds on the trees and bushes. I love hearing birds that have flown back north. In fact as I am typing this, I just saw my first robin of the year.

I also like watching high school and college basketball. I particularly like end of season tournaments. If I could get away with it, I would watch most if not all of the games of “March Madness.” I also love to see major league baseball get back up and running, although this year baseball players and owners are in the midst of a lockout.

Perhaps the most important thing I like about spring is the season of Lent. There is no question that the season of Lent was the busiest season for me when I was serving in local parish ministry. It was sometimes during this season that confirmations of faith took place. Almost everywhere I served, we would have mid-week Lenten services, often with meals, in addition to the regularly scheduled weekend services. By time Easter rolled around I was often pretty tired. I’m not much of an afternoon nap kind of guy but I often took a nap on Easter Sunday afternoon.

This spring season may or may not be different from some of the previous springs. We have experienced Covid 19 and all of the challenges and opportunities that the pandemic brought to us over the past two springs. Will this spring be same with Covid or will things have changed? This spring may not be the same with the major league baseball season probably being adjusted.

We have come through a lot of adjustments over the past two years and if I am honest, not all of them have been fun. However, I have learned some things along the way.

I’ve learned some things about myself and learned some new ways to do some things.

I am not a prophet so I do not know what this spring will hold. And yet, I am quite certain it will bring some challenges, some difficulties as well as some opportunities and some blessings. I encourage you to look to where you can spot those blessings and opportunities.

Happy spring!

*Rev. Bruce J. Nelson*

On behalf of the Western District Executive Board

Glenwood Appointment

Sr. Jamie Almquist, an approved candidate for ordination in the Moravian Church, has accepted an appointment to serve part-time as Pastor of the Glenwood Moravian Church in Madison, Wisconsin. Jamie lives near Lake Mills, Wisconsin, has a Masters of Divinity from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO, and is completing ordination requirements at Moravian Theological Seminary. Jamie begins her appointment at Glenwood on February 28. Please keep Sr. Jamie, her family, and the Glenwood congregation in your prayers at this time.

Church Anniversary

March 28 Lakeview 67 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

March 1 Norma Christianson

March 2 Debbie Propsom

March 3 Joel Russell

March 4 James Hicks

March 10 Kathy Liebenow

March 11 David Glasser

March 13 Eric Renner

March 18 Frank Jones

March 18 Kurt Liebenow

March 19 Reeder Herrick

March 21 Barb Herrick

March 24 Andy Kilps

Prayer Concerns

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Br. Rich Thierolf, retired pastor living in North Carolina, and his wife Pam, on the death of Pam’s father Ron Holtmeier on February 14 in Waconia, Minnesota.

We invite your prayers for Br. Al Bergman, retired pastor living in Watertown, Wisconsin, who suffered a heart attack earlier. He was hospitalized, the medical staff inserted a stent, and he is now home recovering well. Please keep Al, his wife Judy, and the family in prayer.

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.



Friends of Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center

I hope that this email finds you well as we begin our Lenten journey toward Easter.

Things at Mt. Morris Camp are going great! We have been very busy hosting groups of all types and we are grateful for your continued support and prayers!

I want to make you aware of two upcoming events at Mt. Morris.

**May 6-8, 2022** - We are excited to announce that our **Men's Retreat** is back ON after being cancelled due to the pandemic. This will be a great weekend for Men (21 and over) to come to camp to relax, laugh, learn, grow and have a great time! Justin Rabbach from the Board of World Missions will be leading our program and discussions. We will have plenty of time to play golf, throw axes, grill steaks and enjoy all the gifts of Mt, Morris Camp.

**June 3-5, 2022 - Family Fun Weekend!** A great weekend of relaxing, having fun, and enjoying your family as well as new friends! The weekend schedule offers a lot of time for recreation, family time, and free time with plenty of planned activites.

Lastly, please keep Mt. Morris Camp in mind for your next "getaway"! Our cabins make a great place for families to relax and escape from the business of life. Call the office for availability!

Thank you again for your support and prayers!
God's Blessings to you!

*-Dan Scharnhorst
Executive Director*

# Junior Camp

Director: James Heroux, 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

**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

**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** and

**Amy Andersen**, 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 Contact your local congregation to inquire about possible camp scholarships.



As we move into this Lenten season, the Board of World Mission invites you to contemplate the role of Christian mission in the world. Jesus’s ministry focused on love and social justice, but what does that mean for us this year as we pray and prepare for Easter?

When we consider that Easter and Earth Day fall in the same week this year, a hymn comes to mind:

For the beauty of the earth,

For the glory of the skies;

For the love which from our birth,

Over and around us lies;

Lord of all, to Thee we raise

This, our hymn of grateful praise.\*

We spend Lent preparing ourselves for Good Friday through prayers of repentance. This year we are offered the opportunity to consider not only our daily actions as Christians, but our actions as created beings connected to God’s beautiful earth. Our mission to care for our neighbor remains the cornerstone of Christian love and action in the world. Perhaps this year we expand our definition of neighbor to include all the living beings and the earth on which all life depends. So this Lent, may we prayerfully consider how we can support missions to care for all our neighbors who live in the glory of God’s creation.

\**For The Beauty of The Earth*

by Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864

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

**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



Americans are anxious about their finances. There’s good news, though: God wants something better for us than fear and doubt. AND there’s an exciting program that your Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is partnering with this year to help. It’s time to get FreedUp!

*What is FreedUp?*

FreedUp is a financial stewardship training program that offers current resources to help guide and equip people of faith to manage money in healthier ways, through Biblical wisdom.

The app addresses all components of financial stewardship. Including: Earning, Giving, Saving, Spending and Debt.

*Who is FreedUp for?*

Everyone. For people in any financial situation, not only those in crisis. The app is three journeys in one, designed to meet each participant where they are.

After taking a short assessment, you will get a lane recommendation. Then you’ll choose which lane feels right for you.

*Am I on my own with FreedUp?*

No! Your Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is offering a virtual FreedUp course Tuesday evenings at 7 pm Eastern from April 19 through May 24. Complete each week’s content at your own pace and then join the group on Tuesday evenings for conversation and learning together.

• Without the accountability that a group provides, a lot

 of people won’t stick with the course.

 • Group discussions are another opportunity to learn.

You won’t have to share any personal financial details.

• Meet Moravians from all over! The spring virtual

course is open to anyone living in North

America.

*How much will it cost?*

MMFA is able and ready to help you take steps toward a healthier relationship with money. We have 100 codes for 2022, so the first 100 people who respond will be able to take FreedUp at no charge.

We are also offering FreedUp for small groups within communities of faith; our staff can lead each week, or we can train people from your congregation to lead.

Next Steps: Contact Laura Watson (336.725.2589 or lwatson@mmfa.info) for more information about FreedUp and to register for the spring class. Also, if you’d like more details about the 3 Lanes or what FreedUp looks like, be sure to read this post on our website.

Take steps today toward greater financial freedom and deepening the joy that comes from being one of God’s stewards. Get FreedUp.

IBOC Specials

**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

**Plush Lambs:** Now in stock in the IBOC store: 8” plush lamb and 4”little lamb ornament just in time for Easter baskets! Large lamb is $22.50; small lamb is $6.00.

To order, visit store.moravian.org: call Jill Bruckart at 800.732.0591 ext. 703 or email jill@mcnp

  

The Board of World Mission, together with the staff of Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center, invites volunteers to join together in preparation for their summer programs.

There is no cost to attend the service camp. Meals and lodging will be provided for the volunteers. More information will follow regarding project details.

Mt. Morris -- Wautoma, WI

Dates: May 13-18, 2022. Come for as many days as you are able!

Registration: Contact BWM Director of Mission Service, Jill Kolodziej, at jill@moravianmission.org or (920) 256-9472 by April 29th. Space is limited.

