**WD News & Notes**

The Newsletter of the Moravian Church,

Western District

**November 2022**

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Bruce’s Babblings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

By the time you read this, we will be in the month of November. I have already seen Christmas items in some of the stores. I, in fact, saw some Christmas stuff before Halloween. It was interesting to see Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas decorations all out at the same time.

November will mean a couple of things for me. First of all, it will mean an end to all of the political ads. Maybe I just have a selective memory, but I don’t believe I have ever seen as much mudslinging in political ads as I have seen this year. The other thing I have noticed with the political ads this year is that they sure do like to invoke fear. If we vote for “the opponent” we will no longer be safe. Both sides are saying this and are trying to play on our fears. This makes me very sad!!!

I have noticed, as I get older that there were many things that I took for granted in the past. I took for granted so many things that I don’t anymore. I took for granted things like family always being around, being healthy, being able to do the things that I could do when I was 30, and having time to do the things that I needed to do.

What I used to take for granted now makes me thankful. I am thankful for safe travel whenever I am able to do so. I am thankful for airline workers who often deal with crabby people who are traveling. The airline workers are doing the best that they can. I am thankful for clean hotel rooms and the workers who see to it that the rooms are clean. I am thankful for restaurant workers. I have noticed that most restaurants are short staffed and it would be easy to get frustrated with them but I am thankful for the workers who showed up and served me.

I have noticed this year that the fall colors have been gorgeous and I am thankful for the beauty that I have been able to enjoy in my travels. I am thankful for our pastors, our musicians, our joint board members and other leaders within our churches who continue to work to further the Kingdom.

As I get older I realize that there are so many things to be thankful for. I would encourage you during this month when we celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday to find, name, and thank God for one thing that you are thankful for every day this month. It does not need to be something big; it could even be something that you havetaken for granted in the past.

Serving Christ with you,

***Rev. Bruce J. Nelson***

Pastors, Save the Date

The Western District Clergy Retreat will be held at Mt. Morris from January 16-19. Pastors, we encourage you to attend this retreat. Lay members we would ask you to encourage your pastors to attend this event.  More information will be coming in the future.

Consecration

Brother James Heroux, pastor of the Freedom Moravian Church in Freedom, Wisconsin, will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 3 pm CT. Brother Paul Graf will be the consecrating bishop. James was ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on June 16, 2018. Consecration as Presbyter is the second order of ministry in the Moravian Church.

All are invited to join James and his family in this celebration of the church and affirmation of James’ ministry. The congregation will host a meal following the service. Those unable to attend in person may join via livestream on the Freedom Moravian Church’s YouTube page.  That can be found here - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6J4etgo6ywZdAucqtYUzew>.

Please be in prayer for James, his spouse Alli, and their whole family, along with the Freedom congregation at this time of celebration.

Installation

Rev. Jeffrey Bonn, an ELCA Lutheran pastor who had been serving half time at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Unionville, has accepted a half-time appointment to also serve half time as the Pastor at Unionville Moravian Church. He will now serve St. Peter Lutheran and Unionville Moravian. He began his work on October 24 and was installed on October 30.

Church Anniversary

Nov. 17 Green Bay West Side 172 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 71 years

Nov. 21 Mary Lou Plummer 18 years

Nov. 23 Jim Hicks 42 years

Northern Province Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors

Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey

Central (Associate Pastor), Bethlehem, PA

Covenant, York, PA

York First, York, PA

New Dorp, Staten Island NY

Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY

Trinity, New Carrolton, MD

Our Savior’s Moravian in Altura, Minnesota

Berea Moravian Church in St. Charles, Minnesota

West Salem Moravian in West Salem, Illinois

Good Shepherd in Calgary, Alberta

Additionally: two congregations that are not in the call process but are currently without pastors are Grace Moravian in Westland, Michigan and Daggett Moravian, in Daggett, Michigan.

Prayer Concern

Please keep in your prayers, Sr. Peg Chemberlin, retired pastor living in Minneapolis, MN, sister to Provincial Elder Valerie Wagner, and a member of the Waconia Moravian Church in Waconia, MN. Peg will be having open heart surgery on Tuesday, November 8 in Minneapolis, a surgery that is expected to last 8-13 hours. The surgery is to replace her aortic valve with either a new valve or a new aortic root and valve transplant; she expects to be in the hospital for 7-10 days.

Peg covets the prayers of the wider church even as she requests no visitors or calls so that she may rest. Please be in prayer for Peg, her spouse Mark, and family during this extensive surgery and recovery time.

Directory Update

Gary Straughan’s contact information:

**Home Phone (preferred) – 920-857-9404**

**Cell Phone – 920-639-9406**

Caring for Families through Respite

This school year, You Belong has launched a new program called rEcess Respite. This event provides a Saturday day program for individuals living with a disability. This event focuses on being empowering, uplifting, encouraging, and fun for those who attend. While the event is taking place, family members are encouraged to go take time to rest and care for themselves. We currently have a grant that helps provide funding for 4 rEcess Respite events this school year. If you or your congregation would like to help us offer more of these opportunities we ask that you consider making a donation to You Belong. Checks can be made out to You Belong and mailed to 2768 Allouez Ave, Green Bay, WI 54311 or you can give a gift online at youbelongwi.org

Thank you for your support and encouragement!



Conferencia de Recursos Moravos

In September, we were blessed to gather in person with representatives from all of our Spanish-speaking partners in Panama City, Panama. The Board of World Mission hosted a Conferencia de Recursos Moravos (Moravian Resources Conference), where participants discussed a variety of topics, including Unity structure, how to plan a Synod, financial administration in the church, leadership as servanthood, and more. We also distributed copies and provided guidance on how to use the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum and Our Moravian Treasures, which we recently translated into Spanish for the first time ever. A group of 45 delegates and presenters spent four days studying these topics, worshiping together, and enjoying fellowship time, including a group tour of Casco Viejo and the Panama Canal’s Miraflores Locks. Participants expressed their gratitude for this opportunity to build relationships, gain resources, and discuss current challenges with other Moravians in their region who may be experiencing similar joys and concerns.

Moravian delegates representing the Ahuas Clinic, the Costa Rican Province, the Cuban Province, the Honduras Unity Province, the Honduras Mission Province, the Nicaraguan Province, and the Mission Area of Peru were present, as well as guests from Brazil and Bolivia.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the presenters and planners who made this Conferencia de Recursos Moravos a meaningful experience for our delegates. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Jørgen Bøytler, Unity Business Administrator; Bishop Armando Rusindo; Bishop Sam Gray; Bishop Kingsley Lewis; Brother Rick Nelson; Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, President of the Northern Province PEC; Brother Leo Pixley, Chair of the Provincial Board in Costa Rica; Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher; and Sister Julie Tomberlin, Unity Women’s Desk Coordinator

Study Opportunities

All are invited to join Br. Michael Johnson, pastor of the John Hus Moravian Church in Brooklyn, NY at their weekly Prayer and Bible Study, held each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm ET, via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/97148411541?pwd=R256L1lIZWh4TW5DbXRobTc1eWo4UT09>

Meeting ID: 971 4841 1541   Passcode: 386718

The zoom link is a recurring link; you are welcome to join any Tuesday!

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The Racial Justice Series is on Wednesdays in Advent, starting November 30.

We are pleased that **Dr. Catherine Meeks**, Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, and a recent recipient of the Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement Award and the Presidential Volunteer Service Award will be joining us from Atlanta, Georgia for the December 7 session. For other sessions, we will share and discuss in small groups presentations from Dr. Meeks’ time with clergy on the Racial Justice Pilgrimage in Montgomery, Alabama earlier this year. In addition, choirs from four of congregations are preparing music for the sessions.

If you have specific questions, please contact Sister Sue Koenig [suekoenig@mcnp.org](mailto:suekoenig@mcnp.org).

This information, zoom access, a reading list for the series, and an updated bibliography are posted on <https://www.moravian.org/northern/>

IBOC November Highlights

• Brian Dixon’s latest release, **Losing Light–Walking by Faith but Wanting to See**, is now available at the IBOC store. Losing Light is part lament, part study and discussion, and a porchlight left on welcoming you home. 116 pages. $12.95.

• **Moravian Seal Ornaments** handmade of folded fabric is a wonderful gift for pastors, musicians, family, and friends. 3”. $20.

• **Moravian Star Café Mug** are a dark red/brick color and holds 18 oz. of your favorite beverage. These are dishwasher and microwavable safe. 6”. $11.95.

• **What Good News the Angels** Bring is the latest Christmas music offering from the Moravian Music Foundation and the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park, Florida. 22 tracks. $16.

For these and other great products, visit our store at store.moravian.org or call Jill at 610-867-0593 ext. 703

New investment partnership

Moravian Ministries Foundation’s Board of Trustees selected Graystone Consulting to be the go-forward investment partner for the foundation and the Moravian Common Fund. The MMFA team will work with Graystone to transition the assets of the Common Fund to their platform by December 31, 2022.