

THE MUSTARD SEED



Worship Schedule

March 1

Second Sunday in Lent

Call to Worship: Psalm 121:1-8

Epistle: Romans 4:13-17

Gospel: St. John 3:1-17

March 8

Third Sunday in Lent

Call to Worship : Psalm 95:6-11

Epistle: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel: Saint John 4:5-42

March 15

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Call to Worship: Ephesians 5:8-14

Hebrew Scriptures: 1st Samuel 16:1-13

Gospel: St. John 9:1-41

March 22

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Guest Pastor: Rev. Bruce Nelson

March 29

Palm Sunday

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:26-29

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Saint Matthew 21:1-11

From the Pastor

Random thoughts:

With the coming of March, we can look forward to the return of Daylight Saving Time, which commences on Sunday morning, 8 March. Shift your clock forward an hour before heading to bed that Saturday, lest you show up late for worship the next morning. Note: all will not be lost... there'll be treats and conversation starting at 11:30 am!

A lively gathering in the fellowship hall enjoyed a good chat to kick off our first Lenten study, the last Wednesday in February. I hope, if you can join us for your bring-in meal at 5:30, or if you can jump in at 6 pm for the conversations, that you'll take the time to join us! There is no harm if you miss a week--you can come to any, and all, that will fit into your household's schedule... even if you miss a week or two, you're still welcome to jump in! It's clear that there's life and love abounding in this congregation and that life and love can be a real strength as preparations for the settled pastor come to fruition.

Thanks are due to Pastor Bruce Nelson for his visiting with the community on Sunday, 22 February, to lead worship and preside at the Sacrament. It is a delight, I'm sure, to see him and doubtless hear more about baseball and the upcoming season. As for me, I trod the highway back to my old church in Indiana, where I served when I was first ordained, to help out with their annual sausage-making gathering. NO! I'm not sharing!

As Lent was kicking off with our Ash Wednesday service, I challenged folks present to look at what we can be doing to advance the cause of Christ in our lives and world. My words were less about "giving up" something in the season and more about being prepared for the good that we can do. How will you advance Christ's work by your actions and words in the weeks and months ahead?

The tease of warmer weather having given way to the cold (again) reminds us of the power of seasons. In this season of self-preparation, it's an important lesson for us all to recall that Christ came not to be served, but to serve.

(continued on pg. 2)

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(Random Thoughts continued from pg. 1)

What are the services which are most needed in our church and the wider community? What are the things that we have done, that no longer will need doing? What have we not yet answered in newer, different needs that will compel us to better serve and prepare for the coming of our next pastor?

A reminder that our Holy Week will include a Maundy Thursday memorial... inasmuch as I am not authorized for sacramental ministry in the Moravian tradition, we will be using a service that evening that calls to mind what happened in the Upper Room and recalls Jesus's and the Disciples' gathering on that night of desertion. I hope you'll plan to be a part of that night's remembrance and celebration. So, too, we will soon be looking for volunteers for our Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. Watch the bulletin for more details in upcoming weeks.

Easter Sunrise Service will begin in the sanctuary at 6 am and conclude at the church's cemetery on Portage Road on Sunday morning, 5 April. Following that gathering, there'll be a breakfast in the fellowship hall. At 10:30 a.m., we'll have our regular morning worship to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Please invite your extended families and neighbors to join us. As we learned at our Lenten study's first session, most of the folks who did not come here as part of their family, came to CFMC at the invitation of a neighbor or friend who was already a member of the congregation. To grow our numbers, each of us... the membership... will need to be ready and wanting to speak about the good that comes from being a part of Christian Faith Moravian Church. It cannot be the Pastor's role alone--the congregation will thrive only as the congregation reaches out and welcomes new friends and strangers into our fellowship.

It's been a gift to me to have the chance to be among the community as your preacher these last couple of months. I look forward to this next month, and Easter, in your midst.

With great hope,
Pastor Dave Mc Donald

Wednesday Lenten Supper & Series



We will continue to meet each Wednesday through March 25, from 5:30-7:00 pm Bring your own dinner (BYOD) in any containers, and either wash them afterwards or dispose of them as you prefer. Enjoy a meal together!

The programming itself from 6:00-7:00 p.m

The conversations in small clusters, and among the whole around the room, on the topic:

WHO ARE WE AS WE SERVE JESUS?

These conversations will reflect on the life of Christian Faith Moravian Church, specifically.

Week #2, March 4: **“Who are we now?”**

Week #3, March 11: **“Who do we want to be?”**

Week #4, March 18 **“How can we become all that we can be?”**

Week #5, March 25: **“Who am I, and what do I bring to what my church is called to be and do?”**

Your input and participation in the conversations and discussions will prove invaluable as the congregation continues to understand what is possible as the search for a new settled pastor continues. If you cannot join at the common meal time, but still want to take part in the conversations, please be in the Fellowship Hall, ready to start by 6:00 p.m.

From the Trustees

We are grateful for your love and care for our church and community, as our church and cemetery grounds reflect our hospitality. We need a new lawn tractor to maintain our property efficiently, as our current equipment is unreliable. A generous anonymous donor is offering a matching gift challenge of up to \$4,000, meaning your contributions will have double the impact. If we meet the match, we will raise over \$8,000 for this essential equipment. Your support is appreciated and will benefit our church community for years to come. Please note “Lawn Tractor” with your donation. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

With gratitude,

CFMC Trustees:

Nick Blecha,
Kristi Thering,
Doug Block,
Paul Vanderbloemen,
Mike Larkins

If you would like to donate to the challenge online please scan the QR code above. Select an amount or customize your amount and type “Lawn Mower Challenge” in the Special Instructions.



Scan me



March Birthdays

4th – Evelyn Stack
 7th – Hope Herbers
 11th – Sandi Newell
 13th – Jill Stephens
 16th – Elaine Knudtson;
 Lindsay Freye
 18th – Kylie Sobek
 28th – Lisa Quam; Cody Dorn
 30th – Melissa Krug
 31st – Jim Karow

Thank you

- A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to and participated in our annual Pie Auction on February 15. We successfully raised \$3,425.00 to help reduce the loan for our accessible building addition. Special appreciation goes to Cheryl and Jerry Mayr for coordinating this wonderful event.
- We extend our gratitude to Marlene Sobek, Shirley Block, Pastor Dave McDonald, Kay Kinderman, Ken Glienke, Joyce Simon, and Lindsay, Paul, and Addison Vanderbloemen for hosting fellowship after worship throughout February.
- We appreciate Peggy Landgraf, Ken Glienke, and Toni Reigstad for their diligent efforts in cleaning the church during February.
- Lastly, a huge thank you to Jerry Mayr and Mike Larkins, for their assistance with snow removal.

April Newsletter Deadline

If you have any information you'd like to include in the April newsletter, please send it to Kari Caulum (karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com) by Monday, March 23, 2026.

Daylight Savings Time Spring Forward

Hold onto your hats, folks! Daylight Savings Time kicks off at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8! Make sure to spring your clocks forward an hour before you hit the hay on Saturday night—don't let that hour sneak away from you!



MARCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Church Cleaner Coordinator:	Worship Hosts Coordinators:	Call to Worship	Scripture Reader	Sunday School Teacher	Fellowship Host
Mar. 1	Peg Landgraf	Jerry Mayr & Bob Hudecek Rich & Laurie Vanderbloemen	Bob Hudecek Psalm 121:1-8	Shirley Block Romans 4:13-17	Peggy Landgraf	Toni Reigstad
Mar. 8	Peg Landgraf	Doug & Shirley Block	Peg Landgraf Psalm 95:6-11	Marty Karow Romans 5:1-11	Paige Michels	Michelle Larkins
Mar. 15	Kristi Thering	Michelle & Mike Larkins	Megan Vanderbloemen Ephesians 5:8-14	Shirley Block 1st Samuel 16:1-13	Peggy Landgraf	Kay Kinderman, Joyce Simon & Ken Glienke
Mar. 22	Kristi Thering	Bob Hudecek & Kristi Thering	Nick Blecha TBD	Paige Michels TBD	Paige Michels	Volunteer Needed
Mar. 29	Shirley Block	Peggy Landgraf & Megan Vanderbloemen	Shirley Block Psalm 118:26-29	Laurie Vanderbloemen Philippians 2:5-11	Michelle Larkins	Volunteer Needed

What is the Norski Sharing Shed?

The Norski Sharing Shed concept emerged from discussions a few months ago during a monthly meeting of the DeForest Area School District, attended by local clergy and other related representatives. Shirley Block has been participating in these monthly meetings as the CFMC representative, given that we currently do not have a permanent pastor to attend. This idea was conceived to support homeless teenagers in school who require specific items to thrive academically. Following this, conversations with school social workers and psychologists helped to pinpoint those students who would benefit from additional assistance with clothing, hygiene, and other essential supplies. A storage space was necessary, as social workers have limited room in their offices.

Where is it Located?

At an October Church Council meeting, Christ Lutheran approved the use of one of their unused Sunday School rooms to house the Norski Sharing Shed. Shirley generously volunteered her Interior Design consulting services to measure the room, sketch potential layout options, and draft specifications for shelving, wardrobe racks, and storage bins. This will aid the DASD in applying for a grant to secure funding for furnishing the room. Additionally, an area church has contributed some funding, and DANN has provided support for immediate needs. Part of this funding will be converted into gift cards to purchase clothing and shoes as necessary.

How Can We Help?

Local churches are collaborating with the school district to bring this ministry to life. As the initiative evolves, we will receive updates on how we can assist in addressing changing needs throughout the school year. Access to the locked room will be limited to only a few school staff members, who will be given the door code to retrieve items from Christ Lutheran.

What are the Needs Right Now?

We currently require hygiene products, which include:

- Feminine products
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Washcloths
- Towels
- Hairbrushes
- Combs
- Hair ties
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent
- Men's scented body wash and deodorant

(Note: A generous shipment from the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County has provided floral-scented shower wash and deodorant for women, so no additional items are needed for them at this time.)

Current clothing needs include:

- Crew-length socks
- Black leggings
- Mittens or gloves
- Stocking caps

Who are the CFMC Coordinators?

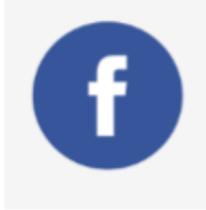
Laurie and Megan Vanderbloemen have volunteered to provide a collection container in the Narthex and will assist in delivering the products to the school district offices or Christ Lutheran.

Other Ways to Help:

Cash donations can also be directed as offerings; just indicate that they are for the Norski Sharing Shed.

Submitted by Shirley Block





Socialize with Us!

Holy Week Schedule

- **Monday, March 29**
- **Tuesday, March 30**
- **Wednesday, April 1**

Pastor Dave will send out Bible readings and writings for each day via email, allowing those interested to participate in these observances from home. If anyone would like to check out a Moravian Holy Week Readings book you are welcome to do so.

- **Maundy Thursday: April 2 - 7:00 pm**

Pastor Dave will be using a service that evening that calls to mind what happened in the Upper Room and recalls Jesus's and the Disciples' gathering on that night of desertion.

- **Good Friday Tenebrae Service: April 3 - 7:00 pm**

The word "tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows." We will gather for a Tenebrae Service, a simple worship service consisting of scripture and song, where we will recall the shadows that Jesus faced on our behalf.

- **Sunrise Service: April 5 - 6:00 am**

We will gather for our service that will begin in the sanctuary and conclude at the cemetery on Portage Rd.

All are invited back to church for our Easter Breakfast.

- **Easter Worship Service: April 5- 10:30 am**

Our Holy Week activities will conclude with our traditional worship service.

