

THE MUSTARD SEED



December 7

Second Sunday in Advent

Pastor: Rev. Bruce Nelson

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

December 14

Third Sunday in Advent

Pastor: Rev. Dave McDonald

Scripture:

Isaiah 36:1-10

Saint Luke 1:46b-55

December 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Pastor: Rev. Bruce Nelson

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Message: Youth

December 24

Christmas Eve

Pastor: Rev. Bruce Nelson

Candlelight Service - 5:00 pm

December 28

First Sunday after Christmas

Pastor: Rev. Bruce Nelson

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

From the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are about to begin the season of Advent. In fact by the time you are reading this we may already be in the season of Advent. Advent is a season of preparing and waiting that leads up to the Christmas season.

It is becoming more and more difficult to fully appreciate the season of Advent because Christmas decorations can be found in the stores shortly after (or sometimes even before) Halloween. Christmas music is played on the radio and online often before the Thanksgiving holiday is over.

Now, I love holiday music as much as anyone. I believe Christmas music is some of the most beautiful music ever written and, if the truth be known, I sometimes listen to it throughout the year. I also love to look at the beautiful Christmas lights. There is just something magical about the colorful lights gleaming and lighting up a scene that would be dark without them.

I don't want to sound like a scrooge and say that there needs to be a certain date when one is "officially able" to put up Christmas lights or listen to Christmas music. But, I think this is symptomatic of a larger problem in our society.

That problem that I am referring to is the desire to not wait or to put it another way the desire for instant gratification. Sometimes we get upset when we text someone and we don't hear a response within 5 to 10 minutes. I remember when I was a child and there was no texting, there were no cell phones, and there was no leaving a voicemail. You would sometimes have to wait over a day for a response. People in my parent's generation used to buy a starter home and then as they got older and their family got bigger they would purchase a bigger home. People used to purchase a modest car when they were younger and then as they got older would perhaps move up in their purchase. Today people seem to want the best car and the biggest house immediately instead of waiting.

It is very difficult sometimes to wait but waiting can increase character. So, this Advent season (it is not yet Christmas) go ahead and listen to any music you want and decorate all you want but don't forget to take time to wait, to prepare your hearts for the wonderful thing that is about to happen.

Serving Christ with you,

Pastor Bruce

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Youth Christmas Program

Youth Christmas Worship Service

On Sunday, December 21, our youth will take the lead in delivering the message for the service. The younger children will delight us with a couple of songs and recite a few simple lines, with guidance from our coordinator,



Kari Caulum. Following their presentation, the older youth will perform a short play entitled "Sleepover at the Stable." As there will be no designated practice time, we kindly ask all families with participating children to arrive on Sunday, December 21, at 8:30 AM. This will allow us to run through the program together, ensuring we all understand the flow and practice how the microphone will be passed between speakers.



Gift Cards Available

Did you know that Christian Faith sells gift cards? They make great gifts for those hard to buy for people and they also are super stocking stuffers. There are 100's of retailers and restaurants to choose from like Kohl's, Kwik Trip, Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bath & Body and much more! Christian Faith receives a percentage from each gift card that is sold. Order forms can be found in the narthex.

Please contact Laurie Vanderbloemen for info on how and when to order your gift cards to make sure they get here in time for Christmas.

Candle Servers Needed

If you would like to serve as a candle server for our Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:00 PM, please check the sign-up sheet located in the narthex.

2025 Watchword Christian Faith Moravian Church

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!"
2 Corinthians 5:17



Mitten Tree

If you selected a mitten from the tree, **please remember not to wrap your gifts for children, but senior gifts should be wrapped.** Please include your mitten tag with your gift(s). All should be returned to the church no later than Tuesday, December 9, with a maximum value of \$30.00 per gift total. There is no obligation to fulfill every item on the list.

Interim Pastor Transition

Thank you 

As you are all aware, we have been incredibly fortunate to have Rev. Bruce Nelson serving as our Interim Pastor for the past nine months. His dedication to our church has truly been a blessing, and as we continue our search for a full-time pastor, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the profound impact he has had on our church family. We trust that God will continue to work through him for the glory of His Kingdom, and we are thankful that He allowed us to share in this journey together.

We are pleased to announce that our next Interim Pastor will be Rev. David McDonald, who will serve from January 1, 2026, until Easter Sunday, April 6, 2026. Rev. David resides in DeForest and has been a member of our community for 23 years. He is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and has previously served Windsor UCC for 18 years, along with several other congregations.

Thank you!

Your Contributions Are Cherished!

- A heartfelt thank you to Terry Miller for completing the final lawn mowing and raking all the leaves for the village's collection.
- Our sincere appreciation goes to Paige Michels, Peggy Landgraf, and Michelle Larkins for their dedication to teaching Sunday School.
- A big thank you to everyone who donated items or helped assemble and deliver hot, homemade Thanksgiving meals to local community members in need on November 26. Special recognition goes to Marlene Sobek for organizing this event.
- We extend our gratitude to Kristi Thering, Toni Reigstad, Shirley Block, and Ken Glienke for their hard work in cleaning the church in November.
- Thank you to Toni Reigstad, Sandi Newell, John Scepanski, Ken Glienke, Kay Kinderman, Joyce Simon, Shirley Block, Marty Karow, and Peggy Landgraf for hosting Fellowship in November.
- We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported the "Bakeless Bakesale." As of Sunday, November 23, we are excited to share that a total of \$1,415.00 was raised!
- Thank you to Peggy Landgraf for trimming the shrubbery and preparing the flowers in the alcove for fall and winter.
- A special thanks to Cody Michels for fine-tuning the sound system. We have acquired a new pulpit mic, laptop, and choir mic, thanks to memorial contributions from the family of Daryl Stephens. We may consider adding new speakers in the future, as the current ones are quite outdated.



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

1st – Helen Anhalt; Jasmine Harke
 3rd – Bill Vincent
 12th – Brian Herbers
 14th – Megan Vanderbloemen
 15th – Marty Karow
 17th – Becky Bisbee
 24th – Ken Glienke
 29th – Debra Zeman

Anniversaries

7th – Joe & Kathy Brashi (62 years)
 18th – Kevin & Laura Baggett (21 years)
 27th – Joel & Kari Caulum (28 years)

Moravian Watchwords

Every year on the first Sunday of the New Year, we invite you to draw a Watchword to guide you for the coming year. The watchword is either a promise, an encouragement, an admonition or word of comfort from scriptures. The watchwords are pulled from the Moravian Daily Text. There is a scripture as well as a MBW hymn stanza. The stanza is our human response to God's word in the Bible.

The Moravian tradition of drawing a watchword began in Herrnhut, Saxony. In 1722, the refugees from Bohemia and Moravia began arriving at the estate of Count Nicholas Zinzendorf, where the Count gave them land to establish the settlement of Herrnhut. They would come together for morning and evening devotions. Count Zinzendorf gave the congregation a Losungen (German for watchword), a daily message from God to accompany them through the entire next day. In 1731, the oral tradition of watchwords were printed into what is now known as the Moravian Daily Text.



Join us for a Christmas Hymn Sing!

We will joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ with a Christmas Hymn Sing. Save the date for Sunday, December 28, and invite your family and friends to join us. It's a wonderful opportunity to raise our voices and hearts in song as we sing our beloved Christmas hymns.

Live Streaming Training Update

A training session on live streaming took place last Sunday. If you were unable to attend but are still interested, please reach out to Kari. Beginning in December, Kari will create a schedule tailored to everyone's availability.

DECEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Church Cleaner Coordinator: Peggy Landgraf	Worship Hosts Coordinators: Jerry Mayr & Bob Hudecek	Call to Worship	Scripture Reader	Fellowship Host
Dec. 7	Toni Reigstad	Rich & Laurie Vanderbloemen	Advent Candle Lighting	Paul Vanderbloemen Matthew 24:36-44	Peggy Landgraf
Dec. 14	Toni Reigstad	Doug & Shirley Block	Advent Candle Lighting	Marty Karow Psalm 146:5-10 Isaiah 36:1-10 Saint Luke 1:46b-55	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 21	Peggy Landgraf	Volunteers Needed	Advent Candle Lighting	Nick Blecha Matthew 1:18-25	Joint Board
Dec. 28	Peggy Landgraf	Peggy Landgraf & Megan Vanderbloemen	Trey Collier	Paige Michels Matthew 2:13-23	Volunteer Needed

Financial Report as of November 1, 2025

GENERAL FUND

	Month of October	YTD
Plate Collections & Fundraisers	\$7,393.72	\$65,498.30
General Fund Expenses Owed	\$6,191.40	\$66,009.74
Difference (+ or -)	\$1,202.32	-\$511.44 (Through October 31)

BUILDING FUND

	Month of October	YTD
Monthly Debt Service	\$1335.32	\$13,353.20
Plate Collection/Fundraisers	\$1,065.00	\$13,501.27

Wishing you
all a very
Merry
Christmas!



Save these dates for
January 2026!

Thursday, January 22nd

- Our annual Chili Supper

Sunday, January 25th

- Church Council to review 2025 ministry and financial reports.



Socialize with Us!

A festive poster for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The background is a deep red with a green horizontal band. The top and bottom are decorated with a border of green pine branches and red berries. On the right side, there is a circular inset image showing a lit yellow candle in a red ribbon holder, with a hymn book open in the background.

CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Service

CHRISTIAN FAITH MORAVIAN CHURCH
805 E. HOLUM STREET, DEFOREST, WI

WEDNESDAY,
24 DECEMBER | 5 PM

*Join us for our traditional candlelight service
filled with beautiful music, joyous singing,
beeswax candles & inspirational worship.*