

DECEMBER 2022

The Mustard Seed

The Newsletter of Christian Faith Moravian Church



From the Pastor's Desk

As we move through the season of advent and move closer and closer to the celebration of Christmas, joining with the wonder of those who gathered to visit the baby Jesus, we also join with those who hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness to prepare ye the way of the Lord, to make a straight path on which he may come. The rough ways will be made smooth and the crooked ways made straight.

A lot of John's language sounds like spring cleaning -- that annual tradition as the weather turns slightly warmer in the spring where we all start to come out of our season of winter hibernation. We want to open up the windows, clean out the house, get rid of the old dry dusty air and bring in the new life, vitality, and warmth of the new season of spring.

But if you looked outside or stepped outside recently, you know that we are far from the season of spring. Quite the opposite, we're preparing to head into that season of winter hibernation -- a season of cuddling up on the couch under a bunch of blankets, a season of soups and hot chocolates. It's a season where we don't so much feel like opening up the windows and letting in the new life as we feel like battening down the hatches and riding out the cold bleak sheltered season of winter.

Sometimes in our lives, we can enter a season of emotional or spiritual winter as well, where we just want to close everything down. We're not interested in new life, we're not interested in vitality, and we're certainly not interested in the new thing that God may be seeking to speak into our hearts and minds. All we want is comfort, familiarity, closeness, quiet, and safety.

And yet this season of advent brings us back to those same words of John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord. And so while there's nothing wrong with curling up in front of a nice fire and catching the latest Hallmark Christmas movie, we must remember that this still is a season of renewal. It's a season to consider the things in our lives that need cleared away -- the distractions, obstructions, and obstacles that block the path of the coming Messiah into our hearts. What is it that you need to clear away? How can you faithfully heed the call of John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord that you may be truly ready for the Messiah's arrival on Christmas Day?

Pastor Jason

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School– 9:00 am

Worship– 10:30 am

Fellowship 11:30 am

Digital Communication

Each Monday morning, we send out a brief email highlighting some upcoming dates and events, as well as some other fun things.

If you would like to our weekly e-newsletter, as well as receiving this monthly newsletter in digital format, please contact the church office (cfmcoffice@gmail.com) to be added to the list

Connect With Us!

608-846-5876

cfmcoffice@gmail.com

cfmoravianchurch.org

 Find us on
Facebook

 **Instagram**

@deforestmoravianchurch

Worship



December Worship Information

Advent Sermon Series

Join us during Advent for Pastor Jason's sermon series.

"DO NOT BE AFRAID"

Four Angelic Announcements to:

November 27th— Zechariah

December 4th— Mary

December 11th— Joseph

December 18th— The Shepherds

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Saturday, December 24

4:30 pm & 7:00 pm

We celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ on this holy night. and special Christmas music, the singing of the 'Morning Star' hymn, and our traditional candlelight service.



Christmas Day Carol Sing

On Christmas Day, Sunday December 25, there will be no Sunday School or Fellowship Time. We will have a special worship service at 9:00 am. Come in your Christmas jammies, there will be cookies and hot chocolate available (that's right, you can eat during worship!). Pastor Jason will offer a brief Christmas devotional, and those in attendance will be invited to call out their favorite Christmas hymns for us to sing together. Join us Christmas morning as we worship!

Contact Information

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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00—4:00 pm

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Elders Vice Chair

Vicky Gouldthorpe

Trustees Chair

Peggy Landgraf

Congregational Life



What Does Christian Faith Moravian Church Mean To You?

On our website (www.cfmoravianchurch.org), if you scroll down you will see a section entitled "Christian Faith Moravian Church Is..." Some of our Joint Board members have answered this question, and we invite you to do the same! In one or two sentences, please tell us what CFMC means to you. You can email your answers to our webmaster, Kari Caulum, at karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com.

Thank You

- To everyone who participated in our potluck lunch and church council on November 13.
- To everyone who helped get our church ready for Advent and Christmas at our Advent Workshop on November 20th.
- To the Andersens for providing the meal and leading the kid's craft at our Family Night on November 16.
- To Robbie Krug, Jerry Mayr, Pastor Jason, and Rich Vanderbloemen, who took down a dead tree at our cemetery yesterday and hauled away the brush on November 13.
- To everyone who donated items or helped assemble and deliver 81 hot, homemade Thanksgiving Meals to local community members in need on November 23. Thank you to Marlene Sobek for coordinating the event.
- To everyone who contributed to our Joyful Noise Offering on November 13 to purchase gift cards through our Scrip program to give to local Ukrainian refugee families.
- To Ken Glienke and Shirley Block for cleaning the church in November.
- To Jerry & Cheryl Mayr, the Vanderbloemens, the Michels, and Shirley Block for hosting Fellowship during November.
- To Amy Andersen, Pastor Jason, Peggy Landgraf, Marie True, Lisa O'Neill, and Whitney BaDour for teaching Sunday School during November.

December Celebrations

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- 7th – Joe & Kathy Brashi (59 years)
- 27th – Joel & Kari Caulum (25 years)
- 28th – Bill & Peggy Landgraf (42 years)

THANK YOU

Prayers of gratitude for the many donations we got for the food pantry this Thanksgiving. We collected 94 items!

Stay tuned for an advent giving opportunity as well!



Christian Education



Confirmation Assistants

Carter Mayr and Mackenzie Mayr will be doing their confirmation classes with Pastor Jason two Wednesdays a month from 4-6 pm. We are looking for individuals willing to be confirmation assistants. The confirmation assistant would simply be another adult presence in the room who would also be available to provide input on the material as you'd like. If you're interested in signing up for one or more days, please contact the church office.

Unity Prayer Watch

The Unity Prayer Watch is designed to have at least one Moravian somewhere in the world constantly in prayer. This year, our church will share Wednesday, December 21 with our friends at the Watertown, Ebenezer, London, Glenwood, and Common Grace congregations, and with the Tricklebee Cafe. The hours we have been assigned for that day are 1:00 - 2:00 am, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, and 7:00 - 8:00 pm. You can volunteer for one or more 15-minute prayer shifts by signing up in the narthex or clicking the link on our website and weekly e-newsletter. If you need prayer material, please contact Pastor Jason.

Youth Sunday School

There will be no youth Sunday School on December 18th, December 25th, or January 1st. We will resume on January 8th.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Church Cleaning	Worship Hosts	Call to Worship Leader	Scripture Reader	Sunday School Teachers	Fellowship Host
Dec. 4	Shirley Block	Vicky Gouldthrop & Elizabeth Hockett	Bob Hudecek	Doug Block	Peggy Landgraf, Pastor Jason & Amy Andersen	Mike & Michelle Larkins
Dec. 11	Kristi Thering	Marlene Sobek & Sandi Newell	Megan Vanderbloemen	Seth Andersen	Lindsay Freye, Pastor Jason & Peggy Landgraf	Marty Karow
Dec. 18	Kristi Thering	Daryl Stephens & Joel Caulum	Elizabeth Hockett	Laurie Vanderbloemen	Pastor Jason	Toni Reigstad & Elaine Knudtson
Dec. 25	Toni Registad	Seth & Sol Andersen	John Scepanski	Dorothy Hatfield	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	NO FELLOWSHIP

Administration



Financial Report as November 1, 2022

If you have questions about this information, please feel free to speak with a Trustee. Thank you to Joel Caulum for compiling this report.

General Fund	Month of October	Year-to-Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$11,770.31	\$117,703.10
Assessments for Pastor's Health, Prov. and Dist. Admin. – <i>not pd.</i>	(\$2,467.67)	(\$23,676.70)
Actual Expenses Paid	\$9,086.05	\$86,961.84
Plate Collections	\$8,342.66	\$71,714.29
Building Fund	Month of October	Year-to-Date
Monthly Debit Service	\$1,331.28	\$13,312.80
Plate Collections	\$1,100.00	\$8,955.00

Church Council News

Our biannual Church Council meeting was held on November 13. We approved our 2023 church budget and elected new officers. Elected to the Board of Elders were Kari Caulum, Betty Timm, and Paul Vanderbloemen; they will be joining Ken Glienke and Megan Vanderbloemen. Elected to the Board of Trustees were Doug Block and Scott True; they will be joining Bob Hudecek, Lisa O'Neill, and Rich Vanderbloemen. Elected as our Synod delegate to Provincial Synod in Bethlehem PA on June 22-25 was Megan Vanderbloemen; the alternate will be Peggy Landgraf. Our new Board members will be officially installed during worship on January 8.

Our next Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 following worship. At this service we will receive reports from our various church boards and ministries. Please submit all reports in to the church office by Friday, January 20.

Trustees Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees met on November 8.

- We read the Behavioral Covenant.
- We approved the October Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, and the Pastor's Report.
- Approved an end-of-year giving letter to be sent to the congregation.
- Discussed ongoing projects including cemetery tree removal and updating fire extinguishers and exit lights.
- Approved buying new weather stripping for southeast church door.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm.

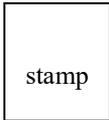
Elders Meeting Highlights

The Board of Elders met on December 1.

- We opened with devotions, prayer, and the Behavioral Covenant.
- We approved the October minutes, October and November ministry diaries, and the Pastor's report.
- We reviewed the fall Sunday School numbers and made plans for the spring.
- We went over the confirmation schedule.
- We discussed the fall family nights and made plans to do more in the new year.
- We reviewed the new communion disbursement process and made tweaks to it.
- We made plans for upcoming events for Christmas Day Worship, the Chili Supper, and the Pie Auction.
- We will create and disperse a survey regarding usage of our livestream worship services.
- We closed with prayer.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 8 at 6:30 pm.

Christian Faith Moravian Church
805 E. Holum St.
DeForest, WI 53532



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Socialize with Us!

Drawing of 2023 Watchwords

Please join us for worship on Sunday, January 1 as we draw watchwords for the coming year. The tradition of drawing watchwords finds its origin in the renewed Moravian community in Herrnhut Germany in the early 1700's. Scripture texts would be distributed each day to the various groups ("choirs") within the community to meditate upon throughout the day. This custom gave birth to the Moravian Daily Texts and to drawing of watchwords for the year ahead.



Coming in 2023..... Our Annual Chili Supper is Back!

We are planning on having our Chili Supper on Thursday, January 26th. A planning committee is being formed. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further information on how you can help out!
