

JANUARY 2024

The Mustard Seed



There's an old saying that goes "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." I don't know if I believe that or not, but I do know that sometimes we can indeed have the best of intentions . . . only for our efforts to fall flat.

One of those places of "good intentions" where our hearts might be in the right place, but the outcome of our efforts is less than helpful can be found in the things we say to people who show up to church after not having been there for a while. We mean well (or at least I hope we do), but it might be helpful to think for a moment about how those words sound to the other person. So, with a heart filled with love and appreciation for YOU – the regular worship attendee – I offer the following lists:

What You **SHOULD NOT** Say to People You Haven't Seen at Church in a While:

1. ***"Long time, no see" or "It's been a while"***

Nothing like stating the obvious to make someone uncomfortable right out of the gate. They know it's been a while. You know it's been a while. If everyone knows it's been a while, no one needs to say it out loud. Depending on how you say it, it can even come across a little sarcastically, which achieves the opposite of what you're trying to accomplish.

2. ***"We've missed you" or "Where have you been?"***

While this certainly comes from a place of love and is a sincere attempt to make someone feel included, it can also carry a sense of "you should've been here." Grace, not guilt, needs to be the emotion we convey to them. People have all sorts of reasons for not having come to church, some big and significant, some mundane and inconsequential. If someone feels like they are in a supportive and loving environment, they will eventually share their story with those they trust. Being put on the spot right away does not build trust and does not create a context of safe sharing.

3. ***"Hope to see you again next Sunday"***

It's one Sunday. Let's not pile on the added pressure of expectations that they'll be here every week from here on out, serving on boards, and helping with events. Let them take it at their pace, with their ongoing circumstances to deal with.

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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

Contact Information

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DeForest, WI 53532
Phone: 846-5876

Email:
cfmcoffice@gmail.com

Website:
www.cfmoravianchurch.org

Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
8:00—4:00 pm

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pastor_jason_andersen@hotmail.com

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Financial Secretary
Joel Caulum
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Treasurer
Laurie Vanderbloemen
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Elders Vice Chair
TBD AT NEXT MEETING

Trustees Chair
TBD AT NEXT MEETING

**Christian Faith Moravian
Church**
Watchword for 2024

*"I will delight in my people; no
more shall the sound of weeping be
heard in it or the cry of distress."
Isaiah 65:19*

Pastor's Thoughts continued from page 1

What You CAN Say to People You Haven't See at Church in a While:

1. **"Hello! It's good to see you!"**
This is something you would say to anyone, whether you saw them last Sunday or last summer. It's a friendly conversation starter and helps someone feel welcome. Again, they are well aware how long it's been since they last were in church. A welcoming, friendly, non-judgmental, and innocuous greeting can go a long way to reducing the initial butterflies of returning to worship.
2. **"How are you doing?" or "What's new?"**
Similar to an open-ended greeting, this invites conversation in a non-contextual manner. That is, you're just talking about life events without the added factor of why those life events may or may not have kept them from church.
3. **"How is [loved one] doing?" or "How is [situation] going?"**
If someone hasn't been in worship in a while, a way to certainly make them feel welcome is to pick up where you left off regarding a loved one or a situation they have talked about in the past. For you to remember that and inquire again makes them feel valued, remembered, and cared for.

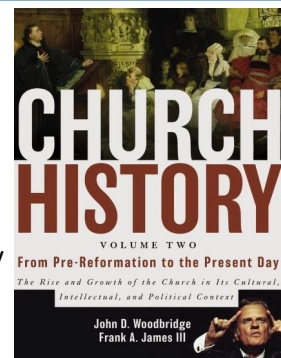
This list is not exhaustive, nor do I think you have to memorize it completely. It is not my intention to make you feel anxious or that you have to tip-toe around the subject of someone's absence from worship. It is often better to draw near and say the clumsy thing than it is to stay away and say nothing at all for fear of saying the wrong thing.

But don't let that be a reason for not loving with intention. We can be mindful of how we welcome someone. The key is to be gentle, warm, non-judgmental, and focus on their current presence instead of their past absence. And when in doubt, love like Jesus.

Pastor Jason

Sunday Morning Bible Study

All adults are welcome to join the Adult Bible Study class on Sundays at 9:00 am. This spring we will be studying church history from the Reformation up until today. Each Sunday will have a 30-minute video presentation from Zondervan Publishing, followed by a time of review and conversation.



Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 7th

1st Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion

Installation of Church Officers

Pastor Jason will preach "Dressing for the Occasion" based on Mark 1:4-11.

Sunday, January 14th

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Pastor Jason will preach "Anything Good" based on John 1:43-51.

Sunday, January 21st

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Pastor Jason will preach "As If" based on 1st Corinthians 7:29-31.

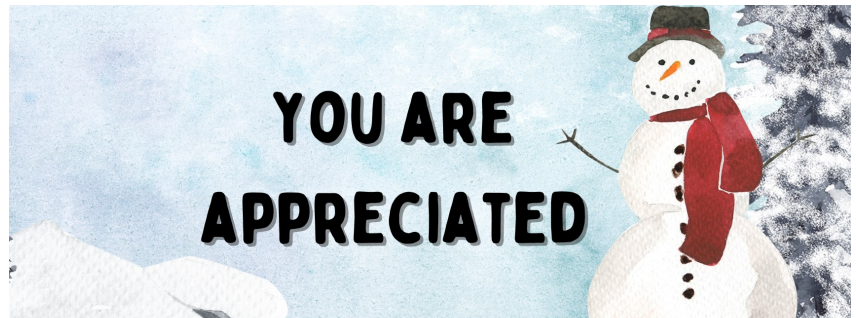
Sunday, January 28th

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Potluck and Church Council after

Worship Pastor Jason will preach

"Building Up or Knocking Down" based on 1st Corinthians 8:1-13



- Thank you to all those who donated to the Mitten Tree Christmas Gift program and to Marlene Sobek for coordinating the event.
- Thank you to all those who helped out with our Winterfest Craft and Baked Goods Sale on December 1.
- Thank you to the Worship Choir for providing special music at our Christmas Eve Service.
- Thank you to Kari Caulum and Megan Vanderbloemen for leading worship on December 2.
- Thank you to Jerry Mayr, Bob Hudecek, Seth Andersen, and Pastor Jason for setting out the luminaries on Christmas Eve and to Jerry and Bob for picking them up afterwards.
- Thank you to Doug & Shirley Block, Joel & Kari Caulum, Libby & Chris Coffini, Russ & Marty Karow, Kay Kinderman, Peggy Landgraf, Jerry & Cheryl Mayr, Paige & Cody Michels, Bob & Marlene Sobek, Kristi Thering, Addison Vanderbloemen, and Rich & Laurie Vanderbloemen for purchasing poinsettias in memory of your loved ones to adorn our sanctuary over Christmas, and to Shirley Block for picking the poinsettias up and arranging them in the sanctuary.
- Thank you to Shirley Block, Kari Caulum, Ken Glienke, Vicky Gouldthorp, Elizabeth Hockett, Peggy Landgraf, and Daryl Stephens for serving as candle servers on Christmas Eve.
- Thank you to Ken Glienke, Peggy Landgraf, and Shirley Block for cleaning the church in December.
- Thank you to Peggy Landgraf, Jason & Amy Andersen, Russ & Marty Karow, and Betty Timm for hosting fellowship after worship in December.
- Thank you to the adults and teachers who helped out with costumes and coordination at our Christmas Pageant on December 17.



January Celebrations

Birthdays

3rd – Christy Mayr

4th – Gary Mayr, Jerry Mayr

5th – Margy Phipps

14th – Kelly Lapp

15th – Randy Anhalt

20th – Shirley Block

21st – Cassidy Keene

24th – Vicki Gilbertson

27th – Mackenzie Mayr

31st – Beth Sobek

Congratulations to
Wade and Cassidy (Byrd) Keene
who were married in a small family
ceremony at our church on December 31st!

Bulletin Change

The Board of Elders voted to discontinue receiving paper copies of the bulletins from the Moravian Interprovincial Board of Communications (IBOC), and will switch to receiving the bulletins from the IBOC digitally instead.

We will still utilize the bulletin backs from the IBOC with the devotionals on them, but we will print our own bulletins. This change will begin on February 18th, the first Sunday in Lent. This will cut our bulletin costs in half while using the same amount of paper as we won't need a bulletin insert.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with an Elder.

ADD THIS TO YOUR CALENDAR

OUR ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER

Chili and all the fixings, including homemade pies.
Carryouts will be available.

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2024
4:30AM-7:00PM

A planning committee is being formed. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further information from the pulpit, the weekly e-newsletter, and our website and Facebook page on how you can help out!



JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

| | Church Cleaner Coordinator Peggy Landgraf | Worship Hosts Coordinators Jerry M and Bob H | Call to Worship | Scripture Reader | Fellowship Host Coordinator Shirley B | Sunday School Teachers |
|---------|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Jan. 7 | Kristi Thering | Peggy Landgraf & Seth Andersen | John Scepanski <i>Psalm 20</i> | Marty Karow Mark 1:4-11 | Toni Reigstad | Amy Andersen |
| Jan. 14 | Kristi Thering | Daryl Stephens & Joel Caulum | Amy Andersen <i>Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</i> | Shirley Block John 1:43-51 | Jerry & Cheryl Mayr | Michelle Larkins |
| Jan. 21 | Toni Reigstad | Rich & Laurie Vanderbloemen | Peggy Landgraf <i>Psalm 62:5-12</i> | Cheryl Mayr 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 | Ken Glienke, Kay Kinderman & Joyce Simon | Marie True |
| Jan. 28 | Toni Reigstad | Marlene Sobek & Sol Andersen | Bob Hudecek <i>Psalm 111</i> | Amy Andersen 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 | Potluck | Lindsay Freye |

PIE AUCTION

Our annual Pie Auction to benefit the Church Building Fund will be held on Sunday, February 11 after worship. Plan on join us and baking and/or bidding on some delicious pies.

It's lots of fun and it all goes to a great cause of helping pay off our building expansion loan.



Trustees Meeting Highlights

The Trustees met on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 pm.

- We read the Behavioral Covenant and approved the Financial Secretary's Report, November minutes, and Pastor's Report.
- We reviewed items on hold until the spring.
- We reviewed the thank you gift for Russ Karow for his years of service as Cemetery Superintendent.
- Pastor Jason updated the Board on the anonymous \$5k matching year-end gift.
- The expansion tank at the parsonage was leaking and replaced with a new one.
- Monthly maintenance was performed on drains, water softener, and furnace.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm.

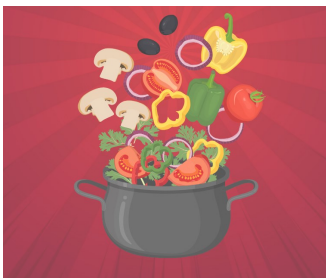
Financial Report as December 31, 2023

The financial secretary, Joel Caulum will provide a full report at the church council meeting on Sunday, January 28. Individual statements will be out by the end of January 2024.

Church Council & Potluck

Our next Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28 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 19.

Don't forget to bring a dish to share as we will also partake in a potluck lunch!



Mission Nutrition Volunteer Help

Each Tuesday afternoon, Pastor Jason helps with a local free mobile food pantry called Mission Nutrition. They're located in the Pick n Save parking lot opposite Home Town Pharmacy. If you'd like to help out, go to www.missionnutritiondeforest.org and click on "Volunteer." You will be either helping load food into people's vehicles or helping stock shelves or boxes, so this is not something for anyone with mobility issues. The volunteer shifts are from 4-6 on Tuesday afternoons, and they also have a shift every other Friday morning. Talk to Pastor Jason if you have any questions.

Elders Meeting Highlights

The Elders did not meet in December.

The next Elders meeting will be scheduled by the incoming Board at a time still TBD.

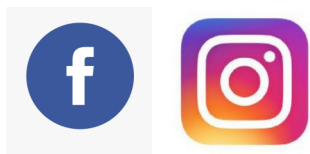
Upcoming Youth and Young Adult Retreats

- The District Mid-Winter Youth Retreat for youth in grade 9-age 21 will be February 2-4 at the Waconia Moravian Church in Waconia, MN. Pastor Jason will be leading the program.
- The District Young Adult Retreat for young adults age 18-30ish will be February 16-18 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. Rev. Charlie McDonald from the Chaska Moravian Church will lead the program.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Socialize with Us!

**Save the date for the
Fourth Annual
Moravian Day of Giving!**

This special day is not just about financial contributions; it's about the collective strength of our Moravian community, driven by shared values and a commitment to make a lasting impact.

More information will be coming soon!!

Moravian
DAY OF
giving
SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
