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# West Side Moravian Church

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## How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent series in Luke's Gospel

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### Worship in December

Sunday, December 7  
Luke 1:24-45 & Isaiah  
40:1-11

*We find joy in connection*

Sunday, December 14  
Luke 1:57-66 & Psalm  
126

*We allow ourselves to be  
amazed*

Sunday, December 21  
Luke 1:46-55 & Luke  
1:67-80

*We sing stories of hope*

Christmas Eve  
*We make room*

Sunday, December 28  
Luke 2:21-38

*We root ourselves in  
ritual*

Our Advent and Christmas season features a series from Luke's Gospel developed by Sanctified Art. This series asks the question "How does a weary world rejoice?" A bit about the series from Sanctified Art:

"In each week of our series, we respond to this question (How does a weary world rejoice?) with a statement inspired by our scriptures. These texts bring us into a space of possibility; in them, we find rhythms for rejoicing, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Each weekly sub-theme is a "we" statement because joy is deeply relational and rooted in the fact that we belong to God. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy"

Through this holy season we'll look to the sacred story, share in some familiar Moravian traditions, encounter the story through skits by our Sunday School, and be led in worship by our choirs.

In this holy season we can bring our whole selves to worship holding both weariness and rejoicing. In this holy season consider ways to extend an invite to someone seeking space to worship, spiritual rest and renewal.

**December Birthdays**



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurelyn Heier
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeff Brandt
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tarra Bruckner
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ashley Loch
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Gretzinger
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Lindsley
- 8<sup>th</sup> Joyce Huth
- 10<sup>th</sup> Laura Robinson
- 15<sup>th</sup> Fern Tarkowski
- 16<sup>th</sup> Gregg Belonger
- 17<sup>th</sup> Caleb Blazek
- 19<sup>th</sup> Nancy Granger
- 20<sup>th</sup> Liam Skenandore
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Carol Marcks
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Gary Martin
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mary Schlader
- 28<sup>th</sup> Lori Stevens
- 29<sup>th</sup> Kevin Konshak
- 29<sup>th</sup> Cal Pashouwer
- 30<sup>th</sup> Ivan Blazek
- 30<sup>th</sup> Jackie Frelich

**December Anniversaries**

- 13<sup>th</sup> Tim & Misty Sturtz
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Cal & Jackie Pashouwer
- 28<sup>th</sup> Glen & Fern Tarkowski
- 31<sup>st</sup> Jesse & Krysta Wiltzios



**December Newsletter Shared**

*In Memory of*  
 ✨ **Joseph & Catherine Antonissen** ✨

*From*  
**The Antonissen Family**

**Elder of the Month**

Every month a different member of the Board of Elders serves as “Elder of the Month”. They help prepare Holy Communion often assisting with serving. They are another point of contact to reach out to if the Pastor is unavailable or away. They welcome guest worship leaders, and assist with worship as needed.

**Elder of the  
 Month for  
 December**

**Jim Huss**

**Packer Parking  
 Fundraising**

The Packer Parking sign- up sheet is on the office bulletin board. Please look over and sign up to help. Funds from parking cars support educational ministries, retreats, works for justice through JOSHUA, EPH missions and service ministries. Funds raised at the Brat Shed goes to further support mission trips near and far. Games this month are Sundays December 7<sup>th</sup> and either December 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> with time TBD.

**Men’s Fellowship  
 Breakfast**

All men are invited to meet for breakfast on the first Saturday of the month. Enjoy breakfast and conversation. This month the group meets Saturday, December 6 at 7:30pm at Village Grille in Allouez.

**Board of Elders**

- Pastor Marian Boyle
- Rohloff  
*(Chair)*
- Sue Vande Hei
- Jackie Frelich  
*(Secretary)*
- Jim Huss  
*(Vice-Chair)*
- Shelley Krueger
- Mary Schlader  
*(Secretary)*
- Faith Hagedorn
- Ivy McGee
- Tenna Derenne  
*(Youth Elder)*

**Board of Trustees**

- Shane Krueger
- Gary Straughan
- Bruce Deuchert  
*(Chair)*
- Cal Pashouwer
- Dale Schlader
- Gary Vande Hei  
*(Vice- Chair)*
- Cheryl Weber  
*(Secretary)*

**Treasurer**

Gary Straughan

**Pastor**

Rev. Marian  
 Boyle Rohloff  
 Office: 920-499-4433  
 Home: 920-544-8141  
*(Day off – Friday)*

**Office Coordinator**

Janice Charles Pedler

**Organist &  
 Choir Director**

Jason Pues

**Custodian**

B.J. Derenne

**Cemetery**

**Groundskeepers**  
 Gary & Lisa Konshak

## **Update from the Joint Board**

The Joint Board commissioned a sub committee called the Big Ideas Committee last spring. The Big Ideas Committee has been researching the inclusion of screens to project videos, lyrics, and liturgy in our worship space. After prayer and discussion, the committee agreed this was worth pursuing for the following reasons: provide a more welcoming, inviting, and accessible space for worship; show videos from ministries such as local mission trips and ministries; importance of adapting to new ways of sharing ministry; aligns with our congregational core values in care for others, nurturing fellowship, and strengthening our abilities to worship. The Joint Board has approved a plan to install tv monitors into the sanctuary and one in the Fellowship Hall, and welcomes your questions about this project as we move forward toward installation.

## **Covenant Sunday Message**

**By Ivy McGee**

*Ivy shared this message on Covenant Sunday,  
November 16 during worship.*

Good morning, family. And I really do mean family. This congregation doesn't just gather together—we show up for one another. We bring our grandchildren. We bring our friends. I bring my niece. Over and over, we widen the circle, and that's one of the things that makes this place so special. It's one of the clearest expressions of what we believe as Moravians: "In all things, love."

Covenant Sunday reminds us that faith isn't only about what we say; it's about how we live together. And just like any family, this church runs well because people quietly, faithfully pitch in. We keep things going because someone signs up for fellowship. Someone drops off supplies for the giving tree. Someone steps in to do the children's message. Someone works Packer game day parking. Someone joins a committee. Someone sends a card. Someone shares a message when the moment calls for it. None of these actions are glamorous, but all of them are love in motion. They're the glue that holds this family together.

But today also invites us to look around and notice who's not here. We all know someone who once sat beside us but fell out of the habit. Maybe it started during COVID. Maybe life got busy. Maybe they're unsure if anyone would notice. Maybe they're waiting to be asked.

If we take "in all things, love" seriously, then inviting those people back—our family, our friends, our neighbors—is part of our covenant too. It's an act of care. It's an act of welcome. It's an act of love.

So I want to encourage each of us to reach out. Think of someone who hasn't been here in a while. Think of a neighbor who might need a place to land. Think of a family member who has said, "I should get back to church someday." Let's be the ones who make the call, send the text, offer the ride, or simply say, "Come sit with me next Sunday. We've saved you a place."

This isn't about filling pews. It's about strengthening the relationships that make this church feel like home. It's about renewing our covenant with one another in a way that is lived, not just spoken.

Thank you for the love you already show in so many ways. Thank you for the countless acts of care that keep this congregation strong. And thank you for helping us continue to grow this family—guided by that simple, powerful truth we hold dear: In all things, love.

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*"We covenant with hand and  
heart to follow Christ our Lord;"  
Moravian Book of Worship, #209*

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## **Scrip Cards**

One of our fundraising efforts is through the Raise Right Scrip card program. Purchase cards on the first Sunday of the month. A percentage of each card is used in the church's ministry. See Kailyn Schlader with any questions.

### Before You Go Workshop

Have you wrote your own Moravian lebenslauf (a memoir)? Do you have a will or know how to develop such a document? What hymns, scriptures and other plans do you have for your funeral? These questions and more will be addressed in the “Before You Go” workshop offered by the Elders.

Join us Sundays February 22, March 1 and March 8 during the Sunday School hour. On Sunday, March 1 Chris Spaugh from the Moravian Ministries Foundation will be joining us to share what services the Foundation can offer in planning.

Mark your calendars now and see Jackie Frelich or Sue Vande Hei with any questions.

### The Fridge – Volunteer Opportunity

We have been in conversation with the Lombardi Neighborhood Association about hosting a community Fridge on the church grounds. This would provide a place for neighbors to take or drop off perishable or non-perishable foods. We are currently seeking volunteers to help monitor the fridge periodically. If you have interest in helping and learning more please talk with Pastor Marian.

### Crafter and Caring Ministry

In November the Crafter and Caring team made meals for our community. We made extra meals to have on hand for any who stopped by needing a meal. In addition, members of the team sold crafts at the November 2 and 10 Packer games.

Our next gathering is Thursday, December 4 at 4:00pm. We’ll be making freezer meals those living at St. John the Evangelist Shelter.

Type of Contribution	Report in 2025	Report in 2026
Check written in December 2025 and deposited in the mail and <u>postmarked in December 2025</u> but not received by the church until January, 2026	XX	
Check dated in December 2025 and deposited in church offering in January, 2026		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in December 2025 but dated January, 2026		XX
Check written in December 2025 and deposited in the mail in December 2025 but not <u>postmarked until January 2026</u> and not received by the church until January, 2026		XX

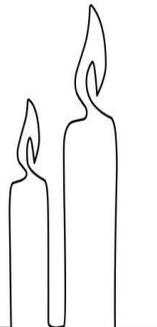
### ANNUAL GREATER GREEN BAY HOMELESS PERSONS'

### *Interfaith Memorial Service*

Save the Date:  
December 18 at 7pm

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
427 ST. JOHN STREET  
GREEN BAY, WI

*The memorial will be preceded by a Peace Walk at 6:30pm across the street at St. John's Park with the Open Heart Mindfulness Community for those who wish to participate.*



### Christmas Eve at Home Kits

If you are joining in worship online for Christmas Eve please let us know so we can get you a Christmas Eve kit. This includes buns for the Lovefeast, Christmas candles, a bulletin, and a Watchword for 2026. If you would like to pick up a kit or have one delivered please contact the church office by Wednesday, December 17.



### JOSHUA

Thank you to all who participated in the JOSHUA Annual Fundraiser in November. We continue to invite your participation as we work for legal system reforms, environmental justice, housing reform and advocate for the civil rights of immigrants.

A few highlights for December: Pints with a Purpose fundraiser at Zambaldi's on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 3pm. Also, we have our monthly prayer vigil at 12pm on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Learn more about ways to get involved at [joshua4justice.org](http://joshua4justice.org)

### **Decorating at Heritage Hill**

We are grateful for the hospitality offered by Heritage Hill State Park in hosting us for worship on Thanksgiving Eve. One of the ways we can express our thanks is by decorating the sanctuary at Heritage Hill. Join us Monday, December 1 at 5:00pm. We'll meet at Gallaghers Pizza following decorating (about 6-6:30pm) for dinner.

### **Ecumenical Partnership For Housing**

*Updates from the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) Executive Director, Crystal DeCleene.*

Thank you to all our church partners for helping make our Grace & Gratitude Gathering a success last week! We had around 400 people join us throughout the night at Stadium View and over \$18,000 was raised the night of the event. With sponsorships, a total of over \$45,000 was raised for EPH through this event. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share our message with so many people and raise these crucial funds to carry out our mission.

The blessings continue for EPH as we learned this morning that we had an opportunity to purchase a house before it went on the market and our offer was accepted today. In just a couple weeks, we will have the ability to provide housing for another family, bringing our total capacity to 41 families at a time.

Finally, I am so grateful to share that an anonymous donor has stepped forward who will be matching donations made to EPH during our Giving Tuesday campaign from 11/27-12/5 up to a total of \$50,000. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 during this campaign to unlock the full matching gift for a total of \$100,000 to help provide housing, case management, and eviction prevention services for local families facing homelessness.

The need for housing and supportive services in our community remains great, and we appreciate your support in partnering with us to do all we can to meet that need. We currently have all EPH homes

full or accounted for with a family moving in soon – plus 35 additional families on our waiting list.

We appreciate your help. Thank you again for all you do to support EPH and the families we serve each day.

### **Christmas Eve Helpers**

We are seeking helpers to serve the Lovefeast on Christmas Eve and the candles. Services are at 10am and 5pm. We also welcome volunteers to serve as ushers. If you'd like to help, contact the church office. Thank you to Ivy McGee and Jackie Frelich for coordinating the servers this year.

### **Book Discussion- Racial Justice and Understanding**

We are next reading "Awaken the Sacred: Healing with Traditional Lakota Knowledge, Quantum Physics and the Divine" by Basil Brave Heart. We are looking to meet to discuss early January. If you'd like to be part of this please let Pastor know and we'll find a time that works for all.

### **Unity Prayer Watch**

Throughout the worldwide Unity of the Moravian Church prayer is happening 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Congregations are invited to take part in the Unity Prayer Watch this year that falls on Thursday, December 4 for our congregation. Look over the prayer times below and if there are times you can sign up to pray by calling (920) 499-4433 or email [pastor@wsmoraviangb.org](mailto:pastor@wsmoraviangb.org). You may also sign up on the church office bulletin board.

#### **Times for Prayer on December 4**

12am-12:30am	10am-10:30am	12pm-12:30pm
3:30pm-4pm	7:30pm-8pm	10pm-10:30pm

### **Supporting Our Shared Ministries**

Thank you to all who continue to give generously to our shared ministry!



Your giving strengthens our care for others, cultivates lives marked by generosity, and gives life to Christ's ministry in worship, learning, service and justice. You may share your tithes and offerings in worship, or by snail mail, or sign up for online giving at <https://mmfa.info/west-side-moravian-church-wi-donation-form/> or use the QR code.

## **Board of World Mission Updates**

The Board of World Mission (BWM) has received a detailed report from the Provincial Board of the Jamaica and Cayman Islands Province of the Moravian Church following Hurricane Melissa's devastating impact on the island.

According to the report, five church buildings have been destroyed: Carmel, Salem, Beaufort, Springfield, and Faith Moravian Church. In addition, 20 church-owned facilities, the majority of which are churches, but also manses and schools, have sustained severe damage, with roofs torn away and major structural losses. Damage among homes and community buildings is also extensive. The report noted that "it is feared that most, if not all, of the 36 congregations at the Central and Western District Conferences have sustained some level of damage."

The Provincial Board has outlined a multi-step plan for the coming weeks and months, which includes addressing people's immediate needs, offering pastoral and psychological care, continuing to coordinate assessments across affected areas, mobilizing local volunteer groups for cleanup and repair, and establishing the Moravian Church Jamaica and Cayman Islands (MCJCI) Disaster Response Fund. The BWM's Moravian Disaster Response (MDR) has contributed an initial \$10,000 to this fund. Additional support is greatly needed to meet the scale of destruction and to help our partners rebuild and build anew their places of worship, ministry, and community life.

We are aware of several fundraisers across the Worldwide Moravian Unity and ask that Moravians in North America respond to this disaster through BWM channels to help us facilitate a coordinated response. This also enables us to prepare for North American mission teams to assist with recovery efforts when the Moravian Church in Jamaica is ready to receive us. We are also maintaining contact with partners and leaders in Cuba and Haiti, who were also impacted by this storm.

100% of donations received for our MDR Fund go directly to providing relief for these disasters. You can assist us with our disaster response efforts by giving online at [MoravianMission.org/Give](https://MoravianMission.org/Give).

Please designate your gift to "MDR."

Please make checks payable to:

U.S. Donors: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center  
Include your name and address in the comments section of the transfer to receive tax receipts.

## **Christian Education News**

Sunday school is held every Sunday at 10:15am to 11:15am. Adults are in the lounge looking at the early chapters from Genesis with the book *The Very Good Gospel* by Lisa Sharon Harper.

Children/youth are downstairs in their meeting rooms. Sunday school for the youth/children is exciting and full of fresh ideas to learn God's message. In December we will learn what is so special about the birth of John and the birth of Jesus? The dedication of Jesus in the temple and his baptism. We will be looking at making life size angels, creating some magic and writing the Jerusalem Times. Please join us and enjoy the excitement.

Giving tree is up for you to pull a tag and bring a gift for "You Belong". Gift ideas are AA and AAA alkaline batteries, 10"soak and cut proof paper plates, GoGo squeeze applesauce, Beads for Jewelry making, Snack bags of Garden Veggie snacks, Oreo cookies, and Cube boxes of Kleenex. More items are on tree. Please bring gifts to church by Dec 21. Thank you.

November 30 after worship the Advent workshop with a potluck was held. Lots of activities were completed. Thank you to all that attended.

Congregational Retreat will be held in the beautiful Sandhill building at Mt Morris on Friday, January 30-Sunday, February 1, 2026. Come for one day or all days. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Next CEC meeting will be held December 9, 2025 at 6pm on zoom.



