



# The Moravian Star

Sister Bay Moravian Church – December 2015

## Good Christians

I was eating lunch today. The TV was blabbering. I was not paying attention, until I heard a woman on the TV say, “Well, she’s not a good Christian. If she were a good Christian, she would...”

I don’t know what the show was. I’m sure the show was of questionable morally integrity. Honestly, I don’t really know what point the woman went on to make. I can only guess it was not a strong theological argument.

But, there was something in her insinuation that there are “good Christians” that bothered me. If there are “good Christians,” there must therefore be “bad Christians.” Good Christians do the things we do, like the things we like, believe the things we believe, pray the way we pray. Bad Christians don’t do, like, believe, or pray like us.

I wonder if any of us are “good Christians”?

There is something compelling about the Jesus story at Christmas time that spotlights our inability to be too good at following God. At its core, I believe Christmas calls us to recognize that we cannot be good followers of God; that is why Jesus comes as a beautiful and tremendous gift of grace. Jesus’ arrival is not based on our inherent goodness or badness. Jesus’ arrival is purely based on God’s desire to show us what love looks like—free, unadulterated, messy, radical, courageous, and reckless love.

Remember all of those Sunday School Christmas plays...the great stage of characters that come out to greet the Immanuel. They are dressed as shepherds. They are dressed as magi. They are dressed as kings. They are dressed as sheep and trees and angels. For all of the costumes, they are ordinary people seeking a Savior. And shining in the eyes of God is the realization that our goodness and our badness simply don’t matter.

What matters is that we come to him. What matters is that we sit with him a while. What matters is that we struggle with him to make sense out of our, often times, senseless world. What matters is that we recognize the real people behind the costumes and treat each other, our neighbors, our fellow travelers, and the strangers along the way accordingly.

This is an invitation to walk through Advent seeking out the hope, love, peace, and joy that comes from God. These rare qualities may be masked as candles twinkling in the sanctuary windows at night. They may be masked as the loving embrace of friends and reunions with family. They may be masked as opportunities to forgive and mend. They may be wrapped with paper and bows underneath the Christmas tree.

Be assured, beyond a doubt that they are there. And furthermore, they are God’s treasured gifts to each one of us.

In Faith. In Love. In Hope.

Pastor Kerry

**Pastor Kerry’s Office Hours:** Barring emergency, I am in the office  
**Monday–Wednesday 9 am–12 pm**

I am always available for a time to meet—my place or yours

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## December Servants

Date	Lectors	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts	Elder of the Month
Dec 6	Kathy Wagner	Bocheks	BELLS	Sheila Petroni 868-3648 Petronidcwis@gmail.com
Dec 13	JoAnn Morris	Schaefer's	Lucille K, Betty H, Thorpes	
Dec 20	Sunday School	Pfeifers	Krapfs & Darlene H	
Dec 27	Sheila Petroni		Everyone bring cookies!	

### Fill in the blanks!

Contact Naomi Thomas if you would like to read Scripture during worship.  
 Contact Pete Budic if you would like to usher.  
 Contact Tracey Fitzgerald if you would like to host fellowship time after church.

### December Birthdays

- 12/02 Susan Staver
- 12/06 Marilyn Potts
- 12/07 Donna Conrad
- 12/08 Tracey Fitzgerald
- 12/12 Karena Malmgren
- 12/13 Greg Sunstrom
- 12/19 Olivia Olson
- 12/20 Conall Smith
- 12/25 Alice Sautebin
- 12/28 Abbigael Sitte
- 12/29 Mike Jacobson

### December Anniversaries

- 12/03 Gary & Beverly Schulze
- 12/04 Mike & Sharon Jacobson
- 12/29 Gene & Laurie Anderson

**Willard Sunstrom's memorial service** will be held on Saturday, December 26, in Scandia's Gathering Room. The time is TBD.

**Those ill or recovering:** Bill MacMillan, Bonny Vahey, Marv Ketterling Jr, Rick Kohn, Tessa Erickson, Vance Voight, Kenon Bunda, Anita Anderson, Rick Gename, Nancy Hughes, Harold & Kaye Knutson, Janet Schuster

**Senior living & nursing care centers:** Dick Kostka, Elaine Kalms, Bernice Sunstrom

**Serving in the military:** Bryan Duff, Brian Flood, Patrick Flood, Austin Lent, David Mann, Todd Pichette, Jimmy Wiltse



## Informational Meeting for Ahuas Medical Clinic



Are you interested in a mission trip to Honduras? Rick Nelson, director of Ahuas Medical Clinic, has invited Sister Bay Moravian—and other churches in Northeast Wisconsin—to think ahead to early 2017. There will be an informational meeting at Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church on January 7<sup>th</sup> (7 pm) to discuss the trip, what's necessary to become involved, the talents needed, and the cost of travel and expenses for mission workers (approximately \$2,000 each). *You won't be asked to commit to anything* as an outcome of this meeting!

Whether you're interested in the mission work yourself, considering donations or other local support, or want to learn more about the clinic in rural Honduras, put this meeting on your calendar! Our church is already setting aside a portion of event proceeds to start a mission travel fund. This year's Ahuas goal of \$80,000 for the Carry Water project was met with additional grant money!

# Christmas Events

Add these dates to your calendar!

## Saturday, December 5

### ADVENTure at Ephraim Moravian

Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> is "Christmas in the Village" in Ephraim. Aside from great shopping and music, Ephraim Moravian has an ADVENTure from 11 am to 2 pm for candle wrapping, making Moravian stars, a bake sale, tour of the church and more!

## Sunday, December 6

### Unity Prayer Day

Sister Bay Moravian shares December 6 with other Door County Moravians, so someone will be praying the entire 24 hours. Pick a time of prayer and look at the topics in Fellowship Hall!

## Thursday, December 10 – Church Family Dinner

Join your church family for dinner on Thursday, December 10, at 6 pm. The venue is Mink River Basin in Ellison Bay. Sign up in Fellowship Hall so the venue has an approximate head count. Pay at the door: the family-style dinner is \$22 and includes dinner, tax, and tip.



## Saturday, December 12 Christmas in the Country

This year's Christmas in the Country event added a new feature: Well-known local artists and craftspeople will be setting up tables in Fellowship Hall to sell their wares! This not only takes the weight off volunteers to provide silent auction or crafts, but we're building relationships with talented Door County neighbors. The well-loved traditions will be here, too: Hearty Chicken Soup, giant Bake Sale & Rag Rugs. Look for Christmas gifts: There will be therapeutic corn bags, Smitten (sweater mitten) kits, hand knit & wearable art, cards, unique jewelry, metal yard art and more! Stop by on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> from 11 am–2 pm.

## Sunday, December 20

### Christmas Concert at Scand

Ring in Christmas with our church family and friends with a joint Sister Bay Moravian/Ephraim Moravian Christmas Concert on December 20 at 1:30 pm. The concert will be at Scandia Village in the Gathering Room. The Joint Choirs will minister along with our Bells of Praise. Rehearsal times prior to the event: Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am and Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

## Christmas Eve Service December 24

It wouldn't be Christmas without lighting Moravian candles and singing "Silent Night" together. The service will be at 5:30 pm.

## A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS



Oh, it's a country Christmas  
That I am dreaming of,  
With candles in the windows  
And a Church that's filled with love.

With folks singing carols  
As they trim the Christmas tree;



And ladies in the kitchen  
Baking treats for you and me.

A church upon the hillside  
And moonlight on the snow,  
Oh, it's a country Christmas  
That casts a special glow.

## Kudos Kolumn

Gratitude to Cheryl Surbaugh for her beautiful quilt on the cover of *O Come Emmanuel*, our Advent devotional.

A big thanks to all who helped with the Chicken Dinner. The Mission Committee is sending \$1,600 to the Ahuas Medical Clinic and setting aside \$500 from proceeds for a future mission trip.

Trudy Fandrei led the Thanksgiving Basket troops—Dawn Emery-Janzen, Debbie Mann, Karen Knudson, Bill Porter and delivery men, Kerry Krauss and Bill Schaefer. Thanks to all who donated either by bringing in the supplies or donating money toward this community project. The Piggly Wiggly donated the turkeys, and Lars Johnson from Al Johnsons paid for the remaining supplies that were needed. Great job!

More thanks to those who cleaned up the yard at "Leaf Fest" on November 4<sup>th</sup> and to those who came back (many times) to finish the work, including Karen and Jerry Knudson and Paul & Cheryl Lubhan. Lots of leaves were blown and hauled away! More fix-it thank-yous to Jerry Knudson for checking out the humidistat that had fallen off the one of the church furnaces...Bill Porter for getting rid of the water in the basement *again* and trying to find a remedy for this problem...Don Ray for recycling from May through November.

Special thanks to the ladies who decorated the church for Christmas: Sheila Petroni, Karen Knudson, Anne Porter, Betty Holland, Ruth Budic, June Olson, and Kathy Ray. Sue Sunstrom and Sally Pfeifer served at the Richard Larson funeral.

Applause for Sheila Petroni and Naomi Thomas for their years on the Elders Board and to Bill Porter for all his work on the Trustee Board, as well as to JoAnne Morris, whose three-year term was up but will serve for another term.



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## Spiritual Writers Guild

The Spiritual Writers Guild will regroup on January 9, 2016, skipping this busy-enough month. The new Advent booklet, *O Come Emmanuel*, begins with Cheryl Surbaugh's beautiful Advent quilt and follows each day of the four weeks of Advent with a scripture, prayer, and personal writings. There are limited copies of the booklet in Fellowship Hall, or go to our website ([www.sisterbaymoravianchurch.org](http://www.sisterbaymoravianchurch.org)) and follow the devotional online or download it.

Bishop Kay Ward helped teach the Spiritual Writers Guild her writing methods, and she has sent us "Seven Wonderful Things You Can Do with Words":

- ★ Use your words to write – anyone can do it, it's cheap, easy, fun and nonfattening.
- ★ Use your words to get in touch with the world around you.
- ★ Use your words to express what you think, feel, and believe.
- ★ Use your words to develop a deeper relationship with God.
- ★ Use your words to record the story of your life.
- ★ Use your words to make meaning of your life in God.
- ★ Use your words to open your heart to the whisper of God.

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## Liberty Grove Honors Veterans

Liberty Grove Historical Society is embarking on an historic quest to honor the heritage of the people of Liberty Grove and their relatives and friends who are serving or are veterans of our country's Armed Forces. A Heritage Walkway offers supporters the chance to purchase bricks inscribed with their names, family names or business names. Proceeds from the sale of the bricks will be used to fund projects and programs of the Historical Society. To purchase a brick or for more information, go to [www.lghshonorcircle.donationbricks.com](http://www.lghshonorcircle.donationbricks.com) or call Faith Murray, at 920-421-1754.

## Women's Fellowship

At our October 31st meeting, we elected:

### Officers

- President: Kathy Ray
- Vice President and Treasurer: Sheila Petroni
- Secretary: Dawn Emery-Janzen.

### Committee Members

- Faith Development, Jan Schrader
- Funeral lunches: Jan–March: June Olson, April–June: Trudy Fandrei-Debbie Mann; July–Sept: Kathy Ray; Oct–Dec: Sue Sunstrom
- Service and Outreach: Anne Porter
- Mission: Jan Schrader
- Christmas Gifts: Lucille Kostka and Betty Holland
- Fellowship Hall table decorations: Nov–May: Jenni Stultz & Jan Schrader; June–Oct: Beth Ferris
- Cards for birthdays or get well: Diane Thorpe
- Kitchen Coordinator: Sheila Petroni
- Hospitality: Karen Knudson, Sheila Petroni
- Rug Making: Lucille Kostka, Kathy Ray
- Scholarship: Britt Maltby, Dawn Emery-Janzen, Kathy Wagner

The Women's Fellowship support many projects within the church, but also in the community and beyond. Our budgeted income varies but is usually around \$5,000 and we try to support many projects while also paying for kitchen and coffee hour supplies. I want to thank the women who were part of our annual WOMENS Sunday on November 15<sup>th</sup>: Sally Pfeifer, Trudy Fandrei, Cheryl Lubahn, Dawn Emery-Janzen, Karen Knudson, Marty Gename, and a special Thank you to Kathy Wagner for giving a great sermon.

–Kathy Ray

### Board of Trustees – Update

The 2015 financial position shows an anticipated deficit of \$13,000. Even with the changes to salary and expense that were implemented in 2015, we cannot meet all of our expenses. We eliminated salary for the parish nurse and bell choir instructor and reduced salary for others. During this year, the treasurer also decided to accept no salary. We also reduced the heat throughout the building, purchased space heaters for the two offices in use on a regular basis, and turned off the water heater in between events. The 2016 budget reflects our current level of giving and expenses with a reduction in monthly mortgage payments, the heating bill and snow blowing. Yet there is a deficit of \$3,092. We need to find a way to cover this year's shortage or next year we will be facing a \$15,000 deficit.

Volunteers and special contributions are not reflected in our expense report. And yet these hold us up and maintain our strong overall position. Volunteers maintain our yard, cut grass, and prune all of the gardens. The Fellowship Hall is now well lit with all new light bulbs, thanks to everyone purchasing a bulb or two and volunteer time to replace them. Through the "Seeds of Faith" initiative we've reduced our mortgage to \$15,000. Our goal is to pay it off by April 2016. We so appreciate your response to date and hope to achieve our goal. **As of November 22, the total Seeds of Faith giving is now \$35,270.**

Our \$100,000 investment in Moravian Ministries has earned and lost income based on the stock market. As of the third quarter, we were down \$3,000. We plan to allow the fund to grow over the long term and use "interest only" on future building needs.

–JoAnne Morris



## Board of Elders – Update

- Eight youth attended the first Wednesday after school event.
- The women's Tuesday study has resumed.
- The Chicken Dinner is October 21st.
- We hope to hold a pre-Christmas dinner this year as it was a popular event in years past.
- A committee is being formed for our 125th anniversary celebration. Naomi Thomas and Trudy Fandrei will serve and they are looking for others who are interested. Please talk with Pastor Kerry if you are willing to help.
- Women's Sunday, led by our Moravian Women group, was set for November 15th.

### For Financial Update

Budget Snapshot	Oct-14	October-15	YTD 2015	2015 Budget	% of Budget
Envelope	\$ 15,832	\$ 7,534	\$ 104,571	\$ 163,500	64%
Loose	\$ 1,161	\$ 1,603	\$ 17,924	\$ 9,200	195%
Other	\$ 501	\$ 1,728	\$ 5,561	\$ 8,000	70%
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 17,493</b>	<b>\$ 10,865</b>	<b>\$ 128,056</b>	<b>\$ 180,770</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$ 8,308</b>	<b>\$ 1,788</b>	<b>\$ 26,727</b>	<b>\$ 36,826</b>	<b>73%</b>
Mission	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	0%
Office & Administration	\$ 1,190	\$ 713	\$ 9,769	\$ 7,450	131%
Denomination	\$ 3,446	\$ 182	\$ 16,008	\$ 25,494	63%
2014 Provincial Adm	\$ 3,234	\$ -	\$ 6,372	\$ 4,852	131%
2014 District Service	\$ 211	\$ -	\$ 212	\$ 212	100%
2015 Provincial Admin	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,601	\$ 18,243	42%
2015 District Admin	\$ -	\$ 182	\$ 1,822	\$ 2,187	83%
Parsonage Building Loan	\$ 795	\$ -	\$ 7,960	\$ 9,552	83%
Spiritual Formation (CEC)	\$ -	\$ 33	\$ 431	\$ 2,175	20%
Staff Expenses	\$ 10,085	\$ 8,531	\$ 81,522	\$ 100,894	81%
Worship	\$ -	\$ 73	\$ 735	\$ 1,975	37%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 25,665</b>	<b>\$ 11,320</b>	<b>\$ 153,145</b>	<b>\$ 188,768</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>\$ (6,446)</b>	<b>\$ (1,907)</b>	<b>\$ (25,089)</b>		

## Annual Church Council Report

We gathered for our annual church council on Sunday, November 11, 2015. About 36 members were present, well above the 20% needed for quorum. At the Church Council, the following actions were taken:

- The minutes from the 2014 annual meeting were accepted.
- The reports from a multitude of organizations were reviewed and accepted.
- Pat Beckstrom, Treasurer, reported that all of our bills through September have been paid, except our full payment to the Moravian Church, Northern Province. We continue to owe three months of our share of the Common Ministries, Pastor's Medical Insurance, and Pastor's Pension payments. At the time, this totaled \$13,557. Pat also reported that we have paid an additional \$29,670 on the mortgage, bringing



our balance below \$20,000. The report showed a total expense of \$177,745.86 and reflects a deficit of \$24,396.

- Trudy Fandrei, Financial Secretary, reported on receipts of the congregation. The 12-month total from November 2014–October 2015 showed our congregational income of \$198,080.41.
- The congregation reviewed and approved the 2016 budget. The proposed budget was based on an income of \$174,100 and expenses of \$169,992. This is a surplus budget, but is based on the assumption that we will have paid all outstanding bills, including our 100% of our provincial and district responsibilities. The budget also featured a “carry-over” from the 2015 budget, if we unable to meet our provincial and district responsibilities. The carry-over of \$12,296 would create a deficit budget with proposed expenses of \$182,288. Copies of the budget are available at the church office.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following for elections:

- Elders: Kathy Ray and Kathy Wagner
- Trustees: JoAnne Morris. Craig Thorpe was nominated from the floor.
- Secretary to Church Council: Linda Schaefer
- CEC Representative: Dave Emery-Janzen
- Memorial Committee: Lucille Kostka
- Cemetery Committee: Debbie Mann
- Treasurer: Pat Beckstrom
- Nominating Committee: Amie Olson, Linda Schaefer, Betty Holland, Sue Sunstrom
- Sheila Petroni was nominated from the floor to serve as our delegate to the Western District Synod to be held in April 2016. The Nominating Committee report was accepted with affirmations and applause for those who have served this congregation so well and so faithfully.
- The Pastor’s Report was reviewed and accepted.

Copies of the 2015 Church Council Report are available. If you have not yet received a copy, either via email or snail mail, please contact the office.

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## As We Greet 2016...

Rev. Delmar Dahl was one of 24 writers who contributed to the Advent devotional *O Come Emmanuel*. Here are his thoughts about facing a New Year:

“Think for a moment. What was your most favorite memory of Christmas this year? Talk or think about it.

Luke 2:52 – “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and people.”

These words were written about Jesus when he was 12 years old and on through his teenage years. And I have found them helpful for 40 years. Here’s how: Make some changes or set some goals for the next week or for the month of January in each of four areas:

- ★ Jesus grew in stature. That has to do with his body. It could be sleeping, eating, exercising, or whatever. Write one goal.
- ★ Jesus grew in wisdom. That has to do with his mind. Or what do you do for most of the day: go to school, have a job, work at home, or in retirement? How could you do it better?
- ★ Jesus grew in favor with God. Could be pray the Lord’s Prayer daily, or write a praise a day, or write a paragraph on what God means to you or whatever. Write a goal.
- ★ Jesus grew in favor with others. Could be give a compliment a day, visit an older person, send a birthday card, call a grandparent, or whatever. Write a goal.

*Dear God, thank you for the Christmas story. Please help me to do at least two of these goals before January 1st. Amen.”*

December 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>2</b> Noon: Free Community Lunch 1 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11 am–2 pm <b>ADVENTure at Ephraim Moravian Church</b>
<b>6</b> Unity Prayer Watch Day 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship/ Bells of Praise	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 1 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study 6 pm <b>SBMC Christmas dinner at Mink River Basin</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10 am–2 pm "Christmas in the Country" Bazaar and Bake Sale 
<b>13</b> 9 am Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal 10 am Worship 11:45 am Choir Rehearsal for Joint Concert	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 1 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:30 pm Choir Rehearsal for Joint Concert
<b>20</b> 9 am Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal 10 am Worship/ Children's Program 1:30 pm Christmas Concert – Joint SBMC/EMC Choirs (at SBMC)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 1 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> Men's Bible Study (tent.)  5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 	<b>26</b> Willard Sunstrom Memorial at Scand Gathering Room (time to be determined)
<b>27</b> 9 am Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal 10 am Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study NO Bells Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 1 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> Men's Bible Study (tent.)	<b>2016</b> Happy New Year	

