



# The Moravian Star

Sister Bay Moravian Church – February 2017

## Weather Report, November 25, 2016

The low lying clouds create a uniform slate gray blanket upon which the rest of my perspective is set. There is no break in the clouds, just a solid, uniform, monochrome, monotonous sheen that divides this layer from the next—I know not whether it is heaven or hell. To call it somber, brightens somber. It is gloom, without the threat or promise of rain or sun or snow to alleviate the pall stretched out over us.

Somehow, it is not oppressive—but it is not light either. Perhaps the uniformity is some persistence—either the persistence to deaden, flatten, push down and darken—or the persistence to refuse to be deadened, flattened, pushed down or darkened. Either way, it is persistence still...the persistence to die or the persistence to live.

The evergreen and the cedars stand in deep contrast to the sobriety of the day. They laugh not, nor do they play in the November breeze. They are sentinels at rigid attention, scanning the horizons for any threat. They are a comforting presence—guarding the north from Canadian and Yupper alike—defending home and hearth at all costs—like Beefeaters—they learned to not flinch.

“Good walls make good neighbors” but what if they don’t? What if the evergreen, pine, and cedar keep too much out and let precious little in? What if they are too good in their defense of home and hearth? Or what if they imprison more life than they preserve? Perhaps they guard not some external threat, but they hem me in, defending others from myself?

Under a monotonous, monochrome slate gray sky, much is at work. Like moles hidden under the grass moving, living, dying and crying—much is at work.

The leaves have given up—like westward moving settlers betrayed by weather, they have removed themselves from the path and fallen over dead. Too tired and weak to properly bury each other, they have simply quit. Stopped in their pursuit of the fertile fields. They cower in corners and straggle through tall grass, like invading soldiers perishing on Normandy beach. They made it as far as they could and stopped.

Perhaps that is all God requires of us: to make it as far as we can. We don’t have to be first, we simply have to judge ourselves by ourselves. I made it this far and no farther—that was the best I could do.

God does not look at the pine, the evergreen and the cedar and ask, “Why were you not more? Why did you not get farther?” There is a humble acceptance—you, pine tree, grew your best, reproduced your best, housed squirrel and crow and sparrow. It was enough.

Should we be driven to more than that? I’m not sure if God looks at us any differently than God does the pine, the evergreen, and the cedars outside my window—or judges us any more harshly—HERE I STAND. I CAN DO NO OTHER.

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.

Office: 920.854.4080, Cell: 920.854.0015

February Servants – **GOLD STAR!**



Date	Lectors	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts	Board Member of the Month  Bill Surbaugh (854-3130)
Feb 5	Naomi Thomas	Maltby Family	Betty Holland & Lucille Kostka	
Feb 12	Dawn or Dave Emery-Janzen	The Budics	Dave & Dawn E-J	
Feb 19	JoAnne Morris	Lubahns	Tracey Fitzgerald	
Feb 26	Sheila Petroni	Dave & Dawn E-J	June Olson	

LECTORS: Contact Ardis Fletcher if you would like to read Scripture during worship.

USHERS: Contact Pete Budic if you would like to usher.

FELLOWSHIP: Contact Amie Olson or June Olson if you'd like to host Fellowship this month.

**February Birthdays**

- 2/04 Bill Surbaugh  
Diane Thorpe
- 2/05 Paul Lubahn  
Sally Pfeifer
- 2/07 Linden Ray
- 2/10 Sharon Jacobson
- 2/12 Ardis Fletcher
- 2/16 Trudy Fandrei
- 2/26 Heidi Sitte
- 2/28 Sue Sunstrom



**Please remember:** Condolences to the family of Lucas Pence, who passed away last week. Sympathy to the Sunstrom family: Harold and son Mark both passed away this week.

**Those ill or recovering:** Darlene Hansen, Britt Maltby, Sten Kordon, Laurie Anderson, Rita Melvin, Larry Peterson, Kenon Bunda, Anita Anderson, Rick Gename, Nancy Hughes, Kaye Knutson, Janet Schuster

**Senior living & nursing care centers:** Anita Beckstrom, Elaine Kalms, Marjorie Nichols, Lois Rice, Bernice Sunstrom

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

**February Anniversaries**

- 2/06 Bill & Anne Porter
- 2/14 Robert & Lorna Winn
- 2/15 Kerry & Karen Krauss



# Booyah Bash!



Help promote our **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Booyah Bash**, happening Wednesday, February 22, from 4:30–6:30 pm. Last year, it was a *hit*, not only for the food but for the great music from the Bedroom Bluegrass Band—back again this year. Great Booyah chicken stew with cornbread muffins, salad, dessert, and beverage for just \$8 adults, \$5 kids (eat in/take out). All proceeds go to support the Moravian Church Outreach and School in Nepal. There are volunteer sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall, along with posters to spread around Northern Door! *Let's BOOYAH!*

## Ahuas Mission

The mission group from Northern Door—including Pastor Kerry and Sally Pfeifer—has returned after a joyful but rigorous trip to the medical center in Ahuas, Honduras. The Mission Team will lead the worship service on February 19, along with an official presentation and photos about their time in Honduras. Right: The group as they prepared to head home.



## Asian Tea

The tea leaves are coming together for the Wednesday, May 10 (1–3 pm), Asian Tea with a Blending of Tastes and Traditions. Remember that the continent of Asia is far from just China and Japan: Countries include India, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and 40 more! There are plans for door prizes and Asian entertainment, with delectable food from Wickman House and Amanda Shepit. Proceeds go to Northern Door Health & Wellness Ministry's "Matthew 25" program. More info in March's newsletter! Contact Cheryl Lubahn at (920) 854-0007 with questions.

## Collectibles Show

Our congregation members have been showing off their collectibles for a couple of weeks in Fellowship Hall. The display ends on February 5. Here are some examples of the creative collections: Left and right: character dolls, (Cheryl Lubahn), and Christmas village (Paul Lubahn).



Above and right: Bill and Cheryl Surbaughs' basket and copper collections.

## Upcoming Church Events

### ★ Women's Circle

Meeting is Monday, February 6, at Ruth Budic's (10658 Mill Ln, Sister Bay, 854-4302), co-hosted by Barb Houge with Sheila leading the study of Chapter 4.

### ★ Room Usage Meeting

On Thursday, February 9, at 9:30 am, the Unified Board is meeting with anyone who wants to chime in regarding room use at church. We need *your* input on the best use of all of our rooms—children, students, parents, adults. It has been a long time since we sat down to talk about everyone's needs and interests. Please come to the meeting or provide your input to anyone on the Unified Board.

### ★ Unified Board

The Unified Board meets on Monday, February 13, at 9:30 am.

### ★ Choir & Bell Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals every Wednesdays (1 pm) and Sundays (9 am - except for February 12). Bells rehearse every Tuesday at 7 pm.

### ★ Your Write

On Monday, February 13, 1 pm, at The Oasis/Fellowship Hall, the group encompassing all forms of writing. The topic this month is Writer's Block—also known as "Monkey Brain"! *Every* writer gets it. How does it make you feel? What do you do about it? Who has helped you?

## The Meaning of the Snowflake

Every new snowflake comes to the earth  
as a picture of our Savior's birth  
because they are sent from up above  
and remind us of God's care and love.

Each one is so intricate and small  
because Christ sees the details of us all,  
and just as two are never the same  
He knows us and calls us by name.

Snowflakes gently cover the world in white  
and hide what's unlovely from our sight,  
showing us how He covers our sin  
and gives us his grace when we come to Him.

So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind  
and in every bit of white may you find  
a reason to celebrate anew  
and a reminder of His love for you.

—Holly Gerth  
(contributed by Barb Houge)



**Journeying Together.**

The current focus for the Board's missions include joining an exploratory team taking part in a Border Immersion experience along the US/Mexican Border April 9–14. Cost is around \$1,500 for the trip. Contact Justin@moravianmission.org for more information.

The family of Phil Raiford, a missionary partner serving in Mexico, has sent out an urgent call for prayer against gun violence in his community. Pray for Phil and his family as well as those wounded and the families of those who have been killed.

## Narrative Financial Update

We ended the 2016 with a total income of \$174,052. This includes all accounts—memorials, special offerings, pass-through, cemetery, and building fund. Our envelope and loose offerings were about \$4,000 less than our giving in 2015. Our expenses are harder to track. We did successfully erase the mortgage on the parsonage remodel. Most importantly, we paid 100% of our denominational assessments, pastor's pension and pastor's medical on December 31st!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! As a reward, the Finance Office has reduced what we have in arrears by 20%.

FURTHERMORE, yesterday, Pat made a full month's payment for assessments, pension and medical—AND IT'S ONLY MIDDLE OF THE MONTH!! Church rejoice!! We have accomplished much on very little. Give Pat a pat on the back for her ability to juggle responsibilities.

Thank you to everyone who contributes so much to the life of this congregation. We are financially blessed. We are faithfully blessed. As we continue to move forward let us in faith, love and hope.

—Pastor Kerry

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## Community Events

### Shrove Tuesday Comes Early



It's Shrove *Monday* this year at Ephraim Moravian Church (not wanting a conflict with Loaves & Fishes). Come on Monday, February 27, from 5–7 pm, for a great pancake supper. This year's event is in memory of Jane Olson, with any free-will offerings going to the Bridges program for our international workers in Door County.

### Sing with the Peninsula Singers

Whatever your background in singing, share your love of music with your Door County neighbors. Sing with The Peninsula Singers.

On Monday, February 27, the group begins rehearsals for the Annual Spring Concerts the second weekend of May. This year, both sacred and secular music has been chosen.

The Peninsula Singers will meet at the Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church at 6:15 pm, allowing time for signup and socializing before rehearsal at 7 pm.

Rehearsals will be each Monday night from February 27–May 8. Dues are \$25 per season and may be waived for those with financial hardship. The music program to be presented and more information may be found at [www.thepeninsulasingers.org](http://www.thepeninsulasingers.org). Contact Jane Stevenson at [jane.stevenson920@gmail.com](mailto:jane.stevenson920@gmail.com).



### “Sit Around Singing”

Katie Dahl didn't want to wait for summer sing-alongs, so she's inviting people to come sing with her on the first Thursday of every month through May. It's free and open to the public! Go to Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 10341 Hwy 42, Ephraim, to join the fun!



Habitat's ReStore is well known for its Furniture Blitz! One is coming the week of February 20, and you can pick up furniture and other household items at great prices. Go to the Fellowship Hall of Hope United Church of Christ, 141 S. 2th Ave., Sturgeon Bay. It'll be open Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm and Saturday, 9 am–2 pm.

## What's All That Bangin'?

If you're hearing construction noises, that's probably Paul Lubahn and friends in the basement. Remember the old kitchen and lots of good food from there? Well, the entire space is being transformed to something more useful. Walk down and see the transformation so far!



Old shelving taken down (left), with more suitable storage going in.



The kitchen island is gone and, once electric and plumbing were rerouted, more shelves go in!



Waaay up in an upper cabinet, Paul found this picture of a long-ago Lovefeast! Lying upside down on a top shelf, no one has likely seen it for decades. Lucille Kostka was identified as being in front, with possibly Edna Johnson and Georgie Staver—all in their costumes, complete with doily hats. If you know more about this photo, tell the office so it finds its rightful place in the archives.



# February 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 8 am</b> Men's Bkfst & Bible Study <b>Noon</b> – Free Community Lunch SOUP-er Bowl! <b>1 pm</b> Choir After School Group	<b>2 7 pm</b> Before the Flood docu at Scand Gathering Rm <b>7 pm</b> Katie Dahl's "Sit Around Singing" at the UU	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>9 am</b> Sunday School <b>9 am</b> Choir <b>10 am</b> Worship	<b>6</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> Women's Circle – Budic's	<b>7</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7 pm</b> Bells	<b>8</b> <b>8 am</b> Men's Bkfst & Bible Study <b>1 pm</b> Choir After School Group	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Room Usage Meeting—all welcome!	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>9 am</b> Sunday School NO Choir <b>10 am</b> Worship	<b>13</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Unified Board Mtg <b>1 pm</b> Your Write – "Writer's Block"	<b>14</b> <u>Valentine's Day</u>  <b>9:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7 pm</b> Bells	<b>15</b> <b>8 am</b> Men's Bkfst & Bible Study <b>Noon</b> – Open Door Lunch @ EMC <b>1 pm</b> Choir After School Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9 am</b> Sunday School <b>9 am</b> Choir <b>10 am</b> Worship & Mission Team Presentation	<b>20</b> <u>Presidents Day</u>	<b>21</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7 pm</b> Bells	<b>22</b> <b>8 am</b> Men's Bkfst & Bible Study <b>1 pm</b> Choir After School Group <b>4:30–6:30 pm</b> BOOYAH dinner	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9 am</b> Sunday School <b>9 am</b> Choir <b>10 am</b> Worship	<b>27</b> <b>5–7 pm</b> Shrove Tuesday Pancakes at EMC	<b>28</b> <b>9:30 pm</b> Women's Bible Study <b>5 pm</b> Loaves & Fishes <b>7 pm</b> Bells				



Youth Sunday School (Oct - May) 9 am                      Sunday Worship Service 10 am  
Women's Study, Tues. 9:30 pm      Men's Study, Wed. 8 am  
Pastor Kerry's office hours: Monday through Wednesday 9 am–Noon,  
always available for a time to meet  
Cell 920-854-0015                      Parsonage 854-4559      Church Office 854-4080  
Secretary Kathy Kirkland: Thurs/Fri 8:30 am–2:30 pm  
e-mail: [kkrauss@dcwis.com](mailto:kkrauss@dcwis.com)      Secretary: [sbmcoffice@dcwis.com](mailto:sbmcoffice@dcwis.com)  
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