

# The Moravian Star

Sister Bay Moravian Church – January 2016

## Christmas Eve Sermon...Also Applicable for Epiphany: 37 Seconds

It was suggested yesterday that 37 seconds should not just be the title of my sermon but the actual runtime of my sermon....While it sounds nice, I'm just not sure if it would be advisable to keep the sermon to 37 seconds—EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE.

Thirty-seven seconds does not seem like a lot of time. There is a really long list of things that you cannot do in 37 seconds. Read *War and Peace*. You can't make Minute Rice. And you can't watch *60 Minutes*.

BUT, according to the Internet, here are some things you *can* do in 37 seconds:

- In 37 seconds, you can stretch...a good stretch increases your blood flow and relaxes you.
- In 37 seconds, you can text your mother. You know she'd love to hear from you.
- In 37 seconds, you can take and upload a selfie...#sbmc
- In 37 seconds, you can make a new friend...especially if you are surrounded by strangers.
- In 37 seconds, you can strengthen a relationship with a hug, a handshake, a simple word of encouragement.
- In 37 seconds, you can pray—pray for yourself, pray for someone you love, pray for someone you've never met.

You may be wondering what's the deal with 37 seconds? This afternoon, the sun set officially at 4:10:58...that's 37 seconds later than yesterday. It's not a theological miracle...it's a geological miracle: With the subtle tip of the Earth's axis, we gained 37 seconds of light. The list I've proposed to you aside, the challenge now is how we will use our 37 seconds of light. How can we change the world in 37 seconds?

I'm going to give you 37 seconds to change the world. You can practice your 30-second yoga and get in a good stretch. You can text your mother. You can take and upload a selfie #sbmc.\* You can greet the stranger to your left or your right. You can hug the loved one near you. You can pause to say a prayer for refugees in Syria and Mexico and Milwaukee and Sister Bay. Some of you gifted multitaskers might very well be able to do 2-3-4 of these at the same time.

Go on....I'll wait....I've set a timer.

I don't know what you did; I lit my candle. You see, I believe in the light. I believe that there is a grave darkness in our world. I believe in the light that shines in the darkness. I believe that the darkness—no matter how deep, no matter how grave, no matter how serious—it cannot and will not overcome the light.

I believe that the light came to the world—and continues to come to this world—but we did not know him—and we still don't know him very well now. And I believe that the Word became flesh and lived among us in the form of Jesus Christ. We have seen his glory full of grace and truth...we have seen it, even if we cannot fully appreciate it.

More importantly, I believe that the light that shines in this room tonight, the light that shines in our hearts, the light that spills out of the windows here on to Old Stage Road, will make the difference in our world. Not only do I believe it, but I have committed a great portion of my life to making it so.

If that is Good News, here is better news: Tomorrow, the sun will set at 4:11:37—that's MORE light than we had today. I believe that is more than enough time to be the difference that Jesus intends us to be.

\*Some of our more able and rascally Bell Choir members DID actually take and upload and #sbmc this selfie during the allotted 37 seconds. Well played, Amy. Well played.

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  
 kkrauss@dcwis.com

### January Servants

Date	Lectors	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts	Elder of the Month
Jan 3		Maltby Family		<i>TBD at Jan Mtg</i>
Jan 10	Ruth Budic		The Schraders	
Jan 17			June Olson	
Jan 24				
Jan 31				

#### 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.

#### January Birthdays

- 01/04 Karen Krauss
- 01/05 Ron Fandrei
- 01/05 Bill Reinhard
- 01/06 Jane Flaherty
- 01/12 Dawn Emery-Janzen
- 01/14 Britt Hilander
- 01/14 Ellison Syers
- 01/18 Robert Lindquist
- 01/19 Brandon Emery-Janzen
- 01/21 Max Maltby
- 01/21 Mitchell Olson Jr
- 01/27 David Syers

#### January Anniversaries

- 01/04 Linden & Wendi Ray
- 01/04 Erl & Bonnie Sandstrom
- 01/24 Mike & Helen Anderson



**Marv Ketterling passed away quietly on Tuesday, December 29.** Condolences to Kaye and all their family and friends. You can write Kaye at their winter address: 10228 N 12th Pl, Unit 2, Phoenix, AZ 85020.

**Those ill or recovering:** Paul Malmgren, JoAnne Morris, Lucas Spence, Jennefer Folsom, Emery Koehler, Dan Noe, 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

## Christmas in the Country – A Great Success!



Thanks to all who made our Christmas in the Country event a great success: June's chicken noodle soup was nearly sold out, with Pastor Kerry scraping the bottom of the Nesco for the final bowls to take home. Karen led her band of merry sweets sellers to fill dozens of plates with delicious Christmas cookies, quickly snatched up by sugar-starved patrons of all shapes and sizes.

New this year was an arts and crafts fair. Nine vendors displayed their wares, which ranged from the hand-knit, crocheted, and sewn items to jewelry, cards and gift baskets, decorations for the home, and specialty foods. The hope is to continue the craft fair as a yearly event, as participants voiced interest in returning to our venue in the future.

Proceeds from the event go toward the many outreach programs we support, locally and globally, as well as keeping our church kitchen stocked and supplied.

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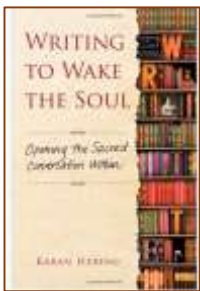
## Kudos Kolumn

Many thanks to Jerry Knudson for fabricating adapters for our Advent candleholder stand. Now we can use the big beeswax candles.

Thanks to those in Women's Fellowship who baked desserts and helped serve at Willard Sunstrom's memorial on December 26<sup>th</sup> at Scandia Village.

From Don Johnson's family: Jean, Ray and Char, "We thank you for your kindness extended to Dad, for enjoying him and his humor and for tending to his spiritual needs from birth through death. We especially appreciate the loving care and attentiveness extended by his church family during his years of residency at Scandia. Our heartfelt thanks to the entire congregation."

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## Spiritual Writers Guild

Come to the Spiritual Writers Guild meeting on Saturday, January 9, at 10 am. After the group published the Advent devotional (well received), the discussion turned to "words of faith." Books such as *Writing to Wake the Soul: Opening the Sacred Conversation Within* by Karen Hering, as well as Bishop Kay Ward's writings, brought to mind that "brains need other brains"—and that we need to use faith as a *verb* and not only a *noun*. This helps us grow spiritually, both alone and with others. The group thought of several verbs as a starting point: lean, rely, release, unclench. Come contribute your own "faithing words"!

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## Women's Fellowship

Our monthly "Circle Meeting" and Bible study will be held at the home of Ardis Fletcher, 2317 F Villa Drive, Sister Bay, at 1:30 pm on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. We are in Lesson Three, "Hanging In When Life is Tough: A Lesson in Hope." Sheila Petroni will lead the discussion.

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## Church Bulletin Messages

- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"...
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation...
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm – prayer and medication to follow...

## Board of Elders – Update

- A second year will be added to the confirmation program due to the absences occurring at worship.
- The kids will be writing creative additions to the chosen Christmas program for December 20th.
- Mortgage money collected to date (December 3<sup>rd</sup>) totals \$36,270.
- The Christmas dinner on December 10th looks to be well attended. Paul Lubhan has put together a program for our entertainment
- Volunteers are still welcome to add their names to the committee being formed for our 120th anniversary celebration.
- Vanessa Olson will be our Morning Star soloist. We are looking for a group to put out the luminarias for Christmas Eve again this year.

## Financial Update

Budget Snapshot	41,957	November-15	YTD 2015	2015 Budget	% of Budget
Envelope	10,045	\$ 12,316	\$ 116,887	\$ 163,500	71%
Loose	2,102	\$ 2,257	\$ 20,181	\$ 9,200	219%
Other	2,257	\$ 1,076	\$ 13,396	\$ 8,000	167%
<b>Income</b>	<b>14,404</b>	<b>\$ 15,649</b>	<b>\$ 150,464</b>	<b>\$ 180,770</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>4,273</b>	<b>\$ 2,723</b>	<b>\$ 29,867</b>	<b>\$ 36,826</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Mission</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Office &amp; Administration</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>\$ 875</b>	<b>\$ 10,643</b>	<b>\$ 7,450</b>	<b>143%</b>
<b>Denomination</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>\$ 1,884</b>	<b>\$ 17,893</b>	<b>\$ 25,494</b>	<b>70%</b>
2014 Provincial Adm	-	\$ -	\$ 6,372	\$ 4,852	131%
2014 District Service	212	\$ -	\$ 212	\$ 212	100%
2015 Provincial Admin	-	\$ 1,520	\$ 9,121	\$ 18,243	50%
2015 District Admin		\$ 364	\$ 2,187	\$ 2,187	100%
<b>Parsonage Building Loan</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,756</b>	<b>\$ 9,552</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Spiritual Formation (CEC)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 431</b>	<b>\$ 2,175</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Staff Expenses</b>	<b>8,254</b>	<b>\$ 8,214</b>	<b>\$ 89,737</b>	<b>\$ 100,894</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>\$ 397</b>	<b>\$ 1,482</b>	<b>\$ 1,975</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,964</b>	<b>\$ 15,816</b>	<b>\$ 162,867</b>	<b>\$ 188,768</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>(1,559)</b>	<b>\$ (167)</b>	<b>\$ (12,403)</b>		

Outstanding Bills as of the end of November:

\$6081 Provincial Common Ministries  
 \$6476 Medical Insurance  
\$2520 Pastor's Pension Fund  
 \$15,077

Mortgage balance as of the end of November: \$12,984.69.

This past year, our financial focus was on debt reduction. We did send pledge cards out, but I would like to encourage you to consider your pledge and/or electronic giving for 2016. To date, we have 17 giving units that have pledged \$55,000. That equals 1/3 of what we have budgeted as envelope giving for the year. Pledge cards for 2016 are still available at the church office. We also have electronic giving sign-up information there as well.

—Pastor Kerry



# Remembering 2015...



Happy  
New  
Year!



# January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> No Sunday School 9 am Choir 10 am Worship & Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b> Noon – Free Community Lunch 1 pm Choir After School Youth	<b>7</b> 8 am Men's Bkfast & Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 am Spiritual Writers Guild: "Faith Words"
<b>10</b> 9 am Sunday School 9 am Choir 10 am Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Mission Meeting 1 pm Choir After School Youth	<b>14</b> 8 am Men's Bkfast & Bible Study Elders (time TBD)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9 am Sunday School 9 am Choir 10 am Worship	<b>18</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Noon – Free Lunch at Eph Moravian 1 pm Choir After School Youth	<b>21</b> 8 am Men's Bkfast & Bible Study 9:30 Trustees (tent.)	<b>22</b> <i>Deadline for newsletter submissions</i>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9 am Sunday School 9 am Choir 10 am Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 1 pm Choir After School Youth  5 pm Loaves & Fishes	<b>28</b> 8 am Men's Bkfast & Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9 am Sunday School 9 am Choir 10 am Worship	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>THIS YEAR MY RESOLUTION IS TO BE A BETTER PERSON IN EVERY RESPECT</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>WHERE POSSIBLE I AM PLANNING TO DO THIS FROM THE COMFORT OF MY ARMCHAIR</p> </div> </div>					





Youth Sunday School (Oct - May) 9 am                      Sunday Worship Service 10 am

Women's Study, Tuesday 9:30 am    Men's Study, Thurs. 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: Wed/Thurs/Fri 8:30 am–12:30 pm

email: [kkrauss@dcwis.com](mailto:kkrauss@dcwis.com)    Secretary: [sbmcoffice@dcwis.com](mailto:sbmcoffice@dcwis.com)

Website: [www.sisterbaymoravian.org](http://www.sisterbaymoravian.org)



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