

# The Moravian Star

Sister Bay Moravian Church – September 2015

## What Is God Calling Us to Do to Make Our Worship Relevant and Vital for Both Members and Non-Members Alike?

...if I had the answer, I wouldn't ask the question. Truth be told, I don't know what God is calling us to do to make our worship relevant and vital. I'm not sure if I know what relevant and vital worship looks like or how to produce it or reproduce it.

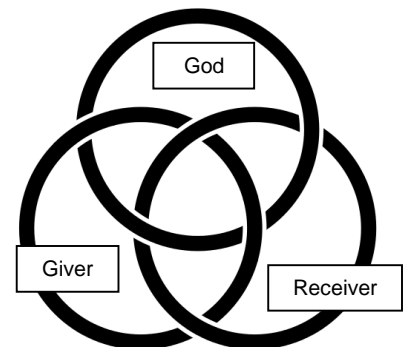
But I do know what relevant and vital worship *feels* like. Worship feels like something alive...like holding a newborn infant in your hands...like gazing at the setting summer sunsets...like the first brisk breath of winter air. Worship is supposed to make us *feel* something, something deep, something inexpressible.

A small group of subversives have been meeting to consider what relevant and vital worship is in general and what it might take for us to have relevant and vital worship here at the Sister Bay Moravian Church. It is not an easy task. We all seem to know relevant and vital worship when we experience it, but planning for, designing and preparing relevant and vital worship on a consistent basis seems impossible—or at the very least dangerous.

HOWEVER, I believe worship is the heartbeat of the congregation. If you want to check the pulse of a community of faith, check its worship. Worship is where the community gathers together. Worship is where burdens are relieved. Worship is where God's Spirit interacts with God's People. Worship is where prayers of praise and pain are raised. Worship is where God's People come to be stirred, moved and challenged.

If I could simplify the complex drama of worship, it would consist of three interlocking circles...what are apparently known as Borromean Rings. The fascinating thing about these rings is that removing any ring results in two unlinked rings...in order for the circles to remain complete, they all need each other.

One ring...the first ring is what God brings to worship. Believe it or not, God is the primary mover in worship. Second, is the giver. Worship is a gift that is offered by pastors and choirs, choir directors and organists, pianists and guitar players, bell ringers and opera singers. The givers of worship work very hard. Every word matters. Every note is important.



And then there is the receiver in worship. "In a mindset of expectancy, as opposed to one of searching for every human weakness, worshipers discover that God wants a relationship with them and seeks to say something through the time together. People are not at worship to observe and evaluate but to receive what God offers and offer their best in response" (Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*).

When our attention in worship centers on the "imperfections, mispronunciations, missed cues discordant sounds, personal discomforts and the weaknesses of the leaders and flaws of fellow worshipers" (also Schnase), we will never discover relevant and vital worship.

Consider this an invitation: We're going to be trying some new things in worship in the coming months. We're not going to be throwing out everything we know and love about worship at the Sister Bay Moravian Church. We will be experimenting with how we plan and develop and prepare for our worship services. We may take a few extra risks in worship.

If/when you notice a difference, don't tell me. Tell your friend or your neighbor or your family member. Tell a co-worker, an acquaintance, a stranger...and tell them this, "God is up to something at my church...you should come with me."

In Faith. In Love. In Hope.

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

September Servants

Date	Lectors	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts	Elder of the Month
Sept 6	Jane Capozzi	Bill Surbaugh & Ric Gename		Ruth Budic 854-7282 prbudic@charter.net
Sept 13	Frank Capozzi	Doreen & Lois	Betty Charles & Kathy Ray	
Sept 20	Lynn Frederick			
Sept 27	Kathy Wagner			

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.

**September Birthdays**

- 1 Beverly Schulze
- 3 Kurt Knudson  
Roselyn Krapf
- 9 Ashley Logerquist
- 10 Judy Thomas
- 19 Eliza Maltby
- 20 Dick Daniels  
Emery Koehler
- 24 Naomi Burgbacher  
David Schrader
- 29 Elaine Kalms

**September Anniversaries**

- 9 Jerry & Karen Knudson
- 13 Swen & Jenifer Hilander
- 15 Kurt & Tassie Knudson
- 17 Ken & Beth Ferris  
Kent & Heidi Sitte

**Ken & Beth  
 Ferris are  
 celebrating  
 60 Years!**





A graveside memorial service will be held for Mary Simpson on Saturday, September 12, at 1 pm. There will be a meal served, and the family welcomes everyone to this celebration of Mary's life.

## Pray for....

**Those ill or recovering:** Willard Sunstrom, Bob Davis, Rick Kohn, Delmar Dahl, Tessa Erickson, Vance Voight, Kenon Bunda, Jim Ray, Richard Larson, Anita Anderson, Ric Gename, Nancy Hughes, Harold & Kaye Knutson, Janet Schuster

**Senior living & nursing care centers:** Wayne Anderson, Don Johnson, Elaine Kalms, Bernice and Willard Sunstrom

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

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"Emery and I would like to thank all the people who brought us food, called, sent cards, and stopped to see us when I fell and broke my hip. God bless you all."

–June & Emery Koehler

## FREE Community Lunch – Wednesday, September 2

Come enjoy the *final summertime lunch* (what?! Where did the time go?) on Wednesday, September 2! The lunch, free to everyone in the community, begins at noon. Bring your friends!



## Spiritual Writers Guild

The Spiritual Writers Guild will be meeting on Saturday, September 5, at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to discuss ideas for our newest project, an Advent booklet. Local printing prices are reasonable, and we expect the booklet to have 4/c cover and inside section, with the remainder in black & white. Now, all we need are *your* submissions!

Submit a poem, a life experience, hymn lyrics, a prayer, or a short essay. For those who aren't writers, you can submit photos, drawings, or pictures (high-resolution, please) that represent the theme. **Deadline for submissions is September 30** to leave time for compilation and printing.

Questions? Ask Naomi Thomas (854-1841, [lsnone8@gmail.com](mailto:lsnone8@gmail.com)) or come to the meeting!

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## From Your Parish Nurse

The most recent CHIPs programs sponsored by the Northern Door Health & Wellness Ministry have focused on end-of-life issues. In the past, I have written about having these conversations within the family about individual's personal preferences in order to avoid hasty decisions and disagreements. In July, Greg Casperson discussed these issues from the funeral director's perspective and the laws of our state regarding burial, cremation, and donation. He passed out a small booklet called *Guidelines...*for putting my house in order. It is a record of vital statistics, record of personal affairs (such as bank accounts, investments, credit



cards, insurance, pensions, safety deposit box, property owned, etc.) plus an area for recording biographical information, service records, funeral arrangements, service preferences, etc.—all in all, a very handy booklet. I have the booklet if you would like to see one, and I believe Greg will give you one if you stop by.

This month, Colin Dahl spoke about wills, trusts, and power of attorney documents, and he answered many questions about the legal issues surrounding preparation for end-of-life to have your wishes carried out according to the law. Seventy-five people packed the room at the First Baptist Church to hear this presentation.

On September 20 at 4 pm (Sister Bay Baptist), Susan Johnson, Chaplain at Ministry Door County Medical Center, and Katie Graf, Social Worker, will talk about discussing end-of-life issues and how to approach this delicate, emotionally charged topic in your family. While we secretly acknowledge our mortality, many people simply refuse to "out loud" discuss it, which can/does create some very rough waters for family after death.

The CHIPs are free, monthly, and scheduled to provide access to area resources and up-to-date information to keep you informed.

—Kathy Wagner

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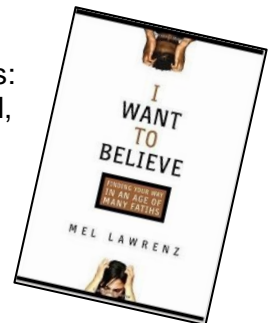
## Women's Circle

The Women's Circle meets Tuesday, September 1, at 1:30 pm. Host is Ruth Budic (10658 Mill Lane, Sister Bay), with Beth Ferris co-hosting. The topic will be Sessions 11 & 12 in the study book Prayer.

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## The Oasis

Do you want to believe? That is the question posed on the cover of a new book in the Oasis: *I Want to Believe: Finding Your Way in an Age of Many Faiths* by Dr. Mel Lawrenz. Mel, whose early days were spent here in Northern Door County, is currently minister at large of the well-known Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, WI. Having grown up in the Ellison Bay area, I knew Mel, and his wife, Ingrid Nelson, who grew up just north of the church. We were recently gifted with several of his books. Knowing he had gone into the ministry, I was curious as to who this kid I had known years ago from his grandfather's general store, had become.



His premise is quite simply stated. "Of all things that drive us, the strongest is the drive to believe....there is something deep inside us that keeps churning, and seeking and reaching and probing and crying out." While I found some of the writing leaning toward fundamentalism, I caught a glimpse of ideas less rigid, expressing a more open-minded interpretation. He contrasts the Christian faith with other faith alternatives, including Buddhism, atheism, the earth religions (Paganism, Wicca, and the Druids), Hinduism, and Islam. He repudiates parts of these beliefs, or nonbelief, systems with various scripture passages yet sees the wisdom and truth contained in them. From Chapter 15, "Way, Truth, Life": "Christian faith does not require that a person say that all religions in the world are wrong in everything they say. When the Muslim says, 'There is only one God,' the Christian should say, 'Amen.' When the Buddhist says, 'We can do better than living as merely material creatures, only being concerned about the clothes we wear or the goods we amass,' the Christian should say, 'I agree with that.' When the Hindu says, 'God is mysterious to us,' the Christian should not disagree. When the secular humanist says that human beings have fought shameful wars over religious convictions and have shed the blood of innocent people and that is a crime, the Christian should say 'Sadly, I have to agree.' When the Confucian says we need to be guided by wisdom and principle, the Christian can only say, 'I believe in the principled life too.'"

You will find the book easy to read. It's not filled with heady, theological jargon. No matter where you might be in your faith journey—doubting, secure, questioning, or just looking for affirmation of your choice as a disciple of Christ—I'd recommend the book for an afternoon of reading.

—Sheila Petroni

## Kudos Korner

Thanks to the August lawn cutters, Bill Porter, Jeff Pfeifer and Bill Schaefer. And to Kren Knudson and Naomi Thomas for weeding the east and south gardens. Some of the church gardens do need to be replanted. If any of you would have any of the following plants that you could donate now or next spring, let Kathy Ray know at 421-0422, along with if and when you could deliver them to church. Suggested flowers would be yarrow, cone flowers, black-eyed Susan, cosmos, 2twonice hydrangea bushes, big-leafed hostas, bee balm, purple cone, coreopsis, and tickseeds (these plants need little care as they do not get watered unless it rains).

## Bells of Praise

The Bells will play on September 6<sup>th</sup> during service...it's so good to have them back again! Bells of Praise, our adult handbell choir, will begin weekly rehearsals on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. If you are interested in joining this choir, please call the director, Diane Ludwigsen, at 854-5167. Bells of Praise is always open to new members but ringing experience is required. If you are new to handbells and would like to become part of this unique music ministry, call Diane. When we get enough interested beginners, Genesis Handbells can begin. All age are welcome in this choir.



## Community Events

**Bethel Church** on Washington Island is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a special guest, well-known writer and speaker Josh McDowell.

- ★ Saturday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm and Sunday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:45 am (Trueblood Performing Arts Center) – Authenticity of the Bible as evidenced in the Old and New Testament and artifacts. A Hebrew scroll from the 1500s will be on display.
- ★ Sunday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm (for adults only) (Bethel Church) – “The Perfect Storm,” a recounting of McDowell’s dysfunctional, abusive childhood and how he turned to God.

There is a ferry fee; however, the Church has arranged for transportation to and from the dock. A late night ferry (Saturday night) is available for those wishing to return to the mainland.

All events on the Island are free! Please contact Bethel Church to add your name to the reservation list, as space is limited: 920-495-0380.









Marina Fest in Sister Bay is also Labor Day weekend. The festival has food and drink, live entertainment, fireworks, and a water ski show by The Waterboard Warriors. Full schedule on Sister Bay’s website and in local papers!

The Ephraim Historical Foundation and Moravian Church  
PRESENT

# DEARLY DEPARTED

A Living Portrayal of People Who Were Part of Ephraim

 Inger Knudson 1843 - 1886	 Fordel Hogenson 1849 - 1927	 Anders Petterson 1858 - 1938
 Anna Valentine 1861 - 1930	 Matilda Valentine Anderson 1865 - 1936	 Edgar Goodlett 1884 - 1970

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**  
Cemetery Corner of S. Norway & Willow  
Rain or Shine, 1:30 to 3:30

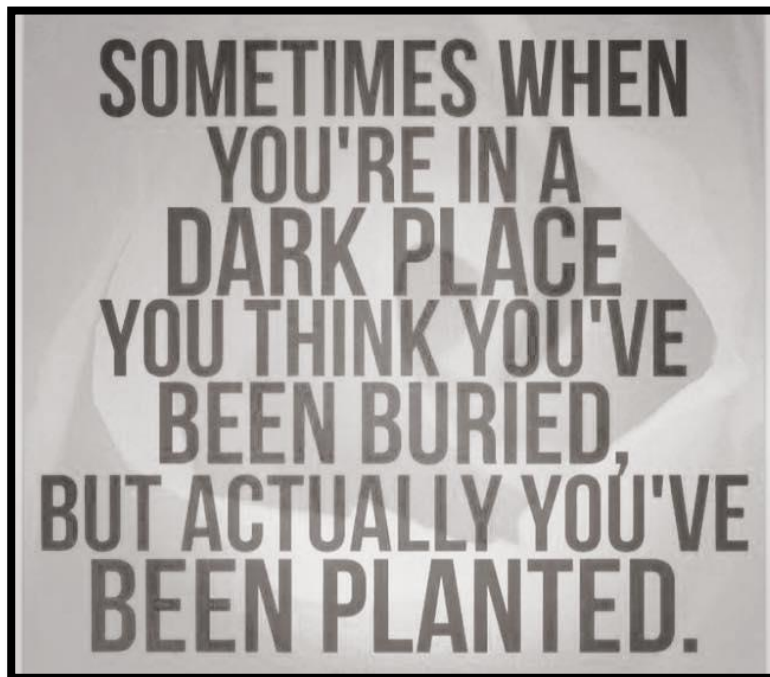
Continuous trolley service from parking area behind fire station on Norway, Bethany Lutheran Church, Ephraim Moravian parking lot, and the cemetery. Photos, artifacts and refreshments at Ephraim Moravian Church.

### Board of Elders – Update

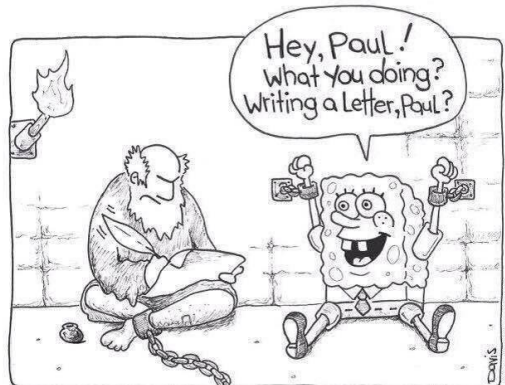
- Pete Budic and Richard Larson were admitted as members of the church.
- Trustees discussed the possibility of a Wednesday after-school program for older youth instead of Sunday morning classes.
- As of August 28, **mortgage money collected to date is \$21,160**. The membership will be kept informed as the donations and pledges come in.
- The carillon has been reset.
- A committee will be formed to explore a celebration for our 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April 2016.
- The 2016 budget committee will begin meetings soon. A letter is being sent to members regarding budget concerns in 2015.

### Board of Trustees – Update

- Bill Porter reported that the Perky Pancake Breakfast raised \$900 this year for Ahuas Medical Clinic.
- Bill also reported that Bill P reported that he made changes that should reduce water in the basement. Grounds maintenance on the plants and bushes has been completed.
- Our current mortgage balance is \$51,030. The “Seeds of Faith” program states that all funds collected and pledged will be applied to the mortgage principal only.



 <b>September 2015</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1:30 pm Women's Circle at Ruth Budic's	<b>2</b> Noon – Free Community Lunch!  1 pm Choir practice	<b>3</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10 am Spiritual Writers Guild
<b>6</b> 8:30 am Adult Class 10 am Worship & Bells of Praise	<b>7</b> Labor Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9 am Mission Committee Meeting 1 pm Choir practice	<b>10</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study  4 pm Elders Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 1 pm Mary Simpson Graveside Memorial (meal served)
<b>13</b> 8:30 am Adult Class 10 am Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7 pm Bells practice	<b>16</b> 1 pm Choir practice	<b>17</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Trustees Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30 am Adult Class 10 am Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7 pm Bells practice	<b>23</b> First day of Autumn 1 pm Choir practice	<b>24</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<b>25</b> Women's Retreat... 	<b>26</b> Friday through Sunday 
<b>27</b> 8:30 am Adult Class 10 am Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7 pm Bells practice	<b>30</b> 1 pm Choir practice			



"... I was given a thorn in my flesh, a Messenger from Satan, to torment me. Three times I...."



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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