



Ephraim Moravian Messenger

News from the Open Door

“In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love”

Congregational Watchword for 2013

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Ephesians 3:20-21

December 2013

From the Pastor...

“When God Makes No Sense”

Special thanks to Dee Brestin, whose remarks at a local women's retreat inspired this article! - Pastor Dawn

It is easy to trust God when life makes sense. We expect that when we do what is right, we will be blessed by God. We expect that good will triumph over evil. We expect to see the sun in the morning and the moon at night. We trust that in the dead of winter, spring will come (eventually!). But there are those times that God does not make any sense. We see this in the lives of 2 people featured in Luke's Christmas stories, Elizabeth and Zechariah. They are described as 'blameless' and 'barren'. If people are good, we expect that good things should happen to them. Elizabeth and Zechariah were righteous people. They observed all of God's commandments. In their day, barrenness was a sign of God's displeasure. Knowing that Elizabeth and Zechariah were people of obedience and faith, I am sure that they prayed for many years for a child. In old age, however, the prayers must have stopped and, rather than becoming bitter, they accepted their childlessness. But it must have been difficult to endure the sidelong glances, the judgmental attitudes and their own heartache. Sometimes, God doesn't act in ways that we expect.

But Elizabeth trusted God when God made no sense. She continued to live a 'blameless' life. When she was way beyond childbearing years, she received a delightful surprise. Unlike her husband, who questioned God's timing and promise, Elizabeth, in full trust, welcomed God's intervention. When she realized that she was pregnant, she said, "This is what the Lord has done for me!" (Luke 1:25a).

The stories of Christmas do not make sense. God entrusted penniless teenagers to be parents of God's Son. The King of Kings was born in poverty and subject to the whims of despot monarchs. The first people who recognized the Messiah were foreigners and outcasts of society. When I think of the preparations that go into the birth of our children, any of us could have done a better job orchestrating this incredible event!

I hope, in this season of God's great surprise, we continue to trust that the God who loves us, who gave us a gift beyond measure, will give to us hope, peace and joy, even in the seasons of life which make no sense. May these thoughts give you strength!

--Pastor Dawn

Ephraim Moravian Church Office Hours

PASTOR: TUES - FRI 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
MONDAY Pastor's Day Off
SECRETARY: WED. - THURS. 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

CELL NUMBER: 920-421-4042 The Church Phone does NOT ring in the parsonage. Please keep the Pastor's Cell Phone handy for after hours.



Unity Prayer Watch

Unity Prayer Watch for Ephraim Moravian will be on **Sunday, December 1**. We are sharing the day with Sister Bay and Sturgeon Bay Moravian Churches.

If you haven't signed up yet, see the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall, with suggested prayer topics.



YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

TRUSTEES

Natalie Neddersen President:
854-2121

Funds: Investment Committee

Building Interiors

Hugh Mulliken 854-2336

Building Exterior

Jim Sokolowski 839-9265

Paul Burton 854-9506

Grounds

Kay Wilson 854-4612

Cemetery

Natalie Neddersen 854-2121

ELDERS

Pastor Dawn Volpe, Chair

Karen Ekberg, Vice-Chair
421-2553

Pete Classen, Co-Secretary
839-2902

George Carey, Co-Secretary
854-9253

Paul Flottman 854-4780

Elder for the month of:
DecemberKaren Ekberg

Services this month

December 1 - 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship with Communion.

December 8 - 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship with Joyful Noise for Community Health Clinic.

December 15 - 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship
Lovefeast today!



December 22 - 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship



December 24 - 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 29 - 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship

December 31 - Watchnight Service at 11:15 p.m. - followed by a Pancake Breakfast. Come and pick your personal Watchword for 2014!





FREE COMMUNITY LUNCHESES from both Sister Bay Moravian Church and Ephraim Moravian:

**First Wednesday, Sister Bay - December 4, noon
Third Wednesday, Ephraim - December 18, noon**

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**LOAVES & FISHES will be a week early in December because of Christmas week - 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, Stella Maris parish in Sister Bay (St. Rosalia's)**  
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MORAVIAN WOMEN'S REPORT

A very successful Fall Lunch and Sale! The net income was almost \$3,000, with over \$2,000 from the Silent Auction and Grandma's Holiday Attic (many, many thanks to Vicki and Wes Maynard for their guiding and hard-working hands on these two projects). The bake sale table earned \$487, which was turned into \$50 Piggly Wiggly gift cards for 10 needy Northern Door families, distributed by the Northern Door Day Care Center. Thanks to all the women (over 40 of them) and two men (yes!!!) who baked, cooked, served and cleaned to make the Fall Sale the success it was.

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**How does your Moravian Star look these days, hmmm? Might need a replacement? They make wonderful gifts, too! We have 'em in large and small ---easy to assemble (finally!) and take apart to store. See Jody Thiell!**



**MISSION OPPORTUNITY**

The Board of World Mission wishes to alert its constituent congregations of organizations that are mobilizing to help with the super typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines. Since the BWM does not have direct connections in the Philippines, it makes most sense to have you send your donations directly to those organizations that can make sure that your donations are being used as you would wish. Among our ecumenical partners, **Lutheran Disaster Response** is receiving donations designated for "Pacific Typhoon Response". They will be used in their entirety (100%) to help families whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted by this disaster. You can donate on-line at:

<https://community.elca.org/pacifictyphoonresponse>;

Lutheran Disaster Response  
39330 Treasury Center  
Chicago, IL 60694-9300

Write " Pacific Typhoon Response " on your check's memo line.

If you have never been to Synod before, you would like to take the opportunity to attend the 2014 Provincial Synod, please see the pastor immediately! Registration for Synod must be in by the middle of December. We do have one person who is willing to go with someone who has been to Synod previously. Please let the pastor know within the next week if you would be interested in attending. The 2014 Provincial Synod will be held in Bethlehem, Pa. from June 19-23, 2014.







Ladies' Christmas Luncheon  
White Gull Inn  
December 11, 2013 ~ 12 noon  
Please RSVP by December 6, 2013

Price will be \$15, payable at the door, which includes luncheon, beverage and dessert, tip and tax

*You are encouraged to invite guests!*  
No-bake cookie sale for needy Northern Door family

## Trea\$urer'\$ Report

### Through October of 2013:

Income - Budget of \$151,425 - actual through October: \$152,863

Expenses - Budget of \$159,914 - actual through October: \$128,891

Capital Projects: Our new carpeting is in, our hallway lighting is in place, our new doors and trim are in! Remaining projects include straightening of the parsonage basement walls and renovation of the parsonage kitchen.

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Church Driveway Alert!



Driving up and down the church driveway from Moravia can pose certain hazards, specifically meeting a car you can't see coming at you.

Aside from driving more slowly (you know who you are!), we have added another safety feature: a convex mirror at the top of the drive so you can see "around corners." Please pay attention so we can avoid any accidents in the future. Thank you!

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS...

✿ **CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY** - Sister Bay Moravian Church's Annual Christmas lunch and sale takes place Thursday, December 5, 2013, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chicken soup, sweet rolls, hand-made crafts, bake sale, rag rugs, and silent auction.

✿ **CONGRATULATIONS** to Divine Word/Pentecost Lutheran Church on their call to Pastor Tim Tahtinen. Pastor Tim was ordained on November 24.

✿ **SAVE THE DATE!** We will be traveling for an Epiphany Lovefeast to Divine Word Pentecost on January 5, 2014, for a 4 p.m. service. We'll be leaving from the church at 12 noon and returning the same evening.



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Here are the results from the congregational survey for summer worship time preferences:

80 people returned the survey...48 responded that 10 a.m. was preferable....17 responded that 9 a.m. was preferable.

We did, however, get a positive commitment for an 8-8:30 a.m. service from 23 people! As a result of the responses, we will continue or 10 a.m. service, **adding** an 8 a.m. service in July of 2014. If we find that the 8 a.m. service is well attended (at Least 20), we wil continue to offer the early service through the month of August.

Christian Sympathies extended to

...the family of Doris Price, who died on November 9

...the family of Peggy Jones (widow of former Ephraim pastor, David Jones), who died on November 9

...the family of Marian Brann Williams (sister of Doris Price), who died on November 15



Saturday, December 7 is

Christmas in the Village

In addition to all that is happening inside the Village Hall, open houses and the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree at 4:30 p.m., a must-see is our own

ADVENTure here at Ephraim Moravian!

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., come for refreshments, make a Moravian star or Christmas Eve candle, look at the traditional and non-traditional crèches, and buy a lot of Christmas goodies at the

Sweets for the Holidays Sale in the parlor. Dozens of gaily wrapped holiday goodies - give as hostess gifts, save for the holidays with family, or eat them now!





Thank you...

...to those who offered Fellowship after church in November:

... to Vicki Maynard for our lovely new bulletin board backgrounds!

...to those who ushered or served as Sacristan for November.

...to Paul Burton, John Turner, and Bob Volpe, for receiving our new dishwasher and getting it in good working order.



December Birthdays

Carly Mulliken...1
Timothy Nelson...2
Paul Burton...7
Jack Opitz...7
Barbara Classen...9
Robert Anderson...10
Amanda Flottman...12
Toby Wilson...12
Henry Everett Bristol...13
Susan Wysong...13
Don Nelson.....15
Andrew Phillips...18
Harry Maher...20
Mary Wilson...23
Joan Fitzpatrick... 27
Linda Carey...27

December Anniversaries

Kaye and Harry Maher – Dec 10, 1955
Joyce and Glenn Gerdman – Dec 23, 1951
Joan Fitzpatrick & Walt Fisher – Dec 24
Arts & Pat Horvath – Dec 30, 1972

We are sorry if we omitted or listed incorrectly someone's name from the list. Please call the church office (854-2804) or email us at (worship@ephraimmoravian.org) to make changes or additions.



Remember your Donations to Feed My People

In an effort to overflow our baskets, we have suggested “themed” giving:

For December - cold and hot cereals

...but all non-perishable items are welcomed, of course! Donation baskets are at each entrance of the church

Our next Bible Study will take place after the Holidays - January 10—February 21
Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

Put it on your calendar



**Ephraim Moravian Church
P.O. Box 73
Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211**

POSTAL WORKER: Thank you for delivering this to:

December 2013 Newsletter



**Ephraim Moravian Church - PO Box 73, 9970 Moravia Street - Ephraim, WI 54211 - 920-854-2804
Website: www.ephraimmoravian.org**

General Correspondence: worship@ephraimmoravian.org

Visit us on Facebook!



December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am S.S. & Choir 10 Communion 1 st Sun. of Advent	2	3 5 p.m. Elders	4 12 p.m. Sister Bay Lunch	5	6 5 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, potluck follows Here at Ephraim	7 11 am "Advent-ure" & Sweets for the Holiday sale
8 9 am S.S. & Choir 10 2 nd Advent Joyful Noise	9	10	11 9:30 Caring Hands Moravian Women's Christmas Lunch 12 noon	12 1 p.m. Trus- tees	13	14
15 9 am S.S. & Choir 10 3 rd Advent	16	17 5:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes	18 12 p.m. Open Door Lunch	19	20	21
22 9 am S.S. & Choir 10 4 th Advent	23	24 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27	28
29 10 am Lessons & Carols	30	31 11:15 p.m. Watchnight Service & Mid- night pancakes				