



Ephraim Moravian Messenger

News from the Open Door

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

Congregational Watchword for 2023:

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another,
God lives in us, and his love is perfected
in us.- 1 John 4:12

December 2023



From a Pastor's Desk



As I was eating breakfast, I happened to glance out my window, witnessing a magnificent ‘moon-set’. Moon-sets and sunsets are easy to miss at this time of year. They only last for a few brief minutes. In addition to that, there are so many activities to cram into a short time-frame. It’s easy to miss the magical moments displayed in nature and not ever be aware that something beautiful just passed us by.

Christmas time is filled with important things to do. If you own a business, you’re planning ways to bring people into your establishment. If family is far away, you’re busy making reservations. We’re busy shopping, decorating, baking, getting it all done.

Our busy-ness reminds me of the people so long ago, who were busy doing important things-trying to make a living, dealing with the politics of the day. With such important matters, it was easy to overlook the miracle happening in an innkeepers barn. The Light of the World, the Son of God was born and most missed it.

Isn’t it ironic that we, who know the story so well, can still miss Christmas? We may have all our tasks accomplished, the gifts wrapped; but we miss the beauty, the joy, the peace. Christmas is about God making a home with us by sending Jesus into our world. Christmas is about the hope of new beginnings. Take time to reflect on the beauty and joy of Jesus. Don’t miss Christmas this year.

Ephraim Moravian Church Hours
PASTOR: Monday Pastor's Day Off
Tues-Fri 9 a.m. to Noon

SECRETARY: Tues 8-3 Thur 8-3
Church phone: 920-854-2804
Cell Number: 920-421-4042
(Church phone does NOT ring in the
parsonage—please keep the Pastor's
cell phone number handy for after
hours.



TRUSTEES
B.D. Thorp, President
Natalie Neddersen
Carly Mulliken
Rob Meyer
Tad Dukehart

ELDERS
Pastor Dawn Volpe, Chair
Cici Mulliken, Vice-Chair
Karen Ekberg
Linda Carey, Secretary
Kathy Zehner
Penny Schultz

December 2023 Services

**Sunday, Dec 3 - 10:30 a.m. in person and on
Facebook; Communion**

**Sunday, Dec 10 - 10:30 a.m. in church and on
Facebook; & Joyful Noise Offering**

**Sunday, Dec 17- 10:30 a.m. in person and on
Facebook**

**Sunday, Dec 24 - 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Christmas
Eve Services**

**Sunday, Dec 31 - 10:30 a.m. in person and on
Facebook**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

*Join us for Christmas Eve on Sunday, December 24 at 3:00
p.m. or 5:30 p.m. There will not be a 10:30 a.m. service.*

BAKERS NEEDED!

The ADVENTure bake sale is Saturday,
December 2, and we need LOTS of bakers for this
fundraising event to benefit Secret Santa. Please
have items wrapped and ready for display, marked
with the name of the item and if it contains nuts,
and a suggested price. **Items need to be dropped
off on Friday, December 1 by 2:00 p.m. in the
parlor.** Call Sherry Moore with any questions
920-854-3046. Thank you!



*Thank you to our guest
musicians on November 26
Marcia, Katrina and Cyndy!*

Christmas in the Village ADVENTure at Ephraim Moravian
All Activities are Free!

Saturday, December 2: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m. & 5:45 p.m.

- Sweets for the Holidays Sale to benefit Secret Santa
 - Wreath-Making
 - Candle Wrapping
 - Tours of the church
 - Refreshments! – We'll need sugar cakes for our guests.
 - Creche Display- the Estate of Eunice Rutherford donated her beautiful creches which will be on display in Fellowship Hall
- New this Year! Homemade Crafts for sale by our Children to benefit the Ugandan Piggery Project. They will be set up in the Nursery.

Following our ADVENT-ure, Colin and Friends are hosting 2 concerts at 1 & 5:45 p.m. featuring the Nutcracker Suite!

COMING UP

The Peninsula Singers are offering 2 FREE Christmas concerts on Saturday, December 2 in Sturgeon Bay at Price of Peace Church, and Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m. at Sister Bay Baptist Church! They hope to see you there!

LOAVES & FISHES

Loaves & Fishes is a community meal, the second Thursday of the month. This month's meal will be on **December 14, at 5:00 p.m.** at Stella Marris.

Children's Lovefeast

The Sunday School will celebrate the season of Christmas this year with a Moravian Lovefeast on December 17, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

GIBRALTAR SCHOOLS INVITES SENIOR CITIZENS TO ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Gibraltar Area Schools and the Gibraltar High School Student Council are excited to once again invite senior citizens to their Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner on **Wednesday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m.** Guests will be seated in the Middle School Gym starting at 10:30 a.m. Guests will, once again, enjoy performances by Gibraltar Music Department students. **Seating is limited, so please place a reservation by contacting Mr. Roets at 868-3284, Ext: 346.** In the event of inclement weather and/or school cancellation, there will be no make-up date. Guests can be dropped off using the bus lane to the Elementary School entrance. Parking is available in the main lot by the Secondary School entrance. Your Gibraltar family looks forward to seeing you and sharing in the spirit of the holiday season once again!

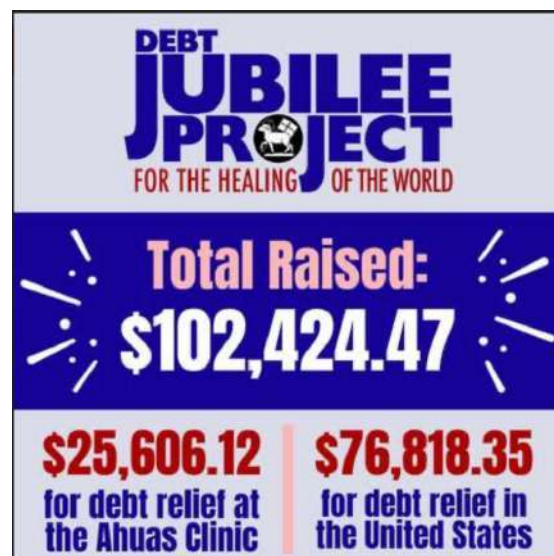
The Moravian Church embarked on an ambitious project following Synod- to raise \$50,000 in 50 days for Medical Debt Relief both here in the United States and our Honduras Mission. Thank you to all who participated! As you can see in the graphic- churches from around this nation banded together and raised double the asking!

Here's how that generosity translated into medical debt relief:

- \$25,606.12 for the Ahuas Clinic
- \$76,818.35 for debt relief in the U.S.
- \$10,965.390.60 eliminated in 37 U.S. counties.

TOTAL DEBT RELIEVED: \$10,990,996.72

Thanks to the generosity of this community, 13,441 individuals and families burdened by the weight of medical debt received a letter from our partner, RIP Medical Debt, notifying them their debt was forgiven, with no further action required. Jubilee!





Photos from the Harvest Lunch.

Colin & Friends
CONCERTS

2024 New Year's Day -CONCERT-

1st January at 2.00 p.m. & 4.30pm
at Ephraim Moravian Church , 9970 Moravia St.

with Colin Welford, piano & organ
& special guests

Celebratory and traditional musical favorites
to send the old year on its way, and to
welcome in a bright New Year!

Great music, FREE admission, and lots of fun!
Follow [colinandfriendsconcerts](#) on social media –
and Tell Your Friends!

December Birthdays

Carly Mulliken...1
Timothy Nelson...2
Enzo Sherman... 3
Paul Burton...7
Jack Opitz...7
Barbara Classen...9
Charlie Weborg... 9
Barbara Axelson...12
Kiel Larsen...12
Amanda Flottman...12
Colin Welford....13
Henry Bristol... 13
Don Nelson.....15
Andrew Phillips...18
Sybil Carlson....18
Walt Shields...18
Mary Wilson...23
Joan Fitzpatrick... 27
Linda Carey...27



December Anniversaries

Richard & Sybil Carlson – 17, 1960
Joyce and Glenn Gerdman – 23, 1951
Arts & Pat Horvath – 30, 1972

If we have missed you or someone you know
in the lists, please let us know in
the church office!

Prayer Concerns

...Barbara Axelson
...Maggie Schnackenberg
...Gary & Cheryl Doudna
...Rev. Mark Billington
...The Family of Richard Rosonke

Treasurer's Report

Member Giving

Through October 2023: \$128,906
Total YTD Offering: \$166,681

Visitor Giving

Through October 2023: \$37,775

Budgeted expense for 2023 is: \$273,425 Through October: \$190,765.54



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:30 a.m. OA meeting	2 10:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. ADVENTURE 1:00 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert 5:45 p.m. Colin
3 9:00 a.m. Sun. School 10:30 Worship	4 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	5	6	7	8 8:30 a.m. OA Meeting	9 1:30 p.m. Katharine Oneson Memorial- Scand
10 9:00 a.m. Sun. School 10:30 a.m. Worship	11 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	12	13 10:00 a.m. Elders	14 5:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes	15 8:30 a.m. OA Meeting	16
17 9:00 a.m. Sun. School 10:30 a.m. Worship	18 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	19 10:00 a.m. Trustees	20 9:30 a.m. Caring Hands	21	22 8:30 a.m. OA Meeting	23
24 3:00 p.m. Xmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m. Xmas Eve	25 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	26	27	28	29 8:30 a.m. OA Meeting	30

31

10:30 a.m.

Worship

Ephraim Moravian Church
PO Box 73
Ephraim, WI 54211

Postal Worker - thank you for delivering this to:

December 2023 Newsletter



Photo by Tad Dukehart

Ephraim Moravian Church
worship@ephraimmoravian.org
Website: www.ephraimmoravian.org
920-854-2804