

Our Savior's Moravian Church

January 2021

A Strong Winter Wind

One of the traditions I enjoy most here at Our Savior's Moravian Church is our New Year's Eve open house Holy Communion. Unlike Sunday mornings, which can be busy and energy consuming as a pastor, this special night is a very meaningful time of worship where I get to sit, pray, reflect, and meditate on God's presence. As someone who enjoys meditation, I have had lots of practice at it. One of the hardest parts for me is my mind is always racing quickly from one thought to another. When I meditate, I typically use what I refer to as my grounding word or image and I use it to help me recenter myself when I notice my mind starting to wander off.

This year on New Year's Eve, as I sat in the quiet sanctuary, my mind was wandering and I kept recentering myself with the image of the beeswax candle. After several times of recentering, I noticed that my mind kept wandering to a different image; the same image over and over again. It was the image of a black flag waving extremely hard in a strong winter wind. After about the 4th or 5th time this image kept coming into my mind, I decided that this must be important, so instead the flag in the wind became my recentering image. For nearly 90 minutes I contemplated what this flag was doing in my mind and what it meant to me. I'm sure there are many interpretations of this vision that I could have come up with. At first, I felt like the wind might have represented the difficult year that was 2020 and I felt a lot like that flag, holding on as tightly as I could no matter how strong the wind was or how cold I became. But the longer I held onto that image, the clearer it became to me that yes, I was the flag, but the wind was actually God. I wasn't seeing God as a powerful wind trying to blow over. Instead, I saw it as God trying to help guide me to new ways of life and I was holding on as tightly as I could not to change because I didn't want to. It was at that moment, when I realized this, that the flag was ripped from the poll and flew off into the wintery wind.

This vision was a reminder to me that God loves me exactly as I am, but that doesn't mean I have arrived at where God is calling me to. We must be willing to let go of what we hold onto too tightly and let the wind blow us in the direction we are called to, even if we are not sure that is the place we want to be. Trust in God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Greg



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Worship - Drawing of yearly watchwords</p>	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>Epiphany</p> 	7	<p>1</p> <p>8</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Confirmation Class - 5:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Joint Board</p> <p>6:30pm</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>* Annual Report Due to Church Office *</p>	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>Youth Night</p> <p>7th-12th 7:00pm-8:30pm</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> 	21	22	<p>23</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p> <p>Annual Church Council Meeting*</p>	25	<p>26</p> <p>Pastor Greg on Retreat</p> 	27	28	29	30
<p>31</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Worship</p>						

Our Savior's Moravian Church

The **Purpose** of this Church shall be to **glorify** God in adoration, **Love** and **service** as God's **missionary** to our **community**, our **nation**, and our **world**, bearing witness to **God's** redeeming **grace** in **Jesus Christ**.

2021 Congregational Watchword:

Jesus said, "Stand firm, and you will win life." Luke 21:19 (NIV)

Board of Elders

Pastor Greg Behrend – Chair
Steve Pasche - Vice Chair
Jenny Brummer - Secretary
Wendy Sue Murphy
Steve Krage

Board of Trustees

Mark Stephan - Chair
Dale Krage – Vice Chair/Secretary
Rick Kreidermacher
Scott Decker
Tim Murphy

Cemetery Board

Scott Decker
Ken Krage
Roger Schumacher

Top 3 Board Topics

In our efforts to share with the congregation some of the current topics of our church leadership, the joint board shares with you these top 3 topics currently being addressed.

- 1. Nomination for Boards** – Our annual church council meeting is just around the corner. We are looking for members who are willing to serve on our Board of Elders (2 positions), Board of Trustees (2 positions) and Cemetery Board (1 position). If you are interested in serving or if you think someone else has been blessed with gifts to serve, we encourage you to speak to a member of the nominating committee Mark Stephan, Dale Krage, Steve Pasche, Wendy Sue Murphy. Thank you!
- 2. Online Streaming Upgrade** – We are currently in the process of upgrading out sanctuary equipment for live streaming our worship services. Once the new equipment is installed we will be able to have a much higher quality of worship experience for those streaming at home and on the go.
- 3. Annual Church Council Meeting January 24th (with online option)** – All members are encouraged to stay after worship on Sunday January 24th for our annual church council meeting. If you are not comfortable or not able to join us in person but would still like to attend the meeting, the Joint Board has approved to include members virtually via a live stream on Zoom. We will send out that link to all our members the week of the council meeting. Folks attending virtually will be able to vote in live time and ask questions during conversations in live time.

Thank You!

Thank you to our Sunday School staff, children and families for a wonderful virtual Christmas Program this year!

Thank you to our Joint Board for their leadership through these challenging times!

Thank you to everyone who has continued to give to the church through mail and online!

Life of the Congregation

January Birthdays:

Gregory Behrend 1/2
Wendy Sue Murphy 1/6
Danner Brummer 1/9
Hannah Brosig 1/18
Carly Brummer 1/21
Toby Brummer 1/30

Seth Hilke 1/3
Alice Hendrickson 1/7
Norma Simon 1/16
Olan Lovlien 1/18
Rosie Heinz 1/23



Church Council 2021

Sunday January 24th after worship

We will be having our annual Church Council meeting in January and encourage all members to attend either in-person or online via Zoom, as we discuss important topics of our church and make decisions for our church leadership for 2021. All reports for the church council are due by Wednesday January 13th!

Nomination – If you are interested or if you think someone else has specific gifts to serve as a leader of our congregation, please talk to a member of the Board to discuss nominations for one of our various Boards.

Western District Clergy Retreat

January 26-28

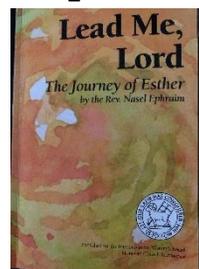
Each January the Moravian clergy of the Western District gather together for a time of continuing education, fellowship, worship and retreat. This year the retreat will be done virtually but Pastor Greg will be stepping away from the office during January 26th-28th to fully honor that time of retreat.



Women's Bible Study – Lead Me Lord

3rd Tuesday of Each Month - 7:00pm

All women of the congregation are invited to join a Bible study group that meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Please talk to Cheryl Lovlien for more information and how to join!



Mission Outreach

Conversation Café

Postponed

We are continuing to plan and discern when we will be able to have another Conversation Café Meal. We hope to be able to offer this ministry again soon.



Youth

Sunday School each Sunday

Preschool - Kindergarten

1st Grade - 6th Grade

7th Grade - 12th Grade

Youth Night – January 16th

7th-12th Grade (7:00-8:30pm)

All junior high and high school youth are invited to join us in-person for our monthly youth night at the church on January 16th.

Mid-Winter Virtual Youth Event

Saturday February 6th 7:00-10:00pm on ZOOM

9th Grade - Age of 21

All youth in high school through the age of 21 are welcome to attend the Mid-Winter Virtual Youth Event. This year's theme will focus on self-care and how we can build ourselves up as stronger individuals and followers of Christ. Registration will be online later this month.

Schedule: 7:00-7:15 - Welcome/Ice Breaker
7:15-7:30pm - Evening Devotional Worship
7:30-9:00pm - Program
9:00-10:00pm - Mystery Party Game



Opportunities to Give

Roof Fund

Thank you to everyone who has made donations to our roof project. We have raised over \$29,000 towards our 2020 goal of \$50,000. We are still looking for gifts so if you are able to give above and beyond this is a great project to consider giving towards.

Thank you all for your support!

Moravian Ministries to Support

There are so many areas of need currently, especially some of our Moravian Ministries. If you are able to contribute to the work of the greater Moravian Church please visit our Giving Page on the church website to donate

Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat
Tricklebee Café
Moravian Music Foundation
Moravian Care Ministries
Moravian Open Door
Moravian Center Adult Day