December 2022



The MESSENGER

To glorify God, we invite all to grow as faithful disciples and to share in the love, grace and ministry of Jesus Christ by serving the church, community and world.

Discussions with Dave

I do not know about you, but I can't wait until Election Day rolls around. Not because I am anxious to fulfill my civic duty (which I could not do this year due to Covid), but the commercials finally come to an end. Even on my phone there were ads. I did rather like it when I traveled to Atlanta in October because I got to hear how rotten a whole new group of candidates were from a different state.

I have not run for public office since I was elected President of our DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) as a senior in high school. I was asked to run for the School Board back in Minnesota, but quickly declined. We have always lived in church parsonages so I have never paid property taxes in a school district. The last thing I need is to make members of my congregation angry by a decision I made at a school board meeting. But I have often wondered, why would someone run for a major public office?

I understand there is perhaps a need to feel powerful and have at least 50% of the people like you, or host you for dinner parties, or try to schmooze you to see things their way. But if you are running for a national office, you better hope you don't have any skeletons in the closet so to speak. It seems as if you did something wrong in the 3rd grade, someone is going to dig it up. Or maybe they will ask your high school Spanish teacher if they thought you would make a good senator some 30 years after high school.

I am unsure how a mistake made at the age of 17 will accurately reflect what kind of person you will be when you are 50. I know in my case it certainly hasn't. I was a 140-pound dork when I was 17. I didn't take school seriously enough to get grades one would consider stellar. My right foot was constantly stomping from the gas pedal to the brakes. I worked so I could have money to blow on all sorts of stuff, thinking I could save some when I was "old." Not too many cares in the world. With this background, obviously I should run for President. I do have skeletons in the closet, and I do not say that proudly. I have always lived in fear one of those skeletons will awaken and show itself. But I am most definitely not the same person I was in the late 1970's.

We probably all have things in our past we wish could remain buried and hidden out of sight. But the Apostle Paul tells us in his Letter to the Romans (5:12-17):

¹² "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

So....Everything we have done. Every dark, disturbing, frightening, stupid thing we have ever done has been lifted from us because of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Yours. Mine. All of ours. We have been given grace for all we have done, forgiven. It doesn't mean the closet is empty, it means the closet is locked. It gives us the opportunity to move forward with our lives, leaving behind what we have done. It allows us to become the people God wants us to be. Thanks Be To God!

Pastor Dave Sobek

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
3:30 & 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.



Advent Vesper Service

A vesper service is a service of evening prayer. We will join on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary for a time to prepare for the coming of our Lord on Christmas. There will be singing, prayers, and special music. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Unity Prayer Watch

Our turn for the Unity Prayer Watch is December 1. There is a sign-up sheet on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Prayer sheets will be available on the bulletin board. Please consider giving 15 minutes (or longer) for a time of prayer for our whole Moravian Church.

Poinsettias for Advent

The Advent season is fast approaching! If you would like to share a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin



board or you can call the office and let us know your loved one's name and if it's in memory or honor of, so we can put it in the bulletin. **Please** have poinsettias to Fellowship Hall by 3 p.m. Friday, December 2.

Men's Fellowship

The next men's breakfast is Saturday, December 10, at 7:30 a.m. All men are welcome!

BOOK CLUB

This month's book is
"The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig.
We will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday,
December 1, in the Gathering Room.
All are welcome!

Elections Church Council

On Sunday November 27, immediately following worship we will have a report from the Nominating Committee and elect members to our Board of Elders, Board of Trustees, and a representative to the Christian Education Committee. This usually is not a long meeting so please be a part of this important work of the church. All confirmed communicant members of our congregation are eligible to vote.



October 31, 2022 (Actual)

YTD Budget as of October 31: \$269,739.20

Total Income as of October 31: \$202,791.06
Total Expenses as of October 31: \$251,936.39
Difference YTD (\$49,145.33)

Mary Bade, Treasurer

As we enter the holiday season of giving thanks and celebrating our Savior's birth, please prayerfully consider making a special gift to our church over and above your normal contributions so that we can reduce or eliminate our shortfall before the end of the year.



BIRTHS: Congratulations to Jonathan and December (Sobek) Cevallos on the birth of their son, Joseph David, on November 14. He weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19 ¾ inches long. Proud grandparents are Dave & Dina Sobek and Tomacita Ajila. Proud uncles are Derek & Dakota Sobek, Zeke Dobe and proud aunt is Dara (Sobek) Dobe.

FUNERALS: We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jana Menzel, who passed away November 1, 2022. Jana was the sister of Kim Staff. There was a graveside service on November 10 at Rock Lake Cemetery with Pastor Dave leading the service.

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

December 8 – Jerry Trumpf*;

December 10 – Jo Stokes;

December 18 – Zoe Cuthrell;

December 20 – Sue Trumpf;

December 24 – Lindsey Nampel;

December 27 – Lucy Cuthrell;

December 28 - Hailey Lawson;

December 30 – Barb Brunk

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES (80+):

December 4 – Don Strauss; December 10 – Rodney Bergholz

THANK YOUs:

We'd like to thank our Tellers, Janitors, Office Subs, and all of the volunteers that help out around church. You don't go unnoticed and we appreciate all you do for the church! We'd also like to thank Jerry Schultz, Carolyn Wey, Breanna Weissmann, and Kathy Wendt and the Handbell Choir for sharing your talents with the church this last month.

I'd like to thank everyone for your prayers and kind words for my daughter, Willow. I was extremely anxious with her going under, as it was her first time. The surgery went well and she did better than I could have hoped for and she did an excellent job while we did the drops in her ears. Thank you again for all of the prayers!

~ Nikki

The Work of Our Boards

The **Board of Trustees** met on Thursday, November 10. Following are highlights of that meeting:

- the treasurer's report was shared and approved.
- several committee reports were given.
- some ongoing maintenance and repair issues were discussed.
- it was reported that the parsonage roof has hail damage from a summer storm. We will look into filing an insurance claim.
- Cassie reported that she has set up Amazon Smile for our congregation. Please see the separate article in this issue for details on how to sign up.
- the trustees will be setting up the Sanctuary Advent Star and Christmas tree on November 26 at 9 a.m.

The **Board of Elders** meeting took place after the deadline for this issue. Highlights of that meeting may be found in next month's Messenger.

Advent Workshop

Our Sunday School hosted its second Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 20th. Children and their families were invited to create Advent traditions by visiting each of our stations: cookie decorating and hot cocoa, make your own Christmas cards, snowflake ornament craft, and create your own Advent wreath!

This year, children from the Lake Mills United Methodist Church joined the festivities!



Thank you to the Lake Mills Market for donating 100 sugar cookies, Todd Ripp for making all the Advent wreath wooden bases, the Lake Mills United Methodist Church for supplying

the ornament craft, and all our volunteers!



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DECEMBER SERVANTS

DIENERS: Becky & Jerry Haferman – (B) 920-988-2987 **SORTERS:** Dave McFarlane & Mike Nebel

USHERS				
Date	Service	Ushers		
(Usher Teams will also greet until further notice)				
12/4	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman		
12/11	10:00 A.M.	Jane Berg		
Sunday School Christmas Program				
12/18	10:00 A.M.	Bob Hoyt		
Christmas Eve				
12/24	3:30 P.M.	Todd Messmer		
12/24	5:30 P.M.	Mike Denzin		
12/24	7:30 P.M.	Bob Hinzmann		
Christmas Day				
12/25	10:00 A.M.	Ken Manske		

LAY READERS				
Date	Service	Readers		
(Only reading on Sundays right now)				
12/4	10:00 A.M.	Todd Messmer		
12/11	10:00 A.M.	Pam Streich		
Sunday School Christmas Program				
12/18	10:00 A.M.			
Christmas Eve				
12/24	3:30 P.M.	Deb Van Ommeren		
12/24	5:30 P.M.	Dakota Sobek		
12/24	7:30 P.M.	Kathy Wendt		
Christmas Day				
12/25	12/25 10:00 A.M. Jane Harberg			

NURSERY SCHEDULE

For the safety of all, there will be no nursery until further notice.



WORSHIP RECORDING & PRODUCTION					
Date	Service	Recording	YouTube Video		
12/4	10:00 A.M.	Paul Albrecht	Paul Albrecht		
12/11	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman	Dakota Sobek		
12/18	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman	Paul Albrecht		
12/25	10:00 A.M.	Paul Albrecht	Paul Albrecht		



CANDLE WRAPPING

The Dieners will be wrapping candles for Christmas Eve on Sunday, December 11, in the Matthew Room following the church service. Anyone interested in learning how to wrap candles is more than welcome to join in. Please bring a snack item or dessert to share. Coffee and lemonade will be provided.

Lake Mills Fire Department Food Drive

The holidays are right around the corner, so it is that time of year again for the annual City of Lake Mills Fire Department's Holiday Food Drive. Many individuals and families within our community struggle everyday with making ends meet, and the holiday season can create even more of a burden. That is why this program in correlation with the Lake Mills Food Pantry is so important and hopefully can lessen some of that burden especially during the holiday season.

There is a collection barrel located in our lobby until December 20 where you can deposit your items for the Food Pantry. Remember this program benefits the Lake Mills Community as all food donated is given directly to the Lake Mills Food Pantry.

Gourmet Caramel Apple Fundraiser

Wow-We sold 74 gourmet caramel apples for our Sunday School fundraiser with Amy's Candy Kitchen! This delicious fundraiser helped us raise funds towards our annual Adopt-A-Family Christmas program.

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser and this important ministry.

Updated Directory

We will be publishing an updated directory after the beginning of the year, and would like to gather any information changes from our members. If you've recently had any changes to your information or new additions to your family, please call the office or email office@lakemillsmoravianchurch.org so we can update the directory. Your help is very much appreciated!!

Moravian Women

At our November board meeting, we asked if anyone in their circles had someone to volunteer to be our next President and Secretary. Cindy Miller volunteered to be our next Secretary for 2023-2024. We are still searching for a President.

The list of shut-ins was handed out to the circles. The new circle books were also handed out to the circle leaders. A question was raised about doing birthday bags for St. Vincent's again. This had been put on hold because the Food Pantry had enough, but we will check to see if they need any birthday bags again.

Thank you to our circles for helping out with desserts for Loaves and Fishes in Watertown. Cindy Miller reported on how many desserts were received. Also, Loaves and Fishes will be doing indoor seating starting in January. All the Moravian Women of our congregation are encouraged to help with this ministry.

We had a post Market Day meeting following our board meeting. We will be meeting next spring/early summer to start planning our 2023 Market Day!

Our next board meeting will be Monday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Timothy Room.

Teresa T

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM 2022

It's that time of year again – annual reports for our booklet for church council. Articles are due to the church office by December 30. Financial reports are due as soon as year-end information is available. You may fax your articles to 920-648-3669 or email them to the office at office@lake-millsmoravianchurch.org.

Contribution Guidelines For 2022 Taxes

- * Checks dated in December 2022, deposited in the mail and <u>postmarked</u> in December 2022 but not received by the church until January 2023..................Report for 2022
- * Checks dated in December 2022, deposited in the mail in December 2022, but <u>not postmarked</u> until January 2023 and not received by the church until January 2023......Report for 2023
- * Checks written and deposited in church offering in December 2022 but "post-dated" to January 2023.......Report for 2023

<u>Important:</u> To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2022 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contribution from the church.

SCRIP CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is quickly approaching and gift cards make perfect stocking stuffers. A list is on the bulletin board along with order forms for ordering the cards. We can also email/mail an order form to you; just let the church office know. On Scrip Cards, you pay the full value and the church receives a certain percentage of each card sold. Orders are due **November 27**. This will be the LAST order for the year.

2023 DAILY TEXTS

If you pre-ordered a 2023 Daily Text, they have arrived. We have a few extras for sale and once those are gone, we will not be ordering anymore. The price has gone up slightly, so please see the pricing below if you'd like to purchase one of our extras.

Regular Print: \$12.00 Large Print: \$15.00

Directory & Statistics: \$5.00 if purchased with Daily Text otherwise alone it is \$9.00

E-Messenger

Would you like to reduce the amount of paper in your household and at the same time help the church reduce the cost of mailing the Messenger? If you would prefer to receive the Messenger by email rather than by snail mail, please let the church office know.

Meals on Wheels

Our commitment for delivering Meals on Wheels is completed for this year. I would like to express my appreciation to all the volunteers. Thanks so much



for your help in serving those in our communities that need this service. Looking forward to 2023 and getting Meals on Wheels to those in need.

Thanks again, Coordinator Connie Manske, 920-723-7598.

AMAZON SMILE

You can now give even more to our Church when you shop on Amazon! Introducing Amazon Smile – the charity program from Amazon that donates 0.5% of all of your purchases back to the Moravian Church.

How to do it?

- On your computer: Go to smile.amazon.com and select "Lake Mills Moravian Church" as your charity of choice. When shopping at Amazon on your computer, you must go to this address every time for the donation to be made. You cannot go to the regular amazon.com website.
- On your mobile app: Find the Gifting, Registry & Charity tile, and scroll down to Amazon Smile. From there, turn on your Mobile App and select "Lake Mills Moravian Church" as your charity of choice

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Cassie in the church office at 920-648-5412.



It warms our hearts to see the children attending Sunday School and learning about our Christian faith each week. Our children's Christmas program entitled, "Children Tell of Christmas," will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 18, 2022, in place of our regular service. The children have been practicing during Sunday School in preparation for their program and are excited to bring this program to everyone! We will have a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 16, meeting in Fellowship Hall promptly at 5:30 p.m. for supper with rehearsal to follow. Practice should conclude around 7:00 p.m. Since it is so dark at that time, for the safety of all, the children should be picked up in the sanctuary. On Sunday, December 18, the children will meet in their classrooms as usual at 9:00 a.m. and then will also sit with their classes during the program service at 10:00 a.m. An updated event calendar has been emailed to the families with more information.

It is very important for your children to attend Sunday School, not only to be a part of this wonderful Christmas program, but also to learn about God, our church, and to create long-lasting friendships that will carry on throughout their lives! If you have not registered your child(ren) for our Sunday School classes, it is never too late. Please contact Sue Trumpf; she is around the church every Sunday morning. She will be happy to register your child(ren). As a reminder, Sunday school begins each week at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 9:45 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

We will not hold classes on December 25, 2022, or January 1, 2023. Our normally scheduled classes will resume on January 8, 2023.

As we continue with this joyous celebration of the Advent season, spending time with our church family and those we love, the Sunday School staff would like to wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas filled with peace and happiness that will carry over to the New Year!



May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours, and may the coming year be filled with happiness. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Christmas Hams

Christmas is fast approaching and the Stewardship/Outreach Committee is again collecting money to supply the Food Pantry with hams for Christmas dinner for those families in need who visit the Food Pantry. Each ham is approximately \$10 - \$12. Any amount is appreciated. Our goal is to collect enough money for 90 families. You may drop the money off at the church office, place it in an envelope marked "Hams"



or send it to the church marked "Hams." This year the Food Pantry would like to have the hams there by December 12th. Please have the money to the church by December 11th. The generosity you have shown in the past has been very much appreciated by those who have received this gift for their Christmas Dinner.

Luminaries for Sale

The CEC will continue selling luminaries for our Christmas Eve services, to adorn the outside of our church as well as the inside. You may purchase a traditional luminary bag for \$5.00 each through December 22. Luminary order forms will continue to be located on a table at the entrance ways of the church. Proceeds will go to our Assistance Fund. If writing a check,



please make it payable to the Lake Mills Moravian Church and in the memo line write "Luminary." Your completed forms and payments may be brought to the worship services on Saturday or Sunday or to the church office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-12 noon and 1-3 p.m.. Please help our Moravian Block glow once again this Christmas Eve, inside and out!! Any questions, please contact Sue Trumpf at 920-723-9386. You may also purchase luminaries through our church office during normal business hours.

As we enter into the Advent season, the Christian Education Committee (CEC) would like to wish everyone a very safe and blessed holiday season as we await the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

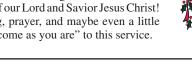
On Saturday, December 24, we will gather for Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. It will be great to be able to gather once again in our sanctuary for these services. Hopefully, the pastor will also be able to lead these services this year!





Christmas Day Service

As Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, we will gather at our normal worship time of 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We will have a time of Christmas Carol singing, prayer, and maybe even a little message from the pastor. You are welcome to "come as you are" to this service.



New Year's Eve **Communion Service**

On New Year's Eve you are welcome to come into the area in front of the Matthew Room downstairs anytime from 4:00 p.m. until



6:00 p.m. to end the year with Holy Communion. Come in, sit with your God for a while, and come forward to receive Communion. You may sit as long as you wish. Due to this service there will not be a 4:00 p.m. Worship Service.

Welcome the New Year!

As January 1, 2023, falls on a Sunday, we will be having our Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. On the weekend of January 7 and 8, we will come to Christ's Table for Holy Communion and to draw the Congregational Texts for 2023. Personal Texts will also

be available for members to draw that day as well.





The MESSENGER

Lake Mills Moravian Church 301 College Street Lake Mills, WI 53551 (920) 648-5412 website: www.lakemillsmoravianchurch.org

Return Service Requested

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Lake Mills, WI 53551
Permit No. 61



STAFF Email: office@lakemillsmoravianchurch.org Hours Rev. David Sobek - PastorOffice 920-648-5412 Monday - Friday: 9-12 & 1-3 Cassie Richardson - Business Manager Office 920-648-5412 Nikki Lawson - Administrative AssistantOffice 920-648-5412 Kathy Wendt - Hand Bell Director.......Home 920-728-1101 Mary Bade - Church Treasurer......Cell 920-988-5349 Lindsey Nampel - Sunday School Co-Superintendent... Home 414-702-8644 Kristen Stilling - Sunday School Co-Superintendent Home 608-575-8560 Sue Trumpf - Sunday School SecretaryHome 920-723-9386

Board Members				
Board of Elders	Board of Trustees			
Theresa Palmer (2022) 608-843-6749	Mike Nebel (2022)262-565-8226			
Bill Stilling (2022)608-575-8560	Rich Hooper (2022)920-222-1587			
Tracy Brandel (2023)920-285-0083	Steve Brockert (2023)920-648-3028			
Donna Hinzmann (2023)920-988-8824	Sherman Lawson (2023) 920-648-2531			
Joanna Stokes (2023)608-513-2335	Dave McFarlane (2023)920-988-7988			
Erna Kiessling (2024) 920-648-2424	Donna Crossman (2024)920-648-2486			
Corey Nampel (2024)414-702-8604	Jeff Levake (2024)920-988-7567			

COMING IN January, 2023:

January 1 – No Sunday School

January 7/8 – Holy Communion & Drawing of Watchwords

January 8 – Scholarship Presentation (2nd Half)

January 14 – Men's Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)

Date TBD - Church Council following Worship

Our Worship Services may be seen on
Analog Channel 98
or Digital Channel 994

Wednesdays at 7:20 a.m., 12:20 & 5:40 p.m.
Thursdays at 12:20 & 5:40 p.m.

LMMC You Tube Channel
- click on the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCffbGgUhqkSC7xxtfHigeFA/



Deadline for the January 2023 Messenger will be **Tuesday**, **December 20**.

Please email your articles to Mary Bade, mmbade@charter.net.