



February 2023

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

The Meaning of Signs

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I began to see signs around town, and even one on a moving car. Some of these signs are still in people's yards. They say, "Keep Christ in Christmas." While it is a nice thought, I have often wanted to ask the people who have these signs what exactly it means. Will we keep Christ in Christmas by attending worship on one special night? If we say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays" will that keep Christ in Christmas? I realize Christmas was a long time ago but these are questions I lie awake at night thinking about.

In the early years of the church, Easter was the main holiday; the birth of Jesus was not celebrated. In the fourth century, church officials decided to institute the birth of Jesus as a holiday. Unfortunately, nowhere in the Bible does it mention a date for his birth (a fact Puritans later pointed out in order to deny the legitimacy of the celebration, and other groups also believe). Although some evidence suggests his birth may have occurred in the spring (why would shepherds be herding in the middle of winter?), Pope Julius I chose December 25 around 350 A.D. This is based on a letter quoted from the 9th century source, and even this is undocumented. It is commonly believed the church chose this date to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festival. First called the Feast of the Nativity, the custom spread to Egypt by 432 and to England by the end of the sixth century.

So apparently the early church was not overly concerned with keeping Christ in Christmas. It wasn't even known as Christmas for many years. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the word Christmas originates from the phrase "Cristes Maesse," first recorded in 1038, which means the Mass of Christ or Christ's Mass.

But I digress.

How many people look at a lit beeswax candle at the Christmas Eve service and think, "this is all about you, Lord"? How many people look at decorations, outdoor light displays, and Christmas trees and it somehow reminds them of Mary and Joseph birthing a child in a manger? Do we sing all those familiar hymns on Christmas Eve to thank God for sending Christ into the world, or because they are beautiful, and we like to sing them?

Now don't make me out to be a Scrooge. I love our celebration of the Birth of our Lord. But shouldn't the slogan be, "Keep Christ in Your Life"? Should Christmas be the only time we keep our thoughts on our Lord? The Christmas Eve service is beautiful, but we try to worship our God at least 52 other times throughout the year. Certainly, all the ministry we do is trying to keep Christ in it. How we live our lives, how we treat others, how we gift ourselves to others. When Christ asked us to minister in his name, it was not for just one day, week, month, or year.

We do this not because of the celebration of his birth, but because of his willingness to die and be resurrected. I believe we call that Easter. Each worship service we hold is a remembrance of that holiday.

Pastor Dave Sobek

2023 Daily Texts

We still have several Daily Texts available to purchase in the church office.

Moravian Women

With no Moravian Women's Board meeting in January, we have nothing new to report. Looking forward to our first meeting of the new year with new officers at the President, Vice-President and Secretary level. Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship met for breakfast on Saturday, January 14, with 8 in attendance. All men are welcome to join us at February's breakfast and fellowship. The date for the next men's breakfast is Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 a.m.

Holy Communion

There will be two opportunities for Holy Communion in February: the first weekend, February 4 & 5, and the first Sunday in Lent, February 25 & 26. Holy Communion will not take place during the month of March as Holy Week is the first week in April. We will join together on Maundy Thursday, April 6, for Holy Communion.



Ash Wednesday – February 22

We begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 22. All of our Lenten Services will begin with a Soup and Sandwich supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. All services will follow the meal at 6:45 p.m.

Soup & Sandwich Suppers

Any group wishing to serve a Soup & Sandwich Supper prior to the Mid-Week Lenten Services should please call the office to find an open Wednesday as soon as possible.

BOOK CLUB

This month's book is "A Fall of Marigolds" by Susan Meissner. We will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 2, in the Gathering Room. All are welcome!

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Don't make dinner on Thursday, February 9! Place your order for delicious pizza and chicken to support our Sunday School fundraiser.

Orders are taken online through the link within this article. Pizza Ranch will deliver your hot and ready meals to our Church for you to pick-up on Thursday, February 9th (5:00 or 5:30 p.m. pick-up).

The LMMC Sunday School Program will receive 10% of sales plus any tips to help us replace old/outdated equipment.

Order Here: <https://pizzaranchorder.com/fundraiser/fa12f3>

Pre-order deadline is February 7 at 12 p.m. (noon). If you have questions, please call Pizza Ranch at 920-390-2782.

If you are not a fan of pizza or chicken, we are accepting monetary donations to support the Sunday School program! The CEC would like to thank everyone in advance for your support!

Meeting Our Financial Responsibilities

December 31, 2022 (Actual)

2022 Budget: \$323,687.00
 Total Income as of December 31: \$271,850.23
 Total Expenses as of December 31: 303,807.07
 2022 Shortfall (\$ 31,956.84)

Despite several very generous gifts in December--for which we are very THANKFUL!--we ended the year with the largest shortfall in a number of years. The Trustees will be discussing ways to cover the shortfall. Please come to Church Council on January 29 for more information on our financial picture.

Mary Bade, Treasurer



FUNERALS: We'd like to express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Andrea Geyer, who passed away on December 23, 2022. Pastor Dave led her funeral service on December 30, in our sanctuary.

THANK YOU: We'd like to say a very special thank you to Bob & Donna Hinzmann. Bob & Donna have decided to retire from cooking all of the meals for major events. We truly appreciate both of your time, hard work, and dedication.

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

February 22 -- Sam Denzin;
 February 22 -- James Nampel

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES (80+):

February 10 -- Marilyn Bielke;
 February 13 -- Doris Stockfish,
 February 23 --Richard Bidgood;
 February 29 -- Claudette Kottwitz

Meals on Wheels

As of this writing, Meals on Wheels is half way through our first service of our first term this year. All is going well and much thanks to the volunteers who make it all possible. If you would like to help, please contact Coordinator Connie Manske at 920-723-7598.



Luminaries

It was a wonderful Christmas Eve as we celebrated indoors for the first time since 2019! A huge thank you to everyone for your thoughtfulness in honoring and remembering your loved ones and friends. Due to the uncertainty of the weather, 79 luminaries adorned the inside of our church. The proceeds went to our Assistance Fund. Thanks again to all who supported this ministry!

The Work of Our Boards

The **Board of Elders** and **Board of Trustees** both held their January meetings after the deadline for this issue. Highlights of those meetings may be found in next month's Messenger.

Moravian Day of Giving - February 21

Moravians have always given generously and thoughtfully as individuals, but also collectively in response to God's call. Our Covenant for Christian Living outlines our collective commitment. Three years ago, the Provincial Elders' Conferences of both provinces of the Moravian Church in America authorized MMFA to sponsor an annual "Moravian Day of Giving," which always coincides with Mardi Gras. In 2023, the event is February 21. Here's your opportunity to make an unexpected gift, above and beyond your tithe or pledge, to our church, Moravian agencies, or ministries about which you feel passionate. In addition, there are Field of Interest funds that are used to make grants to qualified Moravian ministries.

Incentives for the 2023 Moravian Day of Giving: Imagine the possibilities! Think of all the good our congregation could do with \$10,000! The one U.S. Moravian congregation or fellowship with the highest level of participation on this year's Moravian Day of Giving will receive \$10,000.00 (unrestricted). The congregation with the second highest level of participation will receive \$5,000.00 and the third highest level of participation will receive \$2,500.00. Help our congregation do more good by making a gift (or many) on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 to our congregation on the Moravian Giving Portal. In addition, MMFA is matching the first \$15,000 made to any of the grant-making Moravian Field of Interest Funds on that day.

To make your Day of Giving gift, on February 21, just go to mmfa.info/giving-portal/. You can give to our congregation using the alphabetical list, or scroll down to see the many Moravian agencies and ministries that you can designate



Electronic Giving



LMMC has been offering electronic giving since 2004. This service helps reduce fluctuations in contributions during the whole year while making it easy and safe for you to donate. On the date you specify and at the interval you specify (one time only, weekly, monthly, etc.), your contributions will electronically transfer from your bank account to the church's account. When the funds have been transferred, the church office is notified. The date and amount transferred will appear on your bank statement, and the information will be included in your annual contribution statement. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please call Cassie in the church office at 920-648-5412 or email her at cassie.lmmc@gmail.com. There is a form to fill out which we can mail or email to you.

FEBRUARY SERVANTS

DIENERS: Wendy & Steve Brockert (S) 920-728-8848

SORTERS: to be determined

USHERS		
Date	Service	Ushers
(Usher Teams will also greet until further notice)		
2/5	10:00 A.M.	Todd Messmer
2/12	10:00 A.M.	Mike Denzin
2/19	10:00 A.M.	Bob Hinzmann
2/26	10:00 A.M.	Ken Manske

LAY READERS		
Date	Service	Readers
(Only reading on Sundays right now)		
2/5	10:00 A.M.	Derek Sobek
2/12	10:00 A.M.	Cindy Miller
2/19	10:00 A.M.	Pam Streich
2/26	10:00 A.M.	Cindy Miller

NURSERY SCHEDULE

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



WORSHIP RECORDING & PRODUCTION			
Date	Service	Recording	YouTube Video
2/5	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman	Dakota Sobek
2/12	10:00 A.M.	Paul Albrecht	Paul Albrecht
2/19	10:00 A.M.	Dakota Sobek	Dakota Sobek
2/26	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman	Paul Albrecht

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5 8:45-9:45 AM Adult Study 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship & Holy Communion	6 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing 6:30 PM Moravian Women Board – Timothy Room	7 Last day to order from Pizza Ranch Fundraiser @ Noon 7:00 PM Dartball: Moravian @ United Methodist	1 9:00 AM-2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – “Matt” 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 6:00 PM Endowment Comm.-Ofc Conf Rm 6:30 PM CEC Meeting 7:30 PM AA 8 9:00 AM-2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – “Matt” 1 PM Brenda Brent Circle – Gath. Rm 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 7:30 PM AA	2 10 AM Book Club- Gathering Rm. 9 1 PM E. Appenfeldt – “Matt” 5:00 & 5:30 PM Sunday School Pizza Ranch Fundraiser Pick up 6:30 PM Trustees – “Matt”	3 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing 10 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing	4 4 PM Worship & Holy Communion 11 7:30 AM Men’s Breakfast 4 PM Worship
12 8:45-9:45 AM Adult Study 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship	13 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing	14 Valentine’s Day 9:30 AM Kim Sibert Circle 7 PM E. Raiford Circle - Gathering Rm Moravian Dartball Bye Week	15 9:00 AM-2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – “Matt” 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 7:30 PM AA	16 6:30 PM Elders – “Matt”	17 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing	18 4 PM Worship
19 8:45-9:45 AM Adult Study 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship	20 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing	21 7:00 PM Dartball: Moravian @ St. Paul’s	22 Ash Wednesday 9:00 AM-2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – “Matt” 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 5:30-6:45 PM District 11 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:45 PM Ash Wed. Service 7:30 PM AA	23	24 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing	25 4 PM Worship & Holy Communion
26 8:45-9:45 AM Adult Study 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship & Holy Communion	27 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing	28 7:00 PM Dartball: Moravian @ Newville				



Our kick off to the second half of Sunday School

began on January 8th, 2023, as the children and adults enjoyed a delicious breakfast and fellowship time. We would like to thank Corey and Lindsey Nampel, Bill and Kristen Stilling and Dina Sobek for preparing and serving our fantastic breakfast.

In February, the children will be studying the Beatitudes. We are excited to be hosting a Pizza Ranch fundraiser on February 9th; please look for the article within this issue of the Messenger!

Looking ahead, Sunday, March 19th is PRETZEL SUNDAY! Please mark your calendars for this fabulous family event.

Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to get involved in our church community? Maybe you are passionate about helping children and families grow in their faith and want to explore an educational role. If this sounds interesting to you, we are looking for creative volunteers to join our youth ministry team!

We provide all the curriculum and materials to provide engaging lessons for our Sunday School kids, all we need is a teacher to join the fun!

To find out more information, please contact Lindsey Nampel, Kristen Stilling, or Sue Trumpf or email lmmess14@gmail.com.

GATHER & CRAFT

Are you a crafter? Do you like doing crafts, sewing, scrapbooking, knitting, etc. If you said yes, would you like to devote a day doing what you love in the company of fellow crafters and friends? If so, join us for a...

Gather and Craft Event

Saturday, March 11, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Lake Mills Moravian Church Fellowship Hall

(a light lunch will be provided)

Bring a project you want to start, something you are currently working on or maybe something that you have set aside waiting to be completed. It is a time to come together in community and connect through a shared passion for creativeness and crafting.

To register, please contact Dina Sobek by email at dinasobek12@gmail.com or at (920) 728-0937. The following information is needed:

Name: _____

Contact Information:

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Project/projects you will be bringing: _____

Will you need an electrical outlet? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

Would you like to set up on Friday evening, 6:00-7:00 p.m.? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

Deadline to register is Sunday, March 5, so lunch can be planned and tables set up.

And lastly, in lieu of a registration fee, please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the local food pantry. Looking forward to crafting with you!

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.

2023 LMMC Watchwords

(Once more groups draw their watchwords, they will be added.)

Congregation: In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying.

Psalm 77:2

CEC: You must follow exactly the path that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live.

Deuteronomy 5:33

Elders: And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 17:3

Handbells: God who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Romans 8:32

Meals on Wheels: My people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:14

Men's Ensemble: Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at Hand.

Zephaniah 1:7

Men's Fellowship: By this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

1 John 3:19-20

Messenger: Paul wrote: Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

2 Corinthians 1:7

Moravian Women: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12

Organist: God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

Staff: Christ came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:17

Stewardship/Outreach: I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.

Jeremiah 9:24

Sunday School: I the Lord do not change.

Malachi 3:6

Tellers: The light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold on the day when the Lord binds up the injuries of his people, and heals the wounds.

Isaiah 30:26

Trustees: One of the criminals said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:42-43

Ushers: The Lord your God has blessed you in all your undertakings.

Deuteronomy 2:7

The MESSENGER

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Lake Mills, WI 53551

Permit No. 61

Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2022 are available on the table outside the church office. Please pick yours up as soon as possible to save the church some postage! Any statements not picked up by January 31 will be mailed.

STAFF

Email: office@lakemillsmoravianchurch.org

Rev. David Sobek - Pastor	Office 920-648-5412
Rev. John Baumann - Visitation Pastor	Home 920-648-2943
Cassie Richardson - Business Manager	Office 920-648-5412
Nikki Lawson - Administrative Assistant	Office 920-648-5412
Cora Rund - Organist	Home 608-520-3815
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 Secretary	Home 920-723-9386
Jo Stokes - Parish Nurse	Home 608-513-2335
Mary Bade - Editor	Home 920-648-3267

Hours
Monday - Friday:
9-12 & 1-3



Board Members

Board of Elders

Tracy Brandel (2023)	920-285-0083
Donna Hinzmann (2023)	920-988-8824
Joanna Stokes (2023)	608-513-2335
Erna Kiessling (2024)	920-648-2424
Corey Nampel (2024)	414-702-8604
Mike Durant (2025)	920-650-2513
Linda Kutzke (2025)	920-988-3212

Board of Trustees

Steve Brockert (2023)	920-648-3028
Sherman Lawson (2023)	920-648-2531
Dave McFarlane (2023)	920-988-7988
Donna Crossman (2024)	920-650-0174
Jeff Levake (2024)	920-988-7567
Ashley Haberman (2025)	920-342-0292
Carl Kutzke (2025)	920-988-1973

COMING IN March 2023:

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – 6:00 p.m.
Lent Soup Supper followed by 6:45 p.m.
Lenten Worship Service

March 12 – Daylight Saving Time Begins
(Turn clocks ahead 1 hour)

March 19 – Pretzel Sunday
(Sunday School kids make pretzels)

& Coming in April

(April 3, 4, 5 – 7 p.m. Holy Week
Reading Services)

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 March 2023 Messenger
will be **Tuesday,**
February 14, 2023.

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