



January 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 Letter

Almost thirty years ago as pastor of the Pittsville United Church of Christ (And the Veedom Moravian Church), I was asked to write a letter to the congregation on behalf of the Council (their version of the Joint Board). I had been there for 3-4 years by that time. For no reason other than doing ministry we had spent about half of their "Reserve Fund," which was money set aside for a rainy day. It was my task to tell the entire congregation about this matter. I spent the better part of a week writing, editing, and rewriting the letter. I wrote about ways people could easily increase their giving by only a little amount each week, and how it would make a drastic change in our budget by the end of the year. I gave all the rational reasons how and why we needed to increase giving. Many members of the congregation told me it was the best letter they had ever read concerning the budget.

But my views have changed dramatically since then. After a number of workshops and careful study I concluded it is far too simplistic to think in terms of "Amount of Budget divided by Number of Members equals how much we should all give." It is not only simplistic, but it is not the way God has chosen for us.

Scripture says we are to give a "tithe" or 10% of our wealth. "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD" (Leviticus 27:30). Up until we shut down for Covid over two years ago, each of our worship services included a time for giving our "Tithes & Offerings." The tithe is 10%. Anything over and above that is an offering. Scripture mentions this is our obligation towards God who has created us and gave us all we have. Actually, God demands it. I know these are strong and harsh words for us. We like to live our lives making God who we want God to be and sometimes ignore those aspects of our faith which call us to a higher standard. Please remember...these are not my words...they are God's.

I have had people ask, "is that 10% before, or after taxes?" I tell them it is up to them. In reality, if people calculated what percentage they give now and increased it by 1%, we wouldn't know what to do with all the funds.

Giving is of course, just a part of one's faith journey, and there are many ways to give. The gift of time. The gift of talent. The gift of treasure. Time has become as valuable as treasure. When I wrote that letter 30 years ago, no one, including me, was as busy as people are today. There are times when I think "If someone adds one more thing to my calendar..." Putting talent to good use is difficult at times as well. I like to shovel the sidewalk, fix things, put out fires, etc. But my body no longer recovers as well as it used to when I was in my early thirties. I know I am not alone in feeling worn out a lot of the time. I think sometimes being a part of the church just becomes one more thing to do on the list of many.

My carefully worded letter of many years ago drew great reviews, but in the end it had absolutely no effect. However, by the time we left Pittsville in June of 2000 the "Reserve Fund" had twice as much in it than when we started in 1990! What happened? God happened. Instead of asking people to look at our ministry as a business, they, and I, began looking at it as God's work and God working through us. They engaged in daily prayer for the work of the church, for God to work in their lives, and for God to work through them to reach others. Together we all changed our perspective on what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ. The humbling thing for me was to realize I had little to do with this change, but God worked in the hearts of those who call him Creator, Redeemer, and the Father of our Savior.

The million-dollar question is, what difference will this make in your life and faith journey? Will you be like those folks long ago? Will you read this and do nothing? Will you even read this? I pray you will open your heart to God's leading, whatever it may be.

Pastor Dave Sobek

Discipleship Retreat – January 20-22, 2023

Our 12 Discipleship Students will be joining others from the area at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center for the Discipleship Retreat. Due to Covid, the past two years this retreat has not been held. We are looking forward to a time of learning and fellowship for those in the class.

Holy Communion and Drawing of Congregational Texts



On the weekend of January 7th and 8th we will open the New Year by coming to Christ's Table. We will also be drawing our Congregational Daily Text and texts for the different organizations within the congregation. You will be welcome to draw your own 2023 Text as well.

Men's Fellowship

The next Men's Fellowship breakfast is Saturday, January 14th at 7:30 a.m. All men are welcome to join in.

Tator Tot Thing Making a Comeback

On Sunday, January 29, 2023, we will be holding our Annual Church Council Meeting. In the past we have had a pot-luck lunch following morning worship until the time of the meeting. We will be returning to this format for 2023's Church Council Meeting. If you worship on Saturday night, we hopefully will be preparing to eat around 11:00 a.m. following the Sunday morning worship, and begin Church Council around Noon.

2022 Annual Report Articles

If you have not turned in your articles, please do so no later than January 3, 2023, and turn in financial reports as soon as they are available.

Moravian Day of Giving

The third annual Moravian Day of Giving will take place on February 21, 2023. Watch the weekend bulletins and next month's Messenger for information on how you can participate.

2022 Contribution statements will be ready in mid-January. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

BOOK CLUB

This month's book is "Skipping Christmas" by John Grisham. We will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 5, in the Gathering Room. All are welcome!

Meeting Our Financial Responsibilities

November 30, 2022 (Actual)

YTD Budget as of November 30: \$296,713.120
 Total Income as of November 30: \$219,635.99
 Total Expenses as of November 30: 276,382.86
 Difference YTD (\$ 56,746.87)

Please note that these amounts reflect our financial status as of the end of November. I'm aware that we have received several large contributions so far in December, but as of the deadline for this issue, end of year totals are not yet available.

Mary Bade, Treasurer

In the Life of the Congregation

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

January 5 – Ella Cuthrell;
 January 6 – Jace Lawson;
 January 9 – Payge Dahlke;
 January 19 – Jamie Almquist;
 January 31 – Willow Lawson

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES (80+):

January 19 – Donald Hein

THANK YOU:

Thank you to Ken Manske, Paul Albrecht, and Christine Kruwell for your hard work keeping our church clean. A special thank you to Jerry Trumpf for his hard work on the upkeep of the church lawn and weeds during the summer and for clearing the sidewalks this winter. Thank you to all of the ushers and individuals that helped greet, usher, and read during this time. Thank you to Paul Albrecht and crew for recording our services. Thank you to Carolyn Wey and Jerry Schultz for providing music for our Saturday services and to Cora for helping Nikki with Sunday service music citations. Lastly, a special thank you to Kristen Stilling, Lindsey Nampel, Sue Trumpf, and the Sunday School teachers and volunteers for their time and hard work putting together the Sunday School Christmas Program. And most importantly to all of the kids that participated in the program. It is always such a joy to watch you tell the story of Christmas.

Information changes

We will be printing an updated address directory, so please let the office know as soon as possible if you've had any information changes. Thank you!

2023 Daily Texts

We still have a few 2023 Daily Texts available to purchase in the church office.

The Work of Our Boards

The **Board of Trustees** met on Thursday, December 8. Following are highlights of that meeting.

- the treasurer's report was given, showing a deficit of over \$56,000 as of November 30. It is hoped that this gap will be lessened by the end of the year.
- Mary Bade was appointed church treasurer for 2023.
- several changes to the Personnel Handbook were approved regarding paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave.
- several maintenance/repair issues were discussed.
- an AED that was donated to the church by the Lake Mills School District will be hung in the lower level near the Matthew Room.
- the proposed 2023 church budget was approved for forwarding to Church Council.
- Pastor Dave's 2023 Flexible Spending Allowance and Parsonage Allowance elections were approved.
- approval was given to dispose of church surplus items (Congregation members: please watch for a table in Fellowship Hall sometime after Christmas).
- the sanctuary Christmas tree and star will be taken down on January 4.

The **Board of Elders** met on Thursday, December 15. They also approved changes to the Personnel Handbook and approved the 2023 proposed budget for forwarding to Church Council.

LENT 2023

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent on February 22, 2023, with Mid-Week Lenten Services held each Wednesday thereafter until Holy Week. We will return to having Soup and Sandwiches each of those Wednesday evenings as long as there are groups willing to host one of the evenings: February 22 – March 1 – March 8 – March 15 – March 22 – March 29.

Contribution Guidelines For 2022 Taxes

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

Important: 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.

JANUARY SERVANTS

DIENERS: Kim & Wayne Staff (K) 920-253-6303 (W) 920-253-6306

SORTERS: Donna Crossman & Steve Brockert

USHERS		
Date	Service	Ushers
(Usher Teams will also greet until further notice)		
1/1	10:00 A.M.	Dave Wendt
1/8	10:00 A.M.	Stewart Masche
1/15	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman
1/22	10:00 A.M.	Jane Berg
1/29	10:00 A.M.	Bob Hoyt

LAY READERS		
Date	Service	Readers
(Only reading on Sundays right now)		
1/1	10:00 A.M.	Dakota Sobek
1/8	10:00 A.M.	Cindy Miller
1/15	10:00 A.M.	Todd Messmer
1/22	10:00 A.M.	Jane Harberg
1/29	10:00 A.M.	Kathy Wendt

NURSERY SCHEDULE



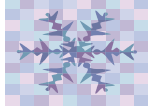
For the safety of all, there will be no nursery until further notice.



WORSHIP RECORDING & PRODUCTION

Date	Service	Recording	YouTube Video
1/2	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman	Dakota Sobek
1/9	10:00 A.M.	Paul Albrecht	Paul Albrecht
1/16	10:00 A.M.	Dakota Sobek	Dakota Sobek
1/23	10:00 A.M.	Paul Albrecht	Dakota Sobek
1/30	10:00 A.M.	Paul Crossman	Paul Albrecht

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day NO Adult Study NO Sunday School 10 AM Worship Service Happy New Year	2 OFFICE CLOSED No Line Dancing No Moravian Women's Board	3 5 PM E. Raiford Circle - Diane McFarlane's 7 PM Dartball: United Meth. @ Moravian	4 9 AM -2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – "Matt" 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 6:30 PM CEC Meeting 7:30 AA	5 10 AM Book Club- Gath. Rm	6 Epiphany 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing	7 4 PM Worship & Holy Communion
8 8:45 -9:45 AM Adult Study 9-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship, Holy Communion, Draw Watch Words, Scholarship Presentation & Install. SS Teachers & Board Members	9 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing	10 9:30 AM Kim Sibert Circle Moravian Dartball Bye Week	11 9 AM -2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – "Matt" 1 PM Brenda Brent Circle- Gath. Rm 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 7:30 AA	12 1 PM E. Appenfeldt 6:30 PM Trustees - Matt	13 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing	14 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4 PM Worship
15 8:45-9:45 AM Adult Study 9-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship	16 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing Clergy Retreat (Jan. 16-19)	17 7 PM Dartball: St. Paul's @ Moravian	18 9 AM -2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – "Matt" 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 7:30 AA	19 6:30 PM Elders - Matt	20 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing Discipleship Retreat (Jan. 20-22)	21 4 PM Worship
22 8:45-9:45 AM Adult Study 9-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship	23 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing	24 7 PM Dartball: Newville @ Moravian	25 9 AM -2:30 PM Reaching Out Respite – "Matt" 3:15-4:30 PM Discipleship 5:30-6:45 PM District 11 7:30 AA	26	27 9:30-10:30 AM Line Dancing	28 4 PM Worship
29 8:45-9:45 AM Adult Study 9-9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11 AM Church Council (snow date Feb. 5)	30 9-11:30 AM Line Dancing	31 7 PM Dartball: Moravian @ Trinity				



Our Sunday School Christmas program entitled "Children Tell of Christmas" took place on Sunday, December 18, 2022 during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Over 170 combined congregation and children were in attendance. This program was under the direction of Kristen Stilling with the accompaniment of Cora Rund. We would like to thank them for their time and talents in making this a wonderful success. We would like to thank the entire Sunday School staff: Ashley and Jessica Haberman, Lindsey Nampel, Todd and Julie Ripp and Bill and Kristen Stilling for their assistance in making this a very successful event. The children did a fantastic job, too! After the program, we gathered in Fellowship Hall for a delicious doughnut reception. Thank you to Lindsey Nampel for heading up the reception and to all who helped with set up and clean up, especially Steven and Elaine Masche, Pam Streich and Sue Trumpf.

We did not have Sunday School on December 25 nor will we on January 1. We will resume classes on Sunday, January 8, with a welcome-back breakfast that is open to the entire congregation. As we enter the year 2023, we are wishing you and your family a very happy and safe New Year!

Meals on Wheels

This past year Meals on Wheels had its twists and turns, but thanks to our awesome volunteers we got through. Prayers for the family of Roger Hoffman, who passed away unexpectedly; we will miss his kindness and willingness to serve in the community. Our first term of service in 2023 is January 9th through 20th, also an overlap day with Trinity on Friday, January 6th.

Thanks to all the volunteers. If anyone else is interested in helping out, please call Coordinator, Connie Manske at 920-723-7598.

SAVE THE DATE!

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 and Pizza Ranch will deliver your hot and ready meals to our Church for you to pick-up on Thursday, February 9th (5:00 or 5:30pm pick-up).

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

Watch the bulletin for more details on how to order!

Adopt-a-Family

The CEC and Sunday School would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone that helped support our annual Adopt-a-Family program through our fundraisers, monetary and gift donations. It was through your generous support that we were able to make the holidays brighter for three families within our congregation. Blessings to all in 2023. Happy New Year!

Moravian Women

December has flown by!! Our circles worked on giving to our shut-ins. We donated \$200 for Christmas hams, \$200 to the Lake Mills Food Pantry, and \$1,000 to the church's deficit. Our officers for 2023-24 will be: President – Deb VanOmmeren, Vice-President – Marsha Fairfield, Secretary – Cindy Miller, and Treasurer – Mary Bade. We thank Teresa Holzhuetter for serving as President and Jean Osborne for serving as Secretary.

Just a reminder we will not have a January board meeting. The next board meeting will be on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

We want to wish you and your family God's blessings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Tricklebee Cafe is 6 Years Old!

Tricklebee Cafe, a pay-what-you can restaurant in Milwaukee, is a ministry of the Moravian Church in America. We are proud to say that Tricklebee Cafe has weathered the pandemic and celebrated its 6th anniversary. Since its inception, Tricklebee has purchased the building it is housed in, doubled its dining area, remodeled two upper income-generating apartments, and converted the adjacent lot into an outdoor gathering area with a stage, seating, and raised gardening beds. All of this while ministering to an ever-expanding neighborhood, serving thousands of delicious, vegan meals.

All of this has been accomplished by Christie Melby-Gibbons and her crew, energetic volunteers, generous grants, and faithful donors like you! To follow the daily activities of Tricklebee, follow us on Facebook at Tricklebee Cafe. For even more information and to donate, check out our website <http://tricklebeecafe.org/>. Or even better, become an ongoing donor of as little as \$5 a month by using the Moravian Giving Portal at <https://www.mmfa.info/tricklebee-cafe-donation-form/>. If you would like to donate items to Tricklebee from the Wishlist, contact Pam Streich at 920-723-7360 and she will make sure it gets delivered. Watch for monthly updates here in the Messenger!



Food Pantry Christmas Hams Donation

On Monday, December 12, 2022, members of the Lake Mills Moravian Church brought 80 hams to donate to the Lake Mills Food Pantry. This donation was made possible by generous member donations and the Stewardship/Outreach Committee fundraising efforts. It is our hope to make the Christmas season brighter for families in need.

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](https://www.amazon.com) website.

- On your mobile app: Find the Gifting, Registry & Charity tile, and scroll down to AmazonSmile. 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.

Get FreedUp!

Are you worried about money? Ready to improve your relationship with it? The Moravian Ministries Foundation (MMFA) has partnered with FreedUp Financial Living, a financial stewardship training program that offers current resources to help guide and equip people of faith to manage money in healthier ways. Utilizing an app-based curriculum paired with a workbook, FreedUp addresses earning, giving, saving, spending, and debt. These five topics are developed through specialized lanes that meet you where you are in your relationship with money.

MMFA will offer two virtual FreedUp classes on Thursdays beginning January 19; one session is from 11-12 a.m. CST and one from 6-7 p.m. The classes will meet weekly through February 23. Signup deadline is January 13 as program materials will be sent to you. Complete each week's content at your own pace and then join the group on Thursdays for conversation and learning together. There is no charge to take FreedUp! For more information, visit [mmfa.com](https://www.mmfa.com), contact Laura Watson (lwatson@mmfa.com, 336.725.2589), or Cindy Miller (920-988-7303).

Helpful FreedUp Links:

Blog post: <https://www.mmfa.info/blog-2/relationship-with-money/>

Understanding the Three Lanes:

<https://www.mmfa.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Understanding-the-3-Lanes-.pdf>



The MESSENGER

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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) 920-648-2486
Jeff Levake (2024) 920-988-7567
Ashley Haberman (2025) 920-342-0292
Carl Kutzke (2025) 920-988-1973

CHURCH COUNCIL JANUARY 29, 2023 – Noonish

Coming in February 2023

February 4 & 5 – Holy Communion
February 11 – Men's Fellowship Breakfast
February 22 – Ash Wednesday
February 25/26 – Holy Communion
for Ash Wednesday

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 February 2023 Messenger
will be **Tuesday,**
January 17, 2023.
Please email your articles to
Mary Bade, mmbade@charter.net.