

The Voice

February 2012



Sharing Christ. Serving People

Worship for February

Favor us with the touch of your presence, loving Father, so we can worship you with our whole hearts.

Sunday, February 5 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Installation of Officers

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: *Becoming All Things?*

Sunday, February 12 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1-14; Mark 1:40-45

Sermon: *Go and Show*



Join Us
In Worship

Sunday, February 19 – Last Sunday of Epiphany

Guest Preacher: Rev. Gary Marsh

Sunday, February 26: First Sunday of Lent Celebration of Holy Communion

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: *Enter, Lenters!*

A word from our pastor

“We have a gift for hospitality!” said the woman who greeted me on my first day in the office. “You aren’t kidding,” I responded and went on to list the numerous ways that our faith community and leaders have made Dave and I feel welcomed. It was overwhelming – in a very good way.



Thank you so much for the wonderful kind words, smiles, welcoming handshakes, and gifts. Each of those actions point to the energy, warmth, and love of Christ that permeates our community. Dave and I are humbled to have experienced that love through you.

I look forward to getting to know each of you better and will work at building relationships with you. Our Moravian understanding of God is built on relationships. We say that our faith is a relationship of the heart. An invitation is extended to all to call or drop in at the office. In addition, our Board of Elders will be planning opportunities so that we can gather in small groups and listen to each other. I encourage you to please prayerfully consider these invitations when they arrive.

Sharing Christ – Serving People. As far as Dave and I are concerned you’ve done exceptionally well at both. Thank you again and I look forward to getting to know each of you.

-Mary Lou

Stewardship summit

All members of the five area churches are invited to a Stewardship Summit on Sunday, February 19 at our church. Gary Marsh, our Province’s Director of Stewardship, will lead this event, which will provide a refreshing look at biblical stewardship to teach and foster in our churches. The Summit will begin after worship and finish by 3 p.m.

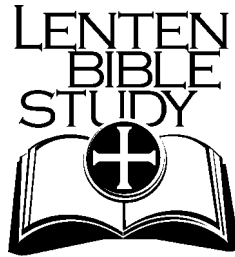


•“To love another person is to see the face of God.”

-Lyrics from Les Misérables, Claude-Michel Schönberg

Lent

Beginning Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m., we will join with other Central Wisconsin Moravians and their friends for a Lenten Bible Study. We will be using the book "Final Word" by Adam Hamilton along with a DVD. Adam was the author of the study we did last year. The study will be held in our Social Room.

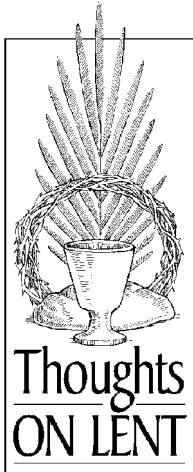


In his inspiring follow-up book, Hamilton examines Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Then, he moves beyond the cross to Jesus' words to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and to those who were witnesses to the Resurrection.

Please call the church office to order a book or sign up on Sunday morning.

Repent – a worthy word for Lent

What pops into your mind when you hear the word "repent"? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist's shouting for people to repent and be baptized?



What does the word "repent" mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22), is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life – a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the

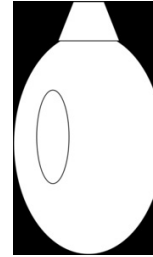
Christian life passionately.

-Newsletter newsletter

Local missions

"Whatever you do for the least of mine, you do for Me." *A paraphrase of Matthew 25:40.*

In February, we will continue our drive for laundry detergent for the Family Center. I must confess. I have grown used to the "mission box" overflowing with donations whenever a need is pointed out to you. But I realize, we all are catching our breath after Christmas; we have been anxiously awaiting Mary Lou; we have other things on our minds. All this is understandable and a fact of life.



When I put together the annual report for Local Missions, I noted that the last time we did a laundry detergent drive we collected 32 bottles!

I know this is a caring congregation. I know that we live our motto: Sharing Christ, Serving People. We are a mission church. That is why I am most confident in suggesting that by the end of February, we have 40 bottles of laundry detergent. Shop the sales, buy "off" brands. We are not just providing laundry detergent; we are helping the Family Center in their mission of giving abused women a new chance of life.

It's amazing, isn't it. Something as insignificant as laundry detergent makes a difference in the lives of a segment of God's children.

I know you will be generous.

-Rosemary Mooney

* * *

Lord Jesus,
You are my righteousness,
I am your sin.
You took on you what was mine;
yet set on me what was yours.
You became what you were not,
that I might become what I was not.
- Martin Luther





February 24 - 26
Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center

Facilitator: Rev. Charles Harberg
Retired Moravian Pastor

Includes: Teaching, fellowship, music ministry, fireside chats, time for walks and tour of the grounds, quiet time, group discussions, and opportunities to enjoy God's creation.

Sponsored by Men's Fellowship of the Lake Mills Moravian Church.

Registration forms available in the Social Room.

Moravian women

Moravian Women will not meet this month. We will gather again in March. Remember: Moravian Women have dishcloths for sale. The price is \$1.25 each.

Singspiration

The five area Moravian Churches will gather at the Rudolph Moravian Church on Sunday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of inspirational singing.



The **Board of Elders** met on January 2.

- Discussed visitation and nursery.
- Reviewed Christmas and New Year's Day services.
- Made note of upcoming Stewardship Summit and Ash Wednesday in February.
- Discussed possible nominees to District Boards and Committees.

The **Board of Trustees** met on December 14.

- The Treasurer's Report and payment of bills were approved.
- Approved payment on furnace fund loan.
- Discussed completion of work projects at the parsonage.
- Decided not to change temperature setting on thermostats at this time. Will also encourage groups to use the Socail Room for meetings whenever possible. Because of its location above the boiler room, it is constantly warm.

Church council election results

Board of Elders: Ashley Kelnhofer, Jill Kemp, Bill Mohr
Board of Trustees: John Buchholz, Lee Fletcher, Marilyn Hutter

Christian Education Committee:
Terry Barnes, Wendy Nystrom

December statistics

Beginning 2011 Balance= \$0.00
Income thru 12/31/2011= \$135,238.00
Expenses = \$150,895.78
General Fund Balance= -\$15,657.78
Ave. Needed/Week = \$3,192.67
Ave. For the Year Received = \$2,522.62
Ave. Attendance for December = 92

2012 congregational watchword

For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people.

1 Timothy 4:10

Walking with God

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

-- Greg Laurie



Around the community

Beef Stroganoff and Pie for Dessert Dinner on Saturday, February 25 at the **Saratoga Moravian Church** from 4 - 6:30 p.m. All you can eat! Adults: 7.00; Seniors & Kids (4-10): \$6.50.

The Nekoosa United Church of Christ will hold a **Quilt Show** on Saturday, March 17 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. You are invited to the show and you are invited to enter something in the show. You may drop off the quilted item anytime on Friday, March 16 after 9 a.m. and pick up immediately after 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 17. New this year will be a pincushion display. This is a free event to enter and free to attend.

Bethesda Thrift Shop: In February we will have discounts on Valentine items and towards the end of the month we will begin our clearance sale of winter clothing. We also continue to carry NEW sofas, love seats, recliners, dining table/chair sets, and mattresses (& foundations and frames) for queen, full, and twin sizes. During January we were able to celebrate our millionth dollar in sales since the store opened in 2004. We thank all of you for helping us meet that goal. We continue to ask for your support for this worthwhile

mission to our intellectually and physically handicapped folks at Bethesda.

Need help filing your income taxes? The **AARP Tax Aide program** was designed to provide free assistance for low to middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteer counselors, trained in cooperation with the IRS, will be available every Monday, Wednesday, and select Thursdays starting February 6 through April 11 (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.) at the Lowell Center. Appointments are necessary! Call 715-422-2776 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, to schedule your personal tax appointment. Appointments will be determined on a first-call, first-serve basis.

Wanted

- SWEPS is in need of brown paper bags. Please place your extra bags in the Social Room by the SWEPS box.
- The Youth Group is collecting empty 2 litter soda bottles to use for bowling. You may leave the bottles in the hallway by the offices.

In our church family

Birthdays

02/01 Bill Williams
02/03 Amy Hinrichsen
02/05 Cory Hiller
02/08 Colleen Straughan
02/11 Lynn Mlodzik, Falen Narel
02/15 Verna Kester, Kay Shearier
02/19 Jace Brody, Tyler Jensen
02/20 Darrell Overturf,
Hallie Anderson
02/21 Gary Heller, Robert Daven,
Terri Hiller
02/23 Donald Gunderson,
Alexis Straughan, Alli Dewitt
02/24 Morgan Anderson
02/25 Renee Hutter
02/26 Beverly Becker
02/27 Dennis Anderson,
Karena Mohr

Anniversaries

2/14 Al & Robin Werth
2/20 Milo & Kathleen Plante
2/23 Travis & Katharine Grimm
2/28 Thomas & Deborah Chasteen

Hospitalized

Kay Doll, Dawn Wesenberg, Bill Williams, Lorraine Abbott

Nursing/group home residents

Edgewater Haven: Jerry Swiggum,
Florence Garfield
Managed Care: Danny Hedin,
Bette Lauby
Strawberry Lane: Orrin Ninneman

Nekoosa Extended Care: Betty Bates, Lois Hanson
Arborwood Lodge: Art Godin,
George Nimitz
Our House: Arvilla Zimmerman
Homebound: Arnold Baltus, Kay Doll, Marlene Young, Marles Quisler, Jesse Heltsley

Our servicemen

Paul Eklund, David Eklund, Nathan Smith, Jeremy Hyams, Dustin Wesenberg

Pastoral care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please call the church office. We are not always contacted by the hospital.



Updates

Amy Haas
114 W Cascade Ave
River Falls, WI 54022
Malia Ironside
2141 Franklin St
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-3163
Mary Lou Plummer
330 First Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Home: 715-423-2072
Cell: 715-451-9992
Email: mlplummer@gmail.com



FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • **DIRECTIONS** • • • •

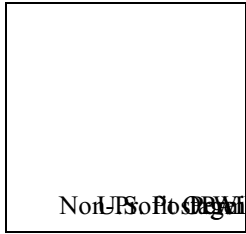
To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain	as	or	ear	van	an	for	give	
gave	her	on	it	one	other	he	an	a

B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV



Northwoods WI

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV