

# WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the  
Moravian Church,  
Western District  
March 2020

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## Bruce's

*Brothers and Sisters  
in Christ:*

**Babblings** Greetings in these days of Lent as we look to a time of penitence and prayer. Lent is often a time when Christians look to give something up. I have heard many Christian leaders talk more recently about taking something on for Lent.

During this month we will also transition from winter to spring. I am told that meteorological spring begins on March 01 and the calendar shows that spring begins on March 19 this year. In Wisconsin spring sometimes comes in March and sometimes it comes much later.

Spring is my favorite season of the year. I am a huge baseball fan and that is one of the reasons. However, an even bigger reason is that I enjoy seeing the signs of new life. I enjoy seeing flowers that pop through the ground. I enjoy seeing buds on the trees. I also enjoy hearing the songs of birds, which cannot be easily heard in the winter but can be heard in the spring and summer.

This spring we also look forward to our upcoming Western District Synod that will once again be held at beautiful Mt. Morris. I would encourage all of you to be in prayer for our upcoming synod. The dates for synod are April 23-26.

In addition to praying for synod I would encourage you to be mindful of the signs of new life which are often apparent this time of year.

*Serving Christ with you,  
Pastor Bruce J. Nelson*

*President, Western District Executive Board*

## District Synod

Our 2020 Western District Synod will take place on **April 23<sup>rd</sup> - April 26<sup>th</sup>** at Mt. Morris. The theme for synod is **"Being the Church: Holy Spirit Empowered."** Our theme hymn for this synod is "We Have Received Christ Jesus" which was written by Jack Hicks.

**Registration is now open!** To register your congregation's delegate(s) for Synod, go to <https://forms.gle/wsSncqY2UnJkvUJA9>.

Our **keynote speaker** is Rev. Dr. Heather Vacek, a Moravian pastor who is Faculty Dean & Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Be in prayer for our **Synod Planning Committee** (Amy Andersen, Karen Buchholz, Rev. Judy Ganz, Sylvie Hauser, Rev. Jim Hicks, Rev. Bruce Nelson, Megan Smock, Rev. Aden Ward, and Taylor Wickert) as they continue with their preparations.

A **Nominating Committee** has been formed chaired by Rev. Jason Andersen. Churches have received information about the positions open for election at Synod (District Board, MWCEC, Mt. Morris, Marquardt, Auburn Homes, and Board of World Mission) as well as accompanying position descriptions, terms lengths, and requirements

The Western District Board has approved inviting up to 10 **Youth Delegates** to Synod. The District will pay 50% of the cost for these delegates. The age range is completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade – age 21. Limit of two youth delegates per congregation. First come, first served. Youth delegates will have voice and vote.

## Grant for Lay Ministry

The Western District recently received a generous bequest from the family of Rt. Rev. Wil and Ruth Behrend. Some of that bequest has gone to Mt. Morris to help with future expansion or building maintenance. With the other part of the bequest, your Western District Executive Board decided to develop the **Behrend Memorial Grant for Lay Ministry**. We are encouraging our local churches to write requesting a grant for \$1,000 per congregation for use with an ongoing or a new **lay-led** ministry. **\*To date, we have received and approved 5 grant requests!\***

This grant is open to any congregation or emerging ministry in the Western District and the grant money will be distributed after the local congregation or emerging ministry has filled out the grant application and any other requested materials. Grant application forms have been sent to all congregations and emerging ministries in the Western District. Completed application forms should be sent directly to District President Bruce Nelson either via email ([Bruce@mcnp.org](mailto:Bruce@mcnp.org)) or via snail mail at: Rev. Bruce J. Nelson, 221 East Mills Drive, Lake Mills WI, 53551.

Please hold the **Chaska** **The Call**  
 congregation in your prayers as they work in the Call Process to seek pastoral leadership. **Process**

The District Board continues to be grateful for the leadership of the Joint Boards of **Grace** and **Main Street** as they lead their congregations.

## Larger Life Foundation Grant

Application information for the Larger Life Foundation Spring 2020 Discretionary Grant has been sent to all Western District congregations. Churches can apply for one grant at a time and may reapply after two years have passed since they received funding. If you need any further information, please contact Tammy Curcio at 800-732-0591 ext 17 or [tammy@mcnp.org](mailto:tammy@mcnp.org).

## Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

1 <sup>st</sup> Norma Christianson			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Debbie Propsom	18 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Jones	
4 <sup>th</sup> James Hicks	18 <sup>th</sup>	Kurt Liebenow	
10 <sup>th</sup> Kathy Liebenow	19 <sup>th</sup>	Reeder Herrick	
11 <sup>th</sup> David Glasser	21 <sup>st</sup>	Barb Herrick	
13 <sup>th</sup> Eric Renner	24 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Kilps	

## Tour of the Holy Land

Bishop Hopeton and Shelia Clennon will lead a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land **June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

The all-inclusive cost from New York Kennedy airport starts at \$3,698 per person based on double occupancy. For more information visit [www.moraviantour.com](http://www.moraviantour.com).

## Online Giving

The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America has developed an online giving portal that makes it easy to give to Moravian ministries such as local congregations, camps, emerging ministries, the districts, or the province. If your agency or congregation invests with MMFA, look for it on the portal page ([www.portal.mcnp.org](http://www.portal.mcnp.org)). Go to [www.mmfa.info/giving-portal/](http://www.mmfa.info/giving-portal/) to make a secure gift.

Two Spring courses, which start in early March will probably fill up fast.



On Thursdays, the Rev. Joanne Marchetto will again teach our **New Testament** course. Jo puts special emphasis on biblical interpretation so that this course increases personal knowledge and prepares participants for teaching and preaching. Join us for this fascinating walk through the New Testament.

On Mondays we are offering our most popular course, **Contextual Outreach**. Dr. Jill Peters has taken over sixty congregations through this process of examining demographic data, exploring our context, and engaging local leaders for the purpose of developing a ministry plan focused on serving our neighbors. This course is open to individuals or discounted for church teams.

For more info or how to register or to check dates please go to: [www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads) or contact Jill Peters at [petersj2@moravian.edu](mailto:petersj2@moravian.edu).

All active clergy are invited to register for the province-wide pilgrimage in Atlanta and Montgomery, **September 22-25, 2020**.

## Racial Justice

Registration deadline is **June 1**; cost is only \$250 per person. The pilgrimage will feature spiritual guides Frank Crouch discussing the Moravian Church's relationship with slavery and racism and Dr. Catherine Meeks bearing witness to the sin of racism and offering encouragement to work toward creating beloved community.

Participants will visit the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice, both in Montgomery. The time will be infused with worship, prayer, and fellowship. All pastors are urged to register now. Registration materials have been sent to every pastor or ask Betsy Miller ([betsy@mcnp.org](mailto:betsy@mcnp.org)) for more information. For lay leaders: please encourage your pastor to participate in this groundbreaking event.

## S. WI Moravians for Mission

SWMM is excited to hear from Pastor Christie Melby-Gibbons who will be at the Lake Mills Moravian Church to talk about the great things happening at the Tricklebee Café **on Sunday, March 22nd at 2pm**. A time for food and fellowship will follow Pastor Christie's presentation.



## BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America



...that if your congregation is looking for a way to involve youth and adults in a mission trip that helps families in need,

builds community in your congregation, and is easy to plan, the Board of World Mission has the solution? Please consider sending a team from your congregation to Laurel Ridge this coming summer for Mission Camp. Each summer Mission Camp receives referrals from local agencies and matches youth groups and their adult leaders with work sites based on their skill level and project needs. Groups should provide capable adult leaders (1 per every 5 youth) and transportation to and from work sites. The camp staff does all the rest: food, lodging, purchasing all of the necessary supplies for each work site, and providing an evening program and campfire. All Mission Camps are hosted at Higgins Lodge. All-inclusive costs are \$475 per youth, \$237.50 for each required adult, and \$475/ each additional adult.

Dates for this year's Mission Camps are as follows:

Mission Camp 1 - June 14 - 20

Mission Camp 2 - June 21 - 27

Mission Camp 3 - June 28 - July 4

Mission Camp 4 - August 2 - 8

For more information go to [www.laurelridge.org/missioncamps.html](http://www.laurelridge.org/missioncamps.html)

## Church Anniversaries

28<sup>th</sup> Lakeview (65 years)

The Northern and Southern Provinces are sponsoring an Interprovincial Ministers Convocation in **May of 2021**, and we want all our active ministers to be present!

## Minister's Convocation

The planning committee is meeting monthly and will send periodic progress reports. Major expenses of the event are supported by the Thriving in Ministry grant: Moravian Clergy Connections, awarded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. last year. Still to be determined are such important items as the specific dates and location, speakers and convocation theme, and worship plans. (As far as location, don't think of a college dorm with bathroom down the hall; the intent of the grant writers is to give us all a more peaceful experience, so that we might even feel a bit "pampered"!)



One of the things that came out of the listening sessions in the Western District concerning the IPO follow-up to the most recent provincial synod was that people in the congregations wanted to see more transparency in terms of

finances from the administration. In an effort to continue to be transparent there will be an article in upcoming News and Notes editions that tries to answer where some of the money goes that our congregations pay in to common ministries commitments.

Although the amount of money that of our common ministries commitment is a relatively small amount of the total Mt. Morris budget it is very much appreciated by Mt. Morris. Your money goes to support the budget of Mt. Morris, which offers a home to the majority of our Western District camps. We offer camping opportunities for children who have completed first grade all the way through those who are 21 years of age. Mt. Morris is also host to several congregational retreats, quilter's and scrapbooker's weekends, as well as family reunions and other events.

Dan Scharnhorst is the executive director at Mt. Morris. He has been on the job for about one year. We like him in spite of the fact that he is a diehard Minnesota Vikings fan. Dan said that the biggest blessing so far of his time at Mt. Morris has been the summer camping program. He says that the camping program is the core of our ministry at Mt. Morris. He notes that Moravians do camp very well. He is also excited to be hosting our Western District Synod in April.

Dan mentions the biggest challenge at Mt. Morris is simply getting the word out of the wonderful facility that we have and the wonderful ministries that take place there.

Some things that are on the horizon for Mt. Morris is the construction of a new multi-purpose facility. We will hear more about this at the Western District Synod. Another thing that they are working on is the sale of some of the property that they had purchased around the lake several years ago.

## Family Camp

Save the dates! Mt. Morris will be hosting a Family Camp Weekend **August 7-9, 2020**. Gather your whole family (mom, dad, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents) and come to Mt. Morris for an awesome weekend of fun - faith and excitement! Details will be available soon!



### Five Wishes Helps Families and Caregivers

By Vince Holbrook

Your Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is proud to partner with *Five Wishes* ([www.fivewishes.org](http://www.fivewishes.org)) to provide you with the tools to develop a Living Will/Advance Directive. Five Wishes meets the legal requirements for an advance directive in the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In these states, you can use Five Wishes to express how you want to be treated if you are seriously ill and unable to speak for yourself, using a document that is easy to understand. All you need to do is check a box, circle a direction, or write a few sentences. Once it is signed and witnessed (notarized), your Five Wishes is a legal document.

If you live in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, or Wisconsin, inquire about the additional, supplemental or alternative requirements for a legally recognized advance directive.

Click this link to get your free electronic copy: [www.fivewishes.org/portalthome/five-wishes-online/claim-afwo-use1?awd\\_customercampaignid=9867e149-800e-8e05-4db0-3fb01787679a](http://www.fivewishes.org/portalthome/five-wishes-online/claim-afwo-use1?awd_customercampaignid=9867e149-800e-8e05-4db0-3fb01787679a)

Paper copies are also available upon request from the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America, 119 Brookstown Ave., Suite 305, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. 336.725.2589



Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center is hosting a Men's Retreat entitled "Resolve" on **May 1st - 3rd**. Men 18 and over are invited for a weekend filled with amazing food, big fun, and time to worship and grow in your faith. Justin Rabbach, Executive Director of the Moravian Board of World Mission, will lead our program focusing on our theme "Resolve" and how God is at work in our lives and in those around us. Join us as we laugh, learn, grow, and get outside for some great activities and fun! Did we mention that we'll be grilling steaks? The cost is \$135 for Sandhill Center and \$125 for Cabins, which includes meals. Registration forms have been sent to church offices.

### Worship Leaders Retreat

Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center is hosting a Worship Leaders Retreat on **May 11th - 13th**. Small congregations do worship differently than large ones. What songs, liturgy, and leadership make your church's worship life successful? This retreat is specially designed for leaders of congregations that worship under 50-60 people -- part workshop, part retreat with other creative leaders who understand your call. Come for a time of renewal that includes learning new music and new ways to lead congregational singing, discussion, reflection, and solitude.



Our retreat leader will be musician and psalmist Richard Bruxoort Colligan ([www.worldmaking.net/promo](http://www.worldmaking.net/promo)). Participants receive a new songbook of Richard's new worship music and other worship resources to take back to their congregations. Cost is \$145 for Black Oak Lodge, \$115 for Sandhill Center, and \$110 for cabins, which includes meals. Retreat begins with dinner on Monday evening and ends Wednesday by noon. Registration forms have been sent to church offices.



INTERPROVINCIAL BOARD OF COMMUNICATION

### Special offers on 2020 Daily Texts and Readings for Holy Week!

The IBOC is offering a 20% discount on the 2020 Moravian Daily Texts! All editions are still in stock and available for immediate shipment. Daily Texts make great gifts for confirmands, new members and friends of your ministry.

While Lent has just begun, it's never too soon to be thinking about Holy Week! To help you get ready, the IBOC is offering special pricing on Readings for Holy Week Music and Large Print Editions. Through March 27<sup>th</sup>: Large Print Edition, reg. \$11.95 is now \$7.50; Music Edition reg. \$13.95, now \$10.50.

And remember, the IBOC now offers Readings for Holy Week in an audio edition! This 5-CD set brings Readings for Holy Week alive, with complete texts and hymns, ideal for use by small groups and congregations. Also makes a great gift for those who may not be able to attend local services because of distance, infirmity, conflicts in schedule, etc. To order, visit [www.store.moravian.org](http://www.store.moravian.org) or call Jill Bruckart, 800.732.0591, ext. 38



# 2020 Summer Church Camps



## Western Region Camps in Wisconsin and Minnesota

*This year's theme: "Like, Follow, Share"*

For more information, go to [www.wdcamping.com](http://www.wdcamping.com)

### Camp Mindy

Alexandria, MN

June 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Completed grades 2 – 5

Director: Tiffani Glime

### 4M Camp

Mt. Morris, WI

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

Completed grades 1 – 2

Director: Staci Marrese-Wheeler

### Junior Camp

Mt. Morris, WI

June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Completed grades 3 – 5

Director: Katie Van Der Linden

### Winmor

Mt. Morris, WI

July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>

Completed grades 6 – 8

Director: Beth Rohn-Habegger

### Chetek

Mt. Morris, WI

July 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Completed grade 9 – age 21

Directors: Jason & Amy Andersen

## Mid States Region Camps in Ohio and Indiana

For more information, go to [www.midstatesmoraviancamps.webs.com](http://www.midstatesmoraviancamps.webs.com)

### Bethany

Camp Bethany, OH

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

Completed grades 2 – 6

Directors: Scott Minor and Kelly Dailey

### Illiana

Bedford, IN

July 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

Completed grades 2 – 6

Director: Andy Kilps

### Tar Hollow

Tar Hollow State Park, OH

July 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Completed grade 7 – age 21

Directors: Nicole Clodfelter & Amy Keller