

STURGEON BAY MORAVIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER, 2011/JANUARY, 2012 - NEWSLETTER

Holiday Greetings from the Staff

In this season of welcoming the Christ child your church staff wishes to offer you our thanks. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve you. Our partnership continues to make a difference for Christ as we serve him in this community. The blessings continue to flow and enrich so many lives. On behalf of Reeder, Vickie, Bob, Jill, Ann, and Ross, I want to wish you the very best for this Christmas season. It is a joy for us to serve you. Our prayer is that you will experience the peace, hope, joy, and love of Christ in a truly significant way.

Shalom, Matthew

Meaningful Worship

Worship Opportunities for December

Worship in Advent is always special at the Moravian Church and you won't want to miss a minute of it! You will be blessed by music that will stir your soul. You will be grounded in ancient traditions of faith that keep this season in its proper perspective. Bring a friend and join us.

Sunday, December 4 10:30 a.m. Second Sunday in Advent/Holy Communion

Join us as we begin the Advent journey with the singing of the "Hosanna" and experience the great joy of the season.

Message: *"Sympathy, Compassion and Humility"*

Scripture: II Peter 3:8-15a

Be sure to stay for the *Advent Workshop and Potluck* immediately following worship and help trim candles.

Sunday, December 11 10:30 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: *"Tears and Joy"*

Scripture: Psalm 126

Sunday, December 18 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: *"The Wandering God"*

Scripture: II Samuel 7:1-11,16

***Sunday, December 18 4:30 p.m. Children's Lovefeast**

The traditional Moravian Lovefeast will be served, and lighted beeswax candles distributed, as the children and youth of the congregation lead us in worship. The Cherub, Junior, and Sister's Choir will sing.

***Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 p.m.**

We have three different services to celebrate the coming of the Christ child. Special music will be offered at each of the services, the familiar carols will be sung as we re-tell the powerful story of God coming to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ. Each worshipper will receive a lighted candle to be lifted high in praise of our Savior King, with an encouragement to *"let your light so shine before others."*

Christmas Eve Reminders:

1. Members please fill up the courthouse parking lot first so our visitors and guests will find it easier to get into worship.

2. **You cannot reserve seats.** Please plan to arrive with your party if you wish to be seated together.

3. We have overflow seating in the basement with viewing via closed circuit.

Sunday, December 25 10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols

We invite you to enjoy this Service of Lessons and Carols where scripture is read and the familiar carols and hymns of the season are sung.

Worship Opportunities for January, 2012

Sunday, January 1 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion/Watchwords

How appropriate that on New Year's Day we observe the Moravian tradition of drawing "watchwords" of Scripture for the coming year. Each worshipper has the opportunity to receive a text of scripture that serves as a special spiritual support for the coming year. We will also draw the text for our congregation. There will be a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Sunday, January 15 10:30 a.m. Worship

We will welcome, to our pulpit, the Rev. Jim Hicks, President of the Western District who will bring the morning message.

Sunday, January 29 10:30 a.m. Anniversary Lovefeast

Our congregation will observe its 150th anniversary (official date is January 30) with a Traditional Moravian Lovefeast. Yes we eat in Church! This is a wonderful way to express in worship the richness of our fellowship and will be the kick off to a yearlong celebration of Moravian witness and ministry over the past 150 years.

Upcoming Meetings following worship

January 8 Congregational Meeting

January 22 Church Council

Safe Harbor

In the Life of Our Church Family

Anniversaries 50+

December 13 Charles & Marilyn Sorenson

December 19 Gene & Pat Remy

We celebrate the birth of –

Anderson Franklin Starr, born on November 4, 2011 in Green Bay, WI. Son of Andrew and Bridgett Starr and brother of Jackson, Drew and Madison.

Our loving sympathy and support to –

The family and friends of Thomas (Tom) Paulsen Hall who died on November 13. Tom's service was held at the Church on November 18th, with the Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Knapp, Sr. officiating.

New Adult Education Opportunity! Don't miss this!

Rev. Dr. Matt Knapp will be teaching a three part class on "**The Foundations of Faith.**" The first class will be "The Stages of Faith Development" followed by "Introduction to the Theology of Missional Faith" and "Current Trends in Church Leadership."

This is your chance to take advantage of our Senior Pastor's knowledge and experience in these areas! These classes will be similar to those he teaches to master's students at St. Norbert College.

Don't let the "master's" label scare you away. Dr Knapp will make these topics clear and interesting just as he does in his Sunday sermons!

Come join Pastor Matt on Tuesday, November 29, Dec 6 and December 13 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Adult Ed. Room.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School began in September. Each Sunday morning, before worship John Hauser, Jonathan Meacham, and Don Albert will lead a discussion of the sermon text for the day. The class meets in the Adult Ed. Room at 9:10 a.m. each Sunday. Stop in at Coffee Hus, grab a coffee and some goodies and join in the interesting discussions.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Bible study is led by Pastor Reeder. This group meets in the Adult Ed. Room from 8:00am to 9:00 a.m. each Wednesday morning. They will be completing their study of Romans in December. The class schedule for January through April will be posted on the Adult Education bulletin board by the office. Check it out! Come join us!

Fellowship Ministries

Women's Fellowship

Honor Circle

December 13 11:30 a.m. Potluck at Judy Berg's Home

Faith Circle

December 13 1:30 p.m. at Pinecrest
January 10 1:30 p.m. at Pinecrest

Dinners of Eight

Dinners of Eight is an opportunity to gather with small groups to share a meal and social time. A new "cycle" of Dinners of Eight will begin in February! Contact Margo Ireland at 743.4761 if you'd like to join the February group. This is a chance to meet new people and get to know your fellow church members!

Items for December

Advent Workshop Potluck – December 4, Following Worship

The Worship Committee invites you to an Advent Potluck and Workshop on Sunday, December 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We will gather for lunch in the church dining room. If you plan to attend, please bring the following:

- * A dish to pass with a serving utensil.
- * Your own table service.
- * Your own beverage. (Coffee, lemonade, and water will be provided.)

After lunch, you are invited to join in the following workshop activities:

- * Adult and older youth activities:
 - o Learn to make folded paper stars.
 - o Help trim the hundreds of candles that are used for our December services.
- * Younger youth activities:
 - o Dipping and decorating folded stars.
 - o Decorating Christmas cookies.

To help plan for the event, please contact the church office at 743.6218 or email: sbmc@sbmoravian.org.

Poinsettias – Order by December 5

Find an order form at the end of this newsletter or online at www.sbmoravian.org under registrations/forms.

Christmas Caroling Party – December 21 – 6:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, December 21 we are going to go Christmas caroling! You will not want to miss this awesome opportunity to get out and bring some Christmas cheer to some of our senior and shut in members. We will gather in the church dining room at 6:00 p.m. From there we will go out and sing and then return back for some hot chocolate and fellowship. This event is for adults, youth, children, college students...everyone. Plan on joining us!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Annual Church Retreat - April 27 – 29, 2012

Mark your calendars for the annual Church Retreat. There is simply no better way to get to know other members of the congregation than at this annual gathering at beautiful Mt. Morris. It is a weekend of relaxation, worship, fellowship, and food. The accommodations range from camping to the luxury of Black Oak Lodge. Registration forms will be available next month. This is an event for all ages and interests. Plan on attending.

Guess who’s celebrating a milestone anniversary We are!

In 2012 the Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church will celebrate 150 years of continuous ministry and mission in the city of Sturgeon Bay and beyond. A yearlong celebration is being planned which will honor our founders, parishioners, clergy, staff and others who have helped the church grow and serve. The goal during this sesquicentennial anniversary year is to provide lasting memories so that the faithful stewards of the past, present, and future will know and appreciate the remarkable heritage of our congregation.

The yearlong sesquicentennial celebration will commence with our annual lovefeast scheduled for January 29th. For the remainder of the year, one Sunday of each month will be dedicated to honoring a ministry of our church, such as; social and service groups, music, mission, education, clergy, staff, ministry leadership, Moravian heritage and partnerships etc. October has been specifically designated for a “homecoming” gathering to share a meal and fellowship.

These plans, as well as many other good ideas, have been generated, but it needs the collective effort of the congregation to make it meaningful. An initial organizational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 27, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come and share how you can take part as we work together to celebrate this milestone in the journey of our Moravian community of faith. If you cannot join us, please call Jill or John Kolodziej at 743-5858 to receive more information.

We Value Children and Youth

Youth News

This Computes!

Many people may not realize how much use the Moravian computer lab receives or even that it exists at all! On the third floor of the Education Building, near the art and music rooms, is a welcoming room full of comfortable furniture and many computers. The youth of the congregation use this room on Sunday mornings for one of the rotational Sunday School lessons taught by Tom Pinney and Trent Evenson. Hoards of youth also use the room on Wednesday evenings when they gather for youth group and to work on homework.

The computers have seen a lot of wear and tear and are in need of replacement. We have assessed what's needed and are working on fundraising to replace 9 computers. All the new computers will share access to the existing network, printer and have internet access. Funds from the Historical Association Dinner as well as proceeds from Soup Sundays are being directed to this project. Some computers will be ordered in December. We'll keep you updated on our progress.

Children's Lovefeast - Sunday, December 18 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan on joining us for our annual Children's Lovefeast. This service is unique in that it is lead entirely by the youth of the congregation. This includes their sharing of their musical talents as we are reminded about the true meaning of the Christmas season. Support our youth and plan on attending.

Nazarites, and Senior High Youth (Gr.7-12)

December 7	Snow Football (Hopefully)	
December 14	Movie Night	
December 21	Christmas Caroling Party	At 6:00 p.m.
December 28	No Youth Groups	
Jan 4	Spring Planning	

RAMS (Gr.3-5)

December 7	Frog Hunt	
December 21	Christmas Caroling Party	At 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School During the Holiday

A reminder that there will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1.

Mid Winter Retreat 2012 "God Don't Make No Junk"

Who: All youth currently in 9th grade thru Post High age 21.

When: Friday, February 3 – Sunday, February 5, 2012

→ Arrive Friday Evening

→ Depart after Sunday morning worship

Where: Ebenezer Moravian Church

N8071 High Road

Watertown, WI 53094

Cost: \$35 by Friday, January 22, 2012

\$50 after Friday, January 17th, 2012

Registration and parental consent forms can be found on the home page of our website: www.sbmoravian.org or through the church office.

We Value Mission Work

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

On Wednesday, November 9th 20 high school students and 8 chaperones boarded a Babler bus to continue ongoing mission partnerships in New York City. The mission team was comprised of people from the Sturgeon Bay congregation and community as well as young people and an adult from the Ephraim and DeForest Moravian congregations. The team was divided into 4 small groups which were sent to work at several ministry sites on Staten Island, in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The sites where the teams served were *Project Hospitality, Grand Central Drop-in Center, All Soul's Soup Kitchen, Baby Buggy, and the New York City Clothing Bank*. During service on Friday one team worked alongside a 7 member team of young people and adults from John Hus Moravian in Brooklyn. Following the final day of service, the entire team travelled to John Hus for an evening of fellowship, a shared meal, and a choir rehearsal in which 8 members of the visiting youth from Wisconsin joined the John Hus Soul Survivors choir to practice for Sunday morning worship. It was a wonderful evening to renew friendships and establish new ones.

We also reunited with our gracious hosts at the Great Kills Moravian Church on Staten Island. Because of their generosity we have a warm place to return to for a night's rest after long days of working in and travelling around the city. This year, following our first day of service, we were treated to a delicious potluck meal by members of Great Kills. We are so grateful for the thoughtful way in which we are received by them. On Sunday, a number of the team joined the Great Kills congregation for a meaningful worship which focused on Jesus as our Chief Elder. Pastor Maggie Wellert invited several team members to participate in worship by reading scripture, leading liturgy, and sharing in other parts of the worship service. We were blessed by our time together. Others of the team also shared in a Spirit-filled morning of song, reading scripture, and participating in worship at John Hus Moravian. In a final demonstration of their generous hospitality the folks at John Hus provided our team with a lunch as we began the long trip home. The team returned to Sturgeon Bay early on Monday morning, November 14th. We are so truly grateful and blessed through this experience in our journeys of faith. It is our hope that God can use our small acts of faith to serve the greater good for God's people. Thank you to so many who continue to support this ongoing ministry. Please consider joining the team next November.

Jill Kolodziej, Mission Coordinator

Honduran Mission - Harvest of Hope

Our continuing relationship with Kruta, Honduras

Since 2008, the Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church has been sending work crews to the village of Kruta, Honduras. As a way of living out our Christian faith, we have delivered medicines, played with the children, installed water tanks and worshipped with our hosts. With the help of GOAL, an Irish development organization that has been working in the area since 1998, we completed the installation of 105 water tanks in Kruta earlier this year. In consultation with GOAL and the villagers we decided to expand our mission both geographically and programmatically, planning to both install water tanks in the neighboring village of Koko Tingni and to reconstruct an aging and rotting school building in Kruta.

As we seek to continue our relationship with Kruta, seven Sturgeon Bay residents (most of them members of our congregation) have agreed to raise enough money to cover their own travel and in-country expenses so that we can again visit Honduras in February of next year. They need help, however, to cover the \$33,059 cost of the Kruta school and the \$20,175 needed to install 26 Koko

Tingni water tanks. While you may not be able to travel to Honduras, we hope that you will support our outreach to the people of the Kruta River basin. A \$16.00 donation will cover the cost of one 4" x 8" x 14' board. With \$55.00 you can support the purchase of one piece of 17' galvanized roofing. A blackboard can be purchased for \$95.00 and a new water tank will cost \$600.00. Consider how you might be able to help so that we can minister to those in need.

Habitat for Humanity Fruitcakes

The Habitat for Humanity fruitcakes are baked and ready for purchase. One pound fruitcakes are available for \$10.00 each. The cakes can be purchased at the Habitat office at 410 N. 14th Avenue, Monday through Friday during Restore hours.

We Value Being Moravian

Western District News

Sister **Mary Lou Plummer** has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church. Sister Plummer will conclude her work at Glenwood Moravian Church on January 2nd and begin her work at Wisconsin Rapids on January 16th.

Did You Know?

That you can access "The Moravian" magazine on line at:

<http://www.facebook.com/MoravianMagazine>

Unity Prayer Watch – Saturday, December 31

Shortly after the August 13, 1727 Communion, the Moravians established an "Hourly Intercession," believing that continual prayer was an absolute essential for the Church to grow and thrive under the leading of God's Spirit. That daily "Prayer Watch" continued unbroken for one hundred years, with Moravians in prayer every day, 365 days of the year for one hundred years. It was during that time that the Moravian Church exhibited its greatest growth and vitality.

During the 1957 celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Moravian Church, the Prayer Watch was re-established; inviting congregations around the world to each take responsibility for a day of prayer.

Our assigned day of prayer is Saturday, December 31. Please watch for sign up sheets to appear or contact Sue Robinson at 863.3203 or email her at j3erob@centurytel.net.

Administration

February Newsletter Deadline

January 19, 2012

Office Schedule for the Holiday

The Church office will close at noon on Friday, December 23 through Tuesday December 28. The office will be closed again on Friday, December 30. If there are any pastoral emergencies on these days please feel free to leave a message at the church office and we will follow up.

Trustees Report for November

- The 2012 budget was finalized for approval at the December Joint Board Meeting.
- Nominations for new board members were reviewed.

Elders Report for November

- Worked on the transition plan for the reduction of Reeder's time in 2012.
- Nominations for new board members were reviewed.

Available in the Church Office

2012 Moravian Daily Texts:

Paperback Edition \$10.00

Journals \$15.00

**Want to learn more about the history of the Daily Text? Go to the homepage of our website and click on the "Special Feature" Moravian Magazine link.

Advent Stars:

12" (Apartment or Tree Top Size) \$17.00

22" (Window Size) \$20.00

An Update on Congregational Pledging for 2012

Pledging your support, at any level, is an act of faith and spiritual discipline. It encourages you and your family to consciously consider the blessings you receive and the blessings others in our community receive because of the work of our congregation. How do these blessings impact your life? What do they mean to you? Pledging your support is one way to ensure that these blessings continue and grow. Pledges are one of the main indicators of a congregation's financial health, its ability to do good planning and its ability to continue its mission.

For 2011, we received 125 pledges. To date, for 2012, we have received 109. The number of giving units has remained constant.

In 2011, 78% of our budget was pledged. To date, for 2012, 64% is.

Please join those who have made a pledge for 2012. Also, please consider becoming an electronic giver. Forms and more information are available in the church office or on the church website: www.sbmoravian.org under registrations/forms. Your support allows us to do the work we are called to do in this world. Thank you!

Stewardship Committee

(You may also "Access" your personal contribution information, on-line, by logging in to "Access" on the homepage of our website.)

2012 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are available in the church narthex. Please save us postage by picking up your envelopes.

Tax Season is Right Around the Corner

Did you know you can access your own giving record for 2011 without having to wait for the church to send you a final statement? Remember the Access ACS program I told you about last month? Well that's where you start. Go to the church website: www.sbmoravian.org and click on the lamb logo on the left side of the screen, below the navigation bar, for your link to "Access ACS". This link will provide you with information, answers to frequently asked questions, and a link for setting up your access account. Once your account has been set up, you can "access" your personal database information, which includes your contribution records, from the comfort of your own home. Have questions along the way just give me a call and I'll walk you through it.

Vickie Viste

2011 Contributions

All financial contributions for 2011 must be postmarked by December 31, 2011. To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2011 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church – or you access the information from your “access” account as outlined above.

Church Council, January 22 – Following Worship

Please plan on attending our annual church council immediately following worship on Sunday, January 22. The council will be held in the sanctuary. Church Council is our “Annual Meeting” where we elect officers for the coming year, approve the church budget and attend to the other important business for our congregation. It is important for all members to participate in this important gathering as an opportunity to be informed about our ministry, participate in choosing leadership, and making your voice heard about that which is important to you. The agenda for the meeting and the proposed budget for 2012 will be available in the Church Narthex throughout the month of November. This year’s Council will also be a milestone. Please join us.

Community Holiday Opportunities

- **Salvation Army bell Ringers:** If you’d like to help out this holiday season contact Nancy at 920.883.7886.
- **Sunshine House:** Christmas wreaths for sale. Contact them at 920.743.7943 or stop by the Sunshine House.
- **Peninsula Singers Christmas Concert: “The Marvel of Christmas in Song”** Featured guest musicians will be Tammy Naze, harpist and Lori Meyer, cellist.

Saturday, December 10 7:00 p.m. Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Sturgeon Bay

Sunday, December 11 3:00 p.m. First Baptist Church, Sister Bay

- **Ephraim Moravian Church – ADVENTure:** Saturday December 3, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. As part of all the events of “Christmas in the Village” on December 3, come to the Ephraim Moravian Church, 9970 Moravia Street, Ephraim.

A display of crèches from around the world; Refreshments; Learn to make Moravian Stars and Christmas Eve Beeswax Candles and Bake sale.

Building and Grounds

Building and grounds major projects are completed for 2011. We still have a number of projects that need to be done and we will get to them as time, people power, and finances allow. If you would like to help with any of these projects call Pastor Reeder or George Pinney.

Projects on our list:

Big Projects

- Fix bell rope wheel
- Wash all windows
- Rebuild storage shed
- Repair fascia on sanctuary roof
- Put a sloped roof on the sacristy and elevator roofs
Awaiting estimate –long term project

Kitchen counter tops – need replacing.

Parking lot – we have an estimate of \$26,000 to rebuild the parking lot

The windows in education wing need to be replaced

Smaller Projects

Old thermostats need to be removed and holes filled and painted

Shelving in janitor's room

Fix light in adult ed. room

Replace faucets in the kitchen (downstairs)

Tile in bathrooms

Edge sidewalks

Lighting in office

Van Air conditioning repair

Thank you Note

Thank you for all of the kind words surrounding the observance of my 10th service anniversary. One never enters into a project of this sort with recognition in mind. Nonetheless, it is truly wonderful when those you love acknowledge your efforts. These past 10 years have been a labor of love. Thank you for noticing.

Ann Johnson

POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS

For a number of years,
we have used poinsettias to add
to the beauty of our sanctuary
for the Christmas Season.



For only **\$17.50** each you can purchase a lovely red poinsettia. (6" pot) The plant will be foil wrapped with a bow.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas in memory or in honor of a special person, please complete the bottom portion of this sheet and return it, with your check, to the church office by: **no later than Monday, December 5th**

Checks may be made payable to "Moravian Church." (Please note that this is **not** a tax-deductible contribution, since you will be receiving the plant which has a value of \$17.50.)

The plant is yours, and we invite you to take it home following the worship service on December 25.

Poinsettia Order

Purchaser's Name: _____ Phone: _____ No. of plants: _____
Typically plants are acknowledged in our Christmas Eve Bulletins in this fashion:

"Given in loving memory of" or "In honor of"

By: _____
(name of the person or family giving the plant.)

Moravian Church of Sturgeon Bay

Phone: 920.743.6218 / 920.743.5642

Fax: 920.743.0440

e-mail: sbmc@sbmoravian.org

Website: www.sbmoravian.org



*In Essentials, Unity;
In Non-Essentials, Liberty;
In All Things, Love*

Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Knapp, Sr.	Senior Pastor
Rev. Reeder Herrick	Associate Pastor
Jill Kolodziej	Mission Coordinator
Robert Nickel	Director of Music
Kimberly Knapp	Director/Children's Choirs
Vickie L. Viste	Administrative Assistant

December/January, 2011-12

Mondays	Meeting Night	
Wednesdays	R.A.M.s - Gr. 3-5 (1&2 Wed.)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
	Creative Station - Gr. 3-5 (2&4 Wed.)	4:30-5:30 p.m.
	Discipleship	5:30-7:00 p.m.
	The Sister's Chorus Rehearsal - Gr. 6-12	6:45-7:15 p.m.
	Nazarites - Gr. 7-8	7:00-8:00 p.m.
	Sr. High Bible Study - Gr. 9-12	7:00-8:00 p.m.
Sundays	Sr. High Fellowship - Gr. 9-12	7:30-9:00 p.m.
	Coffee Hus	9:00 a.m.
	Youth & Adult Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal	9:15 a.m.
	Worship	10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve	
4:00 p.m.	Special Music
6:00 p.m.	Brass Ensemble
8:00 p.m.	Adult Choir

Watchwords for 2012	
Sunday, January 1	10:30 a.m.