

The Messenger

Spreading the Good News since 1866

November 2021

The Freedom Moravian Church is a Christian Community seeking together to discover Jesus Christ through worship, education, and fellowship; so that all may know they are loved by God and become responsible members of His church.

Your Pastor's Page

This past week, it was my turn to lead the chapel service at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Seymour. Several pastors in the area take turns leading the afternoon service, and it is a joy to spend even just a half hour with that community. As I arrived on Sunday, I took my rapid Covid test and was waiting for the results. While I waited, the nurse who greeted me said she'd go and see if any residents would like to come to the worship service – last week the service was during the Packers' game, and people preferred to watch the Green and Gold. I checked the score of the Packers' game that afternoon, seeing that our service would be taking place in the middle of the third quarter. The nurse returned saying she couldn't find any takers; everyone was watching the game. I stood up, and for a moment felt a mix of disappointment and relief. I would miss getting to see everyone, but it also meant I could go home and relax for the afternoon.

As I headed toward the door, the nurse asked me to wait a moment. She shared that a patient was actively dying and that family was with him. She asked if I would go and say a prayer with them. Woah, I don't remember a day taking such a 180. I was a few steps away from my car, ready to watch some football, and in an instant, I was navigating the Good Shepherd halls to walk with folks going through an incredibly difficult time. It was quite the detour. Thankfully, this gentleman's room was a long way away, so I had a little time to collect myself. He was as kind and gentle as anyone I've ever met and his family was so grateful for our time together. We chatted, we prayed, and we watched Packers' touchdown. It was random, it was unexpected, but it was holy.

I left the interaction longing for more moments like that. Not for more death or more pain, but for more unexpected times of community and love. The thing is, when you search for them, they can be hard to find. They are best experienced when they surprise you or catch you off guard. I write this to say that I hope your detours are filled with possibility and wonder. I pray that you are able to see the divine in the unplanned places, that you welcome the moments that feel like a distraction as if they have the potential to bring you closer to God. And I pray that as you shake your head and wish you were somewhere else (as I did, wishing I was on my way home), that you may open your heart to where God may be leading you.

Walking With You, *Pastor James*

'It's the unexpected that changes our lives'

Joint Board Meeting - October 5, 2021

Present: Pastor James, Jim Muenster, Chelsey Thiel, Michelle Remter, Norm Blohm, Rob Sprister, John Merkel, Sami Petit in person, and Alyssa Seitz and Shari Leisch via Zoom.

General Updates -Pastor James gave general updates for both Elders and Trustees.

Elders: pastoral care, worship, baptism/new member classes

Trustees: prep for Chili Supper, fall projects

Chili Supper-Our main discussion was Chili Supper and making sure Brittney had help wherever needed. She reported that everything was pretty well covered and we are on track for Thursday. Pastor James volunteered to organize and run the 50/50 raffle.

Our Next Meetings: November 16 at 5:30pm-Elders, Joint Board at 6:15pm, Trustee's afterward.

Pastor James closed our Joint Board meeting in prayer.

Elders Update - October, 2021

Present: Pastor James, Jim Muenster, Sami Petit, Michelle Remter, Chelsey Thiel, and Alyssa Seitz via Zoom.

Devotional Reading-Michelle led us in Devotions.

Pastoral Care Updates-Pastor James gave us updates on several friends and members.

Old Business

Worship in response to Covid-All will still remain the same as of now. Provincial Synod is postponed until June of 2023.

Good Shepherd Services 10/24 and 12/19-Pastor James will be at Good Shepherd services these dates.

Elder of the Month/Communion-Chelsey Thiel is Elder of the Month for November.

9/12 "You Belong Sunday" Visit from Greg Behrend-Thank you to everyone for welcoming Greg and their family for worship as well as Mike Mischnick for leading worship.

9/19 Moravian Day of Service Sunday-Thank you to The Gathering for playing music and Worship Committee for organizing the social afterwards.

Cup of Covenant on 9/16-Pastor James was able to attend Cup of Covenant in Sturgeon Bay.

Youth Activities-Ryan is hopeful to have something together later this fall for youth group. Pastor James will continue with the Children's Segment during worship. There were no kids signed up for the Lock-In so that will not be taking place Friday, October 8.

New Business

Leadership Cohort 10/25 – 10/29 in Fargo, North Dakota-Pastor James will be away for this. This group usually meets in Mt. Morris but, it is held in North Dakota this year.

Potential Baptism this Fall-Pastor James was contacted by a family he knows from his childhood who would like to have their children baptized by him at our church. We discussed this and decided we are open to this and will invite them to meet us and learn a little bit more about what it means to be Moravian.

New Member Classes-Pastor James is working on dates to meet with our two members. At least one or two Elders will also be present for the classes.

submitted by Chelsey Thiel

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/4: Kelly Dombrowski

11/6: Mark Schmit

11/08: Russ Brugger

11/9: Ken Bernetzke

11/14: John Behrent

11/23: Dana Eggert

11/24: Judy Buelow & Don Behnke

11/25: Theoden Forbes

11/26: Steve Carpenter

Scrip Gift Cards Reminder from Rock & Robbin Petit

“Christmas is coming and gift cards make great presents and stocking stuffers. Order yours now through the Scrip Program.

Complete the order form found in the Narthex, or we can mail or email forms to you. Send the form and your money to the church by Sunday December 5th. Get your cards the following Sunday.”

NO NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Trustees Update October, 2021

We checked in on various tasks around the church that come up this time of year. We will continue to mow the lawn on rotation and will be in touch with each other on when to rake leaves and switch out the windows in the sanctuary. Pastor James will be sending in our water sample for testing by the state, and will have Randerson come by to check on our furnace.

Everything is all set for the Chili Supper and the bees that were a problem by the kitchen door have been taken care of.

We discussed Nancy's most recent report on our finances. She mentioned that our offerings are no longer covering our expenses. We have funds in place to cover us, so it is not “doom and gloom,” but it is an update worth sharing. Norm offered to share this information with the congregation during worship – a moment of gratitude for the generosity that keeps our church going, and a word of where we currently stand.

Our next meeting will be 11/16 following the Joint Board meeting.

Mary Martha Circle

The Mary and Martha Circle would like to thank everyone who supported our October 7th bazaar. With your help we raised \$1,342.00.

Due to COVID restrictions, we've been unable to offer our annual basket raffle, but this November we are preparing a modified version. We will be assembling 3 baskets that will be displayed in the church narthex. Raffle tickets will be sold following church services for several Sundays in November. The themes of the baskets will be: 1.) Gift Card Basket 2.) Sports Basket (with items related to the Packers, Brewers, Bucks, and Badgers.) 3.) Christmas/Winter Basket.

We are inviting everyone to participate by either donating items for the baskets and /or buying raffle tickets. Our church is facing financial challenges and this is an opportunity for you to offer your assistance. Please consider helping out with a donation of an item for the raffle baskets or by the purchase of tickets. For more information contact Arden Fiestadt at 920-759-0665 or Shari Nachtwey at 920-983-3848. Our next meeting is November 3rd at 1:00. All ladies are welcome to attend.

JOIN THE FUN AND PLAY WITH THE CHIMES CHOIR!!

Now is the perfect time to give chime choir a test run, and treat yourself to some fun with great people and music to inspire you and others. Call or text Jayne (920-740-8541) or Marilyn (920-358-7097.)

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love.



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FREEDOM MORAVIAN CHURCH

