

# The Moravian Monthly

Official Newsletter of the Canadian, Eastern, and Western Districts  
of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

## July 2024

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Please contact Sylvie Hauser at [sylvie@mcnp.org](mailto:sylvie@mcnp.org) or (920)495-8995 with any questions or concerns about this newsletter.

### A Reflection on Canadian District Synod *Rev. Jamie Almquist*

The 2024 Canadian District Synod, held June 7-9 at Millwoods Community Church in Edmonton, Alberta, was centered around the theme “Reimagine.” Part of the goal of this theme was to reimagine what a synod could look like. Led by the Rev. Zach Dease from Macedonia Moravian Church in North Carolina, delegates participated in facilitation groups. Through a four-step process of storytelling and deepening, we worked to create asset maps of the things within our congregations that are available to us as we think about doing ministry together. The intention of this process was to allow delegates to return to their churches with a tool and process to work through together as churches reimagine ministry in their contexts. We hope that doing this work together at synod will get the creative juices flowing for the churches in our District.

Delegates elected new leadership for the coming four years. Br. David Jones was re-elected as the President of the Board of Elders Canadian District (BECD), after serving for the past three years in that role. Other members of the BECD elected at this Synod include: Jeff Pratt from Christ Moravian Church in Calgary; Brandon Salyzyn from Millwoods Community Church in Edmonton; Rev. Jamie Almquist from Good Shepherd Church in Calgary; and Rev. Aaron Linville from Millwoods Community Church in Edmonton. Those newly elected to the BECD have been charged with overseeing the boards and institutions of the Canadian District, supervising pastoral changes, managing district funding, advising congregations and extending the work of the Church within the district. The newly elected board will serve through the synod of 2028. During closing worship, the incoming BECD was installed by the newest Bishop to the Northern Province, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman.



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# Province-Wide Updates

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## Churches for Middle East Peace Solidarity Sunday

*Save the Date: July 21*

Resources are coming soon from Churches for Middle East Peace about a call to prayer. Contact Sue Koenig, Moravian Church in America representative to CMEP for additional information at [suekoenig@mcnp.org](mailto:suekoenig@mcnp.org).

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## Mission Minute: Synod of the Moravian Church in Newfoundland and Labrador



The Mission Province of the Moravian Church in Newfoundland and Labrador has long been a valued partner of the Board of World Mission. Founded in 1771, the church still plays an important role in the four communities with Moravian congregations, some of which are the only church in the town.

Brothers and sisters in Labrador met for their synod May 21-22 at the Happy Valley Moravian Church. The meetings were guided by Sister Sarah Jensen

who serves as the Chairperson of the Province. Bishop Chris Giesler of the Board of World Mission was present at the synod to provide worship leadership. Ministry and financial reports were heard from each of the congregations: Nain, Hopedale, Makkovic, and Happy Valley. There was also a report from the Moravian Fellowship in St. John's, Newfoundland. Common concerns include shrinking numbers in worship, aging congregational leadership, and the lack of a vibrant youth ministry. However, a beacon of hope shines with the upcoming ordination of McKinley and Darlene Winters, who are set to complete their seminary training this coming December. This significant milestone brings optimism to the Mission Province, which currently operates without any ordained pastors, relying on the capable leadership of Lay Ministers and Chapel Servants.

There was much discussion on the need for additional sources of income, membership growth and vitality, and future leadership training events. Sarah Jensen was reelected as Chairperson of the Provincial Board. As always, these synod meetings take care of important business, but they also provide for times of fellowship, conversations, prayer, and worship.

Bishop Chris stayed for three additional days following the synod to meet with provincial leaders and provide workshops on Moravian History and Biblical Interpretation. He also preached at the Happy Valley congregation's Sunday morning worship service on May 26.

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### From the Finance Department:

The price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp will increase from 68 cents to 73 cents on July 14, 2024. This is the fifth proposed rate hike in two years for the USPS, following increases in July 2023, January 2023, and July 2022.

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## “Being a Christian Citizen: A Bible Study for Our Time”

The MCNP Racial Justice Team has written a five-week Bible Study on Christian citizenship drawing on the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (MCCL) and related scriptural texts entitled, “Being a Christian Citizen: A Bible Study for Our Time.” The study may be downloaded from MCNP.org (scan the QR code) for use in congregations. Each of the five sessions include a relevant section of the MCCL, Biblical passages and background information for each Biblical text, and dialogue questions.



The Provincial Elders’ Conference commends the study as a tool for honest and respectful conversations about the challenges of being a Christian citizen in these times. A version of “Being a Christian Citizen,” adapted for use in Canada will be available soon. Please contact the Rev. Sue Koenig, Director of Racial Justice and Healing, at [suekoenig@mcnp.org](mailto:suekoenig@mcnp.org) for additional information or assistance with offering the study in your congregation.

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## News From the Moravian Ministries Foundation

The Moravian Ministries Foundation is pleased to offer Development Services at no cost to your Moravian ministry.

### *What are Development Services?*

Coaching and counsel to help your ministry build capacity and make informed decisions about fundraising.

### *Why do these services matter?*

MMFA’s Development Services help you grow the resources you need to support and strengthen your ministry.

### *What do MMFA’s Development Services look like?*

We help Moravian ministries with capital fundraising through conducting feasibility studies and sharing capital campaign resources and best practices.

We also partner with Moravian agencies and new and emerging ministries to strengthen their fundraising efforts.

To learn more, visit our website

(<https://www.mmfa.com/development-services/>) or contact Laura Watson, Vice President/Director of Programs at 336.725.2589/[lwatson@mmfa.com](mailto:lwatson@mmfa.com).



### SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date for our upcoming fundraising webinar on Tuesday, September 17, at either 12 pm or 7 pm ET.

If you’re on the staff or board of a Moravian agency or new & emerging ministry, or if you simply want to learn about the latest trends and best practices in faith-based non-profit fundraising, this webinar is for you.

Registration to follow.

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## Ecumenical News: LAMC Talks Begin

The Lutheran Anglican Moravian Commission held its first Zoom meeting since the Moravian Church Northern Province voted to enter into full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada at the 2023 Provincial Synod. Members of the Moravian Team are Blair Couch (bishop), Matt Gillard (ordained pastor), Donna Gordon (layperson), and Betsy Miller (staff). We were graciously welcomed to what had been a bilateral conversation between the Anglicans and the Lutherans. As a show of hospitality and commitment to full communion, that bilateral commission is being discontinued to allow the formation of this trilateral conversation. The goal of this ongoing commission is to encourage relationships among all three denominations at the local level and continue work on living into what it means to be truly in full communion. The focus of the relationship will be in Alberta, with the awareness that there is a Moravian congregation in Ontario (New Dawn) and congregations in Labrador.

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## Apply Now for an Emerging Ministries Grant!

Do you have an idea for a new ministry but need some funding to get it started? Would a small grant allow you to take the next steps on an outreach or worship gathering that might grow into a new faith community? If so, we encourage you to apply for an Emerging Ministries grant! All members of Northern Province congregations, emerging ministries, and agencies are invited to apply for a grant, with endorsement of the joint boards, regardless of the congregation's financial status. The total funds available in any given year are \$10,000, with no grant exceeding \$1,000. Learn more about the grant criteria, watch a video highlighting previous grant recipients, and apply today at [www.Moravian.org/Northern/EmergingMinistries/](http://www.Moravian.org/Northern/EmergingMinistries/).



## *July Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### **Churches Celebrating Anniversaries**

- 6 New Dorp, Staten Island, New York (261 years)  
Gnadenhutten, Ohio (224 years)
- 17 Crooked Oak, Cana, Virginia (97 years)
- 26 Heimtal, South Edmonton, Alberta (128 years)
- 30 Emmaus, Pennsylvania (277 years)

### **Ordination Anniversaries**

- 1 Benjamin Lippert (7 years)
- 3 James Johnston (58 years)
- 4 William Rinderknecht (46 years)
- 5 Marlin Schaffstall (65 years)
- 8 Mark Breland (34 years)
- 10 Charles Harewood (13 years)  
Kevin Henning (30 years)
- 13 Sara Aker (38 years)  
Harvey Prochnau (55 years)
- 14 Michael Johnson (37 years)
- 15 Nigel Powell (38 years)
- 16 Beth Rohn-Habegger (23 years)
- 17 Michael Eder (13 years)  
Earl Goulbourne (30 years)
- 18 Ian Edwards (20 years)
- 21 Andy Kilps (17 years)  
Dawn Volpe (39 years)
- 22 Lloyd Gooden (12 years)  
George Richmond (51 years)
- 26 Matthew Gillard (15 years)
- 30 Tracy Robinson (18 years)  
F. Rowan Simmons (24 years)
- 31 Robert Smith (63 years)  
Dave Bennett (36 years)

### **Birthdays**

- 1 Linda Wisser  
Janet Wetzell
- 3 Robert Burcaw Jr.
- 4 Sue Koenig
- 8 Blondel Jones-Grant  
Rosemary Kleintop  
Susan Ullrich
- 9 John Hoenig  
Paul Graf
- 10 Lloyd Gooden
- 12 Valeria Johnston  
Amy Behrend  
Lynn Dixon
- 13 Desna Henry Goulbourne
- 16 Thomas Luhman
- 17 Staci Marrese-Wheeler  
Nancy Danneberger
- 22 Beth Rohn-Habegger
- 23 Christian Rice  
David Plummer
- 24 Wendy Beck  
Rebecca Sisley  
Walter Bishop
- 25 Jean Glasser  
Earlene Clarke-Simmons
- 27 Colleen Bruckart
- 28 Dawn Volpe  
Ronald Rice
- 30 Scott Harney
- 31 Judith Ganz

### ***Please pray for the following churches who are in the call process or without pastors:***

- Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
- Christ, Calgary, Alberta
- Christian Faith, Deforest, Wisconsin
- Covenant, York, Pennsylvania
- Egg Harbor City, New Jersey
- Faith of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC
- First, York, Pennsylvania
- First, New York, New York
- Freedom, Appleton, Wisconsin
- Tremont Terrace, Bronx, New York
- Veedum, Pittsville, Wisconsin
- Daggett, Michigan
- Heimtal, Edmonton, Alberta



# Moravian Church in Canada

## Summer Camp Dates - Van Es

Our summer camp themes this year will be "Together We Are Love." This year there will be a \$50.00 registration that will be collected at drop off the first day of camp. The dates are:

- Elementary Camp (for students completed Grade 1 to 6) – Sunday, July 7 to Saturday, July 13, 2024
- Junior/Senior High Camp (for students completed Grade 7 to 12) – Sunday, July 14 to Saturday, July 20, 2024



We are continuing with our camper experience fundraising again this year. If you wish to donate towards our camper experience (donations over \$25.00 will receive a tax receipt) you can:

- Mail a cheque to: PO Box 57063 Eastgate, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T8A5L7
- Send an E-transfer. Please use our camp email - [van-escamp@shaw.ca](mailto:van-escamp@shaw.ca)
- Credit Card Payment. Please contact Randy Downing at 780-922-2457
- Go online to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/id/14247>

Randy Downing, Business Manager, Van Es Camp & Conference Centre

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## Social Media Challenge from Christ Moravian Church

We want to hear from you! We know your power to change the world and invite you to create Facebook / Instagram posts that convey your thoughts. Funny? Serious? Thoughtful? Reflective? Questioning? Reaching others? Or... Video, slide show, single image? Less than one minute long... and definitely clean. YES, ANY OF THE ABOVE! To encourage you we offer \$20 each for the top 5 posts. Send them through our Facebook Messenger at Christ-Moravian-Church-Calgary.

### Deadline Dates:

- Contest A: July 7, 2024
- Contest B: August 4, 2024

**The Eastern District**  
*Moravian Church in America*  
*Northern Province*



## It's Your Call



### 2024 Eastern District Synod

The 2024 Synod of the Eastern District of the Moravian Church Northern Province was held June 26-29 at Moravian University in Bethlehem, PA. The theme for the synod was “It’s Your Call” and the program was led by the Rev. T. C. Moore. The Rev. Melissa Johnson was reelected as the President of the Eastern District Executive Board. Find more election results, photos, video greetings from our agencies, and slides from T. C.’s presentations (videos coming soon!) on the Synod webpage ([Moravian.org/Northern/EDSynod2024/](http://Moravian.org/Northern/EDSynod2024/))



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### Summer Camp Dates - Camp Hope - Learn more at [www.CampHope.org](http://www.CampHope.org)

- Pre-Primary (completed 1st-2nd grade) — July 21-24
- Primary (completed 3rd-4th grade) — August 4-10
- Middler (completed 5th-6th grade) — July 14-20
- Jr. High (completed 7th-8th grade) — July 28 - August 3
- Sr. High (completed 9th-12th grade) — July 7-13
- Swimming Camp (completed 3rd-6th grade) — July 21-27

### Summer Camp Dates - Mid States - Learn more at [msync.weebly.com](http://msync.weebly.com)

- Camp Bethany (completed 2nd-6th grade) - August 5-9 at Camp Bethany, Nashville, OH
- Illiana (completed 2nd-6th grade) - July 22-26 at Camp Bedford, Bedford, IN
- Tar Hollow (completed 7th grade - age 21) - July 21-27 Tar Hollow State Park, Laurelville, OH

**The Western District**  
*Moravian Church in America,*  
*Northern Province*



**Summer Camp Dates - Mt. Morris - Learn more at [www.Mt-Morris.org](http://www.Mt-Morris.org).**

- Junior Camp (completed 2nd -5th grade) — July 28-August 1
- Winnor (completed 6th-8th grade) — July 21-27
- Chetek (completed 9th grade-age 21) — July 14-20

**Summer Camp Dates - Mid States - Learn more at [msync.weebly.com](http://msync.weebly.com)**

- Camp Bethany (completed 2nd-6th grade) — August 5-9 at Camp Bethany in Nashville, Ohio
- Illiana (completed 2nd-6th grade) — July 22-26 at Camp Bedford in Bedford, Indiana
- Tar Hollow (completed 7th grade through age 21) — July 21-27 at Tar Hollow State Park in Laurelville, Ohio

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**Join us at the Plus 50 Retreat at Mt. Morris: “Spirit-You-Ality”  
for Everyone in the Over 50 Crowd - August 8-11, 2024**

God calls us to lead Spirit-filled lives; Jesus teaches us how to do that. Yet our journey with Christ takes us on a path of twists and turns that shapes our unique spirituality. Join us as we reflect on these twists and turns, appreciating and sharing the experiences of our journeys. We will be using Richard Rohr’s book, “Falling Upwards: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life” as a roadmap for our time together. Wisdom and fellowship abound in the beautiful setting of Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. Does your life journey include a brief stopover? Come and see that the Lord is good!

Cost is \$270, which includes all meals and three nights lodging in Black Oak. Reserve your spot with a \$100 deposit by July 15. Registrar: Debby Ford ([drford920@yahoo.com](mailto:drford920@yahoo.com) or 920-262-9413). Program director: Rev. Mary Lou Plummer ([mlplummer01@gmail.com](mailto:mlplummer01@gmail.com) or 715-451-9992).

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**Become a Volunteer Buddy at You Belong in Green Bay, WI!**

We are looking for people who want to have a deep and meaningful impact on the life of another simply by being a friend. Each month You Belong hosts a Saturday respite day program for individuals living with disabilities. It is similar to the fun of church camp, except you can go home and sleep in your own bed.

As a volunteer buddy, you will get to be a friend for the day (and forever) with a participant living with a disability. Buddies get to play games, do arts and crafts, build with legos, put together puzzles, play in the Adventure Zone, swing in the sensory room and so much more! You can volunteer for a full day (9:30a-3:30p) or a half day (9:30a-12:30p or 12:30p-3:30p). The more volunteers we have the more participants we can welcome in. \*Volunteers are trained and supported by the You Belong staff and our medical team.\*

**Upcoming Summer Events: July 20, August 17, September 14**

To learn more, email Pastor Greg Behrend - [greg@youbelongwi.org](mailto:greg@youbelongwi.org)