

# The Moravian Monthly

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

## November 2024

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or (920)495-8995  
with any questions  
or concerns about  
this newsletter.

### Greetings from the Southern Province Following 2024 Intersynodal Conference

*Rev. Dr. Neil Routh*

*Our siblings in the Southern Province recently gathered for an intersynodal conference – a time between provincial synods to gather clergy and lay leaders to reflect on and recommit to the ministry they are doing together. Below is a reflection from the Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President of the Southern Province Provincial Elders' Conference. We include this article as an opportunity to be informed about the work of the Moravian Church throughout North America and we invite your prayers for our Southern Province siblings as they reflect on the time they spent together and discern how it might impact their ministry moving forward.*

More than 160 lay representatives and church professionals from across the Southern Province gathered for the 2024 Intersynodal Conference at New Philadelphia Moravian Church – Oct 25 and 26. The Rev. Dr. Phil Maynard shared the themes from his book: “SHIFT 2.0 – Helping Congregations Back in the Game of Effective Ministry.”

Dr. Maynard noted the significance of Christian discipleship as “belonging, becoming, and believing.” How intentional congregational ministry should focus on members learning first to belong to one another. Then, through shared study and ministry efforts, to catch the desire of what it means to become more like Jesus. And finally, to be more intentional to put into action our core beliefs rooted in sharing the unconditional love of Jesus with neighbors and the broader community.

I first discovered Maynard’s “SHIFT” principles while serving as pastor at Grace Moravian Church (Mount Airy, NC) 2016-2022. The specific shift from membership to discipleship became a chief principle of the ministry goals of the congregation in the three years before the Covid19 pandemic. Because of this focus, ministry flourished despite the challenge of COVID – especially our outreach to the community.

This conference offered SHIFT as one way for congregations more intentionally the role of discipleship training in congregational ministry. The conference also provided a forum for the testimony and insights of collaborative ministry efforts happening across the Southern Province.

Gratitude is expressed to New Philadelphia staff and volunteers for hosting, the provincial staff for organizing this event – especially Beverly Johnson, the Rev. Rebecca Craver, and The Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp. But most importantly for the presence of God’s Spirit through many participants, workshop leaders, and presenters.

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# Province-Wide Updates

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## Pastoral Letter from Bishops of the Northern Province Concerning the Upcoming U.S. Election *October 16, 2024*

The Bishops of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, acknowledge the importance of the upcoming election and the concern and anxiety that individuals are feeling no matter the outcome of the election.

We are uncertain as to when the final results of the election will be determined and the next President will be declared. Therefore, we encourage our congregations to consider making their Sanctuary available for prayer after Election Day.

We remind the church that no matter who wins the election as President, we will celebrate Jesus as the Chief Elder of our Moravian Church on November 13th. Jesus is our Lord, Savior, and the ultimate foundation of our faith, love, and hope. Our highest allegiance is always to Him.

Blessings and Peace,

M. Blair Couch, Paul A. Graf, J. Christian Giesler, Michael E. Johnson, Kay Ward,  
Amy Gohdes-Luhman, Douglas H. Kleintop

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## Celebration of UNESCO World Heritage Site Inscription

Guests from around the world gathered in Bethlehem October 16-17, 2024, to celebrate the inscription of the Moravian Church Settlements UNESCO World Heritage Site – the first ever transnational UNESCO site – which includes the settlements of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Gracehill, Northern Ireland; Christiansfeld, Denmark; and Herrnhut, Germany.



Festivities began on Wednesday evening with a beautiful worship service at Central Moravian Church, which highlighted the connectedness of our global Unity. It was a blessing to hear from each of the Moravian areas represented in the UNESCO inscription. As church leaders and dignitaries joined together to recognize the rich history of our Moravian Church, this joyous service also celebrated our identity as a living, serving church that is ministering in diverse contexts throughout the world today.

On Thursday, guests began the day by touring some of the most historic buildings in Bethlehem. Led by Historic Bethlehem Museum & Sites, guests were invited to step into the past and learn about how early Bethlehem Moravians expressed their faith through worship, mission service, and daily activities. The official inscription ceremony took place on Thursday afternoon in Foy Concert Hall on the South Campus of Moravian University. Representatives of UNESCO, as well as spokespeople from each of the Moravian Settlements represented in this inscription spoke of the Moravian Church's contributions to the communities of which they are a part and the importance of preserving and sharing the history of these settlements.

**Scan the QR code to read more about this event and find a letter to the Unity from Unity Board Administrator Rev. Dr. Jørgen Bøytler.**



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## Moravian Disaster Response to Hurricane Helene

The recovery effort from Hurricane Helene is in full swing in northwestern North Carolina, where the **Board of World Mission** is focusing our efforts. We are happy to report that Laurel Ridge, the Moravian Camp and Conference Center, is now welcoming folks who would like to be part of the reconstruction effort. The BWM is helping to fund work being done at the home of a 74-year-old woman in Lansing, NC, that



was flooded and needs a complete rebuild. Rev. Chris Thore is heading up work on this project and is especially in need of folks with carpentry, cabinetry, plumbing, and electrical skills. We are also interested in congregations or groups willing to come as mission teams either in the clean-up effort at Laurel Ridge or in the home of one of their neighbors.



If you are interested in serving, please complete the volunteer interest form found at [MoravianMission.org/MDR/](https://MoravianMission.org/MDR/) (scan QR code). Please email Butch Sawtelle, our volunteer coordinator, at [mdr@moravianmission.org](mailto:mdr@moravianmission.org) with any questions.

100% of the donations received for our MDR Fund go to providing relief for these disasters. You can assist us with our disaster response efforts at [MoravianMission.org/Give/](https://MoravianMission.org/Give/) (link to give also found by scanning QR code). Please designate your gift to “MDR”. If you wish to mail your donation, please make the check payable to “Board of World Mission” and send it to one of the following addresses:

**U.S. Donors:** Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Canadian Donors:** Moravian Church in Canada, 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8. Interac e-Transfer donations may be sent to [treasurer@moravian.ca](mailto:treasurer@moravian.ca). Please include your name and address in the comments section of the transfer to receive tax receipts.

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## Clergy Caring Cluster

The Wednesday morning clergy cluster is a gathering for any clergy (retired and not retired) who are seeking time to share community and find support as we navigate our various ministry settings. We meet via Zoom weekly at 9am CT for one hour. Contact Marian Boyle Rohloff with any questions: [pastor@wsmoraviangb.org](mailto:pastor@wsmoraviangb.org).

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## Churches Uniting in Christ



On October 6-7, members of **Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC)** gathered in Memphis, TN to continue their work on dismantling racism, building relationships with our denominational partners, and engaging young adults in ecumenism. Betsy Miller represented us there and found time to visit the National Civil Rights Museum where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.



## Get to Know MMFA and Our Ambassadors!

The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA) supports individuals, churches, and agencies in growing and sustaining ministries through investments, stewardship, gifts, and grants.

The Moravian Ministries Foundation is excited to officially launch our Ambassador Program! This initiative will strengthen our connection with Moravian congregations by creating a network of passionate volunteers who serve as liaisons between their churches and MMFA. Ambassadors will help share our mission, resources, and opportunities we offer to support ministry growth. Together, we'll build stronger relationships and move ministries forward.

We are grateful for our current ambassadors and invite you to reach out to them with any questions about MMFA. Interested in becoming an ambassador? Contact Laura Watson at [lwatson@mmfa.com](mailto:lwatson@mmfa.com). We encourage you to spread the word about MMFA's Ambassador Program by utilizing the publicity materials found at the QR code, including bulletin inserts and slides. Thank you for your help in sharing this new initiative!



**Here are our current MMFA Ambassadors:** Keith Gohdes (Canaan), Larry Johnson (Castleton Hill), Maggie Harper (Clemmons), Barb Wagner (Covenant, PA), Jay Larson (East Hills), Bill Matz (East Hills), Jon Gehler (Ebenezer), Kerrian Simpson (Faith), Brent Waddell (Friedberg), Gail Theard (Grace, NC), Brenda Genemans (Graceham), The Rev. Ginny Tobiassen (Home), Paula Hall (King), Bruce Shoger (Lake Auburn), Cindy Miller (Lake Mills), Justin Peart (Margate), Lou Jackson (New Philadelphia), Julie Guffey (Olivet), Keith Kapp (Raleigh), Sue Dreydoppel (Schoeneck), Cheryl Weber (West Side, WI)

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## Meeting of the Lutheran Anglican Moravian Commission



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



The Anglican Church of Canada



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**  
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

Members of the Lutheran Anglican Moravian Commission (LAM) will meet for their first in-person retreat in Edmonton, Alberta November 13-15 at the Anglican Cathedral in Edmonton. The goals include fostering relationships, learning from one another, and experiencing worship in each of the three traditions. On November 13 the Moravians will host an evening worship service at the Heimtal Moravian Church, focusing on the November 13 Festival of Jesus Christ as the Chief Elder. Moravian members of the LAM are Matt Gillard, Donna Gordon, Blair Couch, and Betsy Miller. The 2023 Provincial Synod approved a full communion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. This meeting will help us live into this full communion relationship.

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# ADVENT OFFERINGS

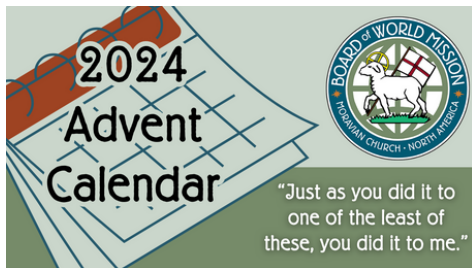
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## SAVE THE DATE: The MCNP Racial Justice Team's A New Way of Being Series *The Doctrine of Discovery: What It Is and Why It Matters*

Wednesdays throughout Advent – December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:30pm ET  
Speaker information and more details coming soon.

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## Join the Board of World Mission this Advent season!



As we approach the close of another year, we find ourselves reflecting on the many ways we have been blessed and the ways we can extend those blessings to others. In our work at the Board of World Mission, we are consistently reminded of a profound truth: when we serve those in need we serve Christ himself. This year, we have created an Advent calendar to encourage Moravians throughout the U.S. and Canada to allow their blessings to be a blessing to those in need.

Follow along with the BWM Advent calendar by downloading the printable version (coming soon) or have the daily prompts sent straight to you through email or text. Follow the Board of World Mission on Facebook and Instagram for daily updates there, too! Learn more at [MoravianMission.org/Advent/](https://MoravianMission.org/Advent/) (scan QR code).



**To receive daily email prompts:** Email [sylvie@moravianmission.org](mailto:sylvie@moravianmission.org) and include "Advent calendar" in the subject line. **To receive daily text prompts:** Text (920)495-8995 and include "Advent calendar" in the text.

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## NEW: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

As we approach the Advent season, we are excited to share a special resource – a four-week liturgy for use in lighting the Advent wreath candles. This resource was created as a collaboration between the Board of World Mission, the Moravian Ministries Foundation, and the Southern Province Commission on Congregational Development (with many thanks to the Interprovincial Board of Communications for their assistance in promoting it!). This partnership between Moravian agencies reflects our shared commitment to supporting and strengthening the Moravian Church through collective action, showing that we are stronger when we serve and worship together.

The Advent Candle Lighting Liturgies for 2024 provides a short liturgical guide through the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, connecting these Advent themes with the real-life ministries of Moravian congregations and organizations. Each week's liturgy is rooted in Moravian tradition, offering powerful examples of the Church's work across the world. These liturgies also create space for your congregation to highlight the ways you are bringing these themes to life through your own ministries and outreach.

This resource is available in both English and Spanish, and we are providing not only a Word document version but also PowerPoint slides to be used or adapted for projection during worship services. We hope this flexibility will make the resource accessible and engaging for all who wish to utilize it.



Through these liturgies, we are invited to remember that Jesus is the Light of the World, and we, as His followers, are called to reflect that light in our communities. We pray this resource will enrich your Advent worship, bringing together your congregation to celebrate and share the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes through Christ's coming into the world.

Scan the QR code above to learn more.

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## Prayer Concerns

### Congregation Closure: Mountainview Moravian Church

After more than seven decades of faithful and inspirational service to Christ, it is with both regret and appreciation that we announce that **Mountainview Moravian Church** in Hellertown, PA will bring its ministry to a close on November 24, 2024.

In the late 1940s a group of students from nearby Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA, needed a senior project. At that time construction was underway on the new Hellertown subdivision of Mountainview. Seeing a need for a Sunday School, the students organized one. The Sunday School first met in a tent and later in a house just around the corner from the present church building. The congregation was formally chartered on March 14, 1951. Throughout its history the congregation has been notable for its strong sense of fellowship, openness to newcomers, and commitment to growing Christian disciples one person at a time.



Sister Jodie Harney, who has been serving as their dedicated pastor, speaks fondly of their love for making sugar cakes and how this has been a generational affair. As well, she helped lead a spirit of hospitality which welcomed community organizations into their facility, including the Girl and Boy Scouts, programs from the YMCA, Zumba classes, yoga classes, and space for AA groups. Since August of 2013, Mountainview has had a thriving Clothing Ministry providing free clothing to anyone who comes during the distribution days as well as to individuals with emergency needs. To date, over 80,000 items have been distributed.

When asked to share their memories of the church, several members have reflected on the youth program / fellowship group that involved not only members of the church but the friends that they brought along. Another memory that was shared by many was the church and community dinners that were held for years and the amazing sense of fellowship that was felt by all in attendance.

Thus, in 2024, Mountainview will be celebrating 74 years of community-based ministry. They have lived as a community of Christians, sharing God's love and grace through words and actions. Please hold the community in prayer as they bring closure to this ministry, yet also celebrate the amazing and wonderful ways they have touched countless lives in tangible ways.



***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
- Daggett, Michigan
- Egg Harbor City, New Jersey
- Faith of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC
- First, Dover, Ohio
- First, New York, New York
- Heimtal, Edmonton, Alberta
- St. Paul's, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Tremont Terrace, Bronx, New York
- Veedum, Pittsville, Wisconsin
- Waconia, Minnesota

## Clergy Updates

**Br. Lance Fox**, who had been serving at Castleton Hill Moravian Church, Staten Island, New York, since October 2017, was granted a leave of absence by the Provincial Elders' Conference, which was effective September 24, 2024.

## November Birthdays and Anniversaries

### *Birthdays*

1 Percival Gordon	12 Carol Reifinger	19 Katie Van Der Linden	27 Erin Petrella
3 Kerry Krauss	12 John Fritts	19 F. Rowan Simmons	28 Judith Bergmann
5 Warren Gericke	12 Vicki Jens-Page	21 Carole Jodz	30 Jane Gehler
6 Amy Andersen	13 David Wickmann	21 Stephen Gohdes	30 J. Christian Giesler
8 Gary Straughan	14 Hermann Weinlick	22 Wilmer Hassler	30 Katrina Lehman
9 Thomas Christianson	14 Anne Fritts	23 Reid Lauderman	

### *Churches Celebrating Anniversaries*

9 Grace, Queens, New York (44 years)
17 West Side, Green Bay, Wisconsin (174 years)
17 Essentials Cafe, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (1 year)
22 Tricklebee Cafe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (8 years)
30 Lancaster, Pennsylvania (278 years)

### *Ordination Anniversaries*

4 David Schwarz (51 years)
6 Rosieta Burton (19 years)
21 Patricia Honszer (20 years)
21 Mary Lou Plummer (20 years)
23 James Hicks (44 years)
29 Richard Beck (38 years)
29 Wendy Beck (38 years)
30 Stephen Gohdes (38 years)





# Moravian Church in Canada

In October the Millwoods congregation was treated to a special performance by the praise band, joined by a truly inspiring guest musician, 93-year-old Peter Guzak. Peter picked up the fiddle later in life, after learning to play guitar at the age of 8 and deciding to take up the fiddle in 2008 at 75. Amazingly, Peter has never had formal training; he plays all his tunes by ear and continues to learn new ones by listening and playing along with music online.

In 2022, his talent and dedication earned him the Grand North American Old Time Fiddle Championship title in the Golden Age category at 90 years old. Peter hopes to compete again in 2025, continuing his journey of music and inspiring all who have the chance to listen.

We were blessed to experience his incredible skill and passion firsthand, making for a memorable and moving service. Enjoy the photos of this special occasion, and let Peter's story remind us all that it's never too late to start something new and share our gifts with others!





# The Eastern District

## Moravian Church in America

### Northern Province



#### **Introducing Lea Pagliughi, Executive Assistant to the Eastern District President**

Lea Pagliughi has recently joined our ministry as the executive assistant to the Eastern District Executive Board President. You can contact Lea at [lea@mcnp.org](mailto:lea@mcnp.org) or 610-865-0302 (opt. 1). Read more about Lea below, and please help us welcome her to the Eastern District!



I have dedicated my career to helping others while navigating various roles that have shaped my professional life. I'm proud to say that my Executive Assistant journey over the past 25 years has been both fulfilling and impactful. I started my career as a receptionist, where I quickly discovered my passion for the corporate sphere. My innate desire to assist others led me to transition into a file clerk position, and through a happy accident, I found myself stepping into the role of Administrative Assistant. It was here that I truly flourished, becoming an invaluable asset to my team and mastering the daily operations that keep a business running smoothly.

Over the years, I continued to rise, eventually taking on the role of Executive Assistant. My commitment and expertise allowed me to excel in this capacity, where I gained a wealth of experience that has served me well throughout my career. However, life took an exciting turn when my husband, Tom, and I made the move from New Jersey to Pennsylvania. In our new home, I embraced my entrepreneurial spirit by launching my own business selling designer clothing online. Once the business was operating seamlessly, I felt the pull to contribute my skills once more in a professional environment.

Beyond my career, I treasure my family and the time we spend together. I am married to my wonderful husband Tom, who is also my best friend. Together, we navigate life with joy. Our family includes my son Brian (29) and my daughter Crystal (26), who has blessed us with a delightful 1-year-old grandson, Caiden. Tom's two sons, TJ (21) and Tony (14), reside in New Jersey with their mother, adding to the rich tapestry of our blended family. When I'm not busy at work or caring for my family, I enjoy diving into a good book, listening to my favorite country music, or catching up on episodes of "The Big Bang Theory" and "The Office." As I look ahead, I remain excited about the potential for new opportunities and challenges here at Moravian Church. With my extensive experience and unwavering dedication, I am confident that I will continue to make a significant impact.



#### **Tribal Elder of the Delaware Nation (Lenape) Visits Bethlehem** **Saturday, November 2nd, 1:30pm – Central Moravian Church Old Chapel**

Join us for a talk by Lenape retired tribal elder and member of the Delaware tribe of Oklahoma, John Thomas. For thousands upon thousands of years, the Lenape people lived in this region, until being driven off this land by European settlers, and forced removals from the 18th and early 19th centuries. The 18th century Moravian church was engaged in mission work with the local Lenape people; working, worshipping (and being buried) alongside them in the 18th century. There are ancestral memories of the Moravian Church and their mission work, along with the accompaniment with the forced removals. John Thomas is not only an amazing speaker, but also a well-known advocate of Native American rights and has worked extensively in providing proper reburial for Native American bones and funerary objects which stolen from ancestral graves in the last centuries. Following John's talk, there will be the option to join us at God's Acre for a tour of several Native American graves. We hope that this conversation can continue into the new year as we continue as Moravians to seek the venues to listen and acknowledge the experiences of indigenous peoples.

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



### **Youth and Young Adult Retreats**

*Registration and program information forthcoming at [wdcamping.org](http://wdcamping.org).*

The **Mid-Winter Retreat** for youth grade 9 - age 21 will be held January 31 - February 2 at a church in southern Wisconsin (exact location TBD).

The **District Young Adult Retreat** for those age 18-30(ish) will be held March 15-16 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. The theme is "Keeping Your Head, Directing Your Heart."

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### **District Clergy Retreat**

The annual retreat for our Western District pastors, both lay and ordained, will be held at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center on January 13-16. Our program leader this year will be retired Moravian pastor and certified spiritual director Rev. Rick Beck. All pastors are encouraged to utilize this time for fellowship and retreat, and all congregations are encouraged to help their pastors attend. Registration information will soon be forthcoming. If you have questions, please reach out to retreat coordinator, Rev. Joel Russell, pastor of the Bethel and Goshen Moravian Churches in North Dakota.

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### **District Board Meetings with Church Joint Boards**

As the new District Board began meeting in early summer this year, one of our first decisions was to meet in regional locations in the year ahead. Our first in-person meeting was in northeast Wisconsin in June and our second in-person meeting was in southern Wisconsin in September. Subsequent in-person meetings will be held in Minnesota in November, in central Wisconsin in February, and in North Dakota in May. (During months that we don't meet in-person, we meet via Zoom.) Starting with our second in-person meeting, we have begun the process of reaching out to have an open house Q&A session with local Joint Boards, as well as making ourselves available with pastors if they would like to meet one-on-one, in order to discuss the unique challenges of ministry in our 21st-century context. We have also had the opportunity have myself and, in some instances, one or more other District Board members visit and have conversations with Joint Boards of our congregations in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and California that do not have another Moravian sibling congregation closeby. The District Board is most grateful for these opportunities for ministry conversation and welcome the enthusiasm, creativity, and faithfulness of our congregational leadership. If your church leadership wishes to have conversations about mission and ministry with your District Board, please reach out me at [jason@mcnp.org](mailto:jason@mcnp.org).

*Rev. Jason Andersen, President, Western District Board*

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## Thank you!

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Thank you to the WDCEC (Western District Congregational Enrichment Commission) – formerly known as the MWCEC (Moravian Western Christian Education Committee) – for hosting the “Story of Us” Conference at Mt. Morris in September, led by Rev. Denny Rohn and Marie Coutts, director of Christian Education for the Eastern District, on our Moravian heritage and the impact it has on how we live our faith today. Those in attendance were blessed with fellowship, food, and foundational faith formation – plus a new stack of “Moravian trading cards!” If you’d like more information, please reach out to Rev. Beth Rohn-Habegger, pastor of the Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church, or Megan Vanderbloemen, member of the Christian Faith Moravian Church, who are the co-leaders of the WDCEC.

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Thank you to the District Camping Ministry Committee, chaired by Caitlyn Forbes, who met at Mt. Morris on September 28th to review 2024 reports from our summer church camps and make plans for our 2025 camps. Other members of the committee are Amy Andersen and Taylor Farrey. Also in attendance were Chetek director Justin Rabbach, outgoing Winmor director Jordan Forbes, incoming Winmor director Alexis Srenaski, Junior Camp director Rev. James Heroux, and Regional Youth Council leaders Rev. Charlie McDonald, Dara Dobe Sobek, and Emma Wegner. We are grateful to these faithful leaders who help shape our summer church camp ministry!

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