

The Moravian Monthly

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

December 2025

In This Newsletter:

- Page 1: Presentation to Munsee Tribe on Moravian Missions
- Page 2: Advent Series: *Come Let Us Walk in the Way of Faith, Hope, and Love*
- Pages 3–6: Provincewide Updates
- Page 7: Birthdays & Anniversaries, Prayer Concerns
- Page 8–9: Updates from the Eastern District
- Pages 10: Updates from the Western District

NOTE ABOUT THE MORAVIAN MONTHLY

This edition of the Moravian Monthly is the final newsletter compiled by Sylvie Hauser, who has served as the Northern Province Communications Consultant since 2022 and is now concluding this role to continue her work with the Board of World Mission and begin seminary studies. We are deeply grateful to Shana Angel for compiling the Moravian Monthly moving forward. **In the future, please send contributions and questions about this newsletter to Shana at beppler.3@gmail.com.** Welcome, Shana!!

Presentation to Munsee Tribe on Moravian Missions

Seth Angel

Earlier this year, the Munsee Tribe in Kansas contacted the Northern Province with an interesting request. They asked for a presentation about their own history with the Moravian Church. You see, many of the Munsee families living near Ottawa, Kansas today, have ancestors who were members of the Moravian mission congregations in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The talk, which was originally presented on October 25, 2025, begins with a very brief history of the early church. It then tracks the Moravian missions as they wound their way west, following the migration of the Delaware, Munsee and Mahican congregations.



The Journey to Kansas

MUNSEE & MORAVIAN
RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH TIME

BY SETH ANGEL

HISTORIC DELAWARE, MUNSEE, AND MAHICAN RELATIONS
PRESENTED BY SETH ANGEL

The program closes with an overview of daily life in the Moravian mission villages.

We would like to thank The Munsee Tribe in Kansas for hosting and recording the presentation, which was live-streamed from John Heckewelder Memorial Moravian Church, at Gnadenhutten, Ohio.

A recording of the presentation can be viewed by scanning the QR code.

Advent Series: Come Let Us Walk in the Way of Faith, Hope, and Love
Rev. Sue Koenig



The MCNP Racial Justice Team and the MCSP Moravian Team for Reconciliation (Racial, Cultural and Ethnic) are pleased to announce that they are jointly sponsoring this year's **New Way of Being Advent Series**, "Come, Let Us Walk in the Way of Faith, Hope, and Love." How do we know "God still goes that road with us?" How do we walk with those seeking safety, refuge, and a new life? The series will provide suggestions for ways congregations and individuals may walk with our immigrant neighbors. All sessions will be offered on Zoom on Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, at 7:30 PM ET. Zoom access is below. Each session will include scripture readings, prayer, and a presentation by a guest presenter or presenters, followed by small group discussions. Each session will be one hour, concluding at 8:30 PM ET. We are delighted to announce our guest presenters.

The Rev. Angelica Regalado-Cieza, Pastor at Fries Memorial Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC will be our guest presenter on December 3. Rev. Regalado-Cieza will lead us in *a vital conversation on immigration in our church and communities, especially as we prepare our hearts during Advent — a season that reminds us of God's welcome and the holy movement of people seeking home.*

On December 10, **The Rev. Mikayla Sauerbrey**, pastor of Calvary Moravian Church in Allentown, PA and **Marcus Dip Silas** of *Mending Together* will be our guest presenters for the session on December 10. Calvary Moravian began a new ministry assisting a refugee family in March of 2025; and Mending Together, a Minnesota-based non-profit supporting those who have experienced trauma and working for recovery and renewal by removing fear. They teach refugees and those who walk alongside them how to *build a world where everyday people and refugees mend together.*

The Rev. Ben Lippert, pastor of the Schoenbrunn Moravian Congregation in New Philadelphia, Ohio, will be the guest presenter for the session on December 17. Rev. Lippert will share from his experience *building community organizations and networks to assist and support our immigrant friends and neighbors.*

We hope you will join us for the New Way of Being series this Advent. Questions? Contact The Rev. Sue Koenig, Director of Racial Justice and Healing for the Moravian Church Northern Province at suekoenig@mcnp.org

To join the Advent Series follow the link in at the QR code or use
Zoom Meeting ID: 878 3916 5887 Passcode: 53405



Provincewide Updates



Moravian Disaster Response (MDR) Updates

Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica – The Board of World Mission has received a report from the Provincial Board of the Jamaica and Cayman Islands Province of the Moravian Church following Hurricane Melissa's devastating impact. The report included photos and brief initial assessments of several church-owned properties, the majority of which are located in the parishes of Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth, which experienced some of the most severe destruction. The report is extensive, but notes that some properties have not yet been assessed for damage.

According to the report, five church buildings have been destroyed: Carmel, Salem, Beaufort, Springfield, and Faith Moravian Church. In addition, 20 church-owned facilities, the majority of which are churches, but also manses and schools, have sustained severe damage, with roofs torn away and major structural losses. Damage to homes and community buildings is also extensive. The report noted that "it is feared that most, if not all, of the 36 congregations at the Central and Western District Conferences have sustained some level of damage."

The Provincial Board has outlined a multi-step plan for the coming months, which includes addressing immediate needs, offering pastoral and psychological care, continuing to coordinate assessments in affected areas, mobilizing local volunteer groups for cleanup and repair, and establishing the Moravian Church Jamaica and Cayman Islands Disaster Response Fund. The BWM has contributed an initial \$10,000 to this fund. Additional support is greatly needed to meet the scale of destruction and to help our partners rebuild their places of worship, ministry, and community life.

We are aware of several fundraisers across the Worldwide Moravian Unity and ask that Moravians in North America respond to this disaster through BWM channels to help us facilitate a coordinated response. This also enables us to prepare for North American mission teams to assist with recovery efforts when the Moravian Church in Jamaica is ready to receive us. We are also maintaining contact with partners and leaders in Cuba and Haiti, who were also impacted by this storm.

Typhoon Halong in Alaska – The BWM is also closely monitoring the situation in western Alaska following Typhoon Halong, which reached Alaska on October 12. The storm brought hurricane-force winds, widespread flooding, and severe damage to coastal villages across the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta region.

Through news outlets and Moravians in Alaska, we know that several communities with Moravian congregations have been directly impacted, including but not limited to: Kongiganak, Bethel, Napakiak, Kwigillingok, Napaskiak, Kipnuk, Quinhagak, and Tuntutuliak. Damage resulting from wind and flooding is widespread. Hundreds of people from Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, and perhaps other villages were evacuated by the National Guard to Bethel and Anchorage because nearly all homes sustained severe damage. Moravian facilities, such as Bethel Moravian Church and the Moravian Seminary in Bethel, have begun helping those displaced by the storm.

With the guidance of Moravians in Alaska, BWM has contributed an initial \$10,000 to the Western Alaska Disaster Relief 2025 Fund, which was established by local community organizations and regional partners, many of whom were recommended by Moravian contacts. BWM has also contributed \$10,000 to the Alaskan Province for housing displaced people in Moravian facilities in Bethel, including two parsonages and the seminary. Further donations are greatly appreciated to help us continue this response.

100% of donations to MDR go toward providing disaster relief. You can assist us with our disaster response efforts at MoravianMission.org/Give (scan QR code). Designate your gift to "MDR" to ensure funds are directed to the disaster relief efforts with the greatest need.

Please make checks payable to "Board of World Mission" and send to:

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. Include your name and address in the comments section to receive tax receipts.



Racial Justice Team and PEC Will Hold Listening Circles

Rev. Sue Koenig

The members of the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Racial Justice Team (RJT) of the Moravian Church Northern Province are excited to invite congregations to participate in a Province-wide program called *Listening Circles*. Listening Circles have their origin in indigenous cultures; they are not places for debate but are places for expression and community building. The PEC and the RJT believe that listening is integral to the work for justice and healing; and that creating intentional spaces for listening is greatly needed in our time. An initial session of the Listening Circles was held earlier this year, and we received positive feedback from all who participated.

Listening Circles will meet for 90 minutes and follow a program that includes worship, singing, scripture readings, prayer, and reflecting on prepared questions. Congregations will be contacted by a facilitator who will arrange and lead the Listening Circle(s) in your region. We would like to complete the Provincial Listening Circles by February 15, 2026. Congregations are encouraged to plan Listening Circles within their congregation following this initial experience.

We believe the time spent in listening will deepen relationships within and among congregations and their communities and strengthen and build the work of justice and healing. Please receive our gratitude for participating in the Listening Circles. We look forward to hearing feedback from your congregation. For more information, scan the QR code or contact Rev. Sue Koenig, Director of Racial Justice and Healing, suekoenig@mcnp.org.



A Bishop's Musings: December 2025

Bishop Kay Ward

We have begun the beautiful season of Advent, but you already know that. You may already be behind! The stores began their rush to Christmas early in November with pre-Black Friday, Black Friday sales. There has already been a discussion about the appropriate day to begin Christmas Music on the radio (for the few of us who listen to Christmas music on the radio it's never too early). Those of us who have all our shopping done have the boxes all piled up waiting to be wrapped. We may already be a bit cynical about the whole holiday and tired of all the busyness.

Take a breath! I offer here an alternative month of December. The church has already begun its graceful journey to the birth of Christ. Each Sunday of Advent we will find the old, old story told in new ways. Symbols, songs and special liturgies will help us prepare of the coming of the Christ Child. May your journey to Christmas be marked, not with a headlong rush, but a slower, deliberate pace, giving time to reflect and be amazed.

May you giggle with the delight of a child at the sound of sleigh bells and the beauty of a single snowflake.

May it be a time of preparing your heart to welcome the joyous sounds of the seasons and the moments of quiet, recalling the quiet of a holy night.

May you wonder in a new way how Christ will come to you this year.

May you open your heart for Christ to come again.

O come, O come, Immanuel

In the Interprovincial Bishops' meeting at Central Moravian Church in 2024, under the leadership of the late Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon, the idea of Bishops contributing monthly articles to the Moravian Magazine was suggested. Only recently did the suggestion take wings with this being the first of "A Bishop's Musings."

PROVINCIAL ELDERS' CONFERENCES

JOIN CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE MULTI-FAITH GLOBAL LETTER

Rev. Sue Koenig

The Provincial Elders' Conferences of the Moravian Church Northern and Southern Provinces recently signed a Multi-faith Global letter entitled, "Jewish, Christian, and

Muslim Leaders Demand Intervention, Accountability, an End to the Atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, and an End to All Violence." To read the letter, scan the QR code. For questions or to learn more about Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) and their work, contact Rev. Sue Koenig, CMEP Board Representative for the Moravian Church in North America at suekoenig@mcnp.org. For educational resources or updates, visit <https://cmep.org/>



Racial Justice Team Calendar: December 2025

International Migrants Day

The Rev. Sue Koenig serves as Director of Racial Justice and Healing for the MCNP and Pastor of First Moravian Church of Easton, has provided a reflection for use on and around this day. Find the reflection, as well as a bulletin insert, by scanning the QR code. An excerpt of the reflection is included below.

"This year's theme for International Migrants Day is "Honoring the Contributions of Migrants and Respecting Their Rights." This theme is especially significant in a climate of fear. Honoring and respecting the contributions and rights of migrants and acknowledging that migrants have lower crime rates than native born persons, will help reduce the terrible burden of fear carried by many migrants today."

DECEMBER

10 Human Rights Day
18 International Migrant's Day



Ecumenical News

The Moravians hosted Christians Uniting in Christ (CUIC) in Bethlehem, PA November 12-14. Seventeen ecumenical leaders from around the US enjoyed Moravian hospitality and the charm of downtown Bethlehem, while discussing the important work of ecumenism through the lens of young adult education, and how we relate to one another as member communions. Betsy Miller and Mikayla Sauerbrey were the Moravian participants.

The group met on the campus of Central Moravian Church and stayed at the historic Hotel Bethlehem. They were treated to Moravian sugar cake and were given a World Heritage tour by Charlene Donchez Mowers, the driving force of World Heritage Sites-Bethlehem.

Thanks to Janel Rice, Senior Pastor of Central, and the congregation for their hospitality.

The group represents ten denominations: African American Methodist (AME), AME Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Episcopal Church, International Community of Christian Churches, Moravian, Presbyterian (PCUSA), United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church.



Learn About Churches for Middle East Peace “Let Children Live” Campaign

To learn about the campaign visit <https://cmep.org/let-children-live/> a YouTube link for the vigil can be found by scanning the QR code. For more information regarding CMEP, contact Rev. Sue Koenig at suekoenig@mcnp.org, CMEP Board representative for the Moravian Church in North America.



Moravian Music Foundation Updates

Music on the Mountain – March 13-15, 2026 at Laurel Ridge: Relax, Refresh, and Remind Yourself of God's Grace Through Music. Bring the whole family to Music on the Mountain! A Harmonious Retreat for band and choir, and children's music and activities. March 13-15, 2026. Higgins Lodge, Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference & Retreat Center, Laurel Springs, NC. An opportunity to make music together, to worship, to learn, and to enjoy fellowship in a casual mountain setting with cozy accommodations (2 nights) and delicious meals. Learn more and register at MoravianMusic.org (scan QR code).

America 250: As we enter the 250th Anniversary Year (1776-2026) of America's declared independence, you may be interested in presenting the earliest string chamber music composed in America, written in Salem, NC, by Moravian pastor, administrator, and composer, Johann Friedrich Peter (1746-1813) in 1789. The quintets would have been composed for the Salem Collegium Musicum, but actually survive in the Philharmonic Society of Bethlehem (PA) Collection. Peter left no copy in Salem upon his departure in 1790. Six String Quintets | sheet music / score and parts | \$35 for each set of two quintets. MMF also publishes the first string chamber music composed by an American. The Three String Trios by John Antes, Moravian pastor, missionary, composer, and instrument maker, are available from MMF for \$35 per set at MoravianMusic.org.

CDs on Sale: It's a great time to purchase CDs for holiday gifting and MMF is discounting most of its recordings! Choose your favorites at MoravianMusic.org.



Plan Faithfully for the Future

Looking ahead can feel overwhelming, but thoughtful preparation can bring peace of mind and lasting impact. The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is here to help you plan in ways that reflect your faith and values. MMFA offers free resources and personal support to help you:



Want to support your church?

Moravian Ministries Foundation can help!

- Make a tax-free gift
- Make a gift that pays you back
- Avoid taxation on your IRA
- Make a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime

MMFA.com | 336.725.2589 | 119 Brookstown Avenue, Suite 305, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

- Establish gifts that provide income now and benefit ministry later
- Maximize tax advantages for you and your loved ones
- Transfer stock or retirement assets as charitable gifts
- Create a plan that reflects your values and faith

To learn more, visit MMFA.com and reach out to Chris Spaugh, MMFA President & CEO: cspaugh@mmfa.com.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Rose Nehring | 19 James Heroux |
| 4 Cynthia Rader Geyer | 20 Rita Schaffstall |
| 6 Nancy Nelson | 21 Timothy Naisby |
| 7 Marie Morman | 25 Charles Harewood |
| 7 Wanda Weidman | 27 Bonnie Robertson |
| 9 David Geyer | 27 Eileen Edwards |
| 11 Duane Ullrich | 28 Darrell Johnson |
| 11 Jeffrey Gehris | 28 John McCarthy |
| 13 Keith Dague | 28 Ostomy Matthew |
| 13 Bruce Nelson | 29 Lauren Schafer |
| 14 Carole Johnson | 29 Janice Coffing |
| 18 Donald Michaels | 30 M. Blair Couch |
| 18 Nasel Ephraim | 31 Gregg Schafer |
| 19 Jon Gehler | |

Ordination Anniversaries

- 1 Amy Gohdes-Luhman (29 years)
- 1 Rebecca Sisley (12 years)
- 11 Wanda Weidman (42 years)
- 11 Gerald Harris (48 years)
- 14 Robert Grey (67 years)
- 18 William Surber (48 years)
- 27 Staci Marrese-Wheeler (33 years)
- 27 Aden Ward (55 years)

Churches Celebrating Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4 Berea, St. Charles, MN (151 years) | 25 Advent, Bethlehem, PA (163 years) |
| 6 Common Grace, Madison, WI (4 years) | 25 Mount Bethel, Cana, VA (173 years) |
| 11 College Hill, Bethlehem, PA (138 years) | 27 First, Dover, OH (277 years) |
| 19 Lebanon, Pennsylvania (278 years) | 27 First, New York, NY (277 years) |
| 21 Lake Mills, WI (169 years) | 31 First, Riverside, NJ (160 years) |
| 22 Freedom, Appleton, WI (159 years) | 31 Schoenbrunn, New Philadelphia, OH (78 years) |

Prayer Concerns

Obituaries

The Rev. Floyd Peterson

The Rev. Floyd Peterson, father of the Revs. Robert and Jon Peterson entered the immediate presence of the Lord on September 15, 2025. Brother Floyd served congregations in both the Northern and Southern provinces including Palmer Township in Easton, PA and Downey Moravian in CA. Floyd was also the founding pastor of St. Paul's Moravian in upper Marlboro, MD and Redeemer Moravian in Winter Park, FL. After service in the Moravian Church, Floyd served the Presbyterian Church USA. A funeral service for Brother Peterson was held at Macedonia Moravian Church, Advance, NC on Saturday, September 20 at 2:00 pm. Interment followed at Bixby Presbyterian Church in Advance.

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey | • First, New York, New York |
| • Canaan, Davenport, North Dakota | • Great Kills, Staten Island, New York |
| • Castleton Hill, Staten Island, New York | • Heimtal, Edmonton, Alberta |
| • Central, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania | • Lebanon, Pennsylvania |
| • Chaska, Minnesota | • Lititz, Pennsylvania |
| • Christ, Calgary, Alberta | • Sharon, New Philadelphia, Ohio |
| • Christian Faith, Deforest, Wisconsin | • Shepherd of the Prairie, Fargo, North Dakota |
| • Daggett, Michigan | • St. Paul's, Upper Marlboro, Maryland |
| • Ephraim, Wisconsin | • Tremont Terrace, Bronx, New York |
| • Faith of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC | • Veedum, Pittsville, Wisconsin |
| • First, Dover, Ohio | |

The Eastern District

Moravian Church in America

Northern Province



Calvary Moravian Church: Answering the Call to Refugee Care

Written by Rev. Mikayla Sauerbrey, Pastor of Calvary Moravian Church

Story shared by Hank Naisby, Eastern District Executive Board Member, Lehigh Valley South



In early 2025, Pastor Mikayla Sauerbrey of Calvary Moravian Church in Allentown, PA, received a call from Rev. Sue Konig, Director of Racial Justice and Healing for the MCNP, inviting Calvary to partner with a long-standing Allentown ministry serving the local refugee community after executive orders severely restricted the US Refugee Admissions Program. Moved by what Pastor Mikayla describes as the work of the Holy Spirit, and despite having no prior experience in refugee care, the congregation boldly said yes. Since March, Calvary has been walking alongside a Syrian family as they make their home in Allentown. The ministry, led by two dedicated members, David Venditta and Jessica Jenkins, and supported by many others through transportation, job searches, medical appointments, and more, has been a rewarding journey for all. With guidance from Mending Together, a Minnesota-based nonprofit specializing in trauma-informed refugee care, this ministry has deeply impacted all involved. Calvary remains committed to showing up for their neighbors and trusting the Holy Spirit to guide their steps.

As both David and Jessica reflected on what this ministry has meant to them, they had these comments to share:

"I am so proud of this family and how hard they have been working to acclimate to life in a new country. I also reflect on how this experience has affected my life. The way my world has expanded has become one of the most rewarding experiences. I have seen changes in my willingness to give of myself, to give my time, to expand my world view and I have been challenged to become aware of and examine my biases. This family has taught me the importance in slowing down in our ultra-fast paced culture." – Jessica Jenkins

"The Syrian family I've come to know is easygoing, kind and generous. I consider them my friends. They've taught me to appreciate the culture of their homeland and their courage in adopting a country so different from their own. They've faced major hurdles in going from Arabic to English, getting jobs and navigating the American bureaucracy. But when I'm able to help them, even in the smallest ways, I'm warmed by their gratitude and the belief I'm doing God's work. Our hard-pressed refugees would have an easier path if more churches would stand up for them as Calvary has. In light of the Trump administration's cruel crackdown on immigrants, the need is urgent." – David Venditta

Moravian Music Foundation Eastern District Opportunities

Monday Morning Music: a musical moment with Kyle Johnston at the keyboard – Mondays, 10am
Start your week off with your favorite hymns! Join Kyle Johnston every Monday morning as he plays through a variety of hymns from multiple sources. Hear old favorites, discover new favorites, and relax to the sound of classic hymns at home, in your office, or on your commute. Recordings are available now on the MMF YouTube Channel.

Monthly (South Side) Shape-Note Sing (Lehigh Valley Shape-Note Singers) 6:00-8:00 (Every 4th Tuesday)
Come join Kyle Johnston and the Lehigh Valley Shape Note Singers in learning to sing an authentic, historic American style of singing. Singers of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Godfrey Daniels in Bethlehem.

Senior High Winter Retreat at Camp Hope

Get ready to escape everyday life and dive deep into faith at our annual Senior High Winter Retreat!

This incredible Christian-oriented weekend is designed specifically for students in grades 9 through 12 looking for connection, spiritual growth, and unforgettable winter fun. Join us from January 16 to January 18 at Camp Hope for inspiring worship sessions, engaging small group discussions, and plenty of time for activities. It's the perfect opportunity to unplug from the noise, strengthen your relationship with Christ, and build lasting friendships. Don't miss out on this life-changing experience. Scan the QR Code to register!



Prayer & Lay Leadership: A Three-Part Educational Webinar Series

Deepen your prayer life. Strengthen your leadership. Enrich your community. Join us for an inspiring three-part online series designed to help lay leaders and church members explore how prayer shapes and sustains both personal faith and congregational life. Each interactive webinar offers a distinct perspective on prayer—its theology, creativity, and leadership in community—guided by gifted Moravian educators and leaders. **Participants are welcome to attend one session, two, or the entire series**—each webinar stands on its own while also building toward a fuller understanding of prayer in the life of the church.

Session 1: The Heart of Prayer | Rev. Dr. Jennika Eckhaus and Pastor Theresa Fisher | January 28, 7pm ET

Join us for an engaging webinar that explores the foundations of prayer and its various expressions. Together we'll look at different types of prayer and examine how each can deepen our spiritual lives. Participants will learn simple, practical ways to begin or enrich their own prayer practice. Whether you're new to prayer or seeking renewal, this session offers guidance, reflection, and space to connect with God in meaningful ways.

Session 2: Preparing Meaningful Devotions | February 24, 7pm ET

Have you ever been asked to offer devotions at the start of a gathering? Do you lead a group and hope to offer spiritual grounding and guidance for your time together? Learn practical approaches and resources for creating meaningful moments of prayer and connection that begin meetings in a positive way—engaging both the senses and the spirit.

Session 3: Prayers for Worship | March 25, 7pm ET

Have you wondered about the difference between a pastoral prayer, an intercessory prayer, and an invocation? What words might you use to craft an offertory prayer during worship? Join this session to explore the different types and purposes of prayer within the worship service. Consider practical ways to create and offer prayers that help people connect with God and one another in the worship setting.

- **Who Should Attend:** Lay leaders, worship assistants, educators, musicians, and anyone seeking to deepen their understanding and practice of prayer.
- **Format:** 90-minute live webinars via Zoom. (Registration details coming soon)
- **Hosted by:** The Eastern District Executive Board



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



Western District Compass Grants

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of the late Rt. Rev. Wil Behrend, the Western District Executive Board is pleased to offer \$300 grants to members of Western District congregations to take an online lay ministry course through the Compass Program of Moravian Theological Seminary.

Grants will be distributed upon completion of requested course. Please scan the QR Code for more information on how to apply.



Western District Congregational Highlights

The Watertown Moravian Church in Watertown WI recently completed a new lift and vestibule to make their facilities more welcoming and accessible. The addition was dedicated on November 30th. To learn more about the addition, go to www.watertownmoravian.org or visit them on Facebook.

The Chaska Moravian Church in Chaska MN recently celebrated the opening of the Carver County Family Resource Center in the church's CE wing and fellowship hall. The congregation is partnering with the organization "A Better Society" to help connect families to resources like for housing, food, parenting education, and more. To learn more, go to www.carvercountyfrc.org, www.chaskamoravian.org, or visit them on Facebook.

The Lake Mills Moravian Church in Lake Mills WI recently opened a day care center in their church facilities called the Joyful Hearts Learning Center. This was created to help meet a need for child care in their community. To learn more, go to www.joyfulheartlearningcenter.org, www.lakemillsmoravianchurch.org, or visit them on Facebook.

Western District Board Strategic Plan

The Western District Executive Board recently completed a strategic plan and distributed it to all pastors and Joint Boards in our District. This is in response to guiding legislation from our 2024 Western District Synod and provides a roadmap for how we seek to offer support and leadership in the years ahead. To read a copy of our this plan, you can talk to your pastor or Joint Board members, or visit the Western District page on www.Moravian.org.
