



"WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER"

December, 2025
January, 2026

STURGEON BAY MORAVIAN CHURCH
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2025 CONGREGATIONAL WATCHWORD: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people from this time on and forevermore. Psalm 125:2

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

December 7	Worship - 10:30 am / Communion (Advent Workshop following worship.)	January 4	Worship / Watchwords - 10:30 am
December 14	Worship - 10:30 am Children's Program - 4:30 pm	January 11	Worship - 10:30 am
December 21	Worship - 10:30 am	January 18	Worship - 10:30 am Church Council following worship
December 24	Christmas Eve Service - 4:00 & 7:00 pm	January 25	Worship - 10:30 am
December 28	Worship - 10:30 am		
December 31	Silent Communion - 5:30 to 6:30 pm		

Beloved Congregation,

Advent and Christmas are upon us and here are some updates and reminders.

Christmas Eve Services are at 4:00 and 7:00 pm:

Last year we had 700 in attendance at our two services! This means we need your help. **If you are a 4 pm attendee we would like to invite you to consider trying the 7 pm service.** We are beyond max capacity at 4 pm as we have so many non-members who attend then. It would be a great help to make more room for visitors by coming to the 7 pm service. As always we need candle servers and ushers for the services, so please consider signing up by filling out the bulletin insert, going online @ www.sbmoravian.org under the 'Events' tab, or emailing the office at sbmc@sbmoravian.org.

Children's Christmas Program is December 14 at 4:30 pm:

Our new Christmas program has been a huge hit over the past couple of years. You don't want to miss our kids acting out the Christmas Story. The sheep and the Wizards are definitely worth coming out to see!

New Years Eve Silent Communion, December 31, from 5:30-6:30 pm:

I encourage you to come to this special worship experience if you have never done it before. The sanctuary is open for you to simply come and sit quietly in the beauty of our Christmas decorations. It is a great opportunity to reflect on the past year and pray for the coming one. You can stay for just a few moments or for as long as you wish. You also have the opportunity to choose your watchword for 2026 and take Holy Communion if you so desire.

Financial Update:

As we come to the end of the year and other organizations in the community are seeking your support, we ask you to remember your church family as well. It is your end of the year giving that usually puts us across the finish line and gives us a strong start for the coming year. As we come to the end of the year we are being challenged by inflation and the fact that our congregation is growing again which means more programming and more expenses! Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to do to financially support the church so we will enter 2026 strong and ready to serve the Lord as we are called!

A Celebration for Reeder and Barb:

At the end of December Reeder is truly retiring. As he steps away from his long and faithful service to our congregation you are invited to join us for a celebration lunch in the dining room immediately following worship on his last Sunday, which is December 28. I would also encourage you to sit down and write a card, letter or email expressing your gratitude. Reeder and Barb will, of course, continue to be with us, please welcome them to the "view from the pew" and thank them for all that they have done.

Pastor Knapp

CALENDAR

- **Wed. Night Youth Fellowship:**
Rams (Gr.1-5) 4:30 - 5:30
Middle & High School Fellowship 5:30 - 7:00
- **Coffee Hus:** Sundays, 9:30 am
- **Sunday School:** 9:30 - 10:15 am
- **Tuesday Bible Study** 8:15 am.
- **Faith Circle:** Dec. 9, 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Room
- **Church Quilting Group:** Dec.10 - none on the 24th.
- **Women's Bible Study Wednesday's** 6:00 to 7:00
- **Discipleship Retreat** - Jan. 2, 3 & 4, 2026
- **Church Council** - Jan. 18, 2026 following service.

**Board Meetings**

Joint Board Meeting	12/15/2025	6:30 pm
Joint Board Meeting w/District Board	1/26/2026	6:30 pm

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The office will be closed Dec. 24, 25 & 26 and from Dec. 31 to Jan. 5.

No Youth Groups: December 17, 24 & 31

We will be caroling on the 17th @ 6:00 pm.

No Sunday School December 21 & 28

No Bible Study: December 23.

No Women's Bible Study: December 17, 24 or 31 - resume January 7.

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY**In Our Prayers**

Please keep the family & friends of Joyce Schranz in your prayers. Joyce passed away in Green Bay on November 10, 2025. Visitation is Friday, November 21 from 3-5 pm at Huehn's Funeral Home. Joyce's Memorial Service will be held at Shiloh Moravian Church on November 22, 2025 at 11 am with Pastor Knapp officiating.

Baptism: Bennett Troy Hank, son of Eli & Mikayla Hank, born in Sturgeon Bay on May 4, 2025, was baptized on November 16, 2025 by Pastor Knapp. Bennett is the grandson of Robert Hank and Diane Wiegand Hank and Troy Franda and Andrea Wipperfurth. His sponsors are Tiffany Kelsey and Lance Nelson.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

In this season of welcoming the Christ child your church staff wishes to offer you our thanks. We are so grateful for this 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, Karen, and Kim, 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.

Pastor Matt



Thank you to everyone who filled a box for a needy child. These are now on their way to deserving children around the world. Our thanks to Amy Stephens for spearheading this effort and to everyone who generously donated money, went shopping or put together a box of needed and fun items for these children!

Holiday Events

December:

Advent Lunch & Workshop - December 7, following worship.

Children's Program - December 14, 4:30 pm - Join us for this special service held by our youth.

Christmas Caroling Party - December 17, 6:00 pm - You won't want to miss this opportunity to bring some Christmas cheer to some of our senior and shut in members. We will gather in the church dining room at 6:00 pm. From there we will go out and sing and then return for hot chocolate and fellowship. This event is for people of all ages.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services - December 24 - 4:00 & 7:00 pm services

Sign up to serve candles by contacting the church office: 920-743-6218 or bongle@sbmoravian.org or online at www.sbmoravian.org under the 'Events' tab.

Please call the office if you wish to usher on Christmas Eve.

Silent Communion - December 31 - 5:30 to 6:30 pm

January:

Watchwords - January 4

Church Council - January 18 - following worship - Please plan on attending our annual church council which 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 business of our congregation. It is important for all members to participate in this gathering as an opportunity to be informed about our ministry, participate in choosing leadership and to make your voice heard.

Moravian Stars:

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Lighted 12" Star	\$17.00
Lighted 21" Star	\$20.00
Glass Star Ornament	\$10.00 (clear iridescent, sapphire blue, white opal, purple)



CHRISTMAS EVE REMINDERS:

- ◇ Members please fill up the courthouse parking lot first so our visitors and guests will find it easier to get into worship.
- ◇ You cannot reserve seats. Please plan on arriving early with your party if you wish to be seated together.
- ◇ We have overflow seating in the basement with viewing via our close circuit television .

POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas in memory of or in honor of a special person, please complete the form below and return it with your payment of \$23.00 to the church office. You can also go to our website under 'Online Forms' and fill out an order form there with payment @ www.sbmoravian.org.

The plant is yours and we invite you to take it home after the 7:00 service on December 24 or after worship on December 28.

Orders must be received, with payment, no later than December 7.

Purchaser's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Quantity:** _____

Plants are acknowledged in our Christmas Eve Bulletin in this fashion:

- ☐ "Given in Loving Memory of" --or--
☐ "In honor of"

Name/names _____

Person or family giving the plant: _____

Mission trip to Ahuas, Honduras

Door County Medical Center will be sending a team of clinical and non-clinical volunteers to the clinic in Ahuas, Honduras. The trip is tentatively scheduled for the week of April 19 - 26, 2026. Anyone with a heart to serve others is qualified and anyone is welcome to participate. Please scan the QR code or the link attached for more information that was recently offered at the initial meeting. Please contact Brian Stephens at brian.stephens@dcmedical.org with any questions.

https://youtu.be/OskIA7vMMLI?si=Z6IL-l_di4BSiHvL



Moravian Disaster Response to Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica

There is ongoing need for relief after the devastating hurricane in Jamaica. The Board of World Missions asks that Moravians in North America respond to the disaster through BWM channels to help them facilitate a coordinated response. This enables them to prepare for North American mission teams to assist in the recovery efforts when the Moravian Church in Jamaica is ready to receive the teams.

100% of donations to the BWM, MDR (Moravian Disaster Response) fund go toward providing relief for these disasters. You can assist them with the disaster response efforts at <https://www.moravian.org/mission/give> or scan the attached QR code. Designate "MDR" to ensure funds are directed to the disaster relief efforts with the greatest need. Please make checks payable to "Board of World Mission" (with MDR in memo) to Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Also include name and address in the comments section to receive tax receipts if applicable.



Dinner with Friends, an Opportunity to Serve

There was a lot of sadness for many of us when Loaves and Fishes had to cease during COVID. Since then our friends at Bayview Lutheran have picked up the torch and have been offering a community meal program once a month called **Dinner with Friends**. As we well know, the need for this is great and they are at the point that they need our help!

They offer a dine-in meal service & carry out that starts at 4:30 and goes until 6 pm on **the second Saturday of the month**, which means the next meal will be December 13th.

This meal, like Loaves and Fishes is free. Typically they have 10 take out and 30 in the church dining room, but a large portion of what they do is delivery. They have been delivering about 100-110 meals each month, mostly shut ins, families with small kids, and the elderly who don't want to drive.

They need:

- people to prep foods on Fridays
- people to deliver meals
- people to serve at the dine-in
- people to help cook.

Our Board of Trustees recently gave them a gift of financial support to encourage this good work they are doing! If you feel called to help, you can call the Bayview church cell phone at 920-256-5704 and leave a message. Nancy Ruff, their coordinator, will get back to you. This is an incredible opportunity for ecumenical partnership that we so deeply value as a congregation. Thank you - Pastor Knapp

In Days of Old, In Various Ways...God Spoke - An Advent Devotion Booklet

Available in the Narthex is a 25 day devotional booklet, for Advent until Christmas, with daily devotions presented by local pastors in Door & Kewaunee Counties including Bishop Graf and Pastor Knapp. Please pick one up while they last.

