



The Prairie Star

News from Bethel and Goshen Moravian



August 2024

Notes from the Parsonage

This month my reflection is very personal. As they used to tell us in the Army, "Bottom line up front." So here is my bottom line.

I MADE A MISTAKE. The great benefit of being your Pastor is your care for me. No my mistake in the big picture was rather small but in my enthusiasm going to my annual family reunion I prepared them, printed them, but simply forgot to drop the bulletins off in my haste to leave town.

For this I apologize. Another Army thing we were taught was, "Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your action." That is what I am doing. Having prepared some 400 plus bulletins it is still unsatisfactory in my ethic for something like this to happen. You continue to walk with me as I serve you and I know you are praying for me.

On another very important subject it came to my attention that the gossip column said I was planning on retiring. Let me give you today's response so that all of you may understand where I am at in my process. When the subject has come up in conversation with some of you my thoughts were, "God hasn't released my yet." So today I am not planning to retire. With Pastor Eric moving in the fall I feel it is my duty as the only minister serving in the Moravian community that for the time being I need to keep serving you. My contract with you, the Western District and the Northern Province renews annually so any decision made by any of the Province, District, Boards, Congregations or myself is addressed annually.

Today I am staying. How long is in God's hand. Will I renew for 2026, most likely as I have the past 7 years. We pray as a family. We pray for Canaan and Shepherd and God's minister will join our community in His time. Call me, email me, button hole me. I am at your service

Serving Him and Serving you,

Pastor Joel

Mission Moments



"MIA: Mission in Action" Moravian Youth Convo 2025 in Miami, Florida, was an incredible week of fellowship, learning, worship, and fun with participants and staff from Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad, Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, and Wisconsin. Program and worship times were led by the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber, the Rev. Brian Dixon, Acolyte Monique Richards, and BWM staff members.

We had the blessing to visit both New Hope Moravian Church and Prince of Peace Moravian Church, as well as other local sites, including South Beach, the Everglades, and the Marlins stadium (for a Miami Marlins vs. Milwaukee Brewers game!). Much of our free time, program time, and worship time was spent sharing songs, activities, and experiences from our home areas, so that participants left with new resources to use as they step into leadership roles.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported this event by assisting with the planning, traveling to be on staff, and welcoming us as we arrived in Florida.

Women's Circle

The Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 2:00 pm at the Goshen church.



WANTED



DAY CAMPERS



Goshen Moravian Church is looking for a few good campers who have completed grades Preschool - Grade 5. Any youth above that age are encouraged to register as a convicted youth leader.

August 5-7, 2025

12 NOON - 5 PM

Starting with GRUB at 12 noon.

NAME:

Everyone &
Friends

AGE:

Completed PK - 5

HEIGHT:

Bible Stories, no
tall tales.

BUILD:

Games & Crafts &
Friends

BRING:

A white t-shirt.
A FRIEND!
\$5.00 registration



UNIQUE MARKS

Last seen
wearing a
white spin art
t-shirt with a
whale on it.

Register Here



[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/LEYB7ERHJW6FQSW66](https://forms.gle/LEYB7ERHJW6FQSW66)



REWARD FOR BRINGING A FRIEND



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

PLEASE CALL 701-238-4717