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Growing Faith, Sharing Hope, Living Love!

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Christmas Family Lovefeast

“LIFT” Sunday

(Living In Faith Together)

10:30 a.m.

*Enter expectantly, pray reverently, greet each other warmly,
listen thoughtfully, sing joyfully, and leave faithfully.*

Chief Elder and Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Pastors: Rev. Mark V. Breland, Rev. Sayward E. G. Lippincott
Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell
Trombone Choir & Handbell Choir Director: Marilyn Winfield
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Allyson Miller
Lay Ministry Assistant: Greg Bomberger
Office Manager: Courtney Hackman
Administrative Assistant: Jaime Weik
Sexton: Josh Bailey
Custodian and Security: Dan Turnbull
Treasurer: Barbara McKenney
Financial Secretary: Mary Sweger
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**Stand, if you are able.*

Prayer for Meditation:

Eternal God of Power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways - in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead - show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude:

Trombone Choir

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting

Due to Covid and flu concerns, it's okay not to shake hands. Just greet your neighbor with a smile, a word of greeting, fist or elbow bump. Please pass prayer request cards to the aisle for the ushers during the first hymn. Please sign the Friendship Register and pass it through the pew. Please see an Usher or Sacristan if you would like: headphones to assist the hearing-impaired, large print bulletins, walker, wheelchair, or activity bags to help busy young children.

Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgy 2024; Fourth Sunday (see insert)

LIFT Worship Leader

***Hymn: 274**

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

Shared Joys and Concerns and Prayer

LIFT Worship Leader

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

LIFT Worship Leader

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



Children's Chat Hymn: 268

How Shall I Meet You, Jesus?

Children's Chat for Children of All Ages: Overlooked

Pastor Sayward Lippincott

Joyful Noise Offering: You Belong

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory Anthem: *Jesus the Light of the World*

George Elderkin

*Hark! the Herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the Light of the world.*

*Refrain: We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.*

*Joyful all ye nations rise, Jesus, the Light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain.*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord, Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain.*

*Hail! The heaven-born Prince of peace, Jesus, the Light of the world;
Hail! The Son of righteousness, Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain.*

***Offertory Response: 817**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Offertory Prayer**

LIFT Worship Leader



“For unto us
a child is born”

Isaiah 9:6



Christmas Family Lovefeast

The lovefeast is served during the following hymns.

Hymn: 266

(Tune: Advent [©] *Dosia Carlson*)

People in darkness are looking for light,
Come, come, come Jesus Christ;
People with blindness are longing for sight,
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
Are days for the advent of Love.

People with sickness are praying for health,
Come, come, come Jesus Christ;
People in poverty want to have wealth,
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
Are days for the advent of Hope.

People in trouble would like to be free,
Come, come, come Jesus Christ;
People with arguments want to agree,
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
Are days for the advent of Peace.

People in sorrow are yearning to sing,
Come, come, come Jesus Christ;
People in misery want bells to ring,
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
Are days for the advent of Joy.

Hymn: 297

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.



Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Hymn: 301

Cradle Song

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Hymn: 285

Jesu, rufe mich

Jesus, call thou me from the world to thee;
Speed me ever, stay me never; Jesus, call thou me.

Not Jerusalem—lowly Bethlehem
'Twas that gave us Christ to save us; not Jerusalem.

Favored Bethlehem! Honored is that name;
Thence came Jesus to release us; favored Bethlehem!

Wondrous Child divine! Warm this heart of mine;
Keep it burning, for thee yearning, wondrous Child divine!



Hymn: 290

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Chorus*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought. *Chorus*

Grace before partaking of the Lovefeast.

The Moravian Blessing (spoken):

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be,
and bless these gifts bestowed by Thee;
Bless our loved ones everywhere,
and keep them in thy loving care. Amen



Choir anthems sung while partaking of the Lovefeast.

Prepare the Way

Robert Powell

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill be made low.
The crooked made straight and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.*

Isaiah 40: 3-5

Love Came Down at Christmas

John Rutter

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas; Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token; Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.*

Christina Georgina Rossetti



The cups are collected during the following hymns.

Hymn: 291

In dulci jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Hymn: 305

Greensleeves

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus: This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him. *Chorus*



Hymn: 283

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;

Chorus: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God, glory in the highest; *Chorus*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Chorus*

Hymn: 293

Regent Square

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Chorus: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th' eternal Three in One. *Chorus*



Antiphonal Hymn: 281

Hagen

(Soloists, Congregation)

*Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!*
**Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!**
*Jesus mine, In me shine; In me shine, Jesus mine;
Fill my heart with light divine.*

*Morning Star, thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light.*
**Morning Star, thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light.**
*Jesus be, constantly, constantly, Jesus be,
More than thousand suns to me.*

*Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far.*
**Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far.**
*Thee we own, Lord alone, Lord alone, thee we own,
Our great Savior, God's dear Son.*

*Morning Star, my soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my night.*
**Morning Star, my soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my night.**
*Jesus mine, In me shine; In me shine, Jesus mine;
Fill my heart with light divine.*



Hymn: 294

Antioch

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing,

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

***Hymn: 543**

Bechler

Sing hallelujah, Christ doth live, our light forever more;
The Prince of Peace all glory give, His blessed Name adore;
With kings of old, your homage pay
To Him who in a manger lay;
With Judah's shepherds, bring again the angel's song to men.

Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord! Sing with a cheerful voice;
Exalt our God with one accord, and in His name rejoice.
Ne'er cease to sing, thou ransomed host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
Until in realms of endless light your praises shall unite.

***Benediction**

Postlude: *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Tune: "Personet Hodie" from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
Arr., Gustav Holst

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Serving Today:

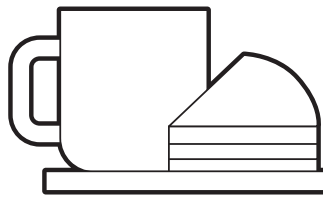
Sacristan: Bob Turgyan

Head Usher: Tim Hartel

Scripture Reader: LIFT Worship Leader

Sound Booth Personnel: Wayne Wolf





THE MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST

The Lovefeast became a cherished part of Moravian worship after the spiritual renewal of August 13, 1727. On that day, in the context of shared worship and meals, Moravians rediscovered a sense of Christian unity and Fellowship which had been threatened by personal hostilities and doctrinal disputes.

Though the meal has been simplified, Moravians and their guests still experience the blessings of Christian fellowship as they share hymns of praise over coffee and sweetened buns. Because the Lovefeast has no sacramental significance, it provides an ideal forum for celebrating Christian unity in a world where doctrinal disputes still fracture Christ's church.

THE SERVING OF THE LOVEFEAST

The female dieners (servers) will bring a basket of sweet buns to each row. The person on the aisle receives the basket and passes it to (but not over) the divider. Each person is invited to take a napkin and a bun as the basket returns.

The male dieners (servers) will then bring trays of beverages to each row. There is usually a choice of chocolate milk or decaffeinated coffee (unsweetened, with half-and-half). Please inform the person on the aisle of your beverage preference. Worshippers wait until all have been served and we have shared in the blessing. Thereafter worshippers partake of the Lovefeast while the choir provides the ministry of music. Later, servers will return to collect the mugs while the worship continues.



Watchnight Service

New Year's Eve at Lititz Moravian Church

Tuesday, December 31st at 7:30 p.m.

Pick a personal 2025 watchword.
Choose a favorite hymn for hymn sing.
Putz showing following the service.



Calm Space for Families

“IT’S OKAY TO TAKE A BREAK”

**If you need to step away from worship,
please use our Outlook Library.**

**You will be able to see worship on the TV.
There is a bathroom located in the room as well.**

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE SIGNS
OR ASK ONE OF OUR SACRISTANS
FOR ASSISTANCE.**

Being A Christian Citizen: A Bible study for our time

This Bible Study uses the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (MCCL), Chapter 4, “The Witness of the Christian Citizen,” and related scriptures as outline for the five, one-hour sessions:



January 9, 16, 23, 30
February 6

at 7 pm in the Outlook Library
located in the Church Building, 2nd floor.

The use of this study has been encouraged by the Provincial Elders Conference and the Bishops. The Bishops of the Northern and Southern Province wrote, “We, the bishops...reviewed this Bible Study produced by the NP Racial Justice Team and together we recommend the use of this study be considered in the congregations of the Northern and Southern Province.”

If you have questions about this study,
talk to Pastor Mark.

The leadership of this study is the
Church In Society Committee.

Moravian Open Door

Moravian Open Door (MOD) has provided transitional housing for homeless adults in Manhattan, NYC, since 1987. This ministry offers 40 residents a safe, affordable place to live, along with breakfast and supportive social services to help them secure jobs, benefits, and permanent housing. Residents pay a small monthly fee, which covers only 50% of the facility's costs; the rest is funded through donations from individuals, congregations, and private sources, as MOD receives no government funding. This Advent season, contributions are encouraged to support this vital ministry.

Our vigil offerings go to support Moravian Open Door or Donate Below



Moravian Open Door
347 E. 18th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003
www.moravianhouse.org

Congregational Watchword for 2024:
 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 Psalm 23:1

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember in your prayers this week all of our nursing home residents and shut-ins at home.

Please remember in your prayers:

Serving our country in the military:

Lt. Col. Neal Miller, Army;
 Sgt. Jason Stoner, Army Reserves;
 Lt. Dain Bomberger, US Navy;
 Major Andrew Kemp;
 Staff Sgt. Austin Heacock;
 Lance Corporal Shawn Stauffer, US Marine Corps

Prayers of Healing for:

Barry Erb
 Dick Martin
 Harry Lefever
 Chad Hostetter
 Jonathan Yerger
 Jeff Bamberger
 Joy Sawyer
 Cynthia Good
 Pastor Dean Jurgen
 Meda Hostetter
 Jeff Elser

Pastoral Visitation:

Please contact Pastor Mark or Pastor Sayward to schedule a pastoral visit for yourself or family members.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Completed Month of November

	2023	2024
Tithes & Offerings	\$50,119	\$60,382
General Fund Other Income	\$530	\$716
General Fund Expenses	\$51,344	\$48,980
Net Income	\$(696)	\$12,118

YTD Through the Month of November

	2023	2024
Tithes & Offerings	\$542,136	\$531,572
General Fund Other Income	\$77,244	\$76,357
General Fund Expense	\$642,026	\$611,007
Net Income	(\$22,646)	(\$3,079)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship Service; Christmas Family Lovefeast with Joyful Noise

No Sunday School Classes - All Ages

5:00 p.m. Vigil Service (admission card required)

Monday, December 23, 2024

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve

8:30 a.m. Tai Chi Easy- Dance Studio

9:00 a.m. Quilting - Nursery

5:00 p.m. Vigil Service (admission card required)

7:30 p.m. Vigil Service (admission card required)



Wednesday, December 25, 2024 -
Office Closed

*Merry
Christmas*

Thursday, December 26, 2024

7:00 p.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 27, 2024

9:00 a.m. Beginner Community Yoga - Fellowship Hall



Saturday, December 28, 2024

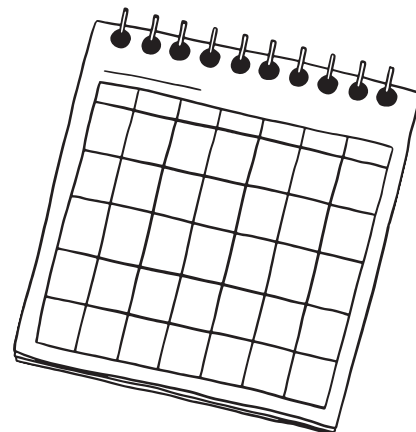
10:00 a.m. Random Acts of Kindness

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Putz Viewings

Sunday, December 29, 2024

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols Worship Services

9:15 a.m. Keeping Holy Time Sunday School Class (only) - Eschbach Parlor



God's Feet on Earth

Some time ago a friend commented that when she was growing up, she never had a sense that Jesus' feet touched the ground—that is, that Jesus was really human, as you and I are.

As I write this in late summer, I can see lots of feet—in sandals, in flip-flips, perhaps barefoot in yards. On Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, many families gather barefoot around a tree. Feet may help us understand Christmas.

Jesus lived in a different century, in a small country far away. But he lived a real human life. His ministry was not settled in one place. He told stories about daily life, especially about things growing. He associated with all sorts of people, rich and poor, healthy and sick. And his feet needed to be washed (Luke 7:44). He died naked, with nails in his feet, in a public execution, comparable to lynchings of persons of color in the United States.

Christmas is a celebration that God, the loving Creator of the universe, has come to us in human form, has placed feet on our human-mismanaged planet, to call us back to God, the God to whom we really belong, to whom we are made to relate, and in whose loving service we live our fullest lives.

Hermann Weinlick, retired pastor, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Moravian Church

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 22, 2024

