



8 Church Square, Lititz, PA 17543 Church Office: 717-626-8515 office@lititzmoravian.org Website: www.lititzmoravian.org

Mission Statement: Growing Faith, Sharing Hope, Living Love!

September 7, 2025 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 a.m. and 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
Treasurer: Barbara McKenney

Financial Secretary: Mary Sweger Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

*Stand, if you are able.

Thought for Meditation: "There are no crown-bearers in heaven that were not cross-bearers here below." -Charles Spurgeon

Prelude: Largo Henri Eccles

Welcome, Announcements and Greeting

Due to 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. If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to scan the QR code on the 'Connect Card' located on the cover of the Friendship Register. We are so glad you are here! 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.

*Call to Worship: (Leader / Congregation)

We find it easy to say, "Yes, we will follow Christ."

But sometimes discipleship makes uncomfortable demands on us.

Yet, in all of this, Christ calls us continually to follow.

He is present with us at all times.

Let us place our trust always in his guidance.

Let us open our hearts to his will and his ways. AMEN.

*Hymn: Earth and All Stars (see page 4 of bulletin)

Liturgy for Education: Page 127

Shared Joys and Concerns & Prayer

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

(10:30 a.m.) Children's Chat Hymn: 467 All Things Bright and Beautiful

(10:30 a.m.) Children's Chat Pastor Sayward Lippincott

*Hymn: 664 Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

Message: A Cross-Bearer Attitude Pastor Sayward Lippincott

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Anthem: The Wise May Bring Their Learning

Tyrolese Carol, Arr. Melvin West

Text may be found at MBW #658

*Offertory Response: 657 (v.1) We Give You But Your Own

Offering Prayer

*Hymn: 758 "Take Up Your Cross", the Savior Said

Benediction

Postlude: Rigaudon André Campra

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Serving Today:

Sacristan: (8:00 a.m.) Don Stoner (10:30 a.m.) Matt Good

Head Usher: Russ Weidman

Scripture Readers: (8:00 a.m.) Pastor Sayward Lippincott

(10:30 a.m.) Ellen McQueen

Sound Booth Personnel: Wayne Wolf

Nursery: Priscilla Stoner, Allyson Miller & Linden Hall Volunteers

Earth and All Stars



Words: Herbert F. Brokering (b. 1926) Music: Earth and All Stars, David N. Johnson (b. 1922) Words, Music: Copyright © Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Marking The Moment: Pastor Mark's Retirement

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Pastor Mark's final worship service will be on Sunday, October 19th at 10:30 a.m.

Please note there will be only one worship service on this day, followed by a catered luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Please share your memories and/or photos
of Pastor Mark during his faithful ministry here at LMC.
We will use your memories as part
of the retirement celebration for Pastor Mark.
Please send your story and/or photos to jaime@lititzmoravian.org.



LUNCHEON SIGN UPS!!

If you responded to email RSVP you do not need to sign up again!

Be sure to R.S.V.P. to Pastor Mark's Luncheon at the sign up sheet located in the Star Room!







Members will have the opportunity to give a financial love gift from August to the end of September.

Gifts will need to be made out to Lititz Moravian with the memo reading 'Pastor Mark.'





Sign up sheet to bring your homemade goodies is located in The Star Room.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) met via Zoom on August 28. During this meeting, the committee discussed launching a regular communication campaign—similar to the "Board Highlights" in The Spire—to keep the congregation updated on our progress.

With Pastor Mark's retirement, he will no longer sit on the committee after October 19th. If a new co-pastor is called while the SPC is still active, that pastor will join the planning process. If a call occurs after the SPC's work is complete, the new pastor will receive the finished Strategic Plan as part of Lititz Moravian's call materials.

The SPC also conducted a Spine Analysis of LMC and began examining our mission, vision, and values, including how these elements align and what might need to be refined to create a clearer, more concise expression of who we are as a congregation. To move this work forward, SPC has divided into three smaller groups to review mission, vision, and values in depth. These groups will meet individually before October 16, when the full SPC will gather again to review their work. An in-person session is scheduled for November 8 to set strategic priorities and next steps.

We are grateful for your prayers and support as we continue this vital work of discerning God's call for the future of the Lititz Moravian Congregation.

If you would like to offer more feedback, please email: spcfeedback25@gmail.com

Announcements September 7, 2025



Lititz Moravian Church is looking for a joyful, music-loving leader to serve as our Junior Choir Director!

This is a fun, part-time position in Christian Ministry, sharing the love of Jesus with children through the gift of song.

If you have a heart for kids, a passion for music, and a desire to make worship come alive, we'd love to hear from you!

Call: 717-626-8515
Email: office@lititzmoravian.org

Join our supportive, fun work environment and help inspire the next generation to sing for the Lord!

The Nursery
will be
open again during
10:30am Worship
starting today!!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Be sure to grab your blessed "Be Kind" tags in the Star Room. Perfect for a backpack, work tote or even a keychain!

As with last year, the nursery will be closed the 4th Sundays of each month so families may attend "LIFT" worship together. The Nursery will be closed

NEXT SUNDAY,

September 14th so everyone
may enjoy the outside worship service.



Everyone's Got a Place in the Choir!

Senior Choir rehearsals began this past week, but there's still plenty of time for you to join us on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This is your choir, so I hope you will consider joining this enjoyable music ministry. All are welcome, regardless of experience. All you need is a strong desire to sing to the Lord!

Come join the fun! Questions? Email the Director of Music Ministries: jeff@lititzmoravian.org or call 717-342-4469.

Departed Spirits Tour Do you like to hear all the ghostly details?

The Lititz Moravian Museum & Archives and the Lititz Historical Foundation will again present the popular Departed Spirits Tour on Saturday, October 25 with the first tour beginning at 5:00 pm, then every 15 minutes until 8:00pm.

> Tickets are now for sale online; \$13 for general admission.

If interested in reserving a spot for this always sold-out event,

please visit www.lititzhistoricalfoundation.com and click EVENTS to find the tour and purchase tickets.

The tour lasts about 45 minutes and highlights people and places familiar and unfamiliar to our congregation.



LMC is hosting the Eastern Region Moravian 70th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and Banquet on September 27th.

Registration deadline is September 8th. Towarrow

The fee is \$35 (for the banquet; no fee for the worship service) Check-in is at 10:00 am.

The worship service begins at 11:00 am with the banquet to follow. The event ends at 3:00 pm.

All LMC congregation members are welcome to attend, both men and women.

Registration forms are in the Star Room and the office.

Please hand your registration form and check to the office,

DO NOT mail to the address on the form.

Notate "ERMW Banquet" on the check memo line. We will mail all the registration forms in together.

LOVE YARD SALES and THE ADVENT TEA?



Moravian Fellowship would like to include an Attic Treasures area during the December 6th Advent Tea.

What is needed is a small group of 3 to 6 people who would be willing to take charge.

This would include advertising for items, setting a time/place for contributions, marking the items, setting up, selling, cleanup and disposal of unused items.

The time frame would be from October 20 through December 6.

If you have experience or interest in purchasing and/or selling used items and would be able to help organize the Attic Treasures, please call or text either, Susan Bricker (223.403.0297), Brenda Barnes (717.626.2321) or Carol Dague (610.704.8360). Many thanks!



Preschool Story Hour

We're counting down the days until our Preschool Story Hour returns this fall! Together with caregivers, children will grow in faith, nurture friendships, have fun and learn about God's love through interactive songs, engaging stories, creative crafts, and tasty snacks!

WHO: Children, ages 3-5 years old

WHEN: 9:30 - 10:30 AM, 3rd Friday of each month

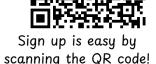
(beginning September 19th)

WHERE: The Book Nook

(2nd floor of the Christian Education Building)

Point of Contact: Shannon Richard: (717) 314-9375 or

Allyson Miller (859) 684-1484



Breast Cancer Care Bags

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

For the second year in a row, a group of local breast cancer warriors—including Jaime from the church office—are coming together to assemble Breast Cancer Care Bags.

These special bags are thoughtfully filled with comfort items to support patients undergoing treatment and will be donated to Wellspan Medical Center and Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!



Scan the QR code to be directed to our Amazon Wish List. All items ship directly to Jaime!



Confirmation 2025-2026: GROUNDED AND GROWING

Planted with Purpose. Rising in Hope. Living in Love.

Where? CE Building - 2nd Floor (Room Above the Office)

When? Sundays after the 10:30 AM Worship

Are you ready to explore your faith, ask big questions, and grow in your walk with Christ?

This year's Confirmation journey is more than just a class it's a launch pad for lifelong discipleship!

What's Inside?

Part 1: Dive into the Catechism for the Moravian Church

Part 2: Discover your place in the Living Branches youth curriculum

Family Focus: Strengthen your home life with Loving Hearts United

It All Begins September 21, 2025
Retreats, mentor moments, hands-on learning, and a meaningful path toward Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday on May 24, 2026!

New This Year:

Weekly deep dives into faith, hope, love, the sacraments & more

Monthly mentor meetups to grow in wisdom & friendship

A full-family approach to growing in grace together

Confirmation isn't about having all the answers — it's about stepping into the story God is writing with your life.

Sign up today. Show up curious. Leave transformed. Questions? Contact either Pastor Sayward or Pastor Mark.

Let's grow in faith, together.



Sunday School Rally Day!!

Join us for the kickoff of Sunday School for all ages

TODA



Speak with a representative from each Sunday School Class to find your perfect fit!

<u>Children & Youth Classes:</u>

Rooted / Cultivate
Adult Classes:

The Wired Word / Seekers / Keeping Holy Time

Ever wondered which Sunday School class might be the right fit for you?
Join us for Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, September 7th!
It's the perfect time to explore, connect, and discover a class that will help you grow deeper in your walk with Christ.
Here's a sneak peek at the opportunities available to expand your faith and learning this upcoming year.

Sprouts (Pre-K) & Rooted (K - 5th)

We warmly invite children to join us for an exciting and meaningful Sunday School experience that takes place every Sunday from September through May, 9:15-10:15AM, on the 2nd floor of the Christian Education Building.

Rooted in the Moravian tradition of "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, love," our Sunday School program is designed to nurture children's spiritual growth in a welcoming, inclusive, and joyful environment. Each week, children explore a Bible story—from the Old or New Testament—through a rotating lens of Bible games, art, music, drama, science experiments, or food-based activities. These creative approaches help bring the stories to life and deepen their understanding of God's love.

Additionally, children get to enjoy story time and a themed craft in our cozy Book Nook once a month and participate in special community service projects and fun social gatherings throughout the year. These experiences not only enrich their faith journey but also help build friendships and a strong sense of belonging in the church community.

As we teach and learn together, we are guided by the words of 2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

We hope you'll consider enrolling your child in this vibrant and engaging program. It's more than just Sunday School-it's a space to grow, serve, create, and connect with God and one another. All are welcome!

Cultivate (6th - 12^{th)}

Just as Jesus and his disciples ate, traveled, discussed, struggled, and prayed together, Cultivate at Lititz Moravian invites youth in grades 6–12 into a shared journey of faith, friendship, and purpose.

The goal of Cultivate is to nurture a mindset of Learning, Grace, and Action—creating a climate where students grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. Through Sunday morning Faith Formation, students build a personal relationship with Jesus by engaging in prayer, discussion, and Bible literacy. Each week has a rhythm for Learning: Brunch & Discuss, Classic

Bible Stories, Mini Missions, Worship Encounters, and Game Days. Relationships are strengthened not only in class but also through monthly social events. Grace shapes the environment into a safe/brave space where teens can be their authentic selves while learning to extend grace to others. Action means putting faith into motion—whether by inviting a friend, helping neighbors, or joining with the wider Moravian community. Led by Pastor Sayward and grounded in meaningful questions and shared experiences, Cultivate helps youth explore what Jesus is doing in their lives and how they are called to respond.

Adult Classes

The Wired Word

The Wired Word class takes current events and connects them to scripture, sparking meaningful and thought-provoking discussions led by Chris Styers, Liesl Wolf, and Pastor Mark Breland.

Exploring recent news stories, engaging with challenging questions and commentary, reading scripture from both the Old and New Testaments, sharing in guided conversations and closing with prayer.

Lessons are emailed in advance, and many participants follow along on their phones. Come join the conversation — and bring your perspective as we learn and grow together!

Seekers Class

The Seekers Class is a place for anyone looking to grow deeper in faith while enjoying fellowship and conversation. Each week, we watch a short video on a faith-based topic and then spend time discussing what it means for our lives today.

In the past year, we've explored two programs by Pastor Andy Stanley:

- "Follow" learning that Jesus' invitation is about beginning a relationship with Him.
- "Starting Point" discovering what it might look like for an adult to start fresh in following Jesus.

Our time together is lighthearted and welcoming, yet meaningful — and always centered on growing in love for Jesus.

Keeping Holy Time

Each week, we gather to dive into the weekly scripture lessons and discover how God's Word speaks to us today. Together we look at why the passage was written, who it was written for, what it means, and how it connects to our lives now. Through this, we come to see why these lessons are important for our faith journey.

Come join us as we learn and grow together in the Bible. 14



LITITZ MORAVIAN MEADOW

You might be a Lititz Moravian congregant who has asked why there is a field of tall grass along the church driveway and Cedar Street. It is phase one of establishing a meadow that will support local biodiversity, support pollinators, reduce stormwater runoff, reduce emissions and fossil-fuel dependence of gas mowers, reduce the workload of our volunteers (less time spent mowing), and support the endangered Monarch Butterfly and other insects.

There are differing methods to establish a meadow; and the simplest, most economical way is to stop mowing and monitor what will naturally grow. Although we started phase one during 2024, the grass barely grew because of the drought. Spring and Summer of 2025, with all of its rain, finally established the basic meadow.

Phase two will include establishing wide pathways for strolling and observing, planting and sowing native perennials and wildflowers, and placement of signage so passers-by will know specifically what this area is (there were "no mow area" signs placed, but most of the signs came down during the winter). We hope to place benches for resting along the pathways.

As we continue to establish pathways, and plant and sow flowers, you will see the changes gradually take place; and you are encouraged to stroll through our meadow then and connect with God's beautiful creation. If you would like to donate wildflower seeds or native perennials, please reach out to a Cemetery Committee member or Brenda Barnes.

Please contact the Cemetery Committee with any concerns you may have and you can email Dave Walter at: jonwalter123@outlook.com.



Sunday, September 7th

Sunday School Kick Off & Rally Day!!

Join us for a light breakfast while you can chat
with different Sunday School groups to find your perfect fit!

The Nursery will be open again during 10:30 am worship.

Sunday, September 14th

10:30am - Outdoor Worship
11:30am - Church Picnic (& Birthday Celebration)

Friday, September 19th

9:30 - 10:30am - Preschool Story Hour (begins again!)
'PSH' will be held the 3rd Friday of each month in
The Book Nook (located on 2nd floor of CEB)

Sunday, October 5th

8:00 am and 10:30 am - Worship with World Wide Communion

Saturday, October 18th

4:00 p.m. Family Movie Night with "The Princess Bride"

Sunday, October 19th

10:30 a.m. (Only) Worship followed by Pastor Mark's Retirement Luncheon



KidZone: "Jesus First!" Edition

Memory Verse Puzzle: Unscramble the words

WLOFLO

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N D A

O Y U



 \mathbf{E} \mathbf{B}

 $\mathbf{Y} \mathbf{M}$

E D L I S C P I

Look & Find!

The Church Picnic is next Sunday!!

We are all so excited!

Circle all the crosses you find in this picnic scene.



Draw It Out!

Draw yourself walking alongside





Congregational Watchword for 2025: You will again have compassion on us; you will hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:19 NIV

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

Pastoral Visitation:

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



Prayers of Healing for:

FINANCIAL SUMMARY Completed Month of July

	2024	2025	
Tithes & Offerings	\$50,142	\$40,648	
General Fund Other Income	\$8,503	\$9,915	
General Fund Expenses	\$48,899	\$56,755	
Net Income	\$9,746	\$(6,193)	
YTD Through the Month of July			

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YTD Through the Mon	th of July	
	2024	2025
Tithes & Offerings	\$338,037	\$342,019
General Fund Other Income	\$55,502	\$58,582
General Fund Expense	\$381,466	\$436,097
Net Income	\$12,073	\$(35,496)

Barry Erb
Dick Martin
Jeff Bamberger
Pastor Dean Jurgen
Meda Hostetter
Erelene Deist
Peg Ivey
Joan Keenen
Vince Mizeras
Kent Herzer
Marilyn Copenhaver
Rebecca Swartz
Marilyn Diener

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<u>THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR</u>

Sunday, September 7, 2025 -

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Rally (All Ages) - Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 8, 2025 -

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Leaders Meeting - Liquid Classroom

6:30 p.m. Moravian Fellowship - HDR

6:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee - RAO

7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir - Prep Room



Tuesday, September 9, 2025 -

9:00 a.m. Quilting - Nursery

3:30 p.m. Tai Chi - Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Archives Committee- HDR

7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee - Zoom

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 -

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous - Social Hall

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir Practice



Thursday, September 11, 2025 -

7:00 p.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Zoom

Friday, September 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. Beginners Yoga - Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Mission Gift Shop Open



Saturday, September 13, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Mission Gift Shop Open

Sunday, September 14, 2025 - Church Picnic

8:00 a.m. Worship and 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

9:00 a.m. Snack N' Yak

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School (all ages)

11:30 a.m. Birthday Celebration & Church Picnic



If you are looking for a space to meet with your friends, family, or just looking for a quiet space to sit and read here at LMC, we are happy to provide a space that would work best for you. We ask that you contact the office for availability due to outside events not being 19 included in the bulletin and/or Spire calendar publications. Thank you.

Challenged by Scripture

Jesus continually challenged his contemporaries. In Mark 2:23 the Pharisees complained that his disciples were breaking the law by plucking grain on the Sabbath. In Mark 3:1ff., as Jesus healed a man's withered hand, the Pharisees conspired with the Herodians on how to destroy him—despite the commandment ruling in Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:17: "You shall not kill." Then again, the Hebrews understood God ordering Moses telling them to stone a man to death for picking up sticks on the Sabbath (Numbers 15:32ff.). Clearly, New Testament Hebrews also had no trouble ignoring the commandment.

We are challenged to decide when a Scripture is of the spirit and when it reflects cultural bias.

Our text for today directs us to carry a cross or forgo discipleship. Since mentioning the cross brings to mind the death of Christ, does this text challenge us to go all the way for what we believe? Or does it remind us that Christian discipleship is never simple or easy? The text further calls for us to give up all our possessions or lose discipleship. Given the proliferation of full garages and storage units in our country, we take this Scripture with a grain of salt. Given that the U.S. economy is driven by our consumption, may God's spirit be with us as we are visibly and continually challenged by these verses.

Aden Ward, retired pastor, Watertown, Wisconsin

The Moravian Church Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

