

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!***

**December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**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  
Pastor: 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 and Andy Weik  
Treasurer: Barbara McKenney  
Financial Secretary: Mary Sweger  
***Ministers: All Members of the Congregation***

***\*Stand, if you are able.***

**Prelude:** *Once He Came in Blessing*

J. F. Wolle

**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.*

**\*Call to Worship (Leader / Congregation)**

Rejoice in the Lord always—again I say, rejoice!

**For God's joy breaks into the world like dawn.**

Even in seasons of waiting, God's delight finds us.

**Our hearts awaken to the good news of great joy.**

Come, let us worship the One who causes joy to take root and grow.

**We come with grateful hearts, ready to rejoice in God's presence.**

**\*Hymn: 256**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

See Moravian Advent Liturgy Document

**Liturgy for Advent 2: Page 54**

**Hymn: 447**      95<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Marian Wier on December 20<sup>th</sup>  
*With your presence, Lord, our Head and Savior,  
bless her now, we humbly pray;  
our dear heavenly Father's love and favor  
be her comfort every day.  
May God's Spirit now in each proceeding  
favor her with his most gracious leading;  
thus shall she be truly blessed  
both in labor and in rest.*

**Shared Joys and Concerns and Prayer**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 55: 6-13

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my

thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

(10:30 a.m.) **Children's Chat Hymn:**

*This Little Light of Mine*

*This little light of mine,*

*I'm gonna let it shine.*

*This little light of mine,*

*I'm gonna let it shine.*

*This little light of mine,*

*I'm gonna let it shine,*

*let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (sing twice)*

(10:30 a.m.) **Children's Chat:**

Pastor Sayward Lippincott

**\*Hymn:** 271

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**Message:** *Simchah / Chara*

Pastor Sayward Lippincott

### **The Offering of Tithes and Gifts and Second Mile Offering**

The Second Mile Offering this month is for The Milagro House in Lancaster. The Milagro House provides education, housing and support services to women and their children who would otherwise be experiencing homelessness.

**(8:00 a.m.) Offertory Organ Music**

**(10:30 a.m.) Offertory Anthem:** *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

*Helmsley, arr. R. Vaughan Williams*

*Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign*

*Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.*

*Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those  
glorious scars!*

*Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.*

**\*Offertory Response: 820**

*O Jesus Christ, Our Gracious King*

**Offering Prayer**

**\*Hymn: 267**

*On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude: *Wir Christenleut***

**J. S. Bach**

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**Serving Today:**

**Sacristan:** (8:00 a.m.) Don Stoner (10:30 a.m.) Bob Turgyan

**Head Usher:** Russ Weidman

**Scripture Reader:** (8:00 a.m.) Mary Ginder  
(10:30 a.m.) Liesl Wolf

**Sound Booth Personnel:** Chris Rickson

**Nursery:** Matt and Amy Sue Bomberger



Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of John Buffington, placed by Deann Buffington.



If you ordered a poinsettia, please pick up your flower following worship today.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary beautiful this Christmas season.



We would like to update the congregation on Josh Bailey.

Plans have changed and his plans have been expedited.

We're grateful for his years of service and pray for the next chapters in Josh's life.

Please contact Sexton Andy Weik for any maintenance request.

# Announcements

## December 14, 2025

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Vigil Admission Cards that were not previously picked up are now in the office.

You may stop in for your (pre-ordered) cards from 9am - 2pm, Monday through Friday.

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### **Vigil Volunteers Needed!!**

The Advent season is here, and with it comes our cherished tradition of Lovefeast services.

***Have you ever considered serving as a Fire Guard?***

We would love to welcome new volunteers and are happy to provide guidance for those who have never served before. It's a meaningful way to connect with our community... and an experience you won't want to miss!

If you're interested or have questions,  
please reach out to:  
Heather Kremser (484-772-0608)



# *Ways to give in December*

## Dobby's Christmas Sock Drive

Dobby, from the series Harry Potter, will be here *today* collecting socks to donate to a local shelter. Children are welcome to strike a pose and have their picture taken with him.



Dobby is handcrafted using a technique called needle felting, by the talented Patti Cornelius. Dobby is 2 ½ feet tall (the same size he was in the movie) and took over 2 ½ years to create.



Place new socks inside the red bag with Dobby and they will be distributed to a local charity during the holiday season.

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## **Christmas Community Chest**

Lititz Moravian children and youth will be meeting *TODAY* following the 10:30am service to wrap Christmas gifts for two local families.

We have our assigned Christmas families and *know their needs*.

Please bring your *unwrapped* items to the Prep Room for gift wrapping.

We will have all of the wrapping supplies needed to wrap the gifts.





## **Moravian Disaster Response to Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica 12/5/25 UPDATE**

The Board of World Mission (BWM) has received a second, more detailed report from the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church, Jamaica and Cayman Islands Province (MCJCI) about the needs following Hurricane Melissa. The extent of the destruction is becoming clearer as assessments are conducted in more communities.

According to this latest report, 37 of the province's 64 Moravian congregations have been affected in some way, and nearly 50 church-owned properties—including churches, manses, and schools—have reportedly suffered some degree of damage. Of these, five buildings have been completely destroyed, 16 have lost their roofs entirely, 14 have partial roof damage, and 13 have minor damage. The Provincial Board currently estimates \$1.6 million USD in damage to church-owned properties. This amount does not include the additional funds needed for the church's broader community response.

The Provincial Board also stated it needs more financial help to keep paying salaries for pastors and staff, which is about \$25,000 each month. It also needs funds for relief and rebuilding supplies for congregations and families. The Board continues to work hard—mobilizing volunteers, sharing information, finding temporary housing, and securing new worship spaces for congregations whose buildings are no longer usable.

The devastation extends far beyond church properties. It is estimated that 150,000–200,000 homes across Jamaica have been damaged or destroyed, placing immense pressure on local communities and the national response.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the Board of World Mission has now sent \$40,000 to the MCJCI Disaster Response Fund to support the Provincial Board's immediate efforts. Additional support remains urgently needed. 8

## Volunteer Interest Sign-Up

Plans are underway to repair and outfit Camp Hope (Jamaica) as a future hosting site for short-term mission teams. While this process is in the very early stages, we have already heard from many individuals, congregations, and groups eager to assist with relief and rebuilding efforts.

Individuals and groups interested in participating in a future mission trip should complete a brief online form at [MoravianMission.org/Serve](http://MoravianMission.org/Serve). This helps us prepare appropriately and communicate next steps when the time comes.



## Donation Matching Challenge

In a remarkable expression of faithful partnership, the London Moravian Church in Cambridge, Wisconsin, has established a \$30,000 matching challenge for Hurricane Melissa relief. This small congregation has not drawn from its endowment fund in eight years, yet felt profoundly called to act in this moment. The leadership of the London Moravian Church has invited Moravians across North America to join them in meeting—and prayerfully exceeding—this matching opportunity. All gifts designated for MDR will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$30,000, doubling the impact of every contribution.

## Support Moravian Disaster Response

100% of donations received for our MDR Fund go directly to providing relief for these disasters.

You can assist us with disaster response efforts by giving at [MoravianMission.org/Give](http://MoravianMission.org/Give).

Please designate your gift to “MDR.”



Please make checks payable 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](mailto:treasurer@moravian.ca). Include your name and address in the comments section of the transfer to receive tax receipts. 9

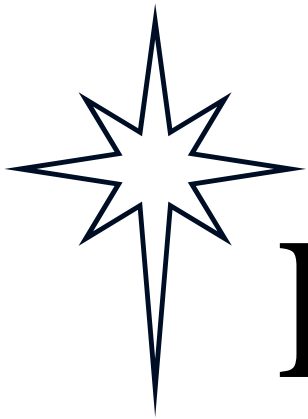


# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Everyone is invited to come to the Fellowship Hall after worship TODAY, to celebrate those who have a birthday this month.

If you are celebrating a birthday, be sure to come & enjoy some refreshments as we celebrate you!

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## Putz



The Putz will be open for viewing throughout the Christmas season!

You are invited to experience this treasured Moravian tradition during any of our open times. The Putz can be viewed *every* Saturday in December from noon to 3:00 pm, no appointment needed — simply stop in, first-come, first-served. (The last showing will be at 2:30 pm) We also welcome group visits by appointment. To schedule a time, please contact the church office at 717-626-8515 during office hours.

Additional viewing opportunities are available December 26th through 30th at 7:00 pm, as well as immediately following the December 31st Watchnight Service.

Come enjoy the story of Christ's birth in this beautiful, meaningful way.



**JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**LITITZ MORAVIAN CHURCH**

**K-6<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADE**

**GOD'S  
WINTER  
WONDERLAND**



**ACTIVITIES**



**CRAFTS, GAMES, SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, SNACKS  
AND MUSIC! REGISTER FOR "SNOW" MUCH FUN!**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BUILDING  
8 CHURCH SQUARE**



**“A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.”**

**Isaiah 11:1**



The Jesse Tree is a graphic representation of stories from the Old Testament foretelling the birth of Jesus.

All are welcome to see LMC's Jesse Tree located in the CEB Lobby.  
The ornaments adorning the tree were designed and created  
by Allyson Miller.  
One ornament will be added each day through Christmas Day.





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

*Deepen your prayer life. Strengthen your leadership.*

*Enrich your community.*

Join us for a three-part series of 90-minute live webinars via Zoom exploring how prayer shapes personal faith and congregational life. Each session offers a unique perspective—its theology, creativity, and role in leadership—led by gifted Moravian educators.

Join one, two, or all three sessions—each stands alone while contributing to a richer understanding of prayer.

**Who Should Attend:** Lay leaders, worship assistants, educators, musicians, and anyone seeking to deepen their understanding and practice of prayer.

**Hosted by:** The Eastern District Executive Board

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### **Session 1: The Heart of Prayer**

*Led by the Rev. Dr. Jennika Eckhaus and Theresa Fisher*

Date: January 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Explore the foundations and expressions of prayer. Learn simple, practical ways to deepen your spiritual life—whether you're new to prayer or seeking renewal.

### **Session 2: Preparing Meaningful Devotions**

*Becky Lepore & the Rev. Mikayla Sauerbrey*

Date: February 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Asked to offer devotions at a gathering? Looking to provide spiritual grounding for your group? Learn practical tools for creating meaningful moments of prayer and connection.

### **Session 3: Prayers for Worship**

*Led by the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber*

Date: March 25, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Wondering how pastoral, intercessory, and invocation prayers differ or what to say in an offertory prayer? Learn the purpose of key worship prayers & simple ways to craft them.

Scan the QR Code to Learn More & Register

Visit our website at [www.moravian.org/equip](http://www.moravian.org/equip)

For questions email [amy@mcnp.org](mailto:amy@mcnp.org)

**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.

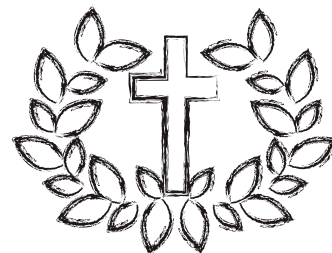
**Please remember in your prayers:**

### *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

### *Pastoral Visitation:*

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



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Completed Month of October

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Tithes & Offerings	\$47,180	\$40,234
General Fund Other Income	\$8,642	\$13,344
General Fund Expenses	\$53,841	\$54,218
Net Income	\$1,981	\$(640)

### YTD Through the Month of October

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Tithes & Offerings	\$471,190	\$489,079
General Fund Other Income	\$76,203	\$87,974
General Fund Expense	\$560,303	\$634,337
Net Income	\$(12,910)	\$(57,284)

### *Prayers of Healing for:*

Barry Erb  
 Jeff Bamberger  
 Pastor Dean Jurgan  
 Meda Hostetter  
 Erelene Deist  
 Joan Keenen  
 Marilyn Diener  
 Jonathan Yerger

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, December 14, 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent**

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

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

11:30 a.m. Christmas Community Chest - Prep Room

Kids wrapping presents!

11:45 a.m. Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall

### **Monday, December 15, 2025 - SPIRE DEADLINE**

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

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

### **Tuesday, December 16, 2025 -**

9:00 a.m. Quilting - Nursery

### **Wednesday, December 17, 2025 -**

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Moravian Women's Circle - Prep Room

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

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir Practice

### **Thursday, December 18, 2025 -**

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

7:00 p.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

### **Friday, December 19, 2025 -**

9:00 a.m. Beginners Yoga - Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Preschool Story Hour - Book Nook in CEB

Registration required; Ask how to join the waitlist!

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

### **Saturday, December 20, 2025 -**

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

5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil Services (admission card required)

### **Sunday, December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School (No Sunday School for Children or Youth)

10:30 a.m. - Worship with Christmas Family Lovefeast

No Nursery Available

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

## “Passing Notes”

We are not playing “Whisper Down the Lane,” a children’s game of passing along a message that gets less accurate with each telling. The word Jesus uses is “witnesses.” What have been our encounters with the works of God in our world? What have been our experiences of Jesus? Do these match up with our hopes and expectations? Do they align with our understanding of the Spirit’s power? This Third Sunday of Advent raises many questions. What are you hoping to see? What are you waiting for?

A note from prison, “Is it you?” We’ve been waiting, “Is it true?”  
Please go and ask, “Can it be?” All I’ve heard, I long to see!  
All I’ve heard, I long to see!

*Go tell John to make up his mind. Of all who seek and all they find.  
Of all the fallen. All who stand. Everyone rising from holy land.  
Everyone rises from holy land!*

A note from Jesus, “Did you go?” To see reeds break; hear wind blow?  
Listen and hear, when I say: You have walked with God today!  
You have walked with God today.  
*Chorus*

A note for ages, sent to all. Make us ready, none shall fall.  
One who is great. One alone. One to break this heart of stone!  
One to break this heart of stone!  
*Chorus*



Scan to access music and a  
recording of this song.

*The Broke Kings (David Melby-Gibbons & Brian Dixon)  
Tricklebee Café, Milwaukee, Wisconsin;  
Emmaus Moravian Church, Emmaus, Pennsylvania*

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# The Moravian Church

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



Board of World Mission

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Moravian Ministries Foundation

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Southern Province Commission  
on Congregational Development



Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgies  
2025



**Third Sunday of Advent (December 14, 2025)**  
**JOY Through Clothing Those in Need**

On this third Sunday of Advent, as we anticipate the coming Christ Child, we light the candle of joy.

**We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, God is with us, Immanuel.**

*(Three candles are lit.)*

When Christ comes into our lives,

**He brings the fullness of joy.**

Jesus healed the lame, cleansed the leper, recovered sight to the blind and raised the dead. We are witnesses to what we have seen and heard.

**Because we see what Jesus can do in the world,  
we can live every day in the joy of the Messiah.**

When Moravian Academy in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania realized they had an abundance of school uniforms they partnered with Central Moravian Church and the Board of World Mission to ship them to Nicaragua and Honduras and share them with the children there.

**We thank God for those who bring joy through  
clothing those in need.**

Oak Grove Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina has been partnering with their neighborhood elementary for over a decade to help meet the needs of students and staff. This year they provided T-shirts for every student as part of their Community Teams Program.

**We thank God for those who bring joy through  
clothing those in need.**

Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church is offering care and clean clothing through their “Cleansing Waters Outreach” serving people at the local laundromat with love and dignity.

**We thank God for those who bring joy through  
clothing those in need.**

In this time, our congregation celebrates the light of Joy in our community and through our shared ministry

Water Street Mission  
Warwick HUB  
Lancaster Bridge of Hope

And all God’s children say:

**We thank God for those who bring joy through  
clothing those in need.**

ST. THEODULPH (151 G)

*The joy of our salvation is ours to fill our hearts.  
Christ came to dwell among us and share our common plight.  
The whole world’s grief and suff’ring and earth’s unspoken pain,  
your perfect joy embraces till only joy remains.*

*(Adapted from #268 vs. 2 in the Moravian Book of Worship, Text by Paul Gerhardt, Tr. Jean Dogga Pearson © 1992. Used by permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication.)*

We pray today for all God’s children,

**That each one might know the hope, peace, joy, and love  
that comes from God to the world through the advent of the  
Christ Child. Amen.**