

**JANUARY SPIRE
DEADLINE: MONDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2025**



**Official Newsletter of Lititz Moravian Congregation
DECEMBER 2025**

From My Heart to Yours — Pastor Mark's Final Thank-You

All praise to God for the honor and privilege of serving as an ordained pastor in the Moravian Church, Northern Province for 35 years, and 18 years at Lititz Moravian my home congregation. My Siblings in Christ, thank you for your love and support. We have labored in God's vineyard experiencing the joys of successful ministries and the disappointments when despite our efforts we miss the mark. I had no idea when I arrived in February 2007 that I would serve you until 2025.

It was an act of courage of the Joint Board at that time to call and welcome an African American pastor and family into this community of faith.

I confess that this past year I have been mindful of Saints Triumphant. Particularly when I look upon those seated in the sanctuary during worship, I remember my siblings now living with the Lord. I think of the Saints who served with me in the church office, boards, committees, and fellowship groups. Children and youth are the Church today and our hope for the future. I enjoyed having a role in their faith formation. They mentored me to see Jesus with an open heart, to laugh, be silly, and learn to share the gospel for each new generation. It was a privilege to share in team ministry with pastors Burt, Dean, and Sayward. Parrish ministry is a challenge, and it was a blessing to learn from them, lean on them, and to love them as my brothers and sister.

Sunday, October 19, 2025, was a blessing. I was present for celebration for former pastors and staff, but I was not prepared for the expressions of love. I am so grateful to God for the years of ministry here at Lititz Moravian and I am humbled! All I wanted to do was to use my talents to "love" all people in Jesus' name. Thank you, Pastor Sayward, the office staff, our music ministry teams, and my wife Dee. I know she had a hand in the celebration. I entered the sanctuary, and it looked like an Easter morning celebration. I was confused seeing the pans in the sanctuary. I thought, "Why are the pans here and who will play them?" Looking at the Amen Pews I saw members of the Grace Steel Ensemble and I almost cried. They came from New York City to play for this service. The Moravian Church is a small denomination and some of my oldest ongoing relationships are in the clergy. It was a joy to see and hear from the Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, the Rev. David Bennett, the Rt. Rev. Blair Couch, the Rev. Melissa Johnson, and the Rev. Dr. Mandy Mastros.

Thank you for the cards and retirement gifts. Thank you for the "Love Gift." Barbara McKenney told me we need to meet because she had a gift for Dee and me from the congregation. I opened the envelope, and I could not believe what I saw. Wow! I gave Barbara a big hug.

I called Dee and I told her about the gift and Dee cried. We appreciate all of you and thank you!
You have always taken excellent care of me and my family.

The fellowship meal was delicious! Thanks to all who made the desserts and the meal. Ham and turkey sandwiches are good, but you cannot beat fried chicken and macaroni and cheese.

My heart is full, and I love all of you! Thank you, again, for the privilege of serving as your pastor!

Your Brother in Christ,
The Reverend Mark V. Breland, Sr. – Pastor Mark

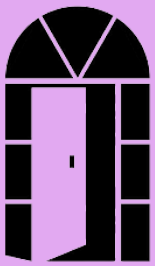
Happening This Month VIGIL SERVICES

Saturday, Dec 20th,
5:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 21st,
10:30 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 24th,
5:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.





**MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR, INC.
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM
347 E. 18TH ST., NEW YORK, NY 10003
TEL: 212-995-5810
WWW.MORAVIANHOUSE.ORG**

I once visited Moravian Open Door (MOD), very, very early one February morning. The bus dropped me off about five blocks away, and it should have been an easy stroll. But it wasn't. For one thing, it was dark. That flat predawn blackness that not even the streetlights could fill. And it was cold--bitter, bitter cold. That morning, I found myself counting street numbers and somewhere around East 20th Street, I suddenly realized how alone I was...freezing...in the dark...utterly, completely alone!

It's easy to face the darkness when you have a home to go back to; it's easy to withstand the cold, when you know that, somewhere, your warm bed awaits you. But what about the person who has none of the things we take for granted? Many struggle to find safe places to sleep. Some members of the public degrade them or revile them- or outright ignore them. Some retreat into the dark, cold spaces of their own minds, living utterly and completely alone.

After what seemed like forever, I finally turned up East 18th, and there it was! The street was shrouded in the predawn blackness. In the middle of it all, a doorway blazed with a welcoming bright, white light, which spilled across the sidewalk, as if to create an inviting pathway out of the darkness and into the warm, secure embrace of care and community.

Moravian House is that welcoming light!

For almost 38 years, Moravian Open Door has provided homeless men and women with safe, clean transitional housing in private and semi-private rooms. Services include a Healthy Breakfast program, help obtaining benefits, jobs, and affordable permanent housing. MOD sponsors programs in financial literacy, computer skills, health education, and other life skills.

Moravian Open Door helps restore broken lives- with dignity and love in a caring community. Over these years, it is with the help and contributions from people just like you that Moravian Open Door has continued to be a light in the darkness- Thank You!

We still need your care, prayers and financial support to help us to shine Jesus' light of love and caring on the darkness that is homelessness. Thank you for your generous gifts.

~Rev. Lance Fox - Moravian Pastor-at-Large & MOD Volunteer~



**Meets in the Music Room
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**

**Meets in the RAO
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**



Third Grade Bible Presentations

A tradition in the life of our church, 7 of our 3rd grade Rooted students received their Bibles during the 10:30 worship service. And they are all bringing them each Sunday as we wrap up our study of the Old Testament this year!

Thank you to the parents and the congregation for supporting the faith formation of our kids!



Cultivate Visits LEFC

The Cultivate Youth Group visited LEFC as part of their monthly Worship Encounters. They enjoyed seeing the differences in worship styles between our two churches. The field trip concluded with Burger King.

Their next Worship Encounter will take place in March at the Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster.



Preschool Story Hour Still Going Strong

Preschool Story Hour, which is held on the third Friday of each month, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM, has welcomed many new faces so far! Our theme this year, "Jesus' Love is Bubbling Over", has been celebrated with homemade chalk paint, bubble juice, lots of great snacks and books! Please call the office to RSVP.



NEW

Staff Member

**ANDY
WEIK**



Lititz Moravian Congregation is delighted to welcome Andy Weik as our new Sexton! His last name may sound familiar — Andy is the husband of Jaime, who serves in our church office.

We are grateful to have him join as part of our church family.

Andy is an outdoorsman at heart. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and just about anything that gets him outside. A lifelong thrill-seeker, he has loved racing motocross bikes competitively since childhood.

When he's not on the trail or at the track, you can often find Andy relaxing by a campfire with family and friends — preferably with a generous serving of french fries, his favorite treat.

As we welcome Andy, we also offer our heartfelt gratitude and blessings to Josh, who grew up at LMC and has faithfully served as our Sexton. He is stepping into a new, exciting career and life opportunities, and we wish him joy and success in this next chapter. Josh will be with us through the end of 2025 as we transition.

Please join us in welcoming Andy to the Lititz Moravian team!



DO YOU HAVE A PASSION OR TALENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US? WE HAVE MULTIPLE GROUPS AND EVENTS THAT YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN! PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONTACT INFORMATION. (717) 626-8515

**CHOIR DIRECTOR: JEFF GEMMELL
SENIOR CHOIR- WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 P.M. SEPTEMBER - MAY**

**HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: MARILYN WINFIELD
PRACTICES: MONDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER - MAY**

**TROMBONE CHOIR DIRECTOR: MARILYN WINFIELD
PRACTICES: 3RD AND 4TH TUESDAYS AT 7:15 P.M.**

**EVANGELISM: RANDY BRICKER
MEETS: 2ND MONDAY EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.**

**ARCHIVES: TOM WENTZEL
MEETS: 2ND TUESDAY EACH MONTH AT 6:30 P.M.**

**QUILTING: WILMA BEARD
MEETS: TUESDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.**

**YOGA: EILEEN CRONE
MEETS: MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 8:30 A.M.
& THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.**

**PASTOR SAYWARD E.G. LIPPINCOTT
OFFICE MANAGER: COURTNEY HACKMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: JAIME WEIK
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: ALLYSON MILLER**

Stewardship To Date for 2025

Financial Summary (October)

- Tithes & Offerings 2024: \$47,180
- Tithes & Offerings 2025: \$40,234
- General Fund Other Income 2024: \$8,642
- General Fund Other Income 2025: \$13,344
- General Fund Expense 2024: \$53,841
- General Fund Expense 2025: \$54,218
- Net Income 2024: \$1,981
- Net Income 2025: (\$640)

2025 Year-to-Date (through October)

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

Prayer Requests

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



Prayer Request

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
 - Jeff Bamberger
 - Pastor Dean Jurgen
 - Marilyn Diener
- Meda Hostetter
 - Joan Keenen
 - Erelene Deist

Type of Contribution	Report in 2025	Report in 2026
Check written in December, 2025 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December, 2025 but not received by the church until January 2026	XX	
Check dated in December, 2025 and deposited in church offering in January, 2026		XX
Check written and deposited in church offering in December, 2025 but dated January 2026		XX
Check written in December, 2025 and deposited in the mail in December, 2025 but not postmarked until January, 2026 and not received by the church until January, 2026		XX

2025 Second Mile Offering

"Whoever goes with you one mile, go with them two" Matthew 5:41

2025 Second Mile Offering
Approved by the Board of Elders

November...The Food Hub
December...Milagro House

2025 Joyful Noise Offerings
Approved by the Board of Elders

November...You Belong
December...BWM Educational Projects
(Christmas Family Lovefeast)

THANK YOU!

"Dear Pastor Sayward and Lititz Moravian Congregation,
Thank you for allowing our team to use your property for
our practice 5K!"

With Thanks,
The Lititz Elementary Girls on the Run Team



In Memory of Vincent Mizeras

Delton & Laura Plank

Jeffrey & Cynthia Forster

In Memory of Richard Martin

Rachelle Good

The Hollinger Family

Darlene Bucher

In Memory of Robert Stehman

Chas. F. Snyder Funeral Home

In Memory of Our Parents

Neal & Allyson Miller





UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, December 7

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All

Sunday, December 14

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

9:00 a.m. Snack N' Yak - CEB Lobby

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All

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

Monday, December 15

Spire Deadline

Saturday, December 20

5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Vigil Services - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Family Lovefeast

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All

10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Vigil Service - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 24

OFFICE CLOSED

5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

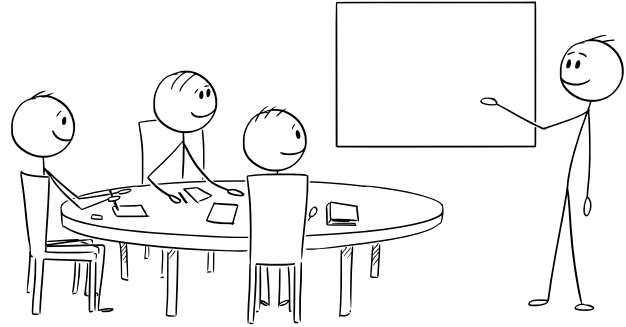
Vigil Services- Sanctuary

Sunday, December 28

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All

NEWS FROM OUR BOARDS *Meeting*



Highlights from the Board of Elders for November

- The Call Process for a new Co Pastor is underway. Joint Board members have filled out a survey from the Province.
- Nominating Committee is coming along very well.
- We are in prayer for the Strategic Planning Committee, and also in prayer for leadership for Moravian Fellowship in 2026.
- A new printed (not pictorial) directory will be available in the near future.
- Pastor Sayward's (first) sabbatical for July/August 2026 was approved unanimously.
- Evangelism committee has been having successful movie nights - next one Nov. 22, I Heard the Bells.
- Congregational Photo is going to be blown up to poster size.

Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting October 21, 2025

- It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from the Trustee Meeting of September 16, 2025 with this correction. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded to approve the September financial reports. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded to approve expenses to provide donations of \$100 Visa Gift Cards to recognize our Cemetery Helpers. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded that we purchase an additional 10 tables for the fellowship hall at a cost of up to \$3,000. Greg will then solicit the congregation for the cost of the tables. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded that, with regrets, the Trustees accept the resignation of Dave Walter from the Board of Trustees. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded that Paul Swope is elected as President of the Board of Trustees until reorganization in February. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded that Barbara Callahan is elected as the Vice President of the Board of Trustees until reorganization in February. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded that the recommendation of the 2026 Endowment Distributions made by the Endowment Committee be accepted. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded that the Mission Gift Shop be open during the church open house from noon to 2pm. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- It was moved and seconded that we accept the recommendation as proposed for a new Assistive Listening System with funds coming from the Sanctuary Fund. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to end the Trustee meeting at 8:50pm. Motion Carried Unanimously.



Office Contact Information:

Address: 8 Church Square, Lititz, PA 17543

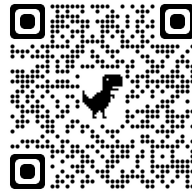
Phone: 717-626-8515

Fax: 717-626-8258

E-mail: office@lititzmoravian.org

Website: www.lititzmoravian.org

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram



Feel free to call the church Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Please leave a message if you don't get us right away;
Sometimes we're just in the next room, up the stairs, or down the hall.
We are here to support you.

The Spire is a monthly publication of the Lititz Moravian Congregation. The Spire's mission is to inform and engage everyone involved in the church's life and ministry and reach out to visitors and friends offering opportunities to share in the work of Lititz Moravian. We welcome your suggestions and input.

* Deadline for submitting articles: Noted on the upper left corner of the first page of The Spire.

* Submit articles to the church office: office@lititzmoravian.org or drop them by the office.

Newsletter Staff:

Writers: Members of the Congregation

Editor(s): Courtney Hackman & Jaime Weik

Proofer: Sue Bomberger

Donation Reminder

Before items are donated to the church or any committee, please contact:
Pat Hartzell (717-371-7080)



Online Giving Available

To stop receiving paper envelopes in the mail, please contact the Church Office for more information
office@lititzmoravian.org

Joint Board Leadership

Randy Bricker, Vice Chair, 2026 (Elders)
Diane Bainbridge, Secretary, 2027 (Elders)
Dave Walter, Chair 2027 (Trustees)
Paul Swope, Vice Chair, 2026 (Trustees)
Chris Styers, Secretary, 2027 (Trustees)

Need Transportation to a Medical Appointment?

Our transportation ministry is happy to help!
Please call the Church Office and speak with Greg Bomberger or leave him a message to schedule your ride.

Vision Statement

We are a community that seeks first, last, and always to follow Jesus.

Faith—We see a community of FAITH where all are welcome to join in Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism. We see people on a faith journey, actively living a Christian life in our world and providing support for all those in need both at home and in mission.

Hope—We see a community of HOPE where people are encouraged and equipped to develop their spiritual gifts and to use them in the service of our Risen Lord. We see a congregation where all are involved in a rich variety of opportunities to serve and be empowered to follow God's calling.

Love—We see a community of LOVE where questions of faith are welcome, where the broken find comfort, where unconditional acceptance and love abound, and where all are under God's canopy of grace and forgiveness.

December 2025

January Spire Deadline: Monday, December 15th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 8:30 a.m. Yoga 7P CEC 7:30P HBC	2 9A Quilting 6P Joint Board 7P Elders 7P Trustees	3 8:30A Yoga 11A ROMEO's 7P NA Meeting 7:15P SC	4 7P CIS 7P Yoga	5 9A Beginner Yoga 6P Advent Tea Setup	6 Advent Tea 12 Noon
7 Second Sunday of Advent 8 & 10:30A Worship 9:15A Sunday School for All	8 8:30 a.m. Yoga 7P Evangelism Comm. 7:30P HBC	9 9A Quilting 6:30P Archives Comm. 7P Stewardship Comm.	10 8:30A Yoga 7P NA Meeting 7:15P SC	11 7A Candle Trimming 6:30P LMC/LHF Carol Sing 7P Worship Comm. 7P Yoga	12 9A Beginner Yoga	13
14 Third Sunday of Advent 8 & 10:30A Worship 9A Snack N Yak 9:15A Sunday School for All 11:45A Birthday Celebration	15 8:30 a.m. Yoga Spire Deadline 7:30P HBC	16 9A Quilting 7:15P TC	17 8:30A Yoga 9:30A Moravian Women's Circle 7P NA Meeting 7:15P SC	18 7P Yoga	19 9A Beginner Yoga 9:30A Preschool Story Hour	20 Vigil Services 5:00 P.M. 7:30 P.M.
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Family Lovefeast 9:15A Sunday School for All 10:30A Worship - Lovefeast 5:00P Vigil Service	22 8:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30P HBC	23 9A Quilting 7:15P TC	24 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED Vigil Services 5:00 P.M. 7:30 P.M. 7P NA Meeting	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26 9A Beginner Yoga	27 10A Random Acts of Kindness
28 First Sunday after Christmas 8 & 10:30A Worship 9:15A Sunday School for All Joyful Noise	29 8:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30P HBC	30 9A Quilting	31 8:30A Yoga 7P NA Meeting 7:30P Watchnight Serv.	Abbreviations: CEC = Christian Education Committee, NA = Narcotics Anonymous, HBC= Handbell Choir, SC= Senior Choir, CIS= Church in Society, TC= Trombone Choir		