

Lancaster Moravian Church



2018 Congregational Watchword:

I WILL MAKE WITH YOU AN
EVERLASTING COVENANT.

Isaiah 55:3

February 2018

From Pastor Mandy

I love the tradition of the daily text and the watchword. I cannot begin to tell you the number of times it has been relevant to my feelings on a given day, or a specific circumstance in my life. There are those that are so fitting that they almost feel comical, like the day that the passage “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest” was the text at the beginning of finals week while I was at seminary, or even the finance committee one for this year about having all-knowledge and the answers to all mysteries, in a time when we have struggled to understand the budget. Then there are those that are deeply meaningful and unforgettable like the one chosen for the day I was born: “Even the sparrow finds a home,” or the one that came up on the day of my psychological testing to determine my fitness for ministry that talked about God equipping those whom God has called and using all things for God’s purposes.

I don’t believe these to be coincidences. Instead, I find them to be God instances. And so, as we chose our 2018 watchwords from the passages cut from the 2017 daily text during worship a few weeks ago, I should not have been surprised by how timely and relevant so many of the ones chosen seemed to be.

(Committee and group watchwords are printed on p. 3). I shouldn’t have been, but I was. God’s graces and mercies, and mysteries are indeed new every morning, and I love that I can still be surprised and moved by them. I hope you can be too!

Our congregational watchword for 2018 is Isaiah 55:3 – “I will make with you an everlasting covenant.” God is making a promise, a contract, an agreement, an arrangement, a covenant with us, and this promise will last forever. We know what this promise is because we have it in writing. We can find it in the verses of the Bible that tell us what God has and will continue to do for us. Verses like “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you” (Jer. 29:11), and “I am with you always, even unto the end of the age” (Mat 28:20). Simply put God announces his covenant to us by saying “I will be your God, and you will be my people” (Ex 6:7).

Therefore, we should not worry, we should not be afraid. God’s covenant is a promise that whatever we do, wherever we go, God is with us to guide and protect us. As we live, work, worship, pray and serve together as a congregation, I pray that we can be follow God’s leading with confidence and courage, remembering the covenant that God has made with us.



MORAVIAN WOMEN

Moravian Women will meet on Thursday February 1 at 1PM at the Sturgis home. We will be continuing our study of Genesis and will look at "The Flood" and "Separation".

Our Mission study will continue with the story of John and Nancy Gilliland and their mission to Honduras.

Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and spiritual growth.

For questions call Nancy Sturgis.



Unity Prayer Day, every year on March 1st

Unity Prayer Day Offering 2018.

The Unity Prayer Day Offering 2018 will benefit purchase of a piece of land for a church office, the first to be owned by the Moravian Church in Peru.

The Moravian Church Peru is one of the newest mission areas in the worldwide Unity.

So far, the Moravian Churches in Peru rent space for their worship services and other ministries. From a sustainability point of view this is not the best approach. The Peru Moravian Board has asked if it would be possible to obtain a one-time larger donation that could be used to purchase some land in Chiclayo, Peru. That is where the headquarters is located, but presently the office is situated in the home of the president of the church.

The Moravians in Peru believe that if they have a piece of land, they can slowly work toward developing it. They have said that even if they would use a tent or a tarpaulin in the early stages, at least there would be a place that could be identified as the "Moravian Church."

4 sustainability projects in Peru are going well - especially the "Moravian Bubbles" laundry service in Lima and the Moravian Mariachi Band in Chiclayo. The income from those projects can be used for developing the land if it is purchased.

The Unity Prayer Day Offering 2018 will therefore support the Church in Peru and will help to further the mission of the



witness of the Moravian Moravian Church in Peru.

Jørgen Bøytler

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jørgen Bøytler".

Congregations in the United States should make their check payable to the Moravian Church-Northern Province and forward it to the Finance Office, P. O. Box 1245, Bethlehem, PA 18016-1245, with a note in the memo area indicating "Unity Offering." Canadian congregations should forward their funds to the Canadian District treasurer. Please send all offerings no later than May 31 to ensure our being able to transmit all funds to the Unity for the current year's project.



January 18, 2018

As we enter into the season of Epiphany we greet you in the name of our coming Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a king born in a stable in Bethlehem. We would like to thank you for your gracious support all throughout the years to the ministry of Esperanza. The need is continuous and great, and so are the blessings.

Just to give you a quick update on events: Out of 180 school days, we were open for 144 more or less depending on the weather. We served an average of 40 kids a day, 7,000 meals not including take home. We were able to send 18 kids to camp, delivered 100 gifts for Christmas.

Before the ending of the year we took on another ministry. With the help from Sister Carole Dewey Schachter from the Bethlehem School district we were able to begin the ministry to the displaced families coming to mainland from the Caribbean islands. Rev. Dan Miller along with members from most of the Moravian Churches in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Allentown, and other areas, were very instrumental in getting this ministry off and running. Thanks to Pastor Lynnette Delbridge and the group of 19 volunteers from 5 Moravian Churches and from the community who came and set up the clothing and basic needs distribution center. As of right now, we have served over 100 of our brothers and sisters from Puerto Rico. We are right now in the process of finding permanent homes for some of them. There are a large group of folks still living in hotels on Airport road and does not know how long before they can also get help.

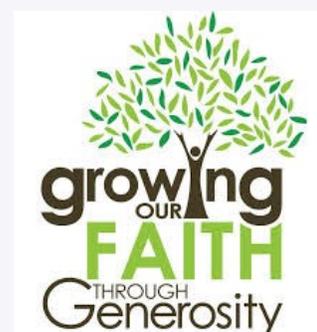
We are still in need of food, mostly microwavable food, because most of our families in the hotels does not have a kitchen and so nowhere to cook. Only to warm up what is precooked already. Without your help in the form of clothing and monetary gifts we could not continue on with this wonderful ministry to our brothers and sisters displaced by the Hurricane in Puerto Rico and to the children and families on the Southside of Bethlehem. The need is great, and the joy on the recipient face are priceless. Our initial commitment to this new ministry was two years, however, as we watch and hear from the folks coming over from Puerto Rico, this situation is not going to change for the next 10 years. Another report from the Island: the school system has reported that there are at least 22,000 children no longer in schools on the island. That mean to say that there are here on the mainland. 22,000 plus the rest of their family. We have at least over 125 students registered in the Bethlehem School district so far. Most of the people I spoke to, are not planning to go back, because there is nothing there for them. Everything was destroyed.

Please share this information with the rest of the congregation and let them know that we are very grateful for their participation in gathering supplies for our displaced families.

If it were not for God's grace and your loving and thoughtful support, we would not have been able to provide the needed resources for these families to help them get back on their feet, even if it means away from home. We pray for you as you continue to support this and other ministries, and we ask you to also keep us in your prayers.

With Grateful hearts we serve,

Pastor Tracy S. Robinson



“For everything there is a season,” Ecclesiastes 3:1



PRAYER LIST

Each week the bulletin includes a list of people to pray for over the upcoming week. It is very common for a name to go on the prayer list and stay there far after the issue for which we are praying has been resolved. Equally as common are those prayer concerns for individuals who are homebound, and unable to make it to church on a regular basis. They stay on our prayer list because we know that they are part of our faith community that we want to remember even when we don't get to see them.

I encourage you to look at the prayer list every week, and indeed to pray for those individuals who are on it. We hope to make this a bit easier and more meaningful, by revisiting the way we list prayer concerns in the bulletin. Beginning in February, if you would like for someone or something to be added to the prayer list, please notify Donna or Pastor Mandy. The request will be kept in the bulletin for one month, then removed unless a request is made to keep it in for longer. We will list individuals who are homebound on a separate list, so that we can continue to keep these individuals in our prayers. We may also want to send a card, make a phone call, or go on a visit, all things that would be greatly appreciated by those who cannot get here regularly.

PASTOR'S HOURS

Figuring out the way to configure my schedule in a way that best meets the needs of the congregation and community, as well as allowing time off is a trial and error work in progress. It is important to have some set hours where I can be found at my desk. To that end, I am changing my schedule around a bit. I intend to be in the office on Tuesday mornings (9-1) and Wednesday afternoons (1-4) and by appointment. My day off will be Monday. I can be reached by email at: pastor@lancaftermoravian.org and by phone at 717-397-9722 (office) or 717- 569-3381 (home).

WATCHWORDS

On January 7, 2018 those of us in worship were each given an opportunity to choose a watchword for the year. A watchword is a scripture text that is chosen “at random” from a basket or bowl of texts, and is intended to be meditated and focused on for that year. Individuals and group leaders are encouraged to choose a watchword, and to think about the relevance of those words to themselves or their groups. Here are the texts that were chosen by different boards, committees and groups within our congregation. Note how fitting so many of them seem to be!

Congregation: “I will make with you an everlasting covenant.” Isaiah 55:3

Adult Day Program: “All who are thirsty may come; they can have the water of life as a free gift if they want it.” Revelation 22:11

Unified Board: “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Trustees: Christ says, “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” John 15:4

Finance Committee: “If I understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2

Elders: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6

Moravian Women: “God has power to help or to overthrow.” 2 Corinthians 25:8

Christian Enrichment: “Paul and Barnabas related all that God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.” Acts 14:27

If you have not yet chosen a watchword for yourself or for your group and would like to, the basket is located on Pastor Mandy's desk. Please come and help yourself.

This month's Dialogue is with Michael Brauner and Nancy Sturgis. If you would like to share any concerns with your Unified Board, just let them know and they'll be happy to meet you in the Quiet Room.

2017

Income & Expenses

	November	YTD
Operating Income	\$ 9,346	\$ 99,288
Operating Expense	\$ 10,124	\$ 140,561
Gain/<Loss>	<\$ 778>	<\$ 41,273>

Upcoming

Sunday, February 11th



Blanket Sunday

Please join us on Sunday February 4th as we celebrate "Blankets +" Sunday.

Blankets + is a program of Church World Service and is being sponsored by Moravian Women. An offering will be collected for CWS, to aid in assisting others in times of disaster around the world. A warm blanket can provide warmth, shelter, comfort, healing, and hope to someone in need.

Greetings!

Moravian Manor will celebrate the fortieth year of Rev. Rich Thierolf's ordination on **Sunday, February 11**. All members of the Lancaster Moravian Church are invited to join with us to mark this anniversary with celebration. A Vesper's Service will be held at **2:30 p.m.** in Steinman Hall on the campus of Moravian Manor. A Reception will follow the service.

We hope many of our Brothers and Sisters from Lancaster Moravian Church will be able to attend and celebrate with us. Please contact me with any questions.

Best,

Jennifer

Jennifer Shutt | Director of Administrative Services

Moravian Manor

300 West Lemon St

Lititz PA 17543

Tel: 717-625-6106 | Fax: 717-626-6498

Email: jennifers@moravianmanor.org

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

NOTE NEW ADDRESS INFORMATION

For **Sister Cynthia Campbell**: Moravian Manor
300 W. Lemon St., Room 30L
Lititz, PA 17543



Lancaster Moravian Church

227 North Queen Street, 2nd Floor

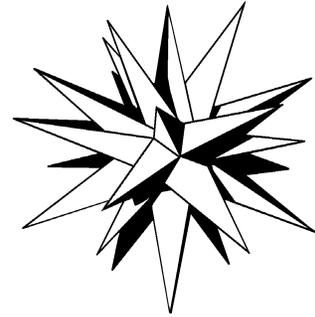
PO Box 1327, Lancaster, PA 17608

Phone: 717-397-9722

Website: www.lancastermoravian.org

Email: pastor@lancastermoravian.org (Rev. Mandy Mastros)

office@lancastermoravian.org (Donna)



Sunday Schedule

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee, Cookie & Conversation



Prayer Concerns

Bonnie Tshudy, Jan Stein, Tracy Davis, Hedda Laas

Homebound Members

Helen Vogel, Cindy Campbell, Anna Buchwalter,
Susie Meals, Lyle Leiner, Emma Snavelly, Lilly Cooper,
Joanne Zimmerman

Worship Attendance

December	31	23
January	7	28
January	14	34
January	21	34
January	28	32

February Anniversaries

None to report

Unified Board

Elder committee

Eddie Graybill (2018)

Barb Schuler (2018)

Nancy Sturgis (2018)

Arlene Brauner (2019)

Trustee committee

Addison Rymar (2018)

David Herber (2018)

Mike Brauner (2018)

Charlie Graybill (2018)



February Birthdays

February	17	Janet Wasson
February	21	Naomi Young**
February	28	Helen Vogel**

** Members of the 90+ Club

Staff

Pastor - Rev. Mandy Mastros

Donna Schilke, Admin Assistant/Editor

Therese Walton, Bookkeeper/Treasurer

Janet Wasson, Assistant Treasurer

Office Hours at Moravian Center

The office is open 9 a.m. to Noon, Mon.—Fri.

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday 9 AM—1 PM
Wednesday 1—5 PM

What's on the Horizon?

Moravian Women	February 1
Blanket Sunday	February 4
Ash Wednesday	February 14
1st Sunday in Lent	February 18 (Communion)



*For more information, please check our website:
www.lancastermoravian.org or check us out on Facebook.