

The Moravian Monthly

Official Newsletter of the Canadian, Eastern, and Western Districts
of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

September 2025

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questions or
concerns about
this newsletter.

Welcoming The Gate: A New Moravian Congregation

Our Family is Growing...

After a year of prayer and conversations, the Provincial Elders' Conference, in consultation with the Eastern District Executive Board, is thrilled to announce the approval and acceptance of The Gate – A Faith Community of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as a new member congregation of the Moravian Church, Northern Province. These conversations began following an expressed interest by The Gate leadership to join the Moravian Church as a ministry partner and as a participating member of an inclusive and vibrant Moravian mission community.

The Gate will begin their ministry with us by residing in our church facility in South Bethlehem and by working in collaboration with the Eastern District Executive Board to complete their charter and constitution in accordance with the Book of Order. Additional information can be found about The Gate Community Church at TheGateCC.com.

A special service of welcome and commemoration will be planned for the near future. Area congregations are welcomed and encouraged to attend.



Provincewide Updates

Provincial Synod 2026 Registration is Open

Congregational, district, and provincial leaders received an email on July 23rd with information regarding registration for Synod 2026. **The deadline to register is October 1st.**

Learn about the Compass Program at Moravian University School of Theology!

Are you feeling called to better equip yourself for ministry in your congregation? There is an exciting new opportunity with the Compass program at Moravian Theological Seminary, specially designed for lay leaders. All courses are available online, and scholarship assistance is available from the Eastern (melissa@mcnp.org) and Western (jason@mcnp.org) Districts. Email to inquire!

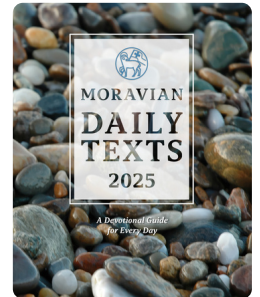
Compass is an educational program of preparation for ministry and service designed for persons preparing for authorized ministry and service in many denominations. Each class integrates a Moravian ethos of humble, relational theology into an ecumenical curriculum, welcoming diverse leaders preparing for varied ministry contexts. Classes are six weeks long and require about five hours per week of engagement, split between independent work (readings and assignments), asynchronous participation via Canvas (learning management system), and synchronous time via Zoom (1.5 to 2 hours each week).



A year-end Daily Texts opportunity!

Looking for a way to invite new people into your congregations, reach out to your communities in a Moravian way or help your current members connect with the Bible every day? Offer them a free *Moravian Daily Texts*!

The IBOC has a limited supply of remaining 2025 Daily Texts in stock that we're offering to congregations for free beginning Sept. 5. With more than three months of fresh Daily Texts still to go in each copy, you can use these remaining 2025 editions in your outreach and ministry efforts while introducing people to this uniquely Moravian tradition of the "World's oldest daily devotional...that is new every morning!" Paperback, hardcover or Journal editions are available (note: we sold out of the large print edition this year!)



To help offset the cost of offering these free copies, we only ask that churches pay actual shipping costs. Free pickup at the Moravian Church Center in Bethlehem is also available. We will include an insert for each copy with information on ordering 2026 Daily Texts editions with your order; you can also include information about your church with the copies you distribute.

To take advantage of this offer, please contact Jill Bruckart at 610.867.0593 ext. 703, or via email at jill@mcnp.org. Note that this offer is not available through our online store.

Thanks for your support of our Moravian Daily Texts ministry!

Be Part of the Journey for New Emerging Ministry Leaders

On August 14th, the Emerging Ministries Committee of the Northern Province launched a new leadership development cohort for clergy and lay ministers who sense God's call to start something new. Essentials Collective is a 14-week cohort learning experience culminating with a pilgrimage to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in November.

Each week, cohort members participate in Online Learning Modules facilitated by the Leadership Development Coordinator (LDC), T.C. Moore; the Ministry Development Coordinator (MDC), Evan Taylor; or a special guest presenter. Guest presenters include Dr. Craig Atwood, Rebecca Craver, José Humphreys, Dave Bennett, Christie Melby-Gibbons, Osheta Moore, Mike Riess, and Dr. Michael Carrion.

The purpose of Essentials Collective is to equip leaders with theological grounding and practical tools while igniting spiritual imagination to launch or support Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities within the Moravian church and beyond. Cohort participants are diverse. Some are ordained Moravian clergy, others are clergy from full-communion partner denominations. Still others are non-denominational pastors and lay leaders.

As the cohort dives deep into the call to serve Christ and neighbor with wisdom, courage, and joy, we have a unique opportunity to walk the streets of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania—to stand where our Moravian forebears prayed, built, and dreamed, and to connect our learning with the living heritage of our church.

We believe this pilgrimage will be more than a trip. It will be a time of renewal, grounding, and inspiration—an experience that shapes the next generation of Moravian leaders for faithful service in our congregations and communities.

You are warmly invited to be part of this journey. By contributing to the Pilgrimage Fund, you will help open the way for these leaders to walk in the footsteps of those who went before us—and return ready to carry our shared story into the future.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to cover the costs associated with travel, lodging, and meals. Every gift, no matter the size, is a thread woven into this journey. Together, we can nurture leaders rooted in our Moravian history and blossoming with vision for tomorrow.



Stuck No More: Jumpstarting Stewardship This Fall Webinar

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 | 12:00 PM ET OR 7:00 PM ET

Has your church put stewardship on hold? There's no time like the present to move from inactive to engaged in healthy habits of steward formation. This encouraging and practical webinar will share four key steps to restart (or begin for the first time!) your church's conversation on what it means to live as God's grateful, faithful and generous stewards.

Who: Ideal for pastors and lay leaders of congregations who are ready to reengage in stewardship

Where: Register at MMFA.com

When: Tuesday, September 9th, 12pm ET or 7pm ET



Have questions? Call or email Laura Watson, Vice President/Director of Programs, for more information or to see how MMFA's free stewardship services can help your church!



Racial Justice Team Calendar: September 2025

September 15th – October 15th: Hispanic Heritage Month

Erica Rios, member of Morongo Moravian Church and the MCNP Racial Justice Team, has provided a reflection for use on and around this day. Find the reflection, as well as a bulletin insert, by scanning the QR code. An excerpt of the reflection is included below.

Hispanic Heritage Month is more than a calendar event—it's a sacred opportunity to honor the stories, struggles, and triumphs of our ancestors. As a proud Indigenous Mexican American woman, I see this month as a time to reclaim narratives that have long been overlooked, especially those of our Indigenous roots that pulse beneath the surface of mainstream Hispanic identity. It's a moment to celebrate not just the vibrant colors of our culture, but the deep wisdom, resilience, and spiritual richness of the original peoples of Mexico whose traditions still guide us today.

**SEPTEMBER
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
(9/15-10/15)**
15 Bombing of 16th St. Baptist Church, Birmingham STNs Denise McNair (11), Addie Mae Collins (14), Carole Robertson (14), and Cynthia Wesley (14) (1963)
30 Orange Shirt Day (Honor Indigenous Children sent away to residential schools in CA)/National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (CAN)



Updates from the Moravian Music Foundation

Comenius Music Academy

All are welcome to our busy fall season of educational opportunities with the Moravian Music Foundation! MMF offers a variety of free music theory and history classes for adults and youth. Easy sign-up is required for our planning and to receive the Zoom link. Courses below are accessible online via Zoom.



- Sept 2 – 23 – **Introduction to Reading Music** [online] 4 classes, Tuesdays at 12:00pm (EDT) (Christopher Ogburn)
- Sept 3 – Nov 19 – **Faith-Singing Through Moravian History** – Curriculum for Adults Hybrid: In-person and/or Online. One session per week for 12 weeks; Wednesdays at 12:00pm
- Sept 17 – Oct 15 – **The Romantic Period** [online] 5 classes, Wednesdays at 12:00pm (EDT) (Christopher Ogburn)
- Sept 26 – **Realizing Figured Bass** [online] Friday at 12:00pm. (Kyle Johnston)
- October 24 – **How to Use Music Notation Software** (A MuseScore Tutorial) [online] Friday at 12:00pm. (Kyle Johnston)
- November 21 – **Hymn-writing Masterclass** [online] Friday at 12:00pm. (Kyle Johnston)

Monday Morning Music: share a musical moment with Kyle Johnston at the keyboard – Mondays at 10am

Start your week off with your favorite hymns! Join Kyle Johnston every Monday morning as he plays through a variety of hymns from multiple sources. Hear old favorites, discover new favorites, and relax to the sound of classic hymns at home, in your office, or on your commute.

Recordings are available now on the MMF YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@MoravianMusicFoundation/streams>

Music at the Museum – Every First Sunday through November, MMF will offer a variety of music for visitors to the Museum; Kyle Johnston, organizer. Historic Bethlehem Moravian Museum, 66 W. Church St., Bethlehem, PA, 1:00 – 4:00pm. **Dates:** September 7, October 5, November 2

SAVE the DATES

- **Advent Singstunde** – Sunday, November 30 (time TBD) Moravian Historical Society, Whitefield House, 214 E. Center St. Nazareth, PA
- **ChristmasFest** – Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 Free and open to the public Archie K. Davis Center and Elbertson Fine Arts Center, 430 Leaders Ave., Winston-Salem, NC
- **Music on the Mountain** – March 13–15, 2026 Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference and Retreat Center (registration will open in September)

ChristmasFest



Music on Mtn.



Clergy Updates

The Rev. Cathy Kolwey has accepted an appointment to serve as the full-time pastor at Waconia Moravian Church, Waconia, MN. Sister Kolwey will be installed on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Prior to the appointment, she had served as the Director of Spiritual Care at Auburn Homes Senior Living. Please be in prayer for the members of Waconia Moravian and for Sister Kolwey and her family as they transition together in this ministry.

The Rev. Lloyd Gooden has been granted permission to retire from the active ministry of the Moravian Church, effective October 31, 2025. Brother Gooden was ordained on July 22, 2012, at John Hus Moravian Church, Brooklyn, NY and consecrated a Presbyter on November 2, 2017, at Sharon Moravian Church, New Philadelphia, OH. Brother Gooden has served at Calvary Moravian in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Lebanon Moravian in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and at Sharon Moravian in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Please hold Brother Gooden and his family in your prayers through this transition.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ian Edwards | 20 Sherry Gehris |
| 2 Richard Everhart, Jr. | 20 Tracy Pryor |
| 5 Dennis Rohn | 21 Rita Andersen |
| 10 David Danneberger | 21 Joan Daley |
| 10 Mark Breland | 22 Jason Andersen |
| 12 Douglas Kleintop | 23 Cecile Miller-White |
| 13 Marian Boyle Rohloff | 23 Emily Lippert |
| 15 William Surber | 24 Melissa Johnson |
| 15 Mary Ann Pula | 27 Sharon Benson |
| 15 James Reifinger | 27 Peg Chamberlin |
| 15 Kenneth Holmberg | 28 Bruce Weaknecht |
| 16 Rhonda Robinson | 30 Maria Prochnau |
| 18 Renate Vitt | 30 Junie Sahadath |

Ordination Anniversaries

- 3 Derek French (30 years)
- 5 Peg Chamberlin (43 years)
- 6 Christie Melby-Gibbons (16 years)
- 7 Vicki Jens-Page (17 years)
- 12 David Glasser (43 years)
- 12 Linda Wisser (5 years)
- 14 Jay Petrella (17 years)
- 15 Barry Lehman (51 years)
- 16 Heather Robinson Owens (13 years)
- 24 Jane Gehler (20 years)
- 25 Duane Ullrich (42 years)
- 29 Sharon Benson (29 years)
- 29 Percival Gordon (40 years)

Churches Celebrating Anniversaries

- 10 Daggett, Michigan (114 years)
- 11 Watertown, Wisconsin (171 years)
- 16 New Dawn, Toronto, Ontario (41 years)

Please pray for the following churches who are in the call process or without pastors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey | • First, Dover, Ohio |
| • Canaan, Davenport, North Dakota | • First, New York, New York |
| • Castleton Hill, Staten Island, New York | • Great Kills, Staten Island, New York |
| • Chaska, Minnesota | • Heimtal, Edmonton, Alberta |
| • Christ, Calgary, Alberta | • Lebanon, Pennsylvania |
| • Christian Faith, Deforest, Wisconsin | • Shepherd of the Prairie, Fargo, North Dakota |
| • Daggett, Michigan | • St. Paul's, Upper Marlboro, Maryland |
| • Ephraim, Wisconsin | • Tremont Terrace, Bronx, New York |
| • Faith of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC | • Veedum, Pittsville, Wisconsin |



Moravian Church in Canada

Hiring Announcement: Assistant to the BECD President

Mark Guevarra, currently serving as licensed lay pastor for Edmonton Moravian Church, has been named to the new position of Assistant to the President, Board of Elders of the Canadian District (BECD).

In this new part-time role, Mark will work with the BECD president and board to provide support and assistance to the clergy, joint boards and congregations of our Canadian churches. This work will help meet the BECD's goal to improve communications with the Canadian district, build programs and encourage all Moravians to live fully into our identity as a Christ-centered, missional, relational and ecumenical church.

Mark has been serving as licensed lay pastor for Edmonton Moravian Church since October 2023 and will continue in that role in addition to his new responsibilities. He is currently on the path towards presbyteral ordination in the Moravian church and is a PhD candidate at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Mark's Christian faith is shaped by his Filipino-Canadian and gay identity, and his faith is something he is passionate about witnessing to, sharing, and nurturing in a world of grace and brokenness.

Mark has already begun his work with the BECD and will be reaching out to all of our churches in the coming months. A major focus will be on improving communication between the BECD and our congregations, providing assistance with developing and creating programs in our communities and supporting new programs for Van Es Camp and Conference Center.

Please join us in welcoming Mark to this new role and supporting him in this important work.



Christian Nationalism: A Canadian Context

October 18th 10 am – 3pm MT

The Canadian District, in collaboration with Lutheran colleagues, is sponsoring an event following through on the 2023 Provincial Synod's Christians against Christian Nationalism resolution. At this event we'll define Christian Nationalism, learn how it manifests in a Canadian context, and explore how our congregations and clergy might respond.

Speakers for the event are Dr. Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Moravian Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and Dr. Marc Froese, Professor of Political Science at Burman University in Alberta. We would like to thank Rio Terrace Church for providing the location and the Northern Province's Racial Justice Team for supplying the honorarium for our speakers.

When: October 18, 2025 10:00–3:00 Mountain Time

Where: Rio Terrace Church & Zoom

Registration info TBA. Questions can be sent to Pastor Aaron (pastor@mcchurch.ca).



The Eastern District

Moravian Church in America

Northern Province



Directors of Faith Formation Update

The newly hired four Area Directors of Faith Formation for the Eastern District recently completed their first training session with Marie Coutts. Their time together was spent getting to know each other and building community, but most importantly, learning about foundational pieces relating to faith formation. Jami Vandock, who will serve as Resource Director for the team, was also present to assist in equipping the directors for their ministry. Just a few of the topics covered in this time together included – how to evaluate curriculum, creating a learning environment, the importance of ritual, and how all ages learn.

In the months ahead, the Directors will be participating in more learning opportunities which will enable them to serve their area congregations beginning in January.

Until that time, continue to contact Marie Coutts for any Christian Education needs. MCoutts@SBCGlobal.net

Community Celebration of World Heritage

September 6th – Bethlehem, PA

Join us for a block party from Payrow Plaza at City Hall to Central's Church Green between 12 – 7 p.m. to celebrate our Moravian Church Settlements– Bethlehem World Heritage inscription and remember this designation as more than the historic buildings we treasure, but also the living traditions and community we have today!

Opening ceremonies begin on Central Moravian Church's Lower Church Green at 12 p.m. and then there will be live music, children's activities, community booths, and more – open from 1 – 5 p.m. both on the church green and at the city center (Payrow Plaza, by the Bethlehem Library).

Food trucks will line Church Street and Central's Johnston Festival Memorial Concert is a part of this special day at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Stick around for a special Community Lovefeast with Bethlehem Area Moravian Churches on the Lower Green at 5 p.m. and an Ice Cream Social also sponsored by the BAM churches. **If you are a Moravian Sugarcake baker, enter the Moravian Sugar cake contest by emailing TammyW@lehighvalleychamber.org.**

WORLD HERITAGE

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY SEPT. 6 | NOON TO 7 PM

CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH | CHURCH STREET | BETHLEHEM CITY HALL



Moravian Church Settlements
BETHLEHEM
A WORLD HERITAGE SITE
moravianchurchsettlements.org



The Western District Moravian Church in America, Northern Province



2025 HOSTED BY THE WESTERN
DISTRICT JUSTICE TEAM

**JUSTICE
CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 17-19

**WATERTOWN &
MILWAUKEE, WI**

*Presentation on Congregational Based Justice
Organizing from faith leaders with
"Becoming a Welcoming Watertown"*

*Tour at America's Black Holocaust Museum
& the Sherman Phoenix Marketplace*

*Food with Tricklebee Cafe, & Watertown's Loaves and
Fishes Ministry*

*Register online
or email pastor@wsmoraviangb.org*



Board of World Mission Spaghetti Dinner at Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church *Saturday, September 6th at 5 pm*

Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner in the church dining room on Saturday, September 6 at 5 pm., and you are invited! This dinner is to carb up members and friends of the Board of World Mission who will be riding the Door County Century Ride the next day. This will be a wonderful time for fellowship and for you to have a chance to meet these fellow Moravians who will be participating in the ride. The meal will be spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and of course, Econo Foods (Tadych's) world-famous cherry sheet pie! There will be a freewill offering, and we hope Moravians from across Door County and the Western District will attend. It would be helpful if you could RSVP to the Sturgeon Bay church office (920-743-6218) if you plan on attending, so we can get an idea of how much food to prepare. This will be a great time for fellowship, and we hope you will join us.



Support the Team!! BWM supporters are training hard to challenge themselves in commitment to our shared ministry. Choose a team member to support at the QR code (or learn more at MoravianMission.org/CenturyRide).

