



# TRINITY NEWS

For Family & Friends of Trinity Moravian Church

NOVEMBER 2020



## From the Pastor

Wow, 2020 has truly been a year—seems like it's had 43 months so far. I had no idea that the pandemic shutdown would go on this long—but now the most optimistic prediction is that vaccine inoculations won't be widespread until April 2021. I was sure that by now we'd be back to normal services together, but such is not to be. The science of COVID-19 indicates that the most dangerous thing we could do is pack a lot of people in the sanctuary and sing enthusiastically. So guess where that leaves us for Christmas Eve? Check the articles here for how we will handle Church Council, Thanksgiving, and Christmas during this stressful year. Also, I've posted an article on our website providing links to the research that we have used to make decisions—since there is so much misinformation floating about, I thought that would be helpful.

- Pastor John

## Church Council is Postponed...

In the current version of the Church Rules & Regulations (approved by the Church Council and the PEC), we are to hold an annual Council meeting for elections on the "second Sunday in November of each year, or at an alternate date chosen by the Church Board." The required quorum was reduced to 24.

This year, we could just barely hold a legal Church Council (we are limited to 25 for indoor gatherings) but such a council would exclude some of our life-long members from attending in person, and many of them would not be able to attend virtually via Zoom. Based on recommendation from the PEC, the Board has decided to postpone the meeting "until January 10, 2021 with the understanding that we may have to reschedule depending upon the status of Covid-19." There is a fair likelihood that we may have to postpone again.

*Since the TMC Rules & Regulation specify that the current officers remain in place until their successors are installed, we would "freeze in place" the Board as-is until the election and installation. The budget will also carry forward, with the only changes being the few items we have firm figures for.*

## ...Christmas Eve is Not!

If gathering in an enclosed area and singing is one of the most dangerous things we can do, what are we to do about Christmas Eve Lovefeasts?

The Board appointed an ad hoc committee to examine the possibilities for our beloved Christmas Eve service. This committee included Music Director Roman Brady, Linda Shouse, Cynthia Tesh, Amanda Newsom, Meagan McGee-Risdon, Mary Bergstone, Greg Gentle, Rodney Reich, Bruce Sherman, and Pastor Jackman. The committee reviewed the guidelines for COVID-19 and explored every possibility that seemed realistic.

The principal issues are that singing together in an enclosed space is one of the riskiest things we can do these days – and passing cups from hand-to-hand is also not permitted. So once we removed singing and passing cups, there's not much left of the Lovefeast!

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- Drive-In Communion
- Sunnyside Food Collection
- Thanksgiving Food/Offering
- Christmas Lovefeast-in-a-Bag
- Watchwords for the Year



Recognizing that many families will be getting together, we decided to focus on how we could provide a lovefeast experience for gathered families at home. We took a look at the “Lovefeast-in-a-Box” offered by Calvary Moravian Church, but since we have many candles already prepared and a good offer on lovefeast buns from a local bakery, we have decided to offer our local members **“Lovefeast-in-a-Bag.”** Each of these will include one candle & holder, one Moravian Lovefast bun, and one Lovefeast Ode; a recipe for lovefeast coffee that you can make at home; and detailed, instructions on how to watch streaming webcast on Youtube, Facebook, or our website. A DVD version of the program will be available to use at home, as well.

The Christmas Lovefeast webcast will be preproduced in November, and will include all the music that we love – either recorded from previous lovefeasts, recorded by the choir, or recorded by special soloists. There will be video of dieners serving, of passing candles from hand to hand, and many still pictures from previous Christmases. This will be planned as something that a gathered family can watch together (ideally on a large-screen TV!) as they share the elements of lovefeast and candles.

Local members will be able to stop by the church and pick up their lovefeast bags on Dec 22 and 23. The buns will be frozen until that pickup time, and will be packed in individually sealed baggies.

*This service will be provided at no cost to our members, but we do ask that each member consider making a generous donation to help cover the costs – and more. The balance will be used, as is our tradition for the Christmas Eve offering, to directly aid people through Sunny-side mInistry.*

**HOW TO ORDER:** Use the enclosed printed order form, or you can order over the web at [christmaslovefeast.org](http://christmaslovefeast.org). There will be a link on our website.

WHAT ABOUT NON-LOCALS and NON-MEMBERS? We don't want

to leave you out just because you can't pick up. We will provide a way for members and associate members at a distance to order their lovefeast material and we will ship. These orders will have to be in by the end of November to make sure we have enough time to fulfill; we will ask that you cover mailing costs. Non-members will be able to order as well, with donation requested. Obviously, Moravian lovefeast buns don't last and won't ship well, so shipped kits will include a Moravian sugar cookie.

***BUT I WANT MY LOVEFEAST COFFEE!*** The coffee makers will make a batch of the “real stuff” and we will come up with an arrangement for local folks to stop by and pick up a jar when they pick up their bags. We will announce the details on this later.

## Stay Healthy, Stay Safe

We are all worn out, tired of masks and staying at home. We would all love nothing more than to have a big service at church with lots of music and singing. But as the Fall progresses, the infection rate is increasing across the nation. Family gatherings where safety measures are ignored is one culprit.

Plan your Christmas get-together carefully and safely. Family members who may have been exposed to the virus or are experiencing symptoms need to stay in isolation, even if it is Christmas. Take precautions so that next year, we can all gather in the sanctuary — and no one will be missing.

## Drive-In Communion

November 15 we will hold Holy Communion in memory of the announcement of Christ as Chief Elder.

We will hold a DRIVE-IN communion service in our church parking lot at 11 am. Those who wish can attend in their automobiles, and tune in their radios to an FM channel to hear the service. We will use prepackaged communion wafer and juice, which will be delivered to each car in a touch-free manner. Because of the lack of congregational singing, this service will last about 20 minutes and will focus on the experience of Holy Communion. Attendees will remain in their automobiles.

For those who feel safer at home, there will be a webcast service at 11

am to celebrate virtual communion, where you prepare your own elements at home. This service will be somewhat shorter than our usual webcast, and will center on the experience of communion.

## MEMBER DIRECTORIES

Thanks to the diligent work of Paul Sluder, Shirley Mullis, and Debbie Jackman, the membership database has been extensively updated, and we are now ready to print new directories. These will include a list of all birthdays for the year. Since these only are distributed to members and associate members, that will be a separate mailing in about a week. You may also use the Online Directory by visiting our website and clicking on the MEMBERS icon.



## Food Collection

David Holston informs us that demand for food at Sunnyside is up 65% over last year, but resources have not kept up with the need. The need is significant, and we must do what we can to meet it. As a result, we will be holding a weekly food drop-off each Saturday from 10 am until Noon, combined with a Rice Bagging event.

Volunteer rice bagging allows Sunnyside to purchase rice in bulk, and separate it into measured bags that include instructions for cooking. We hope to bag at least 200 pounds of rice at every event.

***A link to sign up will be posted on our website and in our Facebook group, complete with details on what foods are in high demand.***

We will not be able to hold a traditional Thanksgiving Eve Lovefeast this year, but we will have a webcast featuring the traditional music and including a special appeal for donations to Sunnyside Ministry.



Starting in November, we will test holding a Laurel Ridge-style VESPERS SERVICE on the lawn. For this open and informal service, we will bring lawn chairs and gather on the church lawn at 5:30. A portable fire pit will supply the campfire to gather around. Please wear masks and expect to maintain social distancing. If you would like to assist with this service, please contact Roman Brady for more information. *In the event of rain, the service will be cancelled.*

## VESPERS ON THE LAWN: November 8, 15, & 22.

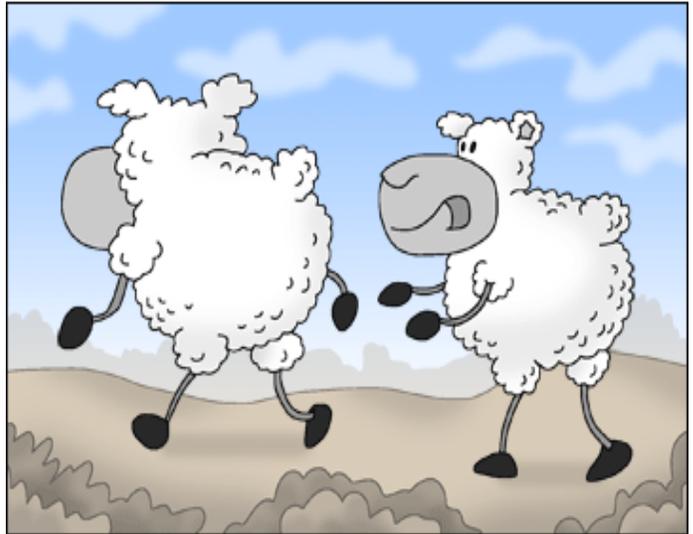
*Scientific studies conducted by the Association of Choral Conductors indicate that singing outdoors is quite safe when combined with masks and social distancing. The volume and circulation of air effectively dilutes aerosol emissions even if one or two attendees are infected and don't know it.*



### Schedule

Worship webcast—Sunday 11:00 am  
 11/8 — 5:30 pm Vespers  
 11/15—11 am Drive-in Communion  
 5:30 pm Vespers  
 11/22—5:30 pm Vespers  
 12/22-23—Lovefeast-in-a-Bag Pickup  
 12/24—4:00 pm and 7:30 pm  
 Christmas Eve Webcast

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(See Isaiah 53:6)

12-01-2014

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT WE'RE ASTRAY ...  
 CAN WE PLEASE STOP AND ASK FOR  
 DIRECTIONS?

*In all things love.*

*In non-essentials liberty,*

*In essentials unity,*



Return Service Requested



Trinity Moravian Church  
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