

The Envoy

Edgeboro Moravian Congregation

December, 2014

Dear Edgeboro Members and Friends:

I greet you in the name of our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is the gift of Jesus into this world that forms the center of the Advent and Christmas season. This is a season of giving because of the most precious gift of grace.

As your pastor I would again remind you of how important it is to keep this season in its proper perspective. Much of the meaning of the season has been stolen away by not only commercialism but sentimentality as well. One of the best ways to keep the season sacred is to be faithful in your attendance at worship each Sunday during the season. This helps you to set your priorities and to hear the Good News read and proclaimed through song, prayer, and the spoken word. To this end we have many special events planned for the Advent and Christmas season. **Please note that we have schedule changes on several Sundays.**

Sunday, November 30	1 st Sunday in Advent: An announcement about our future will be made at our 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. morning services AND we sing the Hosanna Chorus! 10:15 A.M. Sunday School Advent Program 4:00 PM Advent Communion & Candle Light Service
Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday in Advent: An announcement From the wilderness will be shared at both worship services
Sunday, December 14	An Announcement from our Lord will be proclaimed and the Edgeboro Ensemble will plays at both worship services.
Sunday, December 21	An announcement to a teenager will be overheard and the Sunday School Program and Choir Musicale will be enjoyed.
Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve (be sure to get your tickets!)	Lovefeast and Candle services at 3:00 and 5:30 PM Candlelight Vigil at 8:00 PM
Sunday, December 28	10:00 AM – One Worship Service – The distribution of 2015 Watchwords

Finally, let us honor the gift of Jesus Christ with a second mile offering by utilizing the enclosed Advent offering envelope. These gifts are vitally important for enabling us to meet our congregational budget, so please be generous. In this season that honors giving, let us not forget to give to the One who gave us more than money can buy; our eternal lives. We will have the Advent Coin folders available at the Advent Sunday School program on November 30 for anyone who wants to make an offering using this wonderful tradition. We invite you to present your offerings at either the December 21st or 28th worship services.

Peace in Christ,

Chris

Important Notes

- On Sunday, **November 30th** at 4:00PM we will hold a special Candlelight Communion service as a way of marking the beginning of the Advent season. This is one of the most meaningful and beautiful services held at Edgeboro.
- **A SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, **December 7** immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Our only order of business is to elect officers since we did not have a quorum at our last Church Council meeting.
- On Sunday, **December 7th** the Edgeboro Ensemble will practice from 12:15—1:15PM. Then on Sunday, **December 15th** the Ensemble will play before and during the two services. They will play a prelude starting at 8:45AM for the first service and they will also play starting at 11:00AM for the second service. They will also play some of the Liturgy music and some Hymns.
- The calendar for the Unity Prayer Watch has come out. The day that Edgeboro is responsible for is Thursday, **December 18th**. There will be sign up sheets for covering the times closer to the date. Watch for them!
- On Sunday, **December 21st**, the Christmas Musicale along with the annual Sunday School Christmas program will be presented. There is only one service that day at **10:00AM**, which will have our Sunday School children and all choirs participating. You will certainly want to be here for this wonderful event.
- The **Christmas Eve Candle Services** are one of the highlights of our Church year and represents a wonderful time to invite your family and friends to experience our Church family. Please be sure to order your free tickets for the service you want to attend so that we can manage overcrowding and assure that you will have a seat. The Service Schedule is :
 - **3:00PM**—Lovefeast and Candle Service
 - **5:30PM**—Lovefeast and Candle Service
 - **8:00PM**—Candlelight VigilIf you need to order some tickets, please call the office at 610-866-8793.
- There is only one service on Sunday, **December 28th**. The service is at **10:00AM** at which the 2015 Watchwords will be distributed.
- What better way to close out the old year and seek to prayerfully enter the new year than to receive Holy Communion. On Wednesday, **December 31st** from 4:30—6:00PM the sanctuary will be open for quiet reflection and dialogue with God. Upon entering the Sanctuary, participants will be offered a guide for this reflection time. This will be a time to review the past year and dedicate yourself anew to Christ for the new year. Then when ready, participants may come forward to receive Holy Communion from Pastor Chris. You are welcome to stay as long as you like.
- Our **Joyful Noise offering** for the month will be on **December 7**. The offering will benefit the “No Room at the Inn” program of the Moravian Open Door Ministry in New York City. Please come with lots of spare change!
- **West Side Moravian Church and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** invite the community to a Blue Christmas. This is a meaningful service for those who are looking for a way to celebrate the birth of Christ as living hope even while dealing with personal grief and sadness. This contemplative worship service will include music and scripture appropriate for the Christmas season. The service will be held on Sunday, December 21, 5:00PM in the Chapel of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church located at 513 3rd Avenue on Bethlehem’s west side.
- As we approach the end of the year our Church budget is behind on the revenue side by several thousand dollars. We encourage each member to consider giving a second mile gift to insure that we can meet all of our ministry goals and commitments.
- 2015 commitment sheets for both time, talent, and treasure were mailed out to each home early in October. If you have not yet turned yours in, please do so. These commitments are vital to the planning process for our Church Boards, and are an important spiritual discipline for each member. If you need another copy of the commitment sheets please let the church office know.

To the members of Edgeboro Moravian Church,

Your outpouring of your expressions of sympathy was most appreciated with the cards, prayers and attending the calling hours.

So many friends for my family helped to ease the pain and void in our life.

I (we) know Dad is at peace and has no more suffering.

Thank you for all your kindness.

Sincerely,

Ruth Schoeller

(Tina's Mom)

- Congratulations to both Callen and Tayte Messman. Callen was a member of the Moravian Academy soccer team that won the class A state championship. And Tayte was a part of the Moravian Academy field hockey team that made it all way to the state semifinals before they were defeated. Well done to both of you!
- If you participated in the "Grow \$20" program and have not turned in your proceeds, please do so as soon as you can or let Pastor Chris know if you are still working on your project.
- As we have in the past, we will be helping **Northeast Ministry** to brighten the Christmas season for some of the families that they serve. This year we are giving them backpacks and some things to go inside. We would like to do 25 backpacks.

Our goal for Northeast Ministries is:

5 - kindergarten to 2nd grade backpacks

6 - 3rd to 5th grade backpacks

7 - 6th to 8th grade backpacks

7 - high school backpacks

100 Ticonderoga pencils

10 packs of Crayola markers - chubby ones

20 pairs of little Fiskars scissor

5 multipacks of construction paper

10 pencil boxes

- In the November/December the Greeters for the December 11:15AM services were cut off. They are:
 - Dec 7 - Sally Abruzzese
 - Dec 14 - Holly Haines