

The Envoy

Edgeboro Moravian Congregation

August, 2017

Dear Edgeboro Friends & Family,

As I write this, I'm looking out of my office window at the church at the biggest open space of grass the church has on its property. It's a nice "front yard," but it's not perfect. It's not the biggest lot compared to what some other churches have and if you look closely, you'll see that it's not all grass (there's a lot of weeds), there's a dead spot where nothing will grow near the stairs coming from the parking lot, the slope from the parking lot and the sidewalk and lights provide obstacles at time for a tent or a game to be played, and there's a mysterious divot/hole right in the middle of the lot.

This grassy area is not perfect, and yet I've seen it used to the fullest on many occasions: each summer, kids flood the area to play games during Vacation Bible School; the Girl Scouts that meet here in the evenings during the school year use it for outdoor games frequently; it has been the spot where hundreds of worshippers have gathered on Sundays past; and on July 15th, it was the site of a rummage sale that helped us raise over \$1,000 for the homeless (see the update further on in this newsletter).

This month, as it has been in the past, this will also be the site where hundreds gather during our Ice Cream Festival for a time of great food, fun, and fellowship. (Speaking of that event, I hope you can join us, whether volunteering or simply attending, on our "front yard" the evening of Wednesday August 23rd.)

Yes, the grass has its imperfections, but it is still used to bring glory to God in many wonderful ways that bring joy to so many others.

Isn't that like us? Don't we all have our own imperfections? Maybe we're too proud, too stubborn or too busy. Maybe our temper's a little short, our organization could use some work, or we don't always have the right words to say.

And yet, with our imperfections and all, we, too, can be used to bring glory to God in many wonderful ways that bring joy to so many others. What might that look like for us?

I never knew I had so much in common with the church's front lawn, and now that I've given it some thought, I know I'll be thinking about God's grace and calling for me the next time I walk across that grass. May you have the same experience there too.

Finding holy places with you,

Pastor Dan

Important Notes

- On Sunday, **August 13th**, we will celebrate Holy Communion in celebration of the August 13th Festival Commemorating the Renewal of the Unitas Fratrum.
- It is not too early to be thinking about our Annual Ice Cream Festival. The date will be Wednesday, **August 23**, so please save the date on your calendar. As always we will need help setting up, selling tickets, serving food, and then cleaning up at the end of the day. In addition to serving at the event we will also need food donations. There are sign up sheets in the entrance to the Sanctuary.
- Joyful Noise for July was for Northeast Ministry—Summer Camp. The amount was \$133.40. Thank you for your generosity!
- Looking ahead, Fall Worship starts on **September 10th** at 9:00AM with the installation of the Sunday School teachers and Rally Day. We will also have Children's Lovefeast that Sunday.

- **Update - July's Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering Rummage Sale**

Thank you to all who donated items, volunteered their time, and contributed monetary donations to Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering (BES). The rummage sale held on July 15th, which used a unique "Donate-as-you-are-able" model, leaving items unpriced and encouraging people to donate any amount, raised \$1,326.09 for BES! Thank you for your support and thanks to Beth Behrend for her help!

- **Bethlehem Annual Moravians (BAM) Annual Picnic**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 10th, 4pm at Advent Moravian Church**. All Bethlehem Moravians and friends are welcome to attend this event. There will be food, music, and games all afternoon and evening. Come join us!

- **Lay Readers for August**

August 6 - Ann Amidon

August 13 - Bob Stewart

August 20 - Terri Long

August 27 - Jessie Bucchin

September 3 - Rebecca Miller

September 10—(9AM) - Rebekah Miller

- Summer is here and so is the need to share our gratitude for all that God has done for this ministry through your support and contribution.

At this time we would like to thank you for your gracious gift to the ministry of Esperanza. The need is continuous and great. Without your prayers and help in the form of monetary gifts we could not continue on with this wonderful ministry to the people on the south side of Bethlehem. As you are already aware, that we've been offering to 40+ kids in this community a safe space, as well as a homework club and most of all a nutritious dinner, every week from Monday to Thursday, and with a special meal for our families on Sunday's. We have also been able to send 14 kids to camp.

Thanks for your Spiritual support and tangible gifts, with which together we move forward in the work of our Lord. Always having scripture as our guide, we are all called to, feed the hungry and clothe the naked, and to be a safe place for all, as stated in the Gospel of Matthew 25:35: "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

If it were not for God's grace and your loving and thoughtful support, we would not have been able to continue on with this ministry. We pray for you as you continue to support this and other ministries, in God's vineyard, and we ask you to also keep us in your prayers.

With grateful hearts,

Pastor Tracy & Rhonda Robinson