

FAITH FORMATION

Moravian Church - Lehigh Valley

Resources for Kids and Adults *Bright Ideas*
Events, Ministries and Spiritual Formation Opportunities

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 13:15). How do we prepare our hearts to receive the joy and peace God offers? How do we keep our spirits "on track" in our daily lives? This issue explores resources and ministry ideas to deepen our faith and ties to one another. Please contact me anytime for curriculum recommendations and assistance:
Lanie Yaswinski, Director of Faith Formation, lanie@mcnp.org, 610-559-4833



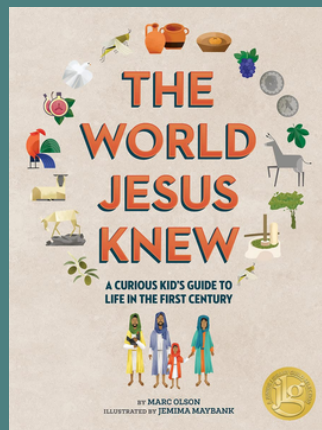
Christian Educators' Networking Breakfast

Saturday, November 21 @ 10:00am
College Hill Moravian Church

Inviting all local Christian Educators to gather again for a time of sharing, learning and fellowship prior to Advent. Light breakfast provided.

RSVP to Lanie by November 18.
Be Prepared to Share!

Book for Curious Kids

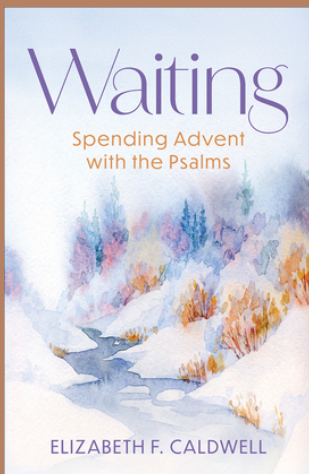


[Click Image for Link](#)

If your church is searching for a book to engage curious kids who enjoy science, history, and fun facts, be sure to check out this book. It would be a great addition for your children's library or worship bags. Kids can read about what life was like during the time of Jesus' life on earth. It is also a great enhancement to any New Testament Sunday School lesson!

New Advent Study for Adults

The season of Advent can feel like a rush to the finish line of Christmas rather than a time of waiting and anticipation. The poetry of the Psalms, on the other hand, invites us to slow down. Author Elizabeth Caldwell engages readers in a creative spiritual practice of connecting with one psalm each week to illuminate an enduring attribute of God so that we may recognize how these characteristics are embodied in the One whom God sent to live among us, offering us life and love. This book also has additional weeks of study into Christmas and Epiphany, and free digital resources, which include a sermon series guide, group study and reflection videos from the author, and images for use during worship or group study. Be sure to check it out!



[Click Image for Link](#)



Six Week Bible Study for Small Groups

This study leads participants through dismantling four harmful interpretive lenses and discovering four new ones that bring healing and wholeness, along with testing out these lenses on a familiar biblical text. Participants can identify and release interpretive frameworks built on racism, sexism, exclusion, and misuse of power, then embrace four Christ-centered alternatives that cultivate compassion, justice, and spiritual renewal.

Each book includes everything you need for a meaningful study experience, plus a companion code to redeem on Amplify Media and stream all video sessions and leader resources.

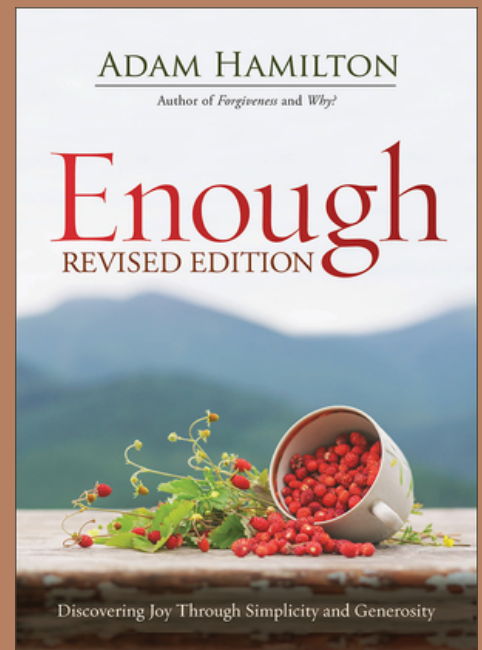
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Stewardship Study for Adults

Many churches spend October or November in a season focused on stewardship because the budget realities are weighing heavy. Consider spending time together in adult small groups or Sunday School classes talking about the joy found when we faithfully embrace God's vision of simplicity and generosity.

More than just matters of money, this study helps reframe our relationship with "stuff" and encourages us to consider that we can let go of the stress around scarcity and claim "enough is enough."

Companion leader guides and DVD's are available to make group leadership easy!



[Click Image for purchase link](#)



Ministry Highlights: SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES



Join us at 6:00 pm for informal worship, singing and snacks around the Schoeneck fire pit!

Sunday, October 18th (Youth-led)
Sunday, November 22nd

FIRE PIT MINISTRY

Schoeneck Moravian Church
316 N. Broad St. Ext.
Nazareth PA 18064
OPEN TO ALL!

Schoeneck invites all local Moravians and friends to this informal outdoor worship opportunity!

***Message, Music and Snacks
around the fire!***

Please bring your own chair.
Weather permitting - In case of rain
worship will be cancelled.

***October 18 will be
Youth-Led***



synergy



Looking for a safe space to discuss controversial topics and consider other points of view?
Instead of cancel culture, The Gate Community Church is offering an opportunity for dialogue.

Synergy

meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 6:00PM

Next Meeting: October 21

Topic #5: Progressive vs. Conservative

1238 E. Fourth St., Bethlehem PA 18015

- 1.Abortion
- 2.Christian Nationalism
- 3.Environment
- 4.Transgender
- 5.Progressive vs Conservative
- 6.Spiritual gifts
- 7.Science v Morality
- 8.Zionism
- 9.Pauline Christianity
- 10.Science vs Faith/Miracles
- 11.Thoughts and Prayers Culture
- 12.Christian Exceptionalism
- 13.Pushing politics in schools
- 14.Gun violence
- 15.Performative preaching
- 16.Reliance on technology
- 17.Common ground
18. Free Will vs Predestination
- 19.Heaven/Hell



Advent

SMALL GROUP DEVOTION



Moravians have a long history of meeting regularly in small groups in addition to large-group worship. As our modern church formed in the 18th century, members were divided into groups called "**choirs**" according to their age, sex and marital status, and then further into smaller devotional groups called "**bands**" of less than ten people.

For what purpose?

To examine one's heart, strengthen faith and share their journey with Christ among others in a similar stage of life.

The result?

A faith so strong that mission work spread over six continents.

Small devotional groups kept members on their spiritual "tippy toes" through deep introspection. Members were encouraged to examine the state of their hearts and souls in order to align their thoughts and behaviors ever more closely with Christ's example.

If you are thinking of forming a small devotional group, Advent is a great time to start! Four weeks around set themes - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love - provide a framework to give it a try!

Here are a couple of ideas to get started:

- Form a small group of friends, family or church members (less than 10).
- Pick a time to meet once a week: Evening supper, morning coffee or breakfast, before or after worship, etc....whatever is convenient for your group. Sunday evening suppers are a great way to reset hearts and minds for the week ahead.
- Choose a simple Advent wreath liturgy (example below) or a more in-depth book study (examples in newsletters) to explore.
- Include some introspection on how you see the themes working in your life and how this affects your walk with Christ. How is your faith working this week? How are you struggling? Include prayer for strengthened faith and noticing God at work in our lives.
- Tailor your meeting to your group: include music or crafts or anything else the group enjoys.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another..." Hebrews 10:24-25



[Click here for Advent wreath liturgy](#)

Moravian Advent Candle Lighting Liturgies 2026



[Click here for 2026 Advent Candle Lighting Liturgies](#)

Once again several Moravian entities have teamed up to provide Advent candle lighting liturgies for use in worship:

The **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgies for 2026** provide a short liturgical guide through the themes of **Hope through Caring for Creation, Peace through Caring for Each Other, Joy through Caring for Right Relationships, and Love through the Teachings of Jesus Christ**. These liturgies connect the Advent themes with the **Everyone Wants a Better World** Bible study produced by the Board of World Mission, highlighting real-life ministries of Moravian congregations and organizations. Each week's liturgy is rooted in Moravian tradition, offering powerful examples of the Church's work across the world.

These liturgies also create space for **your congregation** to highlight the ways you are bringing these themes to life through your own ministries and outreach. We encourage you to use this space to have folks in your worship setting share ministries on their hearts and minds that match that week's theme. We hope this will further help us recognize the ways the Moravian Church and local communities are spreading Christ's light in the world.

*Board of World Mission *Moravian Ministries Foundation

*Southern Province Commission on Congregational Development

* Interprovincial Board of Communications

For Kids:

In addition, the Faith Formation team has developed an accompanying 2026 Advent Art Series for Children. This art activity series is intended for use alongside the 2026 Advent Candle Lighting Liturgies that highlight the words and themes found in the book **Everyone Wants a Better World** written by Jami Vandock and illustrated by Kendal Tesch. This suggested sequence of art reflections could be used in a playground space during worship, or included as part of a Sunday School activity. If used during worship, it is recommended to feature relevant selections from the children's book, available for purchase through the IBOC.

[Click here for 2026 Advent Art Series for Children](#)



[Click here for Everyone Wants a Better World Bible Study](#)