

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025
MORNING WORSHIP – 10:00 A.M.**

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: *I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us.* Isaiah 63:7

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood

PRELUDE: *A Christmas Paeon*.....T. *This Endrys Night*
George Oldroyd (1886-1951)

CALL TO WORSHIP

LITURGY: *Christmas*, pages 59-61

Hymn 692 -

Lord, Who Left the Highest Heaven, verse 1.....T. *Eden Church*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
**fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his
command!**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are
close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Hebrews 2:10-18

During the next hymn, children aged 3 through 3rd grade may follow Children's Worship
leaders to continue worship in CE-106. Visitors can check in Godly Play guests
using the QR code found in the pews.

HYMN 454 - *Praise the Lord! You Heav'n's, Adore Him* T. Hyfrydol

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:13-23.....The Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen

SERMON

HYMN 692 –

Lord, Who Left the Highest Heaven, verses 2-6....T. Eden Church

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION.....Rev. Dr. Atwood

The offertory provides an opportunity to reflect on the many ways that we can express our gratitude in response to God: with time, treasure, talents, and testimony. For financial giving online: Use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>. Click the DONATE tab on any page of the Home Church website. For more information, go to homemoravian.org/donate. You can make one-time or recurring gifts. Text HOME to 73256 on your phone.

ANTHEM:

*All My Heart Today Rejoices...*Johann Georg Ebeling (1666)

Home Church Choir

Paul Gerhardt (1653) translated by Catherine Winkworth (1858)

All my heart today rejoices, as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing. Hark, a voice from yonder manger, soft and sweet, does entreat, "Flee from woe and danger; come and see; from all that grieves you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you." Come then, let us hasten yonder; here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder; love him who with love is yearning; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

LITURGY: *Christmas*, pages 63-64

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

Joy to the World, verse 4 (see below) T. Antioch

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*While singing, we extend the right hand of fellowship.
We invite you to continue your fellowship as you exit during the postlude.*

POSTLUDE:

*Voluntary on "O Come, All Ye Faithful".....T. Adeste, fideles
Jason D. Payne (2014)*

SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP, CE-106, 10:20 a.m. (aged 3 through 3rd grade), *The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL NOT MEET TODAY. We will resume regular schedule next Sunday.

CALENDAR

Sunday	- 10:00 am	Worship Service
Monday	- 5:00 pm	Christian Formation Team Meeting, CE-101
Tuesday	- 2:00 pm	Living Faith, Club Room
Wednesday	- 7:00 am	Breakfast, Cagney's Restaurant
	8:00 pm	Watchnight Service, St. Philips Moravian Church
Thursday	-	New Year's Day, Church Closed
Next Sunday	- 10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:15 am	Educational Programming

Announcements

We extend a cordial welcome to all visitors this morning and invite you to join us again whenever possible. Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register, pass it both ways in your pew, and greet those near you. After the service, pick up a beverage in the serving room off the Sanctuary, and enjoy fellowship.

The poinsettias used in the decorations are placed in the Sanctuary in loving memory of Roy C. and Ester Hampton Haberkern, Roy C. Jr. and Carlotta "Tota" Haberkern, Anthony H. Whitaker, Mary A. Hampton, and Anna L. Rights by the family.

The narcissi are placed in the Sanctuary as part of the Christmas decorations in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. "Clarence and Margaret" Leinbach, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. C.T. "Ted and Kaka" Leinbach, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. L.B. "Brick and Kafoo" Leinbach, Mr. W. J. "Bill" Leinbach, Mr. and Mrs. P.H. "Paul and Margaret" Kolb, Margaret Leinbach Hawkins, Mark Edward Hepler, Kathryn Leinbach Brown, and Caroline Leinbach Woo by the family.

The wreaths are placed on the outside doors of the Sanctuary in loving memory of I.B. and Mary Southerland by I.B. and Carol Southerland and their family.

Removal of the Greens

Monday, December 29 | 10AM - 12PM

**HELP
NEEDED**



Bring work gloves.
Meet in the Sanctuary.

Questions? Contact I.B. Southerland at:
336.409.5175

Additional Announcements

Watchnight Service, Wednesday, December 31, 8:00 p.m.: This one-hour service of Holy Communion will be shared at St. Philips Moravian Church. Angelica Regalado-Cieza, pastor of Fries Memorial Moravian Church, will speak. **All band members are invited to assemble for the prelude 30 minutes prior worship.**

Moravian Unity Prayer Watch - Home Moravian Church will participate in the worldwide Unity Prayer Watch on **January 1, 12:01-8:00 a.m.** Sign up for a 15- or 30-minute prayer time in the church vestibule or call the office to reserve a slot. Join this unbroken chain of prayer as we welcome the new year.

Contribute Your Holiday Décor and More! We are collecting gently used household items, Moravian-themed goods, holiday decorations, antiques, and other treasures for the annual "Stuff Sale." Donations may be brought to the church during regular business hours. Please call the office before dropping off to ensure someone is available to assist you. With your support, we can make the 2026 sale another great success.

2026 Daily Texts have arrived! Pick up weekdays in the church office or Sunday mornings on the cart outside the office. Payment is due at pickup. Extra copies available for purchase in the office during the week.

Large print bulletins are available. See an usher for details.

Southern Province New Year's Eve Watchnight Service

**December 31, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.
St. Philips Moravian Church**

**A service of Holy Communion sponsored by
the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in America**

All are invited to a Southern Province Watchnight Service, Wednesday, December 31, at 8:00 p.m. This one-hour service of Holy Communion will be shared at St. Philips Moravian Church in the Salem Historic District (911 S. Church Street, Winston-Salem). Angelica Regalado-Cieza, Pastor of Fries Memorial Moravian Church, will preach. John Jackman, Pastor of Trinity Moravian Church, will serve as worship leader.

**All band members are asked to assemble
for a prelude 30 minutes prior to worship.**





Epiphany Sunday School Class

Begins Sunday, January 4 | 11:15AM | CE-101

Sponsored by the HMC World Missions Team, the class will feature a series of guest speakers addressing topics related to Moravian mission efforts around the world.

As the wise men once bore the radiant news of Christ's birth across distant lands, so we are called to carry that same light into every corner of the world.

Schedule:

- **January 4:** *Sister Julie Tomberlin* will be our speaker. She will share about the Unity Women's Desk and provide information regarding the upcoming consultation in Tanzania (February 1-5) with representatives from all Unity Provinces.
- **January 11:** *Brother Evon Crooks* of New Philadelphia Moravian Church will offer an update on the Board of World Missions' response to the recent disasters in Jamaica and Western North Carolina.
- **January 18:** *The Rev. John D. Rights*, retired Moravian minister, will speak about the work of Bread for the World, an agency dedicated to feeding people around the globe.
- **January 25:** HMC Associate Pastor *Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood* will present highlights from his recent trip to South Korea, where he lectured and preached.
- **February 1:** *Brother David Holston*, Executive Director of Sunnyside Ministry and HMC member, will lead a special discussion on hunger in the Winston-Salem area.



A Note of Thanks

The Special Decorations Committee thanks the many people who helped make our traditional Christmas decorations possible. First, the group that gathered the laurel in the mountains, those who assisted in the gathering of the cedar on two days in God's Acre, and the many people and families who came to make and hang the ropes. A special thank you to the ladies who prepared and served such a delicious lunch. Appreciation also goes out to our maintenance staff for their hard work throughout the process. Without all this participation and effort, we would not be able to accomplish this major task to make our church beautiful and welcoming for the Christmas season.

Happy New Year 2026!

Candle Tea 2025 was a great success! It is now time to submit suggestions for an agency, charity, or organization to be considered for receiving a gift from Candle Tea.

The submission deadline is January 10, 2026.

For new agencies, please include a brochure and any additional information for the committee's review. All suggestions must be presented in written form to be accepted for consideration.

Thank you and blessings to all.



2025 Disbursement Suggestion Form:

Name of Agency, Charity, or

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information: _____

Your Name: _____

Send suggestions to **Ada Vernon** at: avernon10@triad.rr.com
or mail to: 3370 Goslen Drive, Pfafftown, NC 27040

Why We Need Herod

Do we really need to talk about King Herod on Christmas? A corrupt monarch who is so afraid of losing his power that he destroys ALL of the Jewish children of Bethlehem in order to obliterate the possibility of a Messiah coming to challenge him.

Unlike most villains, whom we love to hate in fictional Christmas stories, Herod doesn't experience redemption. His heart doesn't grow three sizes bigger when he experiences the joy of Christmas, like the Grinch. Herod doesn't have a personal conversion and become generous and caring of the poor, like Scrooge. Herod stays paranoid and selfish and cruel. He is angry with the wise men and anyone who threatens his power, even a child.

Herod represents the possibility of the degradation of any of us, given the right circumstances. He reminds us how far astray from our own innate goodness any of us can get, when wealth and privilege allow us to forget that we are part of an interdependent community of relationships. We need Herod in the story of Christmas, because we need to remember our responsibility as other community members, when we see someone in a place of power being abusive to innocents. Herod is part of humanity, whatever the age.

And we can't ignore him on Christmas because whether he comes to accept redemption on his own terms, or not, he is not the end of the story of the Messiah—Immanuel—God With Us.

The Light of the world has come. It has shone even in the darkest times that humanity has known. And the darkness has not, and will not, overcome it.

Herod did not prevail then, nor will any "Herods" prevail now. God's love is too strong.

God's love is too abundant, too pure, too miraculous.

**Staci Marrese-Wheeler, pastor, Common Grace,
Madison, Wisconsin**

A longer version was previously published by the Wisconsin State Journal, Madison.

The Moravian Church
First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 28, 2025



HOME
MORAVIAN CHURCH

Virginia Hege Tobiassen, *Pastor* Craig Atwood, *Associate Pastor*
Glenn Siebert, *Director of Music* Jonathan Williams, *Organist*
Becky Hodges, *Director of Christian Formation*
Philip Montgomery, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*
529 S. Church Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, 336-722-6171
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(10 a.m. Morning Worship is broadcast on WSJS-AM 600)