



THE ADVANCE

West Side Moravian Church 402 Third Avenue –
Bethlehem, PA 18018 Church office: 610-865-0256
Church email: westsidemoravian@gmail.com
Pastor Tammie Rinker

**2026 Congregational
Watchword**
Psalm 91:9
9 The Lord is my refuge.

Published Monthly

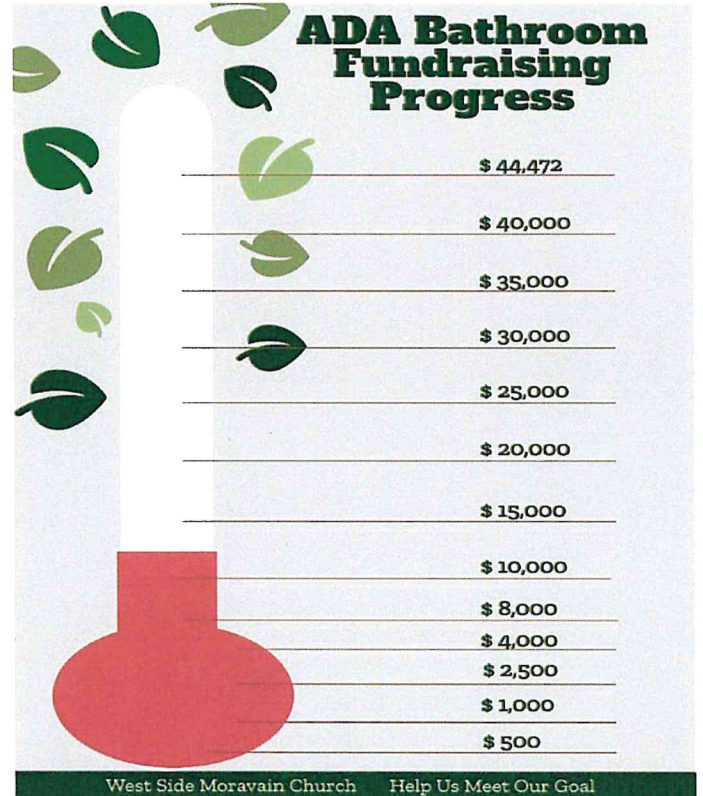
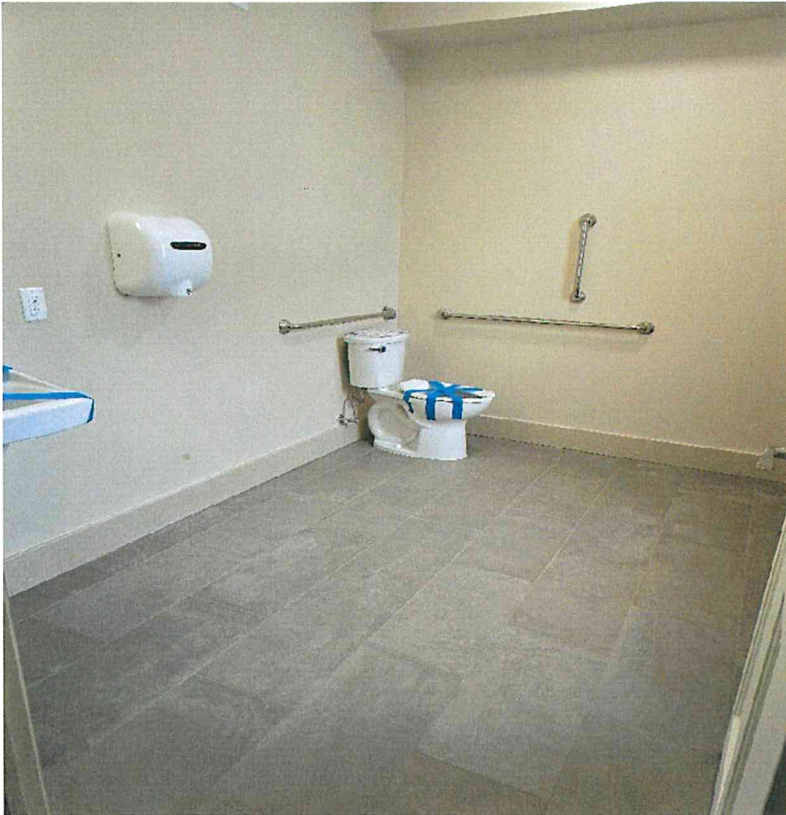
May 2026

Volume XXXV Issue No 5

Upcoming Events

- Lovefeast- May 3rd
- Moravian Seniors and Friends- May 7th @ 11:30 AM
- Holy Communion May 24th -

ADA Bathroom Project



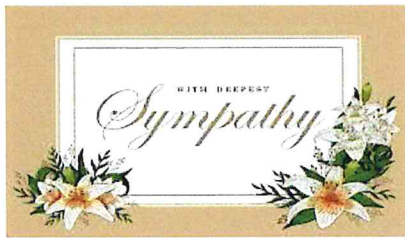
The new ADA bathroom is complete, just waiting for the last inspection.

Fundraising for an upper-level ADA restroom is underway. Please support this effort as generously as you are able.

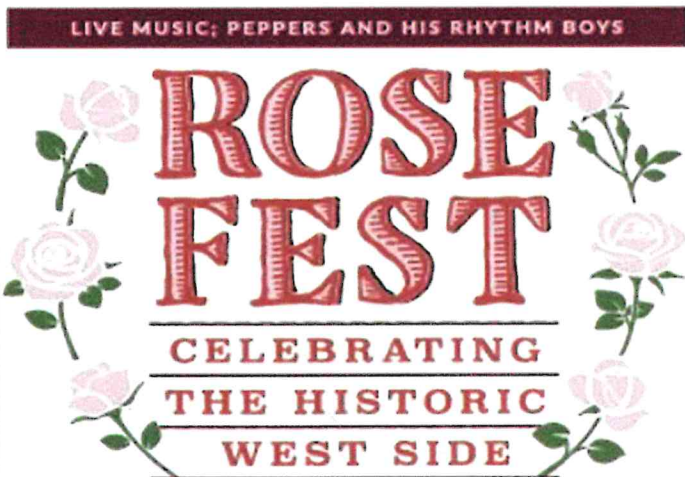
Checks can be made out to:
West Side Moravian Church
402 3rd Ave
Bethlehem, PA 18018



Sunday	Counters	Liturgists
05/03/2026	Jim Kleintop & The Wanamakers	Os Matthew
05/10/2026	Jim Kleintop & The Clugstons	Emily Bolmer
05/17/2026	Jim Kleintop & The Wanamakers	Peter Collier
05/24/2026	Jim Kleintop & The Clugstons	Pastor Tammie
05/31/2026	Jim Kleintop & The Wanamakers	Audrey Wanamaker



It is with both sadness and hope in the resurrection to announce our oldest member of West Side, May Glagola entered the nearer presence of her Savior April 13, 2026. May was 104 years old.



Collect Plastic to Recycle

Through the *Trex* Plastic Recycling Program, West Side is still collecting plastic to be recycled and made into outdoor benches. Please call the church office to arrange a drop-off time. Here's a reminder of accepted plastics: Accepted plastics include: pallet wrap and stretch film, grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, ziplock bags, produce bags, bubble wrap and air pillows, salt bags, and cereal bags. (NOTE: All plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food residue.)



West Side Moravian Church now has online giving enabled through the Moravian Ministries Foundation. Online giving can be a way for people to support your church from afar, make memorial gifts in lieu of flowers, honor a loved one, schedule tithing, and more. <https://mmfa.info/west-side-moravian-church-pa-donation-form/>

Seniors and Friends May 7, 2026 at 11:30 AM

BRING a Friend & a Sandwich...Beverage and Dessert will be Provided!



Take a journey through the almost 200-year history of Martin Guitar as told by the company's Archives & Museum Manager, Jason Ahner. As part of the experience, you will be able to view select items from the company's vast archives.

From an early age Jason Ahner has been fascinated with guitars. Not just as a guitar player but their origins, both acoustic and electric. He also has always loved history. For the past eight years he has been able to blend both of them while managing the archives and museum at Martin Guitar. Jason got his start at Martin fourteen years ago working in the polishing department. He then spent five years working in the company's customer service department before he was appointed to his current position.



Board of World Mission Service Camps

The Board of World Mission, together with our Moravian camping ministries in Wisconsin and New Jersey, invites volunteers to join together in preparation for 2026 summer programming at our BWM service camps. There is no cost to attend either camp; meals and lodging (and lots of fun!) will be provided for the volunteers. Project details are not yet available, but in the past, groups have done everything from staining cabins, replacing roofing on pavilions, clearing brush, weeding, and more. Free time is casual and can be spent as you choose – you are sure to find others who will join you on a hike or sitting around the campfire.

Camp Hope Service Camp

Blairstown, New Jersey | June 16-20, 2026

Register by June 1st –

Please contact BWM Director of Mission Service Dan Miller at dan@moravianmission.org with any questions. <https://coda.io/@dan-miller/camp-hope-service-camp-2026>

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 16 at 9:00AM Networking Breakfast for anyone interested in Christian Education and Faith Formation

Schoeneck Moravian Church, 316 N. Broad St. Ext., Nazareth PA 18064

RSVP to me by May 1

In meeting with so many of you over the past few months I thought it would be worthwhile to get everyone together to meet each other and brainstorm. I know there already is interest among some of you to coordinate efforts in children's ministries and youth activities. This would be a great time to meet in person and talk about it! A continental breakfast will be served. Topics will include: Ministry Wins & Challenges, Favorite Curriculums (youth, adult and otherwise), Youth Activities, Confirmation, Workshop Ideas....and more! Please come prepared to share! And if you have any other topic suggestions, please let me know.

Sundays at 7:00PM, Seekers

Advent Moravian Church, Christmas Hall, 3730 Jacksonville Rd., Bethlehem PA 18017

A new, non-traditional faith formation opportunity for the "God curious" or anyone seeking peace and love amidst life's challenges. Led by Rev. James Joniec in an informal, welcoming environment.

SEEKERS

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

IS THERE A GOD?

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH PAIN IN THE WORLD IF THERE'S A GOD?

WHAT'S MY PLACE IN THIS WORLD?

NO!


**MOMENTS OF SILENCE... A FEW SONGS...
GOOD CONVERSATION...
SPACE FOR HEALING AND COMMUNITY...
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD START!**

ADVENT MORAVIAN CHURCH
3730 Jacksonville Road
CHRISTMAS HALL


Basket Social Fundraiser


Hosted by  **NORTHEAST**
COMMUNITY CENTER



 \$5 for 20 tickets

- Winners selected at 1 PM (no need to be present to win)
- Baked goods available for purchase

 **Saturday, June 6, 2026**
10 AM to 1 PM

 **1161 Fritz Drive,**
Bethlehem, PA 18017

THINK YOUR'E ALONE?



Providing What's Essential

Providing What's Essential American psychologist Abraham Maslow developed a pyramid of needs essential for human fulfillment: physical needs, safety, love and belonging, and self-esteem. Essentials Café provides meals for the hungry as well as love, belonging, and dignity.

"God-incidence" Dawn Fenner, executive director of Essentials Café, chose to leave corporate work and search for a purpose that would make her heart happy. She enrolled in what was at the time the Crossroads Program (now Compass) at Moravian Theological Seminary, which prepares students for lay ministry and service. As part of the program, students must complete a community project. Fenner attended a conference where she heard Moravian Pastor Christie Melby-Gibbons, a 2009 graduate of Moravian Theological Seminary, describe the pay-what-you-can eatery Tricklebee Café, which she founded in Milwaukee. Inspired, Fenner grasped the concept for her project.

Separately, three Moravian pastors—Christine Johnson S'88, of College Hill Moravian Church; Tammie Rinker S'99, S'22, P'22, at West Side Moravian Church; and M. Lynnette Delbridge S'84, P'23, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Whitehall, Pennsylvania—all graduates of Moravian Theological Seminary, were carpooling back to Bethlehem from an event. "We were talking about what we could do for the community that would be substantial," Rinker says. "We recalled Christie's work with Tricklebee Café."

"So we said, wouldn't it be great if we could do something like Tricklebee in our part of the world," Johnson says. Not long after, Fenner, a member of College Hill Moravian Church, discussed with Johnson her yearning to open a restaurant that would feed people whether they could pay or not.

"We speak of the God-incidence, not the coincidence," Johnson says.

The four women gathered their thinking around a workable vision for the eatery. The location needed to be walkable, near a bus stop, and within a neighborhood community, not adjacent to a commercial retail space. The café should be warm and welcoming.

Rinker, who lived in the West Side Moravian Church parsonage at 418 Third Avenue in Bethlehem, realized her house was the ideal location, so she and her husband, Ostomy Matthew '00, moved into a new home. Essentials Café rents the house from the church and opened its doors as a pay-what-you-can community café in November 2023.

"The church was very generous with start-up funding," Rinker says. "Without the support of the Moravian Church Northern Province, we would still be talking about the idea."

And without the support of its customers and donors, Essentials Café, a 501(c) organization, would not stay open. Johnson applies for grants from the Moravian Church and elsewhere, but the café depends on donations. Every meal purchased is considered a donation, and for more than two years those gifts have helped keep this eatery serving everyone regardless of ability to pay.

“When I did my project at Crossroads, I named it Grammy’s Place,” Fenner says. “You go to Grandma’s, and she makes your favorite meal, and you sit there and talk about what’s on your mind. Before you know it, you feel better. That’s the environment we wanted to create.”

The café is cozy. Enter through the front door, and a hallway leads to the counter where visitors order food prepared in the kitchen at the back. Two dining areas that can accommodate 26 customers fill the rest of the first floor.

Meals are served on porcelain plates, coffee and tea in porcelain mugs, drinks in glasses. Silverware wrapped in colorful cloth napkins stands ready to be plucked from small tin buckets placed on each table. Seasonal decor brings cheer to the tables.

Meals are prepared from scratch with produce grown in garden plots behind the café and at the Widows’ House, next to the Moravian University campus. Delbridge manages the gardens and a compost system. “We grow lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, yellow squash, beans, cabbage, beets, and sweet potatoes,” she says, “and this year we put in an asparagus bed.” From spring through late fall, over the 2025 season, she and her volunteers harvested 636 pounds of produce.

“We also grow herbs, which are expensive to buy,” Delbridge adds, “and nasturtium flowers (which are edible) to put on top of the salads.” It’s November, yet basil and parsley continue to thrive. The basil stars in mouthwatering chicken pesto sandwiches.

“Everybody deserves quality food and to be treated with dignity,” Fenner says.

And treating people with dignity extends to the service. Volunteers who work the register or serve meals to the guests treat everyone equally with kindness. The café staff have come to know the regulars.

“I love the ladies here. They are so friendly,” says Donna, a frequent diner. “It’s like coming home to family.”

Essentials Café is open Tuesday through Saturday for breakfast and lunch. In the morning, oatmeal, vegetarian omelets, egg sandwiches, pancakes, French toast, bacon or sausage, fresh fruit, bagels, toast, coffee, tea, and other beverages are on the menu. For lunch, options include soup, sandwiches, salads, combo meals, and a choice of three entrées that vary from week to week. A glass case displays a variety of pastries and baked goods, including mini-Moravian sugar cakes. Customers are allowed one breakfast and one lunch.

The menu, written on a chalkboard behind the counter, does not include prices. When customers place an order, they are told a suggested donation. (At the time of this writing, a full meal cost \$12.) Some pay nothing; others pay above the suggested donation. For their privacy, customers enter what they can pay on a tablet.

An additional donation may be made by purchasing wooden nickels and dropping them into a glass jar next to the register. Each nickel represents one full meal and is available to be used by a person in need.

The goal of Essentials Café is to feed people but do it in such a way that they will feel better—about themselves and about other people, knowing someone put a nickel in the jar for them,” Fenner says.

Many guests who cannot pay give back by volunteering—washing dishes, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow in the winter. Almost everyone clears their dishes when they’ve finished their meal.

Others make a donation when they are able. Johnson tells the story of a man in midlife who developed a debilitating condition and was no longer able to work. He applied for disability, but benefit checks don’t begin to show up for many months. He came into the café every day. “He’d always say, ‘I don’t have anything today, but I hope someday I can repay you.’” After about a year, he received his disability check along with back pay. He came to the café and gave Fenner \$1,200 toward his meals.

“He still comes back,” Johnson says. “When he has money, he pays for his meal. When he doesn’t, he doesn’t. And when he gets his check at the end of the month, he catches up. That’s how it’s supposed to work: I have today—I share; I don’t have today—I receive.”

People from all life experiences come to the café to eat. Fenner says most of the unhoused are from the Bethlehem area. “We also get people who come in and donate \$100.” Neighbors stop in for lunch. Some seniors come from Moravian House on Main Street, Bethlehem.

Donna, 70, and her husband, 75, live in a home near Liberty High School. Both are retired and collect social security. Donna comes to Essentials Café at least twice a week. “There have been multiple times when I have been able to pay it forward,” she says. “Sometimes I pay the suggested donation, and a few times when things are tough with bills, I ask to receive the meal for free.”

Recently, Donna and her husband had an emergency \$3,000 home repair. “It was an unexpected expense, and things are supertight,” Donna says. “So today, I asked for a free meal.”

Most days Donna brings Dottie, her friend of 27 years. Dottie lives with a disability and receives Supplemental Security Income. Her meals at Essentials Café are free.

Fenner witnesses the need for free or low-cost meals rising. From 2024 to 2025, she’s seen an increase of roughly 300 percent in the number of free meals that are going out. “We’ve built relationships with our guests over the past two years, and I know the need is greater. Now we’re getting new folks from the displacement of unsheltered people in Allentown.”

The SNAP gap pushed more people to the café, and with that program’s uncertain future, Essentials Café may feed a growing number of hungry individuals in 2026.

“We’re trying to figure out what we can do to help more people,” says Fenner. She is looking into creating an upstairs dining room for those able to manage the steps, and she has been taking more to-go orders.

But with the word out about the eatery, do people take advantage of an opportunity to get a free meal? “There might be some,” says Fenner, “but that’s not on us, it’s on them. We are here to feed people, and maybe they are hungry for something else. Who am I to judge?”

That “something else” is community.

Fenner tells the story of a person who came into the café and ordered French toast but couldn’t pay. A few minutes later, a woman also ordered French toast. She donated \$100. The two sat at the community table, and when their meals arrived, they commented on how delicious the breakfast tasted. An hour later, they were still talking.

“Where would those two people meet otherwise, much less take the time to sit and talk?” Fenner asks. “We all have prejudices or misconceptions, but when you sit together in the same small space and talk, those misconceptions break down, and understanding and connection take their place. To me, that’s the beauty of what we do.”

Fenner leans forward, earnestly compelling her listener to understand the whole truth of Essentials Café’s work. “People are hungry, but sometimes they’re hungry for more than just food. They need a connection—even our volunteers; they want to belong somewhere. It’s the guiding principle of the Moravian Church— ‘In all things, love.’”

Pay-it-Forward with a Wooden Nickel

Wooden Nickels offer an opportunity to provide a meal for someone else.

Stop by the cafe and pick up wooden nickels for a suggested price of \$12.00 each. Each **wooden nickel** can be redeemed for a nourishing meal.



Please Pray For:

Health: Barry, Pat, Blaine, Penny, Jim

Bereavement: Glagola Family, Rice Family

Lifting up our friends & neighbors that are homebound or living in retirement communities:
God of us all, share your love with us all. We ask a special blessing for those who are not able to get to church.

Weekly Watchwords for May

Week of May 3

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Week of May 10

Psalm 66:1-2

¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; ² sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

Week of May 17

1 Peter 5:7

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Week of May 24

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord,

Week of May 31

Psalm 8:9

⁹ O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!



The Prayer Chain can be activated by any member of West Side Moravian Church. Simply call any member of the Prayer Chain with your joy or concern and that information will be passed on so that your joy or concern will be held in prayer. The Unified Board will also be informed of your prayer request.

Tammie Rinker - 484-626-1363

Nancy Wanamaker 610-868-7865

Please remove this page from THE ADVANCE, **and pray daily.**