

HISTORY OF THE MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST AND CANDLE SERVICE

The Lovefeast

As the early Christians met and broke bread together in token of their fellowship and love, so the members of the Moravian Church family make it a custom to celebrate spiritual occasions by sharing with friends a simple meal called a Lovefeast. Food and drink for the Lovefeast vary with the nationality and location of the congregation. The first Moravian Lovefeast occurred in Berthelsdorf, Germany in 1727.

The Lovefeast is a translation of the Greek word "Agape", given by Christians after Pentecost to similar gatherings. The Lovefeast, where the symbolism is that of Christians sharing with one another, is not a substitute for the Holy Communion, where the teaching is that God shares with us. The Lovefeast strengthens the spirit of unity and good will among people. It removes, at least for an hour, all social barriers and distinctions. In the service is joy, dignified by reverence.

You are asked to partake of the Lovefeast in the belief that Christ is now beside you and your neighbor. Covenant with Him and receive Christ anew, who is the light of the world, the bright and morning star, and resolve to hold aloft your own light, given to God, and carry that light into the world.

The Dieners (Servers)

In traditional Moravian Lovefeasts, aprons are worn by the women who serve. The servers are called "Diener," German for "one who serves". The traditional lace cap worn by Moravian women is referred to as a "Haube", and its ribbon color signifies marital status: red/small girl, pink/single maiden, blue/married woman, and white/widow.

The Coffee and Lovefeast Bun

The Lovefeast Buns are made from a traditional recipe, which includes citron and orange peel for flavoring. The slash marks which may sometimes appear on the top of the bun are often mistaken by many to be a "M" for Moravian, but they are actually a "W", which was the mark of Winkler Bakery, the original bakery in Salem NC, still in operation today.

Virginia Wingard's coffee is French Vanilla decaffeinated, sugar-free with a small amount of sugar added. It is served in Moravian Love Feast Mugs. *(Please hold your food and drink until everyone is served, at which time we will say a blessing.)*

The Candle

The candles traditionally are hand-poured beeswax from tin molds that have been handed down through the generations. They are then hand-wrapped (trimmed, or dressed) in flame-proof crepe paper to prevent hot wax from dripping onto the holder's hands. *(Please*

HYMN: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

(to be sung while candles are distributed and lighted)

(SPECIAL NOTE: When lighting your candle, please tilt the unlighted candle toward the lighted one. This will avoid dripping melted wax.)

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy

(lift candles)

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love

THE BENEDICTION

You may keep your candle, if you wish.

* * * * *
* * * * *
* * *

Dieners (servers)

Brooke Avera
Jim Browning
Pam Burkett
Wayne Cannon
Kevin Dailey
Tara Gantt
Sandra Graham
Kellee Griffis
Audrey Hester
Daniel Norris
Sophie Norris
Ken Nunnery
Karisma Peterkin
Ana Sears
Kate Smoak
Jenna Stroupe

Candle Servers

Delaqui Carter
Charleigh Hester
Ginger Hester
Alayassa Peterkin

Helpers

Chris Avera
Monta Avera
Tal Avera
God's Girl's Sunday School Class
Cindy Minnick
Ceylle Stroupe

HYMN: "MORNING STAR, O CHEERING SIGHT"

*(This hymn is sung antiphonally by the congregation and the soloist; the congregation singing the words in **BOLD** type only)*

Kayce Richardson, soloist

1

Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
**MORNING STAR,
O CHEERING SIGHT!
ERE THOU CAMS'T
HOW DARK EARTH'S NIGHT!**
Jesus mine, **IN ME SHINE;**
In me shine, **JESUS MINE;**
**FILL MY HEART
WITH LIGHT DIVINE.**

2

Morning Star, Thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light;
**MORNING STAR,
THY GLORY BRIGHT,
FAR EXCELS THE
SUN'S CLEAR LIGHT;**
Jesus be, **CONSTANTLY,**
Constantly, **JESUS BE
MORE THAN THOUSAND
SUNS TO ME.**

3

Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star
Cheer the nations near and far.
**THY GLAD BEAMS,
THOU MORNING STAR,
CHEER THE NATIONS
NEAR AND FAR.**
Thee we own, **LORD ALONE,**
Lord alone, **THEE WE OWN,
MAN'S GREAT SAVIOUR,
GOD'S DEAR SON.**

4

Morning Star, my soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
**MORNING STAR,
MY SOUL'S TRUE LIGHT,
TARRY NOT,
DISPEL MY NIGHT;**
Jesus mine, **IN ME SHINE,**
In me shine, **JESUS MINE;**
**FILL MY HEART
WITH LIGHT DIVINE.**

**THE MESSAGE OF THE CANDLES
THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CANDLES**

handle the candles with caution and hold them vertically so that wax does not drip onto the floor. Candles are not collected for re-use and are yours to take home.)

The Moravian custom of distributing lighted candles during a church service was actually begun at an informal children's service in Marienborn, Wetteravia (Germany) in 1747. The children were publicly examined on their knowledge of the Christmas story and their original poems were read.

The wax, made from a mixture of beeswax and tallow are products of the created flesh, and are a symbol of Jesus' humanity. The lighted wick burning with the wax stands for His divinity. The red paper reminds us of the Savior's passion and death for our sins. The lighted candle represents the sacrifice of Christ for humanity and the flame of love which He came to kindle in our hearts. The message of the candle is that this flame of love will burn forever to His joy and our salvation. "Let your light so shine before men (to lead others to Him) that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

The Star

The 26-pointed star originated in Niesky, Germany, around 1850, where it was a geometry lesson used in the local Moravian school. The rays of the star symbolize three things: greatness of God who made the universe, the star which lead the wise men to the Christ Child, and the Divine Star, Christ Himself. In North America, stars are typically 26-pointed and all white, however in Europe they are sometimes made with 50 or more points and include red and/or yellow points as well. The color white symbolizes joy, a reflection of the righteousness and purity of Christ. The color red typifies the sacrifice of Christ.

CHRISTMAS LOVEFEAST AND CANDLE SERVICE

at

Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church
December 2, 2018 – 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Have you not heard? Something new has happened upon the earth.
People: Yes, we have heard! Rumors say a child has been born, a Savior given.
Minister: People of God, these are not rumors. For unto us is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Savior.
People: This is good news of great joy which has come to all the people.
Minister: Then let us go see this Savior of God and bring our offering of praise.
People: Let us then go to Bethlehem.

HYMN: "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;

(Chorus)
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

2 Sing choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest! (Chorus)

3 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing, (Chorus)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ~ CANDLE OF HOPE

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

EXPLANATION OF THE LOVE FEAST

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LOVEFEAST ELEMENTS

(While the congregation sings the following hymns, buns and mugs of coffee will be distributed. Please wait until everyone is served and the food is blessed before partaking.)

HYMN: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

2 For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.

HYMN: "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"

1
Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

4
When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

MORAVIAN TABLE BLESSING (in unison)

Come Lord Jesus, our guest to be,

And bless these gifts bestowed by Thee.
Bless our loved ones everywhere
And keep them in Thy loving care. Amen

THE LOVEFEAST PARTAKING

(During this time, please fellowship with those around you.)

COLLECTION OF MUGS

HYMN: "THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR"

(to be sung while mugs are collected)

1
There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!;
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

2
There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

3
In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

4
We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring, and we
greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

Moravian
Lovefeast
&
Candle Service

26TH ANNIVERSARY

**Virginia Wingard Memorial
United Methodist Church
December 2, 2018
11:00 A.M.**