



The Star

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“For The Love Of God”

There are times, such as in moments of extreme frustration, when non-believers join followers of Jesus in referencing God. We use the expression “for the love of God” to express our vexation as we implore a person to act out of basic human decency or common sense. Usually the one uttering the phrase is not actually thinking theologically about love for God, or God’s love for us. Yet since February is the month we celebrate love with Valentine’s Day, now is as good a time as any to consider the implications of taking this common saying literally. What would it mean to act for the love of God in all things?

Does it mean, for instance, that we are to act because God loves us, because we love God, or both? And how are we to act? We can find an answer to these questions in the 4th chapter of the 1st Letter of John. “God” says the author “is love” (4:8).

God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

To act for the love of God is therefore to extend Christ-like love to others in response to God’s love for us. It is to seek the deepest, most true good for others rather than our own advantage or satisfaction. It is to be patient, kind, respectful, and humble toward others. At times it means being flexible to preserve relationships. It means insisting on right-doing and truth. (See 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7).

In the final analysis, to act literally “for the love of God” is to live out one’s life with far more than basic human decency or common sense. It is to pattern one’s life after the Incarnation of God’s love – Jesus Christ. I am tempted to say: “For the love of God, what part of Jesus saying, ‘Follow me’ don’t you get?” There is an urgency in our Lord’s words that we often miss in the context of worship or Bible study. Love, says Paul, is patient and kind, but that doesn’t rule Jesus’ disappointment when his followers fail to act for the love of God.

Derek French



Preschool News

Mary Kay Brezinsky



Love is in the air during the month of February at EHMC Preschool. Our classes celebrate St. Valentine's Day by learning about friendship, caring, and sharing. There will be giggles and smiles as the children sort through their Valentine goodies and play friendship games. February is a busy month; we will also be learning about our founding fathers for Presidents' Day and our dental health.

We have an ongoing fundraiser with Primary.com. Primary sells quality children's clothing at affordable prices. Information on how to register for Primary.com is available on the table in the church narthex, and you will also receive an extra 25% off your first order. Thank you for your support.

Registration is ongoing for all of our Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old classes. Classes fill up quickly so if you know someone who is looking for a preschool, please have them give us a call at 610-868-6242 to schedule a tour. Information regarding the preschool hours, curriculum, and application process may be picked up in the narthex of the church. We welcome all inquiries.

Dear East Hills Church Family

I want to let you know that I am retiring from the position of your Administrative Assistant as of January 30. Thank you for the opportunity to have worked with all of you. I have been so fortunate to have you all in my life to celebrate the joys with me and to comfort and support me during the rough times; I can't thank you enough for being there for me with all your compassion and concern. My time here has been a wonderful experience and has helped me to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually. I am so blessed to have not one, but two church families, and I will miss you all! With love and thanks,
Deb Worrich

Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities

Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to join us **Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 7:00 pm in the church's old kitchen.** Janice Keim is the hostess; please contact her at 219-508-8049 to let her know if you are coming. Future meetings will have Candace Weiss as hostess in March and Nancy Kichline as hostess in April.

Looking Ahead To Lent

The Lenten season begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 26. There will be a Lenten program at 7 PM for 5 weeks on all Wednesdays in March plus April 1. We are inquiring if there are any groups or individuals who would like to provide a simple meal at 6 PM before the program for about 30 people. (The Girl Scouts will fill in any date not signed up for and provide a simple meal of soup and bread if needed.) If interested, please contact Sue Larson with the date you would like to host **by Sunday, February 16** at GSMom225@aol.com or 610-737-0012 or stop by the cash card desk on a Sunday.

Chili Challenge

The annual chili challenge will take place on **Sunday, February 9, from 4-7:00 pm.** Tickets are \$8; \$5 for children under 10; \$25 for a family. Menu for the evening includes chili, hot dogs, nachos & cheese, cornbread, and beverages. We need chili challengers! Contact Annemarie Soska at 610-758-8876 or sos4am@gmail.com to enter your chili, purchase tickets, or to make a donation.

EHMC Book Club

The East Hills Moravian Church Book Club will meet on **Monday, March 2, 2020, at 7:00 pm** in the church parlor to discuss The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston. All are welcome! Contact Amy Frantz Gross at 610-217-6008 or bartlet4pres@yahoo.com. **The book club will be collecting used books on March 2nd for the AAUW book sale.** Please bring in your used books for donation. Contact Deb Spinney with any questions.

Cash Cards

Please go to shopwithscrips.com and check out over 750 cards available or stop in the office on a Sunday morning to view the printed list. Giant, Wegmans, and Valley Farm cards in \$25, \$50 and \$100 are on hand. Cards will be ordered once a month on the last Sunday of the month with delivery by the first Sunday of the month. For questions or more information, contact Sue Larson at 610-737-0012 or GSMom225@aol.com.

Why Knots

Members of Why Knot continue to meet on a monthly basis, on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Parlor. We welcome new participants and happily share our talents with anyone who would like to learn to knit, crochet, or quilt. We are working ahead to provide winter scarves and hats for the children participating in the After-School Program at the Northeast Community Center next fall, as well as other projects. For information, contact Susan Kriebs, Phyllis Kulp, or Ginny Yansza.

A Can A Week And Joyful Noise

Both these ministries are designed to support the Foodbank at the Northeast Community Center. Joyful Noise contributions are used to purchase the most needed items to assist the organization in providing a wide variety of food for their "choice" distribution program. At this time of year, the storage room is generally filled due to the large volume of donations received during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. This year some of the shelves are quite empty. Is it due to fewer community donations in 2019 or could it be due to the increased volume of food recipients? With the possibility of new restrictions for food stamp recipients, the need for food in the coming year is expected to increase. Your help is needed! If you haven't yet developed the habit of A Can A Week, this is certainly a good time to do that. Adding an extra dollar or more in your Joyful Noise donations this year will also be greatly appreciated! Just before writing this for the Star, we purchased 120 cans of veggies using recent Joyful Noise money and hope to buy more this week, taking advantage of special sales.

Snow Tubing @ Blue Mountain

Friday February 7, from 5-9 pm. Cost \$5 with waiver to first 75 BAM members any age (cost defrayed by BAM). Cost for non-BAM members and after 75 tickets will be \$27 plus waiver. **Snow tubing waiver must be filled out in advance.** Flyers and waivers available on the narthex table. Must be 36" tall. Hot dogs, pizza, soda, and water provided; please bring a snack to share (\$2 to come & watch). Contact: Blake Messman (member at Edgeboro); messmanblake@gmail.com. **Deadline to register is Sunday, February 2.**



A Note From Your Treasurer

I continue to be strengthened by the faith expressed by the members of our church through their acts of good stewardship and kind generosity.

We started 2019 with a looming (\$32,570) budget deficit in the Operating Fund. In faith, members worked together, rolled up their sleeves, and did the work necessary to reduce costs and keep our church on solid ground financially. Mild weather also helped. We ended 2019 with just a relatively small (\$3,471) deficit in the Operating Fund while managing to put \$3,000 into our newly established Deferred Maintenance Directed Fund.

At the end of 2019, our three-year Capital Campaign (June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2021) passed its half-way point. As we enjoy the wonderful improvements that were made to our facilities a year ago, the continued fulfillment of financial pledges combined with additional donations, grants, and fundraising efforts are keeping us on track to meet the financial goal set by the congregation, which was that there be no increase in monthly debt payments imposed on the Operating Fund as a result of the Capital Campaign.

As 2020 gets underway, we are confronted by another budget deficit (\$6,646) in the Operating Fund. In spite of the many cost reductions that were introduced in 2019, some cost increases are unavoidable. Naturally, there are things members can do to help reduce waste and unnecessary costs, such as helping to save energy by turning off lights and adjusting thermostats; and helping to reduce cleaning and maintenance costs by cleaning up, taking care and helping to do small projects. But, potential cost reductions from these actions are limited.

Once again, we move forward in faith that members of our church will work together, roll up their sleeves, and do the work necessary. In this case, it is hoped that members respond with increased contributions of their time, talent and financial resources not just to keep our church on solid ground financially, but to help support and expand our ministries and their impact.

Together, our ministry strengthens our community, educates people of all ages and helps people in need. By working together, our mission, "**To Know Christ and Make Him Known**" is carried out.

Jay Larson
EHMC Treasurer
January 8, 2020

Stewardship Update

During the months of October and November, we were wonderfully blessed during the "6 Words to Build on and Live By" series and especially the witness talks by fellow members. Many people have made a personal covenant to build on and live by these words which are displayed in the narthex. In addition, we were all asked to make a financial covenant pledge to support our shared ministries through weekly or monthly giving. If you have not yet made a financial covenant pledge, please complete your card as soon as possible. It is never too late to build on and live by the word "Give". If you have any questions or need a card, please feel free to contact the church office, and someone will be in contact with you as soon as possible. Thank you!

Offering Envelope Update

A significant number of our members have chosen to become sustaining members of our congregation by contributing to its operating expenses through monthly direct deposit. If you wish to support the ministry of the church this way and no longer need offering envelopes, please communicate this to the church office. We thank you for your faithful generosity and for assisting us in our efforts to be good stewards by cutting down on postage and envelope costs.

February Worship Schedule

In case of inclement weather please check Channel 69 News Storm Center and/or East Hills Moravian Church Facebook Page for schedule changes and closings.

February 2

Sacristans-Steve & Lucy Thompson

Elder-(8:30)Jeff Adams (10:30)Ellen DeStasio

Liturgist-(8:30)Jon Burcaw (10:30)David Sommers

Ushers-(8:30)Jon Burcaw/Mike Taylor (10:30)Boy Scouts

Counters-John Kulp/Bill Matz

Flowers-Heft/Evans

Nursery-Lisa Mixon/Sarah Creswell

February 9

Sacristans-Jon & Sue Burcaw

Elder-(8:30)Jeff Adams (10:30)Jay Larson

Liturgist-(8:30)Eileen Mera (10:30)Ellen DeStasio

Ushers-(8:30)Heather Frantz/Bob Hauck (10:30)Antonio DelPriore/Jim Eckerd

Counters-Nancy Costa/Randy Emmons

Flowers-Bieber/Gerlach

Nursery-Debbie Matz/

February 16

Sacristans-Brian & Tanya Yost

Elder-(8:30)Mike Taylor (10:30)Greg Costa

Liturgist-(8:30)Bob Hauck (10:30)Bill Matz

Ushers-(8:30)Jeff & Linda Adams (10:30)Sandy Gribbin/Charmayne Stauffer

Counters-Sue Larson/Phyllis Kulp

Flowers-Jackson

Nursery-Bobby Shimer/

February 23

Sacristans-Jon & Sue Burcaw

Elder-(8:30)Jeff Adams (10:30)Bob Wingrove

Liturgist-(8:30)TBA (10:30)Brian Davison

Ushers-(8:30)Joe & Frieda Soska (10:30)Yvonne Gerlach/Jane Regina

Counters-Gary Marsh/Dave Evans

Flowers-Gichiengo

Nursery-Lucy Thompson/

February 26 – Ash Wednesday

Worship – 7:00 pm

Sacristans-Jon & Sue Burcaw

Ushers-Jim & Anna Koehler



FEBRUARY

- 4 Eric Evans
- 6 Nancy Gross, Grace Taylor
- 7 Gavin Stellato, Deborah Turton
- 8 Greg Bowden, Paul Lutz, Marcia Mielnik
- 9 Christine Trux
- 10 Tanamarie Williams
- 11 Nathan Bowden, Bob Wingrove
- 12 Peter Diehl
- 13 Jeff Adams, Gary Marsh
- 14 Alexandra Gaugler
- 15 Earl Jackson
- 18 Mikayla Bowden, Karen Davison
- 19 Chris Creswell, Francis Goyanes, Brandon Koehler
- 20 Patti Grube, Joshua Kemmerer, Mark Toth
- 23 Ellen Choi, Walker Levan
- 24 Joyce Eckerd, Matison Piripavel
- 25 Daniel Hull
- 26 Sandra Gichiengo, Sarah Soska
- 27 Jonah Ortwein, Elaine Riegel, Nancy Walz
- 28 Deborah Spinney, David Thompson
- 29 Christopher Beamer

Congregational Watchword 2020

God has destined us not for wrath
but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 5:9

They who Jesus' mercy know
Are from wrath and envy freed;
Love unto our neighbor shows
That we are his flock indeed;
Thus we may in all our ways
Show forth our Redeemer's praise.



All Things Moravian And Other Community Events

BAM Annual Meeting

The 2020 BAM Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 18, at 7:30 pm at College Hill Moravian Church.** All are welcome to attend.

Camp Hope Silent Auction

There are flyers available on the table in the narthex requesting silent auction donations for the Camp Kick-off Dinner that will be held on **February 22** at East Hills Moravian Church. The donor application form is on the back side of the flyer for those who may be interested.

Moravian Holy Land Trip

A 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land June 30-July 9, 2020, will include biblical sites in Nazareth, Capernaum, Caesarea, Jericho, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. There is an optional 5-day extension to "Cairo & the Route of the Exodus" July 10-14. All-inclusive cost from New York Kennedy airport starts at \$3,698 per person based on double occupancy. For more information, request a brochure at hopenon@centralmoravianchurch.org or visit the website: www.moraviantour.com.



BOARD OF **WORLD MISSION** of the Moravian Church • North America



That the Board of World Mission (BWM) has a watchword chosen for them every year? "*Ask and you shall receive so that your joy may be complete.*" (John 16:24) is the 2020 watchword chosen for the BWM. Jesus is speaking with his disciples as his physical presence on earth is nearing fulfillment. He is encouraging them to persist boldly in prayer as they go forward in living the Way that he has taught and

demonstrated while he accompanied them. We all are called to do the same...to be mindful to maintain contact with God as the source that guides our decision-making and actions as we partner with the people of the worldwide Unity of the Moravian Church. As with all human endeavors we experience challenges but also joy as we are assured of God's presence in the midst of our relationships and activities. In the coming year, efforts of the BWM include the translation of theological and denominational resources, the training of Moravian leaders with those prepared materials, ongoing communication of the BWM and others' domestic and international efforts and outreach, fundraising to benefit Mission Grants and the availability of undesignated funds, the creation of an invitation to join the BWM in new initiatives as well as maintaining the variety of ongoing ways we serve alongside each other in God's mission in the world. As we begin this new year of opportunities please prayerfully consider how your gifts and talents can help us continue to serve the greater church together. We look forward to hearing from and meeting you.

In faith, love and hope,

Jill Kolodziej, Director of Mission Service, BWM, jill@moravianmission.org

Movie Night

Central Moravian Church's Care for Creation committee is sponsoring a movie night at SteelStacks (Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas); it's a new documentary, [The Pollinators](#), and follows migratory beekeepers who travel across the country with truckloads of honey bees to pollinate flowers that become the fruits, nuts and vegetables we eat. The movie considers the threats to bees and ultimately to our food supply and how these problems can be addressed. The movie is being shown on **Wednesday, February 19 @ 7:30 pm but tickets must be purchased (online only) by Sunday, February 9.** Tickets (including handling fee) cost \$13.95 each and we need to sell 42 tickets by Sunday, Feb. 9th. Details are all explained on the web site where you purchase the tickets, and there is a trailer for the film; <https://tickets.demand.film/event/9655>. Contact Joan Carson (610-346-8012 or jec1@lehigh.edu if you have any questions.