

# MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

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Celebrating Moravian Archives Sunday  
April 26, 2020

To: Pastors and Church Administrators, Moravian Church, Southern Province  
From: J. Eric Elliott, Archivist, Moravian Archives, Southern Province

The Provincial Elders Conference has approved designating the last Sunday in April to offer prayers for the Southern Province Archives and to request support for its ongoing mission as its record keeper. This year that Sunday falls on April 26, the third Sunday in Easter. The Archives Commission is grateful for your support as we celebrate our Church's commitment to preserving the witness of Brothers and Sisters who have gone before and to gathering the stories of today's church work. We appreciate the opportunity to thank the individuals and congregations who sustain the work of the Archives with their gifts of service and money and to invite others to volunteer and support us.

To assist in your service planning, for Bible readings we suggest the Lukan account of the Road to Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35). We also suggest 1 Samuel 7:12, where Samuel raised an Ebenezer so that people might know for generations how God had come to the aid of his people. For centuries, Moravians have declared the good news, carrying it to the far corners of the world. The Archives preserves our records so we don't forget and others can learn of our witness to that good news.

To assist you in preparing your service, we have created support resources, which can be found on our Web site under the "Our Churches" tab. In late March, we will deliver donation envelopes and bulletin inserts for Moravian Archives Sunday to your church unless you advise us that you prefer to copy/paste it into your bulletins. The items below are at: [www.moravianarchives.org/archives-sunday](http://www.moravianarchives.org/archives-sunday):

- A suggested **order of service**;
- A short **liturgy** for Moravian Archives Sunday, including recognition of Archives volunteers and supporters at your church, and those who administer and help your own congregational archives and records;
- A "**statement to be read**," which focuses attention on the record-keeping charge of the Archives as a service to all our congregations, and the special opportunities those records give us for offering a faith witness to extended family members of Moravians and our wider communities;
- A printable front-and-back **bulletin insert**, describing our Moravian records and ways to support the Moravian Archives; and
- The Archives **donation envelope** remittance insert (for your information only, as envelopes will be sent to you).

Thank you for supporting our work on this first Moravian Archives Sunday and throughout the year. It is our great privilege to keep and share your heritage and future.

#### Archives Commission

John Larson, Chair, *Home Moravian Church*; Toni Bigham, *New Philadelphia Moravian Church*;  
Peggy Carter, *Fries Memorial Moravian Church*; Christine Ebert, *Ardmore Moravian Church*; Heather Fearnbach, *Home Moravian Church*; Michael Gwyn, *Ardmore Moravian Church*; Paul Knouse, *Home Moravian Church*; Barry Miller, *Konnoak Hills Moravian Church*; Kirk Sanders, *Home Moravian Church*; Rev. Scott Venable, *Fairview Moravian Church*

#### Archives Staff

J. Eric Elliott, *Archivist*; Nicole Crabbe, *Assistant Archivist*